

THE
CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

TEMPERANCE IS THE MODERATE USE OF THINGS BENEFICIAL, AND ABSTINENCE FROM THINGS HURTFUL.

No. 11.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1837.

Vol II.

**Montreal Society for the Promotion of
TEMPERANCE.**

The first Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening the 14th instant, in the American Presbyterian Church, the attendance at which was very respectable.

J. De Witt, Esq., M. P. P., having been called to the chair, stated the object of the meeting, and requested the Secretary to read the Report, which is as follows:

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MONTREAL SOCIETY
FOR THE PROMOTION OF TEMPERANCE.**

Without further preamble than to state that your Committee so far as regards this Society, have kept two things in view—the report of what has been done, by them, and what they would recommend to the consideration of the future Committee—they would proceed to the detail of those subjects, which it devolves upon them to bring before the notice of this Society.

The object which presents itself first in importance, in the opinion of your Committee, is, the publications which have been circulated by them, the most valuable of which, is the *Temperance Advocate*, first established in May, 1835, by the Executive Committee of the Provincial Temperance Convention. When the direction of this undertaking became the duty of your Committee in the October of the same year, its circulation was within 500 copies, and its price more than double the present rates; the former, however, has increased to 2,000, with the prospect of the number being kept up, if not made greater. From the calculations made, it is expected that the loss on the two volumes, which will be completed by the number for April next, will not exceed £30, a small sum compared with the benefits arising from such an extensive circulation of *Temperance* matter, as contained in 30,000 copies of the paper, issued during the two years it will have been established, and particularly as a large number have been circulated gratuitously. It will be further gratifying to you to learn, that the *Temperance Advocate* appears to give much satisfaction, to the friends of the cause here and in the country; from all which, and other reasons, your Committee have resolved to continue the issue of the paper, on still more favourable terms, and increased in interest and value, trusting that by liberal support, little or no loss will occur from a step, in their opinion, so necessary to the prosperity of the cause.

The other publications either printed by your Committee, or in the expense of which they have shared, are 10,000 copies of the Eighth Report of the American Temperance Society, 1000 of an Address to the office-bearers of Societies and patrons of public dinners, 500 of an Address to Parents and Guardians, 2000 of the *Temperance Almanac* for 1836, 5000 of ditto for 1837, 2000 of the Report of the Convention in this City in February last, 2000 of an Address to Tavern-keepers, 500 of an

Captains of Vessels, 200 of an Address by the Rev. R. Whitwell, of St. Armands, and 150 of a Sermon by the Rev. T. C. Wilson, of Perth, Upper Canada, amounting in all, besides circulars and prospectuses, to 23 325 copies; adding to which, the circulation of the *Temperance Advocate*, will make a total of more than 53,000 publications, printed or purchased by your Committee. In addition to this, they have distributed the greatest part of 10,000 *Seamen's Temperance Almanacs*, and 2000 Eighth Reports of the American Temperance Society, the liberal donation of the New York State Temperance Society; besides 100 copies of an Address by Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, of New Glasgow, to whom, and to Mr. Livezey, of Preston, England, John Dunlop, Esq., of Greenock, and other individuals, they are indebted for donations, which have been distributed as faithfully as possible.

On this subject your Committee would remark, that much ought to be done, care being taken that the circulation be judiciously conducted. They would further suggest, for the consideration of their successors, the printing of hand-bills, a description of publications much in estimation in Great Britain and elsewhere, and which might be headed with wood cuts, the reading of this sort being readily obtained, when the larger are thrown aside. They would also recommend to the attention of the succeeding Committee, a request made from several quarters for the establishment of a temperance periodical and printing of publications in the French language, objects, it is to be regretted, your Committee could not find time or means to accomplish.

On the subject of *Public Meetings*, your Committee would state, that since their appointment, the public meetings, of which they have undertaken the management, are nine, besides the Convention of last February, and the *Temperance Soiree*, held on the 3d ultimo. They trust your approbation will accompany the frequency with which these meetings have been held, and that you will respond to their earnest recommendation, that the system be kept up, with still greater exertions on the part of the succeeding Committee. On the description of meetings named "*Soirees*," they cannot but remark, their introduction is greatly to be desired, in the room of public dinners, where every facility is afforded to intemperance, and one of the best features of the *Temperance "Soiree,"* that of the presence of the female sex, is a wanting.

The calling of a *Convention* similar to that of last year did not escape the consideration of your Committee; but, various reasons induced them to postpone such a meeting, however much to be desired. They think, however, that as early as possible after the approaching business season this might take place, and that advantage should then be taken of the presence of the friends of *Temperance* from the country to form a Society, which like those formed in different countries, embracing into union and combined effort the Societies of particular sections of the country—connect all the Societies in this Province.

In suggesting this, your Committee are convinced of the inutility of such a step, unless accompanied with vigorous, persevering, and liberal measures to sustain it. A considerable sum must be raised to procure a competent individual to take the complete management and superintendance, and who would be put in a condition to devote time, and incur some expense in frequent correspondence with the leaders of the cause throughout the Province; make at least, half-yearly visits to the Branch Societies, and in fine, form, and systematically keep up, such arrangements as would form one connected chain of temperance effort throughout every part of the Province. In viewing the advantages, which with the Divine blessing, would likely result from such operations, your Committee cannot but feel deeply the necessity of increased liberality and exertion on the part of the friends of the cause, so that this measure may be carried into execution.

The agency of individuals in this cause has been an object of much desire and attention on the part of your Committee, with, however, but small success. Since July last they have engaged the services of Mr. Elliott, conjointly with the Bible, Tract, and Sunday School Societies, who, it is hoped, has been the means of effecting some good.

A small sum has been voted to secure the services of the Rev. A. Ridler, of Stanbridge, from which piece satisfactory accounts of his labours have been received. In August last, from a very favourable description of the abilities of Mr. Daniel Froste, Jr., who has lectured with much success in the United States, your Committee from the liberality of several individuals, were enabled to invite his services for this Province, during one month at least, but after some correspondence their efforts were unavailing, from domestic affliction and other circumstances on his part, intervening. They would further notice the visit of the Rev. Wm. Taylor, and your Secretary in August last, to Sorel, Three Rivers, and Quebec, in each of which places, one or more addresses were delivered and publications circulated. Since the formation of this Society two visits have been made to the Eastern Townships, which contributed considerably to extend the circulation of the *Temperance Advocate*.—On the subject of agency, the sentiments and suggestions of your Committee have already been offered, and it is to be hoped those whom you appoint this evening will not lose sight of a matter in their opinion, so important.

In making mention of the collections and donations made in 1835, on the formation of this Society, and immediately succeeding the visit of those much esteemed gentlemen, E. C. Delavan, Esq. and Doctor Edwards, your Committee take pleasure in here expressing their sense of the high degree of benevolent feeling which prompted to the contribution of such a large amount as £150, then bestowed for the promotion of the cause. On the individuals to whom this tribute is paid, they would urge a continuance of a like