

The committee appointed at the quarterly session of the G. D. held at Musquodoboit, in January last, to procure the presentation of a petition on the subject of Prohibition, and to prepare bills, beg leave to report :

That they had a conference with some of the members of the House of Assembly favorable to the cause of Temperance, and procured the presentation of the petition referred to, and also a bill for the prohibition of the liquor traffic,—being the same bill that had been passed by the House in 1855, and which was rejected by the Legislative Council. By the public prints, your committee learn that, after a languid debate that contrasted strangely with the spirited discussions of former years, the bill was contemptuously thrown out of the House on the 16th day of March last,—one honorable and learned member sneeringly describing the measure as “ Forsaken by its friends—forsorn and neglected ;” “ and presuming,” he said, “ that the bill was now consigned to ‘ the tomb of all the Capulets,’ ” he, with mock pathos, bade it “ farewell forever.”

A bill, styled the “ Permissive Bill,” recommended by the G. D., was also prepared by your committee, by which counties, or smaller divisions of the Province, were to be permitted to adopt prohibition by open vote. This measure has also been before the House of Assembly ; but from the apathy that seems to pervade the House on the subject, your committee have small hope, if any, that this bill will pass into law.

Your committee further state that sundry amendments to the existing license laws were suggested by them to members of the House of Assembly,—the principal changes or additions recommended being the separation of the sales of liquors from sales of groceries, &c., and to make the liquor seller, after notice, liable in damages to any person suffering injury by the sale of intoxicating drinks to persons of intemperate habits, in whose welfare, either from relationship or otherwise, he or she may have a direct interest. Several other amendments and additions have also been suggested by members of the House since the discussion of the subject, of the nature and extent of which your committee are not fully informed, and as the whole matter is under debate, no idea can be formed of the result, or whether any material and decided improvement is likely to be obtained.