

Mr. PLUMB offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That our members are hereby requested to observe the orchards, which are planted upon sandy lands, and mark and learn the varieties which prove successful there.

STRAWBERRIES.—The committee recommend the Wilson for market value and profit, and the Green Prolific as a hardy and very productive variety.

RASPBERRIES.—The committee recommend the following: Doolittle, Mammoth Cluster, and Davidson's Thornless, for general culture among the caps; also the Clark and Philadelphia among the red berries, for near market and domestic use. The Clark was the best flavored.

The lists for strawberries and raspberries were both approved by the society.

A recess was then taken to enable the members of the society to place their fruits on exhibition, arranged in proper order for a public view this evening; after which, the society adjourned to 7½ P. M.

7½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

The meeting was called to order, J. S. STICKNEY in the chair; when according to the programme, Hon. SAMUEL D. HASTINGS of Madison, was introduced and read the following paper

ON DOMESTIC WINE AND TEMPERANCE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the State Horticultural Society:

I understand that the ultimate object of your association is to promote the good of its members, and as far as possible to advance the prosperity of the community at large. Whatever will tend to secure these results is a matter of interest to every good citizen. Every patriot, every philanthropist, every christian must regret the prevalence of intemperance in our land. However much they may differ on the question of measures, on the question of the necessity of entire abstinence from all intoxicating beverages, and on the propriety of prohibitory legislation, all agree in deprecating the crime, poverty and wretchedness which result from the excessive use of these beverages, and will willingly unite to favor any measure that they are satisfied will tend to remove these manifold evils and increase the sobriety of the people. The question which I have been invited to discuss before you this evening, is one of great importance, and one which it is eminently proper should be discussed by this association. It would be uncharitable to suppose that there was a single individual connected with this association who is not a friend of temperance, and who would not cordially exert his influence in favor of any measure that would promote the best good of the community.

I am well aware, that the views I am about to present will not harmonize with those of some, perhaps many of those who hear me; that among those who will differ from me will be found men at whose feet I should consider it a privilege to sit and learn on almost any subject.

I can only say that the views I shall express are the conclusions I have reached, after a patient and careful consideration of the question, and I ask that you will give me a candid, unprejudiced hearing, and allow the facts and considerations I shall present the weight they are legitimately entitled to.

Would the general cultivation of the grape, to be converted into wine, be advantageous to the cause of temperance? The wine thus manufactured will contain alcohol—the same kind of alcohol as that contained in rum, gin, whisky and brandy, and if used in sufficient quantities will produce the same results as flow from the use of the stronger liquors. If a love for the pure wine be once fully established, the peculiar appetite which is created by the habitual use of intoxicating drinks will be formed, and its demands will be met, either by greatly increased quantities of the wine, so as to secure the needed alcoholic stimulus, or by substituting in the place of the wine, the stronger liquors. The intoxicating principles in all these beverages is alcoholic, and disguise it as we may, it is ever the same destructive agency; and make it as palatable and as attractive as we may, in the guise of pure wine, still, at the last, "it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." If domestic wines were generally manufactured, one result would be greatly to increase the number of the consumers of alcoholic beverages. Those who now use the stronger liquors would still continue their use. No whisky or brandy drinker would give up these drinks and confine himself to wine. The tendency is not to go from the stronger to the weaker, but from the weaker to the stronger. Thousands who have never drunk, and who without the general introduction of domestic wines, never would, will be led to drink these wines from their supposed harmless character, and in many cases, habits of intemperance will be formed, that will be as fatal in their results as though formed by drinking whisky or brandy. And even though the use of these wines should not lead to the use of stronger liquors, the quantity used will in many cases be gradually increased until the amount of alcohol taken into the system will be as large as that consumed by whisky and brandy drinkers, and the result will be equally injurious.

Intemperance results from the use of alcoholic beverages. It is of comparatively little moment by what name these drinks are called. The important question is, do they contain alcohol? Are they intoxicating? If so, intemperance will follow their general use. It makes but little difference in what form the alcohol is used, the results are essentially the same. This fact, however, should be constantly borne in mind, that the more attractive the form in which the temptation is presented, the greater will be the number who will yield to its seductive power, and to make any alcoholic beverage attractive and place it within the reach of the multitude, is but to make it easy for thousands to commence habits of intoxication, who otherwise would be saved from their evil influence.

"But," says the advocate of the general introduction of wine, "while your theory may appear to be correct, does not the almost entire absence of intemperance in

wine producing countries, prove it to be unsound? It will not be denied that many witnesses can be summoned who will testify that in traveling through France and Italy and other wine producing countries, they saw little or no drunkenness." While the honesty of these witnesses is not questioned, there is an abundance of positive testimony of an opposite character, that leads to different conclusions.

The testimony of one or two witnesses who saw a particular transaction with their own eyes will be conclusive that the transaction actually occurred, and it will not be at all invalidated by the testimony of a thousand witnesses who did not see it, not being at hand at the time of the occurrence, or, if at hand, having their attention otherwise engaged. An individual might spend an entire week, or longer, in the city of New York, without seeing a single person who showed evidence of intoxication; would he therefore be justified in saying that there was no intemperance in that great city with its tens of thousands of drinking saloons? There are to-day in the United States not less than five hundred thousand confirmed drunkards, and yet an individual might travel on our public conveyances, from one end of the land to the other, without coming in actual contact with a single one of these victims of the intoxicating cup; would he therefore be warranted in saying that this vast army of drunkards had no existence?

While there may be hundreds, and perhaps thousands, who have never witnessed the evidence of the existence of drunkenness while traveling through wine producing countries, there are an abundance of witnesses of the highest character who have seen these evidences, and whose testimony is conclusive as to their existence. Is it true that wine-producing countries are free from the evils of intemperance?

The testimony of the Rev. E. S. Lacy, formerly of San Francisco, is clear, explicit and to the point. In a letter dated at Paris, May 5, 1866, and published in the *Pacific* at San Francisco, June 30, 1866, Mr. Lacy says: "I wish now to tell you what I have observed in wine-growing countries, and to give you the result of many inquiries concerning the drinking habits of the people. The testimony of travelers in Europe, as far as I ever heard, was to the effect that intoxication was very little known in wine-producing districts, and that if wines were only cheap and unadulterated in America, the vices of intemperance would be greatly abated, if not entirely removed. I was so well convinced by such unanimous testimony, that I regarded the introduction of the wine-culture in California, and its general increase, as a harbinger of public good and as a kind of assurance of general morality.

"I have just spent six months in a country place in Switzerland, where the people do nothing but work vineyards; where wine is cheap and pure, and far more the beverage of the laboring classes than water; where none think of making a dinner without a bottle of wine; where all the scenery about is of the most elevating and ennobling character. Here, more intoxication was obvious than in any other place it was ever my lot to live in. The common people, passing to and fro, with loads of hay or wood, or to and from their markets, would become intoxicated before reaching home. The wine-shops (or cafes) were frequented at all hours, and at almost any time of the day might be found full of men. On holidays and festal occasions, you might suppose all the male population drunk, so great are the numbers in this deranged or beastly condition. On Sunday afternoon, loads of young men go shouting along the streets.

"Intelligent Germans informed me that this is the great social evil of their country, a place where wine, if not very cheap, is never adulterated, and where great quantities of it are drunk."

In regard to France, testimony drifts in a similar direction. Paster Fisch, the President of the Protestant Evangelical Union, stated in a public address, while enumerating the difficulties lying in the way of the Gospel in France, made most prominent the habit of excessive drinking, and described the prevalent intoxication among the peasantry as something fearful. "Around every large city one sees much intemperance; but I have never observed more in any metropolis than in Paris. Therefore, in your warfare with vice, do not be deceived by the cry, that wine is harmless, or that the sobriety of a country is improved by flowing wine-presses on every ranch; but remember that there is positive testimony in support of the strong probabilities against such assertions."

This testimony of Mr. Lacy is worthy of the most careful consideration, as he went to Europe an advocate of the wine-culture in California, and expecting there to find the evidence that its general extension throughout his adopted state, would result in great good to the people. From the large amount of testimony at hand of a similar character to that of Mr. Lacy's, it is difficult to make a selection. A few brief extracts must suffice.

The Count de Montalembert said in his place in the French National Assembly, 1850: "Where there is a wine-shop, there are the elements of *disease*, and the frightful source of all that is at enmity with the interests of the workmen."

Smollett, the historian and novelist, found a hundred years since, in the course of his travels, "that all wine-districts are poor, and the French peasantry were always more healthy when there was a scarcity of wine."

J. Fennimore Cooper, the American novelist, said: "I came to Europe under the impression that there was more drunkenness among us than in any other country, England, perhaps, excepted. *A residence of six months in Paris changed my views entirely.*"

Henry Greenough, the eminent American sculptor, in a letter to E. C. Delevan, in 1858, said: "Many of the more thinking and prudent Italians abstain from the use of wine; several of the most eminent of the medical men are notoriously opposed to its use and declare it a poison. When I assure you that one-fifth, and sometimes one-fourth, of the earnings of the laborers are expended in wine, you may form some idea of its probable influence on their health and thrift."

In a letter to the Rev. Dr. Nott, written at Paris, May 1, 1860, by E. C. Delevan, are described some most extraordinary scenes which came under Mr. Delevan's own observation. In speaking of an opportunity afforded him of witnessing the debasing effects of wine drinking in Paris, he says:

"I visited one wine-shop with my guide last evening (Monday); I saw the proprietor, and told him I was curious to see his establishment, he was very polite, and sent a person round with us.

"At the lowest, five hundred persons were already assembled, and the people were flocking there in droves—men, women and children, whole families, young girls alone, boys alone—taking their seats at tables; a mother with an infant on her arms came reeling up one of the passages.

"It was an immense establishment, occupying three sides of a square, three or four stories high, and filling rapidly with wine-votaries. I saw hundreds in a state of intoxication, to a greater or less degree. All, or nearly so, had wine before them.

"The attendant stated to me, that the day before (Sunday), at least two thousand visited the establishment, and that the average consumption of wine was two thousand bottles per day.

"This place was considered a rather respectable wine-shop. My guide then took me to another establishment, not ten minutes ride from the Emperor's palace.

"The scene here beggared description. I found myself in a narrow lane, filled with men and women of the lowest grade. The first object which met my sight was a man dragging another out of the den by the hair, into the lane. Then commenced a most inhuman fight; at least fifty people were at hand, but not a soul attempted to part the combatants. At last one fell against the curb-stone; I thought him dead, but he soon got up, and again at it they went.

"I then entered into the outer room of the establishment, which was packed full of the most degraded human beings I ever beheld, drinking wine and talking in loud voices. * * * I was informed by the cabman that in the establishment last visited, he had seen from eighty to one hundred and fifty lying drunk at a time; that they frequently drank to beastly drunkenness, and remained until the fumes passed off, for if found drunk in the streets the police take them in charge."

Mr. Delevan spent the winter of 1868 in France, and from a letter of his to Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, dated at Paris, February 20th, 1868, I make a brief extract. Says Mr. Delevan: "Everybody drinks here, and I have never found the individual, male or female, who drank wine, that did not defend its use. When I was here thirty years since, Louis Phillipe told me that wine was the curse of France; that he wished every grape vine destroyed, except for the production of food; that total abstinence was the only true temperance. * * I am here again after the lapse of so many years, and in place of witnessing any abatement of the evil, I think it is on the increase, especially in the use of distilled spirits, greatly stimulated I believe, by the almost universal use of tobacco.

"The main object I have in view in collecting these statistics, has been to dissuade my countrymen from using any section of our country for the production of wine. It is my belief that the use of our soil for such a purpose would be an unmitigated evil, without a single redeeming benefit."

Dr. Holland, who has recently visited Switzerland and other wine-producing countries, gives the results of his experience in the *Springfield Republican*. This important testimony of one so perfectly competent to give evidence in the matter, will be read with interest, and should settle the question of the "utility of domestic wine and its power to diminish drunkenness." We quote as follows:

"There is no question that the people would be better, healthier, happier, and much more prosperous, if there were not a vineyard in the canton. We have all been told in America, and I fully believed it, that if a people could be supplied with a cheap wine, they would not get drunk—that the natural desire for some sort of stimulant would be gratified in a way that would be not only harmless to morals,

but conducive to health. I am thoroughly undeceived. The people drink their cheap white wine here to drunkenness. A boozier set than hang around the multitudinous cafes here it would be hard to find in any American city, even where they enjoy the license of the Maine law. The grand difference in the drunkenness of an American and Swiss city is found in the fact that the man who has wine in him is good-natured, and the man who is equally charged with whisky is a demon. There is no murdering, no fighting, no wrangling. The excitement is worked off in singing, shouting, and all sorts of insane jabber. Then the steady old white wine toppers come into blossom. If you can imagine a cauliflower of the color of the ordinary red cabbage, you can achieve a very adequate conception of faces that are not uncommon in all this wine-growing region. So this question is settled in my mind, cheap wine is not the cure of intemperance. The people here are just as intemperate as they are in America, and, what is more, there is no public sentiment that checks intemperance in the least. The wine is fed freely to children, and by all classes is regarded as a perfectly legitimate drink. Failing to find the solution of the temperance question in the Maine law, failing to perceive it in the various modes and movements of reform, I, with many others, have looked with hope to find it in a cheap and comparatively harmless wine; but for one, I can look in this direction hopefully no longer. I firmly believe that the wines of Switzerland are of no use except to keep out whisky, and that the advantages of the wine over the whisky are not very obvious. It is the testimony of the best men in Switzerland—those who have the highest good of the people at heart—that the increased growth of the grape has been steadily and correspondingly attended by the increase of drunkenness. They lament the planting of a new vineyard as we, at home, regret the opening of a new grog-shop. They expect no good of it to anybody. They know, and deeply feel, that the whole wine-producing enterprise is charged with degradation for their country.

“I was told, before leaving America, that I should be obliged to drink wine or beer in Europe. One good clerical friend assured me that I could not get through Great Britain safely without drinking beer. As I did not like beer, the prospect was not pleasant. Indeed, I felt about as badly discouraged as Brigham Young declares he did when the duty of polygamy was made known to him by heavenly revelation. Well, I did not drink beer, and I got through Great Britain very comfortably indeed. None of my party drank beer, and all survived not only, but improved, upon cold water—the terribly poisonous cold water of Great Britain! In Paris, I took the ordinary red wine. In Switzerland, I continued it with great moderation, until I was thoroughly satisfied that every glass I drank damaged not only my health, but comfort. Now, I drink no wine at all; and that member of my party who has drunk nothing but water from the time of leaving America, has experienced not one particle of inconvenience from the practice. We have all concluded that wine-drinking in Europe is just as unnecessary as it is in America, and that there never was a greater mistake than the supposition that alcohol in any form is necessary as a daily beverage for any man or woman.”

It may, perhaps, be suggested by some, that admitting the experiment has not worked well in the wine-producing countries of Europe and Asia, yet owing to the

difference in the climate, and in the character and habits of the people, this fact is not conclusive evidence that it would not work well in this country.

To this it may be replied, that the experiment has already been tried in one of the United States, California, long enough to prove most conclusively that the results there are no more favorable than they have been shown to be in the wine-growing countries of Europe.

Joseph Weed, a prominent and reliable citizen of San Francisco, in an article published in the "National Temperance Advocate," thus testifies to the ruinous effects of wine-making in the Golden State: "There is probably not a village in the state where wine has been made to any extent, that has not witnessed the gradual fall of individuals and families to intemperance and beggary. Among those engaged in this occupation very little is said, and less published on this subject; yet it is of general notoriety, and indisputably true. Not a few church members, as well as others, are said to have fallen from this cause."

A State Convention of the friends of temperance, held at San Francisco October, 1868, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we consider the project of banishing intemperance by introducing the general use of wine as a beverage, to be a delusion and a snare. Even were it possible to exclude ardent spirits, and substitute the fermented juice of the grape, there is no reason to look for any other results than followed in the ages of antiquity, when wine was the only intoxicating beverage, and when the drunkenness of wine-drinking nations provoked the wrath of God, and the denunciations of Holy Writ."

The editor of the *Pacific*, a newspaper of high character, published at San Francisco, gives the following testimony in his paper, after having traveled extensively through the state. "But through some parts of these mountains, as well as in the valleys, there is arising a species of production fraught with dire evil to the producers and the country; it is that of wine-making. Already wine has become as cheap as milk, and is as freely drank, till many once sober men, are growing habitually intoxicated. In one wine growing neighborhood we are told that young girls, seventeen years of age, reeled through the streets under the intoxication of pure California wine. Men once of worth, now are, through wine, lost to society, and becoming a fear and disgrace to their families. One leading man enumerated to us five of his acquaintances who, once noble men, are now to be called drunkards, through wine. The production of this article, now fearfully on the increase, must prove a curse to the whole land if persevered in"

A large convention of Congregational ministers and delegates from all sections of the State, held at San Francisco, with great unanimity denounced the wine manufacture as destructive of the moral, industrial, political and religious interests of the commonwealth. The Rev. Dr. Stone, a member of the convention, in speaking of this action, says: "The convention struck a strong blow for the temperance cause, declaring in unequivocal terms against the manufacture and use of wine. * * I had entertained a sort of hope that the manufacture of pure wines and their introduction into general use, would crowd out the gross strong liquors, and diminish intemperance. I am fully convinced that this hope was groundless and

delusive. * * It appears that in the wine growing districts, intemperance is on the increase, extending even to the youth of both sexes."

W. N. Mills, Esq., the editor of the *Rescue*, published at Sacramento, a gentleman personally known to me, and known to be one of the most intelligent and reliable men in the state, says in his paper: "The truth is patent to all now, that drunkenness has followed in the wake of this enterprise, and in vindication of the past warnings of temperance men, we point to the wine growing counties of the state, and in the drunkenness, thriftlessness and poverty of the people, unanswerable argument against foisting this deadly blight upon the true industrial interests of the commonwealth. A few years of actual experiment here fully demonstrated the truth of the allegation as to the effect of wine producing, and the unwelcome fact is now before us, that it makes drunkards and paupers of the people of California. We challenge a refutation of these statements."

In another article the same gentleman says: "There are a great many people who make the argument that wine drinking will prove a cure for the vice of drunkenness, and they talk with such seriousness, that we are almost compelled to believe them honest in the doctrine they enunciate. But we would ask them to note this:—That every vineyard in the state is a drunkery; that men who a few years ago, perhaps were strenuous temperance people, or at least abstained from drink, are now, that they have wine producing vineyards, rapidly becoming drunkards, and that Los Angeles and Sonoma counties especially, and the other wine producing counties proportionably, are noted for the extent of this vice, just in proportion to the number of gallons of wine they produce. These are the facts of the case as we know them from personal observation."

At a session of the Congregational General Association of Vermont, held within a year or two, the Rev. Dr. Dwinel of Sacramento, gave an interesting account of the wines of California as an obstacle to missionary success. He said, "in some quarters wine is as cheap as milk, and very intoxicating. As much as nineteen per cent. of alcohol in some cases is found in California wine, and people get drunk on it as quick as on brandy, which is often reduced in strength before it is drunk." In private conversation Dr. Dwinel confirmed the view that the usual effects of intoxicating drinks, follow the use of California wine, and that it is no evangel of temperance, but the fruitful cause of intemperance, and all its attendant evils of gambling, Sabbath desecration, irreligion vice and crime.

Do not the facts presented fully sustain the correctness of the position taken at the commencement of this article?

One fact more: Notwithstanding the immense quantity of wine drunk in California, statistics show that there are more of the stronger liquors used in proportion to the population than in any other state in the Union. The city of San Francisco contains more liquor saloons in proportion to the population than any city in the land. What a comment are these facts upon the doctrine that the general use of pure wine will remove the evils of intemperance!

At the conclusion of this address by Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HOILE remarked that he had noticed Governor FAIRCHILD was present,

and desired, as he presumed that others did, to hear from him. The Governor then rose and remarked that he indorsed the conclusions arrived at in the address, and yet he hoped never to see such a state of society prevail here, as had been depicted of the wine-growing countries. He would take this occasion to say, that he felt a strong interest in the labors of this society for the benefits it had conferred on him in common with the other citizens of the state. For that work, and for the end and aims it had in hand, as one of the good institutions of the state, this society was worthy of the patronage of the public in the future; as in the past, he desired to be considered as one of its friends and helpers.

MR. KELLOGG then proposed the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we, as a society, fully endorse the statements of the address, to which we have just listened; and that we hereby instruct our committee, who have our premium list under consideration, to offer no premium for wines.

MR. PLUMB said that with this action, the question might be asked, what shall we do with our wines, if we are not to make wine of their fruit; shall we dig them up? He would answer, by no means. The fruit can be as readily preserved as any other fruit. There was no more trouble, in preserving grapes than any of the other small fruits, and in some cases even less, as he knew from experience; and he had found them both economical and pleasant for future use in the preserved state.

MR. STICKNEY hoped no one would be discouraged in raising grapes till they become so plentiful that they will not command five cents a pound, for even below that price they were a more profitable crop than grain.

GRAPE LIST.

The committee on fruits had reported: for general culture, Delaware and Concord; also Rogers' Hybrids Nos. 3, 4, 9, 15, 19, 33, 43 and Salem. This latter is highly commended. The Hartford and Creveling may be grown in limited quantities for early use. From the limited experience with it, in this state, they could only recommend the Eunelan for trial. The Janesville is winning commendations from many sources, as very early and hardy, of medium quality; better than the Hartford for an early variety for the northwest.

The discussion of this list seemed to rise here without any motion, on the remarks of Mr. TUTTLE, who said he could recommend his own five acres of grape vines, as a profitable piece of ground; and he had no idea that he should ever be called on to dig up any portion of it, though he made no wine; he found a market for more fruit than he could raise. He had some new sorts that he was experimenting with, and he had tried nearly all the best of the Rogers. He esteemed the Concord least of all he possessed, because it would not carry to market; the berries burst as soon as they ripen, sometimes on the vines, and he could not keep