

Youths Department.

THE STAR OF TEMPERANCE

BY T. A. FERGUSSON.

Once a dark and dismal cloud
Our moral sky obscur'd,
And rolling thunders, rumbling loud
Of coming storms assur'd.

Then Reason's sun had set below
Those clouds so dark and dense,
Say, what produced this gloom of woe?
'Twas black Intemperance.

There demon-like in midnight gloom
His dragon-head arose—
And men submitted to their doom,
Nor offer'd to oppose.

Ten thousands in the prime of life
Were hurried down to death,
By famine, pestilence and strife,
The poisons of his breath.

Then virtue, like a sluggard slept,
When Reason was dethron'd,—
The drunkard's injur'd infants wept,
The anguish'd mothers groan'd.

Long had this moral midnight veil'd
From man his hideous toes,
But lo! a glorious light was hail'd,
The Temperance Star arose.

How blessed how divinely bright
That Star of Temperance shone,
How welcome to the anxious sight
Of the beighted one.

Prepared to seize, before him lay
The dragon's frightful shape,
He look'd around, behold! a way
Appear'd for his escape.

A way of sure and safe retreat,
By Sons of Temperance plann'd,
A way which leads from slavery's gate
To Freedom's happy land.

With firm and joyous step he sped
And gain'd a refuge sure,
That way has many thousands led,
From Ruin's very door.

Then Sons of Temperance still pursue
Your glorious saving plan,
Much still remains for you to do
To save your fellow man.

Though from ten thousand sunk in woe,
The enslaving chain you broke,
Ten thousand still are bowing low
Beneath th' oppressor's yoke.

Let not your zeal nor courage wane,
But firmer take your stand,
Nor quit the field till Baehus' train
Be banish'd From our land.

Bradford, August 8th, 1851.

DUNDAS CADETS. — PROCRASTINATION.

Worthy Archon, Brothers—Ladies & Gentlemen.

The subject which I have selected for my humble attempt at an essay, is Procrastination.

Foremost in the ranks of the destroyers of human happiness and contentment stand Procrastination. Ever ready to the weakminded, deterring them from the fulfilment of those engagements which they are bound by their duty to God and themselves to perform; and a serious obstacle to the attainment of such objects as necessity may require or fancy suggest. Procrastination is an evil habit, which when once acquired is the hardest to get rid of, and is attended with the most serious consequences. It clings to a person with the utmost tenacity and though subdued for a while will as soon as the watchfulness and perseverance which have been the workers of its downfall have in a measure relaxed their efforts,

return to take possession of the wretched objects of its galling oppression.

It is a habit of such a nature that when first discovered its prompt exertions are made for the suppression of it, it can be with little difficulty effected, but which it allowed to grow upon a person will in a remarkably short space of time have obtained such a foothold as to require the most energetic exertions to keep it from going to such an extent as entirely to unfit him for the transaction of any business whatever.

It is an evil which is not natural to man but is acquired by the example of others, or by an idle disposition. It does not grow upon a person quickly, but on the contrary is so gradual in its work of destruction as scarcely to be noticed until it has entirely effected its purpose. It is an evil which was never intended by Divine Providence to retard the rise and progress of mankind.

Look at the inferior animals; they do not procrastinate. See with what punctuality all their works are carried on. The Ant and the Bee do not defer laying up their winter stores. They do not put it off because in all probability, they shall have plenty of time in which after a day or two of pleasure to gather together as much food as will be necessary for their winter consumption. No, you may see the Ant upon the first fine day of Spring toiling along with her heavy burden; and the busy Bee may be seen sucking the sweet juices from the beautiful flowers; mingling her busy hum with the notes of the gay songsters of the woods, as they fly about among the green foliage; looking for the most secure and convenient place in which to build their nests. The whole animal creation presents a scene of punctuality, which it would be well for man to imitate.

Everything is busy with its own concerns and consequently has no time to interfere with the business of its neighbours.

Look at the works of nature and see with what punctuality every turn is taken—see with what regularity the seasons follow each other, each bringing with it its own peculiarity. What would be the consequence if God should see fit to withhold these blessings? Or think what a situation man would be in should he withhold the light of the Sun or cause it to shine at irregular intervals. But as it is we have everything in the proper time all coming in order, so as best to suit the wants of man.

If you look at the premises of the man upon whom this most distressing habit has grown you will in all probability see a spectacle that will go far towards putting you on your guard against it. Unhinged barn doors, broken down fences (and consequently injured crops), unmended windows, and tools and other articles lying around in the utmost confusion will be the prevailing features there. Can such a man prosper? No, procrastination has proved to be the thief of time and defrauded him of the time in which he should have been busily engaged in improving his property, but instead of thus engaging himself he kept putting off that which most needed doing until a more convenient time, until things began to assume an appearance of confusion and neglect that would entirely dishearten him.

Look at the history of the many heroes who have struggled whether from patriotic principles or principles of ambition; they did not procrastinate: whenever they had conceived a project they could not rest satisfied until it was accomplished. They took action upon it immediately and suffered nothing to be deferred till to-morrow which could be done to-day, provided it did not interfere with some prior engagement, or could be done to better advantage at some future time. And what was the result, they were almost always successful. Bruce succeeded in freeing his country. Oliver Cromwell gained the chief

power in England through quickly taking advantage of every circumstance which he could turn to his own account. Napoleon by his promptitude and energy gained the title of Emperor and made most of the Sovereigns of Europe feel his power; but he went a little beyond the line of prudence and in his furious attempts to conquer Russia lost his whole army and future prospects of success.

Might we not take pattern after some of those illustrious patriots? Can we not imitate them in their promptness by immediately attending to whatever we wish to be done? If we allow this most distressing evil to grow upon us we may be certain of the consequences it will entail on us; for an idle disposition soon brings poverty and want and sink us into misery and wretchedness. Look for instance at the youth who now rejects all solicitations to make one among this band of brothers. He thinks that the wine cup has no allurements for him; he does not make a practice of using intoxicating liquors nor does he intend to, and therefore it is of no use to join the Cadets; but watch him through life and see whether he will have reason to alter his opinion. You will in all probability see him before he has gone far upon the broad ocean of life commence by taking a glass or two with a friend. The gay company of his jovial companions keeps getting more and more attractive, and thus he is led on until he finds himself so enchained in the thralldom of the sparkling wine cup as to be lost to all sense of shame and may be seen reeling along the streets a very different person from what he would have been had he in his youth formed the wise resolution to be the avowed enemy of intemperance.

How many more instances are there on record of procrastination proving the ruin of men; leading them to neglect the affairs of both soul and body, and thus ruining them for time and eternity. Might we not learn a useful lesson from procrastination and would it not be well for all especially the young to take pattern from those who have been prompt in the fulfilment of their engagements, and ever to keep in mind the injunction of that great and wise man Solomon, "Boast not thyself of to-morrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

WM. FREED.

CADETS OF TEMPERANCE—HAMILTON.

On Friday evening, 5th inst. according to previous advertisement, the first anniversary of the Burlington Section of the Cadets of Temperance, was celebrated by a grand Soiree in the City Hall.—The festival was pretty well attended, particularly by the juvenile portion of the community. After refreshment had been served, the meeting was called to order by the appointment of T. Bickle, Esq., to the chair, who called upon the Rev. J. Carroll to open the exercises with prayer. Then followed a Temperance Ode, which was sung with great animation, accompanied with instrumental music. The Chairman next called for the reading of a number of Essays, which had been prepared for the occasion, by the young lads by whom they were read. They were well written, and evinced considerable talent, as well as reading and reflection on the part of their authors. The intervals between the Essays were enlivened with appropriate Temperance Songs from the Choir.

The Chairman announced that several others were prepared with Essays, but from the lateness of the hour he thought it would be best to defer reading them. Mr. Russell, from Brockville, was called upon, who addressed the meeting in a very humorous speech, to the no small amusement of his youthful auditors, who evinced their gratification by the most enthusiastic cheering.—