

our fellow-men. We are quite aware that there are such things as good old ways and old paths, for which it is our duty "to inquire, and to walk therein," but the prophet did not refer to our ancestral customs of drinking wine and strong drink, when he advised a zealous adherence to these paths.

To call to these matters the attention both of those who have already thought something about them, and of those who have hitherto put them from their mind as things with which they have no concern, is one principal object of Mr. Wadsworth's journey to the West. All must be aware that there is self-denial required from Mr. W. in this undertaking, as well as of faith in the Montreal Committee, who have appointed him and must sustain him in it. They have done it, however, in faith. They believe that the advancement of the Temperance cause is nearly connected with the Redeemer's kingdom, and that when his church is in a proper state of feeling, she will fling aside the practice which has caused so many to fall. They believe also, on the most undoubted testimony, that wherever the Temperance question has been introduced, it has been the means of enabling many to come and hear the Gospel who would not otherwise have come, and that, so far from Total Abstinence being favourable to infidelity, it is quite the contrary, the latter in reality having no more favourite haunt than the heart of the drunkard. Of the practical infidelity arising not from Total Abstinence, but from intemperance, there is more than enough in Canada, and to root it out by extinguishing the cause is the grand object of total abstinere as such.

The Montreal Society wishes to have a share in the effort necessary for granting to Canada a charter of freedom from the bondage arising from the use of intoxicating drinks, and if the mission of Mr. Wadsworth results in stirring up the various societies throughout the country to more activity and self-denial in this matter, they will rejoice.

We trust the collections will be considerable at the meetings held in future, as money is much needed for our efforts.

WEEKLY MEETINGS IN THE TEMPERANCE HALL.

On Thursday evening, the 3rd instant, the usual weekly meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, St. Maurice Street: Subject for discussion—*The Drinking Usages of Canada*. After prayer, the Chairman called on Mr. Dougall, who stated that he had come rather to receive than to communicate information on the question of the evening. He hoped there were persons present able to say something respecting these usages, as he knew well that in Great Britain they were a means by which workmen tyrannised over each other. He then mentioned some of the customs there in use, which John Dunlop of Greenock had so fully detailed, and expressed a hope that if anything analogous to them now existed amongst the tradesmen here, they might be exposed, so as that the evil might be remedied.

Mr. Cooper stated that he was not aware whether so much system pervaded the drinking usages of Canada as of Great Britain. He did not know much of them. He could in some respects recommend his own example to young men. When he was a young man, he was invited with others to waste his money in drinking, &c., but he felt a strong desire to be independent by his own exertions, which he was sure he could not be if he spent his money in that way. He began therefore with a saving of five shillings, and in a course of not many years, he found he had laid past a considerable sum, by which he was enabled to educate his family properly, and not obliged to let them be at the mercy of

unprincipled persons at a distance from himself, but could keep them under his own eye.

The Chairman then called on the Choir for music. This we are happy to state was really good, being very much improved by the addition of female voices.

Mr. Hibbard stated that, since coming to Montreal, he had not joined the Society. He had, however, always adhered to the principle. He might perhaps not agree in every jot and tittle with the Montreal Society, but as there could scarcely be a church on earth at all, if we waited until there was perfect uniformity of sentiment—and he believed it was the duty of all Christ's people to join themselves to some section of the Church in the place where his lot for the time was cast—so he thought it should be in relation to Temperance societies; and he had come that evening to join with the Montreal Society.

Mr. McDougall requested Mr. H. to do so at once, which was done.

Mr. Dougall said he hoped all would be ready to communicate what they knew respecting the matter in hand. He wished the total abstinere would feel that Hall to be their own; and that they would come freely—come before the hour of public meeting, and have conversation with one another.

Mr. Stroe said there was one of the usages of Canada in respect to drinking which had taken his attention. In Scotland, the practice in places where liquor was sold was to dole it out in a small pewter measure, of which sometimes the bottom was pressed in to lessen the quantity. Sometimes a piece of cotton was fixed at the bottom also to absorb the spirit, and this was wrung out as soon as the customer was gone. Here he had seen a tumbler was presented, and the bottle given into the hands of the applicant to let him help himself freely. The quantities taken at once were thus very various. He thought there was something very niggardly in the former system, and something which might be called gentlemanly in the latter. From the gentility of the one and the shabbiness of the other he was glad to be free, and he hoped all would be like him as far as regards these matters. He proposed there should be a discussion of the question, "Does the drinking of stimulating beverages proceed from a natural appetite?" He was prepared to maintain the affirmative.

Mr. Dougall stated that there could be no objection to this question, although it had been pretty fully taken up on previous evenings, in the inquiry, "What is the pleasure arising from the use of intoxicating drinks?" He thought the subject now before the meeting was by no means exhausted, and that it had better be adjourned to next Thursday evening, when he would endeavour to go pretty freely into it.

A Member of the Society said that he was able to say a little respecting one of the drinking usages of Canada. It was the custom at a house where he once boarded to have brandy bottles freely distributed on the table at dinner. To these immediately on sitting down almost all addressed themselves. He could now call to recollection about a dozen with whom he was on terms of intimacy, who were in the habit of thus using, and on a retrospect what has been the consequences? He did not mean to say that the practice had in every case been begun thus; but the love of strong drink was certainly perpetuated here. Out of the twelve, at least four, including the proprietor of the house, were dead from the effects of strong drink, four now are drunkards—two thirds of the number were thus lost. He then gave a melancholy instance of the habitual moderate use of wine in Christian families, in the case of a young man with whom he was acquainted from whose talents his friends anticipated much, but who is now