

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.—*MacKnight's Translation*

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1837.

DISTILLATION AND HIGH PRICED PROVISIONS.—We return to this subject again, simply for the purpose of recording the following fact, which appears to us to corroborate all the charges we have advanced against distillation, as having a tendency to increase the price of food.

On account of the high prices which distillers have to pay for grain, they are not able at present to obtain remunerating prices for their liquors. Those residing in Montreal and its vicinity, have thus, through the force of circumstances, come to the happy determination, to stop their works for a time until the prices of grain shall have fallen. This determination was put into effect a few days ago, and mark the consequence—the price of wheat immediately fell nine pence per bushel.

We will not assert that the refusal of the distillers to purchase grain was the only cause which operated in bringing about this change, but that it was one of the causes, and one of the principal causes too, is beyond dispute. Their determination was no sooner made known than the change took place. No sooner did they shut their gates, than the market was glutted, and the prices immediately fell. We are fully warranted, therefore, to stigmatize distillation as one of the main causes of the present high price of bread, and of the sufferings which the poor have endured in consequence of it. While benevolent individuals in this city are at this moment actively endeavouring to supply the wants of the poor, those engaged in distillation are actively, it may be unintentionally, endeavouring to increase them; and the public that gives them countenance and encouragement, by suffering their occupation to be regarded as a lawful one, must be considered as implicated in the consequences also.

We beg the advocates of distillation to look at the above fact, and we hope they will have the goodness to shew us how the stopping of the distilleries can affect the price of wheat. They have told us again and again that wheat is not used in the distillery, and therefore, whatever quantity of grain may be destroyed there, it can neither make the poor man's loaf dearer nor cheaper. But if so, how happens it that when the demand of distillers is withdrawn, the very grain, from which the poor man's loaf is made, is reduced in value.

We would direct the attention of the public, and especially of the labouring population, to this fact, also: and we would ask them, if it does not make it evident that they pay more for their "rum" than they are aware of. Besides the money which they pay directly to the Innkeeper or the Grocer, they pay moreover a *higher price for their bread*; and all this, for an article, which is not only unnecessary, but pernicious to them—which, in thousands of instances, impoverishes and depraves them, and sends them to the grave covered with infamy and guilt. Surely, if men were wise, distillation is a business which would not long survive.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.—The correspondent to whom we are indebted for the letter on the state of Temperance in these Townships, which appears in this number, has informed us, to our great surprise, that some of our eastern friends have been offended at the terms in which we have ventured to speak of Sir Francis Bond Head, Governor of Upper Canada. We made an extract from a work which he published some years ago, in which he recommends very strongly the "cold-water-man's" drink; and in doing so, we conceived it our duty to speak of him with the respect due to his high station, and the high talents which he has long been known to possess. Proud of being backed by such an authority as Sir Francis, we of course described him "as large as life," and mentioned the "universal admiration" he had gained, and "the consummate ability" he had displayed as Lieutenant Governor. It seems, however, that some of our friends in the east are *opposed to him in politics*, and for this reason did not like the words "consummate abilities." It seems also, that an editor, whose lucubrations we are sorry to say we cannot lay our hands upon, but to which, we augur, the obnoxious epithet will scarcely apply, made some noise about it, and even ventured to insinuate that our "Advocate" is a *Tory concern*.

We beg leave to assure our offended friends, that we are neither Whig nor Tory. We do not join either of the political parties that are now struggling for the ascendancy in this country, but as a devoted and firm "advocate" of Temperance, we tell both of them that if they would drink *cold water* they would have clearer intellects, and cooler passions for settling their disputes; and if they would persuade the inhabitants in general to adopt the same beverage, they would deliver the country from one of its greatest "*grievances*." In speaking of Sir F. B. Head we did not allude to the *line of politics* he has adopted, but the ability he has displayed in pursuing his object. That he has displayed ability is a point on which there

can be only one opinion—it has astonished even his opponents—but whether that ability has been displayed in the pursuit of a *good object*, and in advancing the true interests of the people, is a point on which different opinions will be held. On *this point* we have said nothing, for it is foreign to the design of this publication to take any part in politics.

CLERGY RESERVES.—The public are not sufficiently aware of the immense advantages likely to arise from these Reserves, nor do they sufficiently appreciate the liberality of the Government in setting them apart for the support of the gospel. Take for example the following—we are informed that one clergyman has erected, or caused to be erected—not a House of Industry, but a **DISTILLERY!** others say a Brewery, on "the portion of land that hath fallen to him."

We would direct the attention of the various Societies to the Prospectus of the third volume of the *Temperance Advocate*, to be found on the first page. We have not room to make any remarks on it at present, but shall reserve the liberty to do so next month.

PROGRESS OF The Temperance Reform.

Lower Canada.

NEW GLASGOW TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the New Glasgow Temperance Society was held on Monday, the 9th of January, 1837. Hoyer Lloyd, Esq., the President, in the Chair.

The attendance was good. The President congratulated the meeting on the progress of the cause in the Settlement and its vicinity during the past year; and called upon the Secretary to read the following report.

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the report and to send it to the *Temperance Advocate* for insertion.

The Rev. Henry Wilkes, A. M., of Montreal, then addressed the meeting at some length, after which it separated.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT.

At the commencement the Committee allude to the opposition which has been made to the cause of Temperance there, as well as elsewhere, by the "debauchee, the moralist, and the moderate religionist." That opposition, however, has been successfully met by the efforts of the Society, for the Report goes on to state—

"Your Committee congratulate you on the success of the Society during the past year, in which, upwards of *Ninety-six* have been added to our number, and these for the most part of the adult and reflecting classes of society. It must not be dissembled that there have also been some relapses, but these have been few; and it is only what might be expected. When after a debauch a person smarting under the lash of his conscience, he resolves, and signs the pledge, filled with remorse for having indulged in vice