

Your Memorialists submit their prayer with the more readiness to your Excellency, and confidently anticipate a favourable answer, from a knowledge of the regard for the well-being of the community, and the patronage of every effort to promote public morals, which have distinguished your Excellency's public and private career.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Montreal, February, 1844.

To the Worshipful the Magistrates of the District of Montreal.
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR WORSHIPS:

We, the undersigned Clergy, Merchants, and other citizens of Montreal, hereby express our satisfaction at the efforts made by you recently in Special Session, to reduce the number of tavern licenses; a measure which, we consider, will greatly promote the public good, and lessen the existence of poverty, vice and crime, in the community.

And we earnestly hope that His Excellency the Gov. Gen. will accede to that part of the Report of the Committee of your Worshipful body adopted on the 30th ult., (in the views of which we entirely concur) which suggests the propriety of all future appeals for licenses to the Executive, being referred not to any single individual, but to the body of the Magistrates.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Montreal, February, 1844.

As it took some time to obtain signatures to the above memorials, the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society adopted and despatched the following with the least possible delay:—

To His Excellency Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalf, K. C. B., Governor in Chief of the Provinces of British North America, &c. &c. The Petition of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That the city of Montreal has long borne a grievous load of pauperism, vice and crime, of insanity, disease and death, resulting from intemperate habits, formed and fostered by the traffic in intoxicating drinks: and that to remedy in part the effects of this traffic the public are in various ways heavily taxed, whilst at the same time public prosperity is greatly obstructed and public morals are deteriorated.

That recent investigations have demonstrated the actual existence of a vast amount of destitution in this city and called forth the active exertions of the religious and benevolent for its relief. But whilst the taverns and dram shops are the chief agents in producing this destitution—extracting daily from the pockets of the poor probably more than would supply their daily wants, they at the same time render it impossible to administer effectual relief, as charity, whether in the shape of money or clothing, passes to a great extent immediately into the hands of the licensed trafficker in intoxicating drinks.

That in view of these evils so great and so long reluctantly borne, public opinion has at length been roused to bear forcibly upon the cause which produces them, and to claim from the laws at present existing, all the protection which their strict administration will afford—to claim as a mitigation of suffering, that no latitude of interpretation be allowed on the side of intemperance. As a proof of this feeling, six memorials and petitions having the above object in view, were presented by various influential classes of the community to the Magistrates at their late Special Sessions for granting licenses; which petitions were graciously received by the Bench and favorably noticed in most of the public papers.

That the Magistrates thus supported by public opinion, entered with enlightened and honorable alacrity into the work of protecting the interests of the public against those who may be said to live on the life blood of the community; and after instituting a rigid scrutiny into the character of applications, rejected all such as appeared from want of accommodation for travellers to be merely drinking houses, and consequently no way necessary for the public good but rather highly detrimental to it in every sense of the word.

That this measure has been hailed with great satisfaction by your petitioners in common with, they believe, all the well disposed part of the community, as likely to prevent an incalculable amount of evil and in the same proportion advance the best interests of the public.

That it is however much to be feared, that strenuous efforts of all kinds will be made by the disappointed applicants to obtain

from your Excellency a reversal of the Magistrates' decision in each particular case, and for this purpose, by dint of entreaty on the one hand and weak or venal compliance on the other, certificates and recommendations may be obtained and forwarded to your Excellency, which, to any one at a distance, might appear conclusive in favor of the parties applying, but your petitioners submit that the facts of each case could not be properly ascertained without again prosecuting the investigations which have been already carefully made by the Magistrates.

That government has never entered to protect the public by diminishing the number of licenses even when that number is excessive, and surely it ought not to interfere for the purpose of adding to them when such addition will certainly be an increase of crime, immorality, pauperism, disease, and sudden death in the community.

Wherefore your petitioners respectfully pray that your Excellency will steadfastly refuse all applications for licenses to sell intoxicating drinks, and take such steps as may appear best calculated to suppress the unlicensed and consequently illegal traffic in these drinks now extensively carried on; satisfied that in so doing your Excellency will consult the best interests of the community and confer a lasting obligation on the city of Montreal.

(Signed for the Committee.)

JOHN DOUGALL, President.

JAMES COURT, Cor. Sec.

Montreal, February, 1844.

To this Memorial, the following gracious answer was received in due course:—

{ CIVIL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.
Kingston, Feby. 9 1844.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., and to inform you that the memorial from the Montreal Temperance Society which it enclosed, has been transferred to the Provincial Secretary, and will receive the Governor General's favourable consideration—as His Excellency is fully sensible of the great blessing conferred upon the inhabitants of any country by abstinence from the use of intoxicating drinks, and would gladly, as far as depends on him, encourage the adoption of measures calculated to secure so very desirable an object.

The Governor General also desires me to tender to the Montreal Temperance Society his acknowledgements for their humane and generous exertions in the good work in which they are engaged.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedt. humble servt.

(Signed,)

J. M. HIGGINSON.

J. Dougall, Esq.,

President Montreal Temperance Society.

Deeming that if after these representations the Governor took any action in the matter at all, it would be to refer the applications back to the Magistrates—and knowing that they would be greatly strengthened by the approbation of the Corporation, the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society deemed it advisable to present the following memorial to that body:—

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Montreal, The Memorial of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That the Worshipful the Magistrates of this District did at the last Special Session considerably reduce the number of tavern licenses, a measure which though fraught with benefit to the public, has met with much opposition from interested parties and which may yet possibly be frustrated.

That your Memorialists deeming themselves warranted in assuming that your honorable body as guardians of the city feel interested in a subject so intimately connected with its welfare, venture to request your attention to some of the various modes in which the best interests of the city are injured by the intemperance fostered in tavern and dram shops.

1st. Where individuals become chargeable to the public in this country as paupers, they are, in a vast majority of cases reduced to that state by their own intemperance, or that of their relations, from which it follows that if the temptation to indulgence in intoxicating drinks were removed from the people, the great bulk of all the burdens for the support of the poor would also be removed. But to license taverns in nearly every street and at