

# The Son of Temperance.

TO EDUCATE FOR  
INDIVIDUAL ABSTINENCE AND NATIONAL PROHIBITION.

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25c. a Year.



R. M. HORSEY,

Provincial Deputy G. W. P.

Soon after THE SON OF TEMPERANCE made its first appearance, we became acquainted with the name of R. M. Horsey, of Kingston. He sent us in a large list of subscribers, and accompanied it with some very kind words regarding our little paper. This led us to think of him as a sensible man, and energetic withal. So we made inquiry one day of a gentleman who we knew had lived in that city, "Do you know R. M. Horsey, of Kingston?" "Know him!" was the response: "I should think so! He was my old 'boss,' and a finer man, and a stauncher temperance worker never trod the streets of Kingston city." As that is the kind of man THE SON likes to introduce to its readers; we at once sent off to Kingston for a picture of this worthy brother and some notes regarding his life's history.

The cut above is made from a portrait taken several years ago to accompany a sketch of Bro. Horsey published in *The Daily Whig* of that city. For the chatty particulars of his life herewith given we are indebted to the sketch then published from the pen of "Carl Fechter":—

"It is the province of some men to be exceedingly useful in their day and generation. What they do comes natural to them. They are active and energetic and serviceable because they must be employed. This article is headed by the picture of a very busy man. Mr R. M. Horsey was born, I understand, in the city of Exeter, Devonshire, England, in 1828, and left school for the workshop at an early age. It is a question if, circumstances not necessitating such a course, this was not a mistake. He has mental endowments of a very high order, and I verily believe that in literature or law, both requiring a ready pen and tongue, he would have made his mark as he cannot hope to make it in business.

"People despise phrenology. So do I when I see it practised by a mountebank who knows as much about the science as a spring chicken knows about its ancestors. But there is something in it when studied with honest purposes; and had some professor of it desired to do R. M. Horsey a favour rather than earn a beggarly fee he would have said, 'Give your time to study and thought; your hands can never do for you what your head can do.' It was ordained otherwise, and if Kingston has one less professional man in consequence it has a business leader whose industry and intelligence have brought it credit.

"He has not been slavish in his devotion to trade, but he has been exceedingly painstaking and attentive, and deserves even better things than he has enjoyed. Although ambitious, at all honorable and progressive men are, he has not been a money-maker, yet he would have been ere this comfortably well off but for the big fire of 1876, which, in an hour, consumed or destroyed the savings of a life-time. Some would have had the hope crushed out of them by such a disaster, but

Mr Horsey took the result amiably, even cheerfully, re-established himself anew, and set out to win the rewards which in old age more than at present he will appreciate. These rewards will come soon enough if the good wishes of his friends be of any avail.

"Mr Horsey does not dislike amusement, and cannot object to that of which he was so fond when a young man. He was one of the social lions of the town, and in local entertainments, in yachting, in charivaring, as a fireman, a volunteer, a mason a temperance man, he went to the front and merited all the honors which he carried. It was while working in the United States that he became a member of the Sons of Temperance, and he has continued a member of the order to this day, being now attached to the St. Lawrence division. He has been a member of the masonic craft for twenty-five years, and is a past master of the Ancient St. John's Lodge, No. 3, A.F. & A.M. His social qualities led him, when a young man, into a great many friendly societies, including the Oddfellows, the Good Templars, the Temple of Honor, the Orange order and St. George's society. He was secretary of the national society, under the presidency of the late Col. J. B. Marks, and of the late Dr. Litchfield, who was at the head of it when the Prince of Wales visited the city. In 1850 he, Mr Joseph Dumble, and others, organized the first hose company, the council providing the cart. Mr Dumble was elected the first captain, but in a few weeks he removed to New York, and Mr Horsey took his place.

"Soon after Mr Horsey resigned his command of the hose company he turned his attention to school matters, and was for many years a member of the Board of Education. It is needless to refer to the manner in which he discharged his duty to the public as a trustee. He, perhaps, spent more of his time on school matters than he was warranted in doing; he certainly spent more time in striving to serve the people than the people will thank him for. I speak from experience. "I know how it is myself." Mr Horsey was chairman in 1881, and an admirable executive officer he made.

"In religion Mr Horsey is an episcopalian, and as good a church member as he is a citizen. Politically he is inclined to be a liberal, and with the liberals stand, but he is not wedded to the grit idols, and I commend him for his good sense. Politics is unprofitable and unclean. To be successful one has to do so many disreputable and dishonorable things that I am not surprised at Mr Horsey's prudence."

So much for Bro. Horsey's share in the general activities of life. His connection with the Sons is more particularly dealt with in his paper on "Opportunities," read at a recent meeting of St. Lawrence Division: which paper we publish in this issue. Bro. Horsey's labors have been chiefly confined to the Subordinate division. He did attend several meetings of the Grand Division, in Grand Scribe Stacey's time; but has only attended two G. D. meetings in the last twenty years. He never aspired to G. D. honors; but yet he confesses that he felt considerable pride when our departed G.W.P., Bro. Thomas Webster, conferred upon him the honor of a Provincial Deputy. He especially felt the honor because Bro. Webster was his second apprentice, and in his work for the order he always when occasion required or offered itself, gave Bro. Horsey the credit of influencing his course of life, in his membership first in the Cadets, and afterwards in the Sons, in which latter body he rose to such high position.

We let "Carl Fechter" conclude:—

"At the age of 58 Mr Horsey has a right to seek, after the business worry of the day, the quiet of his home. He has done his share of the public duty which, in some form or another, presses

upon every elector, and he has acquitted himself well. I have been thinking a great deal of late, and I cannot name anyone who has compressed into the span of his years more activity and with as little ostentation. Mr Horsey's career reminds me of Pope's advice: "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

## Opportunities.

The members of St. Lawrence Division, Sons of Temperance, Kingston, according to *The Whig* of that city, are making their meetings very interesting, and recruits are being added to their ranks. At recent gatherings, the older members have been called on to relate their experiences in life, especially in connection with the total abstinence movement. On one evening, three were called up—Edwin Clowen, the oldest member of the Grand Division of Ontario, was concluded by attributing much of his prosperity in life to his connection with the Sons; Wm. McRossie, D.G.W.P., who concluded: "The Sons of Temperance has been to me a great benefit, and it has my thanks;" and R. M. Horsey, who read the following paper:—

"Worthy Patriarch, Officers and Members of St. Lawrence Division.

"When a man who has lived in this world for sixty years or more, enjoying much and suffering much, toiling much and having many rosy seasons,—when he for a moment halts in his life's journey, and looks back over the past, back to the earliest day of his recollection, a curious vision rises before him and scenes which, unconscious to him at the time, have been indelibly photographed on the tablets of his memory, and he sees himself a child just as others saw him at the time; and he watches that child as he grows in strength, and, we hope, in knowledge, from childhood to youth, from youth to manhood, and from manhood to middle life and mature age, and he cannot but see that the life which he has been observing has been guided and directed by an over-ruling Providence, through many agencies which at the time were perhaps unobserved, but which must have influenced him; and that that Providence—the Spirit of God—had never for a moment forsaken him, but was always present, guiding him when right, and warning him when danger threatened. And now, as he looks back, he can see many pitfalls into which he must blindly have dropped, had it not been for the guiding spirit of the then unknown or unobserved influence: the essence or teaching of which we can find explained in the wisdom of the Sacred Book which is put into the hands of the chaplain at the time of his installation, and which should ever be our guide in life.

"In speaking to you this evening in reference to my connection with the Order of the Sons of Temperance, and in looking back over the sixty years which my memory reveals to me, I think of the wisdom and truth contained in a couple of lines from the writing of the immortal poet Shakespeare: "There is a Providence that shapes our ends, rough how them as we will." And here I would impress on you, my associates, the great importance in the word "opportunity." I remember when I was a school-boy, that the master supplied us with "copy slips" for our writing exercises, every one of which contained a useful motto, which was committed to memory while we wrote our copy. One to which I would especially refer is this: "An opportunity lost can never be regained." And yet in my passage on life's road, I must admit that I can look back and see that I have disregarded many opportunities for good. I have, in the words of the beautiful service of the Church of England, "left undone many things which I ought to have done, and I have done many things which I ought not to have done," and like many

others that are now before me, my sins of omission and commission have been many. But that I embraced one opportunity for good can be explained by my presence in a Division room this evening: and that was the opportunity which offered itself to me many years ago to become a Son of Temperance. And by having embraced that opportunity, I have no doubt that for the little which I perhaps have been enabled to do for the good of my fellow men, I can return thanks to that kind Providence which so far has shaped my ends; and for the positions of honor in which I have been placed by the confidence of my brethren in this and other societies and bodies, I can give credit to the spirit's whisper which caused me to take advantage when the opportunity was offered to me forty-four years ago, of carrying out a resolve which I had made many years earlier, when I at first saw the evil that was done by the use of intoxicating drinks.

"And now, if you will bear with me for a few minutes, I will copy the example of some of our good Methodist brothers in their class meetings, and tell my experience, as I call up and look over the scenes photographed in my memory. And first, I will look back at myself in the dear old home of my childhood, where, when a boy, I had often noticed the evils which were caused in many families through the intoxicating cup, and especially at country fairs and other times of merry making. In the old town I only remember two men who were known as being teetotalers: one of whom was a man of strong will, a good business man, who could meet with his fellow townsmen at convivial gatherings, but never could be induced to drink with them. He would never take a glass of strong drink if all around him were indulging; he could not be shaken in his principles; was an example of sobriety in himself, although at times he followed the usages of society, and provided it for his guests. He was spared to a ripe old age away up in the eighties. The other person to whom I will refer was a weak brother. He felt the evils of the demon drink, and would resolve to abstain from its use; and would keep firm for a time, and then in the hour of temptation, fall away. With him it was a case of sinning and repenting, and after repenting, sinning again. He had not the strength of mind given him to enable him to stand alone and endure the taunts of those around him. He would do good, but evil was present with him; he wanted association of kindred minds to aid him; he had not the aid of mutual support which we have to-day in our beloved Society. And so the more I saw of the evils which were caused by strong drink, the more I was resolved that should I ever be placed in a position to favor it, I would associate myself with total abstinents. And so, as the years pass on, picture after picture of the past rises in memory before me, and I see myself leaving my old home and coming to Canada. But there was not any Division of the "Sons" in Kingston at that time, and my resolve could not be put into practice. I left Kingston for Rochester, N.Y., and on my first Saturday evening there, after I had received my wages, I was called on to pay my "footing," and treat the hands in the shop. From Rochester I went to Wheeling, in Western Virginia, but still saw no opportunity to put my resolve into practice.

"My next halting place was in the town of Gallipolis in Ohio. I reached the place early in the morning, and in less than an hour after had secured a job, and at once looked up a private boarding house. I was a little tired with the night trip on the steamer down the Ohio from Wheeling, but I went to work at once, and after dinner I thought I would like a glass of ale, and I asked one of the apprentices (of which there were two in the shop), where the best article in that line could be got, but was told that a local option law was in force and that there was not a saloon in the town nor any bar-rooms in the two hotels, but that there was a little shop around the corner, kept by a Canadian, where it was said that a barrel of beer was kept on tap under the counter. I tried and found out that it was so, and got

my glass. A few days after this I was accosted by a young man, who introduced himself to me, and, speaking for himself and companions, said the boys were glad to welcome me to the town, and, in conversation, said that they had a Division of "Sons" to the town, which held weekly meetings, and if I would allow him he would be pleased to propose me for membership. As he was speaking to me I seemed to hear within me the whisper of a small still voice, "Now is the opportunity to put your resolve into practice," and so I was proposed, and on the 20th of Jan., 1849, I was initiated into Gallipolis division, No. 74, Sons of Temperance, of the State of Ohio, and of which order I am still a member. When I left Ohio I took a travelling card from my division. I travelled many miles, and visited many towns and cities before returning to Canada, and I can look back in memory and see myself on the edge of many pitfalls, which I was saved from falling into through my connection with the Sons of Temperance. On my return to Kingston I associated with the members of our order and assisted in forming the Kingston Mechanics' division, of which I was a charter member, and although forty years have passed away, several of my old associates in our beloved order are, with me, members of St. Lawrence division.

"It will not be necessary for me to refer to the history and work of the several divisions of our order from the establishment of old Frontenac in 1847 or 1848 to our St. Lawrence, as that was done not very long ago by our worthy brother, John Jones, et., but this I must say, that during my connection with the order I have seen persons from every circle of life, not even excepting those who were called to the sacred office of the ministry of the church of God, I have seen them degraded and brought down to the lowest depth and some to fill a drunkard's grave through the use of intoxicating drink. And that has not been confined to the sterner sex, for many of Kingston's daughters, as far as any of us to-day, have fallen low and could trace the commencement of their downfall to 'the pleasure of a glass of wine with you' an opportunity placed in their way by the spirit of evil and a warning to those fair ones who still keep up what is termed one of the rules of society and hospitality.

"And now, to you, my younger brothers and sisters, so many of whom I am glad to see present at our meetings, to you permit me to say a word or two of admonition and encouragement. From that day in which God created the earth and it is said that his Spirit moved upon the face of the waters,—from that day to the present time, everything has been motion—there has been no standing still. We must move forward or backward, for good or for evil. If we do not progress, we must retrograde; and while the Providence of God is surrounding us with so many opportunities for good, the Spirit of Evil, ever watchful, is placing in our way opportunities for evil. Remember, therefore, that while virtue is its own reward, vice brings its own punishment. Therefore, be faithful to your duties. The longer you continue in the path of duty, the more pleasant will be the way. Never pass by unheeded an opportunity for doing good to your fellow creatures, for every act of yours that will be counted for good to your fellow men, will bear with it a ten-fold power for good to yourselves. You cannot do good to others without its being reflected in your own spirit and life. Let me especially call your attention to the truth contained in the words of warning in that proverb of the Great Teacher, "He that putteth his hand to the plow and looketh back," &c. Beware of backsliding, for of all the sad fates that I have seen, none are greater than those who have for a few years worked for the good of mankind, and then turned themselves about into the way of iniquity, until death ended their career. And now let me urge you to be constant in your attendance at our meetings, and see that these meetings are made as cheerful as possible, while the best order is preserved, for the good of those whom you may induce to join our ranks, and for the good of our beloved Order. Time passes on rapidly, and in a few years some of those now present, in the flower of manhood, will be called on to take the place of the old members of the Division who have been asked to address you this evening. When that time comes, I can only hope that you will have as much pleasure in answering the call as I have had; and that you will have the thankfulness of heart which I have, at being able to look back over a period of forty-four years' work in the cause of temperance, and all because I listened to a small still voice which spoke to me the word "opportunity."

"Again I say to one and all, never let an opportunity to do a good act to your fellow men pass by unheeded; for, believe me, if listened to and acted on, it bears with it a blessing that will rest on your head; and, if neglected, will cause regret. And ever remember that "an opportunity lost can never be regained."