

Your petitioners, however, regard the loss of money occasioned by the liquor traffic as the least of its attendant evils. The crime and misery—the mental and moral degradation—the destruction of life—the blasted hopes and agonized hearts—the ruined prospects, both for time and for eternity, which result from it, are far more fearful items in the black catalogue. In their efforts, therefore, to arrest a social evil of such appalling magnitude—an evil which the annals of our public courts, jails, and penitentiaries show to be emphatically the evil which renders them necessary—your petitioners are of opinion that they have a fair claim to assistance from the public treasury. They therefore humbly pray that your Excellency will aid them by procuring from the Legislature a grant of a sum of money towards maintaining a system of public lectures for the dissemination of total abstinence principles and of a correct moral sentiment regarding the traffic in intoxicating drinks.

Believing that your Excellency and your advisers are, by virtue of your high position, the natural guardians of the poor widow and the destitute orphan; being assured that no cause makes so many widows and orphans as intemperance, and being aware that no other means of arresting its progress has ever been discovered even by those whose opposition to total abstinence should have suggested to them the propriety of devising something better, your petitioners trust that your Excellency will look with favor on them, as being alone in the attempt to stem this overwhelming evil, and will graciously grant their request.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will pray.

N. GUNNISON,

*Grand Worthy Associate.*

P. MONAGHAN,

*Grand Scribe.*

CHARLES ROBSON,

*Chairman Agency Com.*

Falifax, N. S., January 31, 1862.