

ment of every clergyman in the Province. I wish you to send to me ten copies of the next volume, for which I will send you the money in a few days. In order to obtain subscribers, I put them at the lowest possible price, so that I shall have nothing for my trouble but the pleasure of trying to do good. I intend to secure twenty subscribers in this section, but dare not venture to send for more than ten copies of the first number, unless I would have the privilege of returning all for which I cannot obtain subscribers. Some are very ready to subscribe as soon as the subject is fairly laid before them; others are reluctant. One young man said he would rather give a dollar than not to have it. Four children of one family, the youngest but five years of age, who had 7½ each given them for a Christmas present, very cheerfully put the whole together for the sake of obtaining one set of the *Advocate*, designing to read them in the first place themselves, and then lend them for others to read, hoping before another Christmas to have the pleasure of reading many a fine temperance story, and of imparting a like pleasure to some of their juvenile friends. O could they be the means of making one youth a *teetotaler*, or of saving one from a drunkard's life, how immensely would it augment the value of this Christmas present.

Notwithstanding, we have in this county two distilleries, many rum-sellers, and more rum-drinkers, yet the temperance cause in this region is evidently on the advance, and it will yet triumph.

The Lord hasten the time, that many, who are now on the brink of ruin, may be saved.—Yours, &c.,

JOEL FISK.

AGENT'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1847.

Tracts distributed this month, 5,890.

Contributions received this month, £2 3s. 10d.

"A word in season how good it is." As I entered a garret-room, the miserable dwelling of one of the slaves of intemperance, I found him sitting in a wretched condition. I took the opportunity of showing him the danger of such a course. He wondered how I found him out at such a time. He went on to show me how wretched he was, and that he had concluded he had gone beyond the reach of mercy, and was just on the eve of taking arsenic to destroy himself. I reasoned with the man, and showed him that he had no right to take away his own life, nor the life of others, without bringing on all the dreadful consequences recorded in the word of God against his own soul; and if he would dare to lift up violent hands against himself to kill the body, he could not kill the soul: he could not flee from himself, nor shake off the agonies of the worm that never dies, nor quench the flames that burn for ever. After thus reasoning with him, I asked him if I would pray for him. "O, yes, do pray for me," said he, while the tears of sorrow flowed down his blushing face. I engaged in prayer with him: it was truly a solemn season. I have seen him since, and, so far as I can judge in the matter, I think that he is desirous of doing well. I have got his name, and the name of his wife, to the pledge.

I embrace this opportunity of stating to the gentlemen of the Committee, that a considerable number of the Canadian population are very desirous that the Temperance Tracts should be printed in the French language, as few of them can read the English.

It will be seen by our advertising columns, that one of the Montreal Traders has gone this winter to New York. The "*Enterprise*" made the passage from Quebec to Clyde this Fall, in 18 days. She offers a good opportunity for those going to Britain this winter. Being a Temperance ship, we can safely recommend it.

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS.

TO THE RESPECTABLE SELLERS AND MODERATE DRINKERS OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS IN CANADA.

DEAR FRIENDS,—We embrace the present opportunity to address you, because it is usually considered a favourable time of the year for reviewing the past, and forming plans and resolutions for the future, and the prevailing feeling which actuates us in so doing being love, we trust you will not cast this paper from you as if an enemy had written it, but give it a consideration as courteous as we trust its language will be.

To DEARERS, we would suggest the following topics of reflection:—Your business has ever been considered, to say the least, one of a doubtful character. Why else is it made the subject of legal restraints more than other kinds of trade? Why else is it necessary to have enactments respecting certificates of character, licenses, and, in many places, even the hours and persons when and to whom sales may be made?

A brief review of the history of your traffic would show that it has at all times been an object of alarm to governments; that its suppression has been in many instances attempted; and that it is only finally tolerated as an evil which they are not able to prevent, every precaution being, at the same time, taken to diminish, as far as possible, its pernicious consequence.

It is often said that there is as much harm done by eating as drinking; but has the experience of nations proved that there was as much cause for anxiety and alarm in the trade of the baker and butcher as in yours? Disguise it as you may from yourselves, your traffic stands upon nearly similar ground in the western world with the opium trade in the east; and if you would shrink from the idea of supplying opium wholesale or retail to the wretched votaries of that drug, there is no good reason why you should not shrink from your own business. The latter is consigning, at least, as many victims, in proportion to the population, to degradation, misery, and a premature grave, as the former, and it is a much more potent stimulus to crime.

You may have been ignorant of these considerations when you embarked in the business, and in this respect we feel much sympathy for you, but you cannot be wholly ignorant of them now; for, besides the mass of information and argument on this subject which the temperance societies have published and circulated, but which you may, perchance, have refused to hear or read, there have been many presentments of grand juries, many charges of judges, and many articles in the common newspapers, all bearing testimony to the same melancholy truth, that your traffic is one of the greatest evils under which society groans at the present time, and the prolific parent of at least three-fourths of all the pauperism and crime around us: that you are, if we may so speak, living upon the life-blood of the public, and taking all the rest of the community to remedy, in some little degree—by jails, police forces, hospitals, almshouses, &c., &c.—the evils which you are causing.

We may again advert to the oft-repeated fallacy, that there is as much harm done by eating as drinking, and ask, where the testimony of judges and magistrates, and grand juries, and committees of legislatures, can be found to the effect that three-fourths of the pauperism and crime which afflict society are caused by eating? When shall we find whole tribes of the human race swept off the face of the earth by the use of bread and meat, as has been the case by the use of fire waters. No, the fact is, the traffic in intoxicating drinks stands by itself; it is not at all like that in any other article of human consumption, unless it be, as we have before stated, opium.

But if these things be true, is it not your duty, dear friends, to abandon a traffic so pernicious to the community, and, we might also add, so dangerous to yourselves?