

CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO

Total Abstinence, Legal Prohibition, and Social Progress.

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MONTREAL, MARCH, 1864.

[EXTRA.

GRAND UNITED TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION,

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,

YOUNG MEN'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY,

Perseverance and Samaritan Tents, I. O. of R.,

AND THE

HOWARD AND JONADAB DIVISIONS, S. of T.

For a long time back, the friends of Temperance in Montreal had been anxious to unite in a demonstration of their strength, and to make the occasion one of advantage to the cause they have at heart. Many hindrances seemed to interpose, but the chief one was, that having resolved to secure the services of the Father of the Maine Law, it was extremely difficult for him to fix a time for visiting Canada; having to exert his utmost ability in aid of prohibitory legislation throughout the United States. He was, however, at last enabled to say, "I will be with you, God willing, on the second day of February." Arrangements were made accordingly. An efficient committee exerted themselves heartily and generously. Everything was devised with skill. Harmony prevailed, and, therefore, the work was done, without jealousy or rivalry, for the common good. Anxiety there was, lest some railroad apparatus should give way, and a disappointment occur; but we were all most agreeably surprised, when, on the first day of February, it was known that the subject of our anxieties was in the city. It was a happy thought of the Committee, immediately to placard the city with the announcement, "Neal Dow has arrived, and will lecture this evening in the City-Concert Hall." The hour came. The approaches toward the Hall began to be thronged early. It was quite evident that an interest was awakened, and many a Christian heart prayed that God would carry the truth home to the hearts and consciences of that great audience. The Committee were busy in the Hall, assisting in the accommodation of the gathering multitude. The time has arrived for opening the meeting. John Redpath, Esq., takes the Chair. He regretted that somebody more competent had not been selected for the occasion, but he fully approved of the aggressive movement of the day in favour of prohibitory legislation; and urged such a pressure upon the Legislature, as would speedily secure the condemnation of the traffic in strong drink.

The Band then performed admirably, and the Chairman afterwards called up Mr. Dougall. He was delighted with the Hall—with the Band—with the audience—with the standard character of the gentlemen on the platform—but more especially he was gratified that all would have an opportunity of hearing the honored and respected Father of the Maine Law, the Hon Neal Dow. He (Mr. D.) was sure the audience would wish to hear as much as possible from Mr. Dow, and, therefore, he should not detain them by any further remarks.

Mr. Dow was then introduced, and received with applause. His discourse was a continuous and rapid stream of pure thought and pure argument. He is not a man of powerful appearance, physically considered, but rather otherwise; yet if anybody, from his exterior, should suppose him weak, the error will soon be dispelled by contact and observation. There is a strength of nerve and will, and an indomitable courage of heart about Mr. Dow, which has admirably qualified him for his late campaigns. There he stands in the midst of this sinful city of Montreal, like Paul on Mars Hill, reproving superstition. His voice is mellow and distinct—heard throughout that vast edifice. To attempt to report that speech fully would be a vain work.—The reporter of the *Herald* has not given half, and with his material might have published a much better sketch than he did. Many inaccuracies occur—many passages that cannot be understood. We have shaken out some of the foldings, and have added passages from our own notes and memory, and to the readers of the *Advocate*, we commend this speech as a fair record of Mr. Dow's sentiments.

Report of the Orator.

It has been at some inconvenience to myself that I appear before you to-night, but I could not resist the pressing invitation sent me to visit Montreal, and to talk for a little while, upon a subject of vast importance, involving our interests and happiness in all the relations of life. This matter has occupied much of