

Correspondence of the New York Express.

Washington, February 25.

ORGANIZATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The Hall of the House of Representatives was crowded this evening with a large audience. The seats of the members were filled with ladies and gentlemen, and the galleries were in part filled with those who could not gain admittance upon the floor of the House. Mr. Briggs, M. C. from Mass., called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock. The Rev. Mr. Tuston, as Chaplain of the Senate, then invoked the blessing of Heaven upon the cause of Temperance and upon the somewhat novel movement of bringing Temperance reform within the Halls of Congress.

Mr. Briggs, as President of the Society, then read to the meeting from the Speaker's chair, a noble, appropriate and strong address, which was listened to with earnest attention by the audience, which continued to increase in numbers to a late hour in the meeting. The address was designed to prove in part the propriety of signing the pledge, and abstaining from wine.

The present Temperance movement was commented upon most appropriately and most happily, and the singular feature connected with it, in the effect it has had upon a number of persons. It had reached the neglected, down-trodden drunkard, and produced more effect and more improvement upon him than upon any other class of persons. Some interesting statistics were stated to give evidence of the progress of the temperance reform among the drunkards of the country.

Mr. Briggs' address having closed, Mr. Williams, of Conn., offered a Resolution, which was a thanks offering to Almighty God for the blessing which has attended the Temperance cause.

The Rev. Mr. Marsh, of New York, the agent of the Temperance Society, seconded, and addressed the meeting in support of, at some length. The remarks of Mr. Marsh were earnest and impressive, showing the right frame of mind on the part of the speaker and his ability to argue the question with effect. The blessing of heaven and of men were earnestly invoked upon the effort in behalf of the cause of Temperance.

Mr. Mitchell, of Baltimore, followed in the discussion. He announced himself a reformed drunkard, one who had been dug from the pit and restored by the potent influence of the modern reform. The address of this man was pertinent, earnest, and listened to with profound attention by all present. Mr. M. said that the first time he drank was at an electioneering meeting, at 23 years of age. He was now 50.

Mr. Briggs, M. C. of Mass., then offered a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Sewell of this city.

A set of diagrams, illustrating the appearance of the stomach in the different stages of inebriation, had been placed near the speaker's chair, highly illuminated, and those Dr. Sewell took occasion to illustrate and explain.

Mr. Fillmore, M. C. of N. Y., followed with two resolutions complimentary to the drawings of Dr. Sewell, and the good effect they were intended to produce in advancing the cause of Temperance.

A delegate, who announced himself as a son of Neptune, a member of the Baltimore Marion Temperance Society,

followed in the course of proceedings. This man was an original and delighted the audience from his unique manner of telling his story. The closing remark of Jack tar was, that he had joined the Temperance Society nearly twelve months since, and the Church last Sunday.

Mr. Gilmer, M. C. of Virginia, then offered a resolution inviting the youth of the country to participate in the Temperance reform now going on in the country. The resolution was accompanied by some appropriate remarks, in the course of which many good reasons were given why public men of all others should become Temperate men.

Mr. Burnell of the Massachusetts delegation spoke next, accompanying his remarks with an appropriate resolution as to the physical effects of intemperance upon the human body. Mr. Burnell made some comments upon the idea of repudiation, when to stop the stills of the States would enable them to pay their debts very speedily,—always the interest, and enough left to create a sinking fund to reduce the principal. Mr. Burnell closed with some impressive quotations in the life of Coleridge, who had become so severe a sufferer from the use of opium.

Mr. Marshall made a thrilling and eloquent speech in defence of his Resolution. He spoke for some thirty or forty minutes, and was listened to with admiration by all. Sometimes exciting merriment, and sometimes the contrast of earnest attention, by calling into action all of the refined and better feelings of the heart. Loud and boisterous applause was followed by the most breathless attention. Wit and sentiment, argument and appeal were mingled together in happy and effective harmony. When Mr. Marshall spoke of himself, and his own connection with the Temperance cause, he was most happy. He expressed his determination to stand by the pledge he had taken and said, with an emphasis and effect which made the welkin ring—"I would not exchange the pledge I have taken for all the wealth and honor this world could bestow." [Immense applause.] The same sentiment, in different language, was expressed several times, and always with the same demonstration of gratification.

Mr. Morgan, of New York, followed with a Resolution, inviting the aid of the ladies in the cause of Temperance.

Other Resolutions followed, and John Hawkins, between ten and eleven o'clock, was introduced to the meeting. It was nearly eleven o'clock when the meeting closed, and the result of it promises to be most favorable to the cause of Temperance.

Extract from the Correspondence of the Inquirer & Gazette:
Washington, February 26, 1842.

The Congressional Temperance Society held a meeting last night in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and was very numerously attended, both by the members and spectators. The galleries were crowded, showing the exceeding great popularity of the cause, as well as the anticipation of high intellectual gratification from the speeches expected to be made. Mr. Marshall, in this fine field for his admitted eloquence, made a powerful display, and gave great satisfaction to a delighted audience. The cause of Temperance has now a fast hold of the country, and is extending its usefulness through all the ramifications of society. The time will come, when to swallow alcohol, disguised in whatever shape it may, will be pronounced a secret and