

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—*Macnigh'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 DISCOURTAGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1845.

TRAVELLING AGENTS.

By reference to advertisements on last page, it will be seen that the Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society, is about to undertake another journey similar to those of the two preceding winters.

It affords us great pleasure also to announce the appointment of Mr. ROBIN of Shannonville, as lecturing and collecting agent for the above named Committee, in the Midland, Prince Edward, Victoria, and Newcastle Districts.

Both of these gentlemen have heretofore proved eminently successful as travelling lecturers, and it is hoped that they will even in increased measure receive the sympathies and assistance of the friends of the cause throughout the country.

Mr. ROBIN will arrange and advertise his appointments in the papers which circulate most in the localities to be visited, and the remainder of Mr. WADSWORTH's appointments will be advertised in due time in the *Advocate*. We need scarcely add that the friends of the cause in each locality, are earnestly requested to give all the necessary publicity, and make all the necessary arrangements for effective meetings.

It is also to be borne in mind that the efficiency of the Provincial Committee depends on the liberality of friends throughout the Province, who are therefore requested to make a collection at each meeting in behalf of its funds. These collections with all donations and subscriptions are to be given to the Agents who will regularly transmit them, in order that they may be acknowledged in the *Advocate*.

The Agents will also receive subscriptions for the *Advocate*, the circulation of which it is hoped they may be able greatly to extend, but intending subscribers are advised not to wait for their coming round as they may in that case be disappointed in receiving some of the first members.

With the exception of the Districts to be visited by Mr. ROBIN, and the Home and Niagara Districts which are supplied by their own lecturing Agents. Mr. WADSWORTH will endeavour to visit all the other Districts of Canada West. We have only to add that we hope the same hospitality will be extended to the Agents as heretofore, in order to diminish their expenses as much as possible.

HOW CAN GOVERNMENT HELP THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE?—CHEAP POSTAGE.

There is no more difficult question satisfactorily to answer than that concerning the desirableness or propriety of Government aid to religious and benevolent efforts. The prevailing opinion has been, that the State should assist every good cause, not only by pecuniary support, but by Legislative enactment; an impression which has very naturally led to Church Establishments and Government Systems of Education,—and would, were the Temperance cause sufficiently popular, procure for it grants of money, and, perhaps, stringent laws against drinking.

Whether such would be a suitable way of aiding the Temperance Reformation or not, it is not our present purpose to examine; but, assuredly, there is one way in which Government may most effectually promote the interests, not only of Temperance Societies, but of all other religious and benevolent associations, which is open to no valid objection,—we mean by according to the country the inestimable boon of Cheap Postage.

Vice is, for the most part, solitary and corporeal, and deals not much in letter writing; it hates the light, and will not come into it; but religion and benevolence are the exercise of the highest faculties of the soul, and seek for association and communion. Hence, every true religion calls forth a society, which seeks to extend its principles on all hands, and to keep up a constant correspondence with kindred associations, for which reason Cheap Postage is, to such efforts, a matter of the greatest importance.

Without the Post-office where would be the Temperance Reformation? Lecturers might have occasionally been sent through the country, but except where they had visited no societies would be in existence,—and even, such as they formed, would languish in solitude and ignorance of the progress of the cause beyond their own bounds. It would be next to impossible to call meetings of delegates, or to circulate reports and publications, and this great work would either have fallen still-born, or soon died of infancy.

Now the evils that would have attended the absence of Post-office arrangements, are partially effected by high charges in that department; and the benefits which have resulted from the Post-office, as now established, would be incalculably increased here, as they have been in Britain, by a cheap and uniform rate of postage.

We do not complain of the postage upon Newspapers, which we think is as low as it can be made, but the charge on letters is certainly arbitrary and exorbitant. Take, as an instance, the comparative charges on a barrel of flour, weighing 22 lbs. and a letter weighing half an ounce, both sent by the same steam-boat from Toronto to Kingston. The two hundred weight is carried for sixpence, whilst the half-ounce is charged ninepence. It may, however, be said, that the responsibility connected with the letter is much greater; but this is not the fact. If the barrel of flour go astray, it will be punctually paid for by the steam-boat,—but if the letter be lost, there is no redress whatever, nobody is responsible.

Were the post charge in Canada established at a uniform rate of 2d per half-ounce (nearly corresponding, considering the difference of currency and circumstances, to the British rate of one penny,) we think it not unlikely that the correspondence with the Montreal Temperance Society would soon be increased a hundred fold,—that is, perhaps, ten times as many individuals and societies would write, and probably ten-times as often. But were it only increased tenfold, the Post-Office, instead of losing, would be great gainers: for instead of one letter, at an average of say 10d, they would have ten letters at 2d, being a gain of a hundred per cent., without any materially increased cost in transportation or delivery.

High letter postage operates most injuriously upon the interests of cheap periodicals, such as *THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE*, inasmuch as many scattered individuals would remit for one or two copies were they not deterred by having to pay perhaps half as much postage on their remittance as the amount of subscription for the paper itself.

Taking these facts into consideration, and being convinced from various circumstances, that there is every disposition on the part of the British and Colonial Legislatures to co-operate for the improvement of our Post-Office arrangements, the Provincial