

occasions. About half past eight o'clock, Miss Harriet Shaver, and Miss Maria Ward, two young ladies with a short but well written address, presented the division with a costly and beautiful copy of the Scriptures, and a neat velvet cushion. The address was responded to by the Chairman in a short pithy reply. After this we were called upon to address the meeting, and then we listened to a very able address by the Rev. Mr. Hughes, who exposed in very forcible language, the folly and wickedness of the present license system. Mr. Alcorn was to follow him. We were obliged to leave at nine o'clock, but we doubt not, that this sterling friend of the temperance cause, not only set the house into roars of laughter at his humour; but also entertained them with some original and excellent remarks on the interests of our cause.

Upon enquiry, we find that these Soirees uniformly result in an increase of the divisions. The Lambton Division received a considerable accession of members since its last Soiree. The Mimico division has lately increased very much too. In conclusion we would say that this Soiree was well got up and well attended.

THE INTemperance SUPPRESSION ACTS OF 1850.

That eminent friend of Temperance the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, strove during last session to get enacted by our Legislature an act to put down Intemperance in Canada similar to the Wisconsin law. His strong practical common sense saw at once that such an act was what we wanted in Canada. He however had not the influence in our present Legislature to get it enacted. His efforts resulted however in some good. Out of his act two were modelled which are decidedly an advance in the right quarter, though they are by no means what we want. We understand the two acts of last session are composed in part of an act recommended by Father Chiniquy the champion of Temperance among the Catholics of Lower Canada, and of provisions recommended by Mr. Hincks, together with many provisions modified taken from Mr. Cameron's bill. It is our opinion that the proper mode to put down the sale of alcoholic drinks is to make the vendors of it answerable for all its consequences. Make every man who sells give heavy bonds to pay all damages caused by or resulting from his sale of alcohol to men or women. We do not mean by this to admit that we are in favor of the license system. Sudden changes cannot at once be introduced. Until public opinion is greatly changed we must try the Wisconsin mode. Then after its trial a few years let the sale of spirits as a beverage be prohibited entirely. No system was ever so monstrous and injudicious in every point of view as the license system. For the sake of an income of a few hundred thousand dollars we license taverns, stills and stores, to sell and make

liquors, the use of which fills our jails with criminals—our penitentiaries with convicts—our asylums with the insane—our homes with bickering and quarrels—our towns with riots and mobs—our streets with beggars, and our church-yards with graves. We receive with one hand in taxes on liquors what we dispense with the other to coroners, jailors, crown-officers, and paupers, and generally for the administration of the criminal justice of the country. This is truly a wise system! Our posterity will wonder where our common sense was when we suffered such a thing to exist from generation to generation. We wonder at the acts of the people of New England two hundred years ago in burning poor females for witch-craft. We wonder that thousands of good men and women should have been burnt in Europe with the faggot 300 years ago for opinions sake!! Yet we in this age of common sense allow death-dealers to hang out signs—not to keep tavern—but to retail in gills and quarts what sends thousands of our people to the grave every year. The cholera comes amongst us once in many years and carries off a few thousands of people (most of whom are rum-drinkers too) and we think it an awful scourge, yet that cholera is the stomach and of the soul—the burning thirst for alcoholic drinks is looked upon as an immaterial matter—one of no consequence to our country or its people. Oh lamentable folly, and lamentable imbecility of intellect!! The use of spirituous and malt liquors sends more victims to the grave every year in Europe and America than the cholera did in 1832—1834 or 1849!! Its victims die by degrees—by accidents—by insanity—by other diseases brought on by its use, and go down to the grave like the leaves of an autumn forest, one by one, but sure and numerous.

As we intend to pursue this subject more fully in our next, we will conclude this article by giving a synopsis of one of the two acts above alluded to, which is as follows;

The preamble of the first act, "an act to amend the laws relative to tavern licenses in Upper Canada," repeals all acts vesting in Justices of the peace, the power to grant licenses, and make rules for Inn-keepers.

Section 2—leaves the law as it was, with respect to the power of the government to give a license to shop-keepers, and steamboats, or others not keeping Inns, to sell liquors by retail, in large quantities.

Section 3, of this act, is certainly a much stronger one than many suppose. It in effect empowers "the Municipality of each Township or incorporated Village, the Town Council of each incorporated town, and the Common Council of each city in Upper Canada to make bye-laws."—"For limiting the number of Inns or houses of public entertainment in such township, village, town or city, for which licenses to retail spirituous liquors, to be drunk therein, shall be issued, or for prohibiting the issuing of any such licenses, for any house in their respective Municipalities;" "And for fixing the terms and conditions which shall be previously complied with, by any person desiring such license—the description of house, and the accommodation he shall have and constantly keep and maintain, and the security which he shall give for observing all the bye-laws of the Municipalities, and the sum which he shall pay for such license;" "For regulating all such Inns and houses of public entertainment, and for imposing for any contravention of such bye-laws, any penalty or punishment, which they may lawfully in use for any

contravention of other bye-laws; and for similar purposes with respect to ale and beer houses, and other houses for the reception and entertainment of the public, where fermented or other manufactured liquors are sold or drunk therein.

Section 5, enacts that at the time of the annual "elections of councillors in the several townships, incorporated villages, towns and cities in Upper Canada, there shall be elected by the same electors in each township, not divided into wards, or incorporated village, three Inspectors of houses of public entertainment, and in each ward of any township divided into wards, or of any such town or city, one Inspector of houses of public entertainment, and each Inspector shall be subject, in the same manner as the other Municipal officers, to any bye-laws to be made by the Council of the Municipality, touching their duties or requirements."

Section 6 enacts, "that it shall be the duty of such Inspectors to see that the bye-laws of the Municipality are complied with, as regards the persons to whom licenses to keep houses of public entertainment, and to retail spirituous liquors therein, are to be issued; and for this purpose the said Inspectors, after such previous visits and examinations as they may think proper to meet &c.," "for the purpose of determining, what persons, have under the bye-law in that behalf qualified themselves, to obtain such licenses, and to give certificates."

Section 7 enacts, "that the said Inspectors shall perform similar duties with regard to Inns, ale and beer houses, and other establishments of like nature."

Section 9 enacts, "that nothing in this act contained, shall prevent the Governor in council, from appointing any Municipal officer, or other person to issue licenses, for keeping houses of public entertainment, and retailing spirituous liquors therein, in any Municipality if he shall think proper to appoint such officer or person to perform that duty, instead of the Revenue Inspector."

This last section is ambiguous. It might mean in part to over-ride the power of the people's Inspectors, and the power of the councillors.

We would hardly suppose however, that the clause means that when a Municipality prohibits licences, that the Governor in council, would, by any Inspector appointed by him, issue them. If this be the meaning, it annuls in fact the whole act, and destroys its best provisions; which is that every Municipality, may if it choose, refuse to grant licenses to Inns to sell spirituous liquors within its limits.

HAMILTON, March 19th, 1851.

To the Editor of the Canadian Son of Temperance.

Sir,

If you think these few lines worthy of insertion in your paper, perhaps you will kindly do so.

Sons of Temperance and Brethren, of the great mottoes of our order, Love, Purity, and Fidelity—Love is the first and most prominent, for without Love, Purity or Fidelity could not exist. Love is the flight of the soul towards God—towards the great, the sublime and the beautiful. The poet Scott, in his description of Love says:

"Love is the secret sympathy, the silver link, the golden tie."

"Which heart to heart, and mind to mind;"

"In body and in soul can bind."

Love your family, the partner of your life—those around you, ready to share your joys and sorrows—the dead who were dear to you, and to whom you were dear: but in a thin—be—in