

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1851.

SOIREE AT MR. DUCLOS' TEMPERANCE HOTEL.

We would direct attention to the account which we have taken from the *Montreal Witness*, of the opening of the "Eagle Hotel," as a Temperance-House. The occasion was celebrated by a Soirée, under the auspices of the various Temperance organizations in the city, and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. Drs. Taylor and Cramp, Rev. Mr. McLeod, and Messrs. T. S. Brown and John Dougall. The devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. G. Miller, of Picton, and Rev. J. MacLeod. The meeting was quite an interesting one; and it is entitled to special notice, both because it may be regarded as marking an epoch in the history of the Temperance Reformation here, and because of some important points brought out in the addresses of the speakers. Mr. Duclos is, we believe, the oldest Hotel-keeper in Montreal, having been 40 years in the business, and when such a person gives up the sale of intoxicating liquors, the judgment which he pronounces against them, may be regarded as the deliberate verdict of experience. There is no room here for the objection which is often brought against us, namely, that our conclusions are to be ascribed to party-prejudices or interests. If Mr. Duclos' mind can be supposed to have been influenced by prejudices at all, in this matter, they must all have been in favor of continuing the traffic; and as for interest, no persons know better than Hotel-keepers, what a venture he has made in this respect. We do hope that his example will induce some others to follow, but whether this may be its result or not, it is surely an interesting fact, both for them and the public, to consider, that the experience of 40 years testifies against the expediency of keeping liquors in a Hotel or Boarding-house.

The fact is also interesting as an index of the strength of the Temperance cause in this city. For a man with Mr. Duclos' experience, having such a large establishment to support, would not rashly venture on such a step, without knowing that he would be likely to be sustained. He must have seen that the number of those who call for liquors, both of visitors and boarders, was gradually decreasing, and the number of teetotallers steadily rising; in fact, he himself has assured us, that his house has been conducted for some time, almost like a Temperance-House, his guests having but little cause for liquors, so that the change which he now makes is not so great as might at first appear. If the case is so with his guests, it must be the same also in other establishments of a similar kind; and the keepers of these establishments are open to the charge of still adhering to the traffic, merely for the sake of the gain which they derive from it. Is this a right motive? Are such profits likely to be blessed? If the keepers of Hotels and Boarding-Houses will not consider this question seriously, they may soon find that their guests will begin to consider another, namely, whether it is wise in them to remain with a landlord who endeavors to make a gain of them in two ways, that is, both from the Bar and the Board, or whether they should not transfer themselves to a Temperance House, where the landlord will be satisfied with one profit.

We again call upon the Temperance public, to sustain Mr. Duclos, by making the "Eagle Hotel" their head-quarters in this city. We address this request both to Farmers in the neighborhood, when visiting the market; to Clerks, and others, boarding in liquor-selling establishments; and to Merchants in the country, when they come to Montreal to make their purchases. Let the

latter reflect on the hint of Mr. T. S. Brown; he speaks from knowledge. A Merchant who wants credit, and "smells o' drink," is not likely to get it. And as for the dashing young Clerks, who must have their wine and cigar, they may rest assured, that if they were to board in a Temperance-House, they would not only save expense, and keep away from temptation, but recommend themselves to the confidence of their employers, even though they should deal themselves in the "blue ruin," as an article of trade.

From the *Montreal Witness*.

On Friday evening last, many friends of the Temperance cause assembled for the purpose of congratulating and encouraging Mr. Duclos on the opening of his Hotel, as a real Temperance or Teetotal House, and we need not say they met with a cordial reception and substantial entertainment. The interval between tea and supper was occupied with speeches and music. Several of the points brought out in the speeches were, in our estimation, so important, as to warrant a brief recapitulation.

1. The want of a public house conducted on Temperance principles, had been long and seriously felt. It was a stigma upon Montreal, that it had no house at which the Temperance man from a distance might put up with pleasure, and the reformed inebriate with safety. But to establish such a house required peculiar fitness, experience, and capital, and it was therefore evident that no Temperance Society, however ardently it might desire the object, could accomplish it. But Mr. Duclos possessed all these requisites, as well as a widely extended and excellent reputation, and it was therefore matter of great congratulation that he had done it.

2. It was shown that inasmuch as a considerable portion of the gains of public houses in general, were derived from the sale of liquors, Temperance houses must be much better frequented in order to be self-supporting. A wine-selling hotel could sustain itself on a few good customers, nearly all of whose payments were profit, but a Temperance house must be constantly well frequented, inasmuch as its receipts from each customer were smaller, and these represented a much smaller per centage of profit. This point was illustrated by one of the speakers, who held up a bill of fare of a hotel in this city, one side of which was all entables, and the other side wines, and remarked, "You may eat down this side for half a dollar, but every single line of the other side is a dollar and a half or two dollars." He also said, he had been asked for the loan of money once, by a young gentleman, to pay his bill at a most respectable hotel in this city, where he boarded, and that bill consisted of about £20 for board, and £70 for sundries. This was a fast young man, it is true, who did not live more than a year afterwards; but the incident served to show whence the profits of ordinary hotels were derived.

3. The same speaker (Mr. T. S. Brown), said, that if country merchants seeking credit, or young men seeking situations, appreciated their own interests, they would always stay at Temperance houses. He had known young men commencing as merchants in the country, who brought excellent letters, but their breath was tainted with the smell of liquor, and they were refused credit for no other reason, although this reason was not assigned, and they never knew that it was the one glass they had taken before calling on the wholesale merchant, which decided him to decline opening accounts with them. He had known others who, in hard times, had to crave leniency, and if all appeared right, they were invariably left to make the most of things themselves; but if one of them smelt of drink, the whole-sale merchant thought he must be going to the bad, and that the first loss would be the least, and, consequently, pushed him to the wall. This man never knew why he had been harassed and driven almost to utter ruin; but the glass of brandy he had taken at the bar before going out to ask for time was the sole cause of it. And just so with young men seeking situations. Every one's confidence was increased in a man, by learning that he put up at a Temperance house, and every one's confidence was diminished in a man by any cause to believe that he used intoxicating drinks.

4. The duty of friends of the Temperance cause to recommend and support a Temperance Hotel, when established, was enforced by several speakers; and not only should this support be looked for from country merchants and people from a distance, but from gentlemen who board out in town. It was added that no one