

and the cause to be tried—opium smoking and not whisky drinking—what would be the verdict? In a late number of the *North British Review*, a quotation is given from a work by Mr. Smith, a missionary, in which he describes the manner in which opium is used in Amoy. On visiting an opium shop, he found himself in a square apartment surrounded with rude couches on which the smokers recline. The owner he found weighing out to his customers, by means of an accurate steel yard, the prepared drug which was dark and of a semi-fluid consistency. Some of the smokers were young, others old, some were poor, having made themselves so by their addiction to opium smoking, and many of them confessed that whatever might be the immediate gratification which it afforded, its ultimate effects were very pernicious, but that they could not break off the habit. An opium smoker will spend upon it \$d. a day, and very many of the labouring classes, although they have a wife and family dependent upon them, are the slaves of the practice. Mr. Smith visited thirty such shops in Amoy, and ascertained that there were about 1,600 of them in that city; a number just about equal—as our friend on my left will testify—in proportion to the population, to the number of whisky shops in Edinburgh, and that the money spent on opium amounted to several millions sterling. Nothing can be said in defence of whisky drinking, which is not equally applicable to opium smoking. Does any one plead that whisky is not injurious to health, and point in proof of this to those who, though not abstinent, have yet reached a good old age? the Chinese opium smoker can do the same. Does the whisky drinker speak of the exhilarating influence of the social bowl? the opium smoker will tell you that opium relieves him from all his sorrows, and visits his slumbers with the bliss of ecstacy. Does the whisky drinker boast of the energy which his beverage imparts? the opium smoker will tell you that it is under the influence of opium that the Turk rushes into battle, and seeks for glory at the cannon's mouth. And yet what is the advice which a Christian minister would give to a missionary whom he was ordaining to labour in Amoy, or any of the fine cities in China now open to the preaching of the gospel? Would he exhort him to use opium in moderation, but to beware of going to excess? Would he tell him that he might very properly smoke it a little, but that he must by all means, beware of becoming enslaved by the habit? Where is the minister who would give such an exhortation? Where is the minister who would not at once say that the missionary in China should avoid altogether the use of opium, except as a medicine? that the best way to escape the dangerous habit of using it to excess, was not to use it at all? and that no advantage could be gained from the use of it, which would at all counterbalance the danger and injury attending it? But why should not a similar advice be given to ministers regarding the use of alcoholic stimulants? The time is approaching, I fondly hope, when intoxicating drinks and opium will be classed together, and when the use of the one—unless when employed medicinally—will be as strongly and universally condemned, as that of the other.

The Rev. William Reid, and other gentlemen then addressed the meeting, which separated about half-past ten o'clock.

### 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—*Monk'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 DISCOURTEGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 1, 1817.

#### APPEAL FOR HELP.

The Montreal Temperance Society has incurred a debt of considerably upwards of £300, in publishing the *Temperance Advocate* at less than cost price, in order to encourage the public, and

especially the poor, to subscribe; also, in circulating temperance tracts, and various other efforts.

It has also fitted up a Temperance Hall for weekly meetings—thereat, fitting up, and expenses of which will not be less than £100 for the first year.

For these amounts the society has no resource, but a public subscription, and the collections that may be made by Mr. Wadsworth, in Canada West. His collections will be on account of delinquency on *Advocate*, which is chiefly incurred for the benefit of Western Canada.

It is also to be observed, that the society has made no general collection for several years, so that they hope for the greater liberality now, when compelled to solicit assistance.

Montreal, Dec. 23, 1817.

JOHN DOUGALL, President.

In answer to the foregoing appeal, it is gratifying to be able to announce that the following responses have been received:

#### DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

His Excellency the Governor General.....	£5 0 0
James Playfair, Esq., Glasgow, £20 sterling at 13 per cent.....	25 1 2
John Dougall.....	10 0 0
James Court.....	10 0 0
John C. Becker.....	10 0 0
T. M. Taylor.....	10 0 0
Thos. Miller.....	2 10 0
Mathewson & Sinclair.....	1 0 0
Robt. Anderson.....	1 0 0
James R. Orr.....	5 0 0
D. P. James.....	5 0 0
T. A. Stayner.....	5 0 0
Mrs. Mills.....	1 0 0
J. Eadie.....	1 0 0
D. Davidson.....	1 5 0
Jas. Scott.....	1 5 0
Alexr. Bryson.....	2 10 0
E. Atwater.....	2 10 0
R. Gorge.....	2 10 0
R. Campbell.....	2 10 0
T. Bryson.....	1 5 0
H. Dickinson.....	1 0 0
Jos. Mackay.....	1 5 0
Gnas. Alexander.....	1 10 0
J. Baylis.....	1 5 0
J. Potteus.....	1 5 0
Ja. Holland.....	1 0 0
Mrs. Buchanan.....	0 10 0
Wm. Lyman.....	1 0 0
James Cooper.....	0 10 0
S. J. Lyman.....	1 0 0
T. D. Hall.....	1 0 0
Cash.....	0 5 6
John Armour.....	1 5 0
S. Greenshields, Son, & Co.....	1 5 0
J. & W. Roy.....	0 10 0

£119 16 8

It will be seen that the foregoing is only about the fourth part of what is wanted. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that other friends will not be behind in their liberality; and that Mr. Wadsworth may meet with a favourable reception in Canada West, and liberal collections at the public meetings which he may address.

Montreal, Jan. 5, 1818.

JAMES COURT, Treasurer.

We wish all our readers a good and happy new year. Since we last had the pleasure of appearing before them, we have passed over the boundary separating one portion of time from another; and 1817, with all the thoughts, words, and actions to