

them have the fortitude to turn out all the mischief making liquors from their establishment, and erect the *flag of health*, the total abstinence colors? They would thereby remove a temptation from their own families which will certainly prove ruinous to some; the great body of their customers would be perfectly satisfied, for surely an attentive landlord can make his guests comfortable without liquor; and they would have greater peace in their own minds, and less quarreling within their premises.

MISSEQUEGUE COUNTY TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION.
THE LICENSE LAW.

The semi annual meeting of the above named Society was held in the Wesleyan Church at Dunham Flat, on Friday, Feb. 22nd, 1850. The assembly was not numerous, but very respectable. In the absence of the President, the choir was ably occupied by the Rev. John Tomkins. The proceedings were of interest, and the resolutions, such as in my opinion, are required in the present position of the Temperance enterprise. It is thought expedient to forward the resolutions for publication, and you will allow me to subjoin a few remarks:—

Resolved—1st. That this Association is increasingly convinced of the soundness of the principle of Total Abstinence from all that intoxicates, as the true safeguard against those false and dangerous customs of society, that have been handed down from former generations.

2nd. That this Association regards, with gratitude to God, the present result of the Temperance effort; but is fully convinced that the time has arrived when the energy of the temperate portion of the community must be directed to the suppression of the traffic, and the overthrow of the pernicious license system, which disgraces our statute book.

3rd. That this Association regrets the apathy that prevailed in the county, previous to the last session of parliament, so that no remonstrance or petition against the license system emanated from this county; but this Association now pledges itself to prepare a petition, and obtain signatures thereto, praying an amendment of the law relating to liquor licenses, preparatory to their entire abandonment, and so that the traffic shall cease to be under the protection of law.

Two other practical resolutions were passed, relating to the manner of carrying out the objects contemplated, as the third motion; but it is not necessary to transcribe them.

As a friend and advocate of the temperance cause, I beg to express my deep conviction of the comparative inefficiency of all our efforts in the temperance reformation, while the law remains as it is. The license laws stand opposed to all law, and to all the purposes for which government exists. They originated in a dark age, and have been defended by a policy the most mistaken and anomalous that can well be imagined. The present dreadful prevalence of intemperance may be traced to the law, as its chief cause. The effect then seemed to render necessary the confirmation of the law. Moral suasion has done much to check the vice; but the legalized traffic has continued the supply, and created demand. We have lamented the dissolution of societies, and the defection of abstainers. We have gained ground here, and lost ground there. In many places we have had to do all our work over again. And this must ever be the case, while the misanthropic money lover can, for a very trifle, hang out his tempting sign, and invite his neighbors to drink to their present and eternal ruin. We are not in a position to test the real power of moral suasion. We are hampered by the provisions of law. The distiller and dram seller triumph over us, for they have the law, and sinful human nature, which seeks physical gratifications,

on their side. The friends of temperance cannot be ignorant of these things. The Montreal Society, some years ago, did a good work, in offering a prize for the best essay on the evils of the license system in Canada. The successful writer, my old friend, the Rev. R. Peden, of Amherstburgh, produced a valuable work, and I would advise all who have it, to read it over again carefully. My own mind has been re-awakened to this subject by reading that essay, and more particularly, by the reading of another prize essay, recently published in New York, entitled "An appeal to the people for the suppression of the liquor traffic," by the Rev. H. D. Kitchel. The traffic is thus characterized by Mr. Kitchel:—"It is a baleful and God-forsaken business, and we have no sanction, no permission, nor any such thing to give it." This is the only ground that we can take, as temperance men. The whole power of our Temperance Associations must be levelled against the liquor law. We must stand opposed to the abominable system of studding our country with ruinous rum holes. Travellers need accommodation, but they do not require poison, and many of them detest the idea of grog taverns. Let all men ponder over the following paragraph from Mr. Kitchel's essay:—"Along our public ways, often at every mile or two, a suspicious looking house, with an important sign, thrusts itself upon the public notice, and begs a weary world to allow itself to be refreshed! But the luckless wayfarer, who is enticed to enter, pays for his temerity by finding himself deceived, and provided for, as a tippler. And who will pretend that one-half of these so-called Inns are needed for public convenience, or that they derive more than a fraction of their support from the appropriate business of an Inn? Multitudes of them neither receive, nor from their situation and character could be expected to receive, more than a casual and meagre patronage, as houses of public accommodation, in any sense whatever. They are a dead weight on society—they are sustained at an immense public charge, and they inflict on the community the direst mischiefs in return. They are not Inns: they are drink shops in that disguise, licensed in a false name, and on false pretences; and as the convenient resort of a wretched constituency of neighboring souls."

In Canada, some little has been done in the right direction. A committee of the last session of the Legislature reported (defectively I admit,) on the "evils of Intemperance," but the work of reform must be persevered in. If I were asked what principles should now be insisted on by the friends of temperance, I would answer—Let the sound principles advocated by Mr. J. Douglass, in his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee, be carefully studied, and embodied in petitions to the next session of the Legislature. We have a great work to do, but it can be done. It must be done, or our blessed temperance cause cannot yet for centuries be triumphant.

In conclusion, let me suggest to my good friend Wadsworth, who is laboring in the West, to take up this subject, and press it home on the mind of the country. I regret that we have no "Canada Temperance League," to agitate unitedly this great question. Our Temperance Societies are miserably disjointed; but I must stop this pen of mine, or you, Mr. Editor, will complain of "want of space." Pardon me—my heart is full, and the cause is Heaven's.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

Philipsburgh, St. Armand, C. W.,
March 5th, 1850.

GRANTING LICENCES.

CXVII. And he it enacted, That whenever there shall be a Police Magistrate for any Town or City erected or to be erected under the authority of this Act, the power of grant-