

everybody and everything were soaking. The cabs were wet, the horses were wet, the rain rushed down in torrents from the hats and coat-tails of the drivers, and umbrellas would have been of as much use as in a general deluge. As it is the irreverent boast of steam to defy the elements, an immense load on board the train of members of the House of Assembly, did not prevent the cars from bringing us to Windsor on a dirty, dull and generally uncomfortable day.

#### A TEMPERANCE LEGISLATOR.

After two days detention, we floated down with the tide of the Bay of Fundy on a most unpromising night, bound for St. John. The necessity of anchoring during the night behind Spencer Island, left every one at liberty to dispose of himself at pleasure. I and a *douce* quiet man, a most sincere believer in the Pope, sat a while not far from a party of card-players, and then retired to rest—in my case however, not to sleep. Drink and the excitement of the game wrought up the gamblers to an exalted pitch of rapture before parting at midnight. They talked loud; they talked long; they boasted of their gains; extennated and deplored their losses; they debated; they roared; they laughed and they thumped. Anon there was an ominous pause, when the gambling mania for a moment predominated, and then their excited souls would fly off the stretch and the shouts of laughter would re-echo from stern to stern of the anchored ship, quietly reposing upon the waters and sufficient to scare the fish in the elements beneath. The nuisance was indeed intolerable, but it did not terminate with midnight, for the most offensive part of it was still future. What was my astonishment to have handed to me about two months afterwards, while I was in Halifax at Synod, the Report of a Committee of the House of Assembly on Temperance, in which scientific arguments, social arguments, moral arguments, religious arguments, and all kinds of arguments are directed with great force to me and the other members of Synod to persuade me to the principle and practice of Total Abstinence, and signed by one of the revellers of the company, that by intemperate hours, intemperate speech, intemperate laughter and intemperate appetites, disturbed the night's rest of myself and other quiet people. To be disturbed o' nights and lectured on an early day by the same individual, was an incident fruitful of surprise and instruction to me, as I have not yet fully learned the extent to which public opinion is in America merely a counterfeit.

#### THE CITY OF ST. JOHN.

Gambling and rails did not prevent our arrival next morning at the well known city of St. John, or Saynt John as the Yankees call it. It was a happiness to me to see this city again, as I had a lively recollection of

the kindness and cordiality of the people, when there as a delegate from our Synod in 1859. It is well known that St. John has increased very rapidly during late years, and promises to become a large emporium of commerce. Its position at the mouth of one of the great rivers of the globe, draining a continent of productive land and the outlets for the products of the ice-bound coast of the Gulf in winter, indicate that St. John will yet be one of the great cities of the western world. New Orleans, similarly situated in some respects, has a swampy foundation in the delta of the great Mississippi, but St. John is founded upon a rock. The zeal of the Roman Catholics has gratified itself with the erection of a Cathedral, which I inspected outside and in with no feelings of veneration or respect. I thought I could discover evidences of workmanship that did not bid fair to defy the ravages of a North American climate and I think some stores had already felt their solidity a little shaken by the iron grip of the frost. Besides it had so many marks of the recent use of the trowel, the chisel and the mallet, that one could not look upon it with that awful feeling which wraps the soul in its solemn fold while visiting the ancient cathedrals of Europe hoary with time, with the marks of man's hammer and chisel smoothed off by long centuries and enriched in the glory of grand associations. At the same time I was inclined to say "wherefore this waste," as it did not appear from its arrangements to serve the purposes of public worship any better than a much plainer building would have done. Indeed I must regard all such buildings erected at the present time as monuments of folly—an evidence that Romanists are in some respects behind the age—imagining that because such buildings were useful in the middle ages for awakening and enchainning the admiration and perpetuating the superstition of a half-civilised people, they are still of service. Protestant imitations of such a style of church are, however, still more useless and indefensible. When they have a steady congregation at all, I have observed that it is generally a very dead and inactive one. The zeal and efficiency of Protestant congregations is generally in the universe ratio to the splendor of their church. I think this is a fact. Into the reason of it I cannot now enter.

I believe that Presbyterianism is better represented here than any other section of the Protestant Church. We can boast of a very respectable body of clergy and five churches. The congregation in our connection is the strongest and wealthiest and worship in an old church of great dimensions. I should not wonder if upon inquiry it turned out that their wealth has materially assisted in the erection of more than one of the other Presbyterian churches in St. John. Their fine appearance and thriving condition speak well