

Those who have advocated the temperance cause in Canada, have hitherto almost entirely left aside the law as a means of checking intemperance. They saw very plainly that the evil lay deeper than legislation could reach. Intemperance arose from the moderate use of beverages which, affording no benefit to the body, had the effect of creating a continually increasing desire for them. And this moderate use was so entwined with the customs of society, that the first thing was to have them broken in upon. Under a despotic government, the whole matter, if it so pleased the ruler, might have been attacked by a ukase or decree; but in a country where freedom exists, where, whatever other kind of free trade we have or want, we at any rate have free trade in the discussion of truth, the matter is different. Here the appeal has been to the people directly, to each individual man, woman, and child, as far as possible, showing them that there is danger. In some cases, it was only necessary to call attention to their own condition, as already under the power of strong drink; in others, the experience of those around was the only proof that could be brought of the desirableness of all taking advantage of a means of perfect liberty, namely, to let these drinks alone, and the individual who does so, has at once all the concomitant advantages arising from the practice of such abstinence, as far as he himself is concerned. Of course, he may suffer through the intemperate habits of connections, but he does not require to wait for the passing of a legislative enactment before he can have all the personal good derivable from it; he has it at once.

It may have been partly with this knowledge that total abstinence have let laws and lawgivers thus far alone. Such abstinence from asking the assistance of the powers that be, may, however, be carried too far, and we are rejoiced to find that the subject will thus be agitated in parliament, where, hitherto, not much has been said about it. We felt somewhat jealous of the advance which temperance matters have lately made in New Brunswick, as will be seen by the extract on a previous page. Jealous, we say, yet a proper jealousy—emulation, rather. We are willing to be provoked to good works, and in Canada, we seem now to have a good opportunity of having talk on the subject in high places, since it seems that at least four of the new ministry are total abstainers. The Governor General has had the theory of total abstinence stated to him, but when a gubernatorial dinner takes place, and a very polite invitation is given to Mr. —, Mr. —, Mr. —, or Mr. — to take wine, and each as politely and properly declines, His Excellency will necessarily think more of the matter than he has hitherto done. Thus does the cause go on. We have only to abide by it, and even some of those who have seen its rise and assisted its early progress, will see its triumph.

If ever it should be deemed necessary to make good our national defences, we should wish to have such men as the writer of the following as one of our defenders. He is, we are very sure, as well as his comrades in the battle we are waging against intemperance, a thorough soldier. He knows, also, that money is the sinews of war, and that without it we cannot get on. The press is our grand weapon—it must be wielded, but the printers and papermakers must be paid. A general subscription from each society over the Province, though small, would relieve the publishing committee, and would encourage them much in their work.

Brown, 2d March.—As I perceive that our mother society still groans under a load of debt, I feel it to be my duty, as well as privilege, to contribute towards liquidating the same. Whilst thinking upon the subject of our debt, (I say our debt), for me thinks every true member ought to feel concerned about the progress, as also the welfare, of such an institution; for when we

consider the principles upon which it is based, and the real good it has been the means of accomplishing; the blessings it has diffused, and what it is calculated to diffuse through the community and the world at large, I am astonished that its efforts should be restrained, and its power to accomplish so much good hindered, in consequence of the apathy of our friends. When we reflect upon the astounding fact that there is not an idol temple in all India one cent in debt, we ought to put our mouth in the dust and exclaim, that shame and confusion of face is ours. Oh, that the hearts of all who are identified with this great movement were more open, more alive to its interests, and with one mighty impulse come up to its help and free our benevolent cause from the burden under which it groans, that our banners might be more triumphantly unfurled, and we go on from victory to conquest. I feel quite sorry, yes, many of us here feel quite disappointed, that in Mr. Wadsworth's tour he did not touch at Bytown. You have here no inconsiderable detachment of your army, and I almost dare assert he would have been warmly received. And if you do not tell our commandant, (for the Rev. T. Byrne has declared himself to be general in command of this portion of your forces), to order the ladies out to make up a subscription for the parent society, I will go and try and break my mind to him myself. There are upwards of 400 of us here, and methinks, with the assistance of the ladies, there could be some good done. I enclose two dollars which you will do with as you please. I would just say, brother, go on: what have we to fear? truth is on our side, and the Lord God of Hosts is with us, and He will crown our efforts with success.—G. Goudie, Corp., R. C. Rifles.

HALDIMAND FOUR CORNERS, March 1, 1848.—Since I last wrote to you, my time has been pretty well occupied, as you will perceive by the following statistics. I have addressed meetings at Fredericksburgh, Picton, Bloomfield, Melford, Wellington, Concession, Carrying Place, River Trent, Belleville, Brighton, and Colborne, in which places 300 signatures have been added to the pledge, and £1 19s. 5½d. collected, and have obtained 67 subscribers to the *Advocate*. At my meeting in Colborne, Master Hiram Merriman, with whom I had left a penny subscription card about four years ago, presented me with 4s. 4d. which he had collected and kept by him. Such honesty is worthy of praise. My meetings are all well attended (although the roads are excessively bad), and considerable interest manifested. No opposition. Every person who does not join, nevertheless admits "tis a good cause."—R. D. Wadsworth, Cor. Sec. M. T. S.

We hope lasting benefit to the cause will be the result of Mr. Wadsworth's tour. This is not a time for any friend of temperance to stand aloof. We must ply the old arguments, and look out for new. Ours is a mission of philanthropy, and one which has seen, and will yet see, abundant proof of the benefits which its principles can confer on man. When we consider the case of the intemperate, wrecked and ruined for this world and the next, and remember that we are at liberty to abstain from intoxicating drinks, and that, by our abstinence, we must influence and reclaim many to the paths of temperance, surely it is paltering about words and names to talk about an abridgment of liberty in our ceasing to make use of such drinks. If Paul thought he was under a moral obligation to drink no wine nor any thing by which his brother might stumble or fall, or is made weak, dost thou, Christian man, Christian minister, consider it a privilege to fancy yourself free from such obligation?

The Anniversary Meeting of the Montreal Ladies' Temperance Society is to take place on Thursday evening next, the 16th instant, in the Temperance Hall. Being a social meeting, admittance will only be by tickets, to be procured at the Bible Depository.

The Montreal Temperance Society has suffered a loss by the resignation of one of its Secretaries—John McDougall, Esq.—preparatory to his leaving this city for the neighbourhood of Picton, C. W. Mr. McDougall's devotion to the interests of the