

rooms. And as we admire and love the institution so do we advise every Cadet of all things to act with great care and order in Section rooms and in going to and returning from them. We do not mean to condemn innocent play out of the room. Boys will be playful every where, and innocent amusement we must not condemn. The Section room is a school and the greatest order should be preserved in it.

An interesting debate occurred in the Toronto division room between the Toronto and St. Lawrence Section of Cadets

THE HISTORY OF SUICIDES.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—We have received the following particulars from an extract of a private letter dated at Vittoria, C.W., Oct. 27, 1851:—

"Adam McKay, of Vittoria, M.D., an excellent classical scholar, a man of acknowledged professional talents as a Physician, a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, was found dead in his own house in Vittoria on Wednesday last. He had not been seen by any person for two or three days before; he had been intemperate for a year or two past, and consented that his wife, with the oldest and youngest of his family, a daughter and son, should go home—to Dumfries, in Scotland, where his father lives. A letter from Mrs. McKay, addressed to her husband, dated at ——— in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on her way home, came to the Vittoria Post Office the day on which the inquest was held. After a post-mortem examination, the verdict, in substance was: That he was found dead, and the coroner's jury were of opinion that his death was caused by voluntarily taking Strychnine under the influence of temporary mental derangement. He had not completed the 33rd year of his age."—*Colonist*.

How melancholy is it to dwell on such a fact as this. Here we see a scholar and a gentleman in the prime of life cut off through the use no doubt of what ought to be banished from Society. The use of Alcohol disorders the stomach, clouds the brain, brings on a melancholic feeling and ends in causing self-murder. Half of the suicides or more result from intemperance, and the other half is caused no doubt from gambling debauchery and glaring imprudence. Hundreds of men and women in America and Europe, France, Germany and Russia, murder themselves by their vicious habits, the chief of which is intemperance. Does it not then call loudly on all classes in the community to aid and join the Sons to put down the system entirely? Half-way measures will not do,—moderate drinking will not do;—it must be a total disuse. A tale appears on the second page of this number giving an account of a suicide. Now we will tell a brief story of a young man who committed suicide. The event happened in the hotel in which we were boarding in 1830. It is sad but true. In the summer we think of 1830 a genteel and fine looking young man, about the age of 24, connected with one of the most respectable and oldest families in Canada—resident in the western district: one of the members of which at the time was an executive councillor of the Governor, came to the village of Hamilton, and put up at Mr. George Cary's Inn. I was then myself very young and a student at law. The appearance of the young man was restless but was genteel and prepossessing. He walked about the Inn, and finally ordered a private room. The day was spent in the Inn by him—and he had ordered meals. The landlord went to his room to call him to his meals and knocked at the door. No answer was given. Some time after the landlord again went to his floor and knocked and tried the door. Finding it locked, and no answer proceeding from it; and

the door. There stretched in the agony of death lay the youth—wholly unconscious; a phial with some laudanum lay on the chair by the side of the bed and upon the top of the bed lay a prayer book! Oh it was an awful sight to see youth and health thus cut off by its own hand! Medical aid (Dr. Rolph then resident in Dundas) was sent for and came. The poison had been too powerful and too long in the system to be checked. He was gone. We watched him and to our young mind it was a frightful, and awful scene. He lingered for several hours and died. A coroner's inquest was held and the event cast a melancholy feeling over the whole neighbourhood. The body was taken and buried in a lonely spot, with no stone to mark the grave. We have often seen the solitary hillock, on the top of the high hill before entering Dundas. Sad thoughts have possessed the mind when musing on the fate of this young man. What caused this death? Three things, the chief of which was the use of Alcohol. Gambling, bad women, and excessive drink; which all go hand in hand to destroy the youth of our land. A few short months ago in Toronto, there came to it a fine young man—a classical scholar—a beautiful writer and a youth of respectable connections. He was given to excessive drink. His body was found in his chamber with the throat cut, the work of his own hands. Oh, how melancholy!! Yet there are young men, and thousands too, who will persevere in using alcohol endangering themselves and their companions. Not long since a fine young German committed suicide in New York city. His mind was wrought up to do this act from the habit of gambling and drinking. Ah these are melancholy recitals, yet they are true. Young men how are these things to be avoided? Listen to one who has had some experience in the world. Refuse to drink at genteel restaurants. Avoid such places, and especially billiard-rooms, gambling-houses, and bar-rooms in the evenings, and on Sundays. At social parties, set a bright example, and yield not even to the charming invitation of ladies' hands. Spend your leisure hours in useful reading and writing, with your parents, or in the happy home of a young family and wife. Join some temperance society or division of Sons and by your voice and example, help to put down the license system in our land.

TORONTO TEMPERANCE ATHENÆUM.

To the Editor of the Son.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—In accordance with a notice in the advertising columns of your last number, calling a meeting of the Sons of Temperance who are in favor of establishing a Reading Room and Library in this city, in connection with the order. Allow me to inform you that a considerable number of the Sons and Cadets met in the Toronto Division Rooms, on Thursday evening last, when the principal features of the scheme having been submitted and discussed, a general feeling in its favor was evinced, and preparatory steps taken for carrying the project into execution.

And here I would observe that although it is intended to establish this Institution in connection more immediately with the Order of the Sons of Temperance, it is contemplated that its advantages shall not be confined to the members of the order only; but on the contrary shall be thrown open to all who are friendly to the cause, and have a desire to participate therein.

As your interesting journal affords perhaps the best medium for communication with "the Sons" and friends of the order, I beg to forward you a

copy of the resolutions passed at that meeting, with the hope that if your space is not already occupied, you will be kind enough to give them insertion, as I am certain you are not only sensible of the utility and desirableness of such an undertaking as an auxiliary to the welfare of our order, but that you will afford it that assistance and encouragement to which it is entitled.

Brother Somerville, of Toronto Division, having been called to the chair, and the undersigned to act as Secretary for the occasion.

The Chairman then explained the objects for which the meeting had been convened, and invited discussion on the subject.

It was then moved by brother J. C. Cameron, seconded by brother T. T. Howard, and

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the steadily increasing intellectual wants of the Sons of Temperance in this city, require the establishment of a Reading Room and Library in connection with the order.

Moved by brother Dr. Russell, seconded by brother W. Rowland, and

Resolved, That in order to render this Institution as extensive and useful in its objects as possible, this meeting pledges itself to urge the numerous advantages derivable from such an Association among the members of the order in this city and neighbourhood, for securing their co-operation on its behalf.

Moved by brother P. McPhail, seconded by brother Alexander Hamilton, Jr., and

Resolved, That books be now opened for the purpose of receiving the names of the persons desirous of associating in establishing a Temperance Athenæum in this city—the annual subscription fees for adults and Cadets not to exceed 7s. 6d. and 5s. currency, respectively: and that as soon as three hundred names are obtained, a meeting of the Subscribers be called, for the purpose of adopting a Constitution, and taking active measures for carrying out the objects of the Institution.

Moved by brother J. C. Cameron, seconded by brother T. T. Howard, and

Resolved, That brothers Somerville, T. T. Howard, Geddes, Macon, Caldwell, Leadley, P. McPhail, Carmichael, Black, A. Hamilton, Jr., Dr. Russell, R. Dick, and W. Rowland, be a Committee to obtain names of persons willing to become Subscribers to the Athenæum, and likewise be a deputation from this meeting to wait upon the several Divisions of Sons, and Sections of Cadets in this city and vicinity, with a view to secure their co-operation in this matter, and that previous notice of the intention of said deputation be given to the respective divisions through their Recording Scribes, in order to afford opportunity to request the attendance of members generally.

Moved by brother Dr. Russell, seconded by brother R. Dick, and

Resolved, That the kind offer of brother T. T. Howard to give publicity to these resolutions be embraced, and that the Secretary furnish a copy of the same for insertion in the next publication of the *Watchman* newspaper.

Signed by the Chairman,

JAMES SOMERVILLE.

A unanimous vote of thanks was then given to brother Somerville, for his kind and able deportment in the Chair, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Accept my apology for the length of this communication and believe me,

Yours in L. P. and F.

W. ROWLAND.