The Champion.

THE first hearing of the six charges of Scott Act violation against Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Wattie, and Neil McDougall was held before Police Magistrate Young on the 23rd ult. The cases were adjourned from time to time for various reasons, one adjournment being made by a proxy for the benefit of Young's undertaking business, a great many witnesses were summoned and examined, and, after all, in not a single case was the prosecution successful. The expenses of these abortive proceedings must have been heavy, but then the officials of the court must be given a chance to make a little money in the shape of fees, and the county, which owes so much prosperity to the Scott Act, can surely afford to foot the bill. At any rate it will have to do so.

LAST spring certain Halton prohibitionists were very severe on an Anti-Scott witness who testified before the "court of truth and righteoussness," and who, when asked a question which he considered an improper one, refused to answer it. The "temperance" people darkly hinted that as he had been sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, he been guilty of a deadly sin in acting as he did. What have these "unco guid" folks to say now that a leading Scott Act man, after taking the same oath, has done precisely the same thing? And what have they to say to the outrageous disrespect shown to the Scott Act court by another leading prohibitionist in disobeying a summons issued by its learned and just presiding officer? What would they have thought of it had a bench warrant been issued for the arrest of the non-attending witness?

The Georgetown Herald is constantly harping on the depravity of wicked anti-Scott Milton, the only place in the county where the Scott Act is not a success, and where there is an anti-Scott paper. It might be inferred from this that Georgetown is a particularly moral, sober, orderly village, made so by the elevating influences of the Herald and the Scott Act, which, if our so-called temperance friends, including the Herald man, are to be believed, is a great success up there. The list of convictions for the last three months, which appears in this issue of the CHAMPION, makes Georgetown's record for breaches of good order as follows; drunk and disorderly, three; disorderly, five; disturbing public worship, three; assaults, five. This is Milton's tally; drunk and disorderly, four; disturbing public worship, one. Milton may be and undoubtedly is a pretty tough town; but our Georgetown contemporary can hardly afford to throw stones at her.

CRIME IN HALTON.

When the Scott Act was first submitted in this county its advocates promised for it that if carried it would annihilate the liquor traffic, and so effectually banish crime that our jail would become a superfluous institution.

The Act went into force in 1882, and it cannot be said that it has not had a fair trial. It has had more than that; since its administration has been, from the first, under the superintendence of an official from whose decisions on evidence there has been no appeal, who has systematically abused his authority, and who has had for his subordinates unscrupulous fanatics like himself.

What has been the result? Have the promises of the "temperance" agitators been carried out? The answer is found in the increase in the number of convictions for various offences, as shown by the lists which have been published quarterly. The list which appears in this issue of the CHAMPION makes a particularly bad showing against the Act, containing as it does no less than fifty-four convictions altogether, the greatest number for many years. That the liquor traffic has not been annihilated is demonstrated by the fifteen convictions for illicit liquor selling, by the one for unlawful distilling, and by the seven for drunkenness, to say nothing of those for assaults and disorderly conduct, offences which, if we are to believe our prohibitionist friends, are almost invariably due to the use or abuse of intoxicants. That the jail is hardly a superfluous institution the seven cases during the last three months of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment furnish sufficient evidence.

While this sad state of affairs prevails in Halton under prohibition, in the adjoining county of Peel, with a much larger population, the convictions for the last quarter, the list of which was published in last week's Banner, numbered only twenty-three, and yet Peel is "cursed," as prohibitionists would put it, with a license law. This law, however, seems to be well observed by our neighbors, since there appears on the list only one case of a conviction for a breach of it against fifteen for violation of the Scott Act in Halton, and there is not a single one under the head of drunkenness, while here, under prohibition, there are seven.

A comparison of the records of the administration of justice for the two counties for the last five years will be found, like that of the last quarter, to tell tremendously against the Scott Act, and to sustain the argument of the anti-prohibitionists that the best results in the way of promoting sobriety are obtained by regulating the liquor traffic and keeping it as far as possible out of disreputable hands, and that prohibition is a fallacy.

An opportunity will be given shortly to the electors of Halton to repeal the law under which their county has been demoralized, under which drunkenness, perjury, and general lawlessness have increased. It will be the duty of every man who has a vote to record it one way or the other, and every intelligent man, now that the Act has had a five-years' trial, should be able to vote intelligently on the results of his own observation. Let all vote thus, let none allow themselves to be intimidated or cajoled into neglecting this duty, and the Scott Act is doomed.

Scott Act Trials.

The police magistrate's court of adjournment held another sitting on Tuesday last.

The first adjourned charge taken up was against Neil McDougall, of the Temperance Hotel, Milton.

JAMES CAMPBELL.—I do not remember having had anything intoxicating liquor from the defendant, McDougall, between the 3rd and 24th November last.

(The witness first said that he had no recollection of having got the liquor, but the P. M. insisted on the use of the word "remember," which he apparently thought had a very different meaning from "recollect.")

D. D. SCOTT.—Was in McDougall's in November last; got a drink of beer from John Patterson; I asked Patterson for beer; he got it for me and I paid him for it; don't know whether John Patterson was employed by defendant in the hotel or not; think he boarded there; he was a thresher last fall; got no liquor at any time from defendant; don't know what kind of beer I got.

The police magistrate read the witness's evidence to him, but Mr. McGibbon objected to the manner in which it had been taken down and gave a different version of it which the witness said was correct. After some wrangling the evidence was signed.

Mr. McGibbon objected to the case going on, urging that it had lapsed as it was adjourned on Dec. 7th, 1887, by the mayor of Milton, and not by the police magistrate.

Objection noted.

JOHNSON HARRISON'S name was called as a witness for defence. He failed to answer and Mr. McGibbon asked that a bench warrant should be issued for his arrest.

AUSTIN WILLMOTT.—Live in Milton; I was treasurer up to about two years ago of the Halton Temperance Alliance; received and paid out all moneys; Samuel Dice is treasurer now; the alliance often met at my house, sometimes at the church, and sometimes at the Temperance Hotel; wont swear that I ever saw the police magistrate at our meetings; might have seen him at conventions; don't recollect seeing him there.

Mr. McGibbon.—Your recollection is about as hazy as those of Scott Act witnesses generally.

Witness.—It was the duty of the magistrate to attend the meetings. The meetings were held for the discussion of the carrying out in Halton of the Canada Temperance Act. We were not allowed to do much good. Don't think there was any discussion at the meetings of Scott Act prosecutions.

The magistrate objected to the examination, which he said was made with the object of dragging him into the case.

Mr. McGibbon said he was asking his questions in the manner which he, not the court, thought proper.

Question.—Did you discuss prosecutions under the Canada Temperance Act at the said meetings of the said alliance?

Witness.—I do not know the meaning of your question.

Mr. McGibbon.—Don't you know the meaning of the word discuss?

Witness.—Yes, but I don't know what prosecutions you mean.

Mr. McGibbon.—I mean any prosecutions under the Act.

The Court.—You have no right to ask any question that does not concern the McDougall case, Mr. McGibbon. You need not answer any such questions, Mr. Willmott.

Mr. McGibbon.—Will the court rule that the witness need not answer? I don't care which way the ruling is made, but I want a ruling one way or the other.

The Court.—I see what you are driving at, Mr. McGibbon, and I am here to take my own part.

Mr. McGibbon repeated the question.

Witness.—I shall not answer that question.

Mr. McGibbon.—I want a ruling from the court.

The court, after a good deal of squirming, ruled that the question need not be answered.

Witness.—I received moneys collected for the purposes of the alliance. Moneys were collected at public meetings. Don't remember that I ever saw the police magistrate at any such meeting.

Mr. McGibbon.—"Don't remember!" The usual answer of Scott Act witnesses. Defective recollection, eh?

The Court.—If I was there I was in good company.

Witness.—Don't know personally whether the police magistrate contributed any subscription for the purposes of the alliance or not. The principal object of the alliance was to further the interests of the Canada Temperance Act. The whole of the money was used for that purpose.

Question.—Were there any prosecutions discussed at those meetings?

Witness.—I won't answer that.

Counsel.—Does the court rule that witness need not answer?

The Court.—I have already ruled that witness need only answer questions that have to do with this case.

(The court, after a good deal of wrangling, refused to rule on the particular question asked.)

Question.—Did the police magistrate speak at the public meetings?

Witness.—I don't recollect whether he did or not. I won't say whether he did or did not.

Mr. McGibbon.—I see you have all the usual answers of witnesses in these cases.

JOHNSON HARRISON WAS called again but did not answer.

W. D. BROTHERS, sworn.—Am license inspector for the County of Halton and prosecutor in this case; know of an association called Halton Temperance Alliance; I subscribe money to support the alliance; subscriptions are generally sent in from outside and collections are taken up at conventions; have paid money which I subscribed to treasurer of alliance, who took up subscriptions; the object of the alliance is to promote the Canada Temperance Act in this county; it is discussed at meetings; prosecutions may be discussed in a general way, but are not usually brought up; have heard such discussions at public conventions; the only recollection I have of the police magistrate speaking at such meetings is of once whenhe replied to a vote of confidence passed with regard to him; never knew him to subscribe anything, nor saw him taking an active part at meetings; can't say what he went there for; saw him sitting there; don't recollect what was discussed; can't say how often I heard prosecutions discussed; not very often; Mr. Dice is treasurer now; never heard the police magistrate speak on Canada Temperance Act at a public meeting.

To the Court.—Never saw the police magistrate at a meeting of the executive of the alliance; have attended most of the meetings.

The names of Johnson Harrison and Samuel Dice were called, but they did not answer.

Mr. McGibbon asked that the caseshould stand until these witnesses should be compelled to appear.—Granted.

The case of Mrs. Wattie was then called and the first witness was

PETER COLE.—Got a drink in defendant's stable twice in November from George Morley, who treated me from a bottle. Neither the defendant nor her son was present. Got no beer at any time from defendant. Don't drink pop. Don't remember getting any whiskey except on the two occasions I have mentioned. Might have got it and might not.

THOMAS CONWAY.—Can't say whether or not I got anything to drink on defendant's premises in November except once when a man named Speirs, who had been at Carlisle, gave me some liquor there from a bottle which he took from his pocket. Never paid for any liquor there that I drank.

To the Court.—Mrs. Wattie was never present when I got a drink at her house. There is no bar there.

Mr. McGibbon objected that the case had lapsed, as it was adjourned on Dec. 7th, 1887, by the mayor of Milton and not by the police magistrate.

The magistrate remarked to the counsel that he did not see that there would be any use in noting the objection if the case should be dismissed, and said he would take a look at the evidence. He appeared a little hazy as to the evidence, probably on account of the long time which had elapsed since the charge was first laid and the frequent adjournments since.

Mr. McGibbon said that there was no evidence of a violation of the law by the defendant, and the court, after a little consideration, admitted this and dismissed it.

The other charge against Mrs. Wattie was also dismissed as well as those against Mrs. Bob Armstrong, of the "Canadian Pacific" hotel.

The court was then adjourned until 3 p. m.

The court of adjournment resumed at 3.

The police magistrate announced that as the evidence of Moses Clark had been discredited he would dismiss both the charges against Neil McDougall. This announcement caused general surprise, and opinion was divided as to whether the magistrate had acted as he did to avoid awkward disclosures through the examination of Messrs. Harrison and Dice, summoned by the defence to show his connection with the Alliance, or an adverse decision on an appeal on the objection taken by Mr. McGibbon that the cases had lapsed through the magistrate's absenting himself from court on the 7th inst. and allowing Mayor Hannant to act as his proxy.

As there was no further business before the court of adjournment it closed.

LOWVILLE.

Things are rather quiet around here. There have been no more prophecies of late and consequently no more tricks played.

School matters seem to be taking a much needed rest at present. I do not think there will be any trouble in electing a trustee this year, as the field will probably be left clear to any one who will volunteer to act. This would be a splendid opportunity for a defeated candidate.

On Saturday James, son of Mr. Geo. Richardson, was playing in the bush with his little brother, where they were cutting wood. In playing around he ran in front of one of the men who was chopping, when the axe struck him in the face, inflicting an ugly gash across his cheek, laying the bone bare. Had it been a little higher it would have struck him in the eye.

A new platform has been built around the C. M. Church, which adds greatly to its appearance. The members of St. George's Church have also been making some improvements, preparatory to the advent of the new minister, by leveling down the road leading to the church, reparing the vestry, and shingling the parsonage.

It is said that the Cumminsville shoemaker has rented a house here, and intends moving at once. We wish him every success.

The first regular meeting of the Lowville Literary Society was held on Friday evening last, and was very well attended. First upon the programme was instrumental music by Miss Readhead, after which the business of the society was disposed of. Next came instrumental music by Mr. J. Nicholson upon the violin, accompanied by Miss Readhead on the organ; reading by Mr. C. Cust; speech by Mr. R. Watkin, and song by Miss Readhead. The debate was; "Resolved, that wood is more useful than iron." The affirmative was ably supported by Messrs. A. Mitchell and J. Colling, and the negative by Messrs. F. Turnbull and William Hardbottle. Decision in favor of the affirmative. The debate for next Friday night will be; "Resolved that single life is preferable to married life."—Marcus.

Burlington.

SCOTT ACT CELEBRATION LAST SUNDAY—15 DRUNKS, 2 FIGHTS—CORPORATION LAMP AND POST KNOCKED DOWN.

About fifteen young men and boys of this vicinity laid in five gallons of "red-eye" and several kegs of lager last Saturday evening and absorbed the same on Sunday in an outhouse. The result was a general, howling drunk. Fifteen of the gang were particularly full, there were two fights, and during the row a corporation lamp was knocked down and broken. Our village constable went among the boys to quiet them, but got his Christy stiff knocked off and trampled in the mud. The disgraceful affair was settled by one of the parties paying the reeve $1 for the lamp and there were no prosecutions. The Scott Act people are greatly disgusted, and some curiosity is felt as to whether Solomon, the shillelah twirler, will blame Pete for the row.

EYE-WITNESS.

Municipal Morality.

To the Editor of the Champion:

SIR:—"Billy the Bouncer" says that for number of years back, with a certain clique in town, the only qualification a candidate for municipal honors has needed has been to be a strong anti-temperance man, no matter how ignorant or *immoral* the man was in other respects. Will Billy please inform the ratepayers of the the town what immoral man sat in the council and voted for a reward to the party who would inform on those who besmeared the windows of a certain millinery shop then in town with *foundry* tar. Say, Mr. Editor, I ask Billy to further inform us whether the funds, the tar, the boys who applied it, the whiskey, &c., were not all supplied by an immoral councillor.

EX-COUNCILLOR.

BORN.

BUTTERFIELD.—On the 18th December, the wife of J. Butterfield, Bank of Hamilton, Milton, of a son.

MARRIED.

BOGUE-HARRISON.—On the 20th Dec., at the Canada Methodist church, by the Rev. A. E. Russ, Richard Bogue, of Moose Jaw, N. W. T., to Charlotte E. fourth daughter of William Harrison, Esq., of Milton Ont.