

this says a great deal in its favor cannot be gainsaid, for it is a fact that the poets are the acknowledged legislators of the world.

"We may be certain that Coleridge and Lamb did not tell us Humpstead Hill to drink water at the Salutation and Ca; and the merry coffee-house of the Club was mellowed by potations which stimulated the talk of Burke and Goldsmith. Coming down to latter days, "Scott's Whisk and Foster," "Auld Shedd and MacIsaac," at their early dinner before the play, and after their supper after the curtain fell. There was just enough liquor going to warm but not heat, and to set their tongues going with free but decorous banquets were full of mirth and good-feeling; it was not soda-water that brought out the best points of his guests, and fused them into a harmonious brotherhood."

If we read and ponder on the history of our masters in verse and prose, we will find that our best literature has been inspired by the use of the "Barley-Bree." Shakespeare was no ascetic; and it is not probable that in his own kitchen he had a human nature could have been acquired if he had not mixed freely with the men of the coffee houses and the tavern. Had Burns confined his potatoes to ginger-ale, he would have wrote "Scott's Whisk" Byron did not write "Don Juan" in his vinegar days. In fact, if you cast your eyes along the whole range of literary history, it is doubtful if any genius can be found who stormed Parnassus with a blue ribbon in his button-hole.

In conclusion, let us see what the father of our political economy, Adam Smith, has to say on the Trade itself, and the motives which lead to drunkenness. "It is a losing trade," it is said, "which a workman carries on with the ale-house, and a trade which the manufacturing nation would naturally carry on with a wine country may be considered as a trade of the same nature, we answer that the trade with the ale-house is not necessarily a losing trade. In its own nature it has no advantages as any other, though, perhaps, somewhat more liable to be abused. The employment of a brewer, and even that of a retailer of fermented liquors, are as necessary divisions of labour as any other. It is generally the more advantageous for the workman to buy of the brewer the quantity he has occasion for, than to brew it himself. And if he be a poor workman, it was generally the more advantageous for him to buy little by little from the retailer, than a large quantity from the brewer. He may no doubt buy too much of either, as he may of any other dealers in his neighborhood; of the butcher, if he be a glutton, or of the draper, if he be fond to be seen among his companions. It is advantageous to the great body of workmen, notwithstanding that all their trades should be free, though this freedom may be abused in all of them, and is more likely to be abused, in some than in others. Though in dividuums, may, sometimes, ruin their fortunes by an excessive consumption of fermented liquors, there seems to be no risk that a nation should do so. Though in every country there are many people who spend more than they can afford, there are always many more who spend less. It deserves to be remarked, too, that if we consult experience, the cheapness of wine seems to be a cause, not of drunkenness, but of sobriety. The inhabitants of the wine countries are in general the most sober people in Europe. Witness the Spaniards, the Italians, and the inhabitants of the southern provinces of France. People are so far, Nobody gains a character for liberality and good fellowship by being profuse of a liquor which is as cheap as simple beer. On the contrary, in the countries which,

either from excessive heat or cold, produce no grapes, and where wine consequently is dear and a rarity, drunkenness as a common vice—as among the northern nations. When a French regiment comes from some of the northern provinces of France, where wine is somewhat dear, to be quartered in the southern, where it is cheap, the soldiers, I have heard it observed, are at first debauched by the cheapness and novelty of good wine; but after a few months' residence, the greater part of them become as sober as the rest of the inhabitants. Were the duties upon foreign wine, and the excise duty upon malt beer, all to be taken away at once, it would be, in the same manner, occasion in Great Britain a pretty general and temporary drunkenness among the middle and inferior ranks of the people, which would soon be followed by a permanent and universal sobriety."

THE SNOW-SHOERS.

Over the fields, and far away,  
The earth grows glittering as the dawning day,  
The earth lies bright, calm and white  
In the morning arms of a messenger night;  
Loth breathless and pale and still,  
While the snow-mare, in the dreaming ill,  
Up from the dreaming hill, to lay  
The tender foot of each pallid ray.  
Over the fields, and far away,  
Our shadows shall faint at our tireless tread.  
Till the moon at her zenith rises overhead!  
The pathless arms of a messenger night  
Shall carry us over the voiceless-ide  
And the white mare of the snow-broke delay,  
Heaped regret when dawns the day  
Over the fields, and far away!

Chas. Gordon Rogers, Owing for February.

TORONTO'S ASSOCIATION.

Annual Meeting of the Local L. H. P. A. Officers Elected.

The annual general meeting of the Toronto Licensed Holders' Protective Association was held in the rooms of the society on Thursday last. Somewhat over 100 members were in attendance. The annual report showed the finances to be in a healthy condition, and President Joseph Powers was properly congratulated upon the success of his year's work. In the election of officers four names had been put in nomination for president, Messrs. John R. Wilson, John Wright, S. Richardson and J. Holderness. The three latter retired in favor of Mr. Wilson who was elected by acclamation. The new president is of the firm of Purse & Wilson, proprietors of the famous "Headquarters" on King street. He is an old hotel man, having been in the business for many years, took a prominent part in the formation of the society, was vice-president last year, and is well qualified in every way for the duties of his new office. The other officers are: First Vice-President, H. Barron. Second Vice-President, J. R. Marshall. Treasurer, John Stormont. Auditors, S. Richardson and T. H. George. Executive Committee, Joseph Powers, William Armstrong, Lem Felcher, E. Sullivan, McCarroll, T. M. Gibson, D. A. Small, P. Clancy, T. Conerty, W. J. Reddan, John Stormont, John Beer, J. A. Devaney, A. W. Burgess, James Good, V.

T. Bero, John Holderness, George Clarke and James Melrick.

A resolution was moved to change the association's name to that of the Trade Protection Society, and to admit to membership, on the payment of a nominal fee, butchers, bakers, dairymen, and other tradespeople who deal directly with the hotelkeepers. The extension of membership is proposed at the request of a number of tradesmen having dealings with hotels, and it is thought that by complying with the request the power and influence of the association can be greatly extended. The resolution will be dealt with at a meeting of the Executive on Wednesday next.

A discussion took place in regard to the question of establishing club rooms, which would form at the same time a headquarters for those engaged in the liquor business in the city and a rendezvous for members of the Provincial Association when visiting Toronto. This question will also be dealt with by the Executive.

Congratulation was expressed at the results of the recent municipal elections and the return of a number of aldermen pledged to oppose the curtailment of the hours of sale. Complaint was made, however, regarding the existence of dives in the city, where liquor is illegally sold, and a determination was reached to assist the authorities in putting a stop to this, as far as possible. Respecting the agitation for the early closing of bar-rooms, there was a unanimous expression of opinion that such a policy, if adopted, would only lead to an increase in the consumption of liquor at unlicensed resorts.

Many other matters of business were discussed, and the meeting was in every way most successful.

A CREDIT TO THE QUEEN'S.

ANY one who thinks that Bracebridge hotels are not right up to date should have attended the Masonic banquet in the Queen's Hotel in that town last week. Muskoos Lodge, and the Royal Arctic Chapter were in the banquet, and Mr. John Ross Robertson, the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Ontario, was present. Mr. Higgins got out a beautiful menu card artistic in design, and as for the contents they speak for themselves:

- Hyer's Half-shell Oysters, Hyer's Ballou's Select Huitre a la Creme, New York Creams—Fried, Brown Bread and Butter, Roast Prime Filets of Beef, Brown Gravy, Roast Leg of Lamb, Mint Sauce, Roast Stuffed Turkey, Cranberry Sauce, Roast Spring Duck, Sage Dressing, Sugar Cured Ham, Pickled Beet Root, Cabbage Salad, Chow Chow, Mixed Pickles, White Onions, Patterson & Son's Worcestershire Sauce, Hot Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Saratoga Chips, Chocolate Creams, Italian Creams, Plum Pudding, and all matters purely Vanilla Ice Cream, Apple Pie, Lemon Pie, Mince Pie, Assorted Cakes, Fruit Cakes, Lemon Sponge, Oranges, Apples, Nuts, Layer Raisins, Crackers and Cheese, Tea and Coffee.

The dining hall was handsomely decorated, as were the tables. The toast list was short and confined to matters purely national. Mr. Robertson replied in an interesting speech to "The Companions and Grand Z." proposed by Dr. Bridgland in a few appropriate remarks. "Our visiting Brothers," proposed by Mr. H. Mills, was responded to by Messrs. Burt and Eccleston, while "The Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Members," proposed by Mr. Huber, was responded to by Messrs. A. A. Mahaffy and J. W. Noy. Altogether it was one of the most successful affairs ever held in the northern country.

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FRENCH ON THE BILL OF FARE

SOMEWHERE in the fifties a gay coterie of regular boarders were enjoying a five-day dinner at that famous locality, the Eatway House, Baltimore. Pleasant associations were mingled with the luxuries from the waters of the Chesapeake and its tributaries, accompanied with some good old port and madeira which had laid in the cellar since "Auld lang syne." In those days bills of fare were only partly printed, the additions being written in for each meal. One of the guests noticed a line written wholly in French, and which ran thus:—

"Canaris sauvages, brains au Navet." He asked his companion the meaning and was referred to Frank C., the dry joker of the hotel. He scanned the bill of fare for a moment, and without making a muscle of his face, replied, "O yes, I know what that means. It means ducks, and I'll tell you about it. Many years ago an old fellow named Slater used to keep a ducking shore at Carr's Island, where our former landlord (H.—) once went to shoot ducks. Being unsuccessful, it occurred to him to bring home a lot of decoys which he saw. So he bought six, and the next day put them on the bill of fare in French. As no one knew what it was in the cellar since, H.— continued to serve the dish (ostensibly during the remainder of his term at the house. When our new landlord came from New York he bought these very decoys from H.—, and will have them served regularly during his lease."

The uproarious laughter which greeted this story brought in mine host to learn the occasion for so much hilarity. He was invited to take a glass of wine and remain while one of the party related to him the whole story. It nearly caused him to collapse, while the company roared again and again with laughter at his expense.

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