

Contributed Articles.

PETITIONS.

FROM J. R. McNEILLIE.

As so much appears to be made of the petitions presented to both Houses of Parliament in favor of the wine and beer amendments, I have taken the pains to go over the *Gazettes* to find how many names have appeared upon petitions to the Governor-General within this last seven or eight months, from Counties in Ontario, praying that the Scott Act as it is (not the abortion the Senate would feign make it) might be in force in the respective counties. I send you the result, and if petitions are to influence the Commons, let them contrast these figures with those upon the petitions in favor of the wine and beer, and let the voice of the overwhelming majority upon the pro-Scott Act petitions prevail. The first batch presented to the Senate, from 42 counties and cities, contained 35,000 names, an average of less than 840; names obtained in the promiscuous, unreliable manner in which petitions of that kind are usually signed. The list appended shews 66,787 names from 21 County Municipalities, an average of 3,180; every name that of a qualified elector, every name signed by the electors themselves, witnessed as shewn by the signatures of witnesses, and the facts attested by solemn declaration.

No intelligent, fair-minded man will dispute the statement that in order to shew the petition-power of the Province of Ontario in favor of the Scott Act, the average of 3,180 given above should, at least, be multiplied by 48, which I understand is the number of counties and districts in the Province, which would give 152,640, such a majority on petitions as would drown the antis, and put them out of sight forever.

MEMO: SCOTT ACT PETITIONS TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Simcoe.....	5,267
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.....	4,419
Norfolk.....	2,898
Renfrew.....	2,058
Huron.....	4,762
Dufferin.....	1,817
Leeds and Grenville.....	4,259
Kent.....	3,410
Carleton.....	2,135
Lennox and Addington.....	1,534
Lanark.....	2,226
Northumberland and Durham.....	4,928
Elgin.....	2,583
Wellington.....	3,520
Lambton.....	3,589
Frontenac.....	1,311
Perth.....	3,285
Lincoln.....	2,127
Middlesex.....	5,099
Hastings.....	2,944
Victoria.....	2,616

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66,787

Selected Articles.

THE SCOTT ACT AND THE HOME.

The good, true, pure happy home is about the sum total of earthly good, the crown of earthly happiness. We have a mutual interest in defending one another's homes, in increasing their health, intelligence and comfort. Small pox or typhoid fever in a neighbor's house is a danger to me. Poverty there is my tax, and ignorance my annoyance. Poverty there may slacken my own endeavor for comfort, and ignorance there may diminish any desire of improvement and love of knowledge. Just as the family is made up of individuals, so society is made up of families. A drunken father may easily have a drunken son; and the carousals of intoxication in our homes set the example and arouse the desire of such irregular pleasures in the other. It is one man's boy that induces another man's boy to leave the way of sobriety and safety. So social forces may drag downward. May

not social forces in like manner be invoked to lift upward? May not the law, which is society's oracle, direct many a family to the better way? May it not bring the stronger families to the support of the weaker; the better trained, as in our school system, to the guidance of those least formed? This is the design of law. It is the highest, best public sentiment we can get declared and made operative. If on this Temperance we could get at once entire prohibition of the liquor manufacture and traffic; that same entire prohibition is what we should strike for straight from the mark. But when we cannot get what we want, we take, in virtue's progress in a world of sin, the best we can get. This is the principle that governs free school men, and tax school men, that governs protectionists and freetraders. And society like the oscillating earth swings to and fro but goes ahead all the time—and this great reform swings on and returns and swings on again with mightier sweep, and bears down and leaves behind the opinions and prejudices of the improving generations of men. Society will yet see the day when it will look in amazement at its own derelictions in their hideous traffic, and its disregard, as in departed slavery and doomed polygamy, of the claims and rights of home. And our homes we will protect with a musket or even with a club till we can get a Minie-rifle.—*Canadian Patriot*.

THANK GOD FOR PURE WATER.

Streams of pure water are the emblems of health, peace and happiness. Water, unmixed water, is one of God's best gifts, and the teaching of true temperance is to show the evil of mixing it with a rank poison called *alcohol*. The Creator gives us this cooling beverage, pure, sparkling, good, and free as air; yet discontented man is not satisfied, but by art and ingenuity turns it into beer and other intoxicating liquors. Water drinking is one of the common instincts of nature. Every organ of the human frame requires a supply. The skin longs for a splash, the stomach rejoices to receive its allowance, and indeed all the machinery of the body would be unworkable if water were withheld. Water we must have, for we could live longer without food than we could without this blessed gift. God gives us a constant supply, sending us "rain and fruitful showers, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Beer, alcoholic wine, gin, rum, brandy and whiskey are the products of man's invention; and, judging by their effects, they may well be called "the Devil in solution." All these intoxicating drinks are of human manufacture, just like guns or swords, cannons or cannon balls, and far more deadly in their general results. Every blade of grass, every flower of the field, every shrub and tree that beautifies the earth, is a genuine teetotaler. The fishes of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle upon a thousand hills, even the strongest, are all teetotalers. Their common instincts teach them to take the refreshing element, pure as sent from Heaven, but the folly of man leads him to mix it with *alcohol*, which then becomes the source of untold miseries. This alcohol stimulates the nervous system, and many are simple enough to believe that this lively feeling is real strength, whereas it is an effort of Nature to get rid of an intruder as soon as possible. There is no article but water that will quench thirst; if thirst be allayed by any kind of fruit, or by tea or coffee, it is by the water they contain that the effect is produced. As sent by Heaven, it is sparkling, pure, and cheap, and does immense good, but when made into beer, it becomes adulterated and costly, leading to innumerable evils. A quart of ale weighs 39 ounces, and 35 of these are water; the rest alcohol, carbonic gas, a little gum, and the extract of hop! No greater delusion ever existed than the idea that beer was a nutritious liquor. The country has been greatly deceived, and temperance people ought to do their best to enlighten the public upon this subject.

Reader! let me entreat you to stick to the well! There is nothing more natural than a nice glass of pure water. Why should we spoil it? Why mix it with alcohol or any other poison? Why pay good money for bad drink, while you can have the best for nothing? It is a thousand pities to make this good gift of our Heavenly Father into beer, porter, whiskey, and other liquors, by which our people inflict upon themselves the greatest misery. You should all be teetotalers, GENUINE TEETOTALERS. Most of the women drinkers would be saved if there was no glass of beer on the table to dinner and supper. It is the one glass at meals that creates a liking for more, and in this way many drunken mothers are made. God bless the temperance cause, and save the people.—*Joseph Livesey*.