

The Canada

# TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED

TO

TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION,



AGRICULTURE & NEWS.

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.

Vol. XVI.]

MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1850.

No. 8

## “THE TELEGRAPH.”

We take the following excellent article from the *Telegraph*, published at St. Johns, N. B., of the 21st February. We observe that this paper has recently been much improved, and is an able advocate of the cause of teetotalism. We hope the Temperance men in the Lower Provinces will take care to see that it obtains a wide circulation.

### THE BENEFITS OF TEMPERANCE.

READER? were you ever sceptical of the advantages accruing to individuals and society at large from habits of abstinence from intoxicating drinks, and do you still require proof of their efficiency in redeeming men from one of the most cruel of all bondages? If so, do us the favor to peruse the following extracts from an account of a late temperance meeting in Exeter Hall, which we find in the columns of the *Standard of Freedom*, under the heading, “Temperance Demonstration in London,” than which, a more gratifying and instructive article we do not recollect ever to have met with; and if you do not confess to error, after weighing the various facts set forth by several handicraftsmen whose experience is there detailed, we can scarcely hope to convert you to our way of thinking on the subject of temperance. These speakers—twelve in number—belonged to the working classes, all of whom had sacrificed everything to the lust for strong drink, and had lived in squalid poverty—Now, what a change!

“One had his library, which had cost him £70, and ‘found his home a paradise;’ another, a blacksmith’s hammerman, from being scarcely able to do his heavy work from the use of strong drink, now found himself able to compete with any man, sat up night after night to improve a mind that he found out that he had got, and, though formerly unable to write, was now become the secretary of a teetotal association. He wished to God that he had language to express the happiness that he felt! Another, shamed into reform by hearing himself called a ‘drunken tailor,’ had taken the pledge when Father Mathew was in London, had never since allowed any fermented liquor to enter his house, but, instead of that, had come in comfort, well-doing, and thankfulness. A third had for twelve years been a teetotaler, and, from a journeyman bricklayer, ‘intemperate, and in a very sad plight indeed,’ had grown progressively into a master; ‘had built one, then two, then four, then eight, and at last a whole street of houses. In addition to that, he had now got a good

house of his own, he owed no man; he had £500 to lay his hand on when he wanted it, and he had all the comforts which health and a good conscience could impart.’ This brave fellow, in his joy, could not help breaking out into a singing thankfulness:—

When Winter, with its frosts and snow,  
Sheds darkness o’er the scene,  
I feel how happy I am now,  
To what I once had been.

Such was the language of honest, hard-working men on Monday evening in Exeter Hall, listened to by crowding thousands, who could give a rapturous response to the glad-some truths thus expressed. Another, who had been the carrier of a hod to the last speaker, a poor wretched drunkard, renting a room at 9d per week, had succeeded in throwing away the hod, had raised a little money, set up for himself, now owned three houses and two vans, and was a respectable coal and coke dealer, renting a house at £49 per annum.

Now look on another picture copied from the same article—

“In this country, where the cause of temperance first originated—in this great city, where, during the last several years, the amount of intoxication has been so wonderfully diminishing—falling from 32,635 cases in 1832, to 16,461 cases in 1848—suddenly there has revealed itself a system of slavery such as America cannot charge itself with; a system of brutal and brutish tyranny such as before was undreamt of as mid all the dark crimes of the Metropolis.—We allude to those cormorants of the river side—those publicans and sinners of the Thames—whom the Metropolitan Commissioner of the ‘*Morning Chronicle*’ has dragged to the astonished day-light; those wretched pothouse-keepers, mingled with some butchers and grocers, who contract to ballast the ships going out, and to unload timber that is come in. We trust that there is scarcely an Englishman who has not read the case of the *Ballast Heavers and Lumpers*, as given in the ‘*Morning Chronicle*’ of Friday and Tuesday last. It is to be wished that every one should go through the terrible details there given, that they may learn to what abysses of cannibalism and harpyism men in this country and city, bearing the disgraced name of Englishmen and Christians, can descend. Of all the awful atrocities that the revelations of the ‘*Morning Chronicle*,’ in town and country, have made known, there are none that strike us as so utterly repulsive, inhuman, and detestable, as these. Here is a set of men who deliberately project and live upon