

that professed school of Virtue, with its declining glories, still holds its place by the wayside, and there the Juggler sometimes performs his wondrous feats; while the Lawyer and the Artizan, the Merchant and the Shopman, the Butcher and the Baker, each intent upon their gains, eagerly and anxiously pursue their avocations; many Jugglers in their way, living by the sleight of hand or head, and with others, active and needful parts in the great civilized and social edifice, pillered and supported by the real or imaginary wants of their fellows.

There is the dram shop in the centre of a poor neighbourhood, draining its resources and supplying the muddening bowl; while the rags and the filth, the moral debasement, the pauperism, the naked and puny children, hungry, cold and ignorant, that abound in the vicinity, show its melancholy influence, its withering effects. Then there is the respectable grocery, where nicely sealed and labelled the dangerous messenger issues forth, and is conveyed to the dwellings of the rich in the more fashionable waysides. The sturdy idler, with his bloated visage, gives a piteous account of his marvellous afflictions; the shipwreck in which he lost his health and his money; his rheumatisms, his sick wife or starving children; while his tell tale breath lessens the effect, and shews the chief cause of the poor wretch's many woes and infirmities. There, by the wayside with her helpless innocents, and in the inclement season, may sometimes be seen the wife of the poor emigrant; strangers in a strange land, in search of their earthly protector, and meeting the frowns of a cold world. Who can withhold the much needed pittance from these children of sorrow?

But to enumerate all that the observant eye might notice, and that the reflective man would profit by, is a task quite beyond what the limits of this address will allow. The house of Prayer in many places raises its tall spire by the wayside, and the thronging multitudes that pursue their way there on the Sabbath, each where his heart approves, is one of the many tokens of the favored circumstances in which we are placed. Scarce less important is the Sabbath school, where infant hearts and voices are instructed in the praise of Him, who requires the purity of childhood in all his accepted worshippers. Then the Religious book repository, the Mechanic's Institute and the Literary Society are all objects worthy of your attention; and here by the wayside, in this humble building we meet in peace and I hope in a right mind to aid the cause of Temperance.

Here we invite the young to come and unite with us for their own preservation, and from the Holy principle of Christian Love, that others may profit by their example. Their unblemished minds and honest hearts at once assent to truths and motives so palpable and noble; and by such evidence as this we are confirmed in our views and repaid for our toil. Here we relate our own experience of the benefits of a temperate life, and present abundant testimony from a host of witnesses, invincibly conclusive in our favour, and silencing the gainsayers. Ours is not an association of persons who cannot refrain from the deadly draught without solemn pledges, but we are urged onward in the good work that evil and woe may be prevented. We have seen much by the wayside; we have read, we have heard by tale and history of men running counter to all the regulations of

nature; of fires, murders, shipwrecks, lunacy, Sabbath breaking, unkindness to parents, unmerciful treatment of children; all that is shocking to humanity and virtue and subversive of order; all that can embitter life and cause destruction of property; all these are the offspring of the baneful habit of taking Strong Drink. And thus is this goodly Temple of Nature, of which we are for a time the privileged occupant, made the very antipodes of that scene of blessedness and purity in which our first parents were placed, by the abundant grace and goodness of their divine and beneficent Creator.

And can any (with these awful consequences so apparent as to be wholly undeniable) feel sure that he will never be an actor in these infernal orgies, while he employs to any extent the fiery agent that produces them? Those who have fallen were once as strong as you, and perhaps, with boastful and deriding words assailed the man of abstinence; but they have given melancholy proof that "Touch not, taste not, handle not," is the motto of the prudent, and therefore we say "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Ours is also a moral compact to unloose the fetters of the Drunkard, to raise his fallen intellect, heal his moral sickness, and to pour the healing balm of hope and joy into the almost broken heart of the despairing wife and aged mother. "Union is strength," and by our frequent meetings and combined efforts, we shall progress more rapidly towards the accomplishment of our wishes. We believe that "Water is as well adapted to man's natural appetite, as to the physical wants of his organs. It is the grand beverage of organized nature." The huge Elephant, "with gentle might enowwed," needs not the aid of alcohol for the support of his frame; the Deer is fleet of foot, and the bounding Lion and Tiger are vigorous and agile without it; so man, when he conforms to nature, and consults only the real wants of his body, finds improved health, unruffled temper, increased buoyancy of spirits, and is freed from many evils that a contrary course would bring inevitably upon him.

I have much pleasure in stating, that the year which is now drawing to a close has produced much to encourage the friends of Temperance. The highest Medical authorities have declared unanimously in favour of our principles, and recommended our practice. Many able works have issued from the press, and operated on the whole mass of society. The grand division of the Teetotal Army under the Reverend Father Matthew is now increased to five millions in number, many distilleries have been closed, and public entertainments and festivals in populous cities, have passed unstained by riot or by crime. In the neighbouring Republic, the celebration of their independence on the Anniversary last past, was marked by a more rational rejoicing than any former occasion exhibited: and here in our little Province, which is but a Wayside of the great Empire to which we glory in being attached, we see abundant cause for a cheerful continuation of our labours. We may enumerate, the increasing demand for Temperance publications, to which I can bear joyful witness. The formation of many new societies, and revival of old ones. The growing importance of our own association, numbering 500 members more than when the year began. The conductors of the public journals are ever ready to give their por-