

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that they consider the principles of Temperance to be of the utmost importance to christianity and to the happiness and prosperity of any community. We understand Temperance to mean total abstinence from all that can intoxicate; and we are convinced that this is the only safe rule that can be adopted by individuals.

We recommend continued agitation throughout the Province in favor of legal enactments prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks.

First, because of the injurious results of the liquor traffic. The use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is of no advantage whatever to an individual or to society, but is a positive injury to both, whether indulged in moderately or to excess. Intemperance is an *evil*, only evil, and that continually. It weakens and destroys the body, it corrupts and damns the soul. It produces poverty, sickness and death. It is an evil in the church and in the state; in society and in the family. The physician proclaims it an evil, and the lawyer will witness to the same fact. Science proves it, reason teaches it, stubborn facts of every day life exemplify it, and the Bible denounces it as a dangerous, deadly, prevailing evil.

Licensed taverns afford facilities and temptations to the youth, by which an unnatural, growing and unconquerable appetite is formed for strong drink. The stuff sold at these places is poisonous. Alcohol is known to produce the same effects and symptoms as poison, and it is a notorious and bare-faced fact that other cheaper but more destructive poisons are introduced into these drinks. It is therefore a matter of astonishment that an enlightened people will tolerate, protect and sanction such a traffic.

In the second place, we regard the traffic in strong drink as existing in our midst as a sin. It is a sin to buy and drink it. Drunkenness is classed in the Bible with the vilest sins. It is a sin to sell it. The seller defrauds and injures his victim, and the Bible says woe unto him. It is a sin to make it, for it is turning God's blessings into curses. And while we thus insult heaven, we need not wonder if drouths, mildew and blasting afflict us. This is our national sin, and the guilt and responsibility thereof recoils upon the people, for they are the source of the government. We believe it is the people's duty to purge themselves from this sin, and if they neglect to use their power to do it, we believe the righteous Judge of the universe will do it for them; and facts, modern and ancient prove that whether for a nation or an individual, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The Temperance enterprise has accomplished a great deal, but much remains to be done. The foe has been driven within his entrenchments. And now the final assault is to be made. The complete triumph of this cause will never be achieved until we have the manufacture, importation, and sale of strong drink prohibited by provincial enactment. Any attempt short of this, to