

your Board ; but so far, except an inofficial correspondence between your Secretary and one of its Directors, no communication with it has been held.

Your Board, desiring to bring the Association prominently before the public, and draw many to its Rooms, were of opinion that a Soirée might be advantageously held. It was thought also that, properly conducted, it would minister to the enjoyment of members and their friends, by bringing them socially together. Accordingly one was held on the evening of Thursday, the 11th of January. It is of so recent occurrence, and you are so conversant with the circumstances of it, that more need not be said ; except, perhaps, that one object was to increase the funds, but instead of that result, a loss was incurred, which your Board, solicitous not to involve the Association, have themselves interposed to sustain.

The Soirée has been objected to by some, for reasons which have not been very clearly set forth. Your Board, however, feel that Soirées, conducted as was that in question, are perfectly justifiable, and cannot be controverted by any principle of either sound sense or morality. They are, now-a-days, of frequent occurrence, because a fit means of giving expression to the associative spirit of the age, an age of which association, in its several forms, is the most striking characteristic.

Last year's Report made reference to the fact, that many young men, in the Retail Establishments, were prevented from availing themselves of the advantages of the Association, by reason of their employers—or one or two of them—refusing to close their places of business at an earlier hour. It very justly condemned