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E variis sumendum est optimum.—Cic.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS

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[From the New-Brunswicker.]

GREAT ANTI-PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW MEETING AT FREDERICTON.

On Wednesday last, pursuant to a requisition numerously and respectably signed, (headed by the Bishop, Rev. Mr. McDevitt, Rev. Mr. Podmore, Wm End, James Taylor, J. A. Street, and C. McPherson, Esqrs. and members of the House of Assembly, and signed by John Macdonald, Francis McManus, Alex Mitchell, Edward Simonds, and Spafford Barker, J. P's., and Col Hayne, Dr. O'Dell, and John C. Allen, D. L. Robinson, E. W. Miller, and George Botsford, Esquires, and 37 others,) the Mayor issued his notice calling a meeting of the public at the Temperance Hall, to be holden on Friday evening, the 18th January.

The meeting was very fully attended, the number of persons present being variously estimated from 1000 to 1200. On motion of J. A. Street, Esq., the Mayor was voted into the Chair. His Worship then addressed the meeting, informing the audience that they were called together to express their opinion in reference to the Prohibitory Liquor Law, and he hoped that the proceedings would be conducted in a peaceful and becoming manner, and that a spirit of fair play would prevail.

J. A. Street, Esq., opened the discussion by giving a brief history of the progress of the Sons of Temperance in this Province,—their "moral suasion" doctrine at first; then the enactment of the Maine Law in 1852, which proved a failure; and the enactment of the present law. He then pointed out the tyranny, incongruities, and unconstitutionality of the present law, and alluded to the country of its origin (Maine,) where it had proved a failure. He showed how, in spite of all the cunning of the Prohibitory party in Maine, and their allying themselves with others, the late elections had resulted in an Anti-Prohibitory Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives. He then quoted from the Inagural Address of Governor Wells, and called upon all who were opposed to the coercive spirit of a law that had been condemned in the country where it originated, to support the Resolution he was about to move. The hon. gentleman then moved the first resolution, as follows:—

1. "While this meeting readily admits the necessity of legislation to prevent the abuse, and regulate the sale of alcoholic liquors, it most unquestionably deprecates coercive enactments against the use thereof, as arbitrary and unwise, and altogether inconsistent with the inherent and natural rights of the people of every civilized community.

Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the Act of the last Session, commonly called 'The Prohibitory Law,' is uncongenial to the spirit and feelings, and insulting to the character of the people of this Province, and fraught with serious evils to the social and political well being of society."

Mr. End rose to second the resolution, and made a most effective, and witty speech. He kept the audience in a complete roar by his humorous descriptions and witty retorts. He combated the theory that one man was compelled, or should be compelled, to deny himself the *use* of what was sent into the world for his comfort, because another man *abused* the article. He asked if because one entered the Five Points in New York, or Ann-street (commonly called the "Black Sea") in Boston, and there saw women who were a disgrace to their sex, he ought therefore to denounce all women and sexual intercourse; whether because Brigham Young had fifty wives, another man ought to have none, and ought to be driven into that course by coercion. He challenged his opponents to show where, in the history of the world, such ultra penal laws had done good. He then described a journey he made from Boston to this Province on the eve of the last election, how he forgot his overcoat, and arrived at Eastport in a temperance boat, chilled and shivering in a cold fog—how a man nicknamed "Rum and Onions," had directed him now and where he could procure a glass of brandy, which, after much difficulty, he effected, having had to climb up two or three flight of stairs, and then make himself acquainted with the architecture of a novel fire place. He concluded by quoting Franklin's maxim, which he said, he intended to adhere to—"There are three things a man should never quarrel with,—his stomach, his wife, and his conscience."

Mr. John T. Smith replied to the foregoing speeches. He said that all Mr. End's trouble on board the steamer, and at Eastport, arose from his having left his overcoat in Boston, for there was no doubt but he had a flask in the coat pocket. Mr. Smith then combatted what had been said about the elections in Maine. He said Morrill, the Temperance advocate, had about 5000 votes more than Wells, and consequently was the choice of the people; but as there can be no election of a Governor in Maine by a plurality, the case was left to the House and the Senate, and there, in the two Houses combined (although not in the lower House) Wells polled a majority of votes. Mr. Smith very conveniently forgot to say there were four candidates for Governor, and that Wells and Reed combined polled far more than Morrill: he also forgot to state that the "Sons" and the "Know Nothings" were allied, and that the Senate in Maine, as well as the House of Representatives, are elected by the people.) Mr. Smith concluded by offering the following as an amendment to Mr. Street's resolution, viz:—

"Resolved, That this meeting is not prepared to censure or condemn an Act which has passed the Legislature of this Province, received the sanction of the Lieutenant Governor, and the assent of Her Majesty the Queen, until that Law has had at least a fair trial."

Rev. Mr. Gunter (Freewill Baptist) rose to second the amendment. His speech was remarkable for nothing but the usual cant of the prohibitory party.

George Botsford, Esq., then spoke in favour of the original resolution. He disclaimed every personal motive, and showed how the law bore hard upon the poor, while the rich were not affected by it. The latter had been enabled to evade the law, by laying in a stock of liquors sufficient to last them until the bill would, in all probability, be rejected. The poor man who was unable to do this, must pay the penalty. Then the revenue arising from the luxury would be lost to the country, and while the rich would be comparatively exempt, the poor would be taxed to make up the deficiency. Besides if he would believe newspaper reports the law could not be carried out by the proper authorities, but secret leagues were formed for that purpose, which he considered decidedly wrong. He looked upon the whole affair as a question of the utmost importance, and considered the calling of public meetings, and there taking a vote the proper mode to test public opinion.

Mr. McCauseland, City Councillor, next spoke in favour of the amendment. He said all measures of reform, had at first met with opposition. He instanced Gallileo as *opposing* the Copernican system and several others. "Such," said he, "is human nature; such it has been in all time, and such it ever will be." Mr. C. then fell into the rant of a certain class of preachers, and his remarks were irrelevant to the question.

John C. Allen, Esq., then spoke in favour of the Resolution. He alluded to the harshness and tyrannical spirit of the law, in coercing or endeavouring to coerce men like himself, who although they sometimes *used* liquor, never *abused* it—never injured themselves, or their families by it, and never set an evil example to others. He next pointed out the impossibility of keeping liquor out of the country. High duties always occasioned smuggling. How then, would they prevent smuggling, when they prohibited the importation altogether, while Nova Scotia and Canada tolerated the importation, and Maine was about to repeal the law? He then took up and reviewed several sections of the law, showing its incongruities, and tyrannical and unconstitutional spirit.

Hon. Mr. Tilley combatted the arguments of the opposite side with considerable ingenuity. He thanked the audience for the patience with which they had listened until such a late hour and complimented them on the good order they had kept; and acknowledged that this was the proper course for the opponents of the law to take. The present meeting might decide against the law, but he felt confident that not many years would elapse before the very men who now took a leading position in opposing the law, would turn round and say 'Tilley you were right.' The Hon. gentleman then got into the enthusiastic strain, speaking of the horrors of intemperance, throwing his arms aloft, and calling on everything holy to witness his sincerity of purpose, &c. From this state of beatification (which had begun to produce the desired effect on the audience) he was suddenly called back to the stern realities of life, by a person in the front of the crowd calling out, "*How about Cudlip's Election?*"

Hon. Mr. Tilley,—"What?"

Questioner,—"You must have been very sincere when you went to St. John and canvassed for Cudlip—a wholesale importer of liquor—Moosie's agent!"

This was a poser, and after a pause, the discomfitted gentleman cut short his speech with a few broken sentences, amid the laughter of the crowd.

Charles McPherson, Esq., next addressed the meeting, shewing how votes were obtained in favour of the Bill in the Legislature—how it passed in the Assembly by a majority of three, several voting for it believing it would be lost elsewhere—how he and others had been the means of removing some of the most tyrannous clauses &c., and he declared himself strongly opposed to such a coercive measure—a measure that several of the leading prohibitory men had, to his own knowledge, evaded. He could name five of them who had laid in supplies. (Cries of "Name!") He would name them when he became mean enough to turn pimp and informer, as some then present had done. He called on he meeting to support the original resolution. He believed public opinion would back him; if he was mistaken, he was prepared to resign his seat whenever a majority of those who supported him at the last election called upon him to do so

The question was then taken on the amendment by the holding up of hands, and decided in the negative; the original resolution was then put and carried. Mr. Allen then moved the following Resolution, seconded by George Botsford, Esq.:

2. "Resolved that copies of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the several representatives of this county for their consideration, and the whole proceedings be published in the "Head Quarters" and "Reporter" newspapers."

The question was taken on this resolution without discussion, and it was sustained.

The several speakers in favour of the resolutions were frequently and enthusiastically cheered. One or two on the opposition side were hissed; but on the whole, the meeting passed off very orderly, the best of good humour being apparent. On the three divisions (very much alike in respect to numbers,) the prohibitory party to speak within bounds, did not muster over one hundred, so that they were defeated by something like ten to one. There was some talk about dividing and appointing tellers, but in the crowded state of the Hall it would have been impossible.—When the main votes had been taken, the Sheriff was voted into the Chair, and a vote of thanks passed to the Mayor and Secretary. (Geo. N. Segee, Esq.) Cheers were then given to the several speakers, and three hearty cheers for the Queen when the meeting dispersed in the most perfect order.

At a session of the Court in Addison County, Vermont some years since, Judge Olin was violently attacked by a very impertinent and quarrelsome lawyer. To the surprise of every body present, the Judge allowed him to go quite through, as though unconscious of what was said, and made no reply. After the adjournment for the day, and when all had assembled at the inn where the Judge and many of the court-folks had their lodging one of the company, referring to the scene at Court, asked the Judge "why he did not rebuke the impertinent fellow?"

"Permit me," said the Judge, loud enough to call the attention of all the company, among which was the 'fellow' in question—"permit me to tell a story. My father when he lived down country, had a dog a mere puppy, I may say. Well, this puppy, would go out every moonlight night and bark at the moon for hours together."

Here the Judge paused, as if he had done with the story.

"Well, well, what of it?" exclaimed half a dozen of the company at once.

"Oh! nothing,—nothing whatever; THE MOON KEPT RIGHT ON, JUST AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED!"

An American editor tells us that the man who had never taken a newspaper was seen in Cincinnati lately—he was enquiring his way to the poor house; and we are informed on the same authority, that, at two o'clock the same afternoon, the publisher of a weekly paper, who did business on the credit system was seen in the same city, asking his way to the same place.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY OF CANADA.—A gay flamming advertisement in our columns respecting the line of steamships which are [illegible] Liverpool and the St. Lawrence. Part of their fine steamships, the Canadian and Indian, have already fairly established their claims to be first class, and we have no doubt the Anglo Saxon, North American, and Sardinian, will be equal if not superior, in those in every respect. Messrs. Edmondstone, Allan & Co., are known to be the contractors and the chief owners; the public has sufficient confidence in these gentlemen to rest assured that no pains or expense will be spared to secure the comfort of the passengers, and to ensure a regular and speedy performance of every voyage. The first of the line, the North American is to leave Liverpool on the 23 of April next. Her arrival at Quebec will no doubt be welcomed in some distinguished way, and a public demonstration made on his practical pledge of the achievement of an object so long desired by Canada.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

The Canadian it will be remembered, is the steamer which brought the latest news from Europe in his port about a year since.—*State of Maine.*

ST. STEPHEN, Jan. 18.—Thomas Shannon was convicted to day, before Justice Rose, of a violation of the Prohibitory Liquor Law.—Fined £10 and forfeiture of the liquor.

Arrival of the Steamer

WASHINGTON.

The steamer Washington from Bremen and Southampton, arrived at New York on the 22d inst. Brings dates to the 5th inst.—Nothing of importance.

Consols in London at eleven o'clock on Saturday, 5th, quoted at 87 a. 87¼.

The Naples correspondence of the Times mentions a report that the King of Naples had become favorably disposed towards the Allies; and there is a further rumor that he will send a contingent to the Crimea

The Paris correspondent of the same paper says that assurances have been again given in an official quarter, of the resolution of France to carry on the war in the most vigorous manner, in the event of Russia not acceding to the proposition of the Allies, and that the Emperor and the English government were determined not to abate an iota of the terms on which peace would be accepted.

From Washington we have a rumor that Mr. Buchanan has been ordered to demand his passports of the British government, as soon as he delivers his last dispatch peremptorily demanding the recall of Mr. Crampton.

The rejection of the plurality rule and the trial for Speaker on Friday indicate another mouth's anarchy.

The Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce says, the Cabinet held a long consultation upon the question of the suspension of diplomatic intercourse with Great Britain, and that it is proposed to withdraw our Minister from England, and not send another until the British Government grant the reparation which this government have demanded.—[Boston Post.

JANUARY.

January is a very busy month with mothers, and makes a large demand on their attention to both the bodies and mind of their children. Liability to disease is peculiarly strong,—actual disease is unusually frequent—out of door sports among the snow and on the ice, are powerfully exciting—in door confinement during days of rain and gloom is extremely depressing—the demand upon nursery resources for play and employment is a maximum—and both the opportunities and the facilites for instruction in many a department are singularly great; so that every wise and careful mother of five or six children is likely to find more maternal work in January than in almost any other month of the year.

Janus, from whom the month is named, was fabled by the Romans to have been the most ancient king of Italy, and was worshipped by them as one of their deities. He was usually represented with two faces,—the one old and sorrowful, looking back to the past, and the other, young and joyous, looking forward to the future. But he was really the impersonation of Noah, just delivered from the deluge and forming the link between the old world and the new. The heathen Saxons of Britain called this month Wolf-month, because it was the season of peculiar danger from wolves; and the Christianized Saxons called it After Yule, because it followed the festal season of Christmas.—January is thus rife with associations which enable a mother to tell of the general deluge, of the origin of the heathen mythology, and of the early ecclesiastical history of Britain.

This is usually the coldest month in the year, and affords the most numerous opportunities for explaining the beautiful phenomena of frost. The pendant and fantastic icicles, glittering like diamonds—the elaborate exfoliations of frozen moisture on the window far more varied, and incomparably more intricate than the most exquisite traceries of art and the starry crystals of snow, so diversified, so elegant, so wondrously beautiful when examined through a microscope, ought to be exhibited to the admiration of children, both as objects of gorgeous taste, and as minute examples of the wonder-working power of God. The formation of a sheet of ice on the surface of water is a fine instance of the conversion of a liquid body into a solid by the evolution of heat, and might be happily employed to illustrate the prodigious power which the rise or fall of temperature exerts in our world, converting a solid substance into a liquid and a vapour, or a vapour into a liquid and a solid. But the very striking anomaly which occurs in the solidification of water, ought to be especially pointed out as a large instance of the wisdom and kindness of the All-benevolent. Other liquids, in the act of solidifying, expands, so as to render ice as buoyant as a plank or a piece of cork; and by this exception to a general law, the all-wise Creator prevents the contents of rivers, lakes, and seas from being converted into masses of ice, which no length or intensity of summer heat could melt.

The scripture lessons which a mother might communicate in association with the phenomena of frost are neither few nor tame. "By the breath of God frost is given, and the breadth of the water is straitened." "He giveth snow like wool; he scatteredh the hoar frost like ashes; he casteth forth his ice like morsels; who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them; he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow." "The rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth—it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." "God thunderedh marvellously with his voice; many things doth he which we cannot comprehend; for he saith to the snow, be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain and to the great rain of his strength."—"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." "I saw seven golden candlesticks, and in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle; his head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were as a flame of fire." Thus may the glorious doctrines of God's special Providence, his physical government, his control over all the elements, his wielding alike the lightning and the living word, his dealing as easily with mind as with vapour, with hearts as with hoar frost—his omnipotence in the Gospel, his pardoning of sin, his purifying the soul, and the manifestation of his glory in the person of Immanuel—may all be, more or less, illustrated in connexion with the congelations and the snow storms of January.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE A NEWSPAPER.—It is worth more than it costs simply for educational purposes. Parents have hardly a right to deprive their families of its advantages in these times. Children will learn more, as they go to and from school, to drive the cows to pasture, or pick berries by the way, if their observation is quickened, by what they hear their parents read or talk over from their paper; and when they form habits of reading for themselves, such reading is both safe and useful. Reader, if your neighbor has no paper, persuade him to take one rather than to do without it: for if he takes one, his children will be likely to be better off—to make a good home for themselves, and it may be, for him in old age. We advise no parent, who feels that he may sometime be dependent upon his children, to bring them up without the means of instruction.—[Am. Pap.

A HARD CASE.—The Albany Register says there is in that city a young man, 17 years of age, possessing a voice and face so strikingly feminine, with some resemblance in gait and manner to a female, he is often mistaken for a female in male attire. He is often molested by rowdies, who mistake him for a female, and he has been obliged to obtain a certificate as to his sex from the Chief of Police to insure himself from suspicion and arrest. The Register says that a brother of the young man possesses the same feminine countenance and voice, while his sister has a masculine face and voice. He has frequently assumed female attire, and feels at ease on that dress—and indeed is less liable to attract attention in that costume than in the one properly belonging to him. If all this is correct, the beautiful young man must have a hard time of it.

CURIOUS SENTENCE.—The following verse contains every letter in the English alphabet except "B." It is a question whether any other English rhyme can be produced (in print) without the letter "B," which is a letter employed more than any other. By inserting the word vex instead of tax in the second line, the verse would contain all the letters of the alphabet:—

A jovial swain may rack his brain,
And tax his fancy's might
To quiz is vain, for 'tis most plain
That what I did was right.

MODERN THEATRICALS.—In Sonora, California, recently, Miss Estella Potter was engaged at the theatre and unfortunately on her first night a big Know-Nothing meeting came off. The manager determining not to be undone, gave notice from the rostrum of the speakers, that the curtain would rise at midnight. Sure enough, after the speaking was over, the crowd adjourned to the theatre, and before the play was concluded there were not more than ten persons awake in the room.

Poor Condition
Best copy available