

To continue the moderate pledge is a tacit admission, that the common use of some kinds of intoxicating drinks is right and proper.

The subscriber to the moderate pledge, though he use only such drinks as his pledge is acknowledged to allow, actually violates it; inasmuch as the wines in common use (from their iniquitous manufacture) contain the very ardent spirits which that pledge forbids.

If wine, which the moderate pledge allows, were made as cheap as ardent spirits, its use would be as extensive, and the evil effects as great, as in the case of France.

The subscriber to the moderate pledge, while taking wine in company with those who use stronger drinks, does not exert an influence towards removing the evil of intemperance.

The majority of even the opposers of Temperance Societies, at this day, generally desire nothing stronger than the moderate pledge allows.

Nothing can be adduced from Scripture to authorize the use, as a common beverage, of the intoxicating wines of the present day.

As one of the positive evils of the moderate pledge, it increases the respectability of the weaker drinks, makes it an object for the manufacturer to have a larger quantity of liquors bearing the name of wine, &c., and thus tends to iniquity in making.

The moderate pledge is more difficult to observe; inasmuch as its subscribers are in the way of temptation, and those of the total are not.

The example of those who drink according to the moderate pledge, has a worse influence than that of the absolute drunkard; inasmuch as the one disgusts, while the other decoys.

The continuance of the moderate pledge may induce persons, who are yet to become members, to try an expedient which all acknowledge is not safe, and which may prove their ruin; when, if the total pledge only was offered, they might be more willing to subscribe it; and thus to act on the safe principle of abstinence from all that intoxicates.

The substance of the reasons offered by the negative was, that although a universal practice on the principles of the Total Abstinence Pledge would be more beneficial than to have even a small part of the whole, practice on the moderate pledge, still, believing that there would continue to be persons willing to subscribe to the moderate pledge, who would not to the total pledge, it would be better to have them under the restraint of the first pledge, than to have them entirely disconnected with the Society. The negative contended also that subscribing the moderate pledge was calculated to prove a *stepping-stone* to the other; and, in that manner, subscribers would be obtained to the *total pledge*, who would otherwise keep entirely aloof.

At the Annual Meeting, 13th instant, the Secretary's Report for the past year was read, and the officers of the Society were chosen for the ensuing year, viz.:—C. H. Peck, *President*; Wm. Patrick, *Vice-President*; W. D. Dickinson, *Secretary*; and a Corresponding Committee of five.

A powerful address was then delivered by the Rev. Henry Wilkinson; after which both pledges were offered for signature, when the names of four were transferred from the moderate to the total pledge. The following resolution, having been proposed three months previous, passed without a dissenting vote:

*Resolved*,—That, in the opinion of this Society, its usefulness would be increased by having only the Total Abstinence pledge connected with it. They therefore decide that the 10th article of their Constitution, commonly called the "old pledge," and which allows the use of fermented liquors, be expunged from the Society's books; and that its present subscribers are respectfully, and in the most friendly manner, invited to give their names to the new pledge, as those not subscribing that pledge will be considered as having withdrawn from the Society; and they hope that the cases of withdrawal will be but very few, if any.

It was also

*Resolved*,—That the warmest thanks of this Society are due to the Methodist Denomination, for the privilege afforded of holding its meetings in their chapel during the past year.

A vote of thanks was passed unanimously for the valuable services of the Rev. H. Wilkinson during the past year, as also for this signing. It was also, with equal unanimity,

*Resolved*,—That the cause of temperance would be greatly served by publishing the address with which the meeting had just been favoured.

Accordingly, the promise has been obtained from Mr. Wilkinson to furnish us with a copy, which we shall endeavour soon to have in pamphlet form for circulation. I remain, &c.

W. D. DICKINSON, *Secretary*.

Prescott, Jan. 18, 1840.

[We are obliged, for want of space, to give the following abstract of the Report above mentioned.—Ed. T. A.]

After acknowledging the hand of Providence in their prosperity, it is stated, that although not many rich, "not many mighty, not many noble" have joined them, yet their object is approved by the public, who are willing to acknowledge there are more reasons for than *against* them.

Regular quarterly meetings have been held, besides two special meetings, and addresses delivered from Rev. H. Wilkinson and Rev. H. Mulkins. During the year several individuals have joined the Society, for the sole purpose of saving themselves from intemperance; and thus far the total abstinence pledge has proved a safe retreat.

At the commencement of the year, the number of members was 43 to the total abstinence pledge; 54 have joined it since; 9 have removed from the bounds of the Society, and 1 withdrawn; making the present number of subscribers to the total pledge 87, and the increase since last year 44.

The old pledge has received 11 new subscribers during the year; 9 have removed, 7 have transferred their names to the total pledge, and 1 has withdrawn; leaving the present number to the old pledge 29, being a *decrease* of 6 during the year.

The Society has not allowed its rules to be violated with impunity; and it is urged on members to be faithful, and report to the officers any cases of violation that may come to their knowledge.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Sir,—On the 17th instant we held our Anniversary Meeting, and notwithstanding we were not favoured with the presence of some friends whose aid we expected on the occasion, the result was encouraging to the friends of temperance.

The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Lang of the W. M. Church, Mr. A. Carter, Sergt. Wharin, R. A. and Mr. Thomas H. Beatty. The addresses were listened to with the greatest attention by the largest assembly we have had since the formation of our Society. The report of the Committee was read and accepted, a constitution differing very little from that of your Society adopted, and the old officers and committee re-appointed for the current year. You are aware that our society commenced its operations on the 7th December with less than thirty members. On the 23d we numbered forty; and on the occasion of an address on the 24th from the Rev. Mr. Green, of the Wesleyan Methodist church, were added nine or ten more; and up to the 17th instant, our whole number was seventy-six.

We now have upwards of one hundred members, all teetotallers, many of whom, at the time the society was instituted, were decidedly opposed to the principle of total abstinence. I am fully convinced that the success of the cause, in a very great degree, depends on the frequency of public addresses and the general diffusion of knowledge on the subject through the medium of temperance publications. By these means the subject will be frequently discussed by many, to whose minds it would otherwise, perhaps, seldom or never occur. Small as our society is, and limited as its operations have necessarily been, I believe it has given rise to a more general discussion of the principle of total abstinence than I ever knew here at any former period. Nearly 200 of our townsmen take the *Advocate* through our society, and a considerable number of temperance tracts have been distributed gratis. We have a very active and intelligent lad, a member, who, at the time the society was instituted, kindly offered his services as Tract distributor. This young pioneer in the cause, has more than once elicited the thanks of the committee for the very efficient and thorough manner in which he discharges the duties of his undertaking. He is now, however, destitute of tracts, and as they cannot be obtained here, he will be obliged (much to his dissatisfaction) to remain comparatively idle till a supply can be obtained elsewhere. There