

noon to a dinner got up in the Steward of the *Highlander's* best style, and at four, another dinner in same style was laid, for all who choose to participate, and "seas" followed "teas" in rapid succession, as the boat cast off and stemmed gallantly up the current, saluting as she successively met, the *Jacques Cartier*, *Lady Elgin*, *Jenny Lind*, and *Quebec*, with cheers and music, and arrived at the first lock, shortly after eight, where all walked ashore, as sound and steady as when they started. The weather throughout the day had been cloudy, fresh and cool.

This excursion is a triumph of Temperance. Too much praise cannot be accorded to Perseverance Tent, and the managers, for their excellent arrangements throughout; but to the complete absence of strong drink, alone, can be attributed the phenomena, of 600 people, of all ages, and sexes, promiscuously brought together, on board a crowded steamer, making a voyage out and in, of sixty miles, and enjoying freely, several hours on shore, in such perfect order, politeness, and good breeding, that the Queen herself, if present, would have been nothing to offend her sense of propriety and decorum. Can we much be said of any "genteel" party, where the wine cup flows? "Oh!" as Shakespeare says, "that men should put an enemy into their mouth, to take away their senses."

We advise the Rechabites to get up these excursions frequently, or at all events, annually, and we recommend every family in town, wishing for a delightful country excursion, to be prepared to join, when they see the advertisements out, for they may depend on finding all things done in decency and order, and that the coming home, instead of being a shame and terror, the dread of the whole day, will be as delightful, as happy and as joyous, as the going forth.

Perseverance Tent, Independent Order of Rechabites, and the Temperance party who accompanied them, desire to return thanks to the people of Lavaltrie, for the kind reception to them on Tuesday; to the Richelieu Steamboat for the use of the wharf; to the Seigneurs of Lavaltrie, for the use of their beautiful grove in rear of the Church; and to Captain Starnes, of the *Highlander*, his officers and crew, for their care and polite attention during the trip.—*Gazette*.

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, AUGUST 15, 1851.

Petition of Montreal Temperance Society.

TO THE KNIGHTS, BURGESSES AND CITIZENS OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The Petition of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That your petitioners rejoice to see the attention of Parliament turned to the suppression of intemperance, as evidenced by three Bills brought before this Session to amend the license law of Lower Canada.

That of these, your petitioners have particular reference only to the last Bill introduced by the Hon. Solicitor-General for Canada East, presuming the others to be dropped.

That this Bill, though generally similar to a previous one introduced by the same gentleman, is, in some important respects, less stringent, and therefore less likely to prevent the wide-spread evils caused by intemperance.

That the sixth clause of the first Bill, (omitting the exception concerning St. Hyacinth,) was greatly preferable to the same clause of the second Bill, on account of the greater formality and more general assent required to the granting of licenses. The first Bill also very properly disqualified magistrates, being owners of houses of public entertainment, from granting licenses, which the second does not.

That the mode of proving offences was much easier, and more certain, under the first Bill than the second, inasmuch as the first

made convictions summary, on the evidence of one or more credible witnesses, before one or more Justices of the Peace, and provided that the Revenue officer should be entitled to a search warrant when he required it; and that witnesses who refused to answer proper questions should be punished by fine or imprisonment, all of which is left out in the second Bill.

That, as it is not so much the laxity of the law as the difficulty of enforcing it by obtaining convictions, which has hitherto paralyzed all attempts to restrain intemperance, your petitioners regard the leaving out of these provisions, or some modification of them, as all but fatal to the working of this Act.

That persons convicted under the first Bill were to be liable to imprisonment if they did not at once pay the fine imposed upon them; but this proviso, which your petitioners regard as an essential one, if the Bill is designed to reach the class which usually violates license laws, is entirely left out in the second.

That, whilst guarding themselves from approving of the sale of intoxicating drinks under any circumstances, your petitioners would respectfully point out that the rates charged for licenses under this Bill are too low; and that the assent of the inhabitants of the locality where a Tavern is opened should be obtained, not by the signature of six electors, but by a majority of votes:

Wherefore, your petitioners pray that your Honorable House will take the foregoing suggestions into your favorable consideration, and introduce them into the Bill now before the House.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society,

JOHN DOUGALL, *Pres.*

JAMES COURT, *Vice Pres.*

J. C. BRACKET, Cor. Sec.,

JOHN BRODIE, Rec. Sec.,

H. E. BENSON, Treas.,

D. P. JAMES,

CHARLES ALEXANDER.

Mr. Drummond's Bill.

Considerable changes have been made upon this bill since our last notice of it. It goes upon the principle of *reasonable duties*, and *heavy penalties*; and if these latter be honestly enforced, we have no doubt that taverns, where intoxicating liquors, of any kind, are sold, will soon be amongst the "things that were." If a tavern-keeper is really made responsible for the consequences of his traffic, according to the provisions of this bill, he will soon learn that is best to let it alone. We sympathise with the officers of the Montreal Temperance Society, in most of the amendments suggested by them, in their petition which we give in another place; but if Mr. Drummond will only make provision to ensure the enforcement of the penalties, prescribed in his Act, we have no fears for the result. This however, is the point on which other laws have been found defective, and we apprehend, the experience of another year will show, that the same defect is inherent in this one also.

We object to the fifth and sixth sections of the Bill, that they render it too easy a matter to obtain a certificate of license. To require the signature of only "six municipal electors" in such a City as Montreal, is a mere joke: and to authorise "three Justices of the Peace," in certain circumstances, to grant a certificate, is just to open a back door for evading the law.

The 45th section gives the right of appeal to parties who may be convicted under the statute, and allows them 15 days before they are required to deposit "the amount of the penalty and costs awarded by such judgement." Now this is just to allow them 15 days to clear out, and set the law at defiance. The