

## The Harbinger.

MONTREAL, MARCH 15, 1843.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—“A Trip to St. Ames,” though creditable to the writer’s descriptive powers, is unsuited to our pages. The paper lies at the printer’s office. We have selected four stanzas from a poem, the length of which forbids its insertion as a whole. “Junius” will do well to confine himself to *prose*, and in this to aim at condensation and accurate arrangement. We cannot commit ourselves to the insertion of a series such as he proposes. The piece inserted in this number will indicate the proper length of any communications, with which he may favour us in future.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE.—Although this subject has, as yet, occupied but a small portion of our pages, this has mainly arisen from the known existence of a contemporaneous publication in which its claims are ably enforced, and the progress of the total abstinence principle accurately traced. We now allude to it only for the purpose of introducing a document, the importance of which can be duly estimated only by such as are alive to the actual moral condition of our colonial population, and the vast responsibility attaching to the Ministers of the Gospel in reference to their official influence. If this influence can be improved and augmented by their avowed as well as practical abstinence from all alcoholic drinks, the object is more than sufficient to justify the course which is here adopted. In the absence of any positive precept or prohibition, the Christian must have recourse, in regard to every practical question, to the *principles* and *spirit* of the Gospel, and these are sufficient to vindicate the disuse of all spirituous stimulants, even though they were absolutely innocuous. That they are positively beneficial, few will now maintain; and even these few will acknowledge the expediency of self-denial, when by this, a positive evil can be mitigated, counteracted, or removed. Without arrogantly and presumptuously “judging” those who cannot conscientiously avow the purpose of total abstinence, the subscribers to the following document entertain the sanguine hope that very many of their ministerial brethren throughout the colony, will give in their adhesion to the

principle of their association, and thus contribute to the diminution and ultimate annihilation of a practice, fraught with such incalculable injury to the community amongst whom Providence has cast our lot. Should this expectation be happily realized, we may safely calculate on the prevention of much evil and the accomplishment of much real good, as the result of a movement, originating in a deep conviction of ministerial responsibility, and harmonizing with the inspired representations of ministerial character:—

### MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF INTemperance.

We the undersigned Ministers of the Gospel and Missionaries, do agree, that we will not use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, nor provide them as an article of entertainment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

H. ESSON,  
Minister of the Presb. Church, St. Gabriel Street.

W. TAYLOR,  
Minister of the Presb. Church, St. Lawrence Sub.

HENRY WILKES,  
Minister of the Congreg. Church, St. Maurice St.

CALEB STRONG,  
Minister of the Amer. Presb. Church, Montreal.

J. J. CARRUTHERS,  
Congreg. Minister and Theological Professor.

WILLIAM SQUIRE,  
Wesleyan Minister.

H. O. CROFTS,  
Methodist New Connexion Minister.

HENRY TAYLOR,  
Minister of the Presb. Churches Mississkoui Bay and Henryville.

DAVID DONIE,  
Minister Second Presb. Church, Huntingdon.

W. M’KILLICAN,  
Congregational Minister, Glengary.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.—On Monday last, the Anniversary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society was held in the St. James’ Street Chapel. The house was filled to overflowing with an attentive auditory, before whom the claims of that Society were advocated with all the intelligence and fervour for which our brethren of that communion are distinguished.—*Register*.

### FOR THE HARBINGER.

### THE CLAIMS OF CHILDREN ON THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

“The conversion of sinners” is confessedly an important theme. To promote this, the Christian Church is under various and solemn obligations. The great design of the Gospel, the duties devolving upon the saved, and the importance of