

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

TO NEW ACQUAINTANCES.

A large increase in the subscription list of this paper is expected through the prize plan announced on another page. Yet none who see the *Weekly Messenger* for the first time need wait for the formation of a club before sending in their own names. With a fresh copy to show to friends every week the chances for getting up clubs would be greatly increased, and there would be no room to suspect that any particular number was specially got up to draw patronage. Equal care is taken in the preparation of every issue from one end of the year to the other, with the one exception that the management always has an eye to improvement. Those who see the paper now for the first time have an opportunity of judging for themselves as to its average merits, and we freely invite an inspection of the contents, asking at the same time if the *Weekly Messenger* is not the very best value for the money in periodical literature to be obtained anywhere.

TO OLD ACQUAINTANCES.

It would be a great favor to us and we believe a pleasure to ourselves, if old friends would assist in extending the circle of our readers by lending their copies when read to persons who have never seen the paper, and sending an occasional copy to a distant friend, asking them to subscribe. See terms and prize list in our advertisement elsewhere.

TO TEMPERANCE WORKERS.

You can greatly benefit the societies to which you belong as well as the temperance cause and help us in the very important work of furnishing temperance literature, by recommending the *Messenger and Worker* to your fellow-members and getting up clubs among them. In this paper, besides all the Canadian and general temperance news we can crowd into it, its subscribers have a pure and entertaining family newspaper that will undoubtedly be a welcome visitor weekly in every home where it enters. We are grateful to the friends who send us regularly items of temperance news, and hope the number of such may constantly grow until we have a correspondent in at least every county and large town. It is necessary, however, to caution our friends that what is chiefly desired is news concerning temperance work and progress, as a line or two is the most a weekly paper can afford to such an event as a picnic or an evening social held by any local organization. As an instance of the need of this caution, we may say we have on hand a description of a Lodge picnic in the country, which would fill a quarter of this page.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The editor of the *Messenger* proposes to answer questions of public interest which may be put to him.

PERSEVERE.

Temperance efforts in communities in many cases come short of their possible results from the workers becoming too soon weary in well-doing. They too frequently see the end of their labors in what is only the beginning, and rest on their oars in the middle of adverse even if unseen currents. Thus a great deal of promising work is irrecoverably lost, and triumphs are followed by periods of false security, when arms are laid down until in dismay the warriors find that the war must be begun anew or the foe be left in possession of the field. When under restrictive laws the evils of the liquor traffic in a district are reduced to the minimum, the opposers of the evil, forgetting the price of liberty, relax vigilance and before they are aware the enemy has anew gained a strong foothold in the community. Alternate success and reverse have the effect of wearing out the energy and cooling the ardor of many who had lent a helping hand in the good work, and the brunt of battle usually is left to a devoted few with resources inadequate for anything more effective than a desultory and all but hopeless struggle. Gradually the traffickers gather fresh force until its ravages upon the public peace and domestic happiness induce another general uprising of the community, the law is made once more supreme and a new season of fatal slumber supervenes. Similarly, in efforts of moral suasion, does relaxation of work keep the total abstinence movement vibrating between hope and despair. Many are the slaves of intemperance who are induced to sign the pledge and then left without the friendly support and sympathy necessary to protect them from the tempter. Men in their first few sober hours for years are, as it were, exhibited as trophies of some movement upon the public platform, where hundreds of sympathetic eyes inspire them with resolution against the power of the destroyer; but, when the popular enthusiasm dies away and the nightly round of meetings gives way to a weekly gathering, the recruits are suffered to fight the battle for the most part alone. Then, when the old appetite returns to the attack with redoubled fierceness, and the subject has to endure the inward struggle in the solitariness of cold and cheerless lodgings, while as yet bereft of proper substitutes for the companionship and conviviality of his drinking days, is it any wonder that he succumbs and affords a living argument to the mouths of scoffers at sudden reformations of the victims of habit? This state of affairs, with respect either to legal or moral suasion, is far from being a reason for persons withdrawing from active support of the temperance movement, yet many have made these things an excuse for indifferent conduct regarding every phase of the question. Notwithstanding all the failures that can possibly be cited, it is doubtful if any vigorous rally in the cause ever took place without leaving some permanent mark to attest its value, and one drunkard fully and finally reclaimed is worth a good deal of effort and a much larger expenditure of brotherly kindness than busy men are usually prepared to bestow. It is not alone

with regard to great temperance efforts that we would urge the duty of constancy and persistence; in the quiet work of individual members of the regular organizations those qualities are as important as in public operations. If the various temperance orders succeeded as well in holding fast all that they obtain as in securing recruits the position of the cause would be immeasurably stronger to-day than it is. Let, therefore, members of every pledged band not forget that their responsibility concerning every man whom they lead into their ranks is only beginning when he subscribes their roll.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

An appeal has been made by the Good Templars of the State of Ohio to their brethren abroad asking for contributions to the campaign fund of the temperance party, to carry on the electoral contest over a Constitutional Prohibitory Amendment to be submitted to the people of that State this year. The circular containing the appeal is bordered with the following mottoes:—"Maine, Kansas, Iowa and, if you will help, Ohio;" "Watchword: Home against saloon;" "Remember, Ohio will help you when your turn comes;" "If we work we shall win, because we are right." Each Lodge is asked to contribute something, and Mr. W. H. Lambly, G. W. C. T. of Quebec endorses the appeal and recommends it warmly to the Order in his jurisdiction.

In our issue of July 14th appeared a general report of the meeting of the Loyal Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. From a fuller report sent us by the G.W.C.T., we take a few specific facts. The present membership in that jurisdiction is 2,601, an increase of 621 in the year. After all old debts had been paid off, there was a surplus of \$121.80. The report of the Committee on Political Action as adopted commended the Scott Act and condemned the license law of the Dominion. An increase in the capita tax from 5cts. to 7cts., one cent to go to the support of County Lodges, was resolved upon, and also the levying of a tax of one cent per member upon the Juvenile Templars for the support of that branch. A most urgent matter considered, in connection with the report of the Committee on the State of the Order, was the great loss annually sustained by resignation and non-payment of dues. One remedy for this universal evil suggested was an increase of initiation fees and a lowering of quarterly dues. Attention was drawn by the Committee on Temperance Literature to the matter of educating the public mind through the agency of sound, reliable and readable temperance literature. These discussions are of interest to Good Templars everywhere, and the mention of them here should cause a large amount of thinking throughout the Order in the Dominion.

The Grand Lodge of Quebec meets in Sherbrooke on the 19th September.

Still another trophy of Temperance has been secured in the Eastern Townships, Mr. W. H. Lambly, the G.W.C.T., having held a very successful meeting at Maple Grove, Megantic county, and resuscitated

"Maple Grove" Lodge, No. 132, with fifteen charter members.

NEWS AND NOTES.

At Lapane, Indiana, Dr. C. E. Young, while out driving with his wife stabbed her forty times, it is believed fatally, and, as usual, whiskey was the cause of the murderous madness.

The Scott Act is being vigorously enforced in Milltown, Carleton county, N. B., but in St. Stephen, the chief town of the county, the law is being administered with rather a slack hand.

Mr. Gladstone, the venerable English Premier, was present at the Wesleyan Conference in London the other day, and presented some blue ribbons in presence of the ministers. In his remarks he expressed his gratification at the spread of the temperance movement, which pointed to a brighter and more hopeful future for the working-men of England.

A correspondent of the *Montreal Witness*, writing from Collingwood, Ontario, advocates a movement to have the Scott Act submitted simultaneously in every constituency in Canada. He believes that many would vote for the Act in the hope of its becoming the law of the Dominion who would regard it as almost useless to adopt the Act in isolated sections.

Remarkable energy has been shown by the temperance people of Iowa, in preparing for the approaching contest on the liquor question. Within two weeks the State Temperance Alliance effected a complete organization in forty-two counties of the State, and the remaining counties would be ready for the battle in an equally short period. Every township and school district would then wage war on the saloons until the decisive day.

A State Convention to organize for the approaching struggle over the Constitutional Prohibitory Amendment in Ohio was attended by five hundred delegates. It was the general wish that an organization should be effected which would enable electors to vote their political party ticket in freedom while voting for the amendment. The Convention resulted in a State Constitutional Amendment Association being started, with Mills Gardner as President, Mrs. Mary Woodbridge as Vice-President, E. T. Dean as Secretary and J. C. Jackson, jr., as Treasurer. Temperance people everywhere will watch the irrepressible conflict in Ohio with interest, and cheer the warriors for the right with their prayers and sympathies, and in many cases with money to aid the campaign. Organization is projected by the Ohio Liquor Dealers' Association, who doubtless see their craft in danger, and they hold a convention at Toledo on the 9th of August.

INTERNAL REVENUE RETURNS in the district of New York fell off nearly a million and a half dollars the past year, owing, doubtless, to the changes in the tariff.