

cuniary sense, for in proportion to the number of families who abstain is the real gain to any country, or section of a country. The report of this outbreak of the spirit-dealers of Napanee will spread, and the very attempt to put down one lecturer will raise up many to speak who otherwise would have been silent.

Extract of a letter from Napanee, Midland District, Canada West, 6th Dec., 1848:—

"We have had quite a temperance excitement here during the last week. A Temperance Lecturer, of the name of Morton, came here and announced that he would lecture; the cause being at a very low ebb, still a goodly number attended, and amongst others a tavern-keeper. When the lecturer pressed rather sorely upon those who traffic in alcoholic liquors, he was considerably interrupted; but nothing daunted, he offered 1s to every grog-seller, and 7½d to every drunkard, that would hear him quietly the next evening, when all the tavern-keepers in the place, together with the grog-buyers, attended—abused him and teetotalers generally, and broke up the meeting. They were brought before the magistrates, who, after hearing about 30 witnesses, cleared the grog-sellers and put him in for expenses. This lasted three days, during which time the thinking part of the community, although some were not teetotalers, began to look about them, and seeing the state of the proceedings, began to support the lecturer, and induced him to call another meeting, which was attended by about 700, which, for the extent of the population, might be considered a pretty full attendance; determining, as they said, to support the cause of order. The opposite party declared that they would also break up this meeting, but they found their mistake. As soon as they began to cause an interruption in the gallery, they were rather unceremoniously handed down stairs, which gave them something more to hurt their feelings than words. No further interruption took place. The lecturer having finished in quiet, an approval of his course was shown by acclamation, and by the collection, which was more than sufficient to cover the law expenses; while at the same time, about 100 signed the pledge. A continuation of meetings are to be held for the furtherance of the cause."

#### WINTER LECTURES.

On Tuesday evening the 28th ultimo, the third lecture of the course was delivered in the Temperance Hall, St. Maurice Street, by the Rev. W. Taylor, A. M.; subject, "The injurious effects of the drinking usages on society." The lecturer began by adverting to the universality of those usages, and exhibiting, in forcible contrast, the various pleas urged in vindication of those pernicious customs. Intoxicating drink was recommended as a panacea for every disease, and it was also recommended when no disease existed. If we were joyful, we ought to drink;—if a load of sorrow pressed upon us, we must drink;—every important event in life, must be celebrated by indulgence in intoxicating drink;—when we parted with an old acquaintance, we were to drink for old acquaintance' sake; and when we formed a new acquaintance, we were to drink for new acquaintance' sake;—in health we were to drink because we were strong; in sickness, because we were weak; in summer, because we were warm; and in winter, because we were cold;—in short, the custom had become so general, that those who would not taste a glass for friendship's sake, were stigmatised as unsocial and unfriendly. The universality of these cus-

toms was, however, now upon the wane;—a great and beneficial change has been effected, mainly through Temperance Societies. It had been proved that Alcohol was a fiery ingredient, and, when poured upon such a subject as man, it tended to foster and inflame his worst passions.

The lecturer then alluded to the following points:—1st, The effects of those customs on the wealth of the country. It had been officially stated by a committee of the House of Commons, that the annual expense for strong drinks in Great Britain was £100,000,000 stg., making £4 to every British subject, which, at the same rate, would give to Montreal an outlay for intoxicating liquors of £200,000. One thing, at least, was evident, that were the sum even much less (and these calculations had never been proved incorrect) its application to some beneficial purpose would, in these hard times, be hailed by the inhabitants of Montreal as a great boon. It was admitted that there was much less drinking in Canada than in Great Britain.

It could not be denied that we often made ourselves poor by our expensive vices and customs, and then complained of the hardness of the times. In all its aspects, the custom of drinking intoxicating liquors was attended with loss; indeed, it had no mitigating good to recommend it. The price paid—the labour expended in making it—the time spent in drinking it—the furniture and clothes destroyed—not to speak of the mediate and consequent physical and moral evils that inevitably follow—these were all losses; for, said the lecturer, I hesitate not to affirm, that drinking, directly or indirectly, is the cause of by far the greater part of the poverty that exists. In alluding to the destruction of grain by distillers, he said that during the famine in Ireland, there was more grain distilled than was imported from all countries for the relief of the famished.

2ndly, The lecturer adverted to the effects of these customs upon the health of the community. They were, in a vast majority of cases, the cause; and in all cases, they aggravated disease. He then referred to a document signed by 41 practising physicians in the city, testifying that alcohol was unnecessary to persons in health, and that its use might be safely discontinued at once. In opposition to the assertion of an Agricultural Secretary, that beer was a necessary and healthy beverage, he placed the testimony of these medical men, who were far more competent judges; and he also adduced evidence from the tables of a Life Assurance Society in Great Britain, which showed that the annual mortality among those who partook of intoxicating drinks, was eight in the thousand, while among those who totally abstained, the proportion was four in the thousand, thus giving a large preponderance to the side of total abstinence.

The third aspect of the matter on which the rev. gentleman dwelt, was its effect on public sanity; drunkenness was itself one of the worst forms of insanity. Mr. John Cronyn had reported, that at least one half of those admitted into the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, had used intoxicating liquors to excess. Instead of holding drunkenness to be the cause of a vast amount of disease, the increase in the number of diseases was explained away by some as being the result of