

Letter from David Christie, Esq., M.P.P.

In the abbreviated account we gave in our last of the Elora festival, we stated that a letter was read from the gentleman whose name stands above. With great pleasure we now make room for the letter, and bespeak for it a careful perusal. Although evidently written amidst pressing engagements, it contains the very pith of the controversy concerning which opinion is divided. It is much easier to nibble at details and misrepresent facts than fairly to meet the question as it is stated by Mr. Christie. Comment or enlargement by us would just now be unbecoming. We cannot yet judge of the strength of our cause in the House of Assembly, but we entertain the hope that when the will of the people of Canada is expressed, as it will be before the House in the form of petition, that there will not be found a majority opposed to the almost unanimous voice of the people.

Mr. C.'s letter is addressed to the R. S. of the Elora Division, S. of T.

Brantford, 3rd June, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received yours of the 29th ult., and regret that I cannot attend your festival. To-morrow I intend to go to Quebec on urgent and important business, which will in all likelihood detain me until after the 9th. Although absent, you have my best wishes for your success. The temperance cause is a great cause, it involves the wellbeing of our country. Drunkenness, like a noisome pestilence, bids fair to cover the length and breadth of the land. Were such a pestilence threatening to invade our province, the authorities would be on the alert, taking sanitary measures in abundance. Is it not melancholy that a pestilence more terrible than any which has yet reached us, destroying not merely the *bodies*, but the *souls* of men, should be looked on by the majority of men with indifference? A deeper gloom surrounds this infatuation, when *professing Christians* and *Christian ministers* turn a deaf ear to the warning conveyed by the thousands and tens of thousands of miserable victims whom it weekly hurls headlong to the place of woe. Truly, if there be one sin more than another which ought to be held up to public scorn, it is that which fixes with so strong a grasp on the temporal and eternal destinies of man. I go decidedly for the "Maine Liquor Law;" it seems to me to lay the axe at the root of the tree. In urging this measure, we must not be deterred by the cry that it involves a violation of private rights. You know that if such were the case, *I would not be one of its advocates*. The charge is false, and those who assert it either do not understand the principle of the measure, or, they are ignorant of the nature of the social compact. No member of that compact can possess rights which, if brought into exercise, would destroy the rights of others. To all who lay claim to such rights, civil society has a right to say, "You must desist from such sources of gratification, because, in having recourse to them, you violate the rights of your neighbor." This is precisely our position in reference to the liquor traffic. All history attests that the traffic *invariably* produces misery, crime, disease and death. Drunkenness is a sin against society, and, therefore, society has a right to put down the traffic in alcoholic drinks. If the drunkard, or the man who supplies him with the poison, could be held responsible for *all* the consequences of their iniquitous course, there might be something like argument in favor of allowing them to go on; but, since this *cannot* be the case, and since we must pay for the administration of criminal justice, the cost of three-fourths of which is the result of the traffic, we ought surely to have some say in the matter. It will not do to tell us that we must wait till a man gets drunk before we can properly apply the law. I hold it is absurd to make a man responsible for the effects of a traffic which we not only permit, but declare to be lawful. Moreover, society, in the license system, has asserted the right to interfere. Why are other trades not subject to this interference? Why is the grog-seller required to give surety for good behaviour? Why is not the farmer or the merchant required to do this? If the traffic be free from danger, why put such restraints on it? If it be morally right to pursue it, why do not rum-sellers assert their rights? Let those who stick a for private rights take this course? There would be some show of consistency in it.

It is difficult to say what degree of success we may have in advocating this measure in the present House of Assembly. There

are some of the Upper Canada members in favor of it, and I am told that a considerable number of the Lower Canada members are also in favor of it. In the Cabinet, we have some friends. The Hon. M. Cameron is a warm advocate of the measure, and will do all he can to help it forward. It is said also that Dr. Rolph, the Attorney-General, and the Postmaster-General, are favorable to it. If such be the case, we stand well. Whether we succeed in carrying the measure through the present House or not, we have the hope that, by patient perseverance, we shall ultimately succeed. *The Liquor Law of Maine must be the Liquor Law of Canada. We have nailed our colors to the mast.*

I wish you to state to our Elora friends that I am deeply sensible of the honor which they have conferred on me by asking me to take part in the proceedings of the 9th. Nothing but stern necessity compels me to forego what would have been to me a very agreeable duty.—I am, my dear sir, yours very truly,

DAVID CHRISTIE.

David Kirkendale, Esq., }
R. S., S. of T., Elora Division.

Bible, Cushion, and Desk Presentation.

REV. MR. EDITOR.—I had the pleasure of being present at the gathering of the "Sons" and "Cadets" of Temperance at Weston, on Friday the 11th instant, the object of which being twofold, first the agitation of a prohibitory liquor law, and secondly, the presentation of a beautiful copy of the Bible, with a Chaplain's desk, cushion and candlesticks, to the Maple Branch Section of Cadets, by the young ladies of Weston and neighborhood. At three o'clock P. M., Weston Division, Smithville Division, and other guests, Sons of Temperance: Maple Branch, Coldstream (Toronto) and other guests, Cadets of Temperance, assembled in front of the Division Room, where a procession was formed under the direction of Bro. J. M. Ross, of Toronto, which preceded by the Western Brass Band, passed through the principal streets of the town to the Methodist Church, presenting with their Banners, Regalia, &c., a most brilliant display. On our arrival at the church we found the basement well filled with the ladies of Weston and neighborhood, where an elegant entertainment had been provided by the *Ladies of Weston*. About two hundred were seated at tables, and ample refreshments served up in good style, to the entire satisfaction of all present. Having satisfied the inner man, this respectable assembly moved up stairs to attend a public meeting. Bro. J. M. Ross was requested to take the Chair, and the meeting being opened with a fervent and zealous prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Ward, the Chairman briefly stated the objects of the meeting, and then introduced Misses Eliza Jane McGuire, and Sarah Jane Kempshell, who were delegated to present the Bible, &c., to the Maple Branch Section. Miss McGuire delivered the address in a manner highly creditable to her junior years.

Master Henry Curtis and Master James Lever, jun. W. A., and P. W. A., of Maple Branch Section Cadets of Temperance, were delegated to receive the above handsome gift. Bro. Henry Curtis delivered the reply in a distinct and audible voice.

The address and reply has already been published, but we give the concluding paragraph of the account which we take from the *Toronto Watchman*.

Next the Rev. Mr. Ward was introduced, who in his usual and happy style, spoke for nearly an hour proving the necessity of enacting a Prohibitory Liquor Law, which position he sustained in a very masterly manner. After passing a vote of thanks to the Ladies of Weston, the speakers, the Western Brass Band, and the Chairman, the meeting was closed with prayer by our worthy Brother Pirritte.

The Bank of England covers five acres of ground, and employs nine hundred clerks; should a clerk be too old for service, he is discharged on half pay for life. There are no windows on the street; light is admitted through open courts; no mob could take the Bank, therefore, without cannon to batter down the immense walls. The clock in the centre of the Bank has fifty dials attached to it. Large cisterns are sunk in the courts, and engines, in perfect order, always in readiness in case of fire. The Bank was incorporated in 1791. Capital £18,000,000, or \$90,000,000.