

# The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

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F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1883.

## TEMPERANCE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.

There is no other department of work, for the promotion of the great Temperance Reform, possessed of the potency that is latent in this. If our twenty thousand Canadian teachers would lay before their pupils the truth in relation to the effects of alcohol upon the body and mind, and the effects of the liquor traffic upon society and the state, the next generation would have no more toleration for our present unchristian practices than we have to-day for the slave-holding and witch-burning barbarities of our less enlightened ancestors.

Such instruction is strictly one of the duties of those who hold the important and responsible position of moulders of the minds and morals of the coming age. A teacher ought, and is by law required, to impart sound information and develop right habits in reference to honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness, proper diet, and all that affects bodily health and social morality; how can he do this without warning against the greatest danger to health and morality that his pupils must meet in after life. At the very least, the chemical properties and physiological effects of alcohol ought to be explained to every boy and girl in our public schools. This, the law permits. This, if we rightly understand it, the law in most of our provinces requires; and teachers in fulfilling this requirement will do more towards the mitigation and ultimate removal of our national curse than can be accomplished by the united agencies of pulpit, platform, press and parliament.

We commend to our readers a selected article on another page, in reference to this matter, and we hope to shortly publish in THE CANADA CITIZEN a series of carefully prepared articles for the assistance and guidance of teachers in placing temperance truth before their classes.

### CAPTAIN WEBB.

A thrill of horror has gone through the civilized world at the sad and sudden end of a truly brave and useful life. We have nothing to say in justification of the recklessness that led to the terrible catastrophe of the Niagara whirlpool, but we cannot withhold our sympathy with the families so sorely bereaved, nor our expressions of regret for the tragic death of one who had saved the lives of so many others. If any good could have resulted from the

accomplishment of the feat that Captain Webb attempted, there would have been martyrdom and glory in his heroic conduct; but, with the chances of winning very small, he staked his life against the worthless fame of having done what no one else would dare.

There is a lesson to be learned from the story of this uncrowned close of a promising career. There are many noble souls who to-day are running the awful risk of the whirlpools and rocks that threaten them in certain courses of life, and yet there is not even the chance of any benefit to offset the treasures of health, life, character, and endearing ties that they place in such imminent peril. O, friends! brave, manly, talented, who ride—you believe safely—the dangerous rapids of social drinking customs! even if the chances be in your favor, tell us *what can you gain* by staking so much? Do you get any good in return for the danger in which you place yourself, and for the moral certainty that your example will encourage the undertaking of the same risk by those who will be certain to fail, and for whose wreck you would sorely and sincerely grieve.

### "LICENSE" OR "NO LICENSE."

Two letters have already been published in THE CANADA CITIZEN favoring the system of an annual vote on the question of licensing the sale of liquor. The proposal is,—That at the yearly municipal elections, the voters should deposit a ballot marked "License," or "No license," and that no license should be granted in any year to take effect in any polling sub-division in which a majority of the votes cast were marked "No license."

We believe that the only legislation that ought to exist in reference to the liquor traffic, would be an Act prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating beverages. We believe that such an enactment would to-day receive the assent and support of our Canadian citizens. Pending this, however, or tending towards it, we are in favor of any just measure of limitation, and will support any legislation empowering our people to secure for themselves the protection that the law will not directly give.

Let the proposal be made and carried out, in reference to whole municipalities, as well as polling subdivisions; then let women, equally with men, have the right to say whether or not the safety of their loved ones and their homes shall be imperilled by a licensed liquor-shop close by, and we believe the legalized drink-traffic would at once be a thing of the past in nearly our whole Dominion. There is nothing in either of these suggestions, that ought to meet with opposition from any lover of fair play. It is iniquitous to force upon any section of the community, against its will, any system or institution that can do no person any good; much more so to compel it by law to tolerate that which is doing untold harm, and which it knows and feels, is a nuisance and a curse.

The local option clauses of the New License Act cannot take the place of the above proposals. They involve in the attempt to use them, all the expense and cumbrous appliances of a special election, in addition to the trouble of getting up a preliminary petition. Even then the effort must prove fruitless, unless there is secured in favor of prohibition the unreasonable requirement of two-thirds of the votes polled. Everybody knows that it is easier to get out the anti-temperance voters than it is to get out the others, that the voters are nearly all men, and that almost all women are opposed to the drink-traffic. Is it not utterly unfair that two-fifths-plus-one of the men should have the power of forcing the liquor trade upon a community against the wishes of the rest of the men and nearly all the women as well.

Let us suppose the case of a village with a population of one thousand souls, with say one hundred registered voters. The law allows that village to have four licensed taverns. If each tavern-