

interest excited, or the edification produced by these meetings for discussion; names were, however, added to the pledge almost every evening.

A very interesting series of meetings for the young was held in the same place, on every Saturday afternoon, for several months—under the auspices of the Rev. T. Osgood and Mr. R. D. Wadsworth. Such meetings are especially important and commendable, seeing that the young are the hope of the cause.

General Carey, from Cincinnati, when passing through the city, delivered two very effective lectures, gratuitously, at the request of this Committee, in the month of May last.

On the 15th of June, a public meeting took place in the Hall, at which a very important address was delivered by the Honourable Malcolm Cameron, shewing that the present license law was very stringent, if strictly administered, and that the people could easily diminish the number of licenses, by merely ascertaining from the Clerks of the Peace, and publishing the names of all Magistrates who violated their oaths of office by certifying that houses were provided with the accommodations required by law, in cases where this was notoriously false.

The report of this speech, your committee have reason to know, caused considerable sensation in many places, and they rejoice to see, that a Committee of the Home District Magistracy have recently recommended that the names of all Magistrates signing certificates for tavern licenses shall be published. Such a measure would, doubtless, have a great effect in restraining the corrupt administration of the law.

One of the greatest Temperance meetings ever held in Montreal, or perhaps in any country, was that convened in the Bonsecour Hall of this City, to hear addresses from the Rev. Messrs. Chiniquy and O'Reilly, Roman Catholics, and Rev. W. Taylor and Dr. Cramp, Protestants, together with the Honourable M. Cameron, and others.

The Mayor was in the chair, with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal, several Members of Parliament, and other influential gentlemen around him, and the immense hall was densely filled by all classes and origins in the city to listen to addresses of remarkable pathos and power.

We think it would be no exaggeration to say, that a much greater influence emanated from this meeting than from all the other Temperance meetings held in the city throughout the year.

The Meetings in the Temperance Hall were renewed this winter, and several effective lectures were delivered to numerous and respectable audiences.

One by Dr. Sewell of this city, accompanied by the exhibition of plates of the effects on the viscera of diseases, caused or aggravated by alcoholic drinks, made, we have reason to believe, a very deep impression.

#### II. CONVENTION.

Various considerations induced your Committee to request, in June last, delegates from all parts of Canada to meet in convention in Montreal, in the Autumn following, and issued a list of queries, answers to which were to be sent to the Convention. These queries had specially in view to obtain the information necessary to be laid before the Legislature, when a proposed inquiry into

the extent and causes of intemperance came up, as well as to obtain a decision of the country respecting the continuance of the "Temperance Advocate."

This Convention met in the Temperance Hall on the 5th October, and had, by adjournment, several sessions; the attendance was, however, small, and comparatively few reports were sent in, but as a digest of the whole appeared in the *Advocate* of 16th October last, we do not enter into details.

#### III. TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

This publication has been continued during the past year, but, we regret to say, with a diminished circulation, and consequently at a heavy loss. The Montreal Committee when willing to give the necessary superintendence gratuitously, and also to take the pecuniary responsibility directly upon itself, felt, that it had a claim upon friends all over the country to subscribe in sufficient numbers to protect it from loss, but its expectations were not realized.

In the circular calling the Convention, the Committee announced that they would be under the necessity of discontinuing the *Advocate*, unless 4000 subscribers were pledged in the responses sent to the convention, it being out of their power to sustain farther loss, and that number being necessary to meet the expenses. The result of this appeal was by no means encouraging, only about a fourth part of the necessary number being pledged. Under these circumstances, the committee had no choice but to discontinue the paper, but rejoice to add, that the publisher took it up on his own account, to be carried on substantially in the manner as heretofore, and they hope he will be well sustained by the public spirit of the Province generally.

Nothing further has been done in the way of publication, except concluding the year of Tract effort which had nearly expired at the date of our last report.

This effort, as will be remembered, was undertaken in order to supply a Monthly Temperance Tract to every family in Montreal, and it was carried out as faithfully as practicable. There being 12 different Tracts issued, and the number of each distributed about 6000, there was in this way about seventy-two thousand regular Temperance visitors sent throughout the city by a suitable agent, besides about 12,000 other tracts distributed at the same time.

#### IV. FINANCES.

The debt under which the Montreal Society has been labouring has, to a great extent, paralyzed its energies for the past year, and although, doubtless, the expenditure which caused it did much good in former years, yet we think it very questionable if any Temperance Society should run into debt, however important the object in view, and this for two reasons—1st, Because it is easier to obtain subscriptions for a prospective, than for a past, effort,—and 2d, Because the debt, if not liquidated by public subscription, must fall upon some few individuals who are, perhaps, neither willing nor able to bear it, and thus the Society becomes the instrument of inflicting injustice. Besides, being in debt necessitates frequent calls for relief, and of these the public is soon wearied. We are sorry to add that the debt is not liquidated yet by about £400, towards which, however, pledges have