

or on the bench to adjudicate in cases of crime committed under its influence.

(Signed) THOS. WHITTAKER, President.  
G. E. LOMAX, Secretary.

Dr. Lees, of Leeds, just returned from America, whither he had been sent as a delegate to the "World's Temperance Convention," made a statement with respect to the Maine-law movement in America as represented at that convention, and as witnessed by himself in its practical results in several parts of the United States.—Dr. Lees was followed by J. Silk Buckingham, Esq. of London, who read a paper on the justice, policy, and safety of a Maine law for Britain.

William Wilson, Esq., of Sherwood Hall, Mansfield, moved the adoption of a declaration, as the basis of the movement now inaugurated.

William Willis, Esq. of Luton, seconded the declaration; and after some slight verbal improvements had been made in it, it was unanimously adopted in the following form:—

#### DECLARATION.

The general council of the United Kingdom Alliance hereby affirm and record the following declaration:—

1. That it is neither right nor politic for the state to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people.

2. That the traffic in intoxicating liquors, as common beverages, is inimical to the true interests of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society, and ought, therefore, to be prohibited.

3. That the history and results of all past legislation in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove that it is impossible to satisfactorily limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies.

4. That no considerations of private gain or public revenue can justify the upholding of a system so utterly wrong in principle, suicidal in policy, and disastrous in result, as the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

5. That the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic is perfectly compatible with national liberty, and with all the claims of justice and legitimate commerce.

6. That the legislative suppression of the liquor traffic would be highly conducive to the development of a progressive civilisation.

7. That, rising above class, sectarian, or party considerations, all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment prohibiting the sale of intoxicating beverages, as affording most efficient aid in removing the appalling evil of intemperance.

Resolutions authorising the appointment of lectures and other agents, the formation of auxiliary bodies, the offering of a prize of £100 for an essay on the legislative suppression of the liquor traffic, the preparation and circulation of tracts, and other measures, were unanimously adopted. One of the resolutions was to the effect, that the Alliance, in its official working and public proceedings, be kept perfectly distinct from temperance societies, and other organisations as such; but that all temperance and social reformers be earnestly invited to join the alliance in their individual capacity. By another resolution, the council pledged itself to aid the executive in raising a fund of £2,000, to defray the expenses of the first year's agitation.

Mr. Bowly, in moving one of the resolutions, stated that, in a town which he could name, it was found that, on one Sunday alone, between the hours of half-past twelve in the morning and ten at night, into 43 public-houses there entered an average of 7,568 men, 2,804 women, and 1,381 children, making 11,693. There were other public-houses in the town of which no notice was taken; but taking those into account and assuming their custom to have been equal

to the 43, there must have been 62,601 persons attending public-houses on that day, in a population of only 80,000 inhabitants!

The Honorary Secretary announced that up to this morning, upwards of £600 had been promised towards the £2,000 proposed to be raised. On the suggestion of Mr. Nelson, subscription papers were sent round to the members of the committee present, and in a few minutes additional subscriptions were announced sufficient to raise the sum to £847 12s. 6d.

Two other papers were read; one by the Rev. Dawson Burns, on what the alliance is and is not; and the other by John Leech, Esq. M.D. of Glasgow, on the policy of confining and treating drunkards as lunatics. Several other papers had been announced, but were not read for want of time. The whole of the papers, with the sermon preached by Dr. Burns, on Tuesday evening, were placed at the disposal of the committee.

Dr. Burns, of London, moved that this council recognise and implore the blessing of Almighty God as needful to give power and efficiency to the labours and aims of those engaged in working out the objects of the Alliance. This, also, was carried unanimously.

The thanks of the council were given to the authors of the papers, to Dr. Burns for his sermon, to the president of the committee, and to the original executive committee.

The conference terminated about half-past four o'clock.

#### THE EVENING MEETING.

At half-past six, the members of the council, and a large number of the friends of the new movement, assembled in the Corn Exchange, which was filled to overflow. The platform was occupied by the members of the council. Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, the president of the Alliance, was unanimously called to the chair.

Mr. S. Pope, the honorary secretary, read the resolutions which had been passed at the conference of the council, and accounted for the absence of one or two gentlemen whose attendance had been expected. Letters, he said, had been already received from 150 other gentlemen, expressing their ardent sympathy with the movement, and regrets at not being able to be there. He also read over the list of subscriptions.

The Chairman made some opening observations. Our beloved country, he said, had been allowed to suffer too long under the enormous load of evils caused by the indiscriminate traffic in intoxicating drinks. Nine out of ten of existing criminal cases originated, he believed, in this cause. He had consulted with numerous officers in the army and navy, who had informed him that intemperance was almost the sole cause of the offences which required punishment in those services. Colonel Sykes, of the Indian army, had published some statements tending to prove the same thing. The colonel had given facts with regard to three East India regiments, which showed that in an existing regiment of teetotallers the mortality within a given time was one half less than that in a regiment where intoxicating drinks were used moderately; and that in a regiment where excessive drinking prevailed the mortality was by four times greater. Sir Walter spoke further of the enormous expenses to the country in rates and taxes, caused by the results of the sale of intoxicating liquors, and other matters, showing the necessity of the movement.

Dr. F. R. Lees, of Leeds, moved the following resolution:—

"That the prime end of social legislation is to secure the utmost protection to the citizen against all destructive acts and demoralising agencies in the commonwealth."

In human history, he said, he found no fact standing out more prominently than this, that of all causes of pauperism, beggary, and public temptation to vice and crime, none