

the Montreal Temperance Society, are bestirring themselves, and to have it in our power to record the proceedings at a public meeting, for the purpose of bringing before the community the importance of our objects as temperance men, to warn them of the danger of countenancing in any way the use of intoxicating drinks, and to lift up our testimony against even the moderate use of anything that can intoxicate.

At the meeting above referred to, which was held in the United Secession Church, St. Lawrence Suburb, it was announced by the Chairman, Mr. J. C. Becket, that the City Committee, "in view of the increasing prevalence of the use of intoxicating drinks," had divided the city and suburbs into five sections, and appointed two of their number to each, for the purpose of holding, at least one meeting each week, at the following places in rotation; the St. Lawrence, the Quebec, and the St. Antoine Suburbs, Griffintown, and the City. That this was the first of that series, which had been undertaken for the purpose of stirring up ourselves and the friends of the temperance reformation, to greater activity in promoting the great object we profess to have in view, as a total abstinence society; and to endeavour to win over those that are still out of the way, to adopt our principles, take hold with us, and thus by the help of God continue to extend our boundaries, till we encompass or embrace the entire community in which we dwell." After some farther observations, he called upon the

Rev. Wm. Taylor to address the meeting, who, after some preliminary remarks, in a very powerful and affecting manner, addressed himself more especially to temperance men present, on the great responsibilities that rested upon them. In doing so, he adverted to the hopeless condition, generally speaking, of the drunkard, not only as regards his reformation here, but also as regards his prospects in the world that is to come: intemperance, he said, was "rapidly on the increase, scarcely a week passed but victims of this soul-destroying vice are passing to the bar of God, and who are to sound the alarm? The public did look, and had a right to do so, to the professed friends of the temperance reformation, and especially to the Montreal Temperance Society." But we cannot attempt a report of this excellent speech. The Rev. gentleman concluded by expressing the hope that the winter campaign had indeed commenced, and that throughout it the different speakers would abstain from indulging in the practice of denouncing individuals, and that we ought rather to set ourselves against the prevailing customs of society, and exhibit the terrible consequences to which they lead.

Mr. A. Duncan, lately from Scotland, was next invited to address the meeting, who followed up, in a very effective manner, the previous speaker. His mode of treating the subject was rather different to what we have been accustomed to in this country, but on that account not the less attractive, and we would say more efficacious, to awaken interest, and enlist the sympathies of those who are not in our favor. Mr. D. insisted especially upon the fact that all the evils we have to deplore as temperance men arose from the moderate use of the deadly poison, thus adding countenance to a practice which in so many instances resulted in the most abject degradation and misery. It was not the drunkards that supported the distilleries, nor yet drank the half that was consumed in the Province. Comparatively speaking, it did not take much to supply them. It was to satisfy the mass of the inhabitants that the fires of the distillery and the brewery had to be constantly kept burning. It was no use to cry out against the distiller, the brewer, the importer, or the seller. Let moderation men give up their share of the poison, and for every ten distilleries, breweries, importers, or taverns, one of each would be sufficient to supply the demand in the meantime, and by

and by, as the race of drunkards died out, which could not be long, if there was no source from which to fill up their tanks, we would have no need even of that one. We are surprised that "moderation men" do not see the force of this fact. No doubt they now abhor the drunkard as much as any one, and for the world would not have their names associated with him; while, at the same time, they are in the same path. We have even known this intimation so to envelope men, as that on their return from paying the last tribute of respect to a departed comrade, who had run but a very little faster than themselves, go to the tavern to have "one gill in memory of the past," instead of taking the warning God in his mercy was thus addressing to them, never to taste another drop, and continue to "sip" until they too have gone down to the grave but the remnant of men. Oh that men were wise, that they understood this. But looking at this subject in another light, apart altogether from man as an immortal being, and forgetting the fact for the moment that we cannot act independently of each other, and hence the injury inflicted upon one member of the community, the rest suffer with him, and looking at the subject merely in a business point of view, we should think that the merchants of Montreal are standing very much in their own light by countenancing the moderate use of intoxicating drinks; they are darkening their own shop windows, casting a dark shade over all the goods in the shop; and if our principles were universally acted upon, how much better would their clerks fulfil their duties, as well as all others in their employ. But this is not all; the money now expended on intoxicating drinks is wasted, lost! But if this pool was dried up into which the moderate drinker casts his earnings, it would then circulate throughout the community, and the stores would be crowded with more buyers than visitors. And if we look at the consummation of this great reform as immortal beings, how immeasurably are its consequences enhanced to the best interests of our fellow men; then all worldly considerations sink into absolute insignificance. Tampering with this vice in any measure places in jeopardy our best interests; for it is a well known fact, that for every ten men who can do so with the possibility of escape from the jaws of the destroyer, there are hundreds who are thus hurried down the stream of time and engulfed, in spite of themselves, in the whirlpool of the drunkard's eternity.

Mr. J. S. Sanburn, next addressed the meeting in a very suitable manner. After advertng to many evils which the drinking customs prevailing in society was the fruitful parent, he presented various cogent reasons why all should unite in helping forward the Temperance Reform.

The meeting, we think, was a very successful one, and the attendance good. At the close of the meeting, four came forward and signed the pledge.

To the Editor of the Temperance Advocate.

SIR,—While passing along one of our more retired streets, last week, I observed a young man lying on the pavement, asleep. He could not be more than 24 or 25. His dress was miserable, much torn and covered with mud. His head rested between two bales, and, as he lay on his back, his face was exposed to the sun, fortunately for him, not, at this season, shining very powerfully. While his dress showed marks so evident of his having had frequent prostrations in the streets, his nose and cheeks had also the appearance of having been in contact with something not possessing the most pleasant smoothness. Passing in the same direction, about two hours afterwards, I saw a man before me, moving along, with unsteady step, "staggering to and fro like a drunken man." I soon recognised the sleeper of the morning. He made his way towards a tipping shop near the wharf, and attempted to go up the few steps leading to the house, but fell against the door, which he burst open. Immediately the respectable keeper appeared, caught the intruder by the collar, and led him away from the place, *retro*, and shut the door.

Comments I leave to yourself.—Yours, &c.,

N. M.

This is the usual way. As long as the money remains, and there is some semblance of respectability, of course the individual is welcome, and he will be supplied with that which will "bring him to poverty, and clothe him with rags," as fast as possible, but to come so dirty, to disgrace the better-dressed customers, who