

wretchedness, and disgrace; an evil which counteracts religious impressions, and disqualifies millions for the enjoyment of religion and heaven, and prepares them for a world of unmitigated misery. And shall the church gravely deliberate whether she ought to stand with her arms folded, and witness the devastation of this destructive engine of iniquity, without moving her hand or her tongue against it? Can the church of God tolerate with seeming indifference an acknowledged evil—a practice which neither edience nor the Bible can justify? Can she stand an idle spectator, when from our hospitals, penitentiaries, lunatic asylums, jails, the gallows, and from the wives and widows of bacchanalian husbands, and neglected children, there arises one unanimous voice to drive from the earth this pestilence, which has brought upon them all their misery and sufferings? Again, she speak well for the glory and honour of the church of Christ, which was designed to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, to tolerate that which tends to utter corruption, and that while the world is employing its energies to destroy this agent of destruction, the church should nourish the viper in her own bosom, or at least give it a retreat in her own house? Is it a star in the crown of the church, the repository of purity and piety, to remain silent and inactive until civil society pronounces the drinking usages as abominable and unbecoming an enlightened and Christian community, before she dare to pronounce it sinful, or treat it as an offence?

We cannot repress our fears that the success of the temperance reform will not be realized unless the churches come to the aid of temperance societies, adopt their principles, and assist in carrying out their measures. And what have these societies to expect from the church by what can be discovered in her disposition to aid them at the present time? A gloomy gloomy response—nothing!! But we do not believe the time very distant when truth will triumph, and the church arise in her ecclesiastical capacity, and advocate those very principles which she is now so very reluctant to support, and assist in carrying out the principles of the temperance reform, till drunkenness and its evils shall be numbered among things that were.

W. C. MUNSON.

LANCASTER, August 9, 1845.

A PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

I will not assume the province of dictating to the friends of the temperance reformation, but will take the liberty of presenting a few suggestions respecting the organization of a Provincial union. All persons, irrespective of sect or party, who are friendly to the total abstinence cause, should avail themselves of the first opportunity to endorse the pledge, and originate temperance societies where there are no such institutions in operation. Local societies should be established and sustained in every settlement, village, town, and city. These local societies should have regular committee meetings, and monthly meetings, and annual meetings; and with such auxiliaries as female and juvenile societies, combine and concentrate their labour, influence, and means, by uniting in township associations, to be managed by an executive committee, selected by the delegates appointed by the local societies. The township associations should meet quarterly in some central and commodious place, and if possible the services of good singers and efficient speakers should be secured at such meetings, as an inducement for individuals to attend from all parts of the township. The different township societies should unite in district unions, to be managed by an executive committee, to be selected by the delegates appointed by the township societies at their quarterly meetings. The district unions should meet semi-annually,

at such time and place as the convention may please to appoint. On such occasions no reasonable exertions and expense should be spared to get up mass meetings, comporting with the dignity and importance of the occasion. The district unions should combine the exertions, influence, and capital of all the pledged teetotalers in the Province in a Provincial Association, to be managed by an executive committee to be selected by the delegates appointed by the district unions at their semi-annual meetings. The Provincial union should meet annually at such time and place as the Convention may deem proper to appoint. At the annual meetings of the Provincial Association, there should be a magnificent demonstration, and the best efforts of the most eloquent and celebrated advocates of the cause should be obtained. When the contemplated union is consummated, immediate arrangements should be made to employ at least one competent lecturer in each district, and a Provincial agent to visit every district union as often as once a year. The Provincial union should appoint an editor to conduct the *Canada Temperance Advocate*—make the capital of Canada* the metropolis of the temperance cause—have a book-room under its supervision, and funds at its command to pay for the writing and publishing of prize essays. This is not an impracticable scheme—funds for the accomplishment of this great and important work may be obtained by legacies, donations, contributions, and annual subscriptions. Let competent persons be furnished with pledge books, call public meetings, and after appropriate addresses, ascertain how many persons present will agree to contribute one pound per annum to sustain the cause—then how many will give ten shillings—then how many five shillings—then how many two shillings and sixpence—then how many one and threepence—then how many sixpence—then how many one penny a year to promote the temperance reform. The money thus raised, with an annual collection to be made in every society, and the proceeds of soires and festivals, with the profits arising from the sale of publications, added to the donations and legacies, would, in my humble opinion, amply sustain the cause. Another method of procuring funds, and a very good one, is to appoint collectors in every society, to solicit subscriptions from those members who are able and willing to contribute. If every pledged teetotaler in the Province paid one shilling per annum, the handsome sum of seven thousand five hundred pounds would be realised, and this amount would amply sustain the moral machinery which might be put in operation for the suppression of intemperance, providing the publication office and book concern met with only ordinary patronage. If we wish to give momentum to the principles of the pledge, and render permanent our efforts to soberize society, we must hit upon energetic and systematic plans of operation. Less than half the above-mentioned sum would support a lecturer in each district in the Province, and furnish every individual in the colony with a temperance tract, and leave something in the treasury towards purchasing a tent for each district union. Let the day on which the Provincial Society is organised be the commencement of special, and unceasing, and uniform, and systematised effort in Canada. We can revolutionise the country in a short time, if we work as though all depended on ourselves, and pray as though all depended upon God. We must flood our land with petitions, and call upon our magistrates and legislators to withdraw legal sanction from the traffic. We must direct the artillery of truth from the press, the platform, and the pulpit, against the disgusting vice of drunkenness. We must endeavour to send a copy of the *Temperance Advocate* to every family, and this can be done without much sacrifice of time or money, if half of our friends perform half their duty.—G. W. BUNYAR.

* On some future occasion I will endeavour to show why Montreal should be the capital of the temperance cause in Canada.