

The following notes of a short tour in the Upper Province by one of the Committee may not be uninteresting.

Aug. 13. Left Montreal in a stage containing about one half of temperance men. Day beautiful and showing to the best advantage, the gardens and fields covered with flowers, fruits, and grain, part of them alas! instead of fulfilling the use intended by the Bountiful Creator, soon to be converted into an instrument to mar his work and destroy the happiness of man. Distillery at the Tannery situated in a beautiful green hollow: on a former occasion was told the history of its occupants and workmen which thrilled the blood and saddened the ear, speaking forcibly of the retributive dealings of God to those engaged in this work of blood. At this place and Lachine the number of taverns is large, and yet nothing done in the cause of temperance. During this day enjoyed much the scenery and intelligent conversation of the company in the stage in which I rode, nearly all being of the same way of thinking, those who took a glass keeping shy and associating by themselves.

Aug. 14. At Cornwall met with the few staunch tee-totalers remaining, who go on notwithstanding the opposition of ministers, newspapers, tavernkeepers, and numerous other opponents, who all agree that it is most unscriptural to deprive men of their glass of wine or induce them to pledge themselves against drinking. Was much gratified to hear the grateful expressions of one individual who, when the deputation from Montreal held meetings here last year, was at one in a partial state of intoxication, and bid fair to become a confirmed drunkard; he is now, however, a consistent member of the society, and never enjoyed more comfort nor did his duty better. Such instances may teach tee-totalers never to cease their exertions, but at all times to labour in the good work. Twenty five copies of the Advocate are circulated here.

Aug. 15. Morning chilly. Persuaded some others to accompany me in a long walk forward until the stage come up, a much better means of increasing the warmth of the body than having recourse to the liquid fire of the bar-room. Scenery beautiful between Dickenson's landing and Prescott. Was pained to find one minister at my elbow and another opposite call for a bottle of wine, and that too among the first applications. Surely this is conformity to the world. Three shillings would purchase a Bible, or half support a poor family for a week. But the greatest evil is the countenance lent to drinking by the public servants of Christ at such times, for it is worthy of notice that in the presence of a minister the liquor used is either very little or much, just as he sets the example. At Prescott saw the Secretary of the Temperance Society, who complained of the inactivity of the members, which may justly be accounted for from the Constitution of the Society, admitting the old pledge along with the new, nor is it likely to go forward steadily till they muster resolution to strike it off, and thus be relieved of a drag to their progress.

Crossed over to Ogdensburgh, N. Y., where the first sign which struck me was one in large letters on a three story building of considerable size, "*Whiskey Store, Wholesale*," which, with notices of "*Whiskey by the barrel*" over some other stores, seemed to say that the triumphs of the temperance reformation were not yet here complete.

At Brockville the cause of temperance is somewhat more prosperous; although the same hindrance remains to its progress as at Prescott, the existence of the old pledge. The number of total abstinence members is about 80. The meetings are held quarterly. There is a temperance house kept by Mr. L. Houghton, situated west of the Courthouse. Found a very quiet abode, although the accommodations were of ordinary description. While here an individual half drunk came in and asked if he could get some beer. I him told there was none but that he could be supplied with some temperance tracts, some of which I gave him. After some serious conversation, in the course of which he told me a little of his past history, he went away to distribute the papers among a company of the 71st Regt. stationed opposite, and as he came back for more, they were to appearance well received. This young man is a native of Glasgow, got a college education, and thinking to make his fortune in America, left his father's house in company with a brother, whose eyes he closed in Montreal during the cholera; but alas, his prospects, like those of many others, were soon clouded, and a long and deep course of dissipation followed. Surely if parents could trace the misery and degradation which too often follow the departure of their offspring from their parental

roof, they would labour more to impress on their minds the danger of those habits which lead them into the path of dissipation, and especially show them an example of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate. Many a guilty and degraded son, if asked to name the one who led him into the road to the drunkard's grave, would add yet a deeper pang to the soul of his heart-broken parent, by saying "Thou art the man."

Aug. 17. Left for Merrickville, a distance of 30 miles, through a pleasant and fertile country. Distributed some Preston Advocates, which were gratefully received by the settlers. At Merrickville there is at least one store and place of entertainment where no liquor is sold; the latter, kept by Mrs. Buck, seems to deserve the good character given it by the neighbours. Merrickville is prettily situated on the Rideau Canal, where there is a block house protecting several locks. There is a large school house which I understood could be readily obtained for temperance meetings.

Aug. 18. Reached Richmond late at night, after travelling generally over a rough and miry road, through land little cultivated. The ministers in this place and neighbourhood I understood, were in favor of total abstinence; at least the cause has the advantage of the influence of the Rev. W. Rogers, (Epis.) and the Rev. G. Goodson, (Wesleyan.) From the latter I was gratified to learn that the ministers of his denomination in this quarter were mostly in favour of the new pledge, a contrast to their general course in the Lower Province. There seems little doing in the cause of temperance in Richmond, which, like other military settlements around, contains a large proportion of persons of dissipated habits.

Aug. 20. Left Richmond, and after a pleasant, although somewhat hard ride, reached Bytown in the afternoon. At a short distance from the former place the barn was pointed out where the late Duke of Richmond died under peculiarly melancholy circumstances, having been bit, as the farmer who drove me related, by his lady's lap dog when in a state of madness. At Bytown want of time prevented my calling on any members of the Temperance Society, so that I was unable to learn anything of the state of the cause, which, however, I am afraid is at a low ebb from former accounts. The scenery of Bytown is of a very romantic character, uniting the agreeable with the sterner displays of the Almighty's power. This place as the centre of the lumbering trade carried on in the extensive country lying along the Ottawa River and its tributaries, presents to the Christian and philanthropist a field of peculiar importance. Nor are its features in respect to locality lost sight of by dealers of liquor who here carry on an extensive traffic among the lumbermen, so as to rid them in a short time of a considerable portion of their hard earned wages. It is painful to think of this class of men who are in a degraded state of morals, and generally pass their time in a manner not much raised above beasts of burden, indeed in some respects greatly beneath them. In winter labouring hard from dawn of day till night, then spending the hours intervening sleep in idle or vicious conversation, playing cards, &c. In spring exposed to danger and peculiar hardships till they reach the port where the lumber is sold, when their dissipated habits or perhaps with greater truth the temptation of sharpers, both male and female, soon leave them penniless, to return again to their former calling, from which they are frequently taken off by an untimely death through accident or superinduced disease.

Would that I had a voice to reach the conscience of lumber merchants and especially the extensive houses in Montreal and Quebec who deal in lumber, so as to arouse them to active measures in promoting the moral, spiritual, and intellectual improvement of a class of men through whose sweat and toil they live in affluence.

Aug. 21. Sailed down the Ottawa in a small boat to Parker's Inn, opposite the Nation River, which I ascended for some distance. This river up to New Inverness, (about three miles) is broad and deep, sufficient to float large vessels; it is, however, interrupted for a few miles by rapids, but afterwards resumes the same kind of channel for more than 30 miles. Commissioners are about to commence a survey of this river to report on the practicability of a canal through to the St. Lawrence near Prescott. In conversation with a gentleman well able to speak on the subject, learned that not one quarter of the liquor was now used in lumbering that formerly had been. Indeed I understood that when in the woods many of the men abstain from liquor for a length of time, and find themselves far better without it.