

plunges thousands of our fellow mortals in the abyss of intemperance? If the former was a liquor not to be compared with the latter, then, though it might be right to use a liquor like the wine of Cana, it may be egregiously wrong to use modern intoxicating drinks. And who will undertake to prove to me, that after the marriage party had drunk freely of such a liquor as our moderate wines, they were encouraged by the Saviour to go on drinking wine made by himself of a like nature, or even more tempting to the taste? The difficulty with me would be to imagine it possible for the party to escape getting drunk? And, worst of all, how to exculpate the Saviour from the blame! Can this be for a moment imagined of Him, who said "Take heed lest your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness?" Wine bibbing professor, re-peruse the narrative, and reflect for a moment on the necessary—the dreadful consequences of making it a shield to defend the common use of the drunkard's drink.

I have been successful in adding a few to the number of your readers in this vicinity, and I will continue my efforts to increase its circulation, persuaded that the prosperity of the cause depends upon it,—and such is my opinion of its character that I am not ashamed to recommend it.

F. MALCOLM.

London, 25th April, 1851.

SIR,—I am happy to inform you of the onward movements of the Temperance cause in this town and neighborhood; and, it may be cheering and encouraging to the friends of the cause to learn how we are doing in this neighborhood. The Order of the "Sons of Temperance," was organized here on the 25th January, 1850. The first division was called the "Pioneer Division," No. 58, which now numbers about 260 members. On the 29th of March, 1851, a second division, entitled "The London Division," No. 248, was organized, and which numbers already about 60 members; add to this, that we have also "The Olive Branch Section" of Cadets of Temperance, containing about 70 youth. This within the time above stated is not bad progress. Last evening a social meeting of the Sons of Temperance was held, under the direction of the "Pioneer Division" in the Town Hall; none but members of the order, and their female relatives or friends were admitted. The Hall was well filled, several having had to stand for want of accommodation; and an evening of pleasure and profitable social intercourse was enjoyed. What made this meeting peculiarly interesting was the presence of Mr. Burnham, Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Order, in Canada West, who gave us a most interesting Lecture, and evidently exhibited feelings which mark the wisdom of the Grand Division in the selection of their chief officer. During the meeting, an address was read by Dr. Wainless, but like all written addresses at social meetings, lost its effect, or seemed not to tell—it wanted the energy and warmth of an extempore speech. The Doctor was not fortunate in the arguments he used, to cast odium on Temperance Lecturers; whom, as he said, are in the habit of employing "The terror arguments" of Poison, Distilled Damnation, &c., &c. He repudiated this mode of lecturing, and he went to show that although alcohol is by some called poison, he would state from the circumstance of having known persons to live, who habitually used it for 40 or 50 years, without having been killed by it, that it must be "very slow poison indeed," and on this sentiment he laid much emphasis. Now this is not exactly good reasoning; he however endeavored to make up for this peculiar mode of advancing the cause, by giving statements of several facts which came under his notice, of persons

who came to ruin and untimely ends through the dreadful influence of strong drinks. After all give us the off-hand speech,

Mr. Freeman Talbot, editor of a new paper just issued in this town, entitled "The Middlesex Prototype," made some remarks which were very well received. Mr. Talbot is an old resident, and a long tried friend of Temperance on the old platform principle; he is now "a Son," and bids fair for being a useful one too; and though last not least, our worthy friend, John Fraser, Esq., who in his old age and hoary hairs has become "a Son" also; he was introduced to the meeting as the worthy Patriarch of the London Division of the Sons of Temperance, and truly this official title was most appropriate—Patriarchal in his appearance. Mr. Fraser gave us one of his very best speeches; we always hear him with pleasure, but he was evidently happy on this occasion, and especially while recommending the "London Division" to the notice of every one present (who had friends not yet among the initiate,) as the very best association into which they could be introduced. The London Division will doubtless be a large and influential division, having the experience of the Pioneer Division before them, guarding them on the one hand against possible dangers, and encouraging them on the other as to the issue of perseverance. Temperance principles are now taking strong hold on this community.

We had during this Social Meeting some tolerably good singing; the pieces selected were suitable, and were there a few good strong voices to assist the present choir, better effect would be produced.

Taking every thing connected with the meeting into account, and making all due allowance for the officials who are not long in office, and of course not over well acquainted with such meetings, and the mode of carrying them on, the meeting was satisfactory.

VERITAS.

To the Editor of the Canada Temperance Advocate.

Montreal, May 20, 1851.

SIR,—I observe in your last issue the question—"Is it consistent for a Son of Temperance to sign a petition praying that a Tavern-keeper might obtain a license?" In case I may suggest any thing new, I will offer a few heads:—

1st. I consider that it is not only inconsistent, but highly wrong, for any Son of Temperance to sign such a petition, because, in doing so, he indirectly breaks the pledge which he signed, one article of which says—"and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community."

2d. Because it will expose him to the ready animadversion of his numerous friends.

3d. Because, for the sake of example it is highly dangerous.

As I said, Firstly, in signing that petition he indirectly breaks his solemn pledge. It will not do to say that the Tavern keeper will get a license whether he signs his name or not, or that it is better, if he is determined to sell liquor, to get him a license.—This will not do. When he signs such a petition, he surely shows his acquiescence in its contents, and prays that the Tavern keeper may be allowed, *by law*, to sell liquor and poison by wholesale or retail. The argument that, "if the Tavern keeper was determined to sell liquor, it is much better to let him sell with than without one," or, "if he don't help him to get it, others will," reminds one of Cowper's allegory of the boy who went to steal apples from a neighboring orchard and excused himself on the score that if he did not take them, others would.