

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 1, 1853.

The New Year.—Our Mission.

We enter on our editorial duties for another year, with unabated confidence in the scriptural soundness of our principles, and with earnest wishes for the success of an enterprise which commends itself to every man's conscience in the sight of God. To the reader we present the warmest desires of our heart for his happiness and prosperity, and shall do our utmost to prove the sincerity of our wish, by diligently devoting our energies to the attainment of that end. If we do not greatly miscalculate our own abilities and resources, *The Nineteenth Volume of the Canada Temperance Advocate*, will be inferior to no preceding volume in the variety and excellence of its contents, and we trust that even this first number will afford a presentiment of the vigorous and appropriate course we design to pursue for the good of our country in general, and for the benefit of our subscribers in particular.

The past year has been fruitful of great events, and stirring incidents. The hand of death has laid low in the dust many of the noble and the great, men distinguished for moral excellence, or military genius, or political discernment. With solemn pomp and ostentatious display they were placed in the tomb, and now again the dazzled multitude return to their business occupations, or vain pursuits. But neither death nor suffering has prevented the development of ambitious schemes. The cruel planner of a *coup d'état* receives the imperial crown, while the disappointed and mortified populace, bite their lip of scorn under the iron heel of despotism. The British people, too, always preferring reform before revolution, have quietly affirmed the principle of unrestricted commercial intercourse with all nations, and a conservative cabinet have gracefully bowed to that decision. The cry of gold discovered in Australia has waked up the slumbering energies of a free people, and the desire of advancement—the true characteristic of civilization—has sent thousands of ardent toilers for bread to the supposed seat of wealthy prospects. What a period of stir and excitement is this! We live in times when to do nothing, or care for nothing, is proof of idleness, stoicism or stupefying ignorance. Almost every man, woman, and child of our age and country is influenced practically if not beneficially by the contagious activities of the passing generation, all more or less influencing future times and rising countries. Under one curse chiefly do all the civilized nations of the world groan,—the curse of the traffic in intoxicating drinks. Of itself it is sufficient to thwart the wisest plans of progress, and destroy the brightest hopes of even honorable ambition. But thanks be to God, no former year has been equal to the past in reference to fixing public sentiment against the iniquities and absurdities of unhallowed commerce in liquor. Not in quick America only, but in slow Britain also, the opinion has gained ground astonishingly, that the trade in intoxicating drinks, is a violation of all law but its own, and utterly subversive of every good institution, whether relating to religion, morality, or sound education. In the beginning of this year therefore, we, as temperance advocates, stand on vantage ground we never before occupied, and which it must be our careful study to improve, until that law is enacted which shall sweep away the whole system of commerce in liquor, and destroy forever the fictitious idens of property invested in the streams of drunkenness and death.

Our mission, under these circumstances, is easily defined. As

we stated in our Prospectus, "The crisis is come, and for another year we buckle on our armour, determined to do our duty in conducting the Temperance hosts to a victory as perfect as the infirmities of humanity can authorize the most sanguine to anticipate. Compassion for the inebriate, will prompt our benevolence, while uncompromising hostility to the traffic, will dictate our exposures of its iniquity." Amidst increasing competition, we shall not fear to maintain our position. The public good in all its real and earnest demands, will be sought and defended. Temperance Reform embraces various collateral reforms. Be assured gentle reader, that you will find the old and tried friend of Canada, *The Canada Temperance Advocate*, ever at the post of duty, first in the field, never to quit it, until the battle is won, and universal liberty proclaimed from the heights of Zion. Send forward then your names, *give us ten thousand paying subscribers* and let us for another year work together for our country and our country's good.

The True Witness Dismissed.

On the 19th of December our opponent returned to the questions of difference between us, and gave his answer to our arguments on "first principles in common," and on "supply and demand." We should have been glad, had it been possible for us, to have replied in our last, and thus have kept back our first issue for 1853 free from polemics. The topics are, however, of vital importance and as the matter stands, we have no alternative, but to dismiss the champion of the liquor trade in as brief a way as we can. On the subject of common principles in which Catholic and Protestant agree, it seems there is no such thing possible, [except by accident on the part of the Protestant. Our opponent says, "the 'first principle' of every Catholic is—that in all problems involving questions of faith and morals, the Catholic Church is the sole authority given by God to man; that it is through her teaching and through her teaching *alone*, that man can attain to a certain knowledge of the divine will, which is the highest law, and the highest reason." It follows, then, that if the church of Rome shall teach total abstinence, and demand the Maine Law—the True Witness will bow down to that as an infallible expounder of faith and morals. Now as we are not sure that this ecclesiastical infallibility dwells in the Bishops of Montreal and St. Hyacinthe, we should not, perhaps, be safe in requiring our opponent to join with them in petitioning for a prohibitory Liquor law. But somehow or other, or as our antagonist will have it, by "accidental coincidences," we do agree with these authorities, and the True Witness does not. He is warring against them, and we should judge by the tone of his present article, that he feels somewhat his anomalous position, and tries to escape therefrom, amidst the dust of antiquated ecclesiasticism. This won't do, for independent of all church authorities and organizations, human nature is a unit, and the God of nature will not suffer his laws to be violated with impunity. Drunkards of every class and persuasion must bear the consequences of transgression, and for all there is but one way of escape.—Abstinence.

The very crude and inappropriate remarks of our opponent on supply and demand are easily disposed of. There is in the verbiage of the article, a sad misapplication of terms. This infallible defender of free trade in liquor, ought to know that writers on political economy, never use the terms "desire" and "demand," as synonymous. Does he really mean to say that the desire or appetite for refreshing beverage, creates the demand for rum and brandy, or the desire for food creates the demand for human flesh in a cannibal, so that it would be proper to carry on a trade in the flesh of human beings? Mr. Burton uses not the word "demand"