

at Temple Bar, and which, with the house of Willis, Percival, and Co., is considered to be about the oldest in London. Child's house is understood to possess documents which prove their existence as a bank as early as 1663; since which they have never moved out of the same premises. The books of Messrs. Hoare, in Fleet Street, are said to go back to 1680; and those of Messrs. Snow, in the Strand, to 1685. Stone, Martins, and Stone, of Lombard Street, claim to represent the house of Sir T. Gresham; but this, I presume, must be more a matter of tradition than of documentary evidence; and is principally noticeable as suggesting views of ancient descent upon the part of our commercial interests which will bear a comparison with the genealogy of many noble houses.

THE LONDON BANKER OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Bore little resemblance to his modern successor: he was a man of serious manners, plain apparel, the steadiest conduct, and a rigid observer of formalities. As you looked in his face you could read in intelligible characters that the ruling maxim of his life, the one to which he turned all his thoughts, and by which he shaped all his actions, was, that he who would be trusted with the money of other men, should look as if he deserved the trust, and be an ostensible pattern to society of probity, exactness, frugality, and decorum. He lived, if not the whole of the year, at least the greater part of the year, at his banking-house; was punctual to the hours of business, and always to be found at his desk. The fashionable society at the West end of the town, and the amusements of high life, he never dreamed of enjoying; and would have deemed it nothing short of insanity to imagine that such an act was within the compass of human daring as that of a banker's lounging for an evening in Elp's Alley at the Opera, or turning out for the Derby with four gays to his chariot.

EFFECTS OF BANK FAILURES IN IRELAND.

Severe as the distress of all classes was at this juncture, it gave rise to some ludicrous incidents. In Limerick, a country gentleman with £1500 a year had sent invitations out for a dinner-party the week the banks broke, and considered himself most fortunate on finding among his notes one Bank of Ireland note for ten pounds. No one doubted the goodness of the note, but no one could give change for it. Ten pounds, in gold or silver, were not in the county; and as for credit, there was none to be had. In this extremity, with money—which was not money—and without credit, having tried butcher, baker, and confectioner, in vain, the gentleman gave up the idea of his dinner-party in despair, and wrote to his friends to keep the engagement standing until he could procure cash or credit for a ten-pound note.

Keep out of bad company, for the chance is that when the Devil fires into a flock he will hit somebody.

Temperance.

From the Canada Temperance Advocate.

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR.

According to appointment the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society waited upon His Excellency the Governor General, on Wednesday the 25th May, and presented the following

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES BAGOT, G. C. B., Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and of the Island of Prince Edward, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Office bearers and Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society, wait upon Your Excellency for the purpose of tendering the respectful salutation and welcome to which you are justly entitled, as the Representative of our Sovereign, and Chief Magistrate of this Province. And we assure Your Excellency that it is our fervent prayer that your Administration may be attended with every blessing, both to the Governor and the governed.

We respectfully beg leave to inform Your Excellency that we are associated for the purpose of suppressing, as far as lies in our power by purely moral means, the deplorable vice of intemperance which unhappily rages in this otherwise prosperous province. And that to this end we publish twice a month about ten thousand copies of a journal called the *Canada Temperance Advocate*, which is sent gratuitously to all Ministers of Religion and School teachers, and which penetrates into nearly every township of the country. We have also availed ourselves of the agency of Travelling Lecturers who, during the past winter have traversed the country in all directions to rescue drunkards from their degrading thralldom, and to expose the injurious tendency of the drinking usages of society, which usages we believe to be the prolific root whence intemperance with all its hideous consequences, generally speaking, springs.

These and other means which time permits us not to specify, have been blessed to the great extension of the principles of total abstinence from all that intoxicates, and of light and knowledge among the people; nevertheless the work appears scarcely begun. * * *

For the melancholy state of things various reasons might be assigned, but it is our intention only to call your Excellency's attention to one of the most prominent, namely, that the example of persons in high and honorable stations, sanctioning as it generally does the use of alcoholic stimulants, as a beverage, tells powerfully against the progress of the Temperance Reformation. * * *

It is probable, from the best information we can procure, that *one thousand* drunkards have been reformed in Canada during the past year, and that *two thousand* more have sunk into the *drunkard's grave*. Yet, we very much fear that the