Temperance Department

EDITED BY J. W. SIMS,

Saybrook, O., to whom all communications for publication in this department may be addressed.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Ashtabula C.T. Union was held in Saybrook on Tuesday Nov. 16th, 1880. President Dorman called the meeting to order at 11 A. M. Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. A. D. Barber who read a portion of scripture, and prayer was offered by Rev. G. J. Bliss. The Secretary of the Union, Rev. C. A. Richardson, being absent, J. W. Sims was appointed Secretary Pro tem. The President urged the importance of increased activity and interest in the Temperance work. Mr. H. B. Castle, of Ashtabula, urged the importance of appointing Committees, and electing officers before the adjournment of the morning session, in order to have the P. M. session for the discussion of such topics as might come before the Union. Committee on nominations appointed by the Chair, C. L. Johnson, H. B. Castle, J. W. Sims and Dr. Fouts. The report of the Treasurer was then read. Total receipts for the year ending Nov. 16, 1880 $7.00. Expenditures for the same period $7.00. A verbal statement was made by J. W. Sims to the effect that at the basket Pic-Nic held near Eagleville, July 3d, 1880, under the auspices of the Union, E. J. Pinney, Chairman of the Committe of Arrangements, rented a lemonade and restaurant stand for $5.00, and received $4.00 from the swings, and after deducting the necessary expenses for constructing speakers stand, &c., the balance was to be forwarded to the Treasurer. This Mr. Pinney had not yet done, and it was probable a few dollars remained in his hands. The convention was then addressed by C. L. Johnson, Dr. Fouts, Rev A. D. Barber, who urged the necessity of massing and concentrating the moral sentiment of the people, for the suppression of intemperance, with a view to its final extinction by moral as well as legal means. Before a stringent prohibition law can be made available public sentiment must be educated up to that point so as to sustain and enforce such enactments.

Adjourned to 1:30 P. M. Dinner was provided in the Town House, by the ladies of Saybrook for all who attended the Convention, whether from this or adjacent towns, and was first-class in every respect to which ample justice was done in one instance at least.

Convention assembled at 2 P. M. The Committee on nominations reported through their Chairman, and their report was accepted by the Union. The officers elected for the current year are as follows. President, H. B. Castle, Vice President C. L. Johnson, Secretary, J. W. Sims, Treasurer Mrs. F. W. Sims. Executive Committee, J. W. Dorman, C. W. Jaques, Dr. Fouts. On motion a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Dorman for the efficient and prompt manner in which he had discharged the duties of the office of President of the Union. Mr. D. responded in a feeling manner, and then proceeded to define his position in the Temperance army. He is an ultra Prohibitionist, and has no faith in either of the great political parties, to carry out Temperance principles, or enact Temperance laws. The Local Union of Geneva have held no meetings since June, but the Women's Local Union held regular meetings with unabated interest. Temperance text books in all their public schools, and yet intemperance seems to be on the increase. Mrs. H. L. Morrison of Ashtabula being present, by request, reported for Ashtabula. The Temperance sentiment has been revived there. Both of the Local Temperance Unions are working for the cause. The Women's Union rely on God for strength. The Murphy society seemingly rely too much upon human strength, and are almost peaceful towards the saloons. Society at the Harbor is alive and active, though laboring under many difficulties. C. L. Johnson reported for Saybrook. There had been no meetings of the Local Union for several months, yet the Temperance element was not dead by any means, but the political campaign through which we had just passed, had engrossed the minds of the people, that Temperance work had been temporarily suspended. The Young People's C. T. Union reported by G. W. Skinner: The meeting had been well attended, interest sustained throughout, had not met lately for want of a suitable place, but were now getting ready for an entertainment.

Rev. A. D. Barber did not agree with some of Mr. Dorman's positions, criticising them in a frank and candid manner, urging the necessity of dropping all minor issues, where no great moral principle is involved. Mr. Dorman replied to these criticisms in an emphatic manner. Dr. Fouts spoke in reference to the political situation and denied the imputation that the Temperance sentiment had been lowered in Saybrook. Temperance men voted for Garfield because they thought they could reach the end sooner that way than by voting for Neal Dow.

President Castle reminded the Union that this meeting was for the discussion of Temperance principles, and plans of Temperance work. Mrs. Fouts said if the Churches would become Temperance societies, and if Temperance were taught in our Sunday schools, and in our day schools, then we might expect to see some good done. The President said the most of the great work before us must be done by the Churches. His own personal work was principally of a financial aspect, for if you touch a man's pocket you touch him in a tender place. Convince a man that it is for his interest, in a financial, as well as, moral point of view, and he can and will reform. This society must reach out into all the towns in the county and reach the children, and teach them the evils of sin, and the blessings of virtue. Parents must keep their children home nights, and gratify them in all their innocent wants, throwing around them all moral influences possible. He gave some statements, showing what it cost some cities where liquor is sold, contrasting them with Vineland and Greely, where no liquors are sold, as examples in favor of Temperance. The next meeting of the Union will be held in Ashtabula in May. The day to be designated hereafter.

Mass meeting in the evening, when several short speeches were made, and an earnest spirit seemed to pervade the Temperance workers present, and it is to be hoped that the cause, which lies so near the hearts of all christians, will receive a fresh impetus from this meeting, and the one held the next day by the W. C. T. Union of this county. S.

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Ashtabula, O., Sept. 1, 1880.

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