

and even Christ himself, might have used it on earth. The Bible was neither intended to teach us science nor dietetics; neither in building steam engines, nor in the practice of medicine. Physicians feel themselves at perfect liberty to use a lump of figs, or not, in their prescriptions just as the circumstances of the case may require, although, it was on one occasion, a divinely appointed remedy. So with the use of alcoholic drinks; if the progress of science has informed us that these substances are injurious, we have a perfect right to abandon their use.—Nay, the Bible comes in with its sanctions and requires us to act on that knowledge, and decline the use of that which may injure ourselves or others. Noah, on one occasion, was intoxicated. The sacred writer narrates the fact, but does not rebuke the sin! Why? Because there was any doubt as to its guilt? No. But God, taking it for granted that the readers of his word, would have candour and common sense put on record, without comment or reprehension, the melancholy fact of Noah's fall, and left the reader to draw his own instruction from the history. But the man who should therefore argue, that it was wrong to abstain from drink, because Noah was once drunk, would reason with equal conclusiveness, with the man who contends, that total abstinence from intoxicating drinks is wrong, because some good men in old times, were in the habit of using them.

Mr. GILBERT was in favor of the resolution as it stood; he was convinced that alcoholic drinks were injurious to the constitution, and that even as a medicine they might very well be dispensed with. In all our declarations it was of course understood, that we did not interfere with the use of Wine at the Communion—that was left altogether to churches.

Mr. RIDDLER was of opinion the Resolution should pass. Five most respectable physicians in the Townships had given up the use of intoxicating drinks altogether, in their practice. Liquors were much abused as a medicine; some Temperance Stores kept them, on the ground of their medical use, but it was ascertained that people came very often saying there was some one sick in their families, who used the liquor, when they got it for the purpose of intoxication.

The Resolution was then passed unanimously.

Mr. DOUGALL moved Resolution No. 13, saying, that though many would be held back by feelings of delicacy or shame, yet some who had rescued themselves from the miseries of drunkenness, would, no doubt, be philanthropic enough to give the result of their experience to the public.

Mr. WILLETT said at least one in the district from which he came would do so.

The Resolution was agreed to.

Mr. CLARY brought in the Report of a Committee which had been appointed to consider the expediency of forming a Provincial Temperance Society,—the Report was in favour of the measure; he then read the draft of a Constitution.

Mr. PERKINS suggested, that such a Society would only distract the attention of the efficient members of other Societies, who would necessarily compose it. He thought it would be better to make the Societies now organised efficient, than to form new ones.

After some discussion the Resolution "that it was expedient to form a Provincial Temperance Society," was put and lost.

The following Gentlemen were appointed the Committee, referred to in the 8th Resolution, with power to add to their number, viz:—

Hon. P. Debartch,	Hon. D. B. Viger,
J. DeWitt, Esq. M. P. P.	Messrs. Andres,
Dr. Henry,	Court,
Dr. Robertson, St. Johns	Dougall.

The consideration of the third Resolution was then gone into.

Mr. GILBERT was not in favor of altering the

third Resolution. Softening down the truth would only hurt its efficacy.

Mr. PERKINS proposed an amendment, in order to satisfy all, that the words "and in our opinion is necessary to the completion of the temperance reformation," be substituted for the latter clause of the original resolution.

Mr. GLEED, Mr. BARRON and Mr. RIDDLER, supported the amended motion, which was carried unanimously.

The fourth Resolution was read; when—

Mr. BARRON moved the same amendment which Mr. Miles had moved the previous evening, as that gentleman was absent.

Mr. RIDDLER considered wine in no respect different from ardent spirits, except that it was weaker; and he thought it would be too much to call all the manufacturers of wine and ardent spirits immoral.

Mr. FROSE requested the resolution as it originally stood, and the amended resolution, to be read, that their import might be perfectly understood.

Mr. GLEED said that many manufactures were productive of evil; that he had known boys fish on a Sunday, which was well known to be wrong. He had known one drowned whilst so engaged. Here was a source of crime and death; but no one would call the manufacturers of hooks and lines, immoral.

Mr. DOUGALL thought that if it were the constant and natural result of the manufacture of hooks and lines, to cause the Sabbath to be broken and to drown little boys, the sooner it was given up the better; this, however, was by no means the case.

Mr. CUTTER thought there was no half way between moral and immoral. If a thing were immoral, there was no way of softening it down; and he considered that this traffic was immoral.

Mr. PERKINS expressed an earnest desire that this resolution should pass. So long as the traffic in ardent spirits was esteemed reputable and right, so long would it be impossible to complete the Temperance reformation. Gentlemen seem to misunderstand entirely the reason why we consider the traffic in ardent spirits immoral. The mere fact that evil consequences result from the traffic, does not constitute it wrong. *Incidental* evils are the result, occasionally, of the most honorable callings. We call the traffic in ardent spirits immoral, because the *certain, legitimate, and natural tendency* of the business is to increase crime, pauperism, disease, and woe. We contend that such has been the result, in all times, and in all countries; and maintain, that from the very nature of the article, such must be the result. The man who sells the article, sells it in view of the *known and necessary* consequences; and is therefore justly held accountable for those consequences. Suppose that one of our merchants receives a consignment of flour. He has evidence that in some of the barrels arsenic has been mingled; he does not know how much; nor in which of the barrels the poison is to be found. He does not know but the barrels which contain the poison, may be sold to the book-binders for paste. He has no malice towards the individuals to whom he sells the article. But with the necessary consequences of the sale before his mind, he does, for the purpose of gain, sell the flour indiscriminately. This would be an immoral act. We contend that on the same principle, the seller of ardent spirits commits an immoral act. He does it that which will infallibly, and necessarily, lead to disease, crime, and death. It is sometimes said, that in declaring the traffic in ardent spirits to be immoral, we set up a new standard of morality. We do no such thing. We take the old standard of morality, old as the law of God, and apply that standard to this particular case. Whenever we find any course of conduct, invariably and necessa-

rily productive of evil, then we pronounce that conduct wrong; we apply to it the law of God, the infallible standard, and by that standard we try and condemn it. When the divine standard of morals declares that we shall not kill; then we maintain that a business, which inevitably conduces to the death of thousands, contravenes that law, and is therefore immoral. When the divine standard has said, "do good unto all men;" then we know that a traffic productive of evil, of *incalculable* evil, and *necessarily* productive of that evil, is immoral.

Mr. BARRON's amendment was put and lost; when the original motion was carried with four dissenting voices.

Mr. PERKINS then moved the fourteenth Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. BARRON asked for the Report of the Committee for examining the reports of the various Societies.

Mr. DOUGALL said, as there had been no time to make it out, it would be published as directed in the eleventh Resolution, along with the proceedings of this Convention.

The Convention then adjourned.

The following are the Resolutions which were passed:—

#### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the use made of intoxicating drinks by the higher classes of society, as the symbols of courtesy and the instrument of conviviality, tends much to perpetuate the evil of drunkenness, among the people generally.
2. That the use of alcoholic drinks has produced immense evils in the world, in the destruction of health, and the increase of crime, pauperism and misery.
3. That entire abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, would greatly promote the health, happiness, and morals of the community; and in our opinion is necessary to the completion of the Temperance Reformation.
4. That, in the opinion of this Convention, the traffic and manufacture of ardent spirits, except for the purposes of medicine and the arts, are injurious to the community, and therefore immoral.
5. That all alcoholic drinks, are in their nature, injurious to the human constitution, and, as such, ought to be abstained from.
6. That we consider the best political and commercial interests of the community would be promoted by the universal prevalence of the principles of the Temperance reformation.
7. That medical gentlemen throughout the Province be requested to communicate to the public, through the medium of the Montreal Executive Committee, their views of the effects of alcoholic drinks on the human constitution.
8. That a permanent Committee be appointed to devise and execute measures to interest our French fellow citizens in the temperance cause.
9. That the Montreal Temperance Society be requested, if possible, to secure the service of a Temperance Agent, to promote the cause in the Province, and that every Temperance Society in the Province be requested to contribute according to its means towards the necessary expense.
10. That the friends of Temperance in every part of the country, be earnestly requested to form Temperance Societies in all the townships and settlements in the Province.
11. That the Committee, appointed to examine the Reports from the various Societies in the Province, be instructed to prepare from these documents, a Report for publication.
12. That the Canada Temperance Advocate, be earnestly recommended to the patronage of the friends of Temperance, and to the Temperance Societies in the Province.
13. That those who formerly made a free use of intoxicating liquors, and now abstain from them, be invited to communicate the result of their experience to the public, through the medium of the Temperance Advocate, and that Temperance Societies, through the country, be requested to receive and forward such communications.
14. That the Montreal Temperance Society be requested to take measures to increase union and mutual communication between the various Temperance Societies in the Province.
15. That the thanks of this Convention be given to all the Editors of newspapers, who have published information connected with, or advocated the Temperance cause.