

of conviction, unaided by any external influence. They had heard no addresses—had read no publications on the subject—when a number in the neighbourhood proposed to relinquish the use of liquor at raisings, and they found their work was as well and more expeditiously done than formerly. After this mode had been practised for a considerable time, a few began to think it would be better to have an Abstinence Society. An odd number or two of the *Advocate* falling into the hands of some individuals hastened the execution of this. The Society amounts to twenty-five, on the total principle only.

I am, your obedient Servant,

R. THORNTON, *United Sec. Minister.*

Whitby, August 24, 1840.

REPORT

From the Township of Kingston Sixth Concession Total Abstinence Society.

A meeting was held on the 16th April last, and an address delivered by the Rev. Ezra Healy, Wesleyan Minister, from the text "Wine is a mocker," &c., at the close of which he introduced the total abstinence pledge to the attention of the audience, and procured 52 subscribers on the spot. An adjourned meeting was held on the Monday following, for the purpose of organizing a society and choosing officers, when an appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. W. Dignum, and 22 names were added to the pledge. Jason Burchell was then chosen President, and Thomas Graham, Secretary, with a Committee of seven.

A Meeting was again held on the 15th June, when the President withdrew, and Mr. John Graham was elected in his stead. Mr. John Sutherland was also elected Vice-President, and 7 members were added to the society. Another meeting was held on the 9th August, at which the Rev. C. Thompson, Episcopal Methodist, and some other gentlemen, delivered addresses, and 23 subscribers were obtained to the pledge. Our last meeting, which was held on the 4th September, was very well attended, and 9 members were received as probationers, making our whole number 113. That God, who has the hearts of men in his hand, may constrain all to turn from the practices which produce intemperance, is the prayer of your obedient Servant,

THOMAS GRAHAM, *Secretary.*

THE FOLLY OF DRINKING CUSTOMS.

L'ORIGINAL, August 19, 1840.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

SIR,—In associating with gentlemen, either in private or in public parties, I have frequently been astonished at the foolish and unmeaning compliments which form a prelude to the drinking customs of society. "Madam, may I have the pleasure of *drinking* with you?" "Captain, will you do me the favour of *drinking* with me?" "Permit me sir!" says the admirer of sherry or port, offering, with a graceful nod, to help his neighbour with a glass of the social liquid. These *challenges* are frequently given, and are returned with a courteous bow. Either from a love to strong drink, or from a stupid subjection to idle, extravagant, and injurious usages, the *polite gentleman* drinks with one and another, until his little bottle is empty, by which time several bottles have been demanded of the waiter, the round of compliments and bowings are continued, the eyes glisten, the cheeks redden, the tongue runs, and if gentlemen are not intoxicated, they have taken more than they ought, they have expended money and time unnecessarily, they have been forming or nurturing an unnatural appetite, they have been doing no real good, and they have been sanctioning directly or indirectly the evils of intemperance, and laughing at the efforts of benevolent and religious men to benefit the community by banishing those drinks except for medicinal and religious purposes. As every man is free to act for himself, I have never *attached* this evil in company; but by abstinence I have *silently* reprov'd it, and my practice has induced many to talk about temperance societies, and thus led to a discussion of our principles. This has been the case with other members and advocates of temperance societies. To attack persons differing from me, to use opprobrious and un-

guarded language, would be neither *gentlemanly* nor *christian*; but a friendly conversation, stating *benevolent* motives for abstinence, may do considerable good, and eventually banish the customs alluded to. Is it not a *pleasure* to eat with a friend, as well as to *drink* with him? Is it not a pleasure to be in intelligent and agreeable company, and to use our speech in enlightening each other, and glorifying God? Yet this is done without drinking compliments, and without alcoholic drinks will be more agreeable and useful to every lover of his race. Can no *substitute* be found for these empty nods and compliments? Wherein consists their *reasonableness*, their *utility*, their *warrant*? Independent of *taste*, *fashion*, and *interest*, what can be adduced in favour of such customs? The *natural* flow of the spirits from an intelligent and benevolent mind is certainly far more rational, and must correspond more with the will of Heaven, and the character and destinies of holy beings. It is a sad reflection upon the Supreme Being, and the powers and dignity of man, to resort to such expedients in order to render society agreeable, and to pass a cheerful hour. To gentlemen and ladies, to christian friends of every name, I offer these few and imperfect musings, and I entreat them to discontinue every injurious and irrational custom, and lend their sanction and influence to Temperance associations. I cannot suppose that they are averse to such institutions, neither will I infer that they are reluctant from *secular* and *carual* considerations to aid a benevolent enterprise; their numerous engagements, want of information, inconsideration, &c., are the only causes I can attribute for their previous backwardness, and indulge the hope that they will not shrink from the light of the present day, but face it, and quit its influence.

Praying that our numbers and influence may be increasingly augmented, I am, yours respectfully,

JAMES T. BYRNE.

LOWER CANADA.

CONSTITUTION OF THE QUEBEC YOUNG MEN'S
TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY,

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 6, 1840.

QUEBEC, Sept. 1, 1840.

At a meeting, held at the large School-house outside St. John's Gate, the following resolutions were put, and carried unanimously:

Moved by J. DOUGALL, Esq., seconded by Mr. PIERCE.

1. That the devout gratitude of this meeting is due to Almighty God, for the past success and future prospects of Temperance Societies; and, as his blessing alone can render their organization effective, it is the duty of Temperance men, in all things, humbly to acknowledge him, and earnestly to pray for his countenance and support.

Moved by Mr. W. BJOOTH, seconded by Mr. J. KEMP.

2. That a Society be formed, for the suppression of intemperance, to be called "The Quebec Young Men's Total Abstinence Society," and that the following be the form of pledge: "Believing that the common use of intoxicating drinks is not only needless, but hurtful to the social, civil, and religious interests of men, that it tends to form intemperate appetites and habits, and that while it is continued, the evils of intemperance can never be done away,—we, the subscribers, in humble reliance upon divine assistance, do agree never to use intoxicating liquors ourselves as a beverage, nor will we make, buy, sell, or furnish them to be used by others."

Moved by W. HOLEHOUSE, seconded by Mr. J. WOODLEY.

3. That the business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Committee of eight, to be chosen annually, with power to add to their number, five of whom shall form a quorum.

That any person having rendered service to the cause of Total Abstinence shall be eligible to be elected by the Society as Honorary Members, and shall have power to vote at meetings of Committee—all meetings of the Committee being open to the members of the Society though without a vote.

That the Committee shall, as early as possible, organize a Tract Visiting Society, to secure new members, and observe old ones.