

THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

The call for a National Temperance Convention, issued by the recognized leaders of the great Temperance army of the United States, has been right heartily responded to, and on the 29th July there assembled in the First Presbyterian Church in the beautiful "Forest city" of Cleveland, Ohio, a noble band of some five hundred earnest christian workers, from almost every State in the Union, to urge forward this much needed reform.

Although, according to the terms of the call, it was, strictly speaking, a "National" and representative body, the extension of an invitation to ourselves indicated that "foreigners" would be cordially welcomed, and "naturalized" for the occasion, and we therefore determined to go, and we much regret that so few of the Temperance men of the Dominion were there. Two or three from the Province of Ontario constituted the entire Canadian delegation.

We cannot of course give anything beyond the barest outline of the proceedings of the Convention, occupying, as it did, in earnest discussion of the great questions and principles involved in the Temperance movement, two entire days. All we can hope to do is to convey to our readers some of the impressions gained, and to state some of the facts and arguments enunciated in the course of its sessions.

First of all, it did us good,—accustomed as we have been latterly to see most "respectable" people treat the Temperance cause as something a little beneath them,—a kind of well intended, but rather extravagant and vulgar affair, to be left to third-rate orators and people of the more illiterate class,—to hear men talk in downright earnest again upon the subject. Long before we reached the city, groups of delegates, all unknown to each other until they met upon the cars, had found one another out, and were engaged in animated discussion of the topics about to be presented for the consideration of the Convention. It was decidedly pleasant and inspiring to grasp the hand of a brother who had travelled all the way from California, in company with several others from that State and Oregon, to attend the meeting, and to plan and work for the suppression of our as well as their national vice. Their very presence was itself a most eloquent appeal on behalf of the cause they came to promote.

As was to be expected on such an occasion most of the leading spirits of the Temperance reform were there. Prominent among these were the Hon. W. E. Dodge, the New York banker, who was chosen President of the Convention, as he is also of the National Temperance Society, the Hon. Neal Dow, author of the Maine Law, Dr. Charles Jewett, the veteran Lecturer, and others, besides a host of titled dignitaries from the several Grand Divisions of the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars &c. Several others, however, equally noted, whom we had expected to meet there, were unavoidably absent.

THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME,

by the Rev. Dr. Wolcott, of the Plymouth Congregational Church, was so short, and withal so appropriate that we give it entire. He said :

"The committee has devolved upon me the pleasant duty of extending to the members of the convention and the friends of temperance gathered here from abroad a cordial welcome to the city of Cleveland. It gives us pleasure to look upon the faces of so many veteran workers in a cause so sacred. We hail their presence among us, we offer them our hearty greeting, we bid them our fervent God speed. If in this midsummer heat, more protracted and intense than has