

THE CANADIAN Son of Temperance.

Toronto, Tuesday, March 25, 1851.

"My son, look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."—*Proverbs, Chap. 23.*

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

AIR:—"From Greenland's Icy Mountains."

From Abram's plains of glory,
To Lundy's field of blood,
O'er many a theme of story
By proud Ontario's flood,
On plains all stained with battle,
By altars rich with prayer,
"The sounds of conflicts rattle,
But yet no sword is there."

From mountains aged and hoary,
From plains of beauty rare,
Behold advance with glory,
The Sons of Temperance fair;
Their meaning oh how gladly
The reeling drunkard hears,
And woman's thanks, all sadly,
Burst out with glistening tears.

Advance! advance with gladness,
Nor pause while yet remains,
A victim in his madness,
A wretch bound down in chains.
Till Eve's forsaken daughter,
The captive now is free,
Nor blood is there, nor slaughter,
But all is liberty.

Then from each sparkling fountain,
Burst forth the theme of praise,
And every snow-clad mountain,
Re-echo back the lays.
Like spray by tempest scattered,
Old Bacchus' strength is gone,
"His gilded cup lies shattered,
And still the cry is—on."

THE CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR BY THE WORKING CLASSES IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Of all the foolish ways to which men (especially working men, who earn their livelihood with great toil) resort, to spend their spare money, none can for a moment compare with that, of spending it for intoxicating drinks. Many a man, who earns his dollar a-day, and who has an excellent wife at home, trying to save money for him; and who has a large family of children dependent upon him, will spend one-fourth of it in drinking liquor, and in treating drinking companions. Upon the Sabbath day this man will spend quite as much. Thus at the end of a month he has spent £1 17s. 6d., which ought to have gone to keep his family in comfort. Suppose on the other hand he has spent only

half that sum or 7^{d.} per day, yet in the course of a month, we find it counts up to 18s. 9d., or to £11 5s. 0d. for the year. Here is a sum, sufficient to school his children, and to supply his family with useful books and newspapers!! Now, we are not wrong in saying that there are hundreds of instances of working men in Toronto, and thousands of them in Canada, spending their 1s. 3d. and their 7^{d.} each day of the year in liquor,—yet when they do this they never think that they are to that extent, robbing a dear wife and poor little children! They do not think that they are absolutely all the while injuring their bodily health! Oh my friend, whoever you are, that may ponder over these lines, if you know your welfare and your duty to God and your dear fire-side, you will at once and forever abandon the use of all intoxicating drinks! Away with the use of liquors, wine, beer and cider!! Let there be no hankering reserve. Resolve to be free at once and forever. Nay, you say, but a little drink helps me to work—it cheers the spirits—it makes me jovial—it makes me spend my heavy hours with ease, and keeps me on good terms with my old neighbor John Tomkins the innkeeper. 'Then again, unless I go and treat or drink with neighbor Thompson, he will not come to shoe his horses, or to get his boots mended, or a new coat made. Be not deceived my friend. Your neighbor will think all the more of you (in the secret chamber of his soul) for refusing to drink with him. In the end you will get more custom. You will at least save your money—your health, and do your duty to God and your family. No sober and industrious man was ever known to starve. The friends of alcohol would employ a sober blacksmith—tailor, shoemaker, doctor or lawyer, sooner than one given to drink. No one knows how soon a moderate drinker may become an immoderate one. And as for strength, it adds nothing to your physical powers. It stimulates them for a time but weakens them in the end. The liquor of God—pure water never was known to injure any man. It will if your conscience and mind are right cheer your spirits more than alcohol, and will in the end enable you to bear more fatigue than it. We were told not long since of a mechanic in Toronto who drank two quarts of beer every forenoon: yet that man told us he was temperate. He has since failed. We heard a man in Toronto not long since, say that he had drunk 43 glasses of liquor in travelling from Toronto to the Holland Landing. That man was not accounted a drunkard by his neighbors, yet he was in secret such. He is now, however, among that band of wretches who love "pinty, love and melody."

The following account of the consumption of

liquors in England is probably correct. Read it and ponder.—[Editor Son.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

This question has been treated by Mr. G. R. Porter, the able Secretary of the Board of Trade, in a paper read at the British Association for the Advancement of Science; and his conclusions are confirmatory of those arrived at some years since by the Committee of the House of Commons on drunkenness. "It would appear," says Mr. Porter, "that the people, and chiefly the working classes of England, Scotland, and Ireland, voluntarily tax themselves for the enjoyment of only three articles, neither of which is of any absolute necessity, to the following amount:

British and colonial Spirits, -	£20,810,208
Brandy, - - - - -	3,281,250
Total of Spirits, - - -	£24,091,458
Beer of all kinds, exclusive of that brewed in private families, - - - - -	£25,383,165
Tobacco and snuff, - - - -	7,588,607
Total, - - - - -	£57,063,230"

If Mr. Porter had added the foreign wines consumed, which amounted last year to 6,487,689 gallons, paying a duty of about £1,800,000, and probably selling to the consumer for £5,000,000 sterling (still excluding the beer brewed in private families) would have been thus:

Cost of Spirits, - - - - -	£24,091,458
do. Wine, - - - - -	5,000,000
do. Beer, - - - - -	25,383,165
do. Tobacco, - - - - -	7,588,608
Total, - - - - -	£62,063,230

Mr. Porter's reason for excluding foreign wines, however, was, that they are chiefly consumed by the richer classes, whereas spirits, beer and tobacco are consumed in a far larger proportion by the working classes, and his object was to ascertain (as the title of his paper expressed) "the self-imposed taxation of the working classes of the United Kingdom."

It appears, then, that the amount of this self-imposed taxation of the working classes is £57,000,000 a-year. And as the working classes form about three-fourths of the whole population, or about 20,000,000, and the male adults from about one-fourth of that number, or 5,000,000, it would seem that the consumption of intoxicating liquors and tobacco amounts to £11 8s. a-year, or about 4s. 5d. per week, for every male adult of the working classes throughout the kingdom. Something, however, ought to be deducted on account of the consumption of women and boys, and something also on account of the consumption of these articles by the richer classes: but still the amount left as consumed by the working men must be enormously and distressingly great. If we were to estimate their consumption at £40,000,000 sterling, being an average of £8 a-year, or 8s. a-week each man, we fear it would be under the mark.

It cannot be doubted that a large proportion of the beer consumed is taken not as needful food, but in the way of indulgence, and that it ministers far more to drunkenness than to strength. And of the ardent spirits we may safely assume that almost the whole are taken as mere stimulants, and are excessively prejudicial to health, sobriety, industry, morals, and comfort.

If this forty millions of self-imposed taxation paid by the working classes were laid out on wholesome food, decent clothing, comfortable furniture, books, education, and other laudable purposes,—if a fair proportion of it was laid by in Savings' Banks or Provident Societies against the