

the county of Shefford, in the case of Jacob Cook, complainant, versus Robert Darrah, respondent, for selling intoxicating liquors on a Sunday, it was decided by six magistrates, after solemn deliberation, that no action could be maintained under the late Law for the Suppression of Intemperance, by a common informer! The prosecution must be instituted by the Revenue Inspector, and by nobody else! Were there any ground to presume that these functionaries had mistaken not merely the law in question, but the general law of actions *qui tam*, we might hope hereafter for a different decision. Being myself but little skilled in legal lore, I am bound to suppose that six of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace could not possibly have erred in so important a point in the interpretation of her Majesty's laws; although I must confess I am not quite clear how the informer is to obtain his moiety of the penalty, which the law clearly declares he shall have. However, doubtless their honors could explain it; at all events the *jurisprudence* in Broome on this point is settled, for after this decision from a bench of six magistrates, it is clear no further prosecutions can be maintained by a private individual for a violation of the license law. Indeed, I hear it very generally regretted by tavern keepers in this vicinity that they should have been so silly as to pay ten pounds for a license, when they could have sold liquor as well without one, since no private person could prosecute, and a visit from the Revenue Inspector in these parts is an event whereof the oldest inhabitant has not the remotest recollection. I fear it may be impolitic to publish this, for if it once becomes known that such is the law, it will become a law of license with a vengeance. At all events, Mr. Editor, do not circulate it in the country, for there are some magistrates in adjoining towns who have not yet made the discovery, that the license law is not open to common informers.

Yours,

JONADAB.

London, 21st Sept., 1851.

SIR,—Reforms are slow among a solid people. The very sturdiness with which they cling to venerable errors is a warrant that they will defend truths adopted by a long struggle. In northern climes the sun, unlike that orb in the tropics, neither bursts unheeded on a slumbering world, nor drops thick darkness like a curtain by a sudden withdrawal. We have the first faint struggle of light with darkness, the gradual glow in the east, and at last the full blaze of day, as the sun lifts majestically above the horizon. It is in accordance with the harmony of our natural world that the advance of the light of great moral and intellectual truths is marked by similar stages, from darkness to light. There is not a single great advance made in the Reforms of our institutions towards the full enjoyment of the universal rights of humanity recognised by our forefathers, though they could not perfect the idea to practice, which has not been effected by the earnest labors of generations, and been won by inches.

In this simple labor of Temperance Reform, how much patriotism and earnest talent has been enlisted? how many of the earnest wishes for the full recognition of the truth that temperance should be practised by every member of the community? The stability of good government depends not only upon the knowledge, but also the sobriety of its people. Therefore, in order to have a sober and virtuous community, we must have the sources of this river of Intemperance dried up. A little more than a year ago, the Sons of Temperance circulated petitions through various parts of the Western Province, and forwarded them to Parliament, praying for the amendment of the license

law. It is true, we did not get all we wanted, but are thankful for what we did obtain, and we will ask for more next time. We think the time has arrived that the traffic should be put down by the strong arm of the law. But an objector to this says, if you visit the vender with the vengeance of the law, you at once thoroughly arouse the indignation of his customers: they regard him as a persecuted man; moral suasion becomes useless; every avenue to the heart is closed. It is quite true that the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic in some communities might have such a tendency. It appeared in this way some years ago in the States of Massachusetts and Vermont. The first laws there forbidding the liquor traffic were over-ruled for a time, but now the traffic in these States, and we are happy to add the States of Ohio and Michigan, is completely outlawed. We maintain, therefore, that though the legal repression is generally followed by a momentary re-action, yet, that the sober second thought almost has uniformly affirmed the wisdom and justice of such repression. Such objectors as these seem to doubt that there is now a sufficiently enlightened public sentiment and feeling in this Province to sustain a legal interdiction. But let us have a stringent interdict to carry or sustain, and we can resume efficiently the education and the elevation of the popular conceptions on this subject. We may be repeatedly vanquished, but truth will gain by agitation and discussion. This class of objectors to temperance legislation appears to hold that views should be left to moral suasion for discipline and repression, and nothing punished but outrages on the persons and property of others. But if they hold that dens of gambling and sensual infamy should be repressed by law, but not grog shops, we would thank them to tell us why. We do not think any law can be wholesome that is not essentially just and equal. We do not consider the legal inhibition of liquor selling the best form of temperance legislation for the present? What would be preferable as the first step is a careful and comprehensive provision by law for assessing the expense and loss caused by the liquor traffic on those who follow it. If it can be proved that three fourths of the public expenditure, in any county, town, or city, is caused by the liquor traffic, then those who make and sell such drink ought to bear the burden thus cast upon the public. If crimes of the darkest shade are mainly committed under the inspiration of liquor, then let its vendors for gain restore to the community the cost of arresting and convicting their share of the malefactors.

If a law to this effect was properly enacted, it would be efficient in repressing intemperance and liquor selling, and, in a few years, would give way to a law for the total interdiction of the traffic. And we cannot believe the inhabitants of any county, town, or city, could be induced to vote the support of Alcohol's victims off the shoulders of the Rumseller back upon their own. At all events, we should like to try them.

CALEB GRIFFITH.

BIRTHS.

Montreal—21st ult, Mrs Jas Ross, of a son. 24th ult. Mrs Robt Forester, of a son. 19th ult, Mrs Archibald M Goun, of a daughter.
Brampton—12th ult, Mrs Alexander M Dougall, of a daughter
Sorel—20th ult, Mrs A Henderson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Montreal—16th ult, by the Rev William Taylor, D D, William Brewster, Esq, to Anne, second daughter of James Haldane, Esq. 25th ult, by the Rev Robert M Gill, Mr Robert Abraham, advocate to Sarah only daughter of Mr Thomas Seed.
Pelham—16th ult, by the Rev S King, Lewis G Carter, Esq, Port Colborne, to Mary Fielden, eldest daughter of John Scholfield, Esq

DEATHS.

Bytown—16th ult, the Hon Mary Frederica, wife of Col Dyneley, CB, and sister to Lord Ellenborough.
Drummondville, C E—18th ult, Susan, youngest child of R Nugent Watts, Esq, MPP, aged fourteen months
Perth—18th ult, Mary Amanda daughter of the late Wm Bell, Esq, and grand-daughter of the Rev William Bell, aged 29 years.