

countrymen suffer, the crime and destitution, the ignorance and profligacy, the insanity and disease which are too rife in this land, are either directly induced, or greatly aggravated, by intemperance, is a fact which cannot now be disputed; and that this intemperance is fostered or encouraged by the absurd drinking customs which have been handed down to us from a barbarous age, and which are unworthy of rational, civilised and christianised times, is unfortunately also too true. Knowing this, however, to be the case, I am sure that it is my duty, the duty of all true patriots and christians, for the sake of our fellow-countrymen, to do all in our power to remedy this evil, and to discountenance the practices which lead to such unhappy results, amongst which, not one of the least is the drinking of toasts on public occasions. I shall therefore, when I announce the various toasts which are allotted to me this day, only depart so far from the usual custom that I shall not ask you to fill your glasses, or to drink their contents to me. As a total abstainer of many years, I consider it but right to you and to myself to make this explanation. I cannot, of course, presume to dictate to any person here present what he shall or shall not do, though I cannot but hope and believe that many, had they considered the subject as I have for many years done, would also come to the same conclusions that I have done."

At a latter part of the proceedings, he said:—

"We have heard much about Parliamentary reform, and other political reforms; but, in my opinion, we are in these as well as in other reforms too often apt to begin at the wrong end; for I believe that if we would insist upon the more important moral and social reforms, political reform would necessarily follow. As for purity of election, it is certainly not to be obtained by the Ballot—a scheme unworthy of the honest Briton, and which I am sure would only afford opportunities for greater corruption. No! if you wish for purity of election, I believe the true way is to begin by abolishing a traffic which leads to impurity of all kinds, political, moral, social, and physical—the indiscriminate traffic in ardent spirits—evil spirits! it is an unmitigated evil, productive of nothing whatever that is good;—and I believe that for such a measure all the respectable part of the community is prepared, and that it would be opposed only by the dealers and depraved consumers, male and female, of the infernal drug; I cannot use too strong epithet when applied to what is productive of so much crime, suffering, and misery of all kinds. We have now, I believe, a reforming Government, a strong Government, and one which I trust will not consider moral and social reform of less importance to our country than political reform, and which I hope will also show by its acts that it is sufficiently enlightened and honest to scorn the specious but short-sighted policy, of drawing a revenue from an impure source, which demoralises and ruins the people; and that it is prepared to carry out the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1834, by introducing (to use its own words) 'some general and comprehensive law for the progressive diminution and ultimate suppression of all the existing facilities and means of intemperance, as the root and parent of almost every other vice.' I am sorry that our country did not respond to this recommendation, and so take the lead in this important reform, but now that we can only follow the example which has been set us by our sister-land across the Atlantic, in many States of which this reform is now introduced, by stringent laws which have been enacted against the unholy traffic in intoxicating liquors; and those States have been rewarded by a diminution of crime to the extent of fifty to seventy-five per cent, or even more, with a corresponding decrease, also, in their rates; and the gaols and poor-houses, which were previously so crowded that preparations were in several places making to enlarge them, are now nearly tenantless; and I am happy to say that this example has already been followed in an important portion, also, of the British dominions; for our good Queen has confirmed by her sign-manual a law to the same effect lately enacted in the State of New Brunswick. I am also happy to announce that in that important town where originated the celebrated and mighty League which ended with the abolition of the odious Corn law, there is now organising another mighty League,* which will, I trust, be as victorious as its predecessor, and succeed in removing from our dear fatherland a much greater curse than that oppressive Corn law, bad as it was. I will only now add, that to introduce and carry such a measure, fraught, as it would be, with such blessings to this country—far greater blessings, I assert, than those con-

ferred either by the Reform Bill or even by the repeal of the Corn laws, important as both those measures undoubtedly were—would add honor even to the name of Grey, much as that noble family has achieved in the cause of reform, and bring down on it the blessings of thousands."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE."

Montreal, May 20th, 1853.

SIR,—Knowing the interest that you take as a Son of Temperance in the proceedings of the Order of the Sons, throughout Canada and elsewhere, a short account of the success and attachment of our Brethren in St. Andrews, C. E., and its adjacent localities, to the cause of Temperance, and to our Order, and of their late proceedings, would not only be of interest to you, but also, to the readers of your valuable paper; I therefore beg leave to inform you, that a meeting of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, C. E., was held at St. Andrews, on the 11th inst., which was very fully attended, when it was shown, that the influence of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, has been of late, widely diffusing itself among all classes of society in Canada East, without distinction either of rank or station—and has shed its benefits and advantages all around; benefits which are known only in reality to those who have embraced our principles. The Order will be elevated in the opinion of all, when its principles shall become better known.

In consequence of the order being a beneficial society, it contains a guard or watchword to keep away all imposters on its benefit fund; this is called by many a secret society, and in consequence of Divisions holding their meetings with closed doors, their actions being accordingly confined within their own society, something wrong or something contrary to the principles of religion must be there transacted. Such an opinion, enormous in many respects, I believe, is held by many, whose hearts and souls are as deep in the cause of teetotalism as our own, and who would adopt the same course as ourselves, to carry out their heartfelt wishes in the emancipation of their fellow creatures, from the slavehold of alcohol, if they were convinced of their error. But, may I be permitted to inform them who hold that idea, that all our actions, both in public and private, are never commenced without first invoking the blessing and grace of God, and He that seeth in secret rewardeth openly.

The St. Andrews Division, with other neighbouring Divisions, taking the opportunity of the presence of the members of the Grand Division, had, in the afternoon of the 12th of May, a grand Temperance celebration,—a procession was formed by these Divisions, who appeared in their full Regalia, followed by the members of the Grand Division in their Regalia, who marched through the beautiful and romantic village of St. Andrews, and, when arrived at the Congregational Church, the doors were thrown open to the Sons and Public; who, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, filled the Church. The presence of a large number of Ladies, the Sons in their private and official regalia, the Temperance banners suspended, and the sweet and melodious voices that issued from the Orchestra, singing the odes appropriate on such an occasion, attracted the attention and praise as well of those interested in the glorious cause of Temperance, as well as of others who were present as hearers, and whom, I hope, are now believers in our order.

The Chair was taken and ably filled by our G. W. P., R. Kneeshaw Esq., of Lachute. Several addresses were delivered by different members of the Order, on the cause of Temperance, its rise and progress, and on the rise and progress of the Sons, of the utility of total abstinence, the pernicious effects from intem-

* "The United Kingdom Alliance for the Suppression of the Traffic in all Intoxicating Liquors."