

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1883.

No. 15.

The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

This paper combines with a well-established and popular newspaper an organ for the utterance of the temperance sentiment of the country, and a vehicle of temperance news. A careful examination of its characteristics is invited as the very best method of introducing it where its want is felt and its merits are appreciated. *The Weekly Messenger and Temperance Worker* is published at fifty cents a year, or forty cents to clubs of ten, sent separately or in parcels. Address orders to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal, Canada.

Temperance news requires to be in our hands a week before date of issue, to ensure insertion. Matter of extreme urgency can be admitted up to Wednesday.

Please show this paper to friends and introduce it into Divisions, Lodges, Unions, Clubs and families.

THE ONLY SAFE RULE.

Individuals and associations have from the beginning been holding up moderation in the use of strong drink as the correct rule, and total abstinence as the resort of none but weak men who could not trust their strength against excess. It is safe to say that whenever such ideas have been attempted to be carried out in practice, the experiment has been almost invariably disastrous in the end. If excess is that point of indulgence where injury is inflicted upon the user, there is testimony accumulating every day from the leading physicians of the world that moderation in drinking alcoholic beverages is almost if not altogether impossible, the regular use of much less than what will produce intoxication being declared by most eminent members of the faculty to be harmful to the human constitution. But, waiving discussion upon that advanced line just now, it would be hard for anyone using ordinary opportunities of observation to deny that even what goes by the name of moderation is something that is rarely maintained to the end by any drinker who bears a part in the activities of this stirring age. One of the most patent results of indulgence in strong drink is certainly the cumulative growth of the appetite for it. The drinking becomes deeper and the fits of craving for it more frequent, gradually or rapidly, according to the physical qualities of the drinker, until a chronic state of alcoholism is produced, in which there is no ease or comfort for the victim when not under the narcotizing influence. Arrived at that stage total abstinence is the only alternative of total ruin, and to achieve the former may cost a life and death struggle and necessitate medical as well as moral interposition. One of the most notable, as well as the latest, of the many failures of social organizations founded upon moderation is reported from England. In that country the workingman's drinking club was set up, not without ostentation, as a rival to or substitute for the public house.

The fallacy underlying all efforts in this direction consists in the notion that it is not drinking itself which is bad, but the usual associations connected therewith. The case in question was a fair and full experiment made by Messrs. Richard Haworth & Company, of Salford, in the establishment and carrying on of a club for working people. This firm employs from three to four thousand people, of as good a class as any in Lancashire. In 1874 Messrs. Haworth, to provide a counter-attraction to public-houses, established a first-class club, buying for the purpose an historic old mansion and having it fitted up regardless of expense. Play grounds outside and apartments within were furnished with facilities for all the usual games, physical exercise and recreation, while the intellectual interests of the work-people were regarded in the provision of well-stocked reading rooms. One member of the firm fitted up a large apartment as a Methodist mission room, and his brother was president of the club. None but employees of Messrs. Haworth were admitted to the institution during the first twelve months, nor was any liquor permitted upon the premises. The firm yielded at first to a strong agitation for admitting outsiders, then to having beer sold in the place, and the management was at this time given into the hands of a committee. Encouraged by the financial results of the beer traffic, the committee led an agitation to admit all the other strong drinks and card-playing. Under the plea that thereby alone could the people be withheld from the public houses, Messrs. Haworth gave way, and he that was president resigned that position and would have nothing more to do with the concern. Matters went now from bad to worse. The officers of the club were changed in rapid succession. Drunkenness became a characteristic of every occasion, within and without the institution, in which the club figured, such as dancing parties and matches in games. The hour for closing was nominally kept at eleven for a while, but often dancing, drinking and debauchery held sway till the hours approaching dawn. Financial difficulties succeeded, and in despair an appeal was made in 1881 to Mr. George Haworth for help. After refusing to give such at first, he at length consented upon a solemn engagement of the managers that matters would be reformed. It was no use, however, so long as the drink was allowed to remain at all. Most scandalous scenes continued to be common, even Sunday drinking was clandestinely practised, and women and children were to be seen hanging about outside late into Saturday night, waiting for drunken relatives to come out. The end of the business was that Messrs. Haworth turned the committee out of possession and then cleared out all the liquor. They found the whole premises very much damaged, everything looking as if it had been "through the wars." One of them signed the pledge and started a temperance society in the club, which has been successful and is presided over by himself.

The Spanish Chamber of Deputies has passed a bill allowing affirmation instead of an oath when desired.

REMARKABLE TESTIMONY.

An interesting gathering of Provincial Mayors took place in the London Guildhall on the evening of March 14th, the Lord Mayor of London presiding and ten other chief magistrates being present. All were there to give their experience with the temperance question. The Lord Mayor admitted he was not a teetotaler, but said nineteen out of twenty of the cases of crime that came before him had their origin in drink. Mr. White, the Mayor of Birmingham, said he had been an abstainer forty-eight years, and spoke enthusiastically of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's great meeting in his town the night before. Mr. Woodhouse, Mayor of Leeds, had been an abstainer three years. He was in the woolen and worsted business, and he gave figures showing that from 1870 to 1880, a bad period for those industries, the people had bought annually sixty-eight million pounds' worth of woolen, worsted, cotton and linen goods and seventy million pounds' worth of bread, while one hundred and thirty-six million pounds a year were spent upon intoxicating drinks in the same period, or nearly as much as upon all those necessities put together. Mr. Priestman, Mayor of Bradford, had conducted his official duties upon strictly temperance principles, with satisfaction to all concerned. The Mayor of Bath, Mr. Handel Cossham, a life abstainer and temperance worker, and the Mayors of Crewe and Grantham also spoke. The Mayor of St. Ives, Cornwall, gave the most remarkable speech of the evening, which is calculated so well to "lift up the hands which fall down and strengthen the feeble knees," that we must give it in full in this paper, as reported in the *Alliance News*. At the close of the proceedings Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the Mayors for their addresses, which was seconded by Mr. A. Pease, also a member of Parliament, made an earnest speech in which he assured the meeting that the country would not be much older ere it rejoiced in Local Option. Lord Claud Hamilton, in moving a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for his services in the chair, said not a seat was lost in Ireland at the last election by adherents favorable to temperance legislation.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

"Horse Shoe" Division, No. 523, was instituted at Scotch Village, Hants county, N.S., March 27th, with twenty-three charter members. W. P., O. C. Murphy; Rec. S., L. M. Smith; Letson M. Smith, Deputy. "Rising Hope" Division, No. 524, was organized at West New Annan, Colchester county, N. S., March 28th, by P. G. W. P. Thomas Hutchings, agent and lecturer, with thirty-four charter applicants. W. P., Robert Anderson; Rec. S., M. J. McCully; Deputy, James McCully. "Faithful Guide" Division, No. 525, was organized at Pugwash, River, Cumberland county N. S. on March 28th, with thirty charter members, by Deputy Henry Smith. W. P., Charles T. Oulton; Rec. S., Hugh E. Chisholm; Deputy, Henry Smith. "Eastern Light" Division, No. 526, was organized at Eastern

Passage, Halifax county, N.S., April 2nd, by County Deputy R. T. Murray assisted by members from Halifax city. The staunch old Order is evidently thriving finely in Nova Scotia.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

The next Session of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia will commence the first Tuesday in July, at Bridgewater.

The Annapolis County, N. S., Lodge met recently at Centreville. A flourishing condition of the Order was reported throughout the jurisdiction. Juvenile lodges were suggested as an enterprise worthy of being promoted, and the provision of a fund for mission work was recommended to be raised by voluntary contribution. It was resolved to use the influence of the organization in aid of the enforcement of the Scott Act. A very successful public meeting was held in the evening, presided over by Mr. Barteaux, County Chief, addressed by representatives from different localities and enlivened with good music.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Toronto recently entertained the Teachers' Association of that city, for the purpose of enlisting the sympathies of the teachers in the temperance cause. Mr. G. M. Rose, in whose house the gathering was held, presided, and Mrs. John Harvie presented the views of the Union, setting forth the desirability and practicality of having temperance principles inculcated in the schools. Mr. Lewis, President of the Association, responded, showing how the objects sought might be attained. Other excellent addresses were given by Mr. John Macdonald, Mr. W. H. Howland and Mr. McAlister. Music enlivened the meeting, and refreshments were served before the company separated.

The Union in Halifax, N.S., recently gave an excellent entertainment.

A PRACTICAL MOVE.—The Toronto Branch of the Alliance have been considering the proposal to establish a temperance party and at a recent meeting the legislative committee, to whom it was referred, reported against it, and recommended in its stead the appointment annually of an election committee, whose business it will be to canvass the city thoroughly and obtain signatures of those electors willing to support temperance or prohibitory candidates in preference to others. The great object is to secure: "1. The nomination and returns to the House of Commons of men pledged to support a bill for the prohibition of the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating beverages. 2. The nomination and return to the Local Legislature and to the City Council of men pledged to support such measures for the prohibition or restriction of the liquor traffic as may be within the power of the bodies named to enact." It will require some years' effort to demonstrate what may be the actual success of such an effort, but we shall watch its working with much interest.