

members. The society in the Sixth Concession numbers forty-nine members in good standing, and our society numbers 146, making in the whole 266. The following persons were elected as officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—John Douglas, President; Robert Reed, Vice-President; John Cummings, Recording Secretary; E. S. Sanborn, Corresponding Secretary; a committee of ten.

F. S. SANBORN.

S. W. CALLEDON, 24th January, 1850.

SIR,—To present you with so few additions to last year's list of subscribers for the valuable *Advocate*, is clear proof of my apathy in the good cause; but, small as the entire list is, it is thirty times larger than it was in 1841. This single fact furnishes a gratifying reflection!—an unerring index of the improving state of society!—and a refutation of the logical arguments of our would-be opponents, in support of the retrograde condition of abstinence. To be certain that our cause is advancing, requires but little observation; the very uncasiness of the adherents of time-worn bacchanalian customs, in watching our progress, is of itself sufficient evidence.

That truth will ultimately prevail over error is generally conceded; but when education and temperance shall have trained man to live rationally—to live in the observance of natural laws—and not as the mere creature of habit, is doubtless a distant period; and yet, in view of the cheering wonders accomplished; by these handmaids of moral greatness, within the memory of the present generation, despondency may give place to hope, and joy chase away the gloom of sorrow. I said "handmaids of," &c., but it should be "principles of moral greatness," than which (including religion entire) I cannot think of brighter gems in the chaplet of fame. Prejudice is the chief thing to be overcome; so that with the aged we need not expect to prevail much, consequently such material as the wood cut on page 327, vol. xv, and the music generally, owing to its adaptation to youthful minds unprejudiced, greatly improves the *Advocate*. Sometimes it has been said "there is nothing in the *Advocate* worth reading," and it is likely these good readers may say so again. I beg to inform them they are in debt to the *Advocate*, not two shillings and sixpence, but a column of something "worth reading," and we now wish them to become writers, that, if possible, we may complain.

Farewell another year, ALEX. McLAREN, Sec.

[W. Foster's paper was returned to us early in 1849, and of course discontinued.—ED. TEM. ADV.]

Toronto, January 25, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—I have been a subscriber to the *Advocate* since the commencement of the second volume, and am still very much interested in the paper, and cannot but congratulate you, not only for your courage in continuing the publication of the *Advocate* on your own account, but for the interesting manner in which you have conducted the same. It has done much good, and to my own knowledge, been the means of bringing many into the Temperance ranks.

We are a little extra engaged here at present, carrying on a Division of the "Sons of Temperance," which I believe will be an assistance to the Temperance Reformation Society, in carrying on the philanthropic object we all have in view. I trust they will work harmoniously together, and that the "Sons" will prove to the Parent Societies, that they are well trained, dutiful sons.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES WITTH.

Pelham, 25th January, 1850.

SIR,—The small amount I now enclose to you is scarcely an apology for addressing you with a money-letter; however, it is not long since I had the pleasure of sending you a respectable list of subscribers, (to whom I feel ever grateful for their support thus extended to our common cause, and your valuable paper, which is truly its consistent *Advocate*;) and I hope you will appreciate the result of our efforts on this occasion also. Had I no interest whatever in the well-being of the cause of Temperance, I should still consider myself doubly repaid for the trifling expense it costs me, to read the *Advocate*, by the various other matters and subjects that its pages embrace, apart from the subject of Temperance; but to the professed friends of Temperance in particular, the *Advocate* must be a welcome messenger.

And having pledged our word to the principles of Temperance, we should pledge our support to the means and measures and men that defend those principles. Then, and not till then, shall we see our cause steadily progressing. "Union is strength," and co-operation, and life and energy on our part, would unite that strength, and strengthen that union.

It is too true we do not occupy the popular position we once enjoyed,—that our District Association has ceased its conventions—that our Agents have retired from the field—that our meetings are few and far between—that our numbers are greatly reduced—that many, very many, who started with us, and promised happy results, have deserted our ranks and yielded to the pressing influence of the drinking usages of the day—that inactivity and indifference have taken the place of action and perseverance—that many who once proudly pointed to the end of our short-lived existence, as a Society, now pride themselves upon having seen, with the eye of "prophetic faith," the sure result of our organization. But let us not be discouraged. The end is not yet. We need not fear to meet the combined powers of stern opposition face to face. If we have not *might* we have *right* on our side, and we need not fear the result.

While I regret to admit the want of action and energy, and the backward march of our once flourishing cause, I feel cheered by the pleasing reflection, that I do not yet stand alone, nor do I fear such a result. There are still many warm hearts and true friends enlisted in the work of moral reform, who will neither relax their exertions, nor yield their influence to the cause of popular error.

It is true that our numbers have been greatly reduced, and many of our once ardent friends, are awaiting our weal or our woe alike with indifference. Yet, I can safely rely upon the fidelity of many untiring advocates, and look forward to a day of brighter and better success. It cannot be that a cause ranking high in the moral institutions of the day, and promising to relieve the land of one of its greatest evils, must dwindle and die, and be blotted from existence by an intelligent people. The progressive spirit of educational, of scientific and political improvement warrants the conclusion that the principles of Temperance will yet prevail, and be appreciated by an enlightened community. True, it has difficulties to encounter, and obstacles to overcome; but this has been the common lot of every reform and every improvement that has ever been devised. The great cause of Religion itself, that work of acknowledged supremacy, has had its trials and its difficulties; its Prophets have been stoned, and its Apostles beheaded, yet it has survived them all, and triumphed over the vile storm of persecution. Let us not then be disheartened, but take fresh courage from the favorable circumstances in which we are placed, in connection with the cause we seek to promote, and persevere. We are engaged in a work of acknowledged merit.