

and the old; placing thousands of young and helpless children in such a position that to escape from a life of ignorance, vice and shame—and an ignominious death is impossible.

Represent to them that the evils suffered by the people from the traffic in strong drinks, are greater than all which flow from other sources. Say to them, that THIS TRAFFIC BENEFITS NOBODY—THAT ITS RESULTS ARE ALTOGETHER AND INTENSELY EVIL, BOTH TO THE STATE AND TO INDIVIDUALS—THAT THE EVIL HAS AT LAST BECOME INTOLERABLE, AND THAT YOU NOW DEMAND AS A MATTER OF RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM IT.

The Grogeries—The Magistracy—The Montreal Gazette.

Circumstances are continually forcing themselves upon our observation respecting the License Law and its practical working, which convince us, and we think ought to satisfy all parties, of the utter impossibility of putting a stop to intemperance and crime, without a complete annihilation of the whole system of making and selling intoxicating drinks. The unlicensed groggery never can be closed while the licensed one is protected and tolerated. Our attention has been recently called to the reconsideration of this subject, by a carefully compiled report of the unsuccessful efforts of the Revenue Inspectors to convict certain persons of the illicit traffic in liquor. The Magistrates dismissed the case, notwithstanding the clearest evidence of the guilt of the parties charged with the offence. The Montreal Gazette thinks the Inspectors may find "other Magistrates whose perceptions of law, or inclination to administer it, may be more active than those of the gentlemen alluded to." It is just possible that such may be the case, but the nuisance will only be abated temporarily, and when the "respectable" bar-room has done its work of debasement, the ruined moderate drinker will turn to the illicit groggery for his immoderate dose of poison, and suitable companionship. We admire the zeal with which the Gazette wages war against "the grogeries" in the issue of January 26, as well as on other occasions, but we must inform our contemporary that he is sadly behind the times in his views of the manufacture and use of strong drink. Will he permit us to call his attention to a few particulars, and may we hope that the Gazette will speedily become an advocate of the principles of the Maine Law.

The Editor of the Gazette commences his article with the ominous words "The Grogeries," and then evidently applies the term groggery only to those places which happen to be unlicensed. Now, while we have not one word to say in favor of the illicit traffic, we think great injustice is done to that kind of house by the exclusive application of the opprobrious term. A groggery must be a place where grog is sold, just as a grocery is a place where groceries are sold. Now the most respectable hotel in Montreal, as concerns the bar-room and many other rooms, is but a "groggery," if it be licensed to sell liquor according to law.—As to the comparative morality of the places, we shall only state that we had occasion not long since to call at a licensed hotel of the first class, and there to wait a short time; and in that twenty minutes we heard as much blasphemy, profanity, and impure conversation as could well be crowded into that space. There could scarcely be more impiety elsewhere. The vulgar swearer was a gentleman, having a gold chain and other fashionable externals, but he had been to that bar and drank freely. We thought ourselves in a "groggery," and made our exit as quickly as possible. A groggery is a groggery; and all such places, licensed or unlicensed, are centres of dissipation, and sources of ruin; they are all, what the Gazette affirms, of one class, "vice-factories," and there is only one remedy for the evil—that is, the abolition of all

drinking houses and tippling shops by the enactment of a prohibitory law.

We have before expressed our opinion on the merits of the present license law of Lower Canada. It is an unmitigated piece of folly; and if we needed any exposition of the law to strengthen our judgment, we should turn to the Editor of the Montreal Gazette. He says: "Inducements are held out to the dishonest trafficker to abandon his demoralizing course, by reducing the price of the license to such a rate, as no one who ought to be in the business can be unable to pay." Inducements to a thing lawfully which ought not to be done at all. Does the traffic cease to be "demoralizing" when carried on under the protection of a cheap license? What a precious *coup d'état* is here! Most of these illicit dealers think they ought to be in the business, and yet what short-sighted mortals they must be! Why, for a very trifle, and a stroke of the Inspector's magic wand, they could be transmogrified into polite and reputable citizens, because a "law has been passed," says the Gazette, "to protect the honorable and respectable dealer,"—that is, the man who pays for a license, dirt cheap. What is the use of being "dishonest," when the "demoralizing course" can be followed honestly? We shall most likely have more to say by-and-by concerning this law, but for our contemporary the Gazette to suppose that to "carry it out," the Revenue Inspectors will "purge society of the vile sinks of iniquity against which it is directed," is an hallucination we should not have looked for in that quarter. All history is written wrong, and the teachings of experience must be reversed, if the cheap multiplication of sinks of iniquity is hereafter to succeed in purging society of its vileness. Talk of progress! Aye, and for the latest demonstration turn to chapter 100 of the last volume of the statutes of Canada.

Three Cheers for Massachusetts.

The 21st of January, 1852, may hereafter be placed on the calendar, as a remarkable and glorious day—if not of triumph, yet of wonderful beginning in the cause of freedom—freedom from the vile dominion of rum. On that day the mammoth petition, containing 133,152 signatures for the Maine Law was presented to the Legislature. It was escorted from Tremont Temple by twelve of the city police, who, as teetotalers, volunteered their services. "It was," says the *Cataract*, "rolled on an axis, so suspended on a wooden frame as to rotate freely, and was about three feet in diameter." A procession formed four a breast, of about 5000 of the petitioners. They marched through the principal streets, "greeted by the cheers of thousands who thronged the balconies, porches," and other places. The petition was borne into the Representatives' Hall. Business was suspended, and Mr. Horace E. Smith appropriately introduced the petition, and moved its reference, with other similar petitions, to a joint special committee. The motion was unanimously adopted, and the committee since appointed. The procession then returned to Tremont Temple, where the Hon. Asahel Huntington, of Salem, reported the acceptable manner in which the petition was presented and received. A series of resolutions was adopted, introduced by spirited addresses from distinguished speakers, among whom we notice the venerable name of Dr. Lyman Beecher. We append the resolutions as worthy a permanent place in our columns, and commend them to the attention of the people and legislature of Canada.

Resolved, That the evil produced in the State of Massachusetts by the unlawful traffic in intoxicating liquids, is so great and long