

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

The *Weekly Messenger* was in existence fifteen months and had become established in popular esteem and support, when it was resolved, in view of a widespread demand for a comprehensive temperance organ for all Canada, to add *The Temperance Worker* to the title and devote a portion of space specially to the promotion of temperance work. Although the paper has only been issued in its double character for a few weeks, and its connections with the country have not had time to become fully established, yet the cordial reception that it has met wherever introduced gives promise of grand success. At this early stage in the career of this publication it has from seven to eight thousand paid subscribers, with the list constantly increasing, and we have confidence that the number could be doubled almost immediately if those who rejoice in its weekly visits would only think of recommending the paper to others when they have an opportunity for doing so. Those who see the paper for the first time we would ask to examine its different points for themselves—the clear print, the comprehensive digest of the week's news, original articles in the temperance and news departments, general reading, markets, puzzles, pictures and the remarkably low price. It is sent to any address on this continent for fifty cents a year, or forty cents to clubs of ten, addressed singly or otherwise. All orders should be sent to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal.

Correspondents will please address their favors to "Editor Weekly Messenger," as otherwise delay is almost certain to occur in their publication, and news should be in our hands by Saturday if possible to appear in next Saturday's issue.

WORK.

In every walk of life, in every movement for the elevation of humanity, work is the main condition of success and the chief element in progress. All that has been accomplished in the cause of temperance represents a certain amount of labor performed, and none who have been idle can claim any credit in the great things that have so far been achieved. Everyone who has done anything toward reducing the number of those who sell or use intoxicating drink is entitled to honor in proportion to his work, and responsible for neglect in what he has failed to do that he might have done. It is not yet time, however, to discuss the honors of this great war, and that is not the object of these lines. What is wanted now is to enlist recruits, more needed than at any previous stage of the conflict, because the drink question has developed into a political as well as a social one. The matter has arrived at a stage when all work done in the cause converges in political power opposed to the traffic and when much of the work of the past is manifest in restrictive legislation and a growing demand for more of it. There is no excuse

for indifference or neutrality on the part of any person, and it is for each one to find out what he can do and do it. Good example in abstaining has done much of itself in the way of causing the downfall of pernicious drinking customs in many places, but passive example alone will not fill the measure of any man's duty with respect to the greatest evil of the age. Each person's responsibility is in proportion to his ability and influence, and the day ought to be past when the leading men in a community can satisfy enlightened public opinion, not to mention their own consciences, by merely lending their gracious countenances to the cause of temperance upon an occasional platform and giving a dollar now and then to campaign funds, in the midst of vigorous agitation promoted by others. Every lad inducing a companion to join a temperance society may be procuring not only one voter for prohibition a few years hence, but a score or a hundred whom the recruit may be able himself to enlist or influence. Think of how many thousands of temperance converts were secured, and what an endless influence for good was put in operation when the poor inebriate book-binder, John B. Gough, was prevailed upon to take the pledge. This matter of personal responsibility is one of the most supreme importance, and cannot be magnified unduly by temperance workers. While the liquor dealers seldom get more than they deserve upon the temperance platform, yet in hundreds of cases the cause would be better served by some plain and wholesome admonition to professed friends of temperance who seem to regard their duty accomplished when they coldly assent to temperance principles or consent to lend their influence to the right side during a period of revived interest which they had no share in creating. It is a duty of the real workers to be honestly bold in showing professed friends how short they come of their responsibilities, at the same time setting all an example of untiring exertion and perseverance, and accordingly as this course is followed triumphant results will ensue.

ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO.

The Rev. Mr. Parsons, of Knox Church, Toronto, delivered an excellent and powerful address on temperance a fortnight since in the Baptist Church here. Notwithstanding the bad weather he had a good audience.

The Hon. Mr. Finch, of Nebraska, U. S., addressed two meetings in the St. Paul Street Methodist Church lately on prohibition. He is a powerful and first class advocate of the cause. He came to the city under the auspices of Grantham Division.

Col. Bain, of Kentucky, speaks in the Academy of Music on Monday and Tuesday evenings of next week. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union secured the services of the Rev. Mr. Parsons and Col. Bain.

The want of a Temperance Hall to seat five or six hundred people is to be supplied. The ladies of our town have undertaken the work, secured a site, got up plans and a good part of the stock, \$5,000, subscribed and promised.

April 21st, 1883.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

An effort is being made to prove the Scott Act not in force yet in Colchester County, N. S., on the ground that there is an outstanding rule in the County Court against the Act itself, the point being raised on behalf of half a dozen liquor-dealers on trial before the Recorder's Court in Truro.

The Town Council of Ormstown, Quebec, has passed a by-law against licenses being granted to stores.

RENEWAL OF LICENSE.

A few days ago, my neighbor who keeps a tavern came to me to sign his requisition for a renewal of license. I promptly said, "No, sir, I cannot do it, I dare not, I am an abstainer and opposed to the liquor traffic." He very politely excused himself and said he once belonged to a division and knew the rules of the total abstainers. I replied, "I wish you had never left the division," and he sighed while he said, "I wish so too." I believe prohibition would be as great a blessing to the rumseller as to the tippler. The traffic is ruinous to their present and eternal peace.—VERITAS.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

A new Division, with forty-three charter members, has been instituted at the thriving village of Lewis Mountain, Salisbury, N. B. William Killam is W. P.; John H. Dolsen, R. S. and D. G. W. P. Six new Divisions have been organized in New Brunswick since last July.

South Stukely Division, No. 89, situated in the place of that name, Province of Quebec, held a public installation of officers, of which the following is the list:—W. P., W. K. Knowlton; W. A., Sister Nancy Spencer; R. S., A. M. Jenne; A. R. S., Sister Bertha McDonald; F. S., J. A. Kneeland; Treas., W. G. Kneeland; Chap. Rev. H. Fowler; C., W. S. Brame; A. C., Sister W. S. Brame; I. S., C. A. Martine; O. S., M. F. Goddard; P. W. P., C. A. Goddard. The installing officers were D. G. W. P., C. A. Goddard and D. G. C., R. S. Savage. It was the first time the ceremony was performed publicly there, and was a novelty to some who regarded the Sons as a mysteriously secret society. After installation an excellent programme of entertaining and instructive exercises was performed. The Division is trying to promote the cause by building a temperance hall, which it needs badly. There is a general awakening to renewed effort to make the work successful in that quarter and the membership is increasing in consequence.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

A County Court Judge in Nova Scotia quashed the conviction of a liquor-seller on the ground that the justice below, having indemnified the plaintiff, was an interested party. It appears the justice was Recording Scribe of a Division of the Sons of Temperance, which passed a resolution asking the Clerk of License to proceed against an

illicit dealer and guaranteeing costs of the case. The justice conveyed this resolution to the Clerk in fulfillment of his official duty in the Division, which is an incorporated body, and considered his action did not disqualify him to try the suit, as the law of the Province expressly says that no person shall be incapable of exercising judicial functions in any cause, matter or proceeding by reason of being "interested as one of several ratepayers, or as one of any other class of persons, liable in common with others, to contribute to, or be benefited by, any fund which may be affected by the disposition or determination of such cause, matter, or proceeding." The County Court Judge in this case must have acted upon the principle that a poor pretext was better than none when a lawless rumseller needed his protection.

A remarkable law to diminish temperance is proposed to be enacted in Russia. It will prohibit drinking houses in the neighborhood of factories and workshops; the number of places where liquor may be drunk upon the premises is to be limited very materially, and the selling to children up to full age will procure the closing up of the offender's shop. Customers are also to be dealt with in the new law. An incorrigible, chronic drinker shall forfeit the rights of headship to his family, and his children be taken care of and educated by the state and no interference on his part allowed with them. The wife of an incorrigibly drunken husband may be granted a conditional divorce by the courts and shall be defended in her rights to her own earnings. On the other hand the husband of an incorrigibly drunken wife shall be released from the obligations of supporting and living with her. In neither of these cases, however, will the divorce be considered absolute, a second union of any of the parties being forbidden during the life of the other.

A Free Mason Lodge has been instituted in Manchester, England, upon a temperance basis, inasmuch as its funds cannot be applied to the purchase of intoxicating beverages and these are prohibited from its social gatherings. The Lodge is called after Lord Wolsley, the commander in the Egyptian war, who, although not a teetotaler, professes favor for temperance principles. It was the universal practice, it seems, for members of masonic lodges to indulge in drinking after the business of the meetings was over, which caused temperance members to avoid the meetings, and a few of these were instrumental, in spite of opposition from members of the Order interested in the sale of liquor, in having the new lodge started. Lord Wolsley was present at the institution of the Lodge and expressed his cordial agreement with its objects. The fact that the organization of a masonic lodge upon such principles in England is regarded as an astonishing event shows how far behind some of her children the Mother Country has lagged upon this great question. In some of the Canadian Provinces, respectable associations of all kinds have for many years abandoned the use of intoxicants at their social gatherings.