

ciate and array them before the Conference had not fully come, and the resolution was quietly and quickly disposed of without a dissenting voice.

Now came the awful "Maine Law" and "United Kingdom Alliance" resolution. It had forced its way through the Business Committee, and was entrusted to the care of one whose logical grasp, it was hoped, would be able to hold and command the dreadful thing to something like decent subordination and textual propriety.

At the call of the President, Dr. Lees rose to address the Conference, and in a moment silence prevailed. All eyes turned to where stood the champion, whose writings, criticisms, and oral lectures, had done so much for the defence, the exposition, the advocacy, and advancement of the principles and claims of the Temperance Reformation. No one present doubted the strength or the sincerity of his devoted attachment to the good cause. All knew the thorough grasp of his intelligent mastery of the subject in all its bearings, relations, and details. Every opponent, of every order, in every direction, had felt the force of his argumentation, and, sooner or later, shrunk from the crush of his logic and criticism. Dr. Lees proceeded to move the resolution against which such formidable preparation and demonstration had been made—"That this Conference hail with much satisfaction the adoption of the 'Maine Law' (so called) in various States of America, and particularly in the British Province of New Brunswick, and rejoice in the formation of 'The United Kingdom Alliance' for the distinct and declared object of procuring the Legislative suppression of the liquor traffic in this country, and commends that movement to the sympathy and support of all the friends of Temperance, humanity, and religion." Dr. Lees expressed his complete concurrence with the principle of the "Maine Law," and his cordial adhesion to the banner of "The United Kingdom Alliance." He briefly noticed, estimated, and disposed of the several objections and alleged difficulties suggested by those whose minds are unduly swayed by an exclusive attachment to what is called the principle of "Moral suasion." He asserted and defended the right, the policy, the wisdom, and the benignity of such an enactment as the Maine Law, and thought the Conference of the British Temperance Association could do nothing less than cordially affirm such a resolution as the one he had read and commended to their notice. Admitting that the British Temperance Association, as then constituted, could not itself initiate and conduct such a movement as that for which "The United Kingdom Alliance" was formed, he contended that the Conference could not but look with sympathy and approval upon all legitimate and honorable means and agencies, tending and designed to procure the annihilation of a traffic so essentially opposed to, and utterly destructive of, all the interests of the individual and the community. He, therefore, moved such a resolution with great pleasure and confidence, and most earnestly commended "The United Kingdom Alliance" to the attention, the sympathy, and the support of the Conference, and to all the friends of Temperance, humanity, and religion; convinced, with Professor Snow, that all true and earnest Temperance movements must eventually "culminate in a Maine Law." The Dr. illustrated, vindicated, and enforced the principle of the Maine Liquor Law by reference to numerous facts, precedents, and admitted principles of legislation and jurisprudence. The speech throughout was received with marked attention, and elicited the most hearty and emphatic applause.

Captain Vivan seconded the resolution, in a speech which was also received with demonstrations of applause.

The question was now fairly before the Conference, and for upwards of three hours was spoken to by about twenty members, all, with the exception of three, pronouncing most emphatically and earnestly in favor of the motion. The dissentients were permitted to express their views and sentiments as freely and fully as the supporters of the resolution. They all confessed the difficulty of their dissenting dilemma; they had not chosen it by any voluntary preference; they were driven to it by the force of coercive convictions; it was with much pain that they were compelled to stand aloof from old friends with whom they had heretofore co-operated; but they were convinced that the Maine Law is erroneous in its principles, injurious in its operations, and disastrous in its results. It may do some good, but at the sacrifice of much greater good. We ought not to apply "brute force" to the publicans until we have lavished upon them all our power, of love, persuasion, and reason. We already have too much laws

and the less we have the better. It does more harm than good, and ever will do. Men cannot be made sober by Acts of Parliament. The traffic in slaves has not been put down, but has been greatly intensified in its horrors and cruelties by all our efforts to suppress it by force of law. Just so will it be in respect to the liquor traffic. It is a bad traffic, exceedingly destructive to the welfare and prosperity of the people; but the men who are engaged in it are still men and our brothers, and deserve to be treated as men and as brethren. We must not lose faith in the power of truth and the integrity of human nature.

All this and more was put before the Conference, but spite of the three eloquent suasionists, whatever their own faith in the power or pertinence of their united and reiterated appeals to the Conference, it was very obvious, as they dropped down one after the other, they were keenly conscious that they had been beating the air.

Dr. Lees briefly replied to the most prominent points or objections brought before the Conference, showing that they either did not apply, or when properly applied, really helped to sustain and justify the "Maine Law" and the "Alliance." He again contended, and challenged competent controversy, that no distinction could be drawn by any man, that could be logically sustained, between the principle of the Maine Liquor Law and that of any other legislation, against any crime or outrage on personal right and property, on social safety and well-being. No consistent ground can be occupied by the opponent of a Maine Law unless he repudiate all law and all restraint whatever. This is the logical issue of every intelligible objection to the legislative prohibition of the fearful, fatal, and desolating traffic in strong drinks.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried with immense acclamation and prolonged applause. It was then ascertained that the dissentients were five in number.—*News and Chronicle.*

Items of British Intelligence.

ST PANCRAS TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The thirteenth annual meeting of this society was held on Monday evening in the large and commodious vestry room of the parish, which was well filled by a respectable audience. In the temporary absence of George Cruikshank, Esq., the appointed Chairman, the proceedings were opened by S. Geary, Esq., who read a note from the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Dale, apologising for his absence, and expressing his deep sympathy with the operations of the Society. Mr. Tachley, the Secretary, read the report, which stated that 118 meetings had been held during the past year, at which the cause of temperance had been advocated, chiefly by working men. A "Band of Hope" had been formed with promise of favourable results, also a choral society, whose performances had enlivened the meetings, and improved the funds. There were about 300 members in the society, in addition to some hundreds who had signed the pledge of total abstinence, but who resided in other parts of the metropolis.—Mr. Geary remarked on some portions of the report, and stated that the committee had many difficulties to encounter, not the least of which was the 240 houses that, in that parish, were licensed for the sale of intoxicating drinks; a number of houses which, if placed side by side, would extend the entire length of Oxford street.—Mr. J. W. Green, in moving the adoption of the report, made some happy observations. If their society prospered, the parish authorities, he remarked, would have little to do, and that large hall might be devoted to purposes of public instruction.—Mr. T. J. White directed his observations chiefly to the Sunday traffic in strong drinks.—Mr. McCurrie related the means by which from earliest infancy he had been trained to the use of strong drinks as a necessary of life; how indulgence in the use of it had brought him and his family to the verge of ruin, and how, through the instrumentality of total abstinence, he had been brought to the enjoyment of health and comfort.—Mr. G. Campbell referred to the blue and pink lists which were in use in that parish during elections, &c., and observed that the gentlemen who had spoken at that meeting had presented a very black list to the audience; but their object in so doing, was to procure white lists in future.—Mr. Tachley moved a resolution of thanks to George Cruikshank and S. Geary, Esq., for presiding over the meeting, and to the gentlemen of the vestry, for the use of that commodious room. This resolution being carried unanimously, Mr. Cruikshank acknowledged it, and directed attention to the brutal outrages practised upon females, upon