

sified with the sanction of Government. The permission to sell intoxicating drink should have some other name than "License." We apprehend that the very name and the sanction above referred to, are too often deemed an excuse for the traffic, and cover its naked deformity with a cloak, which not unfrequently satisfies even good men that it is all right. Nevertheless, we think with the petitioners, that the sale of intoxicating drink cannot be put down by mere legislative enactment in the present state of "public opinion." But while this backward state of public opinion in these Provinces is to be lamented by all good men, on this vitally important subject—the prevailing use of intoxicating drink—instead of seeing in this a reason to do less in the way of advance, we should steadily hold on, and regard it as a powerful incentive to increased exertion, until the public mind be leavened with the principles of the temperance reformation, to such an extent as to produce a general desire that taverns should be prohibited; and then let the Legislature, in discharge of its duty to "protect" the public welfare, put the whole system under its ban.

In the meantime, all that we can hope to do is to check the evil, and confine it within as narrow bounds as possible; and the various clauses of this petition seem admirably calculated to accomplish this. If, for example, it were enacted that the "names of all Magistrates who sign applications for tavern licenses shall be published," the press would soon make these gentlemen feel, that to put their names to such documents, would be the same as to send them to the pillory. And if all persons intending to open a tavern in any locality, were required to "post a public notice of such intention, in the neighbourhood, a month previous to the period for granting tavern licenses," it would let the inhabitants of that place know what was coming; and we venture to affirm, that, after such warning, there would be a greater number petitioning and protesting against it, than "recommending" it.

But a conviction, that the opening of taverns should be prohibited by law, will be produced in the public mind only by slow degrees; and in some localities it will be produced sooner than in others. We have no doubt that in some of the parishes visited by the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy, that conviction has been produced already. In some parishes, containing several thousand inhabitants, there have not been left more than ten or twelve individuals who have not taken the pledge; and yet any one of these twelve can come to Montreal, get a license from persons who know nothing about the circumstances, and return and open a tavern in the midst of these teetotallers, in spite of any opposition which they may make. Such is the state of the law. Is it right it should be so? Unquestionably not. And therefore we argue that the power of granting or refusing licenses should be left in the hands of the people themselves. They will know best when public opinion has been so far changed as to make it safe to legislate on the subject; and they should have the power to give that opinion free expression, whenever it is formed. To whatever body this power may be committed, whether Municipal Councillors, School Commissioners, or the Magistrates of each parish, the jurisdiction of that body

should be confined within narrow territorial limits; and thus every section of the country will have it in its power to cast out from it "the accursed thing," as the light of the reformation proceeds on its way.

Since writing the above, we have just seen the Quebec *Morning Chronicle* of the 19th ult., from which we find that a requisition has been presented to the Mayor, to call a public meeting "to consider the causes of intemperance, and address the Legislature" on the subject. The list of names appended to it must amount to several hundreds. It is headed by the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and contains the great body of the clergy—Protestant and Catholic—and the most respectable inhabitants in the city, both in point of station and character. We understand that the Montreal Temperance Society has taken up this matter also, and that a committee has been appointed to confer with other temperance bodies in this city, with the view of effecting a united effort. This is a great movement. Let petitions be poured into Parliament from every Temperance Society in the Province without delay:—

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Township of

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your petitioners have long been convinced, that in order to lessen the number and improve the character of the Taverns in this District and throughout the Province, as well as to promote the moral interests of society generally, it is necessary that the laws relative to licenses, as they now exist, should be amended.

That any Act for the amendment of the existing laws should embrace the following provisions, to wit:

That in order to erect some barrier to the licensing of unnecessary and improper houses of public entertainment, and to the progress of immorality and crime, no licenses should be granted but at one period of the year, when the Magistrates generally throughout the District may be expected to be present: Provided that in case of a *bona fide* sale of a licensed Tavern, or of the death of any person holding a Tavern License, or of the removal after six months' occupation of any Tavern-keeper, the License previously granted to any such party or parties, may be transferred to another party, in the manner now prescribed by law. That the rate of duties on Tavern Licenses should be fixed at not less than five pounds, nor more than twenty pounds for such License, at the discretion of Magistrates in Session. That no petition for a Tavern License should be granted if such petition be signed by any person or persons interested in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors.

That the name or names of all Magistrates signing applications for Tavern Licenses shall be published, when the ordinary lists of the licensed houses shall be published by the Clerk of the Peace: That before any petition for a Tavern License shall be granted, or taken up by the Magistrates in Session, a certificate signed by the Town Clerk, or by one of the Councillors, or by one of the Magistrates resident in the Township, shall be produced, shewing that the petitioner had posted a public notice in the neighbourhood of such proposed Tavern, declaring the intention of such petitioner to apply for such License, and that such public notice had been so posted for at least one month previous to the period for granting Tavern Licenses.

That the omission in the Act, 3rd Vic. ch. 20, passed in 1840, relating to Beer Licenses, which imposes no penalty for the violation of its provisions, and which has, therefore,