

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Sir,—I beg to acquaint you with the proceedings of the last quarterly meeting of our Temperance Society, held on the 22nd July; it should have taken place on the 8th, but was unavoidably postponed two weeks.

We were favoured with a most excellent address from the Rev. H. Wilkinson (of the Methodist denomination); we may hope for his valuable services more frequently hereafter, on account of his having taken up his residence among us, with the intention of remaining two years. He is a bold advocate of the temperance cause, and though his remarks carry evidence of being free from all *personality*, he fears not to tell the *whole truth*, on whomsoever it may fall; he fastens the duty on every living man, to lend a helping hand to bring about the disuse, as a common beverage, of all intoxicating liquors; seeing that such a course is the *only probable means* of checking the monster of intemperance, in his ravages among mankind.

After the address, two persons offered their names for the total abstinence pledge, and one had his name transferred to it from the old pledge. Notice was given that the propriety of having *only* the "Total Pledge" in connection with the Society, would be discussed at the next quarterly meeting (2nd Monday in October) preparatory to a vote of the members being taken on that question, at the annual meeting in January.

I think, though our number of members does not increase at present as rapidly as the welfare of the cause requires, we may safely say that there is a *growing* opinion among the thinking part of our community, in favour of the principles of Temperance Societies, and those who are inclined to be in direct opposition, find that good arguments are scarce. But, as in every picture, there are shades as well as lights, so a faithful description of temperance operations in this quarter, points out a shade among us; a shade as dark as the demoralising influence of two newly-commencing distilleries can make it. Those who will thus raise the flood-gates of intemperance upon society, and convert the bounties of Providence into a curse, when there are so many other harmless ways of acquiring wealth—those who will thus act, when the baleful influence of such a course is so plainly shown as at the present day, must have any thing but an enviable situation, and when the community look and act impartially—free from the influence of appetite and interest—such employment will be neither respectable nor profitable.

I am, &c.,

Prescott, Aug. 6, 1839.

W. D. DICKENSON, Sec.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Sir,—I feel somewhat diffident in writing to you this month, lest you should consider me troublesome; or lest the readers of the *Advocate* should suppose that we in Bytown think that Total Abstinence does not make equal, or more rapid progress in other places. Yet, at the request of the Committee, and a large number of our members, I am induced (and it affords me great pleasure to do so,) to lay before you the result of a public meeting held here on the evening of the 9th instant, when a large and respectable assembly was addressed by the Rev. R. Jones, Wesleyan Minister, (who is stationed here, and who is also Chairman of the Ottawa District,) and by the Rev. A. Jamieson, Baptist Minister from Chelsea, L. C. The arguments adduced in favour of Total Abstinence by the Reverend gentlemen and others, gave our Society an addition of eleven new members; and amongst others, I had the gratification to see the Rev. R. Jones sign the pledge, the weight of whose influence in the cause is not only duly appreciated here by us, but will be attended with the best effects (when published in the *Advocate*,) in various other parts of the province when he has travelled as a Minister.

I am, your's respectfully,

HENRY BISHOPRICK.

Bytown, August 20, 1839.

WHITBY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Sir,—Allow me to lay before you the past and present condition of the *Whitby Temperance Society*. It was instituted in the summer of 1831, upon the old common principle of Total abstinence from ardent spirits, and that of not using to excess other strong drinks. What was the amount of members at this time, I cannot say, not

having been in the place till three years after, and no records existing previous to the second Anniversary. But this I know, that they had immense numbers to contend with, and to the present moment have had the most powerful influence in the place put forth against them. But although this child of benevolence was cradled in adversity, and nursed in the midst of enemies, it is rapidly advancing to a goodly stature, and bids fair to prostrate, ere long, that giant foe who has so long been ravaging the world, consigning hundreds of his wretched victims, not only to poverty and ignominy and the grave, but to the pains and horrors of the "second death."

Never, so far as I can learn, but in one solitary instance, has this society had the countenance of any of those in stations of rule. The magistrates being all, like the most of their neighbours, Temperance-enough-already men. And even the solitary aid from this quarter which was once enjoyed, is now withdrawn, and sent to build a still house as a trap for "filthy lucre," and I fear the ruin of many unwary mortals.

The Society has in this place, moreover, suffered in a very remarkable manner, by the removal of an immense number of its best supporters, for as the Township fills up, many, with rising families, retire backward, to provide, at the earliest rate, settlements for them. Many others have gone to a still greater distance, and thus has the army been often singularly reduced. Illustrative of this, I may observe, that at that time we mustered as many as at the annual meeting in 1838, although we have been constantly advancing. Still the hand of the Lord has been with us, and when our comrades are called off to another field, or laid low in death, others are stirred up to step into the ranks.

In the spring of 1836, the society added to its constitution a rider, for those who were disposed to take the advance ground of "Total Abstinence from all that can intoxicate;" and I find that at a meeting, held a month before this became law, not fewer than 100 are reported as acting on the Total Abstinence principle.

But in short, the Annual Meeting was held a few days ago, when it appeared that the aspect of things was even more encouraging than at any former period. In 1838 the regular members amounted to 336, during the year 21 had been expelled, or withdrawn, or removed; and still at the present we muster 390, presenting an increase during the year of 75; and this too, during a season, in which more than ever, Temperance abounded; for there were three companies of Militia stationed here for six months, among whom, it is melancholy to say, drinking was a business, and their example was most lamentable in its effects upon many. In one respect, however, I believe good came out of this evil—some had their eyes opened thereby, when ordinary excess had failed to effect it. There were within three months four of these soldiers cut off, either in intoxication or by its immediate effects.

It is most encouraging also to be able to state, that notwithstanding surrounding temptation, it appears from the Records, that breaches of the Rules have been fewer, than during any former year and that the average of Total Abstinence members, is also steadily on the increase. The Committee closed their Report on the above occasion, by a very decided expression of the stimulus derived from the prosperous state of things, to unwearied exertion in the cause; and by urging others to consider that "were it supported as it deserves, it would soon, by the force of opinion, inculcate every drunkard from the rest of society, so that if they would go down to misery and death, it would not only be alone, but as beacons to the rising generation, and as mementos of gratitude to many, who in the Temperance Society, as in a house of Refuge, had escaped beyond the influence of the ruthless destroyer."

Before the meeting broke up, nine new members gave in their names, and a resolution was unanimously carried to forward to two different periodicals some account of the proceedings. It was also agreed, that owing to the great benefit likely to result from such a paper as the *Advocate*, a subscription should be raised to such an extent, as at least to bring fifty copies into circulation, which was done accordingly.

I am, Sir,

A MEMBER.

BAY OF CHALBUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Sir,—You will no doubt rejoice to know that a Society on the Total Abstinence principle has been established in the Village of