

Then followed the presentation of the programme. Mr. C. W. Whyte B. A., led off with an interesting essay on "Historical Ships." Next came a French reading "A la colonne de la place Vendonne," by Mr. Bouchard, and a song, "The Storm," by Mr. S. P. Rondeau, both of which were well received.

The second part of the programme was a debate on the subject—"Resolved, that prohibition infringes on the liberties of the people." The first speaker on the affirmative was Mr. G. Charles, B. A., who first defined liberty, and then proceeded to show that a prohibitory law must of necessity infringe upon the freedom which he claimed for it. The speaker's style was highly philosophical, and his speech presented a formidable array of arguments in favor of the position he had taken. His views were supported by Messrs. Mahaffy and Townsend, who presented some skilful illustrations in support of the position taken by their leader.

Mr. Frew, the leader of the negative, at once assailed his opponent's view of liberty, which he said amounted to unrestricted leave for each individual to do as he pleases. That would be anarchy. In defining liberty the community must be taken as a unit. Man is part of a great whole, and personal liberty must be submerged in the liberty of the state. The liquor traffic is a national curse. It infringes on the liberties of the people, and, therefore, they have a right to suppress it. This view was supported by Messrs. Mackenzie and Tener, whose speeches perceptibly influenced the decision of the audience, which was given in favor of the negative.

The society held another meeting on the evening of November 8th, with the President, Mr. Jas. Naismith, B. A., in the chair, and Mr. A. McGregor, critic. Taking as our criterion the consensus of the opinion of all the members in attendance, this meeting was the most successful in the recent history of the society. The attendance was comparatively large, and the programme on the whole of a superior order. This was due to a certain extent, no doubt, to the character of the items which it contained, but more particularly to the manifestly thorough preparation made by nearly all who took part in it. The French element was well represented by Mr. Savignac, whose recitation of "Napoleon III." by Victor Hugo, was, we are informed, all that could be desired. Then followed a song by Mr. Eadie, whose rendering of "The Bonnie Lass of Ballochmyle," was much appreciated. But the second part of the programme furnished the richest treat of the evening. It appeared in the shape of a Symposium on Sir Walter Scott, by Messrs. Cleland, Reeves, Mackeracher and Moss. Mr. Cleland dealt with his life. The style of his paper was pleasing, and the facts presented highly interesting.

Mr. A. C. Reeves, in treating of his poems, dealt respectively with "The Lay of the last Minstrel," "Marmion," and "The Lady of the Lake."