

the people of Canada have to contend, is generally, strange as it may appear, regarded with indifference.

Therefore we, your petitioners, respectfully request your Honorable House, to enquire into the causes and extent of Intemperance in Canada, with a view to provide such remedy for the same, as in your judgment may appear best. And your petitioners will ever pray.

Great indignation prevails amongst the better part of the community in Niagara, at a recent high-handed stretch of power on the part of the Magistrates of that District, assembled in Quarter Sessions. The facts, as far as we can gather them, are briefly these. The Magistrates of the town believing that 31 taverns and 21 beer-shops in a population of about 2000, constituted an evil of great magnitude, resolved to reduce the number one half; and what is rather uncommon in such cases, carried out their resolution. This was justly hailed by the public as the commencement of a better state of things, but the joy was of short duration. The disappointed applicants of course made every effort to get the decision reversed, and Magistrates favorable to the rum trade, several of them being actually engaged in it, attended the Quarter Sessions from various parts of the District. The rum interest thus obtained a small majority, against which the other Magistrates contended ineffectually for some time, and at last retired in disgust; when *every license was renewed*.

A similar farce, or rather tragedy, for the results will no doubt be tragical enough, has just been played by the Magistrates of the Western District, with respect to Amherstburgh; so that no town need expect to free itself, even in part, from the intolerable nuisance of rum-holes and drunkeries, without having them reinstated in all their power to do evil, by rum-selling, or rum-drinking; Magistrates from a distance. As the law now exists, we know of no remedy for this tyranny; but this we do know, that the Magistracy of Canada must in many places, undergo a thorough purgation before any thing better can be expected from them—a fact to which we respectfully call the attention of the Governor General.

The Niagara Magistrates received at the time alluded to, a communication from Government, to the effect that great evils had been caused by the sale of whiskey to the workmen on the Welland Canal Feeder—that shanties had been constructed on the line by persons dealing in that article—and recommended the Bench to refuse all persons applying for licenses from that quarter. This is a striking proof of the vigilance and good intentions of Government; but whether it will have any effect upon Niagara Justices is another matter.

In the article in our last number, on the "difficulties in the way of the temperance reformation," we spoke of distilleries in Upper Canada belonging to the Hon. gentleman there alluded to; we have since learned that the firm of which he is a partner, owns only one distillery, which is conducted on a small scale, and is a losing concern. We are also informed that the liquors which he receives from Europe, are not ordered, but sent on consignment.

It will be perceived, that these corrections, which we cheerfully make, leave the only important point untouched, namely, that the gentleman, or the company of which he is the head, is most extensively engaged in the sale of intoxicating drinks. And we ask, if that trade be a proper and laudable one, why he or his friends should feel hurt at our stating his connection with it, and if it be not, why he continues it? No one would feel hurt to have it stated that he

is the largest seller of flour or broad cloth in the country; there must, therefore, be a marked difference between the two kinds of traffic, and to this difference we call the serious attention of the public. It will be found, we believe, to consist in this, that the one does good to the community, and the other evil; and the sooner honorable gentlemen extricate themselves from the evil traffic, the better.

If every house in each city, town, village, and township of Canada were visited, for the philanthropic purpose of introducing the *Temperance Advocate*, we have little doubt that its circulation would be at least quadrupled, and consequently the diffusion of temperance principles and information greatly increased. We, therefore, earnestly request temperance societies throughout the Province to appoint Committees for the purpose of procuring subscribers during this month, whilst the good roads last; and if the ground be properly divided, the duty will fall lightly on each individual. We may add that new subscribers, for the year beginning in May next, will receive the March and April numbers gratis.

We see by the *Nova Scotian* of 2d December, that on the eve of departure of two Regiments (the 8th and 37th) for England, a singularly interesting farewell meeting took place, composed of the soldiers who had joined the Halifax Temperance Society (a large number by the bye), and their civilian brotherhood. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Twining, Garrison Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Crosscombe, Rev. Mr. De Wolf, B. Murdoch, Esq. President of the Society, and others. The Chaplain stated that the Colonel of the 37th had in particular expressed his satisfaction at the results of temperance among the men, and his desire that the principles should spread.

The Rev. Mr. O'Dwyer, Roman Catholic Priest, London, U. C., is doing much to advance the cause of temperance. He receives twenty to thirty pledges to his tee-total society every Sunday morning; and a great change for the better has taken place in the habits of the military.

The last Tuesday of February has been for some years, by general consent, appointed as a day of simultaneous Temperance meetings. We hope our friends throughout the Province will remember it. Let us have a long pull—a strong pull—and a pull altogether, and see how many we can add to our ranks in a single day.

PROGRESS OF PUBLIC OPINION.—Neither Governor Seward of the State of New York, the Mayor of the City of New York, nor the Mayor of Brooklyn, furnished any intoxicating drink to their friends and constituents who visited them last New Year's day. This is the first time we believe, that persons in high official stations have taken this stand.

Two companies connected with the Fire Department in New York, marched in a body to a temperance meeting and subscribed the tee-total pledge.

We request our friends throughout the Province to send for as many copies of *Anti-Bacchus* as they have a reasonable prospect of selling, and the Montreal Society will give them on consignment, to be sold and accounted for at 1s. 3d. per copy. Part of the edition has been partially bound in one form at 1s. 7d. per copy, and in another form at 1s. 9d.

We have received one Essay upon each of the following subjects, viz.: The Licence System, Horned Cattle, and Hogs. They are in the hands of the judges.