

Canada Temperance Advocate.

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

No. 11.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1839.

VOL. IV.

MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

MONTREAL, February 5, 1839.

The Third Anniversary of the Montreal Temperance Society was held this evening in the American Presbyterian Church. The President, JOHN DOUGALL, Esq., in the Chair. After prayer by the Rev. WILLIAM TAYLOR, the Secretary read the Report (hereto appended), when the following Resolutions were unanimously passed.

Moved by Mr. ROBERT MORTON, seconded by J. DE WITT, Esq.

I. That the Report now read be accepted and printed under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by Mr. WILLIAM MORTON, seconded by Mr. R. McLEAN.

II. That, whilst we believe the adoption of the principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage is called for in every community, recent occurrences have shewn it to be peculiarly so in this country; we therefore earnestly call upon all who have the temporal and spiritual interests of these Provinces at heart, to act upon, and zealously promote this principle.

Moved by the Rev. W. F. CURRY, seconded by Mr. Wm. GREIG.

III. That whilst we acknowledge, with deep regret, the declining state of many of the Temperance Societies in these Provinces, which is mainly to be attributed to long established drinking usages, and the demoralising tendency of war, we still declare solemnly our unabated confidence in the grand principle of Total Abstinence, upon which this Society is established.

Moved by Mr. J. R. ORR, seconded by Mr. J. C. BECKET.

IV. That we recognise, with deep gratitude, the goodness of God in the success which has hitherto attended the cause of Temperance, and earnestly invite the friends of those Societies to more unreserved dependance on the Divine aid in carrying on their operations.

Moved by the Rev. WILLIAM TAYLOR, seconded by Mr. J. MILNE.

V. That, as the use of intoxicating liquors, which at present prevails, is proved by so many considerations to be highly injurious to the prosperity, the health, and morals of the people, the Government, which directly encourages the use of such an article, by granting licenses to individuals to manufacture, and sell, and distribute it throughout the community, adopts a method of ruining, most effectually, those interests which it ought most religiously to foster and protect, and of contracting the efforts which it ought to make for the peace and welfare of society.

Moved by Mr. JAMES COURT, seconded by Mr. JOHN WHITE.

VI. That it is desirable to adopt a more comprehensive form of pledge than the one now used by this Society, and that the following be now substituted in its place:—

We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, nor traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of entertainment, or for persons in our employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

Moved by Mr. JAMES MILNE, seconded by Mr. J. McWALTERS.

VII. That the fifth clause of the Constitution be amended, and read as follows:—

V. That the Committee shall meet every month for the transaction of business, and that public meetings for the purpose of hearing addresses, shall be held at least monthly.

Moved by Mr. JOSEPH FRASER, seconded by Mr. J. R. ORR.

VIII. That the Officers of this Society for the present year consist of the following persons.

JOHN DOUGALL, Esq., *President.*

Rev. G. W. PERKINS,
Rev. WILLIAM TAYLOR,
JOHN E. MILLS, Esq. } *Vice-Presidents.*
JACOB DE WITT, Esq.

Mr. JAMES R. ORR, *Treasurer.*

Mr. JAMES COURT, *Secretary.*

Members of Committee, with power to add to their number.

Messrs. Joseph Fraser.
William Whiteford.
Robert Morton.
James Jackson.
Henry Lyman.

Messrs. J. C. Becket.
James Milne.
William Greig.
John McWalters.

At the close of the proceedings, a collection was taken up amounting to £7 6 11., and the meeting separated after singing a doxology.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

In the Report read at the last Annual Meeting, the Committee had to express their regret at the low state to which the temperance cause in this and the adjoining Province had been reduced, through the political commotions which had taken place. They are unhappily under the necessity of making the same complaints on this occasion, not, however, without the hope that the cloud is beginning to break, and better days drawing near.

The past year has been one of trial. The Society has had to contend with all the unfavorable influences which civil war brings in its train. It is not to be wondered then, if some of our members have fallen back to old habits, and are now numbered with the drunkard. The great part, however, of the members, are believed to be firm in their adherence to the principles of total abstinence, and adorn their profession by a consistent practice. It cannot, however, be denied, that in almost every part of the two Provinces the temperance cause has retrograded, and shared with other benevolent institutions the baleful consequences of the warlike spirit existing.

The first subject on which the Committee would report is the circulation of PUBLICATIONS. Of these the issue of the Society's own printing has been 1000, viz. 500 copies in Gaelic of a sermon by the Rev. T. C. Wilson, of Perth, and the like quantity of another sermon in English by the same gentleman. Those imported have been 10,000, consisting of tracts, handbills, posters, &c., purchased from Mr. Livesey, of Preston, (England). To these have to be added a donation from that gentleman and his friends of 3000 Preston Temperance Advocates, and another from our President of 4000 publications, of the same kind as imported by the Society. Besides these the issue of the Temperance Advocate has been about 1850 copies monthly, so that the total of Tracts and Advocates published or received during this year is 40,200.

Believing that much good would result from an increased circulation of the Temperance Advocate, and persuaded that this would take place, if its terms were considerably lowered, the Committee have resolved to reduce the price of the fifth volume, from the 1st May next, to one half the present rates. At the same time, from the arrangements made, it is not expected that the cost of its support, will be greatly increased. This, however, will much depend on the support of you and the other friends of temperance throughout the Province. This the Committee ask and expect; yet, past experience has taught, that in their hopes they may be disappointed. They have, however, undertaken this measure, impressed with a sense of duty and a dependance on God, and should they not succeed from the want of co-operation, their conso-