

What is to be done in such a case? We have heard it said, and have supposed it to be tolerably correct philosophy—"Remove the cause and the effect will cease." But in these days of progress it seems to be taken for granted, that if the effect be nourished and protected the cause will cease. Our neighbour of the *Gazette* has given us a chapter on vagrancy. He is quite earnest to have the evil stopt. He says:—

"Have the Government of Canada or the citizens of Montreal performed their duty towards these persons, and towards society, of which these form so dangerous an element? Decidedly not,—and it behoves the people of this city either to take some action of themselves to remedy the most serious evil indicated, or to petition Government to do it. The city or the Province should forthwith provide for the destitute, (and for the most part dissolute) some place where, apart from the evil influences of a Common Gaol, they may be made, in so far as it is possible, to earn their subsistence. Dr. Nelson recommends that the men should be made to labour upon the roads or streets, and perhaps this is as good a purpose as their work could be turned to. The Common Council of the city should be authorized to make the necessary bye-laws, and appoint the necessary officers to carry the proposition into effect."

Very good; we cannot be the opponents of sanitary and social reforms providing they be based on sound principles; but in the matter of vagrancy and crime, all experience goes to show that they cannot be diminished by Alms-houses and Houses of Refuge. The poor we have always with us, and for these provision should be made. We have many in all our large towns who claim our sympathy and our support. Their poverty is not their fault. But we have multitudes whose poverty and destitution are criminal, because produced by sinful habits and vicious indulgence. Assume that we may and ought to build houses of refuge for vagrant children, but ought we at the same time to build distilleries and license grog-shops, and thereby secure the multiplication of drunken parents who neglect their children and throw them on the public for support. We think not. In this country honest industry will find work and wages. There is room for all—there ought to be land for the landless for we have vast tracts of uncultivated territory. We have hundreds of miles of Rail Road in course of building. Our resources of national strength and advancement are unbounded. One unmitigated evil is in the midst of us. It is not the want of Houses of Industry and Refuge. It is the liquor traffic. This is the curse of our country—the gangrene of our industry—the poison of our schools—the ruin of our churches. By it our vagrants are made. Put an end to that baneful business by the power of the Maine Law. Wise legislation will not wholly arrest poverty, or sickness, or crime, but it will do much to mitigate unavoidable physical evils. It will prevent much of crime and destitution. But let all men be well persuaded, that while the evil tree of intemperance is alive at the roots, irrigated by the streams of vicious legislation, its branches will spread widely and awfully. Trim it if you will, pick up its stray leaves, and pile its branches in Houses of Refuge, but still it grows, and your work of trimming, and picking, and piling continues until doomsday. Had we not better kill that tree? How? By the Maine Law. What say you gentle Reader?

Toronto—Its Morals and Mayor.

Toronto is no mean city. Time was when it abounded in mud, and, on a wet day in the fall of the year, was dismal enough. Our recollections of those days are fragrant with miasmatic perfumes, when pavements were scarce, and swampish cavities abundant. King Street and Yonge Street, and many other streets are not what they once were. Toronto is no mean city. It is, however, to be regretted, that advancing civilization and commercial improvement have brought with them attendant evils of great magnitude. Three hundred grog-shops and more, are just so many nuisances—nothing better, and they have produced a large proportion of the crime and misery which trouble the citizens. Many of these have long felt wherein their chief grievance lay, and a numerous signed memorial to the worthy Mayor Bowes, led to the holding of a large public meeting in St. Lawrence Hall, at which the Mayor presided. The *North American* gives a good report of the meeting. The *Christian Guardian* has a readable article on the subject, and other papers favor the temperance aspect of the movement. We do not believe that Toronto is worse than other places of the same dimensions in British America, but a great number of its citizens are alive to their painful position in reference to the liquor business, and are resolved on measures for the mitigation or entire removal of that curse. The following resolution passed the meeting, with an amendment to include a committee of persons to act with the Corporation:—

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the Corporation should at once take the necessary steps to collect statistical information as to the effects which the Liquor Traffic has had upon the morality, health, property, and interests generally of the citizens of Toronto, with a view to determine the propriety of continuing to legalize said traffic, and that this statistical information so collected be reported by a deputation of the Corporation to a public meeting of the citizens of Toronto, to be held in the St. Lawrence Hall, and called by the Mayor of the city, on or about the 1st day of April next ensuing.

The speech of the Mayor contained many valuable suggestions, and many important facts. Considering them as eminently useful, we place them on record. His Worship said:—

"A few evenings ago, a petition from five or six persons who are incarcerated in the County Jail, was presented to the Corporation, praying the Corporation not only to suppress taverns in the city, but to use its influence for the suppression of distilleries altogether, and if possible to prevent liquor being sold under any circumstances except for medicine. This petition was signed by men who have a practical knowledge of the effects of intemperance on themselves and on their families; and if the Committee is appointed and required proof of the influence of the traffic, here is proof of the necessity of the citizens generally trying in as far as in them lies to stay the evil effects of intemperance. (Great applause.) The inspectors of licenses have this in a measure in their own power. He thought that some of them were present; they would be able to say what steps they have taken to lessen the evils of the system; at least he hoped they would come forward and defend themselves, the allegations made, or know and feel the influence that the citizens will bring to bear upon them unless they faithfully discharge their duty. He had no objections to the meeting reflecting upon the Corporation, until they get them to do their duty in this matter. The movement was not only for the benefit of the temperate