

Progress in the Rear of Yonge and Escott.

A correspondent of the *Brockville Recorder*, signing himself "Anti-Bacchus," gives the particulars of a Municipal movement, which we hope will not be without its effects elsewhere. It appears that there was at the election there, a triumphant adoption of the Bye-Law for the suppression of the sale of spirituous and malt liquors, in the Township of the Rear of Yonge and Escott. The writer says:—"Pursuant to public notice, on Friday and Saturday, the 31st day of March and 1st day of April, the Municipal Electors of this Township were called upon to decide by their votes, their approval or disapproval of the Bye-Law above stated; and notwithstanding a degree of apathy on the part of some professed Temperance men, there appeared at the close of the Poll

In favour of the Bye-Law.....	80
Against the Bye-Law.....	37

Giving a majority in favor of. 43

The result of this election ought to prove instructive and encouraging, as it proves what the advocates of Temperance might do by united efforts and perseverance. For some time previous to the election, strenuous efforts had been made by the opponents of the Bye-Law, and its friends had serious fears of its defeat; but so decided was the vote on the first day of the election—70 to 37—that on the second day the opponents had not the courage to come out, and as a consequence not a vote was polled against it. After polling part of the forenoon of the second day, the friends of the Bye-Law not wishing to keep the poll open longer than was necessary, and finding no opposition, withheld their votes until the poll had remained open an hour, when it was closed by the Returning Officer.

It thus appears, that large as is the majority, it might have been much larger had it been desired.

Local Legislation by Municipalities on the subject of Temperance is objected to by many, on the ground of its being arbitrary and unjust, to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors in one Township, while surrounding Townships more liberal are willing to foster and encourage the traffic through the license system. Compared with a general Prohibitory Liquor Law, such Bye-Laws as the above mentioned are of course insignificant, but as a means of keeping public sentiment alive and healthy on so important a subject, in addition to the great local benefit to be derived from such a Bye-Law—Legislation of this character is of the greatest importance, as it tends to strengthen and concentrate public opinion on the greatest question of the day, the Maine Liquor Law in Canada.

In view of so great a boon, we can well afford to be called arbitrary and illiberal, in refusing to open the flood-gates of vice and immorality, which many enlightened minds are forced to admit, is the inevitable result of the liquor traffic."

"Destruction and Misery are in their Ways."

Under date of April 1st, the *Middlesex Prototype* gives the annexed melancholy particulars of the effects of inebriation, produced by the licensed liquor traffic. When will the time come for the entire removal of this legalized curse? Our cotemporary says:—

"On Tuesday evening last, a woman named Eliza Hagarty died very suddenly in one of Starr's shanties, east of the barracks. Her husband, Garret Hagarty, had been before his worship the mayor about ten days before, for threatening to kill his wife with an axe. Hagarty had aimed a blow at her head with the axe, but observing the aim, she defended herself by raising her left arm, upon which she received the stroke. A gash was made in the fleshy part of the arm, about six inches in length, grazing the bone, and wounding a branch of the ulnar artery, which bled profusely. Dr. Wanless, the corporation surgeon, passed a ligature around the vessel, and dressed the wound, which was doing well up to the time of her death. From the pair having been all the time drunk, and quarrelling, strong suspicion arose that deceased had been killed by her husband. An inquest was therefore held on Wednesday morning, by Dr. Wanless, but there appeared no evidence of guilt against Hagarty. The post-mortem examination revealed a drunkard's stomach, with an old disease of the left lung, which was very much crusted with blood; blood, in large quantities, was also found within the pleural cavity, which had escaped from a pulmonary vessel. This was assigned by Dr. McKenzie, as the cause of death. On the Tuesday evening, when the deceased lay on the floor, cold and death-like, an empty black bottle, smelling of whiskey, was found by her side, the contents of which, no doubt, had been recently swallowed. What pictures of degraded mortality present themselves, for a time to time, from the use of the inebriating cup! The jury gave a verdict according to the testimony adduced, and found great fault with Hagarty for allowing his wife, as he stated, a quart of whiskey daily!"

Literature and Temperance.

We have observed, says the *Maine Temperance Journal*, for some time past, in many of the standard literary periodicals of the day, commendable articles in favor of temperance. We are happy to notice this indication that the virtue of temperance is not altogether discarded in what are called the upper, polite, and literary circles of society. We would not fail to make honorable mention of any changes of this sort, and in praising what is praiseworthy, we must also censure what is censurable.

We notice quite frequently, both in the *Putnam* and *Harper Magazines*, articles not only of questionable morals upon the subject of temperance, but articles of a decidedly injurious tendency. Scenes of drunkenness are talked of, and dressed up in a fascinating style, and one cannot help thinking the while, that the author who speaks of these things with so much apparent gusto, must enjoy them himself. The following is a specimen, which we select from a story in *Putnam's*:

"I returned to the supper room, as it is the custom with those who do not dance, for the purpose of satisfying my own hunger, and to drink a glass of wine with Mr. Augustus, and my friends Scribner and Docket, whom I find just beginning upon a fresh bottle of Heidsieck. The scalloped oysters, the chicken salad, and the champagne go round, and so do many pleasant and wicked stories."

Our readers will judge whether such descriptions of late suppers and drinking usages, in high or low life, are calculated to benefit the morals of the people, or to deter the young from the wine "when it moveth itself aright," but which at last "biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

It seems to us that our literature should be free from anything like temptation to the vice of intemperance, that next to our religion, it should pour its burning rebukes upon the head of that ravager that has plucked so many of the "bright particular stars" from the galaxy of the literary firmament. There may be a taste for this kind of reading, but let our literary men cease to cater to it, and it will depart. If the drinking usages must be described, then let the antidote go with the bane. Let rebuke accompany the description, that the right moral tone may not be wanting.