CONGRESSIONAL.

GREAT EXCITEMENT ON THE SLAVERY QUESTION—WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTHERN MEMBERS.

Our special correspondent, in a note inclosing the annexed notice of yesterday's proceedings in Congress, says:—"We are in the midst of a tremendous excitement on the Slave Question."

WASHINGTON Dec. 20th.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Charles D. Coffin, from Ohio, in the place of Andrew W. Loomis, resigned, appeared, and took his seat to day.

Mr. Cushman of New Hampshire, moved that the House again go into committee of the Whole on the President's Message.

But the House refused to suspend the Rules for that purpose.

Mr. Slade having on a former day presented two memorials from Vermont praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and having moved that they be referred to a select committee, and debate threatening to arise thereon, the motion was laid over until this day; and the question on such reference coming up in order as the first business before the House.

Mr. Slade read one of the memorials, and then proceeded to address the House at large in support of his motion. Mr. S. having animadverted with some severity on the course pursued in the House in regard to memorials on this subject, and spoken of it as reduced to a matter of system, by an understanding which resulted in Southern gentlemen invariably rising and moving to lay all motions for the reference of these memorials on the table—

Mr. Wise interposed, and with some warmth repelled the idea of any perconcert or understanding on his own part (and he had most frequently made the motion to lay on the table) with a single individual; and, so far from there being a systematic arrangement among Southern gentlemen on the matter, there was, on the contrary a total want of concert; and as to the promptitude of the Chair in anticipating such motions before they were completely uttered, he would do the Speaker the justice to testify that never had a word, or even intimation, passed between the Chair and any Southern gentleman in relation to these motions.

Mr. Slade disclaimed any personal charge either on the gentleman from Virginia or the Speaker. The promptitude of the Chair was pro per, and arose from a desire to save time.

Mr. S. then resumed his speech, but had proceeded but a little further; when

Mr. Dawson called upon him for an explanation of a remark he had made, that the course pursued in relation to these abolition memorials would have mantled the cheek of a British Parliament with honest shame and indignation. Did the gentleman mean to charge Mr. D. had ever so acted in this matter as would mantle the cheek of an honest man with indignation either in Parliament or any where else?

Mr. Slade said that he meant to give application to the remark no farther that the language itself implied. He then resumed; and having, after some time, concluded what he had to say on the manner of treating the memorials, and what he considered as a more manly and dignified course to be pursued in relation to the whole subject, by referring them to a select committee, he proceeded to the subject of the memorial itself, which prayed for the abolition of slavery within the District of Columbia. And what, asked Mr. S. is slavery?

[The Chair here interposed, and observed that Mr. S. could not discuss the merits of the memorial on a mere motion for its commitment. The question before the House was the question of commitment alone; and to that Mr. S. must confine his remarks. The motion for commitment had been accompanied with no instructions: had it been, the whole field would have been opened.]

Mr. Slade submitted to the decision of the Chair, and forthwith modified his motion for the commitment of these memorials to a select committee, by adding "with instructions to report a bill abishing slavery within the District of Columbia."

Mr. Wise inquired whether the motion, thus modified, must not lie ove one day?

The Chair replied that the memorial having been received, and the motion entertained for its reference to a committee, such would not be the case.

Mr. Slade was about to resume; when

Mr. Legare, of South Carolina, asked leave to say a word.

Mr. Slade pausing—

Mr. Legare said he wished to implore the gentleman from Vermont solemnly to consider what he was doing. He supplicated him for the sake of his own constituents, for the sake of those of Mr. L., for the sake of us all, to pause and seriously to reflect before he took another step on the ground before him. Mr. L.'s constituents had not directed him thus to interfere, but, as a man, as an American citizen, he would supplicate the gentleman to take further time to consider. If it was true, as the gentleman had said, that a spirit had been awakened on this subject which could never be suppressed or *children* into submission, when the most solemn and explicit contracts forbade its indulgence, when the agitation of the question might involve the fate of a nation, of a continent, nay of the entire world, let the gentleman be assured, (and he warned him not in the language of defiance, for that he well knew brave men every where despised,) but let the gentleman be well assured that that spirit would be encountered by another as incapable to the full of being repressed by any power. If the question must be forced upon them, they were perfectly and promptly ready to take up the gauntlet. Let him tell the gentleman most solemnly and seriously that he had had occasion to look at the question as a philosophical and philosophical a manner as the gentleman had proposed it should be examined in a committee; and he had come to a conclusion that there was more to be found in the systems of philosophy, and in the body of Christian doctrine against both property and war, than against slavery. The gentleman might as well look there for grounds to advocate a community of goods, as to abolish slavery! There had not been, for more than 1200 years after the introduction of Christianity, the least possible pretext brought from its precepts in favor of war, even where no previous stipulation, as in this case, existed for the preservation of peace. (Mr. L. spoke with great vehemence, and we could, at times, with difficulty catch his language; but the above conveys, we believe, the substance of his meaning.) Could gentleman wonder that Southern men were excited on this occasion? His constituents had not sent him there to listen to these things—to hear, from day to day, the most worn-out common-places brought up and reiterated in his ears—to hear all that was vital to the safety of their firesides and the very structure of Southern society vilified as an offence against God and man. Not only was it wearisome and disgusting beyond endurance, but he trembled at its obvious practical results.

Mr. Slade resumed, when

Mr. Dawson asked him for the floor that he might move an adjournment.

Mr. Slade refused to yield the floor.

Mr. Legare apologized for having said more than he had at first intended, when he asked his indulgence to yield the floor for a moment.

Mr. Slade resumed, and expressed his approval of the gentleman's ardour, tho' he could not agree with him in sentiment. He had proceeded for a few minutes, again inquiring what slavery was? and was proceeding to define it, when—

Mr. Dawson again asked him for the floor; and some agitation began to be manifest in the House.

Mr. Slade again insisted on his right to the floor, and continuing to occupy it, proceeded to quote from the authority of a Southern Judge as to the nature and effect of slavery in reducing the slave to a chattle, &c. when—

Mr. Wise appealed to the Chair. The gentleman from Vermont was discussing the question of slavery within the States, when his motion was to refer a memorial for the abolition of slavery within the District of Columbia. He was plainly trenching on ground held by all to be inviolable.

The Speaker said that it was not in order to discuss the subject of slavery within any of the States.

Mr. Slade denied that he was doing so. He had quoted the authority, as he might a legal opinion delivered in Great Britain. As he was explaining—

Mr. Robertson, of Virginia, moved that the House adjourn.

The Chair pronounced the motion out of order, while a member was in possession of the floor and addressing the House. He would however suggest to the gentleman from Vermont, who could not but observe the state of the House, to confine himself strictly to the subject of his motion.

Mr. Slade resumed. After he had proceeded some time,

Mr. Dawson inquired of the Chair whether the morning hour had not expired?

The Chair replied that the restriction of one hour every morning was confined to reports and resolutions, but did not extend to memorials.

Mr. Slade went on for a considerable time longer, when

Mr. Petrikin called him to order.

Mr. Slade called Mr. Petrikin to order for the interruption.

The Chair declared Mr. Slade in order.

He proceeded at length, quoting the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitutions of several of the States, and had got to that of Virginia, when

Mr. Wise called him to order.

The Chair decided; from the rule that Mr. S. could not read any paper, if it was objected to by any member, without the leave of the House.

Mr. Wise said that the gentleman had wantonly discussed the abstract question of slavery going back to the very first day of the creation, instead of slavery as it existed in the District, and the powers and duties of Congress in relation to it. He was now examining the State Constitutions to show that as it existed in the States it was against them, and against the laws of God and man. This was out of order.

Mr. Slade explained, and argued in vindication of his course, and was about to read a memorial of Dr. Franklin, and an opinion of Mr. Madison on the subject of slavery, when

The reading was objected to by Mr. Griffin of South Carolina.

The Chair said the papers could not be read without permission.

Mr. Slade. Then I send them to the Clerk—let him read them.

The Chair said this was equally against the rule.

Mr. Griffin withdrew his objection, &

Mr. Slade proceeded to read the papers and comment on them as he went on. He was then about to go back and show what had been the feeling in Virginia previously to the date of the memorial of Franklin.

Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, inquired of the Chair what the proceedings in Virginia had to do with the question before the House?

The Chair was about to reply, when

Mr. Wise rose with warmth, and said, he has discussed the whole abstract question of slavery; of slavery in Virginia; of slavery in my own district; I now ask all my colleagues *to retire* with me from this Hall.

Mr. Slade. Mr. Speaker, I do not ask the floor.

Mr. Holsey. I ask the Georgia delegation to the same.

Mr. Rhett. The South Carolina delegation have already consulted together, and agreed to have a meeting at 3 o'clock, in the committee room of the District of Columbia.

The Speaker here said that the gentleman from Vermont had been reminded by the Chair that the discussion of Slavery, as existing within the States, was not in order, when he was desirous to read a paper and it was objected to, the Chair had stopped him, but the objection had been withdrawn, and Mr. Slade had been suffered to proceed: he was now about to read another paper, and objection was made; the chair would, therefore, take the question on permitting it to be read.

[Mr. Robertson, Mr. Rhett and others rose and addressed the Chair; a good deal of confusion prevailed; portions of the Southern members were leaving the hall.]

Mr. Rhett rose to order. He asked if the gentleman from Vermont had a right to discuss the question of slavery in Virginia? He thought not, and he invited the whole Southern delegation, from all the slaveholding states, to meet forthwith in the committee room of the District.

The Speaker again recapitulated and vindicated the correctness of his own course, as being dictated by the rules of the House; what his personal feelings had been might easily be conjectured; had it been in his power to restrain the discussion, he should promptly have exercised the power, but it was not.

Mr. Slade said the paper he wished to read was an act of the Continental Congress of 1774.

The Chair was about to put the question on leave when

Mr. William Cost Johnson inquired of the Chair whether it would be in order for the House to vote that the gentleman from Vermont be not permitted to proceed?

The Chair replied it would not.

Mr. McKay, of North Carolina, said that the gentleman had been pronounced out of order in discussing slavery in the States; and the rule declared that, when a member was so pronounced by the Chair, he should take his seat, and if any one objected to his proceeding again, he should not do so, unless by leave of the House. Mr. McKay did now object to the gentleman from Vermont proceeding any further.

[Much confusion arose; many members rising at once.]

The Chair read the rule referred to; and said that, as an objection had now, for the first time, been made under that rule to the gentleman's resuming his speech, the Chair decided that he could not do so without the leave of the House.

Mr. Slade said he had been permitted to read the papers he had read, and to proceed and comment on them. He had been doing nothing in these twenty minutes past, but by leave of the House.

The Chair directed Mr. Slade to take his seat until the question on leave should be put.

Mr. Slade said he should not discuss slavery in Virginia, and he asked leave to proceed as in order.

On this question, Mr. Allen of Vermont, demanded the Yeas and Nays.

Mr. Rencher moved an adjournment.

Mr. Adams and many others rose and demanded the Yeas and Nays on adjournment. They were ordered and taken, and resulted, Yeas 106, Nays 63.

[Most of the seats of Southern members vacant.]

So the House adjourned.

Mr. Campbell, of South Carolina, said he had been appointed, as one of the Southern delegation, to announce that all those gentlemen who represented slaveholding States were invited to attend the meeting now being held in the District Committee Room.

We have great satisfaction in announcing to the public the complete success of Mr. PETER RITNER, in the manufacture of Iron from Bituminous Coal.—The works of Mr. Ritner are situated on the West Branch of the Susquehanna, in Clearfield county, and are upon an extensive scale. The iron produced from a single furnace is at the rate of about 75 tons per week, and is pronounced of a superior quality. These facts come from a source that leaves no doubt of their correctness. Every Pennsylvanian must rejoice in this intelligence. It opens a field to enterprise, and the employment of capital, that will add to the value, the wealth, and the population of this great State, beyond the calculation of the most sanguine.

We also learn that the furnace on Lick Run, in Lycoming county, owned by a company in Boston, will be in blast in January; the furnace on Lycoming creek will also shortly be in operation; and that there is every reason to expect entire success; and we heartily wish it to the enterprising proprietors. The Lick Run furnace is on a very enlarged scale, and is calculated to produce 120 tons of iron per week. When we recollect that a very large portion of Pennsylvania, west of the eastern ridge of the Alleghany mountains, abounds in all the materials necessary to the most important of all manufactures—and that every water fall affords a site for the erection of works—may we not fondly contemplate, that in the course of but a few years the "Empire State" will be found in a more southern latitude?

We also deem it a matter of no small moment, that the two first of the works above stated, are upon the line of the contemplated great Erie Rail Road; the latter on the line of the Williamsport and Elmira Rail Road; and we hope that the Company recently organized to construct that great state—indeed national work—the Erie Rail Road, will find their supplies of iron upon the west. A Pennsylvania road, likely to be made of Pennsylvania iron, presents a double stimulus to capitalists—the profits of the investment that will result from the great trade of the lakes—and the encouragement of the great staple manufacture of the State.

From the Gettysburg Star.

Printers to the Senate.

☞ It is with much regret that we perceive a quarrel has arisen between the Editors of the Harrisburg Telegraph and Chronicle about the election of Printer to the Senate, and the personally abusive allusions toward each other, as well as the Telegraph's hasty remarks about the motives, &c. of Mr. PENROSE. We suspect there has been a *misunderstanding* between the parties, or certainly the above papers would not have been rival candidate for the Senate's printing. That misunderstanding has led to the defeat of both, and the election of those who probably deserve it as much as either of our other friends.

But why quarrel about it now? It certainly can do no good, and may lead to much mischief. In the spirit of kindness, then, we would call upon those Editors to cease their quarrel, and no longer serve up palatable dishes for their greedy neighbors to devour. Let *them* quarrel about the *loaves and fishes*. Ye have *principles* to contend for—not *selfish interests*.

P. S. Since the above was written we have received the subjoined letter, from which it will be seen that we were right in supposing that there was not a perfect understanding between the friends of the Chronicle and Telegraph. We cordially join with the writer in trusting that the matter will be permitted to rest.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Gettysburg Star and Banner, dated

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1837.

DEAR SIR—You will have seen in the Harrisburg Chronicle and Telegraph very unpleasant accounts of the election of Printer to the Senate.

I regret, as every disinterested man must, the course taken by those prints. The remarks applied to Mr PENROSE are particularly to be regretted. Mr. Penrose, I think, should have voted for Mr. Fenn; but his declining to do so, arose from a misunderstanding between him and some other members of the Anti-Masonic party. He had taken a particular view of what he supposed to be the understanding of our friends with regard to the election of printers.—Others of our friends (most of them) understand it differently: and this *misunderstanding* led to the unpleasant votes which followed.

But Mr. Fenn, in the heat of the moment, has attributed views to Mr. Penrose which do him injustice. Never was a firmer friend to the present administration, or to our principles, than Mr. Penrose. It would be a shame if a mere misunderstanding about the election of printers, (both of whom are with us, unless, as the Chronicle intimates interests will drive them off,) should cause any distrust, heart-burning, or quarrel among political friends. This contemptible cause of quarrel, if persevered in, may do much harm to our party, and alienate friends.

I trust that our papers will treat this matter coolly, & not like wild madmen.

THE REPAIR BILL.

In consequence of there not being a quorum in the Senate at the hour of adjournment, this morning, the fate of the bill making appropriations for repairs and the continuation of the public improvements, was not known. No communication could be received from the Governor, which we understand he was ready to make, and the public are left in uncertainty as to the determination of the Executive in regard to the bill.

Without therefore professing to know or intimate the views or course of the Executive in this matter, we take the liberty as an editor, to express our decided disapprobation of its provisions, as we look upon it as the first attempt of the Loco Focos in the House, to arrest the prosecution and prosperity of the State improvements, as recommended by the Governor, or force upon him the neccessity of approving another "*Mammoth Bill.*" We look upon it as the commencement of that "Log rolling" system of legislation, which the Governor and the People hold to be as inquitous as it is detrimental to the interests of the Commonwealth. It is in this bill that the contest between *true economy* and *local interests* has commenced, and if the Executive must again oppose the squandering, spendthrift disposition of the Loco Focos of the House of Representatives, we think that the sooner it is done the better.—We are sufficiently acquainted with his firmness and readiness to take any responsibility in which the interests of the people are at stake; to believe that he is ready to meet the evil at the very threshold, in which case there would be full time between this and the end of the session, for the people to canvass and decide the difference, and we should be greatly mistaken if the verdict would not be returned in favor of the Governor's course.

In his last message, the Governor went fully into the improvement question, and his views, which were given in a clear and satisfactory manner, have, we believe, received the *universal* approbation of the citizens of the Commonwealth. They were liberal, without being extravagant, or sectional, and economical without being parsimonious, or calculated to involve the Commonwealth in any increase of state debt. He provides amply for the prosecution and completion of the present improvements, without the least embarrassment.

In that message, the Governor recommended the passage of a bill, making instant provision for ordinary and extraordinary repairs, and for the present and urgent wants of the Erie and North branch Canals, and the Gettysburg railroad; the whole amounting to $927,295—of which $280,000 was for ordinary repairs, and $347,295 for extraordinary repairs, including $105,000 for the avoidance of the inclined plane at Columbia, $66,000 for the feeder dams, $59,060 for the repair of the Eastern division, North track of the Columbia railroad, &c. including various other estimates, and $100,000 to the North Branch, and Erie extensions, and Gettysburg railroad, each.

The Senate concurred with the Governor on this subject, and promptly passed a bill, introduced by Mr. Pearson in accordance with the reasonable recommendations of the message, with the exception of an approbriation to the Gettysburg railroad.

In this shape the bill went to the House, and there by the influence of the same motives which rolled together the "Mammoth Bill" of last session, the appropriation for ordinary repairs was cut down to $100,000—$86,000 of which are due, and others of the most urgent necesity were reduced in the same manner. And to cap the climax, the pitifnl sum of $45,000 was given to the Gettysburg Rail-road, with a provision that the contractors leave the work by the first of January!!—when the appropriation would not pay 50cts. on the dollar of the money actually due to the contractors, and without making any provision for the payment of damages caused by the road!!! In short, the bill was cut down in the House, in the most important items, to $327,295; only appropriating $5,000 for the lowering of the feeder level, and building a new guard at Duncan's Island.

Every reader will see that the provisions of the bill, as it passed the House, are directly in the teeth of the policy recommended and maintained by the Governor, in all his acts, viz; full, ample, and *unconditional* provision for repairs and other objects connected with the use of the finished works—and the balance of the public funds to be applied to the completion of the unfinished works. That such is the *true policy* of the state there can be no doubt—and those who are disposed to enter the lists against it, we think will hardly be willing to ask an expression of public opinion on the subject.

The bill as it passed, if viewed as a final measure, on the subject of repairs, is wholly insufficient; or as a sop to keep the work a going for the present moment, with the *intention* to make the balance of the fund required for repairs, *dependent* upon the passage of another "big bill," is objectionable; and we believe that the real friends of the public improvements and prosterity of the State, will say that it ought not to receive the Executive sanction. But we leave it in his hands, with full confidence in his wisdom, and the belief that should he return it without his signature, it will be with sufficient reasons to ensure the approbation of the people.

Harrisburg Telegraph.

Governor's Message.

The message of our excellent Governor, seems to be a favorite with all parties.—The Philadelphia Herald and Sentinel says. "The whole city is vocal with the praise of Gov. Ritner's Message. It is one of the best State papers that has appeared in the country."

The veteran and respectable editor of the American Daily Advertiser, says—"The excellent Message of the Governor, is a document which speaks for itself.—The treatment of the subject of internal improvement, the currency and finances of the Commonwealth, and the encouragement of individual enterprise in developing our national resources is really admirable. It is truly *Pennsylvanian* and stamped with the sound democratic principles of our *Farmer Governor.*

The National Gazette—admitted to be one of the most ably conducted presses in the Union—says: We present to our readers, to the exclusion of other matter, the able and interesting message of Governor Ritner, delivered to the Legislature on Wednesday. The representation the Governor gives of the condition of our State Banks is highly gratifying, and the public are shown to be in a prosperous condition. The General Administration is handled with the same dexterity and cogency displayed by the Governor in previous messages. The monetary evils of the times and their causes are well treated."

The Philadelphia Public Ledger says "The Governor's Message displays the same manly good sense and sturdy independence, which have characterized all his former Messages."

So far as we have seen or heard, (says the Philadelphia Commonwealth and Independent Democrat,) the Governor's Message has been received with the most enthusiastic tokens of approbation by the people. Nor need this be wondered at. The independent stand he has taken against the encroachments of the General Government, the lucid, masterly and statemanlike manner which he has treated the various topics on which he expatiates, and the noble and truly Pennsylvanian spirit which breathes through the whole document, go far to exalt Governor RITNER to the highest place in the affections of an intelligent and patriotic people.

The Miner's Journal warmly applauds Governor Ritner's view in relation to coal companies.

The Baltimore Patriot describes it as "an interesting document."

The New York Express says—"the financial part will produce much more effect upon the country than the Message of the President of the United States."

The Baltimore Chronicle says—"The Message of Governor Ritner, which is now before us, has been looked for with considerable interest, and will no doubt have the happiest effect on the legislature now in session. The message is an able paper. It bears the mark of a strong philosophical mind, and is distinguished throughout for the force and cogency of its reasoning."

The Governor's Message is received with the most enthusiastic approbation by the farmers and mechanics of the country. From all parts we hear the voice of commendation and praises by all parties. It is received as the ablest, soundest, and most satisfactory state paper that the history of Pennsylvania can boast of—its doctrines are the doctrines of the people—and a response will be given to it that will make the hills and vallies of the Commonwealth re-echo with the praise of its FARMER GOVERNOR.—*Pennsylvania Telegraph.*

REPORT

Of the Executive Committee of the Cumberland County Temperance Society.

On returning to the Society the trust confided to them one year since, your committee beg leave to present the following

REPORT.

Early in the year, a union was formed between the three principal Temperance Societies of the borough, so far as to produce concert of action, without however interfering with the original organization of either of the societies. The names of the Temperance Society of the First Presbyterian Church have been transcribed on your records under the appropriate pledge. The names of the Young Men's Temperance Society have not as yet been handed to your Secretary; but so far as they have acted during the past year, they have acted in concert with the general society. With this arrangement your committee feel satisfied; and have no doubt but it will ultimate in a more efficient action on the part of the friends of temperance in Carlisle.

There was also incorporated into our constitution, soon after your committee entered on their duties, a pledge of total abstinence from fermented as well as distilled liquors, for such as might wish to sign it, deeming the old pledge insufficient to answer all the purposes designed by our association. The constitution provides, that this pledge shall be presented with the old for signatures, whenever either is offered. This has been done at all our meetings; and the favor with which this pledge has been received gives very decided testimony in favor of the wisdom of the arrangement entered into. Tho' we would not strike out the old pledge, nor lose the influence of those who withold their names from the new, yet we cannot but consider the new as opening a way for those who wish to advance the temperance cause, to do it much more effectually than they can by simply giving their signatures to the old pledge.

Meetings during the last year have been held in the Methodist, First Presbyterian, Lutheran and German Reformed Churches; and no efforts have been spared by your committee to give interest to the meetings of the society, and to make them worthy of the cause, and of the attention of the intelligent citizens of our borough. One of these meetings was devoted specially to presenting the claims of temperance before the *young men.* Some of the meetings have been well attended; at least so well, as to present encouragement still to continue similar efforts to act on the public mind.

Since your committee came into office, there have been added to the society forty-seven names, of which number forty have been given to the *Total Abstinence* pledge. This preference for the new pledge, we can ascribe to nothing else but the consistency which all perceive in abstaining at the same time from ardent spirits and from all that can intoxicate, or that can lead to intoxication. The unsophisticated mind seems unable to comprehend why we exclude alcohol in whiskey, and at the same time allow its use in wine and ale;—or why we exclude from an association with us those who use, perhaps temperately, ardent spirits, and at the same time allow the use of those milder drinks, which may, even *directly*, produce intoxication, and which do, *indirectly*, lead to perhaps more evil than even ardent spirits themselves. Your committee have found one of their greatest sources of encouragement during the last year, in the approbation which has been given to the total abstinence pledge; and in this we think we see good promise of future success in the operations of the society.

An arrangement was made by your committee during the last winter, for visiting the school districts around our borough; and sub committees of two volunteered to go out to present the claims of temperance to such as were pleased to collect in the school houses of the various neighborhoods around us. These meetings were in several instances well attended; and we believe in all, were productive of good. On one evening, at Middlesex, six names were obtained to the pledge of your society. This system we commend to our successors in office.

In September last, a convention was held at Shippensburg in which all the societies of the county, with perhaps one or two exceptions, were represented. It was a meeting of much interest, and the friends of temperance in Shippensburg and vicinity have referred to it, as having given to the cause in that place a new impulse. We doubt not but the temperance cause would be essentially promoted, by frequently holding such general meetings of the friends of temperance, at different points in the county; not so much for the purpose of settling the principles on which we should proceed,—these may be considered as already settled,—but for encouraging each other in the good work, and for enlisting the attention of the public by bringing talent from neighboring towns, to give attractions to a subject, which is usually considered hackneyed and dull.

One general source of encouragement presents itself to your committee. We believe there is at present in our community little doubt as to the excellency or the efficiency of our system, so far as it can be carried into effect. Men are no longer deterred from joining with us, either by any misgivings of the judgment, or by scruples of the conscience. The utility of our system is so apparent, and its influence so unmixed with evil, that whatever else men may say or do, they rarely attempt *to reason* it down. But notwithstanding this, your committee have been exceedingly afflicted to perceive, as they have during the year, an apathy and an apparent indifference on the subject, among many who profess to be the well wishers of society, and by some who profess to be the friends of temperance. Our meetings have been thinly attended; and we fear that the efforts privately made to reclaim the inebriate, or to divert the young from the paths of intemperance, have been few and feeble.

Some of the signers of the old pledge seem to stand aloof from our present operations. Why is this? They are recognized as members in full fellowship with us. We wish they could go the full length of the total pledge; but we "judge no man's conscience." "To his own master he standeth or falleth."

Some of the professed Christians of our borough take no part in our operations. Why is this? Is not ours a work of benevolence? Is any man injured by our efforts to save both young and old from ebriety and death? Is it not a work of religion? Can the intemperate man be a Christian? or the drunkard inherit the kingdom of God? The Christian professes to live not for himself alone and to be governed mainly by motives drawn from another world. Does not he, who for the love of gain, or for the gratification of appetite, or from mere prejudice, withholds his aid from any of the enterprises of Christian benevolence, do himself an injury, and give the lie to his profession? Whether the temperance enterprise is not an enterprise of Christian benevolence, we leave to the science of each to decide.

The ladies of our borough, too, with a few most worthy exceptions, take but a small part, and apparently feel but little interest in the progress of our cause. And why is this? Is it that the female sex have suffered nothing by the desolations of intemperance? Let the wives and daughters, the widows and orphans of drunkards, even in our own town, answer. Is it that they can do nothing in support of this work of benevolence? What work of benevolence has not been aided by them? Have they not, even among us, their Missionary Societies, and their Bible Societies? Why should their modesty lead them to decline their aid to the temperance cause, which offers a much more interesting field of usefulness, and one in which their efforts will be much more certainly and immediately crowned with success. They even have their Benevolent Society. Why lop off the branches, and permit the roots to remain? Why meet for the purpose of relieving poverty and wretchedness, while the *cause* of this poverty and wretchedness is looked at only with coolness and apathy; and while they refuse so sanction, even by their presence, our efforts to remove it? "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." The mother has it in her power to save her son from the fate of the drunkard, and her daughter from the fate of the drunkard's wife. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." And can she do all her duty till she has set for her children the example of signing a temperance pledge? And the *young* ladies need have no fear of becoming the advocates of temperance.—They are in more danger of being made wretched for life by intemperance than by all other causes combined!

The magistrates and professional men of our borough do not, as a body, come up strongly to this work. We need their aid; we cannot do all that we desire without it.

Another circumstance of sadness connected with our enterprise, and to which we feel bound to refer, is, the progress of intemperance around us. Your committee believe it is generally conceded, that intemperance is increasing in our borough; but he who infers from this the inefficiency, or the badness of our cause, can have given to the subject very little candid reflection. And what is the process of the progress of intemperance? why simply this.—He who a year ago was deliberating whether he had not better join a Temperance Society, but decided against it, though then perhaps strictly temperate, is now occasionally seen in the bar-room and in the haunts of dissipation and vice, and laugh at the idea of *abstinence.*—He who then drank nothing but beer or wine, has become dissatisfied with these, and occasionally sips from cups more deeply impregnated with poison. He who then drank rarely and stealthily now drinks frequently and openly. He who then drank temperately, now drinks intemperately. And he who then was only occasionally drunk, or drank deeply without intoxication, has now gone to his last account, or is living a curse to his family, to his friends, and to the community. This, then, is the process that is going on in our town. And does it furnish any occasion for triumph on the part of the enemies of our cause? Or does it furnish a strong—a living testimony to the truth of our system? The temperance scheme promises to benefit only those who voluntarily seek its aid. We say to every man, "Taste not, touch not, handle not." Its fundamental principle is this,—*That though all may abstain few can be temperate;*—a truth, which we have too much reason to think is fearfully illustrating before our eyes. The most that our principles give us a right to expect is, that those who can be induced to enlist under our banner shall be safe, though all others fall; and that those who may not yet have committed themselves to the cause of death, may be induced to put themselves under the protection of our flag. If the public voice, that intemperance is increasing among us, be true, "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Before another anniversary of this society, some who are now free, may become the slaves of appetite; and some who may now be successfully addressed, may then be lost to every appeal of reason, of conscience, and of friendship. The inference which we, as a society, should draw from this fact, is too obvious to require comment.

We need not, we do not, expect for our cause a perfect triumph, till virtue shall triumph over vice, till reason shall triumph over sensuality, till conscience shall triumph over appetite and passion. We, however, are to do what we can. We may rescue but few of those who are already within the circling eddies of the dread whirlpool; but by lighting up our beacon fires, we may guard others from nearing the fatal verge. Temperance societies have been formed in some of our Sunday Schools. The committee look upon this as one of the most favorable indications of our time. Children early imbued with the principles of temperance, will become the safe guardians of the trust which we shall soon have to commit to them.

Let us keep up our meetings, and our convention; let us, as heretofore, and if practicable to a greater degree, extend our operations into the country; let each member do his duty personally; and last, though not least, let us, as a society, visit, either in person or by a circular, every family of our borough, presenting the claims of our society and soliciting the names of all who will become its members; and the next year shall be one of much greater prosperity than the last. When this is done, and not till then, shall we have come up to our duty, as a society, or as individuals.

Submitted by your Committee.

M. CALDWELL,
D. McKINLEY,
ROSS LAMBERTON.

December 25, 1837.