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HINDERANCES TO TEMPERANCE WORK:

BEING AN ESSAY READ AT THE

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory League, 1875.

BY REV. DONALD ROSS, (OF DUNDEE.)

I feel that the subject given me to discuss before you is just what its first word indicates, beset with difficulties from beginning to end. However, I do not mean to find in that an apology or reason why I should play the hireling and flee away. That hinderances to temperance work do exist, must be self-evident even to the most careless and callous observer. Had there been no hinderances, the restoration of the world from the ravages and ruin of strong drink would have been accomplished long ere this, but its demoniac power is still stalking over the land, and our air is full of the groans and agony of the dying. There are obstacles and difficulties in the way somewhere, and our business as Temperance Men and Reformers is to find out those obstacles, and devise if possible a sure, safe and speedy remedy. I believe there is a special remedy provided by God to meet and remove every evil that afflicts human society as well as the human heart, if we only knew it and had faith and skill to apply it. There is a remedy for intemperance and all the social disorders and woes which it inflicts upon the human race. Let no friend be discouraged. Strong drink is a withering, fascinating curse. It has powers, prerogatives and privileges which no other evil known or practiced among men has. Gambling receives no sanction from the civil law or from the church, yet the traffic in strong drink obtains the sanction and patronage of both, while it gambles in the bodies and souls of men. Thieving in horse-flesh or rotten rags is crushed by the strong arm of the law and the powerful voice of the church, while both of them shield and encourage the drinking usages of society, though it has proven itself to be a robber of human rights and liberties, of life and soul. These facts shew you the high places of power which the traffic in strong drink holds, and the powerful hinderances which it is capable of throwing in the way of a reform. Are you disheartened when you think of the favor in which this monster form of sin and Satan is held in Church and State? Nay! God has written His anathema over it, and has sworn concerning it, that it shall not enter into His kingdom. Christ's kingdom in this world is in human souls, and consists in righteousness, peace, holiness, love—which graces ardent spirits never did and never can foster. Piety, virtue and good are not developed in the souls of men by the use of strong drink, either in large or small quantities, while the temporal or eternal ruin of millions of the human race stand connected with its use. God is against it. Fix, rivet, that fact in your minds. He has written terrible denunciations against it. He has destroyed towns and peoples in consequence of it, and will destroy and overturn—and overturn—until it is removed, root and branch, from a world to be regenerated by his spirit and re-created in his glory.