

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING.

The Chairman explained that Mr. Brooks, M.P.P. for Sherbrooke, had been invited, and had consented to preside on the occasion, but was detained on account of an important debate in the house (on the Reciprocity measure). The same cause had also detained several members of Parliament, who had intended to be present, from one of whom, B. Flint, Jun., Esq., a letter of apology was read in a subsequent part of the evening. The chairman added that one, however, (alluding to the Hon. Malcolm Cameron) had overcome all difficulties, in order to be present for at least a short time, on this important occasion.

The Report was then read by the Secretary, Mr. J. C. Becket, and the Hon. Mr. Cameron was called on to move its adoption.

The Hon. Malcolm Cameron said:—He had been forbidden to leave the House that evening, as it was engaged with a question of much importance. He had, however, pleaded that he was going to another meeting, where a subject would be considered, in which the United States and Canada had had much reciprocity, and that being warmed with the one meeting, he would be the better able to speak on the other. He was glad to find, from the report, that there was much to excite hope, notwithstanding what had been said by ministers, legislators, and others, that mankind should be so situated as to go back to the use of intoxicating drinks. He observed that the report speaks of the young as the hope of the cause. He once thought that all over thirty years of age—the old sinners as he would call them—must die in the wilderness of Sin; and that the young, who had never tasted of the flesh pots of Egypt, would enter into the promised land. He still hoped, and believed, that if the mothers of Canada will be true to this cause, a different state of things will be the result when the present generation has passed away. To the evils of intemperance (said Mr. C.) I do not pretend to awaken you by eloquence, or by exciting the imagination. I have merely to state facts, yet almost too horrible to mention, which have resulted from intemperance. For who has not suffered by the demon of intemperance? Murder and death are ever occurring. Mr. C. here alluded most feelingly to the recent case of murder at Port Stanley, stating that he was personally acquainted with the parties. The husband was of a kind and amiable disposition, of a most respectable family, and with excellent prospects before him, until he was overcome by the habit of using intoxicating drinks; his wife was amiable and highly respectable, and yet when he was in a situation that he, the speaker, could not even allude to, on account of the horror it would excite, this otherwise kind and gentle husband, instigated by the demon of intoxicating drinks, had savagely murdered her, ere the medical attendant who had been sent for could arrive, and immediately after, murdered one of his children and himself. How, he might ask, were such scenes to be repeated? With these things before us, he thought it injurious to the cause to exult in a spirit of hilarity; he thought harm had not been done in this way; the matter, when we consider what is involved in it, is a solemn one. He had often been grieved to hear good men arguing for the use of intoxicating drinks, and found it impossible to convince them of its evil, or to give them up. It was with great satisfaction, after having mingled with high and low in the Province, gave his testimony in favour of Total Abstinence. He reasoned to thank God that he had been delivered from the temptation. He had been present at the Mass meeting already spoken of. There was much to praise in Father Chiquay. His power lay not in oratory, but in his plain statement of facts, which spoke to the hearts of those around him. He took the country around Montreal, and gave lists of large proprietors who had lost every thing, and even the families themselves had disappeared through intemper-

ance. That was the kind of facts to set before the people. The reports spoke also of tracts distributed to the amount of \$4,000. There was no fear of retrograding when the press was doing so much. The *Temperance Advocate* had done great good, and he thanked the publisher who had taken the responsibility on himself.

There were other features of an encouraging nature. It was a good sign when Judges on the bench gave their testimony. They had been lightly treated for their conduct—cast down upon. They required the shield of the supporters of Total Abstinence to be thrown around them. Col. Guly had moved for inquiry into the Licence Law. Respecting this law he would recommend them to inquire who signed recommendations, and on what ground they decided that it was necessary that there should be three taverns at the corner of a Concession, without any of the legal requirements for accommodating travellers, but merely a shanty of six feet by four, for retailing liquors. Yet, it is difficult to punish, for the officers are paid by fees, and, of course, if there are no licenses there will be no fees. This was a most vicious system, directly tending to encourage intemperance. The honorable gentleman concluded by hoping there would be no cause of disunion. Some are ready to draw back on every trifle; but those are the true men who persevere because they conceive it a duty they owe to God.

The Rev. William Taylor, in seconding this resolution, spoke of the close connection between intemperance and crime. The voice from the Bench, the Police Office, and the Jails, loudly testified to this as a fact. It was the chief cause of crime and misery. The Inspector of Prisons in Scotland has put the question to the Governors of the Jails in almost every district—What do you consider the chief cause of crime? and the answer was, uniformly, that drunkenness stood first. In Edinburgh, Mr. Smith, the governor of the jail, said that, beyond all question, intemperance was the chief cause of crime, in that city and neighbourhood; and added, that while the High Street, Canongate, and contiguous localities, produced 73 per cent of all the crime in the city; there were, in these places, 50 per cent of the licensed dram-shops, one-half of the whole licenses that were granted for the city, showing the close connection between drinking and crime. In Glasgow it was shown that three-fourths of the crime thus originated, and this was borne out by other authorities. Some gentlemen had taken a survey of the city on the evening of the Communion Sabbath, and found 1000 public houses open. Mr. Taylor here read from a pamphlet, showing that many other cities and towns of Scotland were thus visited, making 37 in all, and in every case, the same answer was given to the foregoing question, namely, that intoxicating drinks were the chief incentive to crime. This, he said, is an appalling statement. But we had not to go abroad for facts—they meet us in our city. Within a few weeks past, they had had the oft-repeated testimony to the same effect, from the Bench, from the Grand Jury, or Mr. McGinn, the keeper of the jail, through the Grand Jury, all ascribing crime to the use of intoxicating drinks. Why, then, use that which leads our fellowman astray? Some blame the tavernkeeper alone, yet there is a mistake in this. If you, the respectable public, did not continue to use, there would be no respectable vendors to continue to fill our Jails. The Rev. gentleman added an argument, which struck us as a peculiarly cogent reply to the objection frequently made against teetotalism, that it will injure the farmers, which we will give entire in our next issue.

Rev. F. H. Marling, in moving the second resolution, congratulated the society on having taken its proper position as one of the noble sisterhood of benevolent and religious associations. The Temperance cause is benevolent, for it would do harm to none, but good to all. It is also religious, for its