

states the great progress of the Temperance cause in the districts of Quebec and Montreal. In the former, besides the friends that had formerly embraced the cause, twenty-two of the most popular have ranged themselves, *en masse*, under its banner, during the last seventeen months. The chief obstacle to the progress of the cause is the great number of taverns along the leading highways and in the neighbourhood of the churches. These are sad stumbling-blocks to the reformed inebriate. The writer asserts that the most unwarrantable means have been resorted to to force taverns on parishes which were unanimously opposed to their establishment, and thus many reformed drunkards have been drawn back to their cups and many who had almost decided to give up the use of liquor have been induced to drink on.

In the third article, the writer points out that the sale of intoxicating drinks in stores, is not less injurious than in taverns. The storekeeper has seldom either the will or the moral courage to refuse to sell to the drunkard, and even should he refuse, the inebriate, stretched on his straw, may send for the intoxicating draught. In all parishes where the merchants have not had the generosity to give up the sale of strong liquor, we have had to lament the fall of many who had embraced the principle of Total Abstinence. Great evil arises from the merchants being allowed to retail in the smallest quantities, for the poor labourer takes the few pence which should buy bread for his family, and spends it on liquor. It is commonly these poor wretches that empty the merchant's puncheons. Several worthy merchants are mentioned who have given up the sale of liquor, convinced that it was impossible to sell only to those who used it in moderation.

It is notorious that where the merchants have given up the sale, the cause of Temperance has not suffered. Experience has shown the fallacy of the two or three glass a-day system; it will never drive drunkenness from the land. Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks is the only solid basis on which to establish the cause of Temperance. It is wished to destroy drunkenness entirely, and to get all Canadians to enter the path of regeneration wished for, and commenced by the Total Abstinence Societies; an absolute stop must be put to the sale of intoxicating drinks; we must have a law repealing the traffic in strong liquors. The longer this legislation, asked for by all the true friends of our country, is delayed, the longer will the beneficial progress of Temperance Societies be retarded, and consequently the well being and prosperity of Canadians.

At the proposal of a law to prohibit all traffic in strong drinks, I think I hear the cries of the bloated crowd of drunkards who surround the tavern doors, and of those who deal out the poisonous draught. To the latter I would say, the experience of all ages shows that "what is made over the devil's back, is spent under his belly."

REV. MR. CHINIQUY ON BEER DRINKING.

The following letter is translated from the *Journal d'Agriculture*, to the editor of which publication it is addressed. Mr. Chiniquy's zeal is not of that kind to be easily damped, and his present letter evinces a watchfulness, which beer-recommending editors would do well to consider.

I could not read without painful feelings, in the English edition of the *Agricultural Journal* for this month, that the worthy editor of that useful publication wishes our labouring men in Canada to use beer. Allow me to protest in the name of more than one hundred thousand members of the temperance society against so ill-timed a wish, to say the least, and here are some of my reasons.

It is a fact that barley, by being made into beer, loses the greatest part of its nutritive qualities. According to the

most learned chemists who have written on this subject, barley contains not less than 92 parts in the 100 of nutriment: but there remains only 6 in the 100 when it is converted into beer. The brewery seizes then only to carry off and rob the country of eighty-six hundredths of one of the most useful products that Divine Providence has given it. The chief aim of agriculture being to find the best nourishment for man, by the most economical means, it appears to me that the editor of the *Agricultural Journal* should have first settled this question, "Does barley, when made into flour and bread, or converted into meat by fattening, nourish man better than when it is converted into beer?" Here lies the whole question of the use of beer by the labourer. And to answer this question, in expectation, as we hope, that others will do better, allow me to submit the following considerations. Let me take one of our labourers who earns, by the sweat of his brow, half a dollar a day, and supposing him, as is the case with the greater number, the head of a family of five children—with his wife, there will be seven persons to feed; he will spend then, daily, about

I six pound loaf, a 9d.	0s	9d
3 pounds of pork, a 4d.	1	0
For milk, vegetables, sugar, water, 3d 0 3		
	2s	0d

There are two shillings spent by this man in a single day; there remains then, only sixpence to clothe his family, buy wood, pay rent, or repair his house, pay for education and books, and to make the necessary savings to support him during sickness, bad weather, or when he earns nothing, when all must eat as usual. Then, I fear not to say, that if it was not thoughtless, it would be cruel to advise that workman to buy beer, for 99 times in 100, this beer, as in times past, will be taken out of the chief necessities of the family; if the honest Canadian labourer has beer in his house, he will give it to his friends; the wife will think by and by that she needs it too: when she has drank herself, it will be difficult for her to withhold it from her children. The pots, the gallons of beer will be emptied, as in times past, with an incredible rapidity. What will happen then? It is that the labourer will have drunk of the *stimulant*. Yes: but will that be to the profit of his family? No! no! never! To pay for this *useless* and often *dangerous stimulant*, 99 times in 100, his family will be more or less deprived of bread, meat, clothes, fire, school, and books; to pay for this stimulant the tears that the temperance society had dried, will begin to flow more bitter than ever.

The beer-drinker, according to the editor of the *Agricultural Journal*, can work more and better than the water-drinker. It would be easy for me to bring a host of authorities to contradict this assertion. But I prefer to hold for my proof to the hundred thousand voices that rise in all the country, to deny the pretended strength which the drinker of *stimulants* has more than the water-drinker. And, supposing, for a moment, that this assertion was as just as it is inaccurate; is it the family that benefits from this increase of strength, from this surplus of work arising from *stimulants*? No, once more; it will be the brewer, and he alone, who profits. And it is this, happily, that our workmen in the towns, and our honest husbandmen now know well. They have said the one to the other, "For years we have worked like slaves: we have earned great wages; our crops were abundant, yet our families wanted all things, we were overwhelmed with debts; where then has been the price of our labour? And a voice from heaven has replied: 'In the distilleries and breweries!'" And our labourers, both in town and country, have said: "It is foolish to work so hard longer, to enrich some speculators, who know so well how to make their fortunes by a business which empties our purses and fills theirs: in future our labour will supply our