

THE PRESS AND THE TEMPERANCE REFORMATION.

For many years temperance men had to encounter the sneers and jibes of the ordinary newspapers, which, with scarcely an exception, were arrayed against them. They, the teetotalers, were poor ninnies, without a mind of their own, and who, not being able to take care of themselves, did quite right to tie themselves up by a pledge. They were politely reminded that horses and asses were teetotalers also. If they made general statements, they were accused of exaggeration and falsehood: if they pointed out particular instances, they were cried down as the invaders of the sanctity of private life. In fact, to listen to some of the sages who used to direct public sentiment through the press, the teetotalers were the real pests of society, and not the distillers or rumsellers at all. But all this is now changed before the steady progress of truth. The sneer, against teetotalers, is suppressed, the laugh, at their expense, has died away, and the loud abuse which used to be poured upon them, is changed into an apologetic whine on behalf of those who still love a little drop.

In this result, by whatever steps arrived at, we rejoice, and welcome all the aid which the press is disposed to give to the temperance cause. Whether these papers go all the length that teetotalers think right or not, we should not quarrel with them, but rather feel thankful for the length they go, and labour away to raise them to a still higher level. Truth and public opinion will doubtless do wonders in the future, as they have done in the past.

These thoughts have been suggested by the strictures of the press of Montreal on Judge Mondelet's recent charge to the Grand Jury, (which we give in another column,) and which, like the charge itself, mark a wonderful advancement towards a healthy public sentiment on this question.

We subjoin a few extracts from the articles in question, premising that our previous remarks are general, and not intended to have any special bearing upon particular papers:

INTEMPERANCE AND ITS SUPPRESSION.—In another column will be found the eloquent and impressive charge delivered by Judge Mondelet to the Grand Jury of this District at the opening of the Quarter Sessions on Saturday last. This charge, like the one delivered by the same learned functionary in October last, and to which we had the pleasure of directing the attention of the public at the time, is chiefly devoted to the consideration of the evils of intemperance, and the best means to be adopted for the suppression of this baneful and widespread vice. Whatever may be thought by some of the means which Judge Mondelet would employ for its suppression, we believe there are few who will not agree with His Honor that intemperance is the chief cause of crime and the many disorders which afflict the community; and it is as gratifying as it is rare to see a gentleman in his high station devoting himself with so much energy and fearlessness to the removal of this terrible curse to society. We cannot agree to every thing in the learned Judge's charge. We are as fully convinced of the evils resulting from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors, and that this is the cause of a great part of the crime and misery which prevails throughout the community, as His Honor or any other man can be, and we as earnestly desire the total overthrow of the trade in intoxicating drinks; but we have little faith, we confess, in Legislative

interference with such matters, and we have the utmost faith in the ultimate triumph of the Temperance cause without any such aids. That cause was never more prosperous than it is at the present moment. Headed as the movement is by the Clergy of nearly all denominations, and encouraged by so much of the talent and intellect of the community, it must go on conquering and to conquer.—*Pilot*.

The Court of Quarter Sessions was opened on Saturday for the October term, the Honble. Judge Mondelet presiding. The learned Judge addressed to the Grand Jury a charge, which will be found in another column, and which we print, not only as an article of news, but as a useful exhortation to the practice of the virtues which distinguish the good citizen. The Honble. Judge is well known for his humanity, his uprightness, and his independence of mind; and we believe that the community in general will cordially approve of the general principles which prompted his address. No man can fail to deplore the effects of intemperance. All must admire the self-devotion of a Father Mathew, or a Pere Chiniquy. Many will sincerely rejoice that common sense has obtained a sufficient mastery over a coarse habit, to induce men to make the experiment of a short steamboat voyage, without pouring unnecessary glasses of raw whisky down their throats, as if it were an essential part of the means by which they hoped to attain the end of their journey. Travellers of the poorer classes, too, will doubtless often bless the establishment of Temperance hotels, where their comfort and quiet are not sacrificed to the more profitable traffic in rum and brandy.—*Herald*.

From the *Melanges* we learn that the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy has held several temperance meetings at St. Hyacinthe, the result of which is, that 3,370 persons have taken the pledge. This movement among the people was headed by Dr. Bouthillier, M. P. for the county, and Mr. Quertier, the mayor of St. Hyacinthe. That Mr. Chiniquy's exertions have been appreciated in other places will be seen from the following lists of persons who have taken the pledge lately—St. Lin, 1,775; St. Henri de Mascouche, 1,560; St. Thomas, 850; St. Cuthbert, 1,880. We are glad to know that the more wealthy and respectable portion of the people are rendering every assistance in their power to Mr. Chiniquy to forward the great cause of temperance.

HUNTINGDON, October 16, 1848.—On Saturday evening, the 1st of April last, a meeting was held in the school-house, near Thomas Clare's, in the fourth concession of the township of Hungerford, in order to check the progress of drunkenness in our neighbourhood. A subscription list was got up, and we obtained forty signatures the same evening. Before the close, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year—which resulted in the election of the following persons, namely: Mr. Geo. Graham, president; Mr. John F. Embury, vice-president; Mr. John Harrison, secretary. Standing Committee, Messrs. George Embury, Allen Embury, John Prentice, Wm. Clare; and since the meeting above mentioned, we have had five add to our list. On Saturday, 30th September, we held a total meeting in the afternoon, in the school-house above mentioned. The Rev. Mr. Murphy, Church of England missionary of the Victoria District, addressed the meeting in an eloquent manner, portraying to his hearers the evils