

THE LITTLE ONES.

Of the many terrible phases of the awful traffic in strong drink there are few so heart-rending as the fact of the terrible suffering it entails on the innocent little children whose parents are the victims of the liquor appetite. The would-be philosophical theories, about personal liberty and the necessity of temptation to make men and women strong, all fade out of sight, when any one with any spark of humanity comes to contemplate the realities of the situation, and there becomes at once irresistibly evident, the necessity for law to put down the traffic through which so many innocent children suffer torture and death.

Elsewhere in our paper is a record of eight cases investigated in two days by one English coronor, in which babies had been overlain and suffocated by their mothers on the night of Christmas eve. The same gentleman stated that last year in one day he had investigated sixteen such cases. There is no doubt whatever that a large majority, if not the whole, of these fearful casualties were the direct result of the stupid drunkenness of the parents, upon the festival held to commemorate the annunciation of "Peace on earth and good will to men."

We need not go to other lands to see this terrible evil working out the same appalling results, although perhaps in different forms. There is hardly a street of our towns and cities that does not every day furnish evidences of unutterable wretchedness, pain and shame entailed upon the innocent little ones of whom the Master said "Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea."

How will our legislators, our citizens, our voters, face the judgment seat side by side with the little ones whose lives were so terribly cursed through a traffic sanctioned and legalized by the votes of these men.

REV. JOHN SMITH.

In the sudden death of Rev. John Smith, at his home in this city, on Friday morning last, the cause of temperance and prohibition sustained a heavy loss. Mr. Smith had been for a long time one of the most prominent, energetic and effective promoters of moral reform in this province. As vice-president of the Dominion Alliance, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Branch of the same body, as one of the founders and principal supporters of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, and on many other lines, he had unfalteringly and faithfully fought hard to secure the supreme dominion of "purity in the home and God in the government."

His wise counsel, strong, steady inspiration, and outspoken defence of what he believed to be the right, will for a long time be missed in every council of war and on every field of fight. Always kind, charitable, and loyal to his fellow-workers, our esteemed friend was, nevertheless, as immovable as a rock in his adherence to principle, and in his long career as an indefatigable worker, in all his coming out and going in, as leader among the foremost and most radical of temperance advocates, no one can point to a word or act that was clouded by a shadow of anything approaching to compromise.

John Smith believed in prohibition. His was one of those clear, logical minds that see the real issue presented, and his that practical business character that always goes straight for the right method of removing the evil. He had hoped to see the law of the land on the side of the home before he laid down his armor, but the Great Commander willed it otherwise.

To-day a place is vacant in the ranks. All the more need for the more earnest effort on the part of those who are left. Our unhesitating and unceasing imitation of our beloved brother's shining example will be the most fitting memorial that we can rear of one whose "Record never can be shamed."

FAC SIMILE OF MR. HOWLAND'S LETTER.

QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO,

January 23rd, 1888.

DEAR MR. SPENCE:

For some time past I have been warmly appreciating the work that is being done by THE CANADA CITIZEN, and wishing very much that some plan could be devised by which its weekly array of information, argument and appeal could be placed in many thousands more of our Canadian homes.

One of the most gratifying and hopeful features of our present position is the deep interest taken in our cause, as well as its earnest and judicious advocacy, by the clergy of all branches of the Christian Church. If these faithful workers all had your valuable paper in their hands they would gather from it much that would interest and aid them. Many of them might, in return, kindly assist you with articles, news, or advice; and so our paper might be broadened into a great inter-denominational exponent of all that is good and true, bringing us all closer together in more effective labor in the Master's service.

In this connection I have been pleased to note what our United States friends have done with their able paper—"The Voice"—. Might we not do similarly here? Our great and growing country has in it as much of true patriotism as any other land—as much of respect and affection for our worthy pastors, those who are promoting its best interests; and many would take pleasure in helping a movement to send your paper to every clergyman in the Dominion. Nearly every one of these gentlemen would, I feel certain, accept and value it, as a small token of public esteem.

Though already overloaded with financial promises and calls, I would rejoice to aid in so worthy an enterprise, and if you can work out some plan of carrying this suggestion into practical operation, you may set me down for a contribution of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS to a fund that will be sufficient for that purpose.

Wishing you in all your labors the best and fullest success "the blessing that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow."

I remain, yours faithfully,

W. H. Howland

A GRAND IDEA.

HOWLAND MAKES A VERY WISE SUGGESTION

And We Propose to Carry it Out.

Please Read Carefully.

A few days ago we received from W. H. Howland, Esq., a letter, making a suggestion so valuable, and containing a proposition so generous, that we have thought it wise to reproduce the entire letter and submit it, in full, for the consideration of our friends.

Mr. Howland's kind expressions of appreciation are very encouraging, and even apart from his liberal offer, would do much towards inspiring us with renewed energy and zeal. We earnestly desire, however, to have the great plan which he outlines thought out, and worked out upon its inherent merits.

We have been striving to do our best with THE CANADA CITIZEN and make it, as far as possible, of benefit to its large and growing constituency of readers. Our object has been to help forward that which was pure and good, as well as to oppose and thwart everything that is in the interests of what is degrading and impure. The liquor traffic is the greatest social evil of the age, and most of our work has been done on the line of fighting that evil. We are, however, heartily in sympathy with the suggestion that we should work in a much wider field, and that our columns should be used for the advocacy of everything tending to make society better, homes happier, politics purer, and men more what God intended they should be. We should be delighted to have in this work the

special co-operation and advice of those who stand as "watchmen on the walls of Zion," whose lives are spent in labor for the conservation of all that is good, the suppression of all that is bad, the glory of God, and the good of their fellows.

An inter-denominational Christian journal of moral reform need not be a mere ideal. The placing weekly, in the hands of men who would use them with best effect, of the latest facts in relation to every phase of the struggle between right and wrong, is not a chimerical notion. We have not only appreciated the generosity, but are fully thought over the wisdom of Mr. Howland's idea, and we respectfully submit the following results of our thinking.

There are at present in the Dominion of Canada about 5,000 Christian clergymen, taking every denomination into account. To supply them all for one year with THE CANADA CITIZEN at our regular prices, would require a fund of \$5,000. Our paper is published in a style and at a cost that leaves the margin of profit upon it very small. Nevertheless, we will do our share in this matter, and if the fund is constituted, we will contribute \$1,000 as our share of share of it, or a like proportion of any fund that may be raised. That is, we will send papers to the extent of \$500 for every \$100 paid in on this plan. We believe there is enough of desire to aid our cause, enough of liberality, enough of enthusiasm, in the ranks of our Canadian moral-reform workers to carry this plan into immediate execution. It is a big undertaking, but we have faith that it will be accomplished. We will try it.

We publish Mr. Howland's letter. We place his name at the head of our list. We ask for a fund of \$5,000 to be used in the manner proposed. Our good friends in the United States, of whom Mr. Howland speaks, have already raised more than \$19,000 for a similar purpose.

We will begin our share of the work as soon as the promises of assistance will warrant even partial success. One-fourth of the money, that is \$1,000, outside our own subscription, will be sufficient to supply our 5,000 clergymen for three months. When \$1,000 shall have been promised to this fund, we will put the names of these 5,000 ministers on our subscription list and send them a paper regularly for a quarter of a year, feeling confident that long before that time is completed the fund will be large enough to send it to them for the remaining nine months as well.

Many clergymen are already on our list. What will we do with them? Well, we would suggest that to those who are paid up for any time in advance we will send an extra paper, which they will judiciously place where it will be likely to do good, and any further subscriptions from these good brothers may go into the general fund. Many of them will be anxious to aid it. But, we want this matter to be looked upon simply as, to use Mr. Howland's words, "a token of public esteem," a small mark of appreciation, from the great Canadian public, to the men who have made our country what it is, whose earnest efforts have been blessed by God in the building up of a nation "by righteousness exalted."

Who will be the first to follow the good example that he has set? All the

contributions received will be acknowledged in THE CANADA CITIZEN from week to week. We believe there are hundreds of men who would be willing each to send \$100 if the case were laid before them. Will our friends kindly submit this proposition to their friends and ask them to send us their subscriptions?

Dear reader, will you give us your personal co-operation? If \$100 is more than you can afford, send us \$50, or send us \$20, or send us \$10, or send us \$5, or send us what you can afford, and we will thankfully accept it, acknowledge it, and dedicate it to this particular object.

Think of the results that would be accomplished! THE CANADA CITIZEN weekly in the home of every Christian pastor in the broad Dominion! Five thousand papers going into the hands of the men who would be the most influential and successful in using the facts that would be given them! Think of it, act upon it, and we believe that the result of this suggestion will be of incalculable benefit to our country at large, in the promotion of the great cause we all have so much at heart.

Besides sending us his personal contribution Mr. Howland has kindly consented to act as treasurer of this fund. Drafts, cheques, or money orders may be made payable to him. Address W. H. HOWLAND, 24 Church Street, or F. S. SPENCE, 19-21 Richmond Street East, Toronto.

A CANE INSTEAD OF A ROPE.

Most of our readers will have noted the fact announced in different journals, that a Chicago city ordinance, prohibiting the sale of liquor to minors, has been declared unconstitutional. The facts of the case in which this decision was made, are not, however, generally known. They are as follows:—

A young girl of Chicago, 16 years of age, was treated to liquor in a licensed saloon. The fiery beverage soon bewildered her brain, and before long she was fairly drunk. While in that condition she was taken to a respectable house on Clark street, by a creature in the form of a man, Hugh Little by name, who there accomplished her ruin. The liquor-teller who sold her the drink, was prosecuted with the hope that the law of a Christian country might impose some small penalty on the only man whom those laws were supposed to have power to reach, although the wrong committed was one of the most diabolical that can be thought of. The case attracted much interest, and was finally settled by a decision of Judge McAllister, who declared the city legislation against the supposed unlawful sale to be unconstitutional.

Of course, the dram-shop keepers were jubilant over the success of their cowardly plea, and they united in presenting Harry Reubens, the attorney who conducted their case with a gold-headed cane as a token of their esteem.

It is our observation that beer-drinking, in this country produces the very lowest kind of inebriety, closely allied to criminal insanity. The most dangerous class of ruffians in our city are beer-drinkers. Scientific American.

In an instance mentioned by Mr. McNish, the inebriate replied to the remonstrances of his friends, who painted the distress of his family, the loss of his business and character and the ruin of his health: "My good friends, your remarks are just; they are, indeed, too true; but I can no longer resist the temptation. If a bottle of brandy stood at the one hand, and the pit of hell yawned at the other, and I were convinced that I should be pushed in as soon as I took one glass, I could not refrain. You are very kind. I ought to be grateful for so many kind, good friends, but you may spare yourself the trouble of trying to reform me; the thing is out of the question." And the thing probably was out of the question. The habit had so vitiated the organs of mind, and the depraved organs had so reacted on the habit, that each had become bound to the other by bonds that death alone could sever.—A. L. YOUNG.