



CANADIAN TEMPERANCE MEDALS.

BY R. W. McLACHLAN.

*(Read before the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society
of Montreal.)*

ONCE and again have records come down to us of wonderful movements towards reform taking hold of nations,—wonderful, not merely on account of grand results, but because of the great self-sacrifice, to those wont to gratify every desire, necessary to such achievement. These movements seem to spring, often without apparent warning, almost instantaneously from the people. Under a mighty leader, customs encrusted with centuries, and habits confirmed by ages of practice, are dashed aside as stubble before the onslaught. Yet such, apparently, impulsive actions are only the outward results, the coming to fruit, so to speak, of years of deep and anxious thought. Like as the rapid fungoid growth, that suddenly springs from the trunk of the decaying oak, is the bursting into fruit of the plant that had for years been permeating