

Although apathy has characterised temperance people here, within the past two years, we have some grounds for encouragement. Public meetings have been held at Vankleek Hill, and at Hawkesbury Front, which have resulted in the addition of comparatively a large number of names to our list. But we have likewise cause for humiliation. Taverns are unusually numerous—increasing—and well supported. There are still combined against us the passions, the prejudices, and the pecuniary interests of large portions of the community. Indeed, reformation of any kind, must meet with violent opposition in some quarters. It appears contrary to both the *physical* and *mental* constitution of particular individuals, to reform; and all these causes have operated to the detriment of our principles in this vicinity.

Actuated, however, by a laudable zeal, some of the friends in west Hawkesbury, and L'Orignal, resolved a few weeks ago, that, although rather late in the season, a Temperance Pic-nic should be got up without delay. A committee of arrangement was appointed—a beautiful grove in the vicinity of Vankleek Hill was selected as the place of meeting; and, many thanks to Messrs Manning, J. Stewart, Ferguson, and Higginson, the most active members of the committee, the ground was tastefully and conveniently prepared in season for the assembling, which took place on Thursday the 14th instant. The friends of temperance, generally, were looking forward with interest to the time of celebration; but unfortunately, the day turned out extremely wet and cold. The cloudy appearance of the morning prevented very many from joining our ranks, and the small number that assembled had scarcely (about noon) seated themselves at the tables, to partake of the sumptuous fare, which the benevolent ladies of our community had so spiritedly provided, as is their custom on such occasions, when the rain began to pour down in torrents, and continued with unabated fury during the remainder of the day, to the great amusement of our bachchanal enemies, who rejoiced at the *cold water damper* thrown upon the pleasures of the demonstration. Impelled, however, by more than artificial stimulants, we were not so easily disconcerted. After partaking plentifully of the excellent repast, application was immediately made to Mr. Philips, teacher of the village Common School, who kindly consented to give for our use the commodious School-house, which he occupied; thither the company directly repaired. The meeting having been called to order, prayer was offered by the Rev. J. T. Byrne, of Bytown, whose indefatigable labours in the temperance movement have been so well appreciated here and elsewhere. Mr. Sheriff Treadwall was called to the chair, and presided with his usual ability, and to the decided satisfaction of all present. The speakers were the Rev. J. T. Byrne and Joseph Anderson; and Messrs Pomeroy, J. McLaurin, and J. H. Johnson. Mr. Pomeroy, of Martintown, who was a stranger to most of his audience, evinced a more than ordinary acquaintance with the subject he had taken in hand, and we more than once thought, during the delivery of his remarks, that he had made the lamentable condition of "moderate drinkers," his particular study.

Mr. J. McLaurin made some good practical observations on the necessity of action on the part of teetotalers; observations greatly needed, particularly at the present time.

The Rev. J. Anderson, the esteemed pastor of the three Congregational Churches of this District, amused his hearers with a very *unique* and *ironical* speech in favour of the drinking usages of society. He dwelt at considerable length on the use of intoxicating drinks, in promoting the growth and exercise of various Christian graces, particularly that of humility; and upon the whole, we think that grog-drinkers, if any were present, would have been ashamed. The rev. gentleman entered into the subject at great length, and probably advanced the most weighty arguments which can be made available for such a cause.

Mr. Byrne, though not expected at the meeting, met with a cordial reception among his old friends. Of the substance of his interesting address, it is not necessary to say more than that it fully sustained his previous reputation as a public speaker, at least on the subject of temperance.

Much regret was felt at the absence of our venerable and valued friend, the Rev. W. McFIllican, and also the Rev. F. Metcalf, and W. Frazer, who were prevented by other engagements from attending.

Several new subscribers to the pledge were obtained, and a feeling of general satisfaction seemed to prevail the orderly assemblage.

A committee was appointed to prepare a set of answers to the several queries submitted by the Montreal Temperance Society, which, it is expected, will elicit some valuable information on the extent of the evil of intemperance in this District, and on the cause of temperance generally.

After singing, by a few of the choir present, the meeting was concluded by prayer, by the Rev. James McNally.

It is to be hoped, Sir, that this demonstration of cold-water men, and the numerous contemplated meetings to follow it, will give an impetus to the cause here that will tend to stay the ravages of the monster evil which is destroying daily hundreds of neighbours and friends around us. Several instances of sudden deaths, one in particular, not far distant, have transpired, of a nature calculated to thrill the bosom of every philanthropist. Exertion, active exertion, is required to enlist the sympathy and interest of a vast majority of men in support of our cause.

May temperance principles universally prevail.

J. H. JOHNSON.

Vankleek Hill, Sept. 15, 1848.

To the Editor of the Canada Temperance Advocate. -

SIR.—As you are leader of the Temperance Cause in this city and Province, I beg to call your attention and that of all temperance men, to a very important field of labour. I know not whether it has yet been visited by the "temperance plan," but, if it has not, I think it is full time that it was. The place to which I refer is the village of Lachine, but seven miles from our city, and can be reached in about fifteen minutes. Add to its convenience its importance, and it must appear an oversight on the part of the So-