

# THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

TEMPERANCE IS THE MODERATE USE OF THINGS BENEFICIAL, AND ABSTINENCE FROM THINGS HURTFUL.

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## Selected Articles.

### The Trade in Whiskey—Let facts speak.

To the Editor of the Isle of Man Temperance Guardian.

SIR,—It appears from the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Drunkenness, that every twentieth family in the United Kingdom is engaged in the sale of intoxicating drink. Distilled spirit is sold by a very large proportion of these. If distilled spirit, then, be good and wholesome in its own nature, calculated to promote health and strength, and in no way dangerous to morals,—as it ought to be before receiving public sanction as a customary beverage,—we shall of course find among those engaged in its sale many proofs of its excellence. To enable all your readers to form a correct judgment on the subject, I now furnish a short sketch of the history, during three years, of sixteen publicans, in a country district, on the side of the same road, within the space of an English mile.

No. 1.—Had made money before commencing in business in this place. His wife, once remarkably sober and correct, gradually became a drunkard. Her husband renounced the trade to save her, but too late; she persisted in selling every thing she could pilfer for drink. She is now confined in a mad-house.

No. 2.—Got a certificate for selling spirits; never paid the gauger, and had his sign-board pulled down: got ten gallons of whiskey, and his wife and he drank at it till it was done. He is now in gaol for stealing ducks.

No. 3.—Mother-in-law of No. 1, whose wife is mad; also set up in this house, but had to pull down her sign-board in a very short time. She is an old whiskey-seller, and a great drunkard. She had a son who killed himself drinking, and her three daughters still living are all drunkards.

No. 4.—Had £1100 when he came to this place; lived nine years in it as a whiskey-seller, and though latterly having no burden of a family upon him, he bequeathed only £264. He was a drunkard. One of his sons was drowned through drunkenness, a second killed himself drinking, a third is living still, a drunken publican.

No. 5.—Killed himself drinking. He died in an awfully hardened state, railing against God and blaspheming. His father was a drunkard, his mother and four sisters are all confirmed drunkards. His mother lately came into a prayer-meeting quite drunk.

No. 6.—Both husband and wife are sots. The wife died of drunkenness, and the husband has destroyed himself and his property so rapidly, that he was compelled to assign

over his whole property to trustees, and renounce the trade.

No. 7.—The successor of No. 6, in the same house, is a thorough drunkard, and so is his wife. He is nephew to No. 1, whose wife is mad.—N. B. Near this house lives a woman who keeps a private bottle; that is, sells spirits without a license.

No. 8.—Came to his house a sober, quiet man, but almost immediately became a drunkard. A Christian who visited him on his death-bed told me, that at the very time he was asking him to pray for him, he railed at his wife for not bringing him whiskey fast enough, and he actually shrieked with frantic impatience for the maddening drink. He was found naked and dead on the kitchen floor in the morning, having made a last and ineffectual effort to reach the whiskey barrel. His wife was a desperate drunkard, but some time since she swore against whiskey; she still, however, continues to deal forth to others the poison which she has sworn on the holy Evangelists not to taste herself.

No. 9.—Had two wives who killed themselves by drinking. The second put a jug of whiskey to her head, behind the shop-door, while an acquaintance of mine was present, and drank such a quantity, that, in a few minutes, she was senseless. The first wife kept a bottle under her pillow, and lay in bed drinking till she died. At her death her husband had £300, two puncheons of whiskey, worth £92, £25 worth of rum, £25 of cash in his drawer, and a well-furnished house: in three years his second wife was dead of drunkenness, and he was so drunk at her funeral as not to be able to accompany her corpse; and all his property was gone, so that with much difficulty he got off to America.

No. 10.—Only about two years in the trade, yet a heavy drinker at night, though contriving, thus far, to keep pretty steady during the day. Two years since his wife was an active, well-proportioned little woman; now she is a bloated, swollen, shapeless monster.

No. 11.—Does not let people sit in his house, nor his door to be open on Sundays. He says he is making nothing by the trade, and intends giving it up. He commenced the business a short time since, and has another trade.

No. 12.—Not more than two years in the spirit trade, yet his wife is a drunkard and so is he; and he is going rapidly to ruin.

No. 13.—Only about a year in business, and seldom at home. He seems to have escaped hitherto.

No. 14.—A raging riotous drunkard, who has been often before courts of justice for assaults and various offences.

No. 15.—A great drunkard: a publican for forty years: very poor and very wicked: had a tremendously strong constitution: one of the devil's decoys, who has buried many generations of his drinking companions.—When he heard read from a newspaper that two glasses of whiskey at once with sulphur in the morning, were a grand preventative of cholera, he exclaimed with delight that he never heard so much good sense read out of a newspaper before. His wife would not let distilled spirits enter her lips: She had four fine daughters, who all followed her example and did well; she had an only son, who did not, and is now a sot.

No. 16.—The second husband of a woman, who was once respectable and rich, but who in the spirit trade became a drunkard, though taking a religious periodical and making a religious profession. She became horribly wicked and reckless. Her former husband would, in the latter part of his life, run to a winey cask, when he could steal an opportunity, drawing a jug full, and drink at it till he fell senseless to the ground. The surviving husband is still a publican, and one night when he was drunk, he gave his wife such a beating that in the morning she was dead.

Permit me to add two facts to the foregoing roll, written, as it already is, within and without, "lamentation, and mourning, and woe:" and I have surely written enough to convince every candid mind that the community which sanctions and patronizes such a system as ours does, really says by its practice, whatever it may by its lips,—“We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.”

The first fact is, that in a rural district of five square miles, (in the immediate vicinity of this mile of road whose spirit selling history I have been sketching,) where, for a considerable period, eighty-five persons took out licenses annually for selling whiskey, a respectable man, whose business was to inspect them, declares, that without an exception, every man of them was a drunkard, and that at least thirty of their wives were drunkards also.

The second fact is, that when the publicans living on this one mile of road were summoned before a bench of magistrates, and with a single exception, were proved to have no legal authority for keeping public-houses, the senior magistrate said, and the others assented, that while the government of the country were sorely pressed for want of a sufficient revenue, it was neither loyal nor patriotic, to endeavour to stop