

Canada Temperance Advocate.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor do any thing by which thy brother is made to stumble, or to fall, or is weakened."—Rom. xiv. 21—*Macnight's Translation.*

PLEDGE OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

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 DISCOURTEGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

MONTREAL, MARCH 15, 1818.

THE DISTILLER'S FOREMAN; OR, THE TRIPLE DESTRUCTION.—No. II.

We may suppose the foreman meditating again respecting his employment. His employer had more than half persuaded him that there was not only no harm in the manufacture and traffic in intoxicating drinks, but that, on the contrary, they should be, by all means, encouraged as a source of good to the community. "I have heard a great deal about the destruction of food involved in the manufacture, and the destruction of body and soul which seems involved in their common use; but somehow, certainly, he had the best of it, when I tried to argue with him. I thought there was a great destruction of grain in distilling and brewing—as much, they say, for Great Britain as fifty million bushels. But he says that it is in the destruction of some things, and the wearing and spoiling of other things, that there is any circulation of money—that the grain is destroyed in making bread of it, as well as in making whisky; and that the farmers are most thankful to those who use the most of what is raised from the soil; for, of course, the greater the demand, the better is the price and when the farmers are well off, there is a prosperous country, for they, of course, are then best able to become customers of the importers or manufacturers of goods of any kind. Now, if our business, for the product of which there is an extensive demand, takes off a large portion of the farm produce, leaving a good market for the remainder to be used in other forms, then, it must necessarily and obviously be a good one for the country, and one which ought, by all means, to be prosecuted by us, and encouraged by the community. They talk about the destruction of food; but food is destroyed in whatever shape it is used. Then, again, large manufactories are always good, from the amount of money they circulate amongst the labouring population; and such ought to be specially encouraged when the raw material which they work up is of home growth, for we have thus all the profits and all the advantages within ourselves."

Thus might be supposed to reason the foreman when some one called him, and a farmer presented himself to receive a ticket for a load of wheat.

"Well, Mr. Foreman, I have sold you good barley for your distillery before now, but I never sold you wheat. You must get a fine price for your whisky, to allow you to pay a dollar a bushel for wheat. I more than half doubt if it is right to sell you so good an article to have it destroyed."

"Destroyed! Why, is your wheat not destroyed, let you sell it to whom you may? If the baker makes a loaf of it, he sells it to a man who has it destroyed, or consumed, or anything you like to call it. Whoever buys the wheat, buys it to destroy it, and pays you money for it, out of which you get your living, while, at the

same time, you are able to pay your labourers. Thus you see that whoever buys your wheat at a good price, and thus keeps up the price, is a good friend to you. Get you along, raise more wheat, barley, or whatever you can, sell it at the best rate, and never trouble yourself what the buyer does with it. The more manufactories there are in a community, the more work there is for those willing to work, and, consequently, the better for that community. If money is only circulated, that is the great thing. Then every one gets a little of it into his hand for a short time; as it passes along, he gets his living out of it, and hands it along to another, who, in his turn, gets his bread. At least, so master says, for I had a long talk with him on the subject. I had had running in my mind some ideas about the destruction of food. You see it was this famine that made me think about it. The English papers said that if there had not been 50,000,000 bushels of grain consumed in distilling and brewing, there would have been enough of food for five millions of people, and there never would have been a syllable about famine. As I was saying, I had a talk with master about it; but he knows all about political economy, and soon showed me that I must be mistaken, and that it was just a foolish notion I had, that I should get over as fast as I could. He said any day when I had leisure (I wonder when that day will be) he would let me have a loan of a book called 'The Wealth of Nations,' which, he said, would let me see quite clearly that I had not understood the matter, and that the more manufactures were carried on in a country the better. And then he said, true enough to be sure, that there was no manufacture in the country equal to ours in extent. Why, there is a distillery for almost every town, and we keep in employment the farmer, the tavern-keeper, and all the workpeople connected with them, independent of the men we have here. As I said before, just keep money circulating—keep every one employed, and then all goes right. Where there is plenty of money going about, there is plenty of food to be got, say what you like about destruction. If I employ a gang of men to dig holes in my field and fill them up again, if I pay them for it, that is all they need care about it. If I give them constant employment at the digging, they live and thrive quite as well as at any kind of labour. Now, we have got all these handsome works, which may be considered as in a double sense erected for the public good—they supply a commodity for which there is a large demand, and they create a circulation of money more extensively than any thing else that is manufactured in the Province."

"Well, Mr. Foreman, Job once said, 'How forcible are right words, but what doth your arguing prove.' You have turned, under your master's teaching, quite a political economist. I must leave you now, but we will have a talk about it soon. You have, however, forgotten one of the advantages of the distillery. It creates employment not merely to farmers and tavern-keepers, but also for lawyers, constables, judges, gaolers, &c., in this world, and, I fear, also employment in another world for other beings. Of that I say nothing more; but there is certainly in the matter a triple destruction—a destruction of food, destruction of bodies, and destruction of souls, and I should not wish to be responsible for it.

LEGISLATION IN THE MATTER.

The friends of total abstinence cannot but feel gratified with the information, that the evils attending the common use of alcoholic liquors are shortly to be brought particularly under the observation of government, as we find Colonel Gage, in the House of Assembly, has moved for a committee to inquire into the best means for arresting the evils of intemperance.