

sible you know,—because it really does happen ; it is actually to be seen in our own circles. To every such man, the Book says, 'With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.'—*T. Binney.*

PLEDGE.—We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them ; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment ; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, MARCH 15, 1854.

Statistics of Crime in Montreal.

Sound an Alarm in the City.

The Chief of Police has issued his annual bulletin, announcing the condition of the city, as to its moral health. We fear the pulse of piety and morality beats very slowly and feebly. A sad revelation again comes out. Perhaps we are wrong in writing as above about the pulse of piety, but certainly taking our city as a whole, and regarding it as one body, we are constrained to confess the presence of a pestilence more fearful than cholera, and attended with consequences more terrific. It appears that the number of offenders apprehended by the Montreal City Police during the year 1853 was no less than *Three Thousand Six Hundred and One*, and that *Two Thousand Two Hundred and Eight* have arisen from intemperance. Let it be noted, however, that this tabular statement of Mr. Ermatinger's does not set forth the full amount of crime in general, nor does it set forth the total of iniquity arising from liquor drinking. All such tables must in the nature of things be defective ; but as it stands, and without probing deeper into this moral ulcer, is it not alarming, and calculated to awaken the sentiments of deep mortification and distress.

Again, we blow the trumpet in Zion, we sound an alarm in the city. Upon our city authorities we charge the greater portion of the public criminality now exhibited. The licensing power itself has been criminally stretched, and hundreds of drunkeries have been *illegally opened* by authority for a consideration. The tocsin has been heard by these gentlemen, and they are quite familiar with the fact, that the chief business of the police department is to take care of the reprobates of society, who are trained and nurtured to vicious habits in these pest-houses—these depots of debauchery, made resplendent with respectability because they have the seal of Government, bearing the stamp :—"Licensed to Retail Spirituous Liquors." Doubtless without this liquor business there would be some crime and sin in Montreal. By original corruption the whole posterity of Adam is "utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil." But that there should be at almost every corner of our numerous streets, *man-traps*—incentives to crime—springs of public demoralization, is most absurd. Legislative and executive madness could scarcely go further. Here in this nineteenth century the law provides for the manufacture of drunkards, and then appoints a police force to take care of them, and if need be to punish

them, just in proportion as the poor wretches avail themselves of the facilities for evil every where present. We have a grand recipe for this social disease, and would really like to have the management of this afflicted patient—the city of Montreal. We should speedily put out the fires of the distillery—quench those of the brewery also. We should spill the liquor by wholesale, and employ the police in arresting, guarding, and feeding in prison the guilty sinners who would dare to perpetuate the gross offence of selling poisonous liquors for human beverages.

We have no pleasure in exposing the iniquities of the liquor trade. We could out and slash with considerable gratification, if we could separate the traffic from the persons engaged in it, but that is hard to be done. We hate the business with an unmitigated hatred, and considering the amount of light now shed forth respecting the effects of the business, we see not how any man can innocently engage in it, and that respectable Christian men should thus have "fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness," is one of those phenomena in mental science and moral philosophy, quite inexplicable on ordinary principles. We shall return to the subject of the traffic and its effects in Montreal at an early period.

The Quebec Gazette on the Maine Law.

The Quebec *Gazette* has recently indulged itself in a not very elaborate fling at the Maine Law and its advocates. Sometimes the *Gazette* is spicy, almost witty, but, in this instance, is decidedly flat, and would have been sadly insipid, only there came up a "nice little question in the simple rule of three" which stirred up the intellectual powers of the Editor, and threw a little animation into his manner, without adding anything to the value of his matter. A word or two with this brother.

The *Gazette* confesses the inadequacy of moral persuasion. It "has not been more than temporarily successful." All the friends of Temperance—all who have labored in the cause from the beginning—have painfully felt that, and, therefore, have seriously asked themselves what could be done to effect the suppression of drunkenness. "This fact," says the *Gazette*, "leaves it incumbent on us to devise some more effectual means to secure the permanence of sobriety." Agreed. Then what objection can be offered against the Maine Law? The principle cannot be objected to, for that is embodied in all legislation where the alleged rights of individuals are at all interfered with. Our contemporary then does not offer any objection against the principle, but says, "It is to be feared that legal prohibition, unless grafted on moral conviction, and the free assent of nearly the whole population, would multiply tenfold the direst phases of that deplorable vice." To this, we reply that it is a mere gratuitous assumption, without any facts to warrant the "fear." Where the law exists, no such result follows. Assertions have been made by our enemies to that effect, but the falsehoods have been thoroughly exposed. But the "low and illicit traffic" would increase! How does the Editor of the Quebec *Gazette* know that? Have any of his particular friends assured him of their intention to violate the law? We apprehend a very different result, if the Prohibitory Law is enacted. It will be obeyed by all who have any respect for them-