



# Canada Temperance Advocate.

*Temperance is the moderate use of things beneficial, and abstinence from things hurtful.*

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## GOOD NEWS!

### SUCCESS IN UPPER CANADA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Kingston, December 9, 1839.

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to communicate to you, from time to time, such facts as appear to me worthy of a place in the *Advocate*.

In passing through Prescott, I was informed by the President of the Society there, that the cause has benefited greatly in that district by the labours of the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, of the Methodist Connection, who is a bold, able, and consistent advocate of Total Abstinence from the drunkard's drink. Mr. W. is fearless in stating facts, whoever they may implicate, and does not hesitate to call things by their right names:—a faithfulness which, it is much to be feared, is often lacking when the rich and powerful of this world are the wrong-doers. He has succeeded in procuring many subscribers to the pledge, as well as a number for the *Advocate*. I have desired him to forward to you an account of the progress of the cause in the district where he labours, as well as a list of Ministers and Teachers, in order that they may be supplied with the *Advocate*.

The old pledge is dying a natural death in Prescott. For some years it lingered on, along side of its more vigorous and straightforward successor, like the dead tied to the living. But it has been found an incumbrance, rather than a help; and at a meeting of the Society recently held, it was voted unanimously, after considerable discussion, that it was no longer serviceable to the cause to retain it, so it will doubtless be cut off as soon as the constitution permits.

At Kingston, by the help of some friends of the cause, a public meeting was held in the Methodist Chapel on Saturday evening; and, notwithstanding the shortness of the notice and other unfavourable circumstances, it was respectably attended. A good many merchants, forwarders, and persons engaged in the traffic, were present. John Counter, Esq. in the Chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Counter, in favour of moderation; and by the Rev. Mr. Lang, of the Methodist Church, and myself, in favour of Total Abstinence. The impression produced appeared to be excellent, and twenty persons signed the tee-total pledge. As there has been no Society organized upon that pledge in Kingston, and as the Moderation Society had fallen into disrepute, owing to the inconsistent conduct of some of its officers, it was judged best to organize a new Society at once on the consistent pledge, which was accordingly done: Mr. Robinson being elected President; Rev. Mr. Lang, and all other Clergymen who may become members, Vice-Presidents; Mr. Collins, Secretary and Treasurer; and an excellent Executive Committee of seven young men; who, I have great reason to hope, will be active in the good cause. About thirty subscribers were obtained for the *Advocate*, a list of whose names will be transmitted to you by the Secretary. I trust the cause will go on from this small but excellent beginning in Kingston, which is now an important place, and likely soon to become more so. There is certainly no place where an active Society is more needed, nor where a greater amount of influence is arrayed against the cause. Several of the most extensive whiskey-sellers are elders in churches; and it is enough to make Satan laugh, to see men who are busy six days of the week in making papers, collecting coppers on the seventh day to support them. To see men consigning their fellow-creatures in crowds to perdition by supplying them with the instrument and cause of their ruin, and then assuming responsible offices in the church of Him who went about continually doing good. These strictures may appear harsh; but a powerful sense of duty constrains me to make them.

I am, your obedient Servant,

JOHN DOUGALL.

Toronto, December 14, 1839.

DEAR SIR,—At Port Hope, I called upon the Rev. Mr. Shortt, whom I knew by reputation to be a zealous labourer in the Temperance reformation. He has, however, withdrawn from the Society for various reasons; one of which is, that he was the only temperance man amongst his brethren of the Church of England Ministry. He is still, however, willing to distribute tracts, and further our general object. I learned from the Rev. A. McNab, of the Wesleyan Connection, that a temperance meeting had taken place in October last, at which addresses had been delivered by himself and his brethren, the Rev. Messrs. Brock and Carrul, of Cobourg, all staunch Tee-totalers. Thirty subscribers were obtained to the tee-total, and fifteen to the moderation pledge. This meeting having gone off with more spirit than was anticipated, the friends of the cause proposed to hold another soon, and organize a Society—which, I trust, will be done on the tee-total pledge only, as the other will only cause trouble hereafter. Assistance is expected from the Rev. Mr. Thornton, of Whitby, Presbyterian, who is a very zealous and excellent advocate of the cause. Mr. M. Hay, formerly of Montreal, (an active tee-totaller) is at Port Hope. He procured a number of subscribers to the *Advocate* whilst I was there, and expects to make up a larger list by the time I return. I shall hand the amount of all subscriptions received and collections made to the Treasurer, when I reach Montreal.

I was informed that there is a flourishing Society of about 100 members, in the Township of Cavan, which is much indebted to the exertions of a Mr. William Orr, a tradesman of that place.

In Toronto, I waited upon the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, of the Methodist Church, a gentleman possessed, I believe, of more extensive influence than any other individual in the Province. He is not only very favourably disposed towards the Temperance Reformation and willing to co-operate in it, but a decided Tee-totaller himself. For some time past, a portion of the *Christian Guardian* (a paper edited by him, and more extensively circulated than any other in Canada,) has been devoted to Temperance; and he very kindly offered to insert any notices of meetings throughout the Province that might be communicated to him. I obtained a list of all the Clergymen in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, which I transmit, in order that the *Advocate* may be sent to such as are not already supplied. We must, I think, be more careful in future to forward the *Advocate* to every Clergyman and teacher of youth in the two Provinces. I have reason to believe that this measure, partially as it has been carried into effect, has been attended with the best results.

I understand that a large proportion of the Methodist Ministers are Tee-totalers. Unfortunately, however, some of them are opposed to Temperance Societies; but the principle is rapidly gaining ground.

I likewise waited on the Rev. Mr. Roaf, of the Congregational Church—a gentleman who has done much, very much for the cause since he came here. Would that we had more like him! He gave me a list of Clergymen in his connection, the half of whom are Tee-totalers, and the other half, he says, will soon be.

You have, perhaps, heard of the (chivalric shall I call it?) exploit of the Rev. Messrs. Roaf and Richardson, in challenging the Rev. Mr. Murray, of Oakville, author of the book which was to annihilate cold-water men, to a discussion of the principle of Temperance Societies before a public meeting in his own village, thus, as it were, bearding the lion in his den. The meeting was publicly called. People came from all quarters to attend it. Messrs. Roaf, Richardson, and Ketchum advocated the Temperance cause in a masterly manner; and Mr. Murray defended his own