

There he brews it, this precious essence of life, the pure cold water. And everywhere it is a thing of beauty, sparkling in the dew-drop, shining in the iceberg, sporting in the cataract, dancing in the hail-shower, singing in the summer rain, spreading its soft snow-curtains about the wintry world, and wherein the many-colored Iris, that seraph zone of the sky, made all glorious by the mystic hand of refraction. Still always it is beautiful, this blessed life-water. No poison bubbles in its brink, its foam brings not murder and madness, pale widows, and starving orphans weep not burning tears in its depths, no drunkard's shrieking ghost from the grave curses it in words of eternal despair.

Speak out, my friends. Would you exchange it for the demon-drink—alcohol?"



A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE YORK PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE York Pioneers' Association was formed in 1869 for the purpose of more intimately uniting in friendly relations those who are natives of or emigrated to the original county of York in the former province of Upper Canada, or to this city previous to its incorporation March 6th, 1834, and change of name from York to Toronto, and their descendants on attaining the age of forty years. Also for preserving and perpetuating, by re-publication and otherwise, such historical recollections and incidents, documents and pictorial illustrations relating to the early settlement of this country and city aforesaid as are worthy of being rescued from oblivion, and by the contribution of communications on these and kindred subjects to be read at the meetings of the society, and afterwards printed in the public journals and otherwise.

The writer being one of the early settlers and now "in the sear and yellow leaf," was induced to become a member of this society which has on its roll of membership many of the old residents of Toronto and the county of York, consisting of several