

THE ABSTAINER.

Halifax, N. S., May 15, 1857.

THE sensitiveness of some persons is amazing—and it is amazingly ridiculous. If you happen to mention approvingly the names of certain political leaders—no matter in what connection—you are immediately placed in the list of their adherents, and denominated “Liberal” or “Conservative,” or whatever else may be the designation in use; and this, too, although it may be generally known that you take no interest at all in the so-called politics of the country, and that you regard the dispute between parties as a place-and power question, and nothing else. Still they will persist in calling you names.

One of our correspondents kindly suggests that “the editorial pen should be dipped as lightly as possible in the muddy sea of politics.” We beg to inform him (without stopping to inquire into the aptness of his figure) that he does not go far enough for us. We cannot take his advice. We have not dipped the pen at all in that “muddy sea.” It is so dirty that we cannot go near it.

A gentleman of our acquaintance was one day dining with the late Lord Metcalfe, at that time Governor-General.—After dinner the conversation turned on the political questions of the day, and our friend, who was by no means noted for bashfulness, ventured to put this question—“Pray, my Lord, may I ask you, what are *your* politics?” “Oh! Mr —,” was the cool reply, “*I have no politics.*” Our readers will make the application.

And yet *we have* politics. Here they are:—Universal abstinence from every intoxicating drink, as a beverage—Legislative suppression of the liquor traffic—The raising up of a Temperance Power which all parties shall acknowledge and respect—The impartial enforcement, by judges and magistrates, of all laws which are sustained by public opinion. That is our platform. It will be accepted, we doubt not, by the Sons of Temperance, the Watchmen’s Clubs, and the members of Total Abstinence Societies, throughout the Province. We shall continue to labour for the attainment of these objects.

Those who choose may dabble in the “muddy sea.” We have no sympathy with them. We never had, in this Province.

THERE are several points of great importance which just now claim the attention of the friends of the cause, especially of the Sons of Temperance.

In the first place, the circular of the M. W. P. This is a stirring address, admirably adapted to its purpose. The esteemed brother who has been placed at the head of the Order is naturally anxious for its prosperity. His admonitions and advices deserve very serious consideration. Should they be generally regarded, the much needed revival of the Order will be the happy result. We hope that the circular will be repeatedly read at the meetings of Subordinate Divisions, and that its suggestions will be met with prompt and vigorous measures.

The enlistment of the young is another topic. One of our correspondents brought it before us in the last number in his account of the “Cadets.” It is to be regretted that both the “Cold Water Army” and the “Cadets” have almost entirely dwindled away. At one time appearances were very promising, and it seemed reasonable to hope that extensive and lasting good would flow from these organizations. Whatever may have been the causes of failure—whether the want of suitable persons to undertake the management—or the absence of such measures as might serve to sustain a continued attraction—or the cessation of interest when the novelty had passed away—the fact itself is greatly to be deplored. Temperance education cannot be commenced too soon. We should aim to secure the sympathies of the children and youths of the Province, and accustom them from the earliest possible period to organized action.

The Subordinate Divisions, it is true, are now open to persons fourteen years of age; but it may be doubted whether many will avail themselves of that opportunity, since the privilege of voting is not conceded. A separate arrangement is preferable, if it can be carried into effect. The Cadet Section is an excellent training school for the Subordinate Di-

vision. In the Old Country the children are gathered into “Bands of Hope.”

Mr Peter Sinclair, of Edinburgh, has recently addressed very large meetings in New York and Boston in furtherance of this object. Three thousand children were assembled in the Tremont Temple, Boston, to hear him. The journal of the American Temperance Union says:—

“A description of the manner in which the juvenile temperance movement was first started in Scotland, was given by Mr S., who stated that their army of temperance in England and Scotland now numbered nearly a million, and they were increasing their numbers daily. He was sorry to see, that the Cold Water Army had gone down in our city, and wished to see it again started and carried through. He wished to go back to Scotland and tell the little Scotch girls and boys that the children of Boston were all going to join the Cold Water Army, which intelligence he knew, would be received with much satisfaction by them. A number of other incidents were told the children, when Mr Sinclair concluded his remarks, having spoken for over an hour, and upon his sitting down the applause was loud and prolonged.

“The exercises were concluded by singing the excellent hymn, “Merrily, the temperance horn.”

The occasion was one of the most pleasant that has occurred in Boston for a long time, and will not soon be forgotten by those present. The singing, which was arranged and conducted by Mr Williams of the *Telegraph*, was in every particular excellent; the solo duets and trios were all well given, and were alone—set aside the eloquent address of Mr Sinclair—enough to amply repay one for attending. Some three hundred children sang in the chorus to an organ accompaniment, and the effect can be better imagined than described.”

A meeting was afterwards held, of which we have the following account:—

“At a meeting of several gentlemen in Boston, after hearing Mr Sinclair’s addresses, Dr SAUNDERS, of Williamstown, rose and said, he had been unable to sleep much the past night; indeed, he and his colleague in the Legislature had been awake most of the night, talking about the vast importance of an immediate movement among the children of the Commonwealth. He wished he was twenty years younger, then he would go into it and devote his life to it. He would propose that an effort be commenced and a resolution be adopted to that effect, and sent forth from that meeting to the people of the State, inviting them to rally all the children in Cold water bands, processions and pic nics in every town and village on the FOURTH OF JULY next.

“DEAC. GRANT followed with a most animated speech, giving an account of his early operations, showing what he had done in former years, and how reluctantly, through age and pressure of other business, he had retired from the field. He rejoiced greatly in the meetings of the week, and believed nothing was now wanted but an efficient man to be devoted to the young in Boston and throughout the State of Massachusetts, to bring all the children and youth upon the temperance