

assistance from Him who can and will assist "if we ask and knock."

The history of Lot, and next after Noah, need only be alluded to to give a satisfactory distaste of intemperance. The mighty Babylonian Empire in its latter years became inundated with drunkenness; the consequences was, it was invaded by a tectotal Son of Temperance, Cyrus, with an army of sons of temperance, and Babylon was taken at night, when the whole people and defenders were drunk, keeping a great National festival. It is worthy of passing notice, that the conqueror's son became a drunkard, and from him is dated the downfall of this mighty empire.—As late as the time of Alexander the Great, we find total abstinence recommended by the physicians even to the drunken and sensual monarch. Pliny, the historian, tells us that Androcydes, a physician distinguished for his wisdom, wrote Alexander desiring him to abstain from intemperance.—"Remember, O King, that when you are about to drink wine, you are going to drink the blood of the earth." Solomon adds an advice for us about wine, "it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder," and further "it is not for Kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor Princes strong drink." Had Alexander taken the advice of Androcydes, he might have long enjoyed the fruits of his labors, but he drank wine, killed himself and broke in pieces his splendid empire.

It is on record that the ancient Greeks recommended and practised abstinence. Homer says, "the gods did not drink wine," therefore they were immortal. A plain proof that drinking wine was regarded as at variance with immortality and glory. It is well known the ancient Romans did not drink wine. Gibbon, the historian, observes, "that in the age of Homer, the vine grew wild in Sicily and neighboring shores; but no wine was made from it." Pliny asserts that wine was not used by the ancient inhabitants of Italy: we know that wine became popular in after times in Rome. Hence the decline and fall of this gorgeous Republic or imperial domination. Observe, Sons of Temperance.—Rome followed Babylon, Persia, and Greece, and where are these empires now? And who does not know that drinking and sensuality hurried them to ruin? Intoxicating liquors were not in general use in Queen Boadicea's time, for in an eloquent speech to her warriors, A. D. 61, she says, "to us every herb and root is food, and every stream of water our wine." About the 5th century ale was introduced. At that time it was costly: a cask of spiced ale, measuring 9 pails, was sold for £7 10s., and a cask of common ale, same measure, about £3 15. Hypocras, a wine mixed with honey; and pigment, a wine composed of honey, wine, and spices, all were high priced. In course of time, however, malt liquors, in the various forms of beer, porter, ale, and burton began to be used more generally—the Court, the Monasteries, and the Barones, seemed to vie with each other in obtaining and administering every variety of intoxicating drinks. Hence the corruption of the people of all grades and conditions, with an incalculable amount of disease and death; the dreadful result, the history of which in every age had been written in lines of blood. The discovery of Alcohol in the 9th century, and its being eventually brought into general use, seemed to promise to the God of Wine the entire immolation of the whole human family, till distillation brought out the diabolical fiend in his infernal and insidious desolating spirit, formerly concealed in the unfermented juice of the grape, in solutions of malt, in decoctions of hellebore, opium, or other deleterious or villainous drugs, had carried on with telegraph speed, incest, robbery, arson, and cruel death, with all its horrid concomitants, for centuries. But now, arrived at full maturity, and no longer diluted or associated with any thing that could nourish the human frame, it fell with all its ponderous and grinding venom, like the accursed demon, or rather dragon of the Apocalypse, without mercy on the world.

Millions have perished already by its poison, and never was the colony more active than at present in hastening its own corruption and ruin, for even the governing powers at this moment, for a paltry matter of revenue, leech like, draw this gold at the cost and expense of the souls and bodies of our Lady Queen's loyal and gallant subjects of these British North American Colonies. Let him Tophet drinking town avoid the stream of lurid wine and brandy flowing from Beizebub's catacombs, yelet in his own locality—"burning lava," distilled amid ten thousand thunders, bottled and barrelled under the imprecations of millions of demons, and abscatulated and injured souls of men and women who have been victimised and cheated by "Licensed Tavern-

keepers;" or rather call them Pandemoniums for engulfing the unfortunate, miserable, neglected, left handed Debris, and abortions of our common community, and where this arch, demon of the nineteenth century is nightly keeping up his infernal, contaminating orgies in our very "diggins," to the injury of every one in our happy Christian country. Let all my brethren look well to their homes and families, and even our neighbors, lest the fate of the nations of old fall double fold on our own happy homes. For should "Total Abstinence" fail to accomplish the great and mighty reformation proposed, and should the villainous, the desolating plague, more mortal and hideous than the Indian cholera, still continue among us, then, in the black downfall of "Babylon, Nineveh and Rome," we may read the dreadful doom of our own dear and beloved country. Which, may Heaven avert.

JOHN BLAND.

FOR THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

### THE VICTIM.

Few persons have commenced the married life with a more pleasing prospect of happiness and prosperity before them than James Douglas and Mary Cameron. Never was a newly married pair more happy; every person who knew them predicted for them a long life of uninterrupted felicity. For some time Providence smiled upon them; all their efforts were crowned with success, and no one lived more happily than they. But a sad reverse soon came on. In the autumn of 1832, James went to "the fair" to buy some cattle. After purchasing, the seller insisted on his drinking with him. James at first refused, but the other insisting and declaring he would be offended if he did not, James complied. Succeeding fairs brought succeeding invitations of the same kind, and the reluctance to comply soon disappeared. By degrees a liking for intoxicating drink grew upon him, and he soon considered it quite an indispensable part of his business when in town to call at the hotel, and take a glass in the company of those who seduced him. Thus a thirst was created for intoxicating liquors, and he felt a burning desire to satisfy it. About a year from the time mentioned above, he again went to the fair. As yet he attended to his business, almost as punctually as ever, and had lost nothing of his respectability in the eyes of his neighbors. This day he drank deeper than usual, and it was late before he attempted to return. When he did so, he was scarcely able to stand, much less to walk. His wife, alarmed at his absence, which was considerably longer than usual, determined to go and meet him, or see what detained him.

She had not gone far before she met him staggering from one side of the road to the other. Deeply grieved to see him in this state, she helped him home, and placed his supper before him as usual. But what most grieved her was the harsh, sullen manner in which he spoke to her. Next morning, when she spoke to him of his conduct the preceding night, he expressed regret, and promised amendment. For a time he kept his word, and attended to his business as well as before. But the tempter again overcame him. Again he promised reformation, and again he broke his word. The demon had too strong a hold of him to be easily shaken off; it required greater resolution that James Douglas possessed to overcome so powerful a foe. From bad he went on to worse—his evenings, instead of being spent in the company of his wife and children, as formerly, were passed in the grogshop, in the company of a set of drunkards. He who had once been looked up to as an example of industry and sobriety, was changed to one of the most profligate of drunkards. The rent of his farm became due, and he was unable to meet it. The greater part of his stock was sold to pay it, and his landlord refused to allow him to remain on the farm any longer. Hardly knowing what to do, he sold off the remainder of his stock and furniture—took a passage for himself, his wife and children, in an immigrant ship,