

### Temperance Soiree at Norval.

A correspondent of the *Globe* says that a grand demonstration in favor of Total Abstinence principles took place at the Village of Norval, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 5th of August, in the shape of a Soiree, got up by the Sons of Temperance of that locality. A goodly number of both sexes, and of all ages, some in vehicles and some on foot, formed a procession and marched to the sound of instrumental music to the top of a neighbouring eminence, crowned with a beautiful grove of small pines, where "tables richly spread," and appropriate seats met the view. Here in succession, the Rev. Messrs. Clarke and Pickard, of the Baptist Church, Andrews of Georgetown, and Ainsworth of the Methodist Church, spoke to the gratification of all; while the ladies of Norval, at the close of the orations, served out delicious Tea. The agreeable method of associating to partake of mental, as well as physical refreshment, is deservedly becoming popular; and if both departments be always so well managed, as our friends at Norval took care that they should be, on this occasion, Soirees will always be sources of delight as well as of profit.

We must not neglect to make mention of the music, that subtle power, which exerts so wondrous an influence upon the human mind. This was poured forth, on this occasion, in ennobling strains by the Stewarttown Brass Band. It is rejoicing to hear instrumental music used as an auxiliary in our efforts to promote the welfare of our fellow-creatures, instead of seeing it employed as the companion of folly and intemperance. That the addresses were of a high order, those who know the Rev. gentlemen, whose names we have given, need not be told. And we trust that their efforts did not result in merely delighting and exciting their hearers, but that more solid benefit has accrued; that those who have removed their feet from the path of drink, have been impressed with the momentous duty of continuing firm to their adopted principles; that some truths have been sown in youthful minds, which in the future stages of life, may serve as a preventative against the awful disease of intemperance; and that, perhaps, some of the infected have been made conscious of the deadliness, physically, morally, and spiritually, of this terrible plague, under whose premonitory symptoms they are laboring.

In conclusion, we have to say that much praise is due to the Ladies of Norval, for the taste displayed in getting up the Soiree, and for their untiring efforts to diffuse the blessings of temperance around.

### Mr. Delavan Defended.

Deeming the Annual Report of the New York State Temperance Society a document of permanent value and importance, we inserted it entire in a recent number of the Advocate. We do not regret having done so, but we do regret that Mr. Delavan should have been assailed by a leading Temperance "Journal," as taking an opportunity in his official capacity of riding a favorite hobby. To our mind, his observations on the wine question were not susceptible of the interpretation given by one who may also have a hobby of his own. As we published the report in question, we shall justify our own editorial conduct by the following defence of Mr. Delavan, copied from the pages of the *Prohibitionist*.

The August number of the *Journal of the American Temperance Union* has an article under this head, which as it is predicated on a gross misapprehension, seems to require no other reply than a correction of the error upon which it is founded. The *Journal* says:—

"Great men, it is said, are apt more than others to have their hobbies. Mr. Delavan certainly has his, and probably will carry it to his grave; but we cannot think it right for him to thrust it upon the public in his official capacity, when he knows that a large portion of that public deem it an absurdity. In his late address at the opening of the State Society, he says:

'During the progress of this long-continued controversy, there have come up discussions in which the Society and individuals have become deeply involved. These side issues have often caused vast labor and expense.'

"Among these he enumerates as one—

4th. Whether the pure, unintoxicating wine of the Bible, the wine of the cluster, the press, and the vat, although probably containing a small amount of alcohol, but so small as not to be appreciable by the senses, should be classed with fully fermented wine, "wine the mocker," "wine that biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

Assuming that Mr. Delavan avails himself of his position as President of the Society, to sustain the negative of this question, which Dr. Marsh denounces as a "false position," of "pernicious tendency," and "fraught with evil," the *Journal* says: "Yet this gentleman, now President of the New York State Temperance Society, improves the opportunity in his opening address, to palm it upon the community as one of the great victories of temperance, and one of its firmly settled and established principles." "Alcoholic liquor is in its nature intoxicating liquor. This we affirm. This every chemist in the world will affirm. Mr. Delavan denies and makes the State Society his endorser." "We think the State Society, if they assume this principle, will find themselves involved in no small difficulty." We have no desire for controversy with friends, but, as we said before, if the State Society and *Prohibitionists* are to sustain this principle, something must still be offered on the other side."

From these extracts, and much more of the same import, the public are to learn that Mr. Delavan, at the late annual meeting of the Society, availed himself of his position as President, to "palm upon the community" a principle which is "both false in itself and destructive in its tendencies." A very serious charge. Now let us see from what it is manufactured. In the address referred to Mr. Delavan said:

"During the progress of this long-continued controversy, there have come up discussions in which the Society and individuals have become deeply involved. These side issues have often caused vast labor and expense. They were.

1st. The wine question generally.

2d. As to the kind of wine proper for the communion, whether the "fruit of the vine," as found in the cluster, the press, or the vat, the unintoxicating wine of the Bible, or the intoxicating and mixed wine as described therein, as "wine the mocker;" "wine that biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

3d. Whether the moderate use of intoxicating drink caused an incipient disease of the stomach.

4th. Whether the pure unintoxicating wine of the Bible, the wine of the cluster, the press, and the vat, although probably containing a small amount of alcohol, but so small as not to be appreciable by the senses, should be classed with fully fermented wine, "wine the mocker," "wine that biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

In the discussion of all these important questions, it was the rule, after they terminated, to print the whole on both sides and circulate the document freely. Near 7,000,000 in all were distributed on these various controversies."