

THE CANADA Temperance Advocate.

TEMPERANCE IS THE MODERATE USE OF THINGS BENEFICIAL, AND ABSTINENCE FROM THINGS HURTFUL.

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Selected Articles.

A Complete View of the Principles and Objects of Temperance Societies.

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[Continued from our last.]

These general statements may appear to some of you far from the sphere of your own observation. Look, then, to the neighbourhood and family circles of your acquaintance, and find illustrations for yourselves. In one neighbourhood with which I am acquainted, two brothers of the principal family were driven deranged by drinking, and the third is a periodical drunkard; four brothers of another family, all in the prime of life, killed themselves by drinking; and, of another family, within half a mile of the last, one brother was killed by a fall while drunk, a second drove his horse into a river and was drowned while drunk, a third lay in bed and drank till he died, and a fourth is following the same course. At the formation of a Temperance Society, in a remote district of the country, a respectable young man stated that, within five miles of where he lived, twenty-two persons of his own acquaintance, many of them respectable, had all perished miserably from drinking—nine of them were drowned, and their corpses found in the water afterwards; three of them were taken out of the water so exhausted that they died in a few hours; five of them perished in the ditches, at the sides of the road; the rest were carried home drunk, and laid on that bed from which they never rose. About eight years ago a young man of notoriously intemperate habits was killed by a fall in a drunken sleep. He was buried on a Sabbath morning. That morning his five companions were seen drinking in the very grove where he had been killed. Of these men, at that time in the prime of life, only one is living now; the last of them died two years ago; another had been killed on the Sabbath, through his own madness, while drunk. That survivor is a drunken, beggared bankrupt; his eldest son, not yet eighteen years of age, is a drunkard; and

his house, which was once the pride of the country and the home of revelry, is now a heap of desolation.

The fell destroyer, that in these cases left so many widows and beggared orphans, and that filled so many graves, was spirituous liquor.

These illustrations are not taken, do you say, from your district; and with you intemperance does not produce the same desolation? Now, then, I reply, is the time to wake up all your strength—now is your time for reformation: begin now, before intemperance has entrenched itself behind inveterate prejudices and evil customs, before evil habits have been confirmed. Oh, begin now, before the rising generation have been contaminated, and all that is pure, and lovely, and of good report, has been swept away.

Strong drink produces the same ruin on nations as on families—the genius, and morality, and whole prosperity of a people melt away before it. Famine, and pestilence, and the sword, are not once to be named in comparison with it; and no scourge that ever incensed heaven sent forth upon the world has furnished such an illustration of those burning words of God's righteous retribution—"I will rise up against them, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will cut off the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, and I will sweep with the besom of destruction, saith the Lord of hosts."

Our American brethren conceive that they have good grounds for believing that three-fourths of all the beggary in their country may be justly traced to the use of spirituous liquors; and why should I question their calculations, when I have known of a beggar asking alms at the way-side who drank twenty-one glasses in a day, and of an individual who had been in respectable circumstances being obliged to lie at night with the whole of his clothes on, to prevent them from being pawned by his wife for drink—and when I know not only many persons, earning from ten shillings a week to ten shillings a day, whose houses would not afford a seat to sit down upon, but others who are actually in the habit of pawning for drink, not

only all their own wearables with which they can possibly dispense without absolute nakedness, but actually at times stripping naked their own children for the purpose of procuring whiskey? *Every drunkard knows well, while he is drinking himself and his wife and children to beggary, that, whether there are or are not poor laws in the country, the temperate must support him. Do not deceive yourselves, temperate men, with the notion that you have no concern with the drunkard; he is as truly and certainly your heir as one of your own children; and either at your door, or in the hospital, workhouse, or jail, you will be obliged to support himself or his family.* A man, able to make five guineas a week, was last year in a house of correction, his wife was in jail, his children in a poor-house—all supported by the public. The cause will be easily learned from the fact that in less than a month his employer, who kept a spirit-shop, had a bill of £21 against him for whiskey.

Calculations, made on extensive observation in the United States, give warrant to believe that three-fourths of all the crime of the country may justly be traced to the use of ardent spirit. Not only are all the persons confined in the penitentiaries intemperate, but the great majority of them were intoxicated at the time when they perpetrated the crime for which they were imprisoned. Counsellors at the bar, and judges on the bench, have published, as the result of their experience, that all manslaughters, and all murders, with a few exceptions, are connected more or less directly with drinking. All enquiries made on this side the Atlantic give appalling certainty to these declarations. The Recorder of Dublin states that four-fifths of the cases of crime which are brought before him are to be traced to the use of ardent spirits as their proximate cause. The calculation is not extravagant, which I have heard made by one well qualified to judge, that eight out of ten of all the men in jail, throughout the United Kingdom, have been led onward, and hardened in crime, by the use of spirituous liquors. There is reason to believe that, in Scotland, nine tenths of the inmates of prisons