

which it gave birth, has closed, and they are written against us for good or evil. The season is usually held as one of cheerfulness and gaiety. While we have no wish to deny these to any one, the consideration whether, during the year now closed, we have done any real good to any one, is proper and becoming. "Man is a being of large discourse, looking before and after;" and to every well regulated mind the cheerfulness will not be the less when with it is joined such "numbering of our days as that we apply our hearts unto wisdom."

In all matters it is well to take the past into review, in order to profit by both its mistakes and its success; and in things relating to the cause we advocate, it is still so young that we cannot go on without a continual observation of the effects of particular measures and modes of advocacy.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

With the new year, in most parts of the country, come annual meetings of the societies, and the choosing of new office-bearers. We would recommend great care in this choice. We have reason to believe that, generally, care has been taken; but we are aware also that it is sometimes left almost entirely to the haphazard choice of a public meeting, when a nomination, and perhaps joined with it, a ballot, determines the directors of the society for the year. Now, when we see that on the activity, warm-hearted zeal and judgment of the President and Secretary, depends so very much the action of the society for the coming twelve months, it is surely worth a little more than the ten minutes consideration which a committee at one meeting may be able to give it. It is of course a delicate matter, sometimes, to bring up this subject in committee; but if we use a proper discretion, and have a single-hearted desire for the good of the cause, the really active working men will be found and put in their proper places. And if our societies and their operations are of such value as to demand prayer on what may be considered ordinary occasions, certainly there should be special meetings for asking that wisdom which cometh from above, to direct in matters affecting the society in its most vital part.

If you elect men who look to the power and influence they expect from the position, but who give little attention to it as one having privileges and duties, the society will be influenced by their inactivity.

If you choose men who have not made up their mind to sacrifice some of the time which might be given to business, to make time, in fact, for their duties as officers of the society, you may expect small and unfrequent meetings of Committee; and when meetings take place, all will feel disheartened and cold.

If you choose men whose hearts are so "exercised with covetous practices," that they never meditate any plan of action, nor give a thought to the society, except when they are in the committee-room, you will find crude and ill-digested modes of advocacy and extension hastily adopted, which move for a few days or weeks under the original impulse, and then gravitate to the ground useless, injuring the society, and throwing it back in the opinion of friends and opposers.

If you choose men who consider the temperance society as equal to the church, and the pledge on a level with the Gospel, (we have heard of such, but never met with them) then, of course, good men must withdraw, and the cause will be seriously damaged.

If you elect men who think it may be as well to try to get along without asking the Divine direction on the movements of the society, we much fear the counsel will prove that of Ahithophel, and be turned, ere many days, to foolishness.

But if you can find men who have shown themselves ready to every good work; who have worked for the public benefit in other departments of philanthropy; having good judgment, joined with hearty zeal; who think that if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well; who will call meetings to lay before them plans which they have cogitated, and will punctually attend, to receive the suggestions of others; who are "men of thought and men of action," good in the council-room, and good in the field; of tact sufficient to keep a meeting to the point before it, preventing waste of time and words; of temper calm and even, to moderate others when a rare case of asperity of language may occur; men of faith, and prayer, and determination, who, even when the cause may have received injury from the inconsistency or coldness of members, can yet abide by it, resolved unshrinkingly to persevere, because they have made up their minds that it is of God, and that though it may meet with opposition, the ultimate triumph is sure. If, we say, such can be met with, have them, and go on—you will prosper.

Read the tract agent's report for December, and say is not this a great and good work, and one which ought to be supported. How much is contained in the first line of it! The suggestion about French tracts is well worthy of attention. At the new year ten thousand tracts were distributed over and above those mentioned in the agent's report for December.

THE TEMPERANCE HALL.—Now that an elegant and comfortable Hall is opened where meetings of a less formal or more social kind than formerly may be held, we hope the temperance friends in Montreal will feel it a duty not only to attend the meetings themselves, but to bring friends whom they may wish to see convinced on the temperance question. The meetings are to take place every Thursday evening, admittance and seats free. There will be a collection each evening to defray expenses. The pledge-book may be signed, and certificates of membership obtained, at every meeting.

We have to apologize for the late appearance of this number. It is intended to have the *Advocate* out punctually on the 1st and 15th of each month.

We are left in great suspense respecting the subscription list for 1848, very few remittances having yet been received. We would suggest to our esteemed friends, who take an interest in this cause, in every part of the province, the great importance of making up their lists and sending the money forthwith.

The present number is sent to all old subscribers in the hope that they will remit for the year upon which we have entered ere the next issue.

The following letter is, we trust, only one of many we shall soon receive of a like tenor. It is encouraging, as coming from one who himself labours hard in the part of the vineyard assigned him:

PHILIPSTON, C. E., Dec., 1847.

I have come to the determination that I will act in good earnest as Agent of the *Canada Temperance Advocate*. I have spoken of its value at the close of some religious meetings, and have recommended it to Parents and Children as I have gone from house to house. I consider it a well conducted Temperance paper, throwing much light upon the invaluable cause, and calculated to do great good; worthy the attention and encourage-