

Temperance.

Temperance Committee's Report. (Concluded.)

We may also refer to the statistics of the revenue for further illustration. These show that last year there was an increase of 3,341 gallons in the amount of Brandy, Gin, Whiskey and Wine, entered for duty, over the preceding year—and of 8,893 gallons in that year over the one preceding it, making an increase of 12,234 gallons in two years.

It is true the quantity of Rum entered was 5,378 gallons less last year than the year before, and 11,546 gallons less in that year than in the one that preceded it—making 16,924 gallons in two years. The decrease in that period is, therefore, but 4,690 gallons in the whole; while it appears that the articles used by the richer classes are progressively increasing in no inconsiderable degree; and the decrease in the quantity of Rum entered may furnish but an erroneous criterion, if there be truth in the assertions confidently made, that smuggling in this article—both the provincially distilled and the imported—is carried on to a large extent. And lastly, in the city of Halifax, the licenses granted last year are but thirteen less than those in the previous year.

The question then seems narrowed down to this point.—The middle and lower classes of the people, to a large extent, have done their duty to free their country from an evil that retards its moral, social, and industrial progress; their strength proves unequal to the full accomplishment of the task. Shall the work, therefore, be stayed; or shall the legislature interpose, and make at least the experiment of its power to realise a consummation so devoutly to be desired?

Your committee unanimously believe the experiment should be made.

What remains, then, to consider, is a question of time.

We have the success of the measure we recommend too deeply at heart, to court defeat by precipitancy.

The measure of legal prohibition to be successful, must be sustained by the hearty co-operation of the bulk of the people, and must be vigilantly and faithfully carried into execution. It has not yet been discussed in the legislature. It has not been adequately considered and apprehended by the people. It must be weighed in all its bearings and relations—the cost in all its forms, and they are many, must be understood and counted—that when the effort is made, it may be made with a thorough knowledge of its nature and consequences, and with a determination which reverses shall not damp, nor temporary successes seduce.

Another motive for delay of great weight is, that the experiment is being tried on theatres better prepared than ours. The State of Maine has made a mighty and noble effort; and Massachusetts and other States of the Union are discussing, modifying, and adopting the example, according to their various circumstances and opinions. Nova Scotia, by delay, may obtain invaluable lessons of knowledge and experience, without the cost that is sometimes paid for experience. Should the principle of prohibition be generally adopted by our people, petitions signed by four-fold the numbers now before the House, will attest the fact. We wish it were possible to obtain the opinion of not many, only, but of every intelligent inhabitant, through the ballot box.

With these views, we do not recommend the introduction, at the present Session, of a bill based on the Maine Law. But we recommend that the abstract principle be discussed and tested in the House, on Resolution.

Your Committee have considered the petitions referred to them praying a grant of money to engage a Lecturer on Temperance to visit different parts of the Province. We consider the instruction of the people on a point so essential to their well being and the public prosperity, as a most appropriate subject for encouragement from the public funds, and recommend a grant of £300 for the object.

So long as the liquor trade shall be continued, and the license system be persevered in, your Committee recommend those

changes in the law that for some years have been fruitlessly attempted. We especially deprecate as injurious, the granting of licenses under which intoxicating liquors may be drunk in the shops where they are sold—and we recommend the entire separation of the retail of liquors from the sale of groceries and other articles.

We think it just and reasonable that the vendors, by retail, of intoxicating liquors, should be legally answerable for mischievous consequences of the intoxication they have been instrumental in creating.

And that the property of confirmed inebriates should be placed under trust for the benefit of themselves, their families and creditors.

That persons should be appointed in each County officially authorized to prosecute the violators of the laws relating to intoxicating liquors.

And that intoxicating liquors forfeited should be destroyed, and a compensation of three pence a gallon paid the seizing officers.

Your Committee in conclusion ask permission to call the notice of your Honourable House to the report of a Committee of thirty-seven members appointed by the House of Commons in 1834, comprising leading members of Parliament, among whom were the late Lord Athorp, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Buckingham, (the mover,) Mr. Alexander Baring, Sir Andrew Agnew, Mr. Plumtree, and other well known public men, to consider the prevalent evil of drunkenness in the United Kingdom, and many in this House and in the Province will probably be surprised to find as your Committee were, that most of the objects aimed at by the advocates of temperance in this Province, either in their principle or details including the education of the people on this subject, the separation of the sale of groceries from that of liquors, and extending even to the radical reform of entire prohibition, had met the approbation of a Committee on which were such distinguished gentlemen.

Although the advocates of total abstinence in Nova Scotia who have been engaged in the support and advancement of this cause have been content with their own conviction that it rested on the certain foundation of religion, reason and benevolence, it is satisfactory to find that objects and principles which in Nova Scotia have been by some deemed visionary and fanatical, had by so high authority been considered subjects of the highest moment, calling for present and prospective legislation.

The following are extracts from that report:—

“That the right to exercise legislative interference for the correction of any evil which affects the public weal cannot be questioned without dissolving society into its primitive elements and going back from the combined and co-operative state of civilization, with all its wholesome and lawfully imposed restraints to the isolated and lawless condition of savage and solitary nature.

Section 7.—IMMEDIATE REMEDIES, LEGISLATIVE AND MORAL.

“The refusal of retail spirit licenses to all but those who would engage to confine themselves exclusively to dealing in that, and consequently the entire separation of the retail sale of spirits from groceries, provisions, wine or beer, excepting only in the fourth class of houses as inns or hotels for travellers and inmates or lodgers.

“The encouragement of temperance societies in every town and village of the kingdom; the only bond of association being a voluntary engagement to abstain from the use of ardent spirits as a customary drink, and to discourage by precept and example all habits of intemperance in themselves and others.

“A national system of education which should ensure the means of instruction to all ranks and classes of the people, and which, in addition to the various branches of requisite and appropriate knowledge, should embrace as an essential part of the instruction given by it to every child in the kingdom, accurate information as to the poisonous and invariably deleterious nature of ardent spirits as an article of diet in any form or shape.

Section 8.—ULTIMATE OR PROSPECTIVE REMEDIES.

“The absolute prohibition of the importation from any foreign country, or from our own country, of distilled spirits in any shape.

“The equally absolute prohibition of all distillation of ardent spirits from grain, the most important part of the food of man in our own country.

“The restriction of distillation from other materials to the purposes of the arts, manufactures and medicine, and the confining the wholesale and retail dealing in such articles to chemists, druggists, and dispensaries alone.”

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. JOHNSTON, Chairman.

STEWART CAMPBELL,

NICHOLAS MOSHER,

JESSE SHAW,

JOHN HOLMES,

JAMES CAMPBELL,

ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD,

THOMAS COFFIN,

[JOHN CAMPBELL—absent—but having concurred before his departure.]

Family Circle.

A Father's Prayers.

A few years ago, when Dr. Judson returned for a short time to America, some one asked his little daughter, who accompanied him, “if she was not afraid when coming over the great ocean to America?” “Why, no,” said she: “father prayed for us.” How sweet the sense of safety and protection that this little girl felt, even amid the dangers of a long voyage, believing, so heartily as she did, that God would hear her father's prayers, and take care of them all the way! She felt the blessing of a praying father; and when, recently, she received the sad news of his death, do you not believe that, while she mourned the loss of so excellent a parent, she also grieved for the loss of his prayers?

The father of a little boy, about eleven years old, was an invalid, and was obliged to seek a mild climate, where the air was soft and warm. The change was beneficial, and for a time his disease was stayed; but at length, in a few months, he became worse: his strength failed, his frame grew weaker day by day, and it was very plain that he would soon die. About midnight, one Saturday, his wife was reading to him an account of a wicked man who attempted to steal money from a bank, and was shot. As she read, she spoke of their own dear Charley, who would soon be left fatherless, and for that reason the more exposed to those temptations that crowd so thickly the path of the young. The father lifted an earnest prayer for his little son: “Lord, keep him! Lord, bless him!” and in an hour after, just as the Sabbath dawned on earth, his soul ascended to heaven, and he entered eternal rest. These earnest petitions were the last words of that dying father; and, in the circumstances of that hour, how full of meaning! “Lord, keep him!” From what, think you, did he desire God should “keep” his beloved child? There are many painful and distressing things which every parent wishes his children should escape; but is not *sin* the greatest of all evils? It was from that,—the sin of his own natural heart, in its thousand forms,—that this Christian father, in the last words he had breath to speak, prayed that Charley might be preserved; from the corrupting influences of ungodly associates; from the snares and allurements of those deceitful pleasures which the world offers. And that other petition, “Lord, bless him!” O, how full of the tenderest affection was his heart, as he uttered this prayer! How do you think he desired God to “bless” his son? With wealth, that should bring him luxury, and ease, and splendour? With a noble name, that every lip should praise? With rare mental gifts, that should have the power to move at will thousands of minds and hearts? No, no, not these; but better, purer, richer gifts, by far, did he implore. A heart reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, loving to render Him a service of faith, obedience, and reverence,—O, is not *this* the best of

blessings? And thus did that fond father pray that Charley might be blessed. What richer legacy could he receive than such prayers, uttered just before his father entered that holy, happy home in heaven, that he so loved to anticipate?

Counsels for the Young.

Never be cast down by trifles. If a spider break his thread twenty times, twenty times will he mend it again. Make up your mind to do a thing, and you will do it. Fear not, if trouble come upon you; keep up your spirit, though the day be a dark one.

Troubles never last for ever:
The darkest day will pass away.

If the sun is going down, look up at the stars; if the earth is dark, keep your eyes on heaven. With God's presence and God's promises, a man or a child may be cheerful.

Never despair when fog's in the air,
A sunshiny morning comes without warning.

Mind what you run after. Never be content with a bubble that will burst, or a firework that will end in smoke and darkness. Get that which you can keep, and which is worth keeping.

Something sterling, that will stay
When gold and silver pass away.

Fight hard against a hasty temper. Anger will come, but resist it stoutly. A spark may set a house on fire. A fit of passion may give you cause to mourn all the days of your life.

He that revenges knows no rest,
The meek possess a peaceful breast.

If you have an enemy, act kindly to him, and make him your friend. You may not win him over at once, but try again. Let one kindness be followed by another, till you have accomplished your end. By little and little, great things are completed.

Water falling day by day,
Wears the hardest rock away.

And so repeated kindness will soften a heart of stone.

Whatever you do, do it willingly. A boy that is whipped to school never learns his lesson well. A man that is compelled to work, cares not how badly it is performed. He that pulls off his coat cheerfully, strips up his sleeves in earnest, and sings while he works, is the man for me.

A cheerful spirit gets on quick;
A grumbler in the mud will stick.

Evil thoughts are worse enemies than lions and tigers; for we can keep out of the way of wild beasts, but bad thoughts win their way everywhere. The cup that is full will hold no more. Keep your head and heart full of good thoughts, that bad thoughts may find no room to enter.

Be on your guard, and strive, and pray,
To drive all evil thoughts away.

General Miscellany.

A Conscientious Dog.

My father had a dog of the spaniel breed, whose name was Ponto. Now, Ponto, though decidedly *waggish* in one point, had given evidence of being more religious than many of his less canine neighbours. True, he would never turn the “other cheek,” and, consequently, while he had a good character with the Peace Society, he was scouted by the non-resistants. But Ponto was always regular at Church, and, in one instance at least, gave evidence that he went there with an idea that honesty and religion had some connection with each other. He was safe enough in this notion, for a more honest dog than he never barked. Ponto always walked into church with the family, though he invariably took his seat on the lower stair of the sacred desk; and none but the oldest in the congregation remembered when his seat was vacant. I ought to have remarked sooner, that Ponto had but one enemy in the wide world; and who was that but the deacon of the Church, and our next door neighbour. I forget the cause—perhaps some slander against Ponto in the days of his puppyhood, when, it must be confessed, he was too much addicted to fun to comport with a deaconish idea of propriety. Be that as it may, Ponto growled at nobody but Deacon Drury, and