

# MONTHLY VISITOR

OF THE

MONTREAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

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## A NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS,

TO THE RESPECTABLE SELLERS AND MODERATE DRINKERS OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS IN THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

DEAR FRIENDS,—We embrace the present opportunity to address you, because it is usually considered a favourable time of the year for reviewing the past, and forming plans and resolutions for the future, and the prevailing feeling which actuates us in so doing being love, we trust you will not cast this paper from you as if an enemy had written it, but give it a consideration as courteous as we trust its language will be.

To DEALERS, we would suggest the following topics of reflection:—Your business has ever been considered, to say the least, one of a doubtful character. Why else is it made the subject of legal restraints more than other kinds of trade? Why else is it necessary to have enactments respecting certificates of character, licenses, and, in many places, even the hours and persons when and to whom sales may be made?

A brief review of the history of your traffic would show that it has at all times been an object of alarm to governments; that its suppression has been in many instances attempted; and that it is only finally tolerated as an evil which they are not able to prevent, every precaution being, at the same time, taken to diminish, as far as possible, its pernicious consequence.

It is often said that there is as much harm done by eating as drinking; but has the experience of nations proved that there was as much cause for anxiety and alarm in the trade of the baker and butcher as in yours? Disguise it as you may from yourselves, your traffic stands upon nearly similar ground in the western world with the opium trade in the east; and if you would shrink from the idea of supplying opium wholesale or retail to the wretched votaries of that drug, there is no good reason why you should not shrink from your own business. The