

that spot. Returning, the modes of conveyance were unusually crowded. A railroad extends from Versailles to Paris. Two engines, drawing several carriages, full of passengers, set off, and proceeded with great speed. The leading engine broke down, the next passed over it, dragging the carriages along, and a dreadful crash ensued. The fire from the furnace was scattered about the road; it communicated to the carriages, which were newly painted, and the wreck became a blazing mass. The passengers were locked in, as is the custom, to prevent accident. The persons in charge of the keys were killed at their posts. This caused a fearful increase to the horrors of the event. Several lives were lost, from 50 to 60 is the estimate; and several were badly wounded. Great exertions were immediately made to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded, and measures were promptly taken to prevent future accident. One of the engineers, an Englishman, lost his life in endeavouring to extricate the passengers. Much excitement prevailed on the subject, and the destruction of the railroad, by the populace, was apprehended at one time.

How true are the admonitions which warn us of the uncertainty of life, which urge preparation, and dictate such a course as will deprive death of its sting. Blessed are they who live in a state of continual watchfulness.

The Halifax Temperance Society's meetings are regularly held on the 1st and 16th days of every month. Sometimes they are very numerous attended; but generally, in the summer months, a large company is not expected. Nevertheless, the officers are punctual in their attendance,—and these smaller meetings assume a social, unreserved aspect, and often prove occasions of as much interest and profit as the larger ones. Officers of Temperance Societies should not be discouraged by a small attendance at meetings, for never did any number of persons meet for the advancement of the temperance cause, but the unfolding of ideas upon the subject, even in an irregular conversation, warmed their hearts and strengthened their zeal. They should act as though they were receiving large emoluments for doing their duty, and go regularly on (as did Dean Swift) even though there be none present but themselves.

A meeting was held in the Old Baptist Chapel on the 16th May—the President, as usual, in the chair. A motion was made by Mr. Chamberlain, "That an address be prepared, in moderate and respectful language, and a copy sent to each of the clergymen in the city who had not yet aided the temperance enterprise, setting forth the great advantages that would result to society generally, by their advocacy of its principles." This being seconded, an amendment was proposed by the Secretary, namely—"That the Committee of the Halifax Temperance Society be requested to consider the subject at their next meeting." Mr.

Chamberlain's amendment being put to the vote, was lost, and the amendment carried—Mr. C. having permission to attend the Committee meeting, and explain his views to that body. The President then received fourteen persons as members of the society, one only of whom took the old temperance pledge.

The Committee met in the Wesleyan School Room on the 27th,—14 members present,—Mr. McNeil in the chair. Resolved unanimously—"That the members of Committee shall each in turn prepare matter of interest to offer at the public meetings, in order that the President may be relieved on those occasions, and a more effectual impulse given to the cause."

Mr. Chamberlain being present, made known to the Committee his wishes respecting the matter he proposed at a late meeting of the society, when after some discussion, it was unanimously resolved—"That a copy of the sixth resolution, passed at the simultaneous meeting, be sent to the several clergymen of the city, and that it be published in the "Visitor." The resolution is as follows—

Resolved.—That in the present advancing and promising aspect of the Temperance cause, the countenance and active co-operation of the Clergy of every denomination in the Province is more than ever to be desired, and is evidently an indispensable requisite to the full development of this beneficial reform; and therefore that while we openly avow our gratitude to the Rev. gentlemen who have already acted in concert with us and promoted our views, we trust that all others will now see that the time has arrived when they can no longer, with propriety, withhold their personal aid from a cause in which the affections of the most pious and virtuous of their flocks are generally engaged, but that they will take the earliest occasions that may offer to enlist themselves as champions and supporters of the Temperance Reform, in order that, by the united efforts of Clergy and Laity, the desired change may be brought about.

On Wednesday evening, 1st June, a meeting was held—the President in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr. McNeil, senior member of Committee, who, in compliance with a request from that body, gave some very affecting and interesting details of the events of "by-gone days," showing the worthlessness of all intoxicating beverages,—and the moral, physical, social and domestic advantages, comforts and enjoyments that spring from a life of abstinence. He was followed by the President and others,—and at the close of the meeting four persons took the total abstinence pledge, and one who was before on the old temperance pledge, changed to that of total abstinence.

W. M. BROWN, Sec'y.

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AGENTS FOR THE VISITOR.

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