

Canada Temperance Advocate.

Temperance is the moderate use of things beneficial, and abstinence from things hurtful.

No. 10.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1838.

VOL. III.

KIND THOMAS; OR, THE DRUNKEN PARENTS.

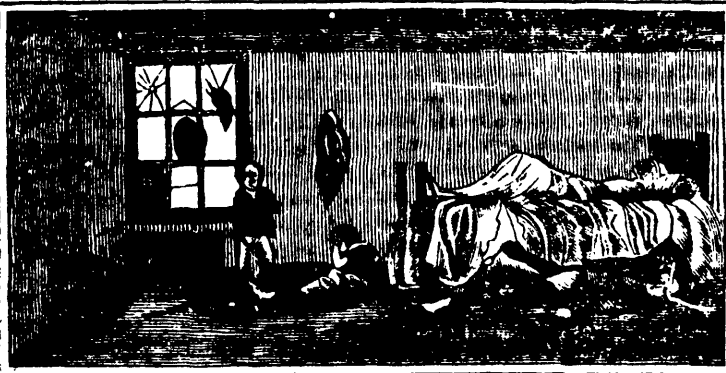
[A TRUE NARRATIVE.]

Henry. Mother, I want to ask you if little Edward and Mary's mother was intemperate?

Mother. No she was not. She was a very industrious, intelligent woman, and a kind mother.

Harriet. But, mother, what made them cry when the teacher asked them about their father?

Mother. I suppose they felt ashamed of his conduct; and perhaps they then thought of their kind dead mother, and of the care which she took of them, and how very different was their situation now she was gone. But some little children have intemperate mothers as well as fathers, and then their condition is worse than was



Edward and Mary's before their mother died; for they not only go without necessary food and clothing, but are often beaten and treated cruelly.

Henry. Will mother please tell us about such a family?

Mother. Yes, I know of a very affecting case of drunkenness in both the parents, and in which the children were reduced to great misery. One evening last summer, as a man named Thomas, was returning home, about eight o'clock, his attention was called to a little girl on the side walk, who was crying bitterly. He soon ascertained that she was the same little girl to whom he had given victuals and

other necessaries at different times. He kindly asked her why she cried. She said her mother had sent her into the street to beg money to buy whiskey; that she could not procure any, and if she went home without it, her father and mother would both beat her. Kind Thomas took the little girl by the hand, and led her to be house where he lived, and gave her some food, of which she appeared to stand very much in need. Then, as soon as he could be spared from his work, he again took the little girl by the hand and led her to her home. There, he found her father and mother both drunk; and the mother also was very sick, occasioned, no doubt, by drinking, poverty and want. Several children were on the floor crying from hunger and neglect.

Henry. What a cruel father and mother! Did Thomas go there again?

Mother. Yes, the next night he went again to the house, but the door was fastened, and the house was all dark. However, the children within cried and moaned so piteously, and seemed so much distressed, that he pushed at the door and forced it open. Having obtained a light, he found the mother dead, the father drunk and helpless, the children on the floor crying, and the house in an indescribable state of filth and confusion.

Harriet. Poor children! What did Thomas do?

Mother. He did all he could that night to make them comfortable, by clearing up the room and procuring them some food; and then left them there with their dead mother and drunken father till the morning. Early

the next day, Thomas was found at the scene of woe. The father was still drunk, and no preparation had been made for the interment of the deceased wife; and with more than British indifference he declared he would not procure a coffin.

Henry. What did Thomas do?

Mother. He first washed the poor little children clean, and then went to the Police Office and procured a coffin, put the corpse into it himself, attended to the burial, and then had the children taken to the almshouse.

Harriet. Thomas was very kind. But was it drunkenness killed that woman?

Mother. No doubt it was; and probably she was intoxicated when she died, for Thomas found she drank a large quantity of whiskey that day.

Henry. How did she procure it? Did little Jane go again to beg money?

Mother. I cannot tell. But people who love ardent spirit, and drink so much, will find ways to procure it.

Henry. Why, mother, what wicked men those must be who will sell rum when they know it does so much hurt.

Mother. Yes, they do very wrong; and when the day of retribution comes, I had much rather be kind Thomas, than to be one of those who sold liquor to these degraded parents, thereby ruining them and depriving their children of bread.

TEETOTAL PROCESSION AND SOIREE, AT DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND.

[ABRIDGED FROM THE DUMFRIES TIMES.]

Our readers are aware that an Abstinence Society from all intoxicating drinks was organized in Dumfries in January last, and that since that period meetings have been regularly held on the Tuesday evenings of each week for the advancement of the cause. With the view of affording to the inhabitants of the town and its vicinity an exhibition of the efforts of the society, and of the success with which these exertions had been crowned, as well as of riveting more closely the attachment of the members themselves to the principles of the association, and thus fortifying them more strongly against the temptations with which they might be assailed, and of augmenting the number of its friends,

it was agreed that a procession of the members of the institution should take place on Friday last. The period for the procession was admirably chosen, being the second day after the Rood Fair, a season on which, according to ancient custom, journeymen and apprentices, were wont to treat themselves with an extra degree of indulgence—to spend the earnings which they had saved during a few preceding weeks, on whiskey, and also on processions which not unfrequently terminated in rioting—and scenes connected with the police-office. A remarkable change, however, was observed this year, and which must have been a source of intense delight to every well constituted mind,—for