

THE CANADIAN Son of Temperance.

Toronto, Tuesday, April 22, 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.*

"WHY SHOULD I REFRAIN FROM THE USE, IN MODERATE QUANTITIES, OF WINE BECAUSE MY FELLOW MAN MAKES AN IM-MODERATE USE OF IT?"

READER this excuse has sounded in our ears frequently from the voice of those we respect and whose intelligence is, in other respects, great. We will ask you a question in return. Do you believe in God and in the glorious saying that fell from Jesus Christ; which was—"Love thy neighbour as thyself?" You know another of His sayings, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." You will also agree with us, that man came into the world, not to gratify his own peculiar whims and selfishness, but for a moral purpose; which is to fit himself to live as a spirit, with angels around the throne of the Almighty forever. Well if this be the object of life is it to much too ask you to refrain from the use of that substance *alcohol—beer, wine, and spirits*—which your experience and your conscience tell you in a voice of thunder have sent more of your fellow men to an untimely grave—the grave of the lunatic—the grave of the suicide—the grave of the adulterer—the grave of the murderer and the grave of the self-abandoned prostitute, than all the other evils on earth? Is there no eye looking to you for an example?—Did no brother ever fall through your example? Could you at any time during your life have saved a fellow man from the drunkard's fate, by refusing to drink wine with him?

Can you do without that which to use is to tempt, and to use is to set an example? If you throw a pebble into a still lake it will cast its circles afar, and the limits of its action you cannot measure. So one glass may lead to another—may lead a fellow man to another until another and another may lead him to the grave and his wife to beggary.

"Yes but what is that to me? I came into the world for myself and not for others." In the day that shall reveal the will of God plainly, when it shall be written on the walls of heaven in letters of the brightness of the sun, it will not so be said. Then you will see it was your duty so to act on earth, as to lead your fellow men from error. Yet although you admit the power of example, and that alcohol slays its thousands

of the poor and of the rich, the learned and the ignorant, in America and Europe, and that you could live without it, still you will gratify a caprice and humour a custom of Society!

THE HEALTH OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

It is a remarkable fact fully proved in the United States, and in Canada, that Sons of Temperance according to their numbers, as compared with persons, not Sons, under the same circumstances in life, are decidedly more healthy. In 1849 when the Cholera was prevailing about New Orleans and in the South Western American States, much fewer persons known to be Sons of Temperance, died with this disease than those who died known not to be such; comparative numbers being taken into consideration. We know from observation of the deaths by Cholera in Canada in 1832, 1834, and 1849, that the temperate man escaped where the drunken was carried off. Great havoc was made in these years among habitual drinkers of alcohol. It is a fact within the knowledge of all the members of the Ontario Division, numbering now upwards of 250 Sons, that for a year past, no money has been withdrawn from its treasury for the sick; nor has any member in it been seriously sick or died.

This Division is composed of all classes in Society. Take any other body of men of their size in Toronto, and see if the same can be said of them. The result is much the same all over Canada. Our principles then conduce to health and vigor of body. The use of alcohol in ever so small a quantity deranges the healthy action of the stomach. In this view of our order, as a pecuniary profit, it is the interest of all to join us. It is not upon this ground alone that they should join,—but upon higher ones of benevolence and good will to men. Sons are also true and honorable, in the payment of benefits to sick brethren. We heard when in Niagara lately, of a striking instance of good faith, in the Thorold or Hydraulic Division of this kind. This Division expended £50 in the cure of a sick brother. This subject is only now touched upon by us and will form the subject of a long article hereafter.

SUPPRESSION OF INTemperance ACT.

An article on this subject, in continuation of that in our last number, being long, is omitted in this, but will appear in the first May number. This very important act came into force on the 5th April, instant. Its provisions we find, on a careful perusal, are more stringent than many suppose. There is a current impression abroad that it only applies to Lower Canada, but this

we are satisfied is a mistake, as the enemies of sobriety will find to their cost, if they test the question.

BROTHER DICK.

In this number our readers will receive, a report of the proceedings of this brother since the fall of 1849. We commend a careful perusal. It has been mentioned to us in several places, especially at Niagara, that it was supposed Bro. Dick had in part the editorial management of this magazine or was interested therein. This is quite a mistake. He has taken no more interest in our undertaking than many other officers in the Ontario Division. His friendship extends to our enterprise as it does to any good undertaking in Canada. Bros. Ross, Lawson, Bentley, Webb, Williams and others have evinced a like friendship. Experience in life has inclined us to view the actions of others favorably until we know they are wrong. We believe Bro. Dick has exerted himself for the good of the cause and has rendered it essential service.

TEMPERANCE HOUSES.

In this number will be found, a letter from Brother Cridge who is a Book agent and travels a good deal in the country. The subject to which it alludes, is an important one and deserves the attention of all Sons. We have had now in Canada since the year 1831, old temperance societies, in all our towns and villages, and although much has been said about temperance, and many sighs uttered and tears dropped over drunkards fate; yet no really energetic measures have been resorted to, to put down intemperance. No means were taken to encourage temperance houses and where they existed the lip loving friends of the cause would go to spirit selling taverns in preference. The Sons in Canada have started differently. We have action, energy, and a more practical way of exhibiting our love for the cause. This spirit is also exhibited in the American States. It is hoped it will always continue. Every city and town and village in many of the American States has its well kept temperance Inn. Buffalo has two or three large Inns of this kind. If temperance principles are to be carried out in Canada, we must not sleep as we have done for twenty years past. We must work and pay a little for it too. To bring Mr. Gough here and get up an excitement, for a week and obtain 1400 names, signed to keep the pledge, may all be very well; but those 1400 names are of no use unless their owners, and those who obtained them, use a little of their time and money to keep up the progress of the cause. The Sons have been in progress now only a little better than two years and number only about 15,000, and yet at this time, Upper Canada is in a perfect excitement