

EXTRA

TO THE

CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Report of Proceedings of a Temperance Convention, held in Montreal, on the 23d and 24th February, 1836.

FIRST DAY.

The delegates assembled at the Congregational Chapel at 11 o'clock, A. M., when J. E. MILLS, Esq., was called to the Chair, Messrs. SMITH and DOUGALL were appointed Secretaries to the Convention, and the following gentlemen were reported as Delegates:—

From Montreal.

Rev. G. W. Perkins,	Messrs. J. R. Orr,
W. Taylor,	R. Morton,
R. Miles,	J. Fraser,
N. Bosworth,	L. B. Ward,
D. Clary,	D. W. Johnston
Messrs. J. E. Mills,	J. Court,
R. Froste,	J. Dougall, Junr.
J. Gregory,	

From Henryville.—Rev. J. J. Gilbert and Mr. Ebenezer Cutter.

From Lacolle.—Mr. J. H. Smith.

From New-Glasgow.—Hoyes Lloyd, Esq.

From Laprairie.—Dr. Henry.

From Lachute.—Mr. Barron.

From Dunham and Stanbridge.—Rev. Alexander Riddler.

From Chambly and St. John's.—Messrs. S. R. Andres and Mahlon Willett.

From Granby Adult and Juvenile Society and North-West Shefford.—Rev. J. Gleed.

The Chairman explained the business of the Convention; and, after a desultory conversation, the following Resolutions were passed:—

1. That a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Court and Dougall, be appointed to examine and digest the Reports sent by the various Societies, and report to the Convention.

2. That Mr. Riddler, Mr. Perkins, Messrs. Andres, Barron, Mills, and Lloyd form a Committee to prepare Resolutions and business to be proposed at the afternoon and subsequent Sessions of the Convention, which Committee shall decide upon the expediency of a public meeting. The meeting then adjourned till three o'clock.

The Chair was taken a little after three o'clock, when it was resolved, that no member should speak oftener than once on the same question, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time, without the permission of the Chair.

The Committee for preparing Resolutions handed in a draft of twelve Resolutions, which will be found in their order, appended to this Report.

It was agreed to discuss every Resolution separately; and leave was given to any member to propose Resolutions to the Convention.

The first Resolution was read as follows:—

That the prevailing fashion in the higher grades of society tends much to perpetuate the evil of drunkenness.

Mr. MILES suggested that the word fashion was too vague, as it included a great many things besides drinking; and thought that reference ought to be made to public dinners, and other particular customs, which had an injurious tendency.

Mr. BARROW thought it would be better to leave out the words higher grades, and insert

"community," as it was rather invidious to single out any class for reprehension.

Mr. LLOYD was convinced that as long as the higher classes continued to drink, there would be no permanent success for the Temperance Reformation; they had introduced drinking, and been the cause of the evil, and they were now bound to remedy it.

The Resolution was then unanimously carried in the amended form, which will be found at the end of the Report, with the others which follow.

The second Resolution was carried unanimously.

The third Resolution was read as follows:—

That entire abstinence from all intoxicating drinks would greatly promote the health, happiness, and morals of the community, and is the only means of putting an effectual stop to the evil of drunkenness.

Mr. MILES moved, in amendment, that the word "only" be left out, and that "best," or "most effectual," be substituted.

Mr. CLARY said, that a great principle was involved here, and that, as far as we knew, total abstinence was the only means of reforming the drunkard.

Mr. MILES maintained, that if the word only were retained, it would be untrue, for men might be perfectly temperate without total abstinence; it was an assertion of our own infallibility, and it would not do for us to limit the power of the Deity, by calling any means of preventing drunkenness the only means.

Mr. GILBERT thought there was no assertion of infallibility in the case, that we merely stated what was our deliberate conviction; God always worked by rational means, and we might as well say that rain could fall without clouds, as that drunkenness could be stopped without total abstinence, which he considered was the means employed by the Deity to put an end to drunkenness.

Mr. BARRON said it might not be prudent to go all lengths at once; and if we said it was the best means we would all be agreed.

Mr. LLOYD was convinced that total abstinence was the only means. If any gentleman could point out another means of reforming drunkards, let him do so.

Mr. MILES' amendment was put and lost.

The original resolution was then agreed to by a bare majority.

Mr. MILES asked leave to enter his protest on the minutes, as he did not believe the resolution was true; and being untrue, he thought it would have an injurious effect on the cause, and he did not wish to appear as sanctioning it.

Mr. BARRON and Mr. GLEED concurred in what Mr. Miles said.

It was decided that protest was a harsh word; but that any member be allowed to have his dissent from any resolution that might be passed, accompanied with his reasons for dissenting, entered upon the minutes of the Convention.

Mr. DOUGALL thought that some concession might be made for the sake of unanimity.—Words of nearly the same import might be found upon which all would agree; and it might be better to modify the resolution a little, than to

have it go forth to the world accompanied with the dissent of a large minority.

Mr. L. B. WARD moved that the vote upon the last resolution be reconsidered, as it was an important one, and some gentlemen appeared to have further remarks to make.

Agreed to.

Mr. MILES then recapitulated the arguments against the resolution; and was followed by—

Mr. BARROW, who thought that the drinking of a thimbleful of liquor once in a year would not make a man intemperate, yet this would not be total abstinence.

Mr. FRASER reminded him that the resolution said, to stop drunkenness; and that the only way to reform drunkards, was to abstain from all intoxicating drinks.

Mr. BARRON would enter his protest also, if that was carried, for he thought there might be other means.

Mr. GILBERT thought the last speaker should enter, along with his protest, the names of all the drunkards who had been reformed by other means, if he could find any.

After several amendments were proposed and withdrawn—

Mr. CLARY moved that the resolution be laid on the table till tomorrow, as it was by no means the wish of the majority to force it through, but to give all parties time for deliberation.

Agreed to.

The fourth Resolution was read, as follows:—

That in the opinion of this Convention, the traffic and manufacture of ardent spirits, except for the purposes of medicine and the arts, are injurious to the community, and therefore immoral.

Mr. MILES moved that the word "immoral" be omitted, and the words "productive of immoral consequences," be inserted instead.

Mr. J. GLEED seconded the motion.

Mr. GILBERT saw no use in taming or softening down the expression of the resolutions, till they were made to mean nothing. We came there prepared to tell the truth to the world, and our best way was to do it in the plainest language.

Mr. MILES wished first to ascertain the truth, and then he would be as ready as any man to proclaim it. He did not believe that the manufacturing of intoxicating liquors was in itself immoral: he found nothing said against it in the Bible. (Some member quoted "woe to him that giveth his neighbour drink.") True there is a woe denounced against him that maketh his neighbour drunken, but none against him who makes wine or strong drink. In fact, the manufacture of liquors, in itself considered, was perfectly lawful, as well as the manufacture of opium; although they were liable to be abused, and therefore productive of immoral consequences.

Mr. BARRON reminded the Convention, that those engaged in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, were a very respectable and influential body of men, and they would not be pleased if we called them immoral. This was not the way to do; we must wait till they were