

Why overlook the *causes* of pauperism? The obvious way to get rid of an evil is to discover the cause which produces it, and put an end to its operation; and those remedies will ever be found inadequate which are intended only to mitigate the bitterness of the effect, and leave the cause untouched. It is established beyond the possibility of questioning that Intemperance is one of the most prolific sources of the evil referred to. We consider it almost unnecessary to attempt to add any thing to the array of proof by which this point has been established, yet the following fact which we have just fallen in with, is so apposite, that we cannot refrain from quoting it. "Dr. Adams, of Dublin, on questioning the first twenty applicants for soup in the parish of St. Peter's, found that eighteen of the twenty had that morning paid more for *spirits* than the value of the soup they came to beg amounted to."

There are 375 houses in Montreal licensed to sell intoxicating drink of various kinds, and for the citizens to support these houses, and at the same time open a House of Industry, appears to us to be nothing more nor less than to produce pauperism with the one hand and try to suppress it with the other. To our benevolent townsmen, (and their late exertions have proved their benevolence,) we would say, do away with the cause, and the effect will cease. We do not mean to affirm that pauperism will be wholly got rid of by suppressing intemperance and the means of it, but it will become exceedingly rare, and the paupers that may afterwards be found, will not be of so degraded a character, nor act in such a manner as to disgust those who attempt to relieve them.

DISTILLATION AND HIGH PRICED PROVISIONS.—We formerly called the attention of our readers to the fact, that distillation has a direct tendency to increase the price of bread, and we deem the fact of great importance at the present crisis. The price of every article of life has increased so much of late, and appears to be still increasing so rapidly, as to call for economy, but there cannot be a more senseless waste than to destroy the "staff of life" by distillation. All the bread-stuffs which are used in distillation are more than lost to the public, for, besides being rendered unfit for bread, they are converted into a deleterious poison, which, by its baneful operation, aggravates the sufferings of the public a thousand fold. It is no purpose to tell us, that many of the kinds of grain which are used by the distiller are not used as the food of man—they are all *bread-stuffs*, and we are very much mistaken if, before next autumn, many of the inhabitants of Lower Canada

will not be thankful for such bread. Besides, distillers do use wheat, whenever the price is so low as to afford them a profit—two distilleries on Long Island have used the enormous quantity of 150,000 bushels last year. To occupy the land with a crop which is neither needed for man nor beast, and the proper use of which, as some say, is to be converted into alcohol, is doubtless to abuse it.

Scarcity of provisions is already felt in this Province. It is felt also in the United States, and Great Britain, and with these resources cut off, how gloomy is the prospect before us! Yet the distilleries of Lower Canada are suffered to go on destroying the grain which a bountiful Providence has given us for the support of ourselves and our cattle, and the rate at which they destroy it may be judged of by the fact, that they produce 400,000 gallons of proof spirit yearly. We are glad to see that public attention has been turned to this subject in the United States. The citizens of Philadelphia held a public meeting lately respecting it, at which they unanimously condemned the conduct of distillers in the present emergency, and agreed to request all Farmers to sell no "merchantable grain" to any distiller for three months, and distillers to purchase none.

It is so far good that a meeting was held, and some discussion took place, on a subject so vitally affecting the community; and in this respect we could wish to see the example of Philadelphia followed in Montreal, but their resolutions do not appear to us at all adequate to the occasion. The most effectual way in which the inhabitants of Philadelphia, or any place else, can put a stop to the mischiefs of distillation, is universally to abandon the use of the liquor which it produces. It is a burlesque to ask distillers, one day, to cease, and next day to ask them to go on, by purchasing their liquor. The subject, moreover, appears to us to be one which justifies, and calls for Legislative interference. What is the use of a Legislature but to protect the community? and when is that protection more imperiously called for than during a season of scarcity? If a parent should offer his child a scorpion instead of bread, he would justly be considered a disgrace to human nature; but if a parent were to take bread from his child and convert it into a "scorpion," or something as deadly, public justice would then take hold of him and punish him for his cruelty. Or, if he were to perceive some villain treating his offspring in this manner, and did not interfere to prevent it, he would be considered guilty by connivance of the consequences that might follow. But that Legislature seems to act a similar part which tolerates distillation, not to speak of the licensing of it.

PROGRESS OF The Temperance Reform.

MONTREAL—Temperance Soirée.—The last Temperance Soirée, which was held on St. Andrew's day, produced such an impression on the public mind, that another was considered to be called for. The Executive Committee, ever on the alert, made arrangements for it accordingly. It has just been held in the same room in which the former was celebrated. The room, however, had received several additional decorations, amongst the principal of which was a large and beautiful transparency, representing Temperance on the one hand, and Intemperance on the other. The bands of music, both vocal and instrumental, were also enlarged, and contributed much to the entertainment of the evening. In particular, a duett, which was performed by Miss Plimsoll and Mr. Lyman, Jr., and another performed by Mr. Pitts and Mr. Folsom, were loudly and deservedly applauded.

At seven o'clock the Rev. W. Taylor was called to the Chair, and shortly after Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Bosworth and Wilkes successively, both of which were listened to with much interest and gratification by the meeting. Coffee was next presented, and while this exhilarating beverage, which "cheers but not inebriates" was going round, the Instrumental band regaled the company with their music. Some pieces were afterwards sung by the Vocal band, and at ten o'clock the Chairman dismissed the meeting with some concluding remarks.

This meeting presented much to delight the friends of rational entertainment, yet we must say that it did not leave behind it such a pleasing impression as the former. No blame, however, can, we think, be attached to the Committee, with the exception that, having such an excellent Vocal band, they might have made a happier selection of Songs and Hymns. The radical defect consisted in the smallness of the room. It was literally crowded, and consequently when the refreshments were handed round, some degree of confusion was necessarily produced,—indeed, owing to the crowd it was impossible for the waiters to do their duty. So much time was spent in this way that two Addresses, which were intended to be delivered, were necessarily omitted.

It is much to be regretted that a larger room was not obtained, or the number of Tickets limited, for we are persuaded that, but for the pressure, this Soirée would have been far more effective than the former one—this, indeed, is evident, from the cause of its failure, the number that flocked to it.

While making these remarks, however, we must do the Committee the justice to state that they made every exertion in their power to procure a larger place of meeting. They applied for the Large Room over the St. Ann Market, and offered to pay the additional insurance, but were refused! Some of our readers, recollecting that it was readily granted last winter for opposing the Society, may wonder why it was refused for promoting the Society now. So do we. The risk is a