

The Rev. Mr. McKerrow at some length condemned the practice of obtaining commercial orders, which prevailed largely in Manchester, by treating parties who were connected with the establishments with which they wished to do business. These practices were extremely demoralizing to the young men connected with many of their manufacturing establishments, and often led to that deterioration of character which made them lose their situations, and cast them upon the world, ruined in their character and prospects. He thought they should insist, with Christian men, that they should conduct their business in a Christian manner.

The Rev. Mr. Scott, of Glasgow, said that he knew cases of commercial travellers who had joined the Temperance Society, and were immediately dismissed from their situations.

Other gentlemen gave instances of the evil effects of drinking in connection with business, especially in the case of parties seeking orders for commercial and manufacturing houses. The matter was ultimately remitted to a small Committee, and a motion on the subject was afterwards agreed to.

After passing several other resolutions, and completing the business matters which remained to be disposed of, the Conference broke up at half-past one o'clock.

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## Canada Temperance Advocate.

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"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor do any thing by which thy brother is made to stumble, or to fall, or is weakened."—Rom. xiv. 21—*Macnight's Translation.*

### PLEDGE OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO AGREE, THAT WE WILL NOT USE INTOXICATING LIQUORS AS A BEVERAGE, NOR TRAFFIC IN THEM, THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE THEM AS AN ARTICLE OF ENTERTAINMENT, NOR FOR PERSONS IN OUR EMPLOYMENT; AND THAT IN ALL SUITABLE WAYS WE WILL DISCOURTEGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

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MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1848.

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### CIRCULAR

ADDRESSED TO THE OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED PROVINCE OF CANADA.

DEAR FRIENDS,—A crisis seems to have arrived in the Temperance Cause which requires on the part of all who appreciate the importance of this mighty reformation, renewed activity, either in the old organizations which have heretofore done good service, or in such new ways as may be deemed most advisable.

Our present societies are to a great extent defunct. Few have regular meetings—few publish annual reports, and even among most of those which do, little more or better can be said of them than that they continue to exist: there are scarcely any signs of health or vigor about them.

The reasons for this are various. Some societies are paralyzed by debt; some are choked by the inconsistency of their office bearers; some are rent by petty jealousies of a

sectarian or political nature,—but more, many more, waste away to nothing through mere carelessness and apathy.

Brethren, should this state of things continue? If we have not heretofore adopted the right means, or if those means are no longer suited to the times, let us change them, but let us not continue barren and unfruitful in a cause which reason, experience, and revelation, alike commend to us. It is good to be *always* zealously affected in a good thing; and, in this matter, we have a duty to perform to the drunkard—a duty to the rising and all future generations—and higher than all, a duty to God.

But while we have been sleeping as it were, the Temperance Cause has not been standing still. The good seed sown in days of activity has taken deep root, and is springing up and bearing fruit. The rising tide of the Temperance reformation has reached the halls of legislation—and, even without us, there cannot be a doubt that Truth is mighty and will prevail. This, however, should form no incentive to indolence on our part, but rather the reverse, lest the curse of Meroz fall upon us.

Several of the representatives of the people, and among them some members of the Executive Government take a warm interest in the Temperance Cause, and it is, doubtless, known to you all that a measure was introduced during the last Session of Parliament with a view to elicit information concerning the extent of, and incentives to intemperance, and provide whatever remedy the case might admit of. This measure will, it is understood, come up for discussion at an early period of next Session, and we have the authority of the most prominent legislators concerned in the movement, for stating that they require all the information on the subject with which Temperance Societies can furnish them.

Now, brethren, it is for you and us to say whether we will respond to this call or not; whether we will prove recreant in the hour of need, or come forward with manly diligence and communicate the information required of us. Doubtless you will all say, "Give the information by all means," but remember statistics (the only kind of information worth having in Parliament) can not be made up without much inquiry and a good deal of labour, and who is to undertake that labour in each of the temperance societies of Canada? Again, the whole returns are to be collated and reduced to a tabular form,—and who will do this? Let us look intelligently at the amount of labour required,—compare it with the importance of the result sought, and resolve that we will deny ourselves in this matter, and *do the work*. The Montreal Society, besides furnishing its own statistics, will volunteer to collate and arrange the whole.

Whilst addressing you at any rate, and to save the postage upon separate answers, we will also lay before you briefly the position of the Montreal Temperance Society, which has, in many respects, done the duties that would have devolved upon a Provincial society, or Union of societies, had such been in existence.

Owing to its extended operations—the circulation of the *Advocate* at a price which did not nearly cover expenses—the employment of lecturing agents, and in other ways, this society has always been running rapidly into debt, which