

his name, and seemed highly gratified. His speech soon afterwards was brilliant in the extreme—some portions particularly so. We regret that the late hour at which the meeting closed, prevents our giving only an abstract of his, as well as of Mr. Briggs' speech, which was received with much applause.

Dr. Kirby presided on the occasion, and the meeting was opened with prayer. A Mr. Collin then favored the company with a Temperance song.

The Hon. Mr. Briggs was first introduced. He said, "to drink or not to drink, that was the question, and it was one fraught with more of human happiness, or of human misery, than any other which could be presented to the mind. It had agitated largely the public mind of this and other countries for the last ten or fifteen years—its extent, the numbers it concerned, and the consequences which flowed from it, spoke at once its importance. The wide-spread and desolating evils of intemperance, were too often presented to the public by the press of this country, to require that any time should be passed in their enumeration there. If they would gauge human misery, and measure human degradation and suffering, let them enquire what intemperance had done. But glorious results had been the consequence of the agitation of the question—habits and opinions had been changed, appetites had been subjected to reason and the controul of conscience, and man had been raised to respectability and happiness—these were the fruits with which our happy country was teeming, and which were exhibited in other countries also.

The gentleman then referred particularly to Ireland—they were now risen on the rock of temperance, and presented an example to every nation. In Dublin alone \$14,000 had been deposited in the Savings Bank, and 1200 additional depositors had been made by signing the temperance pledge. And in our own country, he said, similar effects were exhibited. He believed such a stand never would have been taken but for the Washington Temperance Society, nor such glorious effects realized. They had risen above habits and customs, and had filled the land with joy; they had given to this reformation, too, a character which would last forever. It was hardly possible to measure the good they had done. They should listen one evening to the experience of those men,—the suffering and misery they had brought upon their wives and families, and then the contrast, where now all was love, happiness and enjoyment.

"Beware of the first glass," he said, was a wise motto; it was a simple caution, for the man who never partook of the first glass never became a drunkard. He asserted, and it was responded to by thousands, that there was no other safety than in total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

This was pronounced ultra by the old friends of temperance, who were sincere under the original pledge, and he had addressed meetings where he had recommended only abstinence from ardent spirits.—But this was found to be a fallacy, for too many had discovered that we can become drunkards on wine, for wine will lead to the same consequences as ardent spirits. He once knew a member of Congress, a gentleman in his habits, and whose conduct was pure and spotless at home and at Washington—he was a Christian in his profession, and was, he be-

lieved, an officer of a temperance society. During a long session he was afflicted with the liver complaint, and believed that wine was necessary, and he took to it. But the disease increased, and he fell a victim, not to that, but to another which owes its existence to intoxicating drinks, the delirium tremens—he died with all its horrors and all its terrors. He had an account of his death from a personal and political friend, who wept over his fate—and no one ever suspected or knew, but the physician, what was the cause of his death. Well might it be said, then, Beware of the first glass. How many young men had it led to ruin.

We never become drunkards at once, and we labour under a great delusion as to the progress we make towards it, and are the last to see our danger—friends see it, and caution us, but we are offended that they should deem such a caution necessary. There was no line of demarcation between temperance and intemperance; it must be arrested at once—the article must be disused. The gentleman related several interesting anecdotes, and concluded by making a powerful appeal in favour of total abstinence.

A collection was then taken up, and in the meantime those Company 33 sang a temperance song.

The Hon. T. Marshall then came forward and was received with great applause. He said—I thank you, gentlemen of No. 33, and I think if the gentleman to whom you did the honour to allude in your last stanza, had slept all his life, he would have woken up then to a certainty. I feel more at home to-night than at any time since I came to the great city of New York. I spoke last night at the Tabernacle, and we had a prodigious crowd,—but it was too dignified, too grand, too great,—and what with all the great things I had seen, passing up from Staten Island in the morning, overpowered me, and I was confused. There was nothing like the song I have heard here struck up, (applause); when I heard it, I felt as though I were in Washington city again, among the total abstinence Vigilant fellows, with whom I have associated ever since I signed the pledge.

Who has a right to sing but us, gentlemen? They talk of the gloom of fanaticism at our temperance meetings. They are the cheerfulest meetings I ever attended, and I have seen riots and revels in my time, and the newspapers have not left me to tell this. I have seen some in my time, and heard many a song given under the inspiration of alcohol. I have been at the Bacchanalian orgies,—but in all these parties I never heard a song which came as straight from the heart, and went as plump to the heart, as the one to which I have listened to-night.

There is also another feature at this meeting that there was not at the Tabernacle, which makes me feel more at home: the pledge is here ready for signatures, (applause.) I did not see any offered last night,—and I did think it strange that, at so large a meeting, there was no chance to put one's fist to the pledge, which in the experience of mankind is better than all the philosophy on earth—since it was the deep and solid foundation upon which the glorious cause of temperance is raised. There is a charm about that pledge which has never been found elsewhere. Do you ask me why it is? I answer I don't know and I don't care why it is, but I feel I know it is so.

Physicians have demonstrated that alcohol is destruc-