

Canada Temperance Advocate.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor do any thing by which thy brother is made to stumble, or to fall, or is weakened."—Rom. xiv. 21—*Macnigh's Translation.*

PLEDGE OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO AGREE, THAT WE WILL NOT USE INTOXICATING LIQUORS AS A BEVERAGE, NOR TRAFFIC IN THEM; THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE THEM AS AN ARTICLE OF ENTERTAINMENT, NOR FOR PERSONS IN OUR EMPLOYMENT; AND THAT IN ALL SUITABLE WAYS WE WILL DISCOURTAGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 1, 1848.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND HEALTH.

It appears by the Tables kept by the Temperance Provident Institution and General Life Assurance Society of London, that while the rate of mortality amongst the most healthy classes of middle aged men making the ordinary use of wines and spirits is 8 per 1000, the rate amongst the same aged total abstainers is only 4 per 1000 yearly. This is a remarkable confirmation of the fact, that the deaths arising from drinking are a very important element in the mortality of all other bodies of persons.

We are happy to hear that the Temperance Provident Institution of London is in a flourishing condition. It has been now over seven years in existence, and has succeeded beyond the expectations of the directors. It has agents in many of the cities and towns in Great Britain, and the Secretary would have no objection, if encouragement offered, to have an agency in this colony. The rates are the same in the Temperance and General Department, for assurance may be effected either by abstainers or non-abstainers, but the premiums of the two sections are kept distinct; and when bonuses are declared, they will either be added to the amount payable at death, or the annual premium will be proportionately decreased. The Society is on the mutual principle; the whole of the profits belonging to the members. We shall be happy to hear what is the feeling in the country on this matter. If there be a pecuniary advantage to total abstainers, it is very hard that those who practice it should not have it. They lose enough by the non-abstainers as it is.

A PLAN TO RE-ORGANIZE OUR TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

For the Canada Temperance Advocate

MR. EDITOR,—Various circumstances combine at the present moment to induce, in the temperance community throughout Canada, deep solicitude. Thousands, it may be hundreds of thousands, are enrolled members of societies formed for the suppression of intemperance; the entire ministry in several religious denominations are pledged teetotalers. A large amount of moral power is, therefore, enlisted on the side of temperance efforts, and yet, comparatively little is doing to promote the cause. Intemperance is neither extirpated nor quiescent, but rampant in every considerable place in the land; the journal that has for fourteen

years been the organ, the advocate and chronicler of the movement, is threatened with annihilation, and the only committee that has prosecuted widely extended operations is well nigh crushed under a superincumbent load of debt. Such, in a few words, is the state of things in this country, and surely it calls aloud for serious deliberation on the part of every one who has the well being of his fellow men at heart.

By whom shall Jacob arise? One of two things should be done, either the entire temperance community should shake off the lethargy that has crept over them, and arise with renewed vigour to the conflict, or—yes! it may as well be said—they should at once cast away all pretensions to Philanthropy, and let *Bacchus* with all his minions have full unrestrained liberty to do his worst!!! While these two courses alone are open, great responsibilities are involved in the choice that shall be made; but it would be altogether unpardonable to suppose that any other than the former would be the choice of reasonable, accountable men.

Then how is it to be done? This, no doubt, will be fully discussed at the approaching Convention. But would it not be desirable, meanwhile, to offer suggestions that might lead to a right understanding of the subject, and prepare the delegates for taking hold of it in an intelligent, practical manner. The object of this communication is not to discourse the whole matter, but simply to draw attention to one point—leaving other points to other pens.

It has been remarked by many who have watched the progress of the temperance cause, in this country, that every society has gone on encouragingly up to a certain time, but that then every movement was arrested, the machine seemed as perfect as ever, yet the wheels moved heavily. Why has it been so? Various reasons might be given—let one suffice: it has been very generally admitted that the societies, as usually constituted, possessed no binding element sufficiently powerful to secure the continued interest of the members after the novelty and excitement of the early meetings had died away. To supply this deficiency a plan is proposed, by which it is thought that efficiency would be secured, with such a degree of respectability and permanency of operation, as would commend the enterprise to the confidence of thinking, intelligent men.

The plan proposed, involves an entire re-modelling of the societies, and is in the main feature as follows:—The membership of each society shall comprise two distinct classes of members, each having its appropriate duties and privileges—one class, the "pledged members," shall consist of all of every age and colour who subscribe the pledge; the pledge would be the bond of union in this class, no contribution would be required from the members, and no voice in the management would be possessed by them; the other class, the "associated members," would in themselves constitute the society proper, subscriptions to the pledge would, of course, be required of them, and besides that, they would pay an entrance fee and a fixed yearly contribution, in return for which support, they would have a right to a voice and vote in the business of the society, and from this class would be chosen the officers and committee. To give some-