

Owing to its extended operations—the circulation of the *Advocate* at a price which did not nearly cover expenses—the employment of lecturing agents, and in other ways, this society has always been running rapidly into debt, which debt has been partially met by occasional subscriptions in Montreal, efficiently aided, on one or two occasions, by collections made by our travelling agent, throughout the country. A few years ago, a very large subscription was made here, which freed the society from debt, with the exception, that the subscriptions to the *Advocate* for the current year were used in advance. As, however, there was a stock of temperance publications, tracts, medals, &c., scattered over the whole country, on consignment, to the value of upwards of £300, and a considerable amount of debts was due to us besides, we deemed that as much would be received from these sources as would make up the deficiency on the *Advocate* account. We, therefore, both believed and announced ourselves to be about free from debt. Contrary to all expectation, however, little or nothing has been, or we presume will be, realised from those consignments or debts owing to us. The whole amount nearly is a dead loss (though we hope the Tracts, "Anti-Bacchuses," *Advocates*, &c., &c., have benefited the country), and this put us unexpectedly about £300 behind, under which debt we have been labouring ever since. Then, again, the falling off in the circulation of the *Advocate* this last year, has been most serious, so that, even after the very handsome subscription raised in Montreal last spring, and the small collections given to Mr. Wadsworth in his recent journey, there will, at the end of this year, be £200 to add to the permanent debt of £300 before alluded to, making an aggregate of £500. This sum our printer and paper-maker are neither willing nor able to lie out of.

It is true, if we continue the *Advocate*, we may expect perhaps £250 of subscriptions, paid in advance for next year, towards meeting the above debt, but it would be only to find ourselves again short of the £500 at the end of the year, together with the additional loss on that year's transactions, say probably £100 more.

In these circumstances, the committee of the Montreal Temperance Society have resolved to discontinue the *Advocate* at the end of this year, as well as all other operations involving expenditure, unless they be beforehand assured of such ample support as will leave no ground to apprehend an increase of debt. And the members must not only subscribe for as much of the present debt among themselves as they can, even in the present depressed circumstances of this city, but appeal to societies throughout the country to help them to bear the burden.

Should it be the case, however, that the country desires the continuation of the *Advocate*, and that parties are willing to make efforts in every place to sustain it, we must state, that, if pledges from societies or respectable individuals are received, in answer to this circular, to the extent of 4000 copies, at 2s 6d each, for next year, the publication will be continued. No remittances are required with these pledges, but only responsible names.

These explanations will prepare you, gentlemen, for the following list of queries, which we request you to lay before your respective societies as soon as you conveniently can, and, after due inquiry and effort, return the answers to us, at least a month before the sitting of Parliament, and not in any case later than the first of November next.

Signed in behalf of the Committee of the Montreal Temperance Society,
JOHN DOUGALL, President.

LIST OF QUERIES.

1. Does your society represent a city, village, township, or country district, or in what other manner would you describe the boundaries within which it acts?

2. What is the whole population, as nearly as you can estimate, within your bounds as above indicated?

3. How many of this population are total abstainers from intoxicating drinks; or, in other words, how many members have you in good standing in your society?

4. How many total abstinence voters for members of parliament are there within your bounds?

5. How many distilleries are there within your bounds, and what average quantity of grain does each distil yearly?

6. How many breweries, and what average quantity of grain does each consume yearly?

7. How many licensed houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks, with the accommodation for travellers required by law?

8. How many licensed houses are there in the same bounds, which do not possess such accommodations for travellers? (Please obtain from the Clerk of the Peace the names of the Magistrates who certified that these houses possessed the necessary accommodations, which names will not be published, in the first instance at all events, but transmitted to Parliament. Should any Clerk of the Peace refuse access to the certificates in question, state the fact.)

9. How many unlicensed houses have you in the same bounds, which sell intoxicating drinks?

10. What is the amount of license money paid, and how appropriated?

11. If a criminal court, or courts, sits within your bounds, what are the number and kind of crimes tried before it or them; and what proportion may be attributed to drinking? Obtain the opinion of the Judge or Judges, if possible.)

12. If there be a prison within your bounds, what number of prisoners have been confined within the year; and what proportion of them were intemperate? (Obtain jailor's statement if possible.)

13. What is the opinion of your medical men respecting the extent to which disease in your district may be attributed to intemperance, and respecting the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage by persons in health? (Endeavour to obtain an opinion, or opinions, signed by as many as possible.)

14. How many known drunkards are there within your bounds?

15. How many have died during the course of last year, who may reasonably be considered as cut off, directly or indirectly, by the use or abuse of intoxicating drinks?

16. What has been the influence of the temperance reformation in your place?

17. What are the chief hindrances in the way of its further progress?

18. What do you think should be done, at this crisis, in order to revive and carry forward the work, in your own vicinity, and throughout the country?

19. How many temperance meetings have you held during the past year?

20. Are you willing that the Canada Temperance Advocate should be discontinued? and if not, what number of subscribers will you pledge your society, either jointly or as individuals, to obtain for 1849, at 2s 6d each.

21. What portion of the debt of the Montreal Temperance Society, amounting to £500, and incurred chiefly for the benefit of the Province at large, will you pledge your society, either jointly or as individuals, to make up, and remit next winter?

22. What information, remarks, or suggestions, have you to offer, on any subject connected with the Temperance Reformation, and not included in the foregoing queries?

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING of the JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION will be held at PRESCOT on TUESDAY, July 11th, at 12 o'clock, noon, in the Methodist Chapel;

AMASA SKINNER, Secretary.