

## Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, APRIL 1, 1850.

## LATE DOINGS AT ST. HYACINTHE.

The Municipal Council of this village, determined lately to suppress the unlicensed taverns with which it is infested. For this commendable purpose they employed an informer, who soon put himself in possession of such facts, as would have convicted the guilty. But none of the lawyers of the place would undertake the prosecution. By what motive they were led to do so, is not said; whether it was because they themselves frequented these houses—or because they knew they were very active in stirring up quarrels, to give them employment—or because they were afraid the keepers of these houses might afterwards take vengeance on them, we know not, it is certain, however, that none of them would have anything to do with an attempt to remove such moral nuisances from St. Hyacinthe. Not to be baffled, the Councillors brought a lawyer from Montreal—their informer was prepared with his evidence—the Court was to be held next day, and everything was in readiness for their purpose. But on the previous evening, the informer, who appears to have been their only witness, was seized suddenly by some unknown persons, blindfolded, and thrown into a sleigh, and carried off into the woods; and, after being maltreated and stripped of his boots, stockings, and hat, he was left in a barn, at such a distance from the village, that it was impossible for him to arrive in time for the Court. The prosecutions consequently fell to the ground, and the guilty parties escaped.

We regret this termination of the affair. The Councillors deserve great praise for their diligence and perseverance, and we hope they will not lose sight of the delinquents at the next term. It is deeply to be regretted, however, that the state of public opinion is so perverted, as to favor the guilty, and even rejoice at their escape, and there are none on whom, we think, a heavier sentence ought to fall, than the lawyers of the village. They must be a strange race; they seem to have a brotherly sympathy with the breakers of the law, if not to have made a compact amongst themselves, that they will do nothing to annoy them.

But a part of the public Press of Montreal must come in for a share of the indignation and censure which this nefarious transaction calls for. The *Minerve* and the *Transcript*, at least, have inserted an account of it of such a nature as to show that they glory in the escape of these parties from justice, and the violence committed upon the witness. These papers have not a word of condemnation or regret! No fault is found with the lawyers; the Councillors are not commended for their firmness; nor exhorted to follow up the case with vigour still. On the contrary, the *Minerve* and the *Transcript* seem to be quite satisfied with the issue of their attempt; they mightily enjoy the whole affair!

When the public press can deal with a matter of this kind as if it were a joke, or a frolic, the friends of order and morality have reason to take alarm, for those that can hear down the law in one point, are able to do so in another. We have a right to expect in such a case as this, that the Press should come to the aid of the Councillors, and endeavour to strengthen their hands, and pour a torrent of indignation against the perpetrators of the outrage, and the unlicensed vendors who were the cause of it; but instead of this, these Presses have indirectly extended their protection to the illegal traffickers, and joined in a laugh against those who endeavoured to put the law in force against them. It confirms the testimony given before the late Parliamentary Committee, by more

than one witness; that it is next to impossible to obtain a conviction against the unlicensed dealer. There is a prejudice in his favor, on the bench, throughout the public, and even in some portions of the public press. Will any one tell us, what is the use of a license after this; or give a good reason why a person desirous of keeping tavern should go to the expense of purchasing one?

## SHOULD TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES COUNTENANCE DANCING BALLS AT THEIR ANNIVERSARIES?

We say decidedly not. And we rest this opinion chiefly on the ground, that the excitement of the ball naturally leads to, and calls for, the excitement of intoxicating drink. We have a strong conviction that these balls are essentially works of darkness; they cannot endure the light of day. If any party were to propose to give a public ball, to commence at mid-day and terminate at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, they would only be laughed at for their pains. Dancing celebrations invariably take shelter under the covert of night. But waving this consideration, we have an equally strong conviction, that the influence which midnight dances have exerted, ever since the time of the golden calf, at least, has been unfavorable to temperance, as well as other branches of morality. They are never found in alliance with what is good, but what is evil. The excitement of spirits, caused by whirling through "the giddy dance," accompanied with the impressions of the music, and the scenes which meet the eye, must create a desire for the stimulation of alcoholic liquors; and if there be any reformed incline in the company, this desire will be so strong in him as to render it impossible to restrain it.

We are, therefore, of opinion, that it is very inconsistent in Temperance Societies, who are laboring to root out the evil of intemperance, and reform the customs and fashions that lead to it, to celebrate their anniversaries by dancing balls. They are raising an obstacle in the way of their own efforts; they are placing a temptation before those who have begun to reform, which may throw them back again to their former degradation, and they are helping to keep up customs that prevent many others from joining our ranks, and determine them still to abide by the "wine cup."

## SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Pledge of the Order.—No brother shall make, buy, sell, or use, as a beverage, any Spirituous or Malt Liquors, Wine or Cider.

In our number for Feb. 15, we noticed the journal of proceedings of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance of Tennessee, for 1849; and now, in fulfilment of the promise then made, give such additional particulars as may be interesting to our readers. We have been especially pleased in looking over the proceedings, to find that the Sons are not likely to lower the moral standard; this has been impressed upon us, from the reports of other Grand Divisions also, especially in examining the proceedings at the last meeting of the National Division, which assembled in Cincinnati in May last.

The application of the pledge to commission agents, clerks, druggists, etc., engaged in the liquor traffic, was brought before the Division during the year, and appears to be a matter of some difficulty as to the proper course to be pursued. The following resolution was laid on the table:—

Resolved, That no article of our Constitution and By-Laws are to be so construed as to render a member of the Order guilty of a violation of Article 2d, who shall purchase or sell spirituous liquors, in filling orders as a Commission Merchant or as a clerk.

But the following was also offered, which, after considerable debate, was referred to a committee.—