## Maine State Legislature

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# DOCUMENTS 

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# THE LEGISLATURE, 

OF THE

## STATE OF MAINE,

## DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1834.

## CDUVTV TETPRERANCE CONVENTION.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1833.
Pursuant to a call from the Hallowell Temperance Society, Delegates assembled at the Old Court House in Augusta, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of reorganizing the Kennebec County Temperance Society.

The meeting was called to order by Augustus Alden of Hallowell. Rev. Thomas Adams of Vassalborough was placed in the chair, and Theodore S. Brown of Vassalboro', and Sanford A. Kingsbery of Hallowell, chosen Secretaries.

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer.
On motion of Robert Goodenow of Farmington, a Committee was appointed to receive the credentials of delegates, consisting of R. Goodenow, Seth May of Winthrop, and Luther Severance of Augusta.

The following list of delegates was reported:
Albion.
Mark H. Shepherd, Enoch Farnham.
Augusta.
Rev. Benjamin Tappan,
Rev. Allen Putnam,
Rev. Wm. A. Drew,
Dr. Enoch S. Tappan,
Bartholomew Nason,
Charles Williams,
Luther Severance,
Richard H. Vose,
Moses Page,
Joel Spaulding,
John S. Minot,
David H. Tibbets,
Belgrade.
John Means,
Thomas W. Smith,
Thomas Little,
William A. Brooks,
Elihu Robinson,
Dr. Cyrus Briggs,
Amasa Hewins.

Elisha Mosher,
John Rockwood, jr., Lemuel Lombard, Solomon Easty.
Chesterville.
John Chaney,
Joseph D. Prescott, Cyrus Pierce, Elisha M. Tobie,

Nathaniel Spraté,
Stephen Stark, Asher Hinds,

Wm. P. Libbey,
China.
Ebenezer Shaw.
Clinton.
James W. North, Hobart Richardson.

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Farnington.

Hiram Belcher, Robert Goodenow, Thomas Parker,

John Dane, Leonard Glidden,

John Young, Henry Johnsow,

Fayette. Reuben Crane, Dr. A. P. Fuller.
Garainer-West Society. Benjamin B. Robinsors. Green.

Hallowell.
Samuel G. Ladd,
Andrew Masters, Ebenezer Dole,
R. G. Lincoln, Rev. Henry A. Miles, Wm. R. Prescott, Mark Means, Calvin Spaulding, Augustus Alden, Josiah Perham, jr., James Holland, James A. Woodbridge, Anson Herrick, A. B. Morton, S. W. Robinson,
William Rice,
Thomas Sherburne,
James L. Hadley,
C. Atkins,

Monmouth.
Phineas Blake.
Mount-Vernon.
John Butler, 2d,
John Greeley,
Albert G. Gílman.
New-Sharon.
Charles G. Smith.
Elnathan Pope, Leonard W. Russell,

Readfield.
Dudley Moody, Merritt Caldwell.
Sidney.
Eben Sawyer,
Ambrose Howard, Nathaniel Dyer,
B. Sawtell, Wm. Lovejoy, Jeremiah Arnold.
Temple.
H. K. Baker, John Otis, E. H. Lombard, John T. P. Dumont,
Wm. E. Robinson,
Sanford A. Kingsbery,
Wm. Cross,
Dr. Amos Nourse,
Rev. George Shepard
Simon Page,
Wm. Stickney,
Francis Day, Philip Bullen,
John Davis, Thomas Freeman.


Lemuel Jenkins.

Samuel Redington, Rev. Thomas Adams, Joseph R. Abbot, Benjamin Brown, Theodore S. Brown, George Cox, Edward Fairfield, Scotte Hedge, Thomas Carleton, Moses Rollins, George W. Pruden, Jacob Southwick, Moses Purinton, Thomas Taber, Moses Taber, Thomas Frye, Dr. R. H. Carey, Holman Johnson,

Nathaniel Whittier.

David Dunn,

Moses Bean, Henry W. Owen,

Charles Morse,
Authroiy Coombs, Jesse Jewett, Henry Dearborn, Isaac Snow, Gideon Barton,

Thomas Rice, Charles Hayden,

James Curtis, John May, Samuel Wood, Samuel P. Benson, Seth May,
Luke Perkins,
On motion of S. A. Kingsbery of Hallowell, a committee af one from each Temperance Society represented, and one from each town where there is no Society, was appointed, to
report as far as possible the statistics of temperance and intemerance in the county. The following persons were appointed. Albion, Mark H. Shepherd. Monmouth, William Rice. Augusta, Richard H. Vose. New-Sharon, Elnathan Pope. Belgrade, Moses Page. Clinton, Stephen Stark.
China, Nathaniel Spratt.
Readfield, Dudley Moody.
" East, David C. Fuller.
Chesterville, Elisha M. Tobie. Temple, Lemuel Jenkins.
Farmington, Thomas Parker. Vassalboro', Edward Fairfield, " Falls, John Young. " East, Wm. C. Dow.
Fayette, Archelaus P. Fuller. " North, E. Getchell.
Gardiner West, Reuel Rice.
Green, Calvin Mower.
Hallowell, Wm. Stickney.
" East, Philip Bullen.
$" \quad$ Forks, Francis Day. Winslow, Joshua P. Wilmarth.
M't Vernon, James S. Hadley. Winthrop, John May.
" East, John Greeley.
On motion of Theodore S. Brown of Vassalborough, Voted, That all the friends of Temperance present from different parts of the county, be invited to take seats in the Convention, and participate in its deliberations.

On motion of Stephen Stark of Clinton, Voted, That it is expedient to reorganize a County Temperance Society.

On motion of Mr. Stark, Dr. Edward Southwick of Vassalborough, Dr. Amos Nourse of Hallowell, Luther Severance of Augusta, Merritt Caldwell of Readfield, and Jacob Southwick of Vassalborough, were appointed a committee to frame a Constitution for a County Temperance Society.

On motion of H. K. Baker of Hallowell, H. K. Baker, Seth May of Winthrop, Rev. Henry A. Miles of Hallowell, Moses Purinton of Vassalborough, and Rev. Benjamin Tappan of Augusta, were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions.

Adjourned to afternoon.

## Afternoon-Met agreeably to adjournment.

The committee appointed for the purpose reported resolutions, which were discussed, amended, and adopted as follows :

1. Resolved, That the Temperance cause is one which is dear to every heart alive to the welfare of mankind, and which commends itself to every mind that gives it a candid and mature consideration.
2. Resolved, That the formation of Societies on the principle of total abstinence from ardent spirit as a drink, has met with great and unexampled success, in promoting the suppression of intemperance; and that it is the duty of the friends of Temperance to spare no efforts to unite the whole community
in the support and practice of the same fundamental principle.
3. Resolved, That the friends of the cause in this County are called upon by the greatness of the evils with which they have to contend, and by the success which has attended their comparatively feeble efforts hitherto, to make more vigorous and determined exertions hexeafter, and not to rest in their labors until Kennebec becomes an entire Temperance County.
4. Resolved, That we recommend to each Temperance Society in this County to send to every family within its limits, a Circular with a copy of its Constitution, inviting every person of proper age, who is friendly to the cause, to give it his support by subscribing the pledge of total abstinence.
5. Resolved, That it be recommended to all the friends of the cause to promote the circulation of Temperance publications as far as may be in their power.
6. Resolved, That in accordance with the vote of the National Temperance Convention, we earnestly recommend that simultaneous meetings of the friends of Temperance be held in every town and neighborhood on the last Tuesday in February, 1834.
7. Resolved, That the formation of the Congressional Temperance Society and of the Massachusetts Legislative Temperance Society, are examples of interest in the great cause which deserve the respect and gratitude of the people, and recommend themselves as well worthy of the favorable regard of other Legislative assemblies.
8. Resolved, That the testimony of seveaty-five physicians of Boston, and four hundred whose names have been returned to the New York State Society, to the injurious effects of ardent spirits on men in health, cannot fail to exert a powerful influence on the public mind; and that the Societies in each town in this County be requested to procure the signatures of the physicians in their vicinity to the same declaration.
9. Resolved, That this Convention regard with much satisiaction the increasing number of Temperance groceries and Temperance taverns in this County, and joyfully anticipate the day when alcohol, like other poisons, will be found only at the apothecary's.
10. Resolved, That the traffic in ardent spirit as an article of diet or refreshment, having an obvious tendency to promote intemperance, is in the judgment of this Convention morally wrong, and as such should be universally abandoned.
11. Resolved, That the course hitherto pursued by the friends of Temperance, in abstaining from coercive measures and appealing mainly to the consciences of men, receives our cordial approbation.
12. Resolved, That we consider the influence of females 1 *
highly important to the advancement of the cause; and we trust they will not hesitate to give it their full support by signing and circulating the pledge.
13. Resolved, That stated meetings be recommended for public extemporaneous discussion on the subject of Temperance.
14. Resolved, That the several ministers of the gospel, of all denominations, in this County, be requested to bring the subject of Temperance before their respective congregations on some occasion near the time appointed for the simultaneous meetings.
15. Resolved, That each Temperance Society member ought to consider that his duty has but commenced when he has signed the temperance pledge, and that it is in vigilant, prompt and fearless individual action that great effects are to be produced, and our full duty discharged.
16. Resolved, That the success of past efforts to promote the Temperance reform calls loudly for devout gratitude to God, and affords strong encouragement to continued and increased exertion, inasmuch as it justifies the confidence that by means of such exertion, with a divine blessing, the great object can be fully and universally attained.

In the evening, the committee appointed for the purpose reported a Constitution for the County Temperance Society, which was amended and adopted as follows:

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Article 1. This Society shall be called the Kennebec County Temperance Society, and shall be auxiliary to the Maine Temperance Society.

Art. 2. The Society shall meet annually at Augusta on the Wednesday next after the second Tuesday in December; to be composed of the officers of town Temperance Societies, together with those who rany be appointed delegates from the town Societies.

Art. 3. The sole object of the Society shall be to concentrate the efforts of the friends of Temperance, to diffuse information, and by a moral influence to discourage the use of Ardent Spirits in the community.

Art. 4. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of five, of which Committee the President and Secretary shall be members, ex officiis, to be chosen at the annual meeting.

Art. 5. The officers of the Society shall perform the duties usually considered as pertaining to their respective offices. It shall further be the duty of the Secretary to collect information from the several town Societies in the County, and under the direction and with the assistance of the Executive Com-
mittee, publish from time to time in the journals of the day such articles as the cause of Temperance may require.

Art. 6. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to meet trom time to time and adopt such measures as they think calculated to promote the objects of this Society ; raise funds when necessary by voluntary contribution or subscription, make arrangements for the annual meetings, and call special meetings of the Society when expedient. It shall also be their duty at each annual meeting to present a report exhibiting the operations of the Society for the past year, and the state and progress, so far as it can be ascertained, of the Temperance Reformation; which report shall be published.

Art. 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority at any annual meeting.

On motion, Samuel Redington of Vassalborough, Richard H. Vose of Augusta, Merritt Caldwell of Readfield, Elnathan Pope of New-Sharon, and John Means of Augusta, were appointed a committee to nominate a list of officers.

On motion of Edward Fairfield of Vassalborough, Resolved, That whenever any person is appointed to any office in this Society, it shall be his duty first to consider what the duties connected with that office are, and his acceptance of the office shall be considered as a promise on his part, that he will discharge those duties to the best of his ability.

The nominating committee reported the following list of officers, which was adopted:

> Samuel Redington of Vassalborough, President.
> Henry K. Baker of Hallowell, Secretary.
> John Means of Augusta, Treasurer.
> Merritt Caldwell of Readfield,?
> Amos Nourse of Hallowell, Executive Commit$\left.\begin{array}{r}\text { Luther Severance of Augusta, } \\ \text { and the President and Secretary, }\end{array}\right\} \quad$ tce .

On motion of Rev. Mr. Tappan of Augusta, the papers reported by the committee on Statistics were referred to the Executive Committee, with instructions to prepare and publish an Address to the public.

On motion of Mr. Redington, the Executive Committee were directed to take such measures as they think proper, to raise funds, particularly to remunerate Mr. Pond, Corresponding Secretary of the State Society, for the expense of publishing his Annual Report.

After voting that the proceedings be published in the usual form, and transacting some other unimportant business,-at about 10 o'clock in the evening, the Convention adjourned.


In Augusta, the amount of money raised for the support of the poor, is $\$ 1000$-proportion of pauperism caused by intemperance is reported to be *small;" Albion, 300 -none by intemperance; Belgrade, 250-one half caused directly, and half the remainder indirectly by intemperance; Chesterville, 100 -one half by intemperance; Fayette, 250 -about two thirds; Hallowell, 1150-two thirds; Mount-Vernon, 400-three fourths; NewSharon, 350 -one half; Temple, 45-none; Vassalborough, 450-three fourths; Waterville, 400-at least three fourths; Windsor, 350 -two thirds at least, and probably nearly if not quite all, directly or indirectly; Wirthrop, 350 -about one third ; Farmington 547 -about one eighth directly.

Whole number of members of Societies returned, 5803-added within the year, 2336-males 2812-females 2745-drunkards reformed since the commencement of the reform, 94 -intemperate persons now, 451 -venders of ardent spirits, 106-common grogshops, 44-traders who have abandoned the traffic. 67-taverns keeping ardent spirits, 49-temperance taverns, 12.

No returns from nine towns.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE RETURNS.

.Augusta.-" Have had but few meetings-poorly attended. Have purchased a sufficient number of the Report of the Secretary of the State Society to furnish one for every school district."

Albion.-"This Society was organized, January 30, 1833. Meetings have been held quarterly, and an address delivered at each meeting, which has proved very beneficial."

Belgrade.-" The measures taken to advance the cause,-the organization of the society, several meetings thereof, one public address, and the exertions of the members to procure subscribers to the constitution, which have been so far attended with flattering success. We have, also, furnished the instructer of each school district with a copy of the constitution, with a request that he would use his influence to procure subscribers."

Chesterville.-_" Frequent meetings with addresses have been very beneficial in promoting the cause, and quite recently agents in each school district have tended to a rapid increase of members."

Fayctte.-" We have held semiannual meetings, and had an address at each time-meetings have not been well attended-voted in future to hold monthly meetings. Many professors of religion refuse to join the Society, are moderate drinkers, and are the grestest obstacles to the good cause. Several hard drinkers have recently commenced a reform, and have joined the Society. In 1829, there were sold by our traders about 3000 gallons of ardent spirit-in 1833, not over 550 gallons."

Green.- Measures used to advance the cause, have been by holding meetings, having occasional addresses, and circulating Temperance tracts and publications."

Gardiner West Society, including a small portion of the towns of Gardiner and Hallowell.-"Of late, for the purpose of advancing the cause, we have thought best to have an address upon Temperance delivered once in three months."
Hallowell.-Measures to advance the cause have been, a public meeting on the evening of the 26th of February last, when several gentlemen addressed the audience on the subject; and another on Sunday evening, July 21st; both of which were attended by large audiences. In the spring, great personal efforts were made to increase the number of members, and in August, a Circular, with a copy of the Constitution for signatures, was sent to every family in the village. This last measure nearly doubled the members of the Society. Members of this Society have aided in the formation of Societies in other parts of the town. On the whole, the cause has made great progress during the past year.

Hallowell East Society.-This Society has had a highly beneficial influence within its limits, reducing the consumption of ardent spirits, and reforming a considerable number of intemperate persons. But strange to tell, there is now a grogshop within its limits kept by a father and son, professors of religion, and the former a preacher !

Hallowell Forlis Society.-Formed about the 1st of September.
Monmouth.-"Quarterly meetings of the Society are provided for by the Constitution, and are well attended. Individual efforts by members."

Mount-Vernon.-"This Society meets once a quarter, and has an address. At the commencement a person was employed to travel and procure subscribers to the Constitution-at present the Constitution is ciroulated by each person procuring as many subscribers as possible.'

Mount-Vernon East Society.-"The measures taken to advance the cause in this Society have been, holding monthly meetings, and once in three months an address. Many who formerly made use of ardent spirits, although they have not joined the Society, have abandoned the practice, or nearly so ; and a material change has been wrought throughout this vicinity within two years, in the use of ardent spirits."

New-Sharon.-"The means used for six years has been a soliciting committee to visit eyery family in town, and request names to the pledge of
entire abstinence-which committee have reported 296 names of persons to be added to the Society at our next meeting."

Readfield East Society.-"Frequent addresses have had a very salutary effect. Drinking spirit has become unpopular, and the cause is evidently gaining ground, though there are some who practise as formerly, but not so openly."

Sidney East Society.-Formed in March last-the exertions in the cause have had a salutary influence on the community.

Temple.-Measures used to advance the cause are occasional meetings and addresses, and the influence of individuals by example, by " soft words and hard arguments." "The furnishing of ardent spirit for soldiers on military days has had a powerful influence in retarding the efforts of the Society." The martial music and tinsel display excite the blood, and ' many, on such occasions, partake of the soldier's treat, who would blush to be seen in the grogshop. Many officers would gladly dispense with treating, but have not the confidence necessary to effect so great a change." If it were forbidden by the proper authority great evils would be prevented.

Vassalborough. "The measures most successful have been, frequent mectings, addresses and discussions, and the distribution of printed addresses and Temperance papers."

Vussalborough East Society.-Mcasures-meetings, addresses, circulating Temperance tracts, \&c. "The result is, that whereas in 1832 there were 218:3 gallon:s of spirits sold in this vicinity-during the last six months but :ir.) gallons have been sold."

Fassalborough North Society,-Organized January, 1833. Meetings frexiuent and well attended.

Wraterville Wcst S'ocicty - "No legal or coercive measures have ever been resorted to in order to advance the reform in this place; but many of our citizens are awake to the subject. Buildings are raised, and all the various duties of life performed without the aid of ardent spirits. Our Society is increasing in numbers, and we believe the interest of the cause is steadily advancing."

Windsor.-" Meetings from time to time in the various school-districts, at which Temperance publications, \&c. have been read and circulated, and many members have taken an active interest in the cause. The results have been happy, beyond our most sanguine hopes-a very great improvement in the moral state of the community-religion has prospered, following the track of the Temperance reform-and the whole face of things, both as respects civil and religious matters, is materially improved."

Wathleop.-" Number of gallons of ardent spirits sold the year past about 1200, about one fourth part of what was sold in 1828-9."

In presenting the foregoing abstract of the doings of the Convention held recently for the promotion of Temperance in this County and also the statistical returns at that time made by several of the town Societies, the Committee to whom this duty was entrusted think they find occasion for a few additional remarks.-The statistics are, as might be expected, very imperfect; from the fact of there having been heretofore no tegular system of operations in our County,-no rallying point, about which the friends of the Temperance cause could gather, to tell of their conquests or to have their hearts made glad by the success which has attended the efforts of others. The consequence of such a state of things was, that it became the special duty of no officer of the town Societies to make the mecessary returns to any other Society; and thus, a call for these statistics must almost of necessity prove of but little avail.

We are happy in announcing the formation of a County Tem $\dagger$ perance Society, not only because it will from time to time bring together the friends of the cause and thus add to the general interests of the temperance reform; but because we think its formation will tend greatly to advance the interests of the local Societies. By the few statistics which have falt len into our hands, it is clearly perceived, that, however much has been effected, much yet remains to be done. The numbers of many Societies are small; and we have evidence that the measures which have been adopted for the advancement of the cause have in too many instances been but feeble and inefficient. We cannot believe that the recommendations of the County Society will be disregarded by those of a local character; nor that it will be in vain that their representatives come up annually to deliberate together on the best means for avert, ing the ruin which is threatening to overwhelm their friends; their neighbors and their common country.

We will take this occasion to remark, that in the progress of the temperance reformation thus far, combination, and that on the principle of total abstinence from the use of ardent spirit, has been found the only efficient means of success. Before Temperance Societies were formed, there were individ. uals, who abstained,-entirely abstained from the use of ardent spirit; but they saved only themselves by their abstinence. Others drank and others died! Since men began to unite for the suppression of intemperance, the cause of temperance has moved onward. The youth has been saved from acquiring habits of fashionable drinking; the young man and the temperate drinker has been induced to break away from the chain: which the usages of society had begun to wind around him . and here and there one from among the thousands of drunk, ards in our land has been saved. It is to be regretied that th Temperance Societies in our County have no more members, - ? that so few have formally entered their protest against th; sale and use of that which is spreading ruin and death al; around us. We earnestly recommend to each town Society it, this County, for the increase of their number of members, $t$ adopt the plan suggested in the 4th Resolution of the Convention. The success which has attended this plan whereve: it has been tried abundantly authorizes the recommendation There are those, and those too, who would be thought men 0 ! respectability, who still buy and sell, and with the drunkard drink the fatal liquor that destroys the reason and the lives o! men. So it will be, till the friends of good order shall a!! unite in the cause in which we are engaged. This we would present specially for the consideration of the temperate men in our county, who have hitherto withheld their names from the temprance pledge.

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It is worthy of remark, that in this cause no appeal has to be made which is based on the igniorance or the prejudices of men. It seeks not concealment, nor wishes to have its principles hid. Matter of fact says, that where there is the most intelligence, there the temperance cause has ever prospered best. The recommendation of the 5th Resolution is consequently presented to the consideration of the friends of temperance in the County; and it is most earnestly hoped, that no efforts will be spared to carry information on the subject, by papers, reports and tracts, into every neighborhood if not into every family of the several towns.-In villages and all other places where it is practicable, the recommendation of the 13th Resolution, if carried into effect, will, in the opinion of the Committee, prove in the highest degree useful.-We will suggest, also, to the officers of town Temperance Societies in the County, that an opportunity will be offered for them greatly to advance the interests of the temperance cause, by seeing that proper returns are made in all cases to the call of the State and County Societies, and also by using their exertions, that the Society over which they are placed be well represented at all of the State and County meetings.

In conclusion, permit us to say, that this is a ceuse which commends itself equally to the philanthropist, the statesman and the christian ; and to express a hope, that the trader in ardent spirits will think on the iniquity of the traffic and be induced to leave it off ; that the temperate drinker will be influenced to abandon a course so full of danger to himself and to the rising generation, and that the physician and the man of influence every where will give his aid to this-the cause of virtue and of God;-so that when the inebriate of the present day shall pass from the world, our rising race shall grow up untouched by the withering blight of intemperance, and so that there may then be seen through all our country, every where abounding, health and happiness, as well as righteousness and peace.

The attention of the Town and neighborhood Societies is respectfully called to the Resolution passed by the County Convention, which requests them to procure the names of the physicians in their vicinity to a declaration similar to that made by the physicians of Boston and others.

The Secretaries of the local Societies are earnestly requested to attend to this matter immediately, and return the names they procure to $\mathrm{H} . \mathrm{K}$. Baker, Secretary of K. C. T. S., Hallowell. The following is a form.

The undersigned physicians, of the Coupty of Kennebec, having been requested by the Kennebec County Temperance Convention, to express our opinion in regard to the effects of ardent spirits, do readily state it as our conviction, that their use is not required by persons in health. On the contrary our observation too often leads us to witness and to deplore their disastrous effects on the human system in producing and aggravating disease.

December, 1833.
BENJAMIN PAGE, Hallowell. AMOS NOURSE, Halluwell.
ELIAS WELD,
JOHN HUBBARD, "

