

customers, and the country at large; and consequently, upon the whole, to their own business; and that societies throughout the Province be requested to urge this recommendation, upon the merchants within their sphere of influence.

22. That the practice of licensing the traffic in intoxicating drinks, is an attempt to guard with the sanction of law and authority, a business, which is, in the opinion of this Convention, producing greater evils in society, than all the crimes which are prohibited in the statute book put together, and therefore ought to be abolished.

23. That Temperance Societies throughout Canada be invited to unite in petitioning Her Majesty the Queen, and the Commander-in-Chief, to withdraw their sanction from the system of licensing Canteens in Soldiers' Barracks, and to encourage the formation of Temperance Societies in the Army.

24. That the Rev. Messrs. W. Taylor, D. Dobie, H. O. Crofts, C. Strong; and Messrs. Court, Orr, and Dougall be a permanent Committee, to draw up a report of the proceedings, and carry out the views and intentions of the Convention, as expressed in these resolutions.

25. That this Convention approves of the new series of the *Temperance Advocate*, and strongly recommends its universal circulation throughout the Province.

26. That a vote of thanks be given to the President, Secretaries, and Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society, for their zealous and praiseworthy conduct and perseverance in the cause of temperance; and that the gratitude of all the societies throughout the United Province is due to them.

27. That this Convention, before separating, wishes to express its entire dependence on the Almighty for guidance and support, in carrying out the resolution now passed, and ascribes to Him all the success which has hitherto attended the operation of temperance societies in this Province.

28. That the thanks of the Convention be presented to the Rev. W. Clarke, President, for his services during the sittings of this Convention.

29. That the thanks of the Convention be given to the Trustees of the Congregational Chapel, for the use of the building.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

PRESCOTT, June 15, 1841.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the small Steamboat to which the February number of your paper referred, as being in progress of building at this place, to navigate the St. Lawrence downwards from Kingston to Lachine, and upwards via the Ottawa and Rideau Canal, and to be conducted on Sabbath-keeping and total abstinence principles, left here this day on her first trip down.

She appears to be in good running order, and promises to afford both convenience and speed to either passengers or freight.

Her name is *Pioneer*, and her Captain, Lonson Hilliard. May she prove a "pioneer" to other boats, in opening the way for a better observance of the Sabbath among them, and for their abandoning the hurtful use and traffic of intoxicating drinks.

I remain, Sir, very respectfully yours,

W. D. DICKINSON.

Extract of a letter dated Aberdeen, May 1, 1841:—"The total abstinence cause is prospering to an extent far beyond what we could have reasonably anticipated. There is scarcely a village, a hamlet in the north of Scotland but has its society, and even in the "ultima thule"—the Orkney and Shetland Isles—the standard has been raised, and no fewer than 3000 of the most influential and intelligent of the population have rallied around it. The Rev. Mr. Mason has been in these islands all winter, and God has blessed his labours to a most astonishing extent. He is the Father Mathew of the North of Scotland. In December last we formed a Northern Union, and had the satisfaction of combining the influence of all the societies in the North. Sir Francis M'Keye, of Gairloch, is our patron: the Rev. Mr. Forbes of Woodside, Aberdeen, President; Capt. Ramsay of Banchoy, V. P., and your humble servant Secretary. The Executive Council is in itself a phalanx of moral and

religious principle; and I have the happiness to say, that all the societies in the North are formed on a moral and religious basis. The Council publish the *Northern Temperance Record*, which I edit for them. The circulation is 2000 a week. The Aberdeen Society now numbers 8000 members, and has a new Hall, which cost about £300. There are now 40,000 members in the North of Scotland, including fifty-three Ministers of different denominations.

"I am, my dear Sir, your's truly,

"JAMES H. WILSON."

CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

"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.*

MONTREAL, JULY, 1841.

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.—Our readers may remember having seen in the last number of the *Advocate*, a letter from A. Westley, 23d Regiment, dated *Point a Caliere* Barracks, stating, that he believed six or seven of his comrades had died of excessive drinking since the regiment came to Montreal, and giving the appalling particulars of one or two of these deaths. This A. Westley is, we understand, a soldier of excellent character, whose conduct was publicly commended by his commanding-officer a day or two previous to the appearance of the letter in question; yet for writing that letter he was tried by Court Martial, and degraded before his regiment, by having the stripe which he had obtained by good conduct taken from his arm. Whether this is in accordance with the rules of the service, or a high-handed stretch of power, we know not, but this we know, that temperance efforts are very much discouraged by a number of the officers of the army. In one regiment near Montreal, a flourishing Temperance Society of about 180 members was formed last year, and a coffee and reading room established, which had the effect of diminishing the receipts of the Canteen at the station nearly six pounds a day. The Canteen-keeper, who paid a large sum of money to Government in the shape of rent for his Canteen, very naturally complained that he could not pay rent for the Canteen, if the soldiers did not drink; and for this, and perhaps other causes, the officer in command of the regiment broke up the society: a measure which sent back the greater part of the 180 tee-totallers to their old habits of drinking. As might be expected, the regiment is now noted for intemperance. Another Colonel, not far from Montreal, declared that he did not wish to have a man in his regiment who could not take his glass.

We would by no means be understood to attribute such conduct to officers generally. There are some who not only throw no obstacles in the way of temperance efforts, but who in some measure encourage them, but we do say, that few or none of the officers in Her Majesty's service will countenance a temperance meeting among the men by their presence. If it were against the rules for officers to mingle with the men upon such occasions, or if it were rendered improper by public opinion, we would not complain; but it is not uncommon to see officers and men mixing together with the utmost freedom at games, such as curling or cricket. And if they can do so for these games, the officers might surely, if they loved the temperance cause, join with them in temperance meetings also. There is, however, another view of this matter, which demands our attention. The effects of the intemperance fostered in the British Army by the Canteen system; and the example or apathy of officers are terrible upon the men themselves and their poor families; but they do not stop there. The people of every city, town, and village in