

ouse on this Island. When I wrote to you the latter end of July, our Society numbered 36 members—we now number 105. This great increase in such a short time, is chiefly to be attributed, to three addresses on temperance delivered by the Rev. Mr. MacDonald and Ingalls of the Wesleyan Church, who preach occasionally on the Island. This increase of numbers, is not the only good effected—many individuals who have not yet joined the society, have commenced to act upon the Total abstinence principle. So astonished is every one here, at this mighty change wrought, that we can scarcely believe our eyes or our ears. Yet it is a fact that many habitual drunkards have abandoned intoxicating liquor altogether: men that in the West Indies were accustomed to it for years. The Guard-room is now clear of prisoners; the Fort of men at Knapsack drill; and the Hospital nearly of patients. The Canteen holder thinks he may soon shut up. He told me himself four days ago, that he sent two barrels of brandy (that had just come to him) back again, having no demand for it. The friends of Temperance here are now determined not to stop, till his last cargo of bottles, jars and barrels, has left the Island, and we shall turn out on the occasion and give him three cheers; not that we wish the man any personal injury, but, to show him that we wish him to follow a better trade, and abandon the bad trade he now follows, of selling poison to his fellow-men. It is very gratifying in the evenings, instead of going to the Canteen for their dose as usual, to see the men forming themselves into coffee and tea messes, and to hear them acknowledging that they never were better in their lives, and only sorry they did not join years ago. One man told me that that run and he had now become friends (not to touch each other more), for they had been many years enemies.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

JAMES ROBERTSON,
Color Sergeant, R. A.

Isle Aux Noix, October 10, 1839.

We think the above very worthy of a place in our Journal. We are glad to hear of such doings among the military in Isle aux Noix; and we believe they will be the last persons in the world to regret what they have done. We heartily wish Total Abstinence from intoxicating liquor to prevail throughout the entire British Army; it would not only be a national blessing, but a blessing to the soldiers themselves. This nation would reap benefit from it, in ten thousand different ways. For example: one vast fountain of influence which tends to produce and perpetuate, the evils of intemperance, would be immediately dried up. Our readers may calculate at their leisure, the amount of good which would accrue to Britain from this single source.

But great as it must be, the benefit accruing to our soldiers themselves would not be lessened in any respect. Think of the vexation which the officers must constantly endure from intoxication among the men: the ever-recurring trial; and the mortifying insults of the miserable inebriate. A gentleman, long an officer in the Army, informed us of his own accord, a winter ago, that to the best of his recollection, eighteen out of every twenty of the unpleasant and vexatious trials in which he had to take a part, originated in the use of intoxicating drink. Surely the officers must have often, ere now, wished our principles triumphant. Why they do not unite to banish intoxicating drink from their ranks, we cannot imagine. Think, too, of the profanity, the moral degradation, and the intense misery which it has produced among the men and their families. The splendors of the last day only can reveal the ruin of intoxicating liquor. Our pen cannot if it would; but this every one well knows, the use of strong drink has been one of the direst evils that ever befel the soldiers of our country. The sword has devoured its thousands, but strong drink its tens of thousands. Total Abstinence would put a speedy end to the slaughter. Let our friends in Isle aux Noix be firm and maintain their ground. Victory is obtained, not by retreat nor desertion, but by maintaining our ground. Consistent adherence to the pledge of Total Abstinence will put intemperance to a complete and final route.

London contains 600 churches. In the city there are 5,000 licensed houses for the sale of intoxicating liquor! The law establishes many of the churches; tolerates the remainder; but gives its high sanction to the dealers in poison.

Below we give a brief view of the influence of intoxicating drink on the soldiery of the United States. We do so because it is at hand; and because our readers can from its testimony, easily form an idea of the effects of such drinks on the army of our own country. Men and alcohol are men and alcohol all the world over.

DESERTIONS FROM THE ARMY IN SEVEN YEARS.

Year.	Number.	Cost.	Tried by Court-martial.
1823	668	Ds. 58,677	1093
1824	811	70,399	1175
1825	803	67,488	1208
1826	636	54,393	1115
1827	848	61,344	991
1828	820	62,137	1476
1829	1083	96,826	
Total	5,669	Ds. 471,263	7,058

(Report of the Secretary of War, Feb. 22, 1830.)

“Ardent spirits should be discontinued in the army, as a part of the daily rations. I know from observation and experience, when in the command of the troops, the pernicious effects arising from the practice of regular, daily issues of whiskey. If the recruit joins the service with an unvitiated taste, which is not unfrequently the case, the daily privilege and the uniform example soon induce him to taste, and then to drink his allowance. The habit being acquired, he, too, soon becomes an habitual toper.”—(Adjutant Gen. Jones's statement.)

“The proceedings of courts-martial are alone sufficient to prove that the crime of intoxication almost always precedes, and is often the immediate cause of desertion. And I am, moreover, convinced, that most of the soldiers, who enter the army as sober men, acquire habits of intemperance principally by falling into the practice of drinking their gill, or half gill, of whiskey, every morning. I have known sober recruits, who would often throw away their morning allowance, but whose constant intercourse with tipplers would soon induce them to taste a little, and, in time, a little more, until they became habitual drunkards. I am, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that the whiskey part of the ration does, slowly, but surely, lead men into those intemperate and vicious habits, out of which grow desertions and most other crimes. In support of this opinion, I will only advert to one other document. It is the subjoined extract of a letter from one of the most excellent and exemplary officers of the army, which contains little or nothing more than the verbal statements which I have received upon the same subject, from many other meritorious officers.”—(Maj. Gen. Gaine's statement.)

“I have served extensively as the recorder of regimental courts-martial, and do not hesitate to say, that five out of six cases of the crimes which are proved before these courts, have resulted from intemperance; and nine years' experience in the army has convinced me, that no inconsiderable proportion of the desertions occur in consequence of intemperate drinking, either of the deserters themselves, or others; I say others, because bad treatment from petty officers, while under the influence of ardent spirits, has caused many to become disgusted with the service, and finally to desert.

“I have known cases like the following, and think them not uncommon. A non-commissioned officer, either inebriated or not, oppresses a young soldier, who complains to his commander; the subject is investigated by him; and the witnesses upon whom the complainant relied to sustain his charge, either from fear of the displeasure of their non-commissioned officer, or from being bribed to hold their peace, by whiskey, “know nothing.” The petty officer produces his witnesses, bought with spirits, to exculpate himself, and perhaps cast blame upon the complainant. The accused, thus cleared, is prompted by revenge to render the situation of the soldier as irksome as possible, who, despairing of redress, deserts.”—(Lieut. Gallagher's statement.)

UNFERMENTED WINE.—“When the must of grapes has, by boiling and evaporation, been reduced to the state of an extract, the vegetable principle contained in it, is disorganized, and it cannot be made to ferment, without the addition of some foreign body.”—Chaptal's Agricultural Chemistry, p. 240.