

drinks, and the increased consumption of tea, coffee, and other non-intoxicating beverages.

"From a paper which lately appeared in the report of the committee of the House of Lords on the Beer Act, we learn that during the past 15 years, taking into account the increase of the population, the increase in the consumption of un-intoxicating drinks is one-third of the entire quantity consumed in 1835, and the decrease of intoxicating drinks one-fifth during the same period; a change equivalent to one-fifth of the population becoming teetotalers, which occurring contemporaneously with the efforts of the Total Abstinence Society, may be fairly regarded as mainly attributable to the information which has been so extensively circulated throughout the country by its instrumentality.

"It is highly gratifying to observe, that the claims of our cause are increasingly acknowledged among professors of religion. In Scotland, this has been remarkably apparent, as appears from the fact that the number of abstaining ministers is about 400. We trust, that the period is not far distant, when all Christian professors may be led to adopt and espouse our principles.

The Chairman then rose to address the meeting. Having called attention to various statistical facts bearing upon the question, which have been frequently reported before, he cited the testimony of several judges to show that scarcely a crime comes before them that is not directly or indirectly caused by strong drink, and that "Drunkenness is the most fertile source of crime; and if it could be removed, the assizes of the country would be rendered mere nullities." He further adds, it was deemed necessary to institute an inquiry into the cause of pauperism, and in evidence given upon the subject, it was stated by Mr. Motte, one of the poor-law guardians of the Lambeth union, that he had investigated every case of pauperism which came beneath his notice, and in 9 cases out of 10 it proved to be the result of drink. Another gentleman connected with the inquiry had stated that he had gone through most of the counties in England and had invariably found that the ungovernable inclination for liquor had been the cause of most of the pauperism which prevailed.—The master of the workhouse in the city of London had affirmed that out of 145 cases in the house 111 of them could be traced to excessive drinking. The opinions of other authorities were quoted whose testimony was similar to the above. There were other evils to which he would refer. He considered that there were no institutions in the country doing more good than the Sunday Schools. They were increasing the knowledge of reading and writing and were thus placing in the hands of the rising generation the key that would unlock the door of knowledge and be a source of mental food to their minds. It would also serve to unlock those doors which are contained in that book which of all books is to be esteemed the most. But the habit of drinking have made dreadful ravages among Sunday school scholars and teachers. The gaoler at the prison at Edinburgh, after examining 170 children on their admission into prison, found that 121 had been connected with Sabbath schools. A few months ago a member of a committee visited one of the singing saloons in Rochdale, and on a Saturday evening about eleven o'clock, he observed about 16 boys and girls seated at a table in front of the stage; several of the lads had long pipes, each with a glass or jug containing intoxicating liquor, and no less than 14 of the number were members of the bible classes in our different Sunday Schools. There they sat listening to the most obscene songs, witnessing scenes of the most immoral kind, and spending the interval in swallowing liquid fire. It is added; "These sinks of iniquity are thronged with old Sunday scholars, especially on Sabbath evenings, and not infrequently until 12 o'clock." Still further it is said, "The appalling results of the drinking system are not wholly confined to the children in our schools, many a promising teacher has fallen a victim." The chairman then proceeded to quote the testimony of the medical men of this country, 200 of whom had agreed that intoxicating drink is of no manner of use to the constitution. He would not rest here; he could adduce other arguments in favor of total abstinence, and who could gainsay the principal? He had been a teetotaler for 16 years and he knew that his powers of mind and body had not been impaired. Mr. Buckingham, M.P., had instituted an inquiry into the average number of persons who had been swept away from the face of the earth by intoxicating drinks, and it was ascertained that at least 60,000 human beings had been sacrificed every year to the degraded and soul-debasing custom. This calculation would give

an estimate of seven victims every hour; and thus, upon an average, during the time they had been in that room (three hours) 21 individuals would have been hurried to their graves through the use of intoxicating drinks. We are very much alarmed that when the cholera visits us, if it should come only once in seven years; but this disease takes place every year, and yet but little effort is made to stay its progress. It was stated by Mr. Buckingham, before a committee of the House of Commons, that 50,000,000 were annually spent in intoxicating drinks. After showing how this money might be advantageously applied to domestic purposes, the chairman contended that if properly applied, this large amount of money would cause an incalculable increase of labor, and that wages would increase in a like ratio.

The Rev. S. Manning, of Frome, had attended the meeting with mingled feelings of pleasure and reluctance. With pleasure, because he felt it to be an honor to be associated with an enterprise so virtuous, so religious, and so thoroughly good as he considered this to be; and he felt that he could not better fulfil his vocation as a minister of the Gospel than by coming forward to advocate this cause. But his pleasure was mingled with some degree of reluctance, for he was but a raw recruit, and found himself surrounded by veterans who had borne the heat and burden of the day. The Rev. gentleman quite agreed with Channing when he said, "I rejoice in the physical evils which drunkenness brings in its train; it is the stamp which God has fixed upon it." There was a legend extant to the effect that a man was required to make choice of one of the four following evils—either to murder his father, violate his sister, rob a church, or get drunk; he chose the last, deeming it to be the least evil—but while drunk he committed the other three. If pestilence has slain in its thousands, intemperance has slain its tens of thousands. Our opponents would all acknowledge that intoxication was a great crime, but they considered the teetotalers were taking extreme measures. He would say that in this matter he was not careful to answer them. If the cause of total abstinence was not the best remedy, let them produce a better. Shall we sit still and see these evils continue, and hold back from the only weapons with which we can assail them, whilst our friends are forging more appropriate weapons. No: he would make use of the weapons which he had at hand, and when others were produced more fitted for the work, he would use them. He considered teetotalism might be used as a pioneer of the gospel, as John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the coming of the Saviour.

Act of Incorporation for the Sons.

The following draft of an act to incorporate the Sons of Temperance, we had laid aside for some time, to give it an insertion in the *Advocate*, but from some oversight it has been omitted till the present. We think it desirable that an act should be passed by the Legislature, but would advise that it should not be confined to the Grand Division of Canada West, but rather that it should be so general as to include all Grand Divisions "that may hereafter be organized;" the cost and trouble would be the same, and the act itself much more servicable. Of course, if it was thus general, all the Subordinate Divisions would contribute their portion of the expense.

"Whereas a Grand Division and numerous Subordinate Divisions of the Sons of Temperance have been formed in this Province: And whereas in addition to the moral objects which the association has in view, they are established for the purpose of raising and securing a fund for the mutual assistance and benefit of members thereof and of their families, in case of sickness, inability or death: And whereas for the purpose of managing their pecuniary affairs and no other, the said order should be protected by an "Act of Incorporation."

I. Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, that W. S. Burnham, J. L. McDonald, Edward Stacy, C. B. Pardie, W. H. Ellerbeck, C. Lago, Senr., Dr. James Sutton, Rev. J. Clark, Thos. Nixon, John M. Ross, and their associates, members of the Grand Division of the Order of the Sons of Temperance of the Province of Canada West, and their successors, members of said Grand Division according to the rules and bye-laws thereof, be and they are hereby erected into a