

original cause (hear, hear). Surely, then, it must be delightful to every humane heart to see this rising generation resolved to free themselves, and desirous to rescue all others, from a fatal indulgence that ever brings misery and poverty in its train. Believe me, dear friends, no one can be truly independent that is not a teetotaler; he is free from danger, for he cannot fall into temptation. Temperance is the basis of worldly prosperity; and we may see many who have been the architects of their own fortune, and, if we look back, we will find that they mainly owe their respectability and wealth to temperate habits (hear, hear). Solomon said, very long since, that no tradesman or labourer could be prosperous who was addicted to strong drink; and what was true when spoken by that wise man, is true at this moment, and will be true so long as the world exists. It is in youth, my dear young friends, that early habits can best be formed, and the foundation of future happiness laid; and there is no broader, surer or safer foundation than sobriety. I am wrapt up, heart and soul, in this cause (cheers). I am as zealous now as ever I was for its progress; and it must cheer me to see the men and women and young people assembled here this evening, to enjoy innocent pleasure and harmless festivity, under the auspices of the great virtue to which this and similar temples are erected. This place will soon be a large suburban village, when it is connected with the large and populous city of Cork; and I feel you are now, by your zealous devotion to the good cause of temperance, laying the foundation of its future prosperity. Father Mathew, after urging the members to persevere to the end, paid a deserved compliment to the Chairman.

Mr. Maguire, Mr. Blewot, and Mr. Donovan addressed the meeting.

Father Mathew and the principal guests left at an early hour.

We are gratified to learn that Father Mathew contemplates another mission amongst his own countrymen, to build up and establish those who have professed adherence to this cause, as well as to extend the sway of teetotalism over a yet greater number.

ANNUAL SOIRÉE—AMHERSTBURG.

(From the *Western Standard*.)

The annual Soirée of the Amherstburg Total Abstinence Society took place in the Town Hall, on Thursday evening the 28th December, when a large and respectable audience assembled, principally of the younger portion of the community. The tables were richly furnished with the choicest viands, prepared by Mr. Dunbar. Tea and Coffee were served up in the best style, doing great honor to the ladies that prepared it, who on this, as well as on former occasions, earned for themselves the applause of the Society, and all who assembled around our festive board. After supper the Secretary read the Annual Report, which was unanimously adopted by the Society, and the following resolution was put to the meeting and carried:

Moved by the Rev. Robt. Peden, seconded by Isaac Askew, Esq., that the Report which has been adopted, be sent to the *Western Standard* and *Canada Temperance Advocate* for publication.

Mr. Askew, Mr. White, (Wyandott Indian) and the Rev. Messrs. Clement and Peden, severally addressed the meeting, all dwelling on the evils arising from intemperance, and the necessity for all well wishers to the community to combine their influence to root out this crying evil from our beloved land. Several temperance songs were sung, and the Amherstburg Fire Company's Band delighted the company with excellent music throughout the evening. About thirty names were added to the pledge, and all quietly separated, delighted with their evening's entertainment.

REPORT:

Your Committee, in presenting to the Society its Annual Report, deeply regret that it is not in their power, to speak more favourably of the progress of so great and good a cause, considering the claims it has upon the moral, physical, political, and religious interests of man.

Your Committee, in taking a retrospective glance at the operations of the Society during the year that is now nearly at a close, feel the painful duty devolving upon them of reporting a great lethargy among a great majority of the members of this society; many of whom, had they taken an active part in forwarding it, would have given it such a status in the community, that its influence would have been felt on all around.

The Society, in point of numbers, is about the same as it was last year; as the accessions have been counterbalanced by violations, and members leaving the place.

But your Committee, in reporting thus unfavourably of the efforts of this Society, have still the gratifying intelligence to convey, that the cause is making progress throughout the community. Doubtless all the members are aware of the position occupied by the Society in regard to those places for the sale of intoxicating drinks, which are not in accordance with the license law: that the action of the Society in this instance has been productive of good, will admit of little doubt, in the minds of those who are favourable to our cause. The magistrates this year have shewn respect to the cause by cutting off those places, which are like so many traps to ensnare the unwary, and hurl them head-long into a premature grave. Who can behold those haunts of vice, where the intoxicating draught is the presiding genius, and the gambling table its associate, without a heart overflowing with pity and compassion, for the accumulated amount of misery and wickedness which they produce. That intemperance is still the great evil society has to contend with, may be fully corroborated by the public journals of our Province, where we will see articles of the following description:—Death by Intemperance—Coroner's Inquests—Burned to death—Sudden death, &c., and even our little town has had similar verdicts to record during the past year. And is it not a fact, by no means unfrequent, that intemperance stalks through our streets at noon day, and disturbs the repose of night by the revels of the drunkard.

We also behold the Gospel obstructed in its course, ministers and church members polluted by intemperance, our jails and Lunatic Asylums filled by its victims. It is the great ally of ignorance, and the retarder of education, and the great means of keeping back the moral advancement of the race.

Were intemperance banished from our land, and the money that has hitherto been spent in intoxicating drinks appropriated to some more useful and benevolent purpose, we would see the Gospel exert a far mightier sway, and human nature would assume a higher character, and a greater assimilation to its great Author.

Intellectual and moral results would take the place of the sensual. Better health, better intellect, purer, loftier, and more benevolent feeling would pervade all; men, instead of