

cold water, but rather to the course of drunkenness and debauchery which has preceded it. And, it is neither alarming nor surprising that those whose whole system has been pervaded and poisoned by alcohol, should die by such a cause, or by any other. It would just be as wise to draw an argument from their death against the use of cold water, as it would be to argue against light, because it injures the eyes of a jaundiced person.

The above remarks would have been altogether unnecessary, if the editors of public papers in New York had been so candid as to give a weekly report of the number of deaths by intemperance, as well as cold water.

The following is a melancholy instance of the difficulty of rescuing a drunkard from those who aid and abet him in the sin of self-murder:—

A person of brilliant abilities and great attainments had long been travelling the drunkard's dreary road, till he went so far that he might even be seen staggering and reeling in the streets in the forenoon. His wife and children, of course, suffered all the unspeakable horrors which the drunkard's wife and family invariably suffer—horrors that she herself declared no human tongue could ever describe. She was urged to persuade him to join the Temperance Society. She had only one objection, "it was so vulgar." She was urged to give up drinking in order that she might strengthen and encourage him to give it up. But this was entirely out of the question. "She was no drunkard." "She had no need to join the Society." "All her friends drank." "What should she do when she received visits, and made parties?" However, all these difficulties appeared to be overcome by a sense of the utter desolation and hopelessness of her situation. The fate of her beautiful children presented itself to the mother's heart. The fate of her husband, whom she still loved, weighed upon her mind, and she was almost tempted to do—her duty.

The husband was prevailed upon to try total abstinence, and if she had done the same, all might have been well; but she took the advice of her friends. Fashionable ladies, probably afraid of losing their customary and well-beloved glass of brandied wine, told her that it would be monstrously vulgar. Reverend rum-drinkers said that alcoholic drinks were good creatures of God, made and used by the Saviour, and to be received with thanksgiving, and used in moderation. And physicians declared it was very well for a man who was suffering like her husband from a nervous affection (delirium tremens is out of fashion) to abstain from liquor for a month or two till he got better. But all agreed that teetotalism was great nonsense, and that the Temperance Society had done no good, drinking being more prevalent now than ever. The consequence of all this advice was, that the lady determined to think no more of Temperance Societies; indeed her mind must have been of a heroic stamp to decide otherwise. She continued to keep her husband's poison, if not her own, in the house, and use it as before: the saving of a husband and six or eight children from probable ruin being a matter of small consequence, compared with the ridicule of fashionable companions.

The husband finding no one to fortify, or even countenance his good resolutions, fell back immediately into a worse state than before; and, unless saved by the interposition of Providence, he must soon add one more to the number of wretched sacrifices which are constantly offered up on the altar of fashion and custom to the Moloch, intemperance.

THE CALEDONIA SPRINGS.—This place is becoming fashionable, and is likely to be useful, if what we hear be true, namely, that those who frequent it do not use intoxicating drinks. Visitors are informed that the water does not agree with distilled or fermented liquors (we do not know what water does agree with them), and many whose constitutions have been broken down by a long course of drinking and dissipation, are persuaded to become teetotallers for three weeks or a month. As may be supposed, they speedily begin to relish their food, to enjoy the beauties of nature, and to feel like new beings: and their cure would be complete could they be prevailed upon to observe the same regimen after they return home; but alas! custom, fashion, and appetite are too strong for them, and they go back to the polluted source of their troubles, the alcoholic poison.

We would not be understood as undervaluing the medicinal properties of the Springs, of which we know nothing; but certain we are, that the cures effected would be wonderful, if causing teetotalism were the only virtue they possessed.

We are informed that only two persons out of a large company recently at the Springs persisted in using intoxicating drinks; one was a drunkard in the last stage of self-murder: the other, a moderate drinking, rum-selling elder. The drunkard swelled up and died. The elder returned home to sell rum, thereby poisoning the peace of other families that his own may be enriched.

On one of the race days (days which may be regarded as epochs in the annals of crime) a well-dressed, handsome, and modest young wife was seen walking home with a fine babe about sixteen months old in one arm, whilst the other supported her husband in a beastly state of intoxication. He had sworn to support and protect her; but what are such oaths before the blandishments of the rum-seller.

An industrious man's wife, who is in the habit of pawning her own, her husband's, and her children's clothes for drink, being recently reduced to a low ebb, sold the shift which she was wearing for liquor, and made the transfer on the spot. The rum-seller, of course, took it; and why not? He was licensed by the Magistrate, and had a family to support.

DISTILLERY MILK.—The people of New York appear to be determined to have no more of this stuff. The names of dairymen who do not use grains and swill from distilleries are published; and those who value their own, and more particularly their children's health, make it a point to be supplied by these men.

Distillery stuff injures the health of the cow; consequently though her milk be abundant, it is unwholesome; and it is now supposed that this is the cause of a great portion of the sickness and death which are so prevalent among children.

If milk must be adulterated we should prefer the old mode, of watering it at the first pump, as the least injurious that has yet been invented.

Query. If the swill from distilleries render cow's milk unwholesome, what effect will the swill from breweries, called ale and porter, have upon nurses?

Progress of the Temperance Reform.

CANADA.

MONTREAL.—The cause of total abstinence still keeps its ground. During the past month the weekly meetings have generally been interesting. Among the speakers from a distance were the Rev. Messrs Campbell (Brockville,) Fairbairn (Ramsay,) and Hubbard (Northampton, Conn.) Several probationary members have been received.

LAPRAIRIE.—There is little doing in this place to promote the cause of temperance. We would not refer to it, were it not to record two melancholy instances of the effects of intoxicating liquor which happened in its vicinity. A little child drank some liquor left within reach by its parents and died shortly afterwards. The other still more appalling is that of a merchant who on his return from some convivial meeting in a state of intoxication, during the night, leapt out of a bed room window two stories high and broke his back and several ribs by falling on a fence underneath. He was not found till morning when his lower extremities were quite cold, in which condition he lingered for four days. To add to the horror of the circumstance, it took place but six weeks after the death of his wife from intemperance.

A disgraceful fight occurred in the neighbourhood about the commencement of last month, which if it had not its origin in a great measure in liquor, was helped greatly by its influence. What are ministers and professing christians here doing to remedy this state of things. We understand the Presbyterian Minister is opposed to the Temperance Society. It may be asked what better plan is he trying, to put an end to the horrid evils occasioned by liquor? Surely until he can devise a more efficient plan, common sense, but more especially his duty to his Master, demands his adopting and zealously promoting this one.