

TEMPERANCE.

HALIFAX TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

(The following information, concerning some of the forms of the Halifax Temperance Society, may be interesting to persons in the country, and others not previously informed on the subject.)

At all meetings of this Society, before proceeding to any business, the President, in a voice that all present may hear, reads the following form of

PRAYER,

(Prepared by the Rev. Doctor Twining.)

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God! whose tender mercies are over all thy works; who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness,—we acknowledge our unfitness to abuse thy gifts, and to pervert thy very bounties into an occasion of transgressing against Thee.—Enlighten, we pray thee, our benighted minds, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit; awaken us to a sense of our responsibilities in thy sight; impress upon us a feeling of what we owe to Thee as our Creator and daily Preserver,—the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being;—write upon our hearts in deeper and more enduring characters, a memorial of our infinite obligations for the unspeakable mercy of offered Redemption and Salvation by Jesus Christ.

Thou hast graciously promised that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, thou wilt be in the midst of them. In Thy name we assemble and meet together: and we humbly beseech Thee to bless this our undertaking, having for its object our own preservation, and the saving of others from the awful abyss of Intemperance. Impart to us a deep feeling of compassion towards those who are thus seeking death in the error of their ways. Prosper our efforts for their benefit; and enable us both by example and precept to use every means for their rescue from that dreadful and debasing Vice against which Thou hast revealed Thy wrath. Take away from among us all prejudice, and whatsoever may prevent our hearty union in this work. And as there is but one Lord, one God and Father of us all, so may we be united in one bond of truth and charity, to promote Thy glory and the good of our fellow men. Grant this, O merciful Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord and Saviour, in whose holy name and words we sum up our imperfect petitions.

Our Father which art in heaven, &c.

At Public Meetings the Secretary receives the names of all who wish to join the institution, and they are taken as members by assenting to the following form of words, which is spoken by the President,

"Do you, entertaining a deep sense of the evils of Intemperance, and of the powerful and salutary influence of Temperance Associations; and desiring to do all that you can to secure both yourself and others from danger, unite yourself with the Halifax Temperance Society?"

"Do you pledge yourself, hoping for Divine assistance, to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, (or ardent spirits in every form) as a beverage, and from all traffic in them; and to discountenance their use by every judicious means—bearing a regard for the welfare of others to be as much a part of your duty, as attention to your own?"

"You accept, therefore, the medal of the Society as a mark of membership, promising fidelity to its rules,—in a spirit of unity with its members, and of charity towards all men."

As the object of all friends of the Temperance cause is the suppression of Intemperance, the Halifax Society continues to receive members on the first or Temperance pledge, and also on the Total Abstinence principle. The additions to the Society of late are mostly of those who adopt the total pledge, and all proceedings among the members for the furtherance of their designs are distinguished by a most pleasing forbearance and harmony. Thus, by their continued efforts, the work proceeds successfully, and verifies

the motto, wisely adopted by the Society and impressed on the medals, viz—"Union is Strength."

The Pledge is administered in public or in private, but all, upon adopting it in private, are solicited to make a public acknowledgment on the first opportunity.

The meetings close by singing the Doxology—

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY.

Early in the month of January, 1841, the very Rev. John Loughman addressed his congregation on the subject of Temperance; at the conclusion of his address he remarked that if any twelve individuals would meet him to consult on the subject, he would give it his strenuous support, and would commence 't if but twelve agreed to take the pledge. About fourteen persons did wait on him in the course of the ensuing week, and after deliberately weighing the subject, unanimously decided on the adoption of the Total Abstinence Pledge, as the surest means of effecting the object they had in view. In this decision the Rev. Gentleman perfectly acquiesced. Subsequently he was strongly solicited to adopt the partial pledge, but he adhered to the opinion of the persons alluded to above. On the 24th he announced that many seemed anxious for the partial pledge, but he would on that day try the total, and if those who wished the other would call on him through the ensuing week he would give the partial one the following Sunday. The unexpected success of the total pledge on that day, has, up to the present time, silenced the slightest hint on the subject of a partial one; the fourteen persons spoken of above could not on the morning of the 4th count twenty in the parish on whom they could reckon as ready to take the pledge. On that afternoon the very Rev. Mr. Loughman took the pledge at the foot of the altar, and immediately after administered it to the Rev. Mr. Dease. The effect of their example was, that four hundred persons took it before the Rev. gentlemen retired from the altar, and persons continued taking it every Sunday successively, until October, when the Society numbered 3840 Members; since that time the pledge has been given once a month,—in Nov. 38 joined, in Dec. 39, and on first Sunday of January, 53—making the number of the Society now 3970. On the 24th of July a fund was established, for the relief of sick members, to this about nine hundred have already subscribed, the Subscription is but 2s 6d per year, for which the subscribing member receives, if sick, 7s 6d per week. During the first three months, not a single application for relief was made; since the winter months commenced several families who have members sick are receiving the weekly allowance; the benefit arising from this fund is incalculable;—there are sufficient funds at present at the disposal of the Committee to meet in all probability the exigencies of the winter.

FORM OF TAKING THE PLEDGE.

The President reads the words of the pledge aloud from the altar, they are as follow. "I promise to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, &c. except used Medicinally and by order of Medical men, and discountenance the cause and practice of intemperance." The persons who intend taking the pledge then come forward to the foot of the altar, four or six at a time, when the President asks them, do they un-