

Temperance.

Report.

The following Report was presented to the House of Assembly, during the recent Session, by the Committee on Temperance, and ordered for publication.

The Committee on Temperance have fulfilled the duty imposed on them and report as follows:—

Their task is a responsible and difficult one: On the one hand is the danger of failing to accomplish all that may be attainable; on the other the risk of retarding improvement by premature or impracticable effort.

No visionary or speculative spirit moves us; nor have the intelligent and conscientious advocates of the Total Abstinence cause surrendered themselves to the mere impulses of feeling in the work they have undertaken. They have calmly surveyed the evil that demands redress; deliberately and cautiously examined the means for checking and eradicating it, patiently and maturely pressed onward in the work of practical improvement.

The history of the Temperance movement in Nova Scotia, and the Journals of this House alike attest this truth. Twenty years have passed since the power of union was invoked for the suppression of Intemperance, and individuals for that object first organized themselves into societies. In that time the cause has been urged upon the public with what powers of reason and persuasion the societies could command; and some improvements in the law have been sought from the legislature: now, at the end of so long a time have the organized advocates of Temperance for the first time united to ask for the interposition of a legislative enactment of a radical nature.

Equally in the Legislature has precipitancy been avoided. It is four years since efforts by notice, resolution, or bill, have annually been made in this house for the separation of the retail liquor trade from the sale of groceries and other articles, and the abolition of the law under which in the city, grocery stores are permitted to be dram shops—far rendering more effective the legal enactments against the illicit retailer—and for pecuniary aid for the diffusion of temperance principles by means of Lecturers. The small measures of success that attended these applications was submitted to with respectful forbearance; and to avoid occasion of personal or party offence, in few instances were the names on the divisions that occurred in this house journalized.

Petitions bearing, as we are informed, from 17,000 to 20,000 signatures have been referred to the consideration of the committee by your Honourable House. As far as we have any knowledge, and our information on the point is not inconsiderable, these petitioners are persons of mature age and competent capacity, and comprise individuals of the highest respectability and intelligence in almost every section of the Province. Among them are a large number of females who address you in a tone of eloquence and feeling well justified by the occasion, and the relation they bear to the subject. For, unhappily, it is one which, if it furnish an extensive field for the deliberations of the moralist and social economist, is one also that touches the affections at their inmost springs; and as none feel the desolations of Intemperance as they are felt by woman, so can no advocate for redress be more appropriate than she.

The petitioners ask you to prohibit by law the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes.

A petition from citizens of Halifax to this House praying that no change may be made in the law has also been referred to the Committee. It bears eighty-seven signatures, comprising mercantile houses and others of the highest respectability, whose opinions, as far as individual intelligence and probity extend, are entitled to respectful consideration. The authority of these opinions is lessened by the consideration of the bias inseparable from personal interest which many of the petitioners have in the subject; and the natural prejudices un-

avoidably engendered by long familiarity, with a traffic, assailed on moral principles, after the sanction of ages had given it an universal prevalence.

This petition is chiefly composed of strong assertions of the impracticability of enforcing a prohibitory law; these considerations are involved in the general question, and nothing is offered to elucidate the argument beyond the expression of opinion. We dissent from the assertion that the withholding of license has tended rather to increase than diminish the evil complained of. The contrary we believe to be the fact; although it is doubtless true that in some villages and peculiar localities illegal retail traffic has prevailed—occasioned in a great measure, we believe, by the imperfection of the law or of its administration.

The questions that arise on these several petitions, are—

1. The occasion for so strong a measure as legal prohibition.

2. The legitimacy of such a measure.

3. Its practicability.

To these questions this House in effect demanded our reply when it referred to us these petitions; and in performance of the duty thus imposed, we present the following opinions and reasons:

First.—We assume as an uncontroverted fact, that many and great are the evils that result to this Province, from the intemperate use, as a beverage, of intoxicating liquors.

We stay not to calculate the amount of money and time primarily expended in this indulgence: we rather would press upon your notice evils, which if more consequential in their nature, are infinitely more injurious to their effects.

Evils to the body politic by the perversion of men calculated by their industry and talents to advance the strength, wealth, and general prosperity of their country—into incumbrances, and instruments of want and mischief.

Evils in the social relations from the desolation of homes, but for this cause the scenes of comfort—the destitution, poverty and degradation of those whose maintenance and education would otherwise have been well cared for,—the anguish and shame of very many hearts, that else might have been filled with joy and satisfaction.

Evils to humanity by brutalizing a rational being, and degrading an immortal spirit.

Secondly.—We assume that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is a superfluous indulgence, neither required for the healthful existence or the happiness of man. We might go farther, and assert that the use of intoxicating drinks is in itself injurious to the human system; but we desire to advance on undisputed premises, and we presume no one will hazard the assertion that man's physical existence, or his happiness as an intellectual or moral being, are in any degree dependent on the use of stimulating liquors.

Thirdly.—We believe that benevolence, patriotism and religion unite to demand the sacrifice of a superfluous indulgence—if by that sacrifice a just prospect exist of checking and eradicating evils so extensive and momentous as those of intemperance.

Fourthly.—We presume that if the men raised to high stations—the men on whom providence has conferred education, refinement, and wealth—still more, if the men separated to teach the truths and obligations of religion; and if they who profess those truths and acknowledge those obligations—were universally to abandon voluntarily the indulgence of intoxicating drinks—the business of the importer and retailer would be so curtailed, and the influences that would encircle the inebriates would be so extended and potential, that comparatively little aid would be required from legislative enactments, and what was required would be accorded without hesitation, and would be effective.

Fifthly.—Believing that societies and governments should exist for the general good, and that a supreme authority in the state is created for the purpose of prohibiting what is generally injurious, altho' at the expense of individual interest; and believing that the sale of intoxicating drinks inflicts evils on the commonwealth of an extended and serious nature, without returning to society compensating benefits; we see

nothing in the right to sell or to drink intoxicating liquors, that should form an exception to the general rule.

Lastly.—We know of no class of persons entitled to complain of the prohibition, if the propositions we have affirmed are correct. Not they who upon the principles of religion and the obligations of benevolence and patriotism, are required voluntarily to abandon alike the traffic and the use—still less they who are the victims, for whose deliverance this remedy is applied—and, least of all, they who make a cruel profit by a traffic that offers to men the materials for their self-destruction, which too many are ready eagerly to accept.

We, your Committee, therefore, unanimously and unhesitatingly report to your Honourable House our opinion, that the evils of intemperance are of a nature to justify for their repression the highest exercise of legislative power—that it falls within the legitimate and just functions and authority of the legislature of this Province, to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale, of intoxicating liquors for use as a beverage—and that it consequently becomes its bounden duty to do so, if legislative enactments can be made efficacious for the object.

The most difficult question here arises: Can legislative enactments for the prohibition be carried into effective operation?

A wide range is opened by this inquiry. The moral influence of law and the coercive restraints of constituted authority on the one side, and the opposing power of pecuniary interest, animal appetite, and the fashions of society on the other, are to be estimated in their comparative strength and antagonism. How far the former would be weakened and the latter aided, by the indisposition of men to surrender by compulsion for a general good, rights and habits long enjoyed and sanctioned, we admit forms no unimportant element in the argument: nor would any inquiry be brought to a sound and practical conclusion, which had not embraced a consideration of the insular formation which gives to this Province a great extent of coast, increasing the expense, and the obstacles in contending against contraband trade.

Against these considerations, the following reasons may be opposed:

First.—While the danger and the mischiefs of smuggling are urged and admitted, it must not be forgotten that the illicit traffic is now carried on; and that a total prohibitory law would be less liable to evasion than a system only partially prohibitory. The evidence would be simple, for the offending article in most cases would testify to its own conviction, and the condemnation be easy and certain. Obstacles that now obstruct conviction would disappear; reluctant witnesses would no longer require to be discovered and forced forward—nor justice be defeated by their evasions, or by refined technicalities on trials.

Secondly.—The law would be universal, and would emanate from the highest source, and that a Representative Legislature.—Now, neighbouring counties are governed on contradictory principles, enforced by authorities of feebleness of influence, and over which the masses of the people have little control.

Thirdly.—The injurious effects on the popular mind of the license system would be removed—a legal sanction to sell, granted to a few for a pecuniary consideration, must place the trade in a false aspect, and entrench it against assaults aimed at its moral character and effects.

So strongly is this sentiment entertained by some of the committee, as to induce the belief that the experiment can never fairly be tested, of "moral suasion" against the drinking habits, while the license system continues; and that if moral power and not legal coercion, must be the instrument of conflict, there must be a free field on which the seller of intoxicating drinks shall stand alike unprivileged and unrestricted, as the seller of flour, of opium, or of arsenic.

Fourthly.—There seems no alternative but in coercive action. Looking at the progress of the cause for twenty years, while we rejoice that large portions of the yeomanry, traders, and mechanics of the province have cast from them the pollutions of intemperance, it is yet obvious that influences exist too powerful for the elements of reform that have yet been brought to bear. In

support of this view, we may adduce the state of society in the metropolis—the extent of the liquor traffic in all its departments—the numerous and influential names on the petition referred to, and which in effect declares that the present liquor law is incapable of improvement.

To be continued.

For Farmers.

Orchards.

If the trees in your orchard have moss on their trunks, or the bark is in bad condition, have the trunks scraped, and then dress or paint them with a mixture composed in the proportion of 1 gallon of soft soap, 1 lb. flour of sulphur, and 1 quart of salt.

Draining of Wet Lands.

To apply lime or manure to wet lands is really to throw money and time away. So, if you have any of this description, have them drained. If they are stiff and intractable now, the draining will break down their tenacity, make them much easier to work, much more, if not doubly, productive, and make them susceptible to the influence of manure. If they are cold now, by drawing off the superabundant water, you will let in the atmosphere, warm up the soil, and render them at least two or three weeks earlier.

To prevent insects from destroying leaves of Trees.

An intelligent gentleman has handed the following recipe to the *Washington Telegraph*:—If the owners of trees, whose foliage is annually and sometimes oftener destroyed by worms, will take the trouble to bore a hole into their trunks, inclining towards the roots, (now that the sap is ascending,) and fill the aperture in each with the flour of sulphur, protecting it from the weather by pitch, clay, or sealing-wax, they will find that insects will not trouble the leaves.

Salting of Stock.

Stock of all kinds, says the *American Farmer*, should be salted twice or thrice a week, or what we think would be better, receive, twice a week, an ounce or two of a mixture composed of equal parts of oyster-shell lime, salt, and ashes. For stock, we prefer oyster-shell lime to stone lime, because it contains a very notable percentage of phosphate of lime, a substance eminently necessary to supply the wear and tear of old animals' bones, and to supply to young ones the material for building up theirs.

General Miscellany.

Volcanic Eruption of Monoloo, Sandwich Islands.

A correspondent of the *Polynesian*, gives the following interesting account of the volcanic eruption of Monoloo, Sandwich Islands, which commenced on the morning of February 17th. The spectacle must have been sublime:—

"By an accurate measurement of the enormous jet of glowing lava, where it first broke forth on the side of Mauna Loa, it was ascertained to be five hundred feet high! This was upon the supposition that it was thirty miles distant. We are of opinion that was a greater distance, say from forty to sixty miles. With a glass, the play of this jet at night was distinctly observed, and a more sublime sight can scarcely be imagined. A column of molten lava, glowing with the most intense heat, and projecting into the air to a distance of five hundred feet, was a sight so rare and at the same time so awfully grand, as to excite the most lively feelings of awe and admiration, even when viewed at a distance of forty or fifty miles. How much more awe-inspiring would it have been at the distance of one or two miles, where the sounds accompanying such an eruption could have been heard. The fall of such a column would doubtless cause the earth to tremble; and the roar of