

may annul its proclamation, and the tavern-keepers may, so far as that man is concerned, renew their work of destruction. There are several other provisions in the act, and some of them are very good ones, but these two will at once show you the difficulty that must necessarily attend its enforcement, and its inefficiency to fulfil the benevolent objects which it contemplates. In the first place, it would be difficult to define what an habitual drunkard is. Some of the greatest drunkards of the land are those who go on what is called an occasional spree, and spend a week or a fortnight, or sometimes longer, in drinking themselves drunk, and in spending all the money which they had earned in their sober moments. After all the money is spent, they go to work again, and perhaps for a month or two they will never touch the intoxicating cup. Now, such an individual cannot correctly be termed an habitual drunkard. Again, there is the individual who drinks in his own house, wastes his substance in drunkenness and riotous living, and yet is never seen drunk out of doors. Such an one, every man's house being his castle, can never be convicted of habitual drunkenness in the eyes of the law. Yet in both of these cases the poor wretch is making his family miserable, and ruining his own prospects for time and for eternity. It is only the unfortunate wretch who is seen day after day rolling in the gutter, a fit emblem of depravity, which would become an object of solicitude according to the act before us. As to the second provision mentioned, the only way in which we can discover the marks of reformation in the drunkard is, by his total abstinence from the use of the pernicious beverage. Now, if the writ of the municipality be issued against any particular drunkard, and he cannot procure the liquor, he is obliged, perhaps against his own will, to manifest signs of reformation. As soon as he becomes a sober man in the eyes of the law, the writ is cancelled, he goes back to his cups, and the latter end of that man is worse than the first.—Yet, bad as is this law, I should prefer it to another which is now talked of; that is, to give to municipalities the power to pass a Maine Law within their jurisdiction. I dare say you will be surprised to find me opposed to such a law, seeing that it admits the principle of the Maine Law, and that once passed and sanctioned by the crown, all talk of unconstitutionality would be futile.—There is, however, an important reason why I think in this matter temperance men should take a whole loaf or no bread, and that reason is found in the fact that it would be almost impossible to enforce the law in municipalities, and this would be brought to bear against us, and a powerful argument it would prove, when the question of a general law was again mooted. Suppose Montreal was to pass such a law, and all the municipalities adjoining continued to sell, you can easily see how difficult it would be to prevent smuggling from the adjoining neighborhood, and all the odium consequent upon this smuggling would attach itself, not to its legitimate cause, but to the principle of a prohibitory law. You can have proof of this in the State of Maine. There the greatest difficulty is experienced in enforcing the law in those localities adjoining the rum States, and that difficulty is wielded with terrible effect by the New York *Herald*, and other Rumocrat journals. Let us in the meantime do all we can for the principles of the Maine Law; but if we cannot get it just now, then let us take some slight amendment to the present law, or else take the bill introduced by Mr. Gamble.

A rather disgraceful scene occurred here a short time since, we have been told, at the Speaker's dinner. Two honorable gentlemen actually attempted to drink each other down. It is a pity that men exercising the influence which both those gentle-

men,—we omit the names,—exercise, should be guilty of such conduct—should give such encouragement to the vice which they profess to abhor, and to suppress which they are both willing to go any lengths in legislation. It is this which has made intemperance respectable—it is this which has led many a young man from the paths of virtue into the molehills of vice, and finally plunged him into a drunkard's grave. It is this which has rendered the efforts of temperance men so difficult, and in many instances so fruitless. Were such men as these, holding high positions in society, and occupying a place in the confidence and affections of the people, to do their duty in this matter, and instead of endeavoring to drink as much as possible, and trying to see who could drink most, were they to set their faces against the drinking usages of society, the vice of intemperance would soon be exterminated, the common sense of the community would forbid the importation, manufacture and sale of all liquors, and no difficulty would be felt in enforcing the law. They say they do not wish to appear singular, but if they did their duty they would not long have to be singular; soon drinking at dinners would become disreputable, and instead of being driven by the force of public opinion to desist from so disgraceful a practice, they would have the peaceful assurance that they had something to do with the improved state of society, that they were *leaders* in the mighty march of improvement.

Yours, &amp;c.,

T. W.

## BROKERS' CIRCULAR.

Montreal, Sept. 25, 1852.

**FLOUR.**—Has advanced 3d. upon our quotations of last week. It was, yesterday afternoon, scarce—and in good demand—at 20s for best brands of No. 1 Superfine and 20s 6d for Extra. The arrivals continue to be very light.

**WHEAT.**—There have been receipts to a fair extent during the week, and good samples of U. C. White have sold as high 4s 6d a 4s 6d per 60lb—U. C. Red and Ohio at the same time commanding 4s 6d.

**BARLEY, OATS, INDIAN CORN, INDIAN MEAL, AND OAT-MEAL.**—Quotations purely nominal—there being no transactions worthy of notice.

**PROVISIONS.**—No Beef yet offering. Pork is steady at Mess 107s 6d a 110s, Prime Mess 85s a 87s 6d, Prime 80s, with a slightly increased demand for Mess and Prime.

**ASHES.**—Pots up to yesterday were quiet, at 25s 6d½ 25s 9d, when they advanced to 26s for shipping parcels; Pearls are heavy at 26s 6d.

**FREIGHTS.**—No ship for London. No engagements for Glasgow. To Liverpool—Ashes and Wheat, which were taken during the week at 25s. and 5s. 6d, have advanced to 27s. 6d. for Ashes, and 6s. to 6s. 6d. for Wheat. For Flour, there have been engagements at 3s, as low as 2s. 6d. being accepted yesterday.

**EXCHANGE.**—Quotations nominal, there being little or no demand.

**STOCKS.**—Bank of Montreal continues to advance: 17½ per cent premium is to-day offered, without sellers. Commercial Bank—Sales at 7½ per cent premium. In other Bank Stocks, neither transactions nor change in price. St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Co.—Sales at 50 per cent discount, at which the demand is steady. In other Stocks nothing doing.

## Temperance House

BY J. SIMMONS,

Trent Village, Canada West.