

THE VISITOR.

HALIFAX, N. S.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26, 1842.

We have copied some interesting notices of a Temperance Soiree, held at Montreal; the number which attended, the elegance of the decorations, the interest and harmony of the proceedings, make the occasion one worthy of particular notice, especially as the first Temperance Party on a great scale, which we have seen described in connection with the British Provinces.

The past week has been one of unusual interest in Halifax, as respects Temperance movements. We have copied, in another part of to-day's Visitor, the Secretary's report of proceedings at a Convention, and Simultaneous Meeting, held on Tuesday last: that great quality, union of sentiment and action, marked both occasions. Judge Marshall presided at the Convention. Several Letters were read from Country Societies, and interesting conversations ensued. A vote of thanks passed to the Chairman, who expressed his pleasure at seeing the zeal and unanimity which marked exertions in the cause, and his readiness to contribute time and means in behalf of the advance of religion and morality.

In the evening, the Garrison Chapel was crowded to overflowing, and much inconvenience was felt by many in consequence of the inadequacy of the building to contain all who wished to attend. Beamish Murdoch, Esq., took the Chair. The platform was occupied by several gentlemen, expected to take part in the proceedings,—ladies filled the side pews,—a dense mass of military sat along the centre, and in a line above them, were arranged several of the small red flags used in field exercises. These, simple yet expressive emblems of the military profession, had a good effect, and formed objects of reference to several of the speakers. There was a band of men, whose fidelity and firmness was proverbial, seated under banners raised in the cause of morality; sternness of resolution in maintaining their pledge, union with their fellow citizens, a noble avowal of the principles they had adopted,—seemed all indicated by that line of flags which, conspicuously but not ostentatiously, marked the centre of the meeting. Beside the flag supporters, military men in large groups occupied positions in the sides, and galleries of the building, and evinced the most excellent behaviour throughout the proceedings. The only breaches of order were from the over-pressure of a part of the audience, and some noisy and not decorous modes of expressing assent, in which the younger part of the Meeting indulged. On this being reprov'd in a gentle manner by the Rev. Mr. Crawley, who appealed to the boys as friends of Temperance, a very creditable acquiescence in his wish was immediately apparent.

A choir of Singers gave the zest of fine harmony to the proceedings, and added much to the attraction of the occasion.

The assemblage was addressed by Judge Marshall, Rev. Mr. Crawley, Mr. McDonald, Rev. Mr. Dewolf, the Attorney General, Hon. Mr. Dewolf, Rev. Mr. Nowlan, Rev. J. Ross, and several others. The Speeches were brief, energetic, and highly interesting, and received deep

attention. We regret that our time and limits will not allow of a more particular notice,—we may make some comments on a few striking points in our next.

A vote of thanks passed to Mr. McGrigor, who has most kindly given the use of the building to the Society on a variety of occasions.

The meeting occupied about four hours,—the military men receiving leave to attend, after the usual hour of being confined to Barracks. At about 11 o'clock the proceedings closed. The night was unusually fine and bright; the groups of Military, in conspicuous uniform, hastening homeward, in orderly groups, at that time of night,—and amid hundreds of fellow citizens who wore a plainer garb, had a pleasing effect,—particularly when the occasion was recollected, and the contrast afforded to habits of former times.

On request of the Committee of the Halifax Temperance Society, several Reverend gentlemen addressed their respective congregations on the subject of Temperance, last Sunday; thus acknowledging the importance of Temperance as an auxiliary to religion; and testifying, by precept and example, to the wisdom of establishing associations for the suppression of vice and the furtherance of virtue.

The Lecture on the South Sea Islands, delivered by Mr. Brown, Secretary Hal. Tem. Soc., on Friday evening 18th inst., has been highly spoken of, as very creditable to the talents and principles of that zealous friend to the Temperance reform.

TEMPERANCE.—A Sermon was preached in the Granville street Chapel on Sunday evening last, by the Rev. E. A. Crawley, A. M., in reference to this important subject, from 1st Cor. ix. 25. "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." The preacher depicted in a forcible manner the numerous evils resulting from the use of intoxicating drinks, and in the latter part of his discourse, portrayed with a distinctness and energy, that must have carried conviction to every mind, the awful weight of responsibility that attaches to all who engage in the sale of liquors, whether in a less or greater quantity.—*Christian Messenger*.

The Treasurer of the Halifax Temperance Society acknowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of Three Pounds, for the Temperance Mission Fund, from Wm. B. Turnbull, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer of the Clements Temperance Society.

A Temperance Meeting will be held in the old Baptist Meeting House, on Tuesday evening next, at seven o'clock.

A Meeting of the Members of the Temperance Harmonic Association will be held in the Old Baptist Chapel on Thursday Evening next, at eight o'clock.

B. W. COCHRAN, Sec'y.

The above mentioned Society has made some progress toward organization. Much is hoped respecting the choir. The prevalence of good feeling, and mutual yielding of opinion on minor points, are of great consequence.