

CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor do any thing by which thy brother is made to stumble, or to fall, or is weakened."—Rom. xiv. 21—*Macnight's Translation.*

PLEDGE OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO AGREE, THAT WE WILL NOT USE INTOXICATING LIQUORS AS A BEVERAGE, NOR TRAFFIC IN THEM; THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE THEM AS AN ARTICLE OF ENTERTAINMENT, NOR FOR PERSONS IN OUR EMPLOYMENT; AND THAT IN ALL SUITABLE WAYS WE WILL DISCOURTAGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1843.

Tracts for the Times.—No. IV.

"HE THAT IS NOT WITH US IS AGAINST US."

Many who profess to rejoice at the good which Temperance Societies are doing, and who say they hope they may go on and prosper, when asked to increase the strength of the societies by joining them, refuse, saying, "It is those who cannot otherwise refrain from drinking to excess who should pledge themselves to abstain from using liquors, but as for us we can drink or let it alone without signing a pledge." These persons do more to hinder the Temperance Reformation than hard drinkers do, for the unwary are encouraged to play with the poisonous cup which at last bieth like a serpent. And they are surely ignorant that the principal object of Temperance Societies is to do away with the drinking usages of society, and thus cut off the stream of intemperance by drying up the fountain, save the young from acquiring a taste for liquors, and remove temptation from those who have fallen but are now repenting and reforming. No one can shut his eyes to the poverty, the misery, and crime, which is through liquor brought upon those addicted to it, their relations and society. The boldest advocate of its moderate use cannot, dare not, deny that any good it may do, is a thousand fold overbalanced by the evil it is continually doing. Many expedients to prevent intemperance have been tried and have failed. Total abstinence from all that can intoxicate alone goes to the root of the evil; let this be but universally practised and drunkenness has ceased. Those then who are glad at the good which Temperance Societies are doing, and who can let drinking alone but do not, should consider that it is through them that intemperance is continued, that moderate drinkers are the stuff out of which drunkards are made. Hardly any one can be sure that he will never pass the bounds of moderation and acquire an appetite for liquor which he cannot restrain unless he never uses it; how many there are who have fallen so gradually and insensibly from moderation to intemperance as to be unaware of it. But if there are some so strongminded as to be secure against passing moderation; they may have children or admirers, or those subject to their influence who endeavour to imitate them, but not possessed of equal firmness, run into excess. Let such beware lest He who searches hearts lay it to their charge, that they have led into the way of destruction those over whom he gave them an influence to be used in guiding them into the path of life.

Is there any one so selfish that he would not forego his own gratification if it were the cause of great calamity to another? Millions of our brethren are perishing body and soul through intemperance; millions more are in training for the same course, and will not every one exert himself to the utmost to rescue them—Our Father who is in heaven has by his servant commanded us to do nothing that may cause a brother to err; and what cause of error equals intemperance? and what but total abstinence can do away with it? Interest, duty, humanity, and religion call all to take a part in this good work.

Williamsburgh.

Duff.

PHYSICIANS AND MOTHERS.

We have reason to know that the influence of many medical men is exerted strongly against the Temperance Reformation, in the custom of recommending intoxicating drinks to nursing mothers; and that the arguments of Temperance men fall powerless before their authoritative mandate. In this way much, very much evil has been done that, we are satisfied, might have easily been avoided. We will, therefore, suggest a few considerations for those who are ruled by the judgment of wine-and-beer prescribing physicians, in order that they may venture to think for themselves on a subject so nearly concerning their own happiness and the health of their offspring.

In the first place, Doctors differ on the subject, high authorities being found on both sides of the question, and when this is the case the public have surely a right to think with those who are on the side of common sense and the order of nature.

Secondly, the experience of thousands and tens of thousands of teetotal mothers proves most unequivocally that the practice of using intoxicating drinks is unnecessary; nay, more, many of them are practically acquainted with both sides of the question, and testify that they perform their duties better without these drinks, than they did with them.

Thirdly, many entire nations existed and some still exist without intoxicating drinks at all, yet their mothers and children are healthy.

Fourthly, the fermented slops of the distilleries and brewery are injurious to the health, and, consequently, to the milk of cows; and milk so produced is especially unwholesome to children from which facts much may be learned in the way of analogy.

Lastly, the Creator who certainly knows the human constitution better than physicians gave no intoxicating drinks to the mother of mankind, nor to the countless mothers amongst his chosen people while they were journeying through the wilderness, and he afterwards expressly prohibited those drinks to some mothers whose offspring became mighty in word and deed. Indeed it is worthy of remark that when Divine wisdom gives a precept at all on this subject, it is prohibitory; but would this be the case if the Doctors' opinion of the usefulness and beneficial tendency of these drinks were correct?

Lest, however, any should still attach more importance to the authority of physicians than to the dictates of reason, we shall refer to some facts well known in the history of medical science.

It is not many years since fever patients were shut up in close rooms loaded with warm bed-clothes, and almost stewed by strong fires. In this state, contending with the burning disease, the suffocating heat of the atmosphere, and with intense thirst and longing for anything cold, they were denied even a single drop of cold water or breath of fresh air. Yet all this was done according to rule by the judgment and authority of physicians: and any one who had dared to suggest the common sense view of the subject, which has since been universally adopted, viz. that persons suffering from burning fevers should have abundance of fresh air and cold water, would have been looked upon as a fool or a madman.

Again, when the circulation of the blood was discovered the new faugled doctrine was stoutly opposed by an overwhelming array of medical authority; and, it is said, that no physician who had attained the age of forty before the discovery was made, ever afterwards acknowledged its truth.

It may be said, however, that the physicians of the present day are greatly superior in point of science and information, to those of the periods referred to, and we are happy to believe that such is the case. Nevertheless they are only men and liable to err, and