

Bolton, Dec. 24, 1850.

Sir,—I am well pleased with the *Advocate*, and hope it will be well sustained. In regard to the progress of Temperance in this place, I cannot say much for its advancement, so far as numbers signing the pledge are concerned. But I think the cause is gaining a more permanent footing amongst the people in general, than it used to have. Even its enemies are frequently constrained to admit that it is a good cause.

We had the Rev. Mr. Dick out here on the 16th inst., forming a division of the Sons of Temperance; and in his address, previous to forming the division, he cleared away much of the prejudice which before existed in many minds against the institution. Two persons, in particular, as they afterwards admitted, came to the meeting, determined to be antagonistic, but the lecturer so cleared away their scruples, and answered their questions so satisfactorily, that both joined the division, one of whom was the Rev. Joseph Wheeler, who says he went to the meeting intending to pick the institution to pieces. The other was a Local Preacher amongst the P. M., who said he went there with his belly full of prejudice; and, I expect, like the other, he intended to show them up to great disadvantage, should an opportunity present itself—and the lecturer offered every facility for their object. He invited, and even urged, them to ask any question which they could, arising from any doubt upon their minds; and they did ask many questions, and were answered in every case to perfect satisfaction.

As for my own opinion on the subject, I am convinced that it is an institution that is better calculated to extend, and make more permanent the work of total abstinence, than anything that has as yet come up. I think the Sons are, for the work, in comparison to the old Society, as a well drilled and disciplined army are to raw recruits, or an undisciplined militia.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

GEORGE BOLTON

Waterford, January 10, 1851.

Sir,—The cause of Temperance is progressing rapidly in this vicinity. The monthly meetings are regularly kept up and are always interesting and well attended. Various public speakers are usually present, whose able addresses, not only make these meetings very pleasing, but quite instructive. The old society now numbers about 20 consistent members; and in addition to this we have lately formed a Division of the Sons of Temperance (No. 141) numbering 169. The organization of the "Sons" happily suits the peculiar views of many persons in this place, who, from some cause or other, would never unite with the old society, thus bringing many into our ranks that the ordinary society could never reach. These societies now work harmoniously together, and are wielding a most powerful influence against the fashionable tipping custom once so prevalent in this village. Not long since, among a certain very respectable class, it was not only considered courteous and liberal, but quite imperative, to present the bottle and glass to all visiting friends, now happily by the same parties, it is regarded as a breach of etiquette. So popular is the Temperance movement in this place, that these societies now contain nearly all the wealth, talent and influence of the village and vicinity. What then can prevent their closing the doors of the two miserable drunkeries, that are such a stigma on our neat little town, or prevent their turning the old distillery stained with age, though less black than the enormous crimes of which it has been the direct cause, into something less destructive, into something more useful. The time has come when these

hot-beds of vice, are not only considered as entirely useless, but as highly injurious to society; and I trust the time will soon come when these places will be fully supplied with neat and commodious Temperance Halls; when these low groggeries shall exist only in the memories of those whom they have injured, when drunkenness and all its concomitant evils shall be wiped out of existence, and sobriety and virtue characterize its once deluded vassals. Selfish men, through sinister motives, may oppose this movement, and retard its progress, but they cannot possibly prevent the universal spread of Temperance principles.

At the dedication of our Hall, which took place not long since, several valuable donations were made to the Division. Among the rest were a beautiful Bible and Banner presented by the Ladies of the Town. To show that we have their cordial co-operation, I will conclude by giving you the address (which I clip from a local paper) so beautifully read by one of them on presenting the Banner. It is this:

Worthy Patriarch, and gentlemen of the Town and division of the Sons of Temperance.

In ancient times the friends of an individual were wont to bestow upon him an amulet, which possessed, they supposed, some secret power or influence to preserve from evil, and secure success. That this little banner may, in some measure, thus serve you, is the sincere wish of the ladies of Waterford. When you look upon it, may its chaste and beautiful motto inspire you with new zeal;—may it bind you more firmly together for the liberation of your fellow men from their degrading vassalage to intemperance.

In presenting you this token of our esteem and approbation, we would congratulate you upon the success of your noble and philanthropic Institution.—Effects the most important and lasting, are often produced from causes, apparently, the most insignificant. A few years since a little band, sixteen in number, instituted in New York, a society which, in that busy emporium, occupied scarce a passing thought. But where is it now? Every town, city, and almost every village in our western world proudly answers, here. Its roots have struck deeper and deeper;—its branches have spread from the frozen regions of the north to the sunny south;—its golden fruits have ripened in the genial warmth of prosperity. From its presence the foul weed of intemperance has fled, as flees the wild beasts from the approach of civilization. Its banner of purity, fidelity, and truth has waved over our land, and its magical power has healed the broken heart, and wreathed in smiles, lips which for long years had moved but to mourn.

No where have its traces been more beautifully marked than in our own little village. Here it has met a kindly welcome;—the rude blasts of sarcasm have passed unheeded by;—it has been allowed to flourish, and scatter forth its rich blessings of plenty and happiness at many a door. But we need not pause to enumerate; we have but to look around at this neat and tasteful hall; your intelligent happy countenances, and fine forms decorated in the regalia of your order; and we have proclaimed, in language more eloquent than words, the prosperity of your society.

To what is your unparalleled success to be attributed but to divine guidance. What could have infused into you that noble philanthropy, and forgetfulness of self, which leads you to the hovels of vice to reclaim the erring, but those noble precepts, "love one another," "do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." Let Christianity be more cherished, it is the bulwark, the firm basis upon which your noble institution rests.

Yours is a noble and happy work, to guide the wanderer back to the paths of virtue; to take away the harsh and low from his character, and make him live in a warmer, purer atmosphere;—to open the sealed streams of the heart's best affections; to make, in fact, that dull, frigid, sensual being, a man of warm heart and noble nature; to awaken his soul to all that is elevated, and beautiful, and pure, until he becomes somewhat like the Great Eternal.—Your work carries with it the rich reward of good actions, a happy conscience toward God.

Well may you say—

"We care not that around our brows,
Fame's laurel wreath shall twine;
Or that on history's glowing page,
Our names shall proudly shine."