

guarantee, such as is asked for in no other trade, that he is a man of character. It must not, however, be taken for granted that, because of this demand, the publican of our city enjoys a monopoly of morality. So far is this from being the case, that the presumption runs very much the other way and probably it is this very presumption which has led to those enactments, giving a surveillance over the spirit vender, which is extended in no other direction. Public attention has been very much turned to this subject of late. Not only have religious men deplored the prevalence and growing intensity of our national sin; but lovers of their country and of their kind, who refused to resort to what they deemed the extreme measure of total abstinence, have sought to provide a check if they could not supply a remedy. These reformers are not antagonists but co-operators; and while our abstainers may regret that others do not join their movement, because convinced that they have found the only true remedy, let them not show jealousy but welcome any movement which points in the right direction.

These suggestions have been brought up by the circumstance that our advertising columns notify the projected formation of a National Association for suppressing drunkenness, which is to be ushered into existence in a few days, under high auspices, and from whose constitution we give an extract elsewhere; and because the necessity for such an association has been abundantly shown by recent occurrences, which prove that the licensing Justices either cannot or will not abate the evil.

In our last number we intimated that the magistrates had attempted to diminish the number of public houses, by refusing a renewal of their licenses to persons convicted, or known to be guilty, of keeping open their premises, or selling drink at improper hours; but that the most of these cases had been appealed to the Quarter Sessions, which met in the Council Chambers on Thursday last.

It was the first time we had attended any of these Appeal Courts; and the scene was one by no means destitute of interest. The Lord Provost presided. Around the Council table sat as many Justices as were forward in time to secure seats; jostled about among the spectators were a number more, whose anxious faces led us to suppose that they were among the culprits, until, when the vote was called for, a fierce "reverse"—shouting in our ears—undecided us. Forming the outer ring were many wistful looking publicans, busy cramming their agents with all manner of communications intended to prove that that dreadful man, Mr. Moxey, Superintendent of Police, and one or two most unprincipled Barlows had laid their heads together to bring all manner of false and exaggerated accusations against a number of most exemplary citizens, and were now placing the coquette on their villany by refusing them licenses. When our eye had taken in the externalities of the scene, we began to listen more curiously to the business of the court. The clerk read each appeal, the party or his agent then supplemented the story as they best could (and sooth to say, queer enough supplements some of them were). Mr. Moxey read out of his black book the number of convictions—he and the Magistrate who tried the case stated their recollections of it—and, provided Mr. Joseph Gordon's stentorian "reverse" did not settle the matter without a further discussion, sundry eloquent debates arose, and a vote was taken "reverse or sustain the decision of the Magistrates."

One remarkable thing about this remarkable "Supreme Court" was, that the evidence which was intended to shake confidence in the sentence of the Police Judge, and to set aside entirely the decision of the Magistrates, was often such as would be laughed at in a court of law. A publican had been convicted once or twice of selling liquor at improper hours on week days or Sabbath days. The case might be attended by all manner of aggravations. *Nimpoite*. The agent steps forward with grave face. It would be shocking to question the integrity of a man so earnest and eloquent. Straightway he tells how the publican's cousin or brother-in-law (all publicans have convenient peripatetic relations out of number), arrived unexpectedly and at a late hour, and he must be entertained hospitably being a virtue. The next stereotype was, that the publican was out of the way leaving an easily imposed upon wife or domestic or thoughtless boy, while the principal thus became a victim to be pitied rather than punished. A certificate from two or three neighbors, whom the agent vouches to be most respectable citizens, in favour of the martyred man is deemed invaluable; and, if one of the Justices present will

but add his verbal attestation to the general testimony—bearing that he believes the party to be a very decent man, then "reverse" shout the delighted Justices. Never mind decisions of courts, never mind bonds to keep the peace, never mind Magistrates and Police Superintendents speaking to aggravations—the whole case has been one of excessive hospitality merely—and to encourage the party in the practice of this duty, his license must be renewed. But even some of these got-up cases were too strong for even the Quarter Sessions. One notable case occurs to our recollection; and it was deemed necessary to secure the services of our ingenious and learned friend Mr. Logan on behalf of the appellant—This latter gentleman had discovered a recess in the wall of his house, and without much difficulty a communication was opened up with the adjoining house, where a plentiful supply of whisky was always to be had, and where a thriving trade was conducted. Into the public house the police had access, because it was a public house, but they could discover nothing wrong. Into the adjoining house they had no right to enter, as it was not a licensed house. Things went on in this way, until the whole affair was discovered. The party was refused his license, and now appeared by appeal. All the ingenuity of his counsel could not help the appellant out of the scrape. Not even the solemn assurance, delivered with Mr. Logan's very gravest face, that "the hole in the wall" was *not* built up, and that this architectural return to virtue could be certified by two police sergeants then and there present, who would satisfy the Justices that this was a case of injured innocence. The learned gentleman and his penitent client were laughed out of court. The hole-in-the-wall contrivance was too much even for the Justices, and the rule which some of them had been seeking to establish that all transgressors, against whom only a single conviction had been recorded should be whitewashed, was found insufficient to bear the weight laid upon it.

### ENCOURAGING.

A bill has been introduced into Parliament by Mr. Notman, member for Norfolk, to protect the property of temperate persons. We highly approve of the object of the bill; and are particularly pleased to find that a number of members declared themselves in favor of the bill; while not one spoke in opposition; and that some expressed sentiments highly encouraging to the Temperance movement. It is an indication of the tone of feeling in the House, on the Temperance question, which augurs the best results to the petitions now preparing, for the alteration of the license law.

The bill of Mr. Notman is much needed. As the law now stands, an intemperate person can obtain almost unlimited credit at the grog shop; for the tavern keeper knows that he will be paid out of the first wages, or other income, that is received. But if the disposal of this could be taken out of his hands by law, and put into the hands of trustees, his credit would be immediately stopped, and the difficulty of indulging his habit thereafter might be a means of his reformation. At all events, his family would not be plunged into poverty and distress. We cordially wish the bill success, we see not on what ground it can be objected, for it will be universally admitted, that a drunkard is as incapable of managing his own affairs, as any person against whom a writ of lunacy has ever been taken out.

### THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

We are glad to know that at the present time there is a good deal of stir among the friends of Temperance respecting the removal of our license laws and the substitution of better. Under these circumstances we deem it proper to call special attention to the extract given in another place from the valuable pamphlet of the Rev. H. D. Kitchel "on the suppression of the liquor traffic." Many of the remarks and suggestions of Mr. Kitchel are appropriate to our own circumstances. Now is the time to work. It