

APPEAL TO THE CHURCH.

BY J. ANGELL JAMES.

When will the ministers and members of our churches begin generally to inquire whether it is not expedient for them, if not for their own sakes, yet for the sake of the community, to discontinue altogether the use of intoxicating liquors? When it is considered that one-half of the insanity, two-thirds of the abject poverty, and three-fourths of the crime of our country, are to be traced up to drunkenness—that more than £60,000,000 are annually expended in destructive beverages—that myriads annually die the drunkard's death, and descends still lower than the drunkard's grave—that thousands of church members are every year cut off from Christian fellowship so, inebriety—that every minister of the gospel has to complain of the hindrance to his usefulness from this cause—and that more ministers of the gospel are disgraced by this than any other habit—that in short more misery and more crime flow over society from this source than from any other, war and slavery not excepted—and that by the highest medical authorities these intoxicating drinks are reduced, as diet, from the rank of necessities to that of luxuries—it surely does become every professor of religion to ask whether it is not incumbent upon him, both for his own safety and for the good of his fellow creatures to abstain from this pernicious indulgence. On the authority of Mr. Sheriff Alison, it is stated that in the year 1840, there were in Glasgow, amongst about 30,000 inhabited houses, no fewer than 3000 appropriated to the sale of intoxicating drinks. The same gentleman declared that the consumption of ardent spirits in that city amounted to 18,000,000 gallons yearly, the value of which is £1,350,000. No fewer than 30,000 persons there go to bed drunk every Saturday night: 25,000 commitments are annually made on account of drunkenness, of which 10,000 are females. Is Glasgow worse than many other places? Professors of religion! ponder this; and will you not, by abstaining from a luxury, lend the aid of your example to discountenance this monster crime and monster misery? It is in the power, and therefore is it not the duty, of the Christian church to do much to stop this evil, which sends more persons to the mad-house, the jail, the hulks, and the gallows—more bodies to the grave—and more souls to perdition than any other that can be mentioned? CAN THE CHURCH BE IN EARNEST TILL IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE THIS SACRIFICE?

INTEMPERANCE VITIATES A WILL.—The Baltimore County Court has been occupied about two weeks in the trial of a will case, which developed some curious facts. It was the will of David Hutson, who died a short time since, left a will bequeathing about \$30,000 to his boon companions, and cutting off his blood relations, or most of them, with one dollar each. The suit was brought to set aside the will, on the ground that the testator was not, at the time the will was drawn and signed, of sound disposing mind. It appeared in evidence, that Hutson had been constantly plied with liquor for some weeks previous to his death, and also that his companions had kept constant guard over him, to avoid his coming in contact with his relatives. The case was finally disposed of by the jury unsettling the will, and directing the executors to refund all the rents collected.—*Richmond Herald.*

Progress of the Cause.

Oro, 13th Nov., 1848.—In compliance with your request, through bearer, I take up my pen to give you an account of the progress of Temperance in this neighbourhood, but first must thank you for the papers, &c., you sent. I have distributed them among the members of our Committee, who, I hope, will make good use of them.

The Temperance Reformation, if it deserves that name, commenced here in the harvest of 1847, with the reclaiming, by means of the writer, of a single drunkard, on the old pledge. One by one other drinkers, moderate and immoderate, were induced to sign also. Five *Advocates* were subscribed for; monthly meetings were resolved on, at which tracts, &c., were read. At the commencement of the present year Officers were appointed, and in February the old pledge was superseded by that of the Montreal Society. The Toronto rules, with slight modifications, were also adopted at the same time.

The accessions to our number have been few and far between—we number but 36 in good standing (3 drunkards have relapsed) residing in three concessions of the south-west part of Oro, and two concessions of South Orillia. Population about 228.

But although the progress of Temperance has been slow here, yet it has exerted a healthful influence upon the neighbourhood, which was notorious for intemperance. People have found out that men can work as well, or better, without drink, than with it.

There is far less drinking at bees and raisings, even among those who do not belong to our Society; and we have had among us a Highland teetotal wedding.

In the next generation, however, the benefit of Temperance will be more fully manifested.—J. CUPPAGE, President.

PLYMPTON, Jan. 22, 1849.—Knowing that you take a deep interest in the cause of Temperance, I take the liberty of informing you of the progress of that cause in this vicinity. Ours is but a young Society, and in a backwood part of the country. It commenced only in July last, when a few of us, seeing the evils of intemperance, thought proper to call a meeting, and try to get some one to address us on the subject. We had the pleasure of hearing a good Temperance speech from one of our Circuit preachers, the Rev. John Webster, which had a very good effect; and our Society was formed the same day. As it originated with our worthy President, we have thought proper to name it the *Moffatt Temperance Society*, auxiliary to the Port Sarnia Society. Twenty-three names were signed to the pledge the same day, and the following office-bearers appointed:—James Moffatt, President, Benjamin Richmond, Vice-President, and your humble servant, Secretary; and a Committee of five. Since the above meeting, we have had two others, when twenty-seven more names were added, making altogether fifty members.

I have made some exertions here to try to get subscribers for the *Advocate*, but the people here are generally pretty poor, and think that they are not able to pay for a newspaper. By reference to your books, you will see that I have been a subscriber for a number of years; and I am sure that I would not be without it for all that it costs. If you think proper to send one or two copies more, at your risk, I will try and get them sold, and remit the price to you.—SIMPSON SHEPHERD.

PORT SARNIA, Feb., 1849.—The friends of the cause in this quarter, desirous to illustrate the superior excellence of Temperance principles in a social respect, and to make the illustration serve a good purpose also, have ingeniously contrived to accomplish both to advantage by a well-con-