

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

New readers are informed that this paper is an organ of the different organizations devoted to temperance in Canada combined with a fresh general newspaper, containing markets, family and Sunday-school reading, puzzles, pictures, etc. It is really without a rival for cheapness, as it aims to be peerless in other respects, and it is no wonder that it is rapidly achieving a gratifying amount of public support. Price fifty cents a year, or to clubs of ten, sent singly or in parcels, only forty cents. All who receive a copy would confer a kindness upon the publishers, as well as promote a good enterprise, by showing and recommending the paper to others. Address all orders JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal, Canada.

THE FIRST TEETOTAL PLEDGE.

Mr. William S. Van Deusen, of Alton New York State, writes us an interesting letter, to correct a statement made in the issue of April twenty-first, that the first teetotal pledge was drawn up by one Joseph Livesy some fifty years ago. We did not understand, however, that the statement questioned claimed more than the discovery of the first authenticated pledge on record in England, where the article we published had its origin. Indeed, any statement regarding first things in temperance must be taken in only a relative sense as regards both place and period, for total abstinence, and even organized society to maintain it are as ancient as any monument of antiquity that stands upon the earth. Bad consequences of using strong drink and good results of abstaining from it are set forth in the Old Testament both by precept and example as forcibly as in any book of the modern teetotal propaganda. The records of the Nazarites and Rechabites constitute the oldest of temperance journals and more useful ones, too, than the minutes of our "grand" bodies of this period especially when a year or two old. To return to our correspondent, he essays to tell us what he knows about a teetotal pledge that was drawn up about seventy-five years ago, and gives at the same time some cognate facts of very much interest. When he was a small boy about the year 1834 a temperance almanac was used as a reading book in the district school, and this peculiar text-book contained a statement that the first total abstinence pledge was got up by a doctor in the town of Moreau, Saratoga County, New York, and our correspondent's family removing to that town made the acquaintance of this temperance doctor, Billy I. Clark, and employed him as their physician. In 1858, at the church standing nearest to the old Mawny House, where the first pledge was signed, the half-centennial celebration of the event was held, when a little girl produced a long and interesting poem entitled, "Half a Hundred Years Ago." About twenty years ago, the Hon. Judge William Kay, of Saratoga Springs, pub-

lished a book, entitled, "Temperance in Saratoga County," which contained a detailed account of the movement, together with portraits of Dr. Clark and three of his fellow-townsmen who were present at the first reading of his pledge. One of these, as well as the doctor, is remembered by our correspondent as a venerable Quaker who must have reached nearly a hundred years of age. The doctor, too, attained advanced age, but was blind in his last few years.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

An influential and well-attended meeting was held in Moncton, New Brunswick, to organize for the enforcement of the Scott Act. Among those present were two liquor dealers, one of whom had just cleared out his bar in deference to the law. Good speeches were made, a prosecution committee was appointed and a fund started.

The *Press*, Woodstock, New Brunswick, records with pleasure that the Supreme Court of the Province has confirmed the convictions in several Scott Act cases appealed from that town, and adds:—"We trust we have now overcome about all the obstructions to the working of the Scott Act that can be invented by the members of the legal fraternity who have undertaken to champion the cause of illegal vendors of intoxicating drinks. The friends of that Act here have had to fight for every inch of ground they have gained, and now that the long desired decision of the Judges has been given, we trust an unceasing and uncompromising warfare will be kept up against those who persist in violating that law, until they will be forced either to quit the business, or 'leave their country for their country's good.'"

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Mr. Thomas McLurray, Agent of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance of Ontario, organized a Division at Mount Forest on April 9th, with twenty-four members. The Rev. Donald Fraser, Deputy.

The quarterly session of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia just held at Stony Beach, Annapolis County, is described as a most enthusiastic and successful one. Mr. Burrell, G. W. P., presided. The returns were unexampled, showing more than thirty Divisions started during the quarter with over two thousand members. An autograph bed quilt, containing several hundred names, the work of the fair ladies of the neighborhood, which had been bought at auction by Capt. Bowman Corning, was presented at the close of the session to Mr. Jewell, Most Worthy Patriarch of the National Division of America, as a memento of his visit to the jurisdiction.

Mr. Thomas Hutchings, agent of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia, recently organized new Divisions as follows in Cumberland County:—"Dauntless," at Upper Salem, with twenty-five charter members; James B. Tuttle, W. P., H. W. Davis, R. S., Thomas J. Dyas, Deputy. "Maccan," at place of that name with forty-one charter

members; Herbert J. Harrison, W. P., M. B. Harrison, R. S., C. R. Elderkin, Deputy. "Mountain Home," Chignecto Mines, with thirty charter members; R. W. Pippy, W. P., Francis Burrows, R. S. A Division named "Longevity" has been organized at Jordan Falls, Shelburne County, by Mr. Isaac C. Crowell, Deputy, with fifty-four members; Amos Pentz, W. P., Allison Mullins, R. S.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

Gospel temperance meetings are one of the institutions of Woodstock, a Scott Act centre of New Brunswick. The enemy cannot hold out against both law and gospel. Lately the St. Gertrude's Catholic Total Abstinence Society was resuscitated in the town.

After a temperance meeting little Carl sat in a brown study, and, when asked what was in his mind, thus addressed his aunt: "If I was as poor as a knitting-needle, and hadn't any more money than a hen has teeth, I'd never sell rum." Would that all boys looked at the business in that way.

Nearly thirty-two thousand persons signed the pledge and assumed the blue ribbon during a fortnight's mission in Belfast, Ireland, by the Irish Temperance League. Over fourteen thousand signatures were obtained in shops and offices. It is computed that in Belfast, out of a population of two hundred and twenty thousand, there are sixty-two thousand abstainers and forty-six thousand wearers of the ribbon.

In accordance with the memorials of the Grand Division of Sons of Temperance of the Province and of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Council of Public Instruction of Nova Scotia has ordered that Dr. Richardson's "Temperance Lesson Book" be placed on the list of prescribed books for the use of teachers, and recommended trustees and teachers to have its lessons taught the pupils of the public schools.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Reform Club Lodge, of Woodstock, New Brunswick, recently hired a train and paid a fraternal visit to Houlton Lodge, of Houlton, Maine. Upon the excursionists' arrival in the latter town, the two Lodges marched in procession under the British and American flags to Liberty Hall, where a splendid time was enjoyed.

TEMPERANCE IN ENGLAND.

A REAL PROGRESS BUT MUCH YET TO BE DONE—WOMAN'S EXAMPLE.
(To the Editor of the Temperance Worker.)
SIR,—Knowing your interest in the temperance cause, I purpose jotting down for you a few indications that the work is really progressing in the old country. Large and enthusiastic meetings have been held in London and its teeming suburbs. The leading cities, towns and villages of the kingdom have also taken up the movement, and one striking feature is that every mission of which I have heard has been inaugurated by daily prayer-meetings, when

Christians of various denominations have united in recognizing the fact that the work is not man's but God's, and pleading for His blessing upon it. The evangelists, Messrs. F. and T. E. Murphy, have been holding very successful meetings at Manchester, where 2,500 new pledges were taken. Canon Wilberforce held a week's mission at Torquay, when 741 new names were added to the roll, making a grand total of 4,650; on this occasion the Duchess of Sutherland was one of many ladies who signed the pledge and adopted the blue ribbon. One very gratifying sign of success is that large numbers on becoming abstainers themselves immediately set to work to win others; if Christians had always acted thus, we should not have to deplore the large amount of ground still to be reclaimed. In my own town (Leicester) very many meetings are held both for children and adults; both in doors and in the streets; some of them are in connection with churches or chapels, and others are entirely undenominational, but all seem pervaded by the belief that it is high time to be up and doing. And so it is while it is possible to witness such a degrading sight as was seen in our streets last Saturday, a woman raving drunk, biting and kicking, and requiring two policemen to secure her. Indeed the drinking habits of the women of our town present the gloomiest outlook we have; a friend told me that she counted twelve young women following each other into a certain liquor vault in such quick succession that the door had not time to swing to. I have heard of more than one man breaking his pledge in consequence of his wife's obstinacy in continuing her 'little drops.' Of course there are many who pronounce our success to be more seeming than real, but besides the joy which many of us who work in the cause have of personally knowing men whose whole lives are altered, we have the following statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—"The spirit and wine duties in 1875-6 produced as nearly as possible twenty-three millions sterling, and if you add eight percent for the increase of population since 1875-6, the sum of £1,840,000, you will see that, if spirits and wine had been consumed last year as in 1875-6, the total revenue would probably have been £24,840,000. But the actual revenue from spirits and wine in the year 1882-3 was £19,840,000, so that if you take the population basis the consumption of wine and spirit duty has fallen off to such an extent as to be represented by a fall of duty of five millions sterling, and that the House will know represents more than 2½d. of income tax. If you include the diminished consumption of beer, you will find the decreased consumption of fermented and spirituous liquors in this country represents altogether almost 3d. in the £1 of income tax." *Per Contra*, there has been a steady rise in the duty on tea since 1878-9, when a great fall took place. In 1879-80 the revenue was £3,700,000; in 1880-81, £3,870,000; in 1881-2, £3,790,000; and in the year just ended, £4,200,000. We have therefore abundant cause to "thank God and take courage."
E. G. W.
Leicester, Eng.