

We intended to call attention this month to the Resolutions of Distillers, formerly adverted to; but we have received so many interesting Reports from corresponding Societies, that we judged it necessary to postpone every thing else, in order to make room for them. They will be found to contain evidence of the *safety* and *efficiency* of the total abstinence principle; and also of a fact which was mentioned in the Advocate last month, and which, at this crisis, is of no little importance, a *reaction* in public opinion. We hope they will be carefully read.

Progress of the Temperance Reform.

We beg attention to the following Abstract of the Report of the Smith Town Total Abstinence Society, for the year 1838:—

A conviction that the Temperance Society, on the old pledge, was not so well adapted to accomplish the object which we had in view, as one on Total Abstinence principles, a few of us thought it proper to leave the old Society and form a new one. Therefore, about a year ago, fifty commenced this Society. In doing so we wished not for a moment to be considered in conflict with the old Society. It, however, appeared to us that its rules were insufficient, and that it was necessary to move a step higher; in doing so we had reason to fear that we should meet with much opposition, and our fears have been fully realised. We cherish the hope, however, that the opposition has reached its height, and begins to subside. The principles of Total Abstinence are better appreciated, and found more efficient, their directness to the point it is difficult to deny; and unless it can be shewn that they infringe some other great moral principle, all argument fails to convince—as a means they sort fluently with the end proposed. The old Society is defunct.

The proceedings of the past year, though little calculated to flatter vanity, are on the whole encouraging. As already noticed, the Society commenced with fifty. There have been eighty-eight since added, two have withdrawn, one removed by death, and it has been the painful duty of the Committee to expel two in consequence of having violated the pledge. The number of members now in connection with the Society amount to 133. Nine monthly meetings have been held in different parts of the Township of Smith, three in Peterboro', and one in Ottonabee. Fifty copies of the Montreal Temperance Advocate have been received in this part of the country.

The Committee beg special attention to the propriety and necessity of circulating knowledge on the subject. They regret their inability to do good in this way, and strongly recommend that something should be done to procure suitable Tracts for distribution; and that every member should actively engage in their circulation. Such efforts, under the blessing of God, might be productive of the happiest results in this neighbourhood. The Treasurer's book shews a deficit of 6s. 9d.

The Committee deem it proper to state the following facts, showing the results of the temperance cause on both pledges. In March, 1835, the Society, on the old pledge, was formed in Smith Town. They were then nine in number. This Society was formed in the school-house on the communication line near Mr. Thomas Milburn's. Previously to this period, there was hard drinking in this neighbourhood: nothing was done of a public nature without the liberal use of alcoholic draughts: there was little appearance of religion, and the Sabbath was awfully desecrated. But before August in that same year, it became obvious that the Society was happily contributing to a reformation of manners, and had also become the precursor of a change of heart in many. Within half a year of its formation, a considerable number gave hopeful evidence of conversion to God, several of whom date their first impressions from that period. The following we insert as an illustration.

A young man of comparatively sober habits was wont, nevertheless, to resort with others to the tavern on the Sabbath day, and spend it in vain talk and moderate drinking, for he observed he did not get drunk. After he had joined the Temperance Society he began to read, reflect, &c. on that day, and on the evenings of other days, and, in one word, it issued in his conversion to God. As to the consistency of his conduct since, all who know him will bear ready testimony. Another, who had once been a great drunkard, says, humanly speaking, had it not been for the Total Abstinence Society he believes he would have been as great a drunkard as ever; but he is now a member of the Church of Christ, and instead of

singing the bacchanalian song, he hymns the praises of God in Zion. Another observes, that though a professor of religion, it made the scales of darkness fall from his eyes, in regard to many sinful customs which still receive the sanction of many of the professed followers of Jesus. We might proceed to enumerate other instances, but we close with one general remark, that few are now found on the communication line who drink to excess, and a good number of them evidently fear God above many.

The intemperance which so awfully prevails in Peterboro', and many other places not very distant, remind the Committee that they are but huckling on their harness, the battle is not yet fought, victory is still in suspense; but with truth, righteousness, and philanthropy on our side, we have much to expect. Wise in counsel, energetic in action, steady in aim, united in effort, the demon of intemperance must quail, yield, and retire, and leave us in possession of a sober, industrious, healthy, wealthy, and comparatively happy neighbourhood.

PETITE NATION, March 4, 1839.

DEAR SIR,—We are again reminded of a long neglected duty. One year and a half has gone by since we have sent an official report of the progress of the cause of temperance within the limits of this Society. While we deeply regret the evil that is done by the continuation of the abominable practice of vending intoxicating liquors in our neighbourhood, and mourn the loss of so many precious souls, who have gone into the drunkard's grave, since our last report, we have at the same time much cause to mingle our sorrows with joy; while we are able to report to you that the cause of temperance is gaining ground in this neighbourhood. Some drunkards we hope have been reclaimed, and some 'who persecuted us in times past, now preach the faith they once destroyed.'

In our report sent you in June 1837, speaking of the evils caused by intemperance, we mentioned the case of a man who, by his hard earnings, had accumulated a little money to purchase seed grain and bread for his family (and went a distance of about sixteen miles to purchase the same), took a young son with him, to hear the profanity of a drunkard's tongue, and indulged in drunkenness until he had spent all his money. It was also stated that the same man would be, (were it not for that vice,) a kind husband and a useful member in society. The time has arrived, we fondly hope, when the last assertions have been made good. That man has become temperate, is an office bearer in this Society; and his son one of the best scholars in the Sunday School.

In February last year, after our annual meeting, we appointed a meeting for the express purpose of discussing the subject of total abstinence; and there were present the Reverends J. McIntyre and J. Edwards, jun., who ably and zealously advocated the cause of total abstinence; and before the close of the meeting, thirty-nine of the small congregation came forward and signed the total abstinence pledge, and since that time, there has been a gradual increase, making in all on the total abstinence list, seventy-nine members; and fifty-one remaining on the old; in all one hundred and thirty members on both lists; showing an increase of twenty-seven members since our last report. We expect that the ordinary pledge will die a natural death in the course of the present year, and that the total abstinence pledge will be its glorious successor.

Our annual meeting for the present year was held by adjournment on the 9th ult.; and our helps from a distance were the Rev. A. Adams, Mr. William Edwards, and Mr. O. Larwill, who delivered us very spirited and able addresses which drew for (by vote) the warmest thanks of the Society, for their untiring zeal, which prompted them to come a long distance in very bad roads and in an extreme cold day.

The officers for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: Stephen Tucker, President; James Hughes, Vice-President; Edward Cole, Treasurer; and George W. Cameron, Secretary; and a Committee consisting of eight members.

You will perhaps be led to conclude by the statements already made, Sir, that we consider our battle nearly over and the victory almost won. But, no Sir, we are sorry to say that it is far from that; although the amount of good done by the Society is almost incredible. We believe the amount of intoxicating liquors consumed in this neighbourhood has been diminished more than two thirds, since the formation of the Society, and should it now fall to the ground, its blessed influence would extend to the fourth