

Laudable Conduct of the Duke of Sutherland in the Cause of Temperance.

(For the *Montreal Temperance Advocate*.)

The following correspondence has taken place between the Stratford Division Sons of Temperance, 236, and His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, on the subject of the laudable exertions of His Grace, in endeavoring to effect a reformation in the habits of the fishermen engaged in the North of Scotland in the herring fishery. His Grace's answer certainly reflects much to his credit; and if his example be followed by his compeers in a consideration of the social habits of those who move in a sphere of lowly existence,—if man, however humble, be valued for his virtues and goodness by those whose nobleness of class places them far above the toiling mass,—if there is a nobleness in the mind of man which can be cultivated, there is a wide field for the exertions of philanthropic spirits among the nobles of Britain. "Man's inhumanity to man, makes countless thousands mourn," as wrote Scotland's noble poet, may yet be modified by a personal and truthful knowledge obtained of the social habits and customs of the hard worked and overlooked lower classes. What an enterprise! the elevation of the moral and social state of mankind, by thinking of, and acting for, their temporal welfare. And who are the nobles of Canada? The sons of the soil. What are their habits and customs as to the drinking usages? Yeomen and freemen of Canada, what power of class is above you? I answer, a Liquefied Deity! Then, if so, learn to know that you yourselves can strike the blow, and make the tyrant tremble!

Stratford, County of Perth, C.W., }
January 10, 1853.

To His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, London.

May it please Your Grace:—

We, the Managers of the Society here known as "Stratford Division Sons of Temperance, No. 236," approach your Grace, to notice approvingly a paragraph which is quoted in some of the Canadian papers, as follows:—"The Duke of Sutherland has kindly offered to the fishermen on his estates, in the habit of prosecuting the herring fishing Helmsdale, a supply of coffee during the fishing season, as well as the apparatus necessary for properly preparing it, provided they will give up the large supply of whisky (ten gallons) which each crew has hitherto been receiving as perquisites, and accept some other consideration in lieu of it."—*John O'Groat Journal*.

We, as one of the subordinate branches called "Divisions" of the "Grand Division" of the Sons of Temperance of Canada West, not merely highly approve of your Grace's considerate views as regards the fishermen of the North of Scotland, but view your Grace's practical example as one which, if followed in the various ways which circumstances induce by those in high honorary and hereditary positions, similar to those occupied by your Grace, would, we humbly conceive, be the means, under a directing Providence, of reforming the social habits of those among whom are customs descended from previous times, which are the reverse of promoting a real social habit of moral and temporal good. An example such as that afforded by your Grace, shown by one in a class next to royalty itself, will, it is hoped, be the means of re-awakening the responsibility of those who are "great in the land," to consider "what is the best means of raising to a moral and temporal standard of social happiness, those who are necessitated to obtain by labor a subsistence either singly or in masses congregated together for one object, and as such compelled by the voice of custom to do, comply with, and live in ways which too often tend to a lowering of such a stand-

ard as we refer to; and thereby leave behind them the seeds to germinate of social habits and customs, which directly and indirectly tend to the degeneracy, and not to the elevation, of man."

That your Grace may be preserved to be the means of nurturing an improvement in the social habits of those on your extensive estates, such as we have the pleasure of referring to in this letter, is our sincere desire,—joining in our desire the same wishes for Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland.

And we remain, with all respect, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN A. SCOTT, W.P.
JOHN J. E. LINTON, R.S.

Trentham, Staffordshire, }
February 5, 1853. }

Messrs. J. A. Scott and J. Linton, Stratford,

SIRS,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication by Managers of the Stratford Division of Sons of Temperance Society; and I wish to express my thanks, and the satisfaction it gives me to find the measures I have taken thus approved of. I fear that my influence may be over-estimated by you in your desire for their success; but I have pleasure in stating that some good results seem certain.

It has been the custom of the herring fisheries in the North of Scotland to give every crew, in lieu of proper money wages, a large quantity of whisky, thereby encouraging the abuse in a manner irresistible for the fishermen; and this—the habit of drinking spirits—not confined to the period of hard work out at sea at night, is unhappily spreading among the population, and demoralizing a naturally well disposed people. I trust that I have persuaded the curers on the East coast of Sutherland, having obtained the concurrence of some of the principal, to desist from this, and to pay wages in money. I am now engaged in the same way at the important place of Wick, in Caithness, and have much satisfaction in meeting with attention from several there, and acknowledgment that the change is desirable.

I should apologise for saying so much on the subject to you who have so well expressed your sense of the importance of attention to the social habits and character of the people, and of the duty of those who may have influence, to exert it for the promotion of their temporal, and also eternal, happiness.

I feel truly grateful for the kind wishes expressed for the Duchess and myself: no one can be more anxious for the welfare of our fellow-creatures than the Duchess, who devotes as much time and care to the subject as is possibly in her power. It is pleasing to know that distance does not prevent participation in sentiments of good will and friendly feelings.

I am, Sirs, very truly yours,

SUTHERLAND.

Sabbath Meditations.

Hall, Virtue & Co., have just published a new and important work by the Rev. John Cummings D. D. It is entitled "The Church before the Flood," and is highly spoken of by the London Press. The reference to fact in the following passage will be easily discerned, but it also furnishes an eloquent illustration of the principle and duties of a common brotherhood:—

"Where is then thy brother? He is the stray sheep that has gone from the fold, he is the poor prodigal feeding upon husks. And if you want to see what thy brother is, leave the picturesque description of the poet, close the beautiful romance, open the Scriptures, hear the verdict of Him who