

WESLEYAN.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1877.

THE TEMPERANCE REFORM.

A WORD OF COUNSEL.

It is fair to assume that nearly 10,000 persons have taken the Temperance Pledge, during the past three months, in the Maritime Provinces. The movement has been of Providence, if ever movement was. Its free, manly, public methods at once enlisted the enthusiastic sympathy of the masses. Much was doubtless due to the class of men who took the lead—children scorched deeply by fire themselves, who had felt the anguish of a burning vice and passion, they knew whereof they affirmed. A pure, high motive governed them, we are sure, in most instances. As in all arduous, humanitarian enterprise, so in this; religion brought to the front those who could brave prejudice and endure opposition. Is it remarkable that all great movements of a philanthropic nature spring from the heart of Christianity? While sceptics are writing books which never go farther than suggesting doubtful reforms, and too often contain nothing better than sneers at religion and religious motives, Christians are working their way into the very depths of the world's woes and wickedness, ever helping, cheering and directing the fallen.

But here are fine results. Ten thousand names on paper ought, at least, to suggest much change in the homes and workshops of our land. Magistrates assure us that great evils have been checked. Our goal-keepers are less active—always a true gauge of the moral atmosphere. Public meetings are sustained, even in the absence of the reformers who called the movement into being. Wives are hopeful who long looked about them in despair. Children are clothed who were recently naked. And honest debts are being paid which seemed once among the dead liabilities.

DANGER.

The reaction. Human nature is weak material at the best; but consider the form of humanity here involved. In most instances they are subjects of a disease more relentless in its grasp, more cruel in its despotic exactions, than any in the fever hospitals of the tropics. Either confirmed drunkards are monstrous liars, or their passion for drink is like the dreadful fish lately caught on our sea-coast—having a score of nimble arms, and each arm having the strength of a giant, to draw in and crush its victim. Ordinary men know nothing of this fatality. They can scarcely accept the testimony that there is fire in the veins of the drunkard—that, according to scientific judgment, there are tens of thousands of open-mouthed, drink-craving organisms in the flesh of every one who has used alcohol to excess. It is a morbid condition, in which neither old loves, present allurements, self-respect, shame, or the prospects of coming ruin and destruction, have power to affect the mind.

If this be so within, what are the dangers without? In the streets of our cities, towns and villages, with very solitary exceptions, powerful temptations meet the convert. Old companions, thoughtlessly, if not maliciously, set upon decoying them back to ruin; the air is full of alcoholic odours from saloons abounding on every hand. Fightings without, cravings within. Are these men worth saving? Their feet on the first round of the ladder, shall we help them upward?

CONFIDENCE.

Is there, absolutely, a possibility of reforming a confirmed drunkard? There is a popular opinion that this volcano once opened must burn safely out—cannot be effectually quenched. The opinion unnerves philanthropy at once. But it is not true. Noble, robust, useful citizens are found in every church, every community, who were once in the slavery of this awful habit. If it be true that intemperance selects its victims most frequently from the generous and gifted, a strong motive is supplied to all who would re-furnish society with its lost adornments. "There is an angel in the stone," and

the stone is in the dust. He is God's true artist who proceeds with faith in the divine and the human to fashion this rough material.

SYMPATHY.

All efforts at self-reform begin here, by looking about for kind, helpful words and encouragement. Many a youth has taken his first step heavenward by going to a church, or into the counting-house of some reputed friend of the degraded and sinful; and, we grieve to add, too many have retraced that step, frozen by disappointment. "How oft shall my brother offend, and I forgive him?" O Christ, teach us this! We are approached by those who are but infants in patience, endurance, purpose, who have been giants in vice, and are still in a measure enthralled by passion. How long shall we bear with them? How oft shall we forgive their backslidings and their follies? "Forgive us our sins as we forgive,"—if only that will be granted, alas for some of us! Draw a cordon of loving, faithful Christian arms about those reformed men. Let it now be seen that religion, with so large an opportunity given to it, is equal to its professions. Bring them out of the current.

BROTHERHOOD.

which means more than sympathy, should assert itself now. Every Lodge and Division Room ought to be chiefly concerned in respect to this new material. How to bring them in, comfort them, establish them, save them—that is their question at this critical juncture. Once in, they may be reassured and re-animated. A sacrifice of means and time—an organization of brotherly forces, to set out in search of these recruits and heartily enlist them in active service—will all be consistent.

RELIGION.

A principal element in the reform thus far, has been the godly dispositions of its leaders. This element must permeate the mass if it is to be saved. Will, Purpose, may mean much with some men, but in the majority of instances it is fickle, unreliable support. With drunkards especially, whose will-power has been weakened by constant indulgence, it affords no security against failure. Reform speeches are but a voice calling to the sinking ship: the grace of God is the life-boat. Of the tens of thousands brought safe to land, religion has saved the larger number; of the innumerable dead bleaching on the strand, not one need have perished had they accepted divine deliverance.

THE TAP ROOT.

Every skilful woodman knows how most directly to fell a monarch tree. Digging about it alone does but increase the fertility of the soil, and so promote growth. Lopping off the branches may rob it of immediate vigour, but only sets in operation a law of Nature by which new strength is quickly brought to the injured parts. Hidden from the eye, only to be reached by diligent industry, is the main root, striking deeply into the soil, and burying itself in the rock beneath. Every blow on that is vital. That severed, the tree falls. Similarly, we should have but one positive aim in social reform—strike at the base of supplies. While the great artery between society and the distilleries is kept open, there can be no lack of social sorrows. Look toward prohibition! In the face of obstinacy continue obstinate. No righteous advantage has ever been withheld entirely by heaven.

ACADIA COLLEGE building, including the president's residence, college library and museum, were destroyed by fire on Sunday evening last at six o'clock. The library was mostly saved, though in a damaged state. Insurance \$10,000. Value of the property \$20,000. This is a sad mishap to Acadia; but it will so surely be a means of good to the cause of education at Wolfville, that we feel more like congratulating our Baptist friends than condoling with them. They are doing much good educational work, and this will serve the two-fold purpose of advertising them outside, and stimulating the ambition of their own people. We were, with many others, witness of, and mourners over, the destruction by fire of Mount Allison Academy. Looking back upon the intervening eight or ten years, we cannot say we are sorry it happened.

POPE PIUS THE NINTH has frequent remarkable recoveries from death, if the despatches are to be credited. Once or twice a week, on an average, we are told the Pope is dying. He has not yet lived to the great maturity of years reached by some of his ancestors, though his constitution is not to be compared for vigour to those so remarkable for longevity. What a life has been his. Elected amid excitement so great that he himself—being a principal teller of the electoral votes—cried out repeatedly to be relieved of his duties, overwhelmed as he was by the unexpected turn of affairs; starting out with great strides towards reform after reaching the Papal throne; desperately attempting to recover his lost ground, as he saw Mazzini using the Pope's license, to fan the passion of Romans and Italians for freedom; at length a refugee from his own dominions, from which condition he was restored only after a revolution had begun which ended in the overthrow of the Temporal Power of the Papacy. He has initiated, and succeeded in confirming, the doctrines of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary and the Infallibility of the Popes, as far as it is possible to confirm such figments in the human mind. His life has been sufficiently eventful; what his death shall be, or bring about, remains yet to be seen.

THE French language is becoming more and more an essential part of education in these Provinces. Mons. Tremblay, a finished French Scholar, is forming classes in Halifax. The Professor, we are told, has already several classes under way. The present is a favorable opportunity for those who wish to cultivate an acquaintance with that polite and refined language, and whose business relations in life engross too much of their time to allow them to go through the usual drudgery of grammar and text-books. Mr. Tremblay's system is altogether new, and some of his present pupils speak very highly of it, as also of the Professor's expertness in teaching. Mr. Tremblay came here strongly recommended both as a literary gentleman and as an expert teacher, and will be able, no doubt, to substantiate, by his work here, the good opinion in which he is held.

THE "ADVOCATES."—Dr. Curry was deposed from the editorial chair of the New York Advocate through his disposition to criticize too freely the defects and weaknesses of the great Methodist body. Bishops and Presiding Elders came in for a full share in his scathing articles. When the day of election arrived, it is more than likely these made common cause against him. He lost his place by a bare majority vote. His successor, Dr. Fowler, has his own dangers ahead, chief among which is the prejudice of the other "Advocates," of which there are some ten or twelve in the United States. The New York Advocate at this season is being pushed into circulation with engines of forty-horse power. Several inducements are offered for new subscribers. The other Advocates, having neither the means nor the inclination to go into the Chromo business, naturally protest against the usurpation of undue territory by their New York confrere. Here is a dilemma;—if the circulation falls off, Dr. Fowler loses ground as an Editor; if the circulation should increase, at the expense of the other papers, a new power will appear against Dr. Fowler's re-election.

Mrs. Snowball, widow of our deceased Minister of that name, was attacked by a vicious cow some days ago at Truro, and injured rather severely. We are glad to learn she is recovering.

A friend writes from Fredricton, N. B., Nov. 29th:—Our river is open from shore to shore, and as free from ice or snow as in July. Our steamers got alarmed at a cold night on the 22nd, and went into winter quarters.

We read in an exchange this note from Charlottetown:—The frescoing of the Methodist Church here appears to have been an example very properly followed, the love of the beautiful being always beneficial. Four private residences and a church will be frescoed by Mon. Puirikorsky of New York, who is already engaged in the work of converting plain surfaces into beautiful scenes in tints restful and pleasing to the eyes, and greatly aiding the house effect.

In a recent issue of the New York "Advocate" there are several pages given to the proceedings of the Missionary Central Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This is really due to the people. Perhaps our own Board will imitate the example. There were giants in that arena of discussion. We make two or three selections to show the cordial, free-hearted spirit by which the Board was animated:—

Dr. Chapman, the pastor, whose term of service at St. Paul's closed with the last confessional year, was the next speaker. He said: "I came into this room under the positive pledge that I should not be called upon to speak. However, I can say I am glad to be here. This was a place that agreed with me very well. I was greatly contented here, and when I think of it it seems to me that I have been growing in grace very fast to be able to look in the faces of such a class of men as I see before me on the platform, and not feel any resentment rising in my heart toward them. They know it is my nature to settle down quietly with a church, but just about the time I have become entirely happy somewhere, along comes one of these men, takes me up, and pushes me off to some new charge; and, what is more, they never seem to be sorry for it."

"Why, it was only a few months ago that I was telling one of these men how well satisfied I was with my situation in this very church. He gave a sort of malicious wink with his eye, and the very next week he tore me from my home and friends, and sent me away off over on the other side of the river. Now, isn't it a high degree of grace, which enables me to forgive the men who do such things to me, and to my brethren also? But as long as you persist in having Bishops, just so long I expect to have that very same trouble."

"It seems cruel, but truth compels the record that these hard-hearted Bishops only laughed at this pitiful appeal. There is scarcely any depth of misery to which even good men do not become indifferent by constant familiarity therewith. My experience prevents me preaching on the text, 'None of these things move me.'"

Among the speakers were Bishop Ames and Dr. Curry. The Bishop, after one of the speeches of the doctor, remarked with that matchless mingling of majesty and mirth in which he sometimes indulges: "I am glad to see how much Dr. Curry is improving. He now almost always agrees with me." (Smiles.)

Dr. Curry responded: "The Bishop is getting a good deal tenderer as he grows older. I have hopes that he will yet die a good man." (Laughter.) "I wish I could say the same of Dr. Curry," was the instant response, at which there was a general merriment, broken by the announcement that the committee was adjourned by expiration of time.

At the anniversary public meeting there were glowing speeches. We give a specimen:—

Rev. Dr. Fowler, being called, spoke as follows from his place in the altar:—"Mr. Chairman, I submit that this is double duty. You have brought us up here to be looked at, and now we are called on to speak. This seems to be a very appropriate place for a missionary reception. St. Paul is the foremost missionary of history, and St. Paul's is the foremost missionary church. St. Paul was a tent-maker, and St. Paul's is the finest Methodist tent in all this 'neck of woods.'"

"One other thing: It took Christendom four hundred years to produce as good a church as this; but I look into the faces of a company of men the like of which it has not been possible to bring together for six thousand years. It is only within the last few decades that such a Missionary Committee has been possible to us, because we have a general itinerant superintendency that watches, and works, and travels round the world. It is something amazing, the amount of information that is to be had in the meetings of this committee. Hardly once has a place been named with which our church has any special concern, from the wilds of Dakota and the mountains of Norway to the plains of India and the jungles of Africa, but some man stands up and begins to tell how things were 'when I was there.' I believe there is hardly a question of any importance about the geography, the politics, the minerals, the agriculture, the domestic life, or the religious necessities of any of our mission fields that girdle the globe, but I can call out a man from this committee to answer it from his own personal observation. Ours is the only church in which such a thing was ever possible, and with such wisdom and such liberality as is represented by this Missionary Committee and this church, we ought to be able to take this world for Christ."

A SECOND "Grace Darling" act is reported as having occurred recently at Cape Sable. The Halifax "Reporter" of last Monday evening, assures us that "Mrs. Osborne Smith, in a small boat, hastened to the rescue of Mr. Otis Cunningham, whose skiff capsized while out gunning. The attempt was a hazardous one, as a heavy sea was breaking in on the land." The full particulars of this rare heroism ought to be brought out!

A SPECIAL to the Halifax "Chronicle," from Yarmouth, last Tuesday, says:—

The chief religious attraction here at the moment is the Rev. E. R. Young, the Methodist Missionary, who is drawing crowded houses, and increasing subscriptions for missions about thirty per cent. as compared with other years.

CIRCUIT INTELLIGENCE.

ARCADIA, Nov. 27th.—On the 14th inst., we had a very enjoyable Tea meeting at Brooklyn—proceeds eighty dollars—to liquidate debt on church. The "elect ladies" are deserving of all praise—God bless them. On the 22nd inst., at Plymouth we had a Donation Social which was exceedingly agreeable—tea, music, speeches and general conversation. All seemed highly pleased. Our friends there have our hearty thanks for their kindness. R. TWEEDIE.

JERUSALEM, N. B.—The work of the Lord on this circuit is very encouraging, signs of good being done, a few being added as our members of late; our missionary meetings have been well attended, and I trust we shall be in advance of last year's subscription, we are looking forward for a very successful time.

STELLARTON!—A concert and refreshment held at Westville last week, to raise money, towards liquidating the debt on our church, met with good success. The nett receipts being upwards of \$100. The Lord is also granting us on this circuit, to some extent spiritual blessings. Several have been received as members on trial, and the attendance at our class-meetings increases. A good work has been in progress for some time both at Westville and Stellarton in connection with services conducted by members of the Young Men's Christian Association. There have been a number of conversions in both those places, and the work still goes forward.

NOTICE.

N. B. & P. E. I. CONFERENCE. Ministers in the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, will please remit the collections, requested to be made by the Relief Fund Committee, in their several congregations, to Hon. J. D. Lewin, or Rev. Joseph Hart, Treasurer, St. John, N. B. JOHN PRINCE, President.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE REFORM.—GOOD NEWS FROM DIGBY.

DIGBY, Dec. 3rd, 1877. REV. A. W. NICOLSON,

Dear Brother.—You will be glad to learn that the Dutch Reform movement is progressing with remarkable enthusiasm and success in the little town of Digby, a place which, I am sorry to say, has in the past been noted for the sale, licensed and unlicensed, of ardent spirits, and for its many slaves of intemperance. If I had been told a little over two months since that by this time such a marked change for the better would be seen, I should have been almost as incredulous as was he on whose hand the King leaned, with regard to the sudden relief of the famine-stricken inhabitants of the besieged city of Samaria. The Reform Club now numbers more than eight hundred, many of whom had been notorious for their intemperate habits. It is truly heart-cheering to meet such crowds as assemble in our Temperance Hall on Friday evenings, and at the Gospel Temperance Prayer-Meeting on a Sabbath afternoon. All the Protestant Ministers of the town countenance the movement by their presence and addresses and prayers. I had my first opportunity of attending the Sabbath afternoon meeting yesterday (as I am out in the wilderness seeking the lost sheep three Sabbath afternoon's out of town), and a delightful meeting it was, I can assure you. Good singing, good speaking, earnest and appropriate prayers, and the best of order, under the able Chairmanship of Edward Burnham, Esq. Our plan is to have a change of presiding officer for every Sabbath afternoon meeting, which works well. I cannot but infer from the improved moral and religious tone apparent at these meetings, in which all the churches share, that there are good days in store for Digby. I trust the churches during the coming winter will reap a blessed harvest. Many of the leading men in this movement are men of intelligence and influence in the community; and what pleases me very much, and leads me to hope that the good movement will not be "as the morning cloud, and as the early dew, which goeth away," but be deep and durable, is the devout and earnest recognition of God's agency, and the need of His help. Prayer is not ignored, but heartily engaged in and responded to; and those who thus ask help of God shall not ask in vain. We are often cheered in our meetings by the presence, sympathy, and short, pithy addresses of visitors from Yarmouth, Weymouth, Bear River, Digby Neck, &c. We are talking of either building a new Hall, or enlarging the present one, as it is by far too small to accommodate the number assembling, and also of establishing a Reading Room. Our prayer is:—"Establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it!" Yours truly, ELIAS BRETTE.

PSALM.

This many of the inspiring... the ascension... received... donation... special... recipients... nated to... Church;... perfecting... ness and... We rec... referred... the speak... women, ... 8th Pra... great was... lished it... "tell us... ine, and... many of... It may... at hand, ... ars," app... will acco... written ou... 1. The v... in the He... version... preachers... either to... The idea i... 61 I, "Te... meet." B... is Palm 4... is import... righteous... good tiding... this point i... verse, "I... within my... faithfulness... concealed... truth from... was the Go... same word... unto the Lo... his salvatio... whole of thi... preach the g... uttermost p... 68, 11) the... der, and re... the bands o... glad tidings... onyms of th... GIBBLESTO... 2. "The p... joyful even... hammobas... male preach... This is the... sage—the re... be pleased.—... 3. "The L... company of... tidings!"—F... tion. 4. "The L... date; in th... there is a g... Translation. 5. The cla... "Large was... published th... BENSON, A... 6. "The id... victories wh... 'word' or... and that its... made by a g... to communic... was the comp... it—more liti... ing it were a... Some thou... ning the ext... bered that... victory over... by his resurr... word" to c... ready to pub... "go say,"... the mandate... glad tidings... 7-10; Luke... 2. Before... the triumph... pany" of w... news of his... cars; with j... when those... ed, whose s... souls he had... fond mothers... "blessed," w... cured, and... life, were a... story; even... be said of a... ing it was a... 3. Is it an... that this is... the Saviour, a... Emmanus, or... and expound... in the Prophe