

gent looking gentleman engaged in close reading of a book. Nothing seemed to arrest him from his work of reading—read—read—read. We said, what can that be, so very absorbing? Dear reader, forgive us, we had the ill-manners to peep, and catch the title—it was “Mapleton.” We left the cars, but, on returning next day, the same gentleman was a passenger. Down he sits, opens “Mapleton.” On he reads—on—on. Having read the book, we were not at all surprised, and only wished all other travellers would manifest as much good sense in the selection of their wayside literature.

City Missions.—Kingston.

These latter days betoken a brighter future for the people of this and other lands. Greater efforts are made for the suppression of vice, and the inculcation of virtue. Especially in large cities and towns, Christians and philanthropists are combining to find out the sources of evil, and arrest the folly and madness of mankind. We are glad to know that several of our Canadian cities have formed missions for the purpose of extending “the knowledge of the Gospel, irrespective of denominational peculiarities;” and, to effect this object, employ an agent or missionary to visit, read the Scriptures, distribute tracts, and to hold meetings “for prayer and Christian instruction.” One good result from these agencies, and that is, the real condition of the poor and degraded classes is brought to light. We have before us the third annual report of the Kingston City Mission. The statements of the Missionary are in many respects appalling, but it is quite certain that intemperance is the prevailing vice, and the parent of most other vices. We make an extract from the 8th page of this Report. Oh, that the authorities of Kingston were all determined on doing what is right, and shut up for ever the grog-shop springs of iniquity. But here is the extract:—

“The intemperance that prevails both in ——— and ——— is truly awful; men and women all drunk, and one lamentable feature is that it is not only at the grog shop that they drink but the bottle is kept at home, and many are constantly more or less under its influence. Drunkenness and its effects meet me at every turn. The amount of drunkenness in this vicinity, both amongst men and women, is incredible. I can scarcely go into a house where I cannot see signs of the recent use of strong drink, the utensils in many cases being concealed at my approach.”

“Saw an old man, upwards of 74 years of age, in a beastly state of intoxication. He had fallen on the board walk and cut his face; I found, on inquiry, that he had been turned out of his lodgings on account of intemperate habits, so said the woman of the house where he had lived, but she herself was under the influence of liquor; what can be said or thought of persons who will minister to the depraved appetite of this poor old man?”

“Met with a woman who has for some time past led a very dissolute life. She said she would gladly reform, but she has no home; her clothes hardly hid her skin; she is lost in filth; no one will take her in, and she asked with tears ‘what can I do?’ She is a Roman Catholic. This woman died in an out-building, October 28th.”

“One family I saw in a truly deplorable state. The man and his wife nearly destitute of clothing, the woman especially. The man was nearly drunk, the woman little better. The man can earn a dollar a day, and yet his wife has not a gown to put on.”

“Passing along ——— I heard a great uproar, I went in and found that the man was drunk and had upset a large tub of water which completely flooded the room. He had thrust his

poor wife out of the door, and was just about to throw her, box and clothes down the stairs into the street, swearing that she should stay there no longer. I succeeded, after a time, in pacifying him, and he allowed her to bring in the box and begin to clean up the room, when I left, having got him to promise to be quiet. I heard in a subsequent part of the day that he was taken home in a cart in a state of helpless intoxication. Such are the scenes that are almost daily occurring in this neighborhood.”

“—— said his wife had left home—he was drunk—little boy said he did not know where his mother had gone to. I afterwards saw her in the General Hospital. She and her husband had been drunk and quarreling, and he had struck her and cut her nose in the most dreadful manner. This man had received a fortnight's wages last week, at 6s. per day, and has been drinking ever since; has lost his work on that account. To such a state of misery is this family reduced by intemperance, that his sister assured me they had not a bed of any description, but lie on the floor.”

Spiritual apathy and moral degradation are the product of intemperance—neglect of public worship, and the growth of error and infidelity are also the results of the same vice, and all traceable to the present permission given to make and sell liquid poison. Look at the following fact from page 10 of the Kingston Report:—

“Called on the husband of the woman mentioned in above extract, and asked him to do something to relieve her from her wretched condition, but he told me ‘he cared no more about her than about a person he had never known, and he would not do anything for her.’ Such want of natural affection I never saw before. What makes the case worse, is that, according to the testimony of persons who have known them both for years, she used to be a very clean, sober woman, and for years suffered much from his drunkenness and brutality, till at last she began to drink herself, and then he left her to shift for herself with two small children.”

Take another fact from page 15, and say whether Canada does not need the Maine Law:—

“July 31st.—Called on a family, the father has been in a state of intoxication for the last 3 weeks, having never been perfectly sober all that time. Conversed with him and left a tract. His family very destitute of clothing. There are two very fine boys who have not been at school for two years; they cannot read, of course attending a place of worship is out of the question.”

We are glad to have had an opportunity of reading this Report. We should have had more pleasure if there had been fewer typographical errors; but even as it is, we trust every house in Kingston will have a copy. We recommend to the conductors of the “City Mission,” that they present a copy to every distiller and liquor-seller. Let these gentlemen see the fruit of their business. Let them know that they are in alliance with the Prince of Darkness in augmenting the force of natural evil, and increasing the misery of mankind.

Friends of the “Kingston City Mission,” go on, and prosper. God will defend you. Your work is a proper and useful one. Go on.

Progress of Legal Suppression in Britain.

No greater evidence need be asked of the truth of our principles than that furnished by the fact of their rapid spread in the midst of opposition and among persons of cultivated minds. Error sometimes makes astonishing progress, but it is sure to be arrested somehow, and must come to nought. But truth goes on its way, and if impeded in one place will take root in another.

The friends of temperance in Glasgow have had a lec-