

is evidently a stir among the friends of temperance in various parts of this district. Newburgh, Clarksville and Ernest Town are up and doing.—Pittsburg is discussing the subject; and I believe a society will shortly be instituted within the walls of Fort Henry.

I am, &c. W. F. COLLINS, Sec.

Kingston, January 29, 1840.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

SIR.—We have much pleasure in forwarding you the following brief outline of the proceedings at the public meeting of the Quebec Total Abstinence Society, held in the School-Room of the Education Society, on Tuesday evening, 4th instant. The meeting was numerous and respectable, and we felt persuaded that, considering the circumstances under which we assembled, all present were much gratified, and many will remember the evening with pleasure. The chair was occupied by JEFFERY HALE, Esq., Receiver-General of the Province, who is President of the Society. Precisely at the time appointed, the chairman rose, and after taking a concise view of the state of the Society, gave some reasons why its proceedings had not been more public, at the same time stating, that although no meetings of the nature of the present had been held for some time past, yet the work had gone forward, and there was every reason to believe that it would continue to prosper. The present meeting was held for the purpose of advocating the cause of Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks; moderation had been recommended, but it had failed in preventing the abuse of them; nothing less than total abstinence would effect the object. He also referred to official documents, stating the enormous amounts expended in England and Ireland annually, for intoxicating drinks, also the amount spent in Canada for the same object: he stated that drunkenness and debauchery are the principal causes why it is found necessary to keep up a Police establishment, at an expense of about £6000 per annum; the only benefits arising from which are, the keeping our streets clear from those scenes which otherwise would be disgusting to humanity, and annoying to the community at large; thus it was highly necessary to combine all our efforts in promoting the principles of total abstinence. As he had stated before, moderation had failed to accomplish its objects, for the ranks of drunkards were filled up from those of moderate drinkers; men do not become drunkards all at once, but certain it is that the moderate drinker does more to encourage drunkenness than the confirmed drunkard; because no individual will take pattern from him; while the respectable moderate drinker is a pattern to others, and induces many to follow on in the same course, until they become confirmed in their drunken habits. It therefore was the duty of all, to consider well what had been advanced, and he felt persuaded, that after a fair and serious consideration, it would be found that the benefits arising from a strict adherence to the principles of the Society, were calculated to promote the good, not only of individuals, but of families, and indeed of the whole community.

The chairman before taking his seat called upon Doctor JAMES DOUGLAS. This learned medical gentleman rose amid the manifestations of satisfaction by the audience. He began by reading a certificate given some years since to a number of gentlemen in this city, who had formed themselves into a society to inquire into the causes of poverty and misery which prevail to so great an extent in our city and neighbourhood. This certificate signed by eight or ten of the most respectable medical practitioners of this city, and by Dr. DOUGLAS among them, positively asserts that the principal cause of poverty and crime, is the use of intoxicating drinks. Dr. DOUGLAS said that to bring a man to a perfect state of health of body, and vigour of mind, he must be kept on the principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. Men who are prepared for prize fights, or for great bodily exercise, are kept on that principle; those who make wagers of this kind, (who are generally publicans or tavern-keepers) understand their interests better than to give their men any thing of an intoxicating nature; they are aware that the use of spirits in the smallest quantity would defeat their object. Further, some of our land surveyors who occasionally avail themselves of the services of Indians as guides through the woods, had been in the habit of giving them two or three glasses of rum per day, but they preferred that the Indians should sit and

empty their keg before starting, as thereby they could afterwards depend upon their regular assistance, until the work was concluded. Mr. Russell, who is a member of the society, had given up the practice; he gave them tea and sugar, and found that they were better fitted to pursue their duties with satisfaction to themselves and their employers. Again, the man who has grown old in the habit of drinking moderately, is looked to with great anxiety, if he has an attack of sickness, and the chances of his recovery are comparatively small: even if the individual catch cold, the doctor has not only to rally him from the effects of the disorder, but to cure him from the havoc which the use of intoxicating drinks has had upon his constitution; and in most cases, the disease reaches the lungs, and affects them so powerfully, that the man, through his moderation alone, is hurried to a premature grave. The Doctor ended his remarks by stating several facts which had come to his knowledge, and some instances where he had been present at the coroner's inquest. From information procured by him from the coroner, it appeared that the cases of sudden deaths from 1st May to 16th January last, had been 49; that out of this number 23 were cases on the water and 26 on the land. The whole number were ascertained to have occurred while the individuals were under the influence of intoxicating liquors. One case was particularly noticed. Dr. DOUGLAS was called to attend an inquest on the body of a child four years old, it was ascertained that this child had been a drunkard two years; and on the day of his death had been left alone in the house, when he had found the means of drawing spirits from a small keg within its reach, and had actually drunk himself to death. A younger child was found drunk in the house by some of the neighbours, and they supposed that the child's life had been preserved by infusing tobacco juice down its throat, and suspending it by the heels; the mother was an habitual drunkard. Another case was that of a man, who after a dispute with his wife, while both were under the influence of spirits, had cut his throat, and the wife, after forcing him to hold his head over a bucket to prevent the blood from running through the floor upon the neighbours below, had left the house to seek for more drink, and had returned two or three hours after her husband had breathed his last. Lastly, he stated that during the summer of 1838, out of some hundreds of surgical cases in the General Hospital, only four or five individuals were not under the influence of strong drink, and during the last year only seven or eight were perfectly sober. The Doctor closed by saying that he had occupied a sufficient length of time, else he could multiply facts almost to infinity, but promised on a future occasion again to advocate the same cause.

The Rev. Mr. ATKINSON, of the Congregational church in this city, then rose, and introduced the subject by reading extracts from the Review of a work by Mr. Dunlop; he related two or three anecdotes of moderate drinkers becoming drunkards, one of whom (a minister of the gospel), had become a sober man by joining a total abstinence society; and who, after having been expelled the ministry for some time, had again become a zealous and faithful preacher of the gospel of Christ. Mr. ATKINSON then met the objection that the abuse is no argument against the use of intoxicating drinks; he argued from two instances in the scriptures, in which the use of certain expressions was prohibited, because these expressions had been abused. He also brought forward the fact of a clergyman, an eminently good man, who took daily one glass of gin and water, and who, during a long life, never exceeded this quantity; his son who had been brought up under the impression that "a little does good," not possessing the same command over himself, ran gradually into excess; he became a constant guest at one of the meanest taverns in the town, and finally, his brutish habits became so disgusting, even to the keeper of this moral hell, that he was expelled from it; he left home for this continent some time since, and the relater who had been acquainted with him has not heard what has become of him.

Mr. ATKINSON closed by a powerful appeal to fathers, against teaching their offspring by their example to follow in the same steps, lest their end should be the same. He had much pleasure in stating that in Bristol, England, out of 310 reclaimed drunkards, 218 had become decidedly christian men.

We are, &c.

LE SEUR & M'LAREN, Secretaries.

Quebec, Feb. 10, 1840.