

# Canada Temperance Advocate.

*Temperance is the moderate use of things beneficial, and abstinence from things hurtful.*

No. 6.

MONTREAL, OCTOBER, 1838.

VOL. IV.

## MORE LIGHT.

*From the Albany Temperance Recorder.*

May its benign rays be received in love. The *Missionary Herald*, for September, contains some testimony, in addition to the abundance already furnished, that all communities which produce any species of intoxicating drink freely, will, in time, (usually in the second or third generation,) extensively become drunkards; and consequently, that such production is a loss and not a profit, a curse and not a blessing, to any such community. The Israelites, according to the testimony of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea and Habakkuk, were extensively a drunken nation, on the products of their own vineyards. So were the Babylonians, Greeks, and ancient Romans. The English are so now on malt liquors manufactured by themselves, notwithstanding the wonders of reformation which have been wrought among them in a few years, by the instrumentality of temperance societies. According to the testimony of J. Fenimore Cooper, Rev. Dr. Hewett, and a host of other competent witnesses, "wine producing France has also a drunken population." The testimony is abundant, that the elder districts of our own beloved country, have invariably become very intemperate, in the second or third generation. The Rev. Mr. Schaffter, missionary at Constantinople, informs us that the German colony which settled at Odessa, on the Black Sea, planted vineyards, and in the second generation became extensively intemperate from their products. We believe the fact is incontrovertibly established, that any community which freely produces any kind of intoxicating drink, will extensively become drunkards. But we add the testimony of the Rev. Mr. Perkins and Dr. Grant, American missionaries in Persia. Mr. Perkins says—

"A great quantity of wine has been made in this province during the past season; and the consequence is, that there is, at this time, the most appalling prevalence of intemperance. Our translators expressed to me to-day their deep regret at the prevalence of this evil among their people. I doubt not that they spoke sincerely; for they drink very little wine. I told them that I supposed many of their people were better pleased with all the evils which strong drink is bringing upon them, than with our practice of abstaining from alcohol. 'There is no man of sense,' said priest Dunkee, 'who will not heartily approve of your practice.' 'But we have many men,' replied priest Abraham, 'who, if an angel were to descend from heaven and preach to them, would not abandon their cups.'

"Intemperance is a mighty evil among the Nestorians of this country. It is said to be less prevalent among the people back in the mountains, where the vine is little cultivated."

Dr. Grant, describing a wedding among the Nestorians of Persia, shows us that "wine and folly" are as inseparable in Persia as in other parts of the world.

"The wedding party then entered the house, and seated themselves in two rows round the room. A table, or rather a cloth, loaded with food, was spread before them in the eastern style, each one helping himself with his hands to whatever suited him best. The merry bowl was passed rapidly around, and the wine quaffed in no measured quantities. The bishop, foreseeing the scene that would follow, very kindly suggested that we should retire to another room, where we might avoid the noise and confusion of this. But wishing to see the people under all circumstances where we might learn more of their real character and condition, we retained our seats in a retired corner. The food and carpets were ere long removed, and the confusion of voices was drowned by the deafening sound of the clarion and two large drums, which were now introduced as accompaniments of the rude dance which soon commenced.

A few of the company jumped about in the middle of the room, without apparent order; while more than thirty danced round in a circle—the man with a grey beard, and the girl of fifteen joined hand in hand."

Well does one of our missionaries exclaim, "Can the spirit of alcohol and the spirit of the Lord dwell together?" And another from Smyrna cries to the Christians and Churches in America, "Keep your casks of intoxicating liquors from among the heathen and Mohammedans, and nominal Christians, or send us not hither. One hogshhead of rum may do more harm than all the good your missionaries may effect."

PRINCE MALEK KASSEN MEERZA,

Uncle to the King of Persia, by his intercourse "with Europeans, became addicted to the excessive use of strong drink, and had nearly ruined his health." He is studying our language and literature, and like all inebriates and lovers of alcoholic drinks, he hated the "Temperance Reports," (Permanent Temperance Documents, published by the American Temperance Society,) and all other means to abridge his indulgence; but when he was brought to reflect and induced to read this book, which has found its way into every quarter of the globe, its mass of evidence and powerful reasoning convinced his understanding, and he became a convert to the temperance principles. He has also ordered M. D. Taliatine, an Armenian deacon, his instructor in the English language, to commence lectures on temperance, in a school established by the prince. In November last this Armenian deacon wrote the following note to one of our missionaries at Ooroomiah. Mr. Perkins sent him the only volume he had.

"REV. AND DEAR SIR,—His royal highness, Malek Kassen Meerza, (who at the first sight of the copy of your Temperance Reports, deemed it worthy of being fuel for the fire,) is, at present, so much pleased with the highly beneficial instruction contained in it, that he orders me this morning to lecture the first class in my school in that most excellent book. Should you, therefore, kindly spare five copies of it, you will greatly oblige an affectionate friend of the temperance cause, who will make his best efforts to promote its interest; and remains, with sentiments of respect,

"Yours, very obediently,

"M. D. TALIAFINE."

PERMANENT TEMPERANCE DOCUMENTS

ABOUT TO BE TRANSLATED INTO PERSIAN.

"For our entertainment he [the prince] called for a volume of the Permanent Temperance Documents, and read a part of the first page, and translated it into Persian. He declared his intention of translating the whole volume and presenting it to the king, who is his nephew. I hope, at least, that in using the volume as a textbook, he may find it a means of keeping him from relapsing into his former intemperate habits. The prince is obviously a very talented man, and he seems truly desirous to become intelligent and benefit his countrymen."

Truly, if through the want of self-denial in wine drinking professors of religion in this Christian land, "the temperance cause should be a failure" here, a merciful providence has prepared the way, in many places where the rich gift will be preserved, until a generation arise to estimate the blessing, and who, for the good of others, if not for their own good, will be willing to make sacrifices and practice self-denial, that intemperance may be banished from our world.