

# Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1852.

## Ten Thousand a Year.

We are not about to write a criticism on that very lengthy, but somewhat interesting book published several years ago, by Mr Warren. Messrs Quirk, Gammon, and Snap, if we recollect aright the names of those legal worthies, who managed the case of Mr Tittlebat Titmouse, have no special charms for us, and no peculiar claims on our sympathies. They *contrived* to get for their *illustrious* protegee ten thousand a year, but they lost it again, because not honestly obtained. We, however, having an honest claim on the people of Canada, are desirous of getting our ten thousand a year,—not ten thousand pounds, but ten thousand subscribers for the *Canada Temperance Advocate*. We have fairly entered on the duties of another year, and are animated by a sincere desire to benefit the people of this country. We think we can do so, to a greater extent than hitherto, if we enlist the co-operation of the real friends of the Temperance cause. We have one earnest request to make,—

### A SPECIAL REQUEST,

That all who now subscribe for this paper will, before the first month of the year closes, generously endeavour to procure at least one additional subscriber. There are many young people to whom the *Advocate* has been a friendly and cordially received visitor for years, who could easily accomplish the task of gaining subscribers to this periodical. Young friends, will you undertake to do the work? You will be benefitted by the consciousness of doing good. We are anxious to extend our circulation, not for pecuniary gain, but because thereby our usefulness will be promoted. Look around, you perhaps know of some friend or neighbour who has never taken this paper. Ask them to do so. By a very little effort we can raise our ten thousand a year. Be earnest and persevering, and our list will present ten thousand good names for 1852.

## Railroads—Rum and Riot.

A writer in the December number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, makes the following observation: "The inhabitants of Canada need fear no comparison with the Union in all the chief elements of national advancement." We concur in the remark, and rejoice that our country is destined to exhibit proof of her capacity to achieve great and permanent improvement in all the 'chief elements' of modern civilization. At the present time, in every part of Canada, the signs of advancement are witnessed, and the numerous advertisements respecting railroads commencing or in active progress, indicate the stirring and wakeful energies of a free people. Considering that railroads must tend to develop the resources of the country, and draw the immense resources of the West through our noble St. Lawrence, it must be gratifying to all philanthropists to notice the remarkable activity of the times. We should be happy if we could write on this subject without any drawback to our gratification, but it is a painful fact, that where large masses of men are brought together for the purpose of constructing a road or canal, in that very locality the rumseller will select his station and concentrate his riot-inspiring, hogsheads for the purpose of robbing the hard wrought labourer of his honestly earned money. This is no fiction, but what we have witnessed in various parts of the country. As our

railroads often run through waste lands uninhabited, it might seem as though there would not be facilities for hoarding the accursed stuff. But it is a fact that at some little distance from the line of road, some unprincipled money lover will run up a shanty and store liquor, which is dealt out to the thirsty worker, whose appetite for whisky was formed, perhaps, before he went to labour for the contractor. There are in many parts of Upper Canada railroad enterprises just commencing, and we desire most earnestly to warn the peaceful inhabitants against, in any way, sanctioning the introduction of liquor among the workmen. Illicit traffic in whisky will every where be attempted. Let it be put down, and let every inhabitant protest against the multiplication of licenses in the neighborhood of public works.

Our thoughts have frequently turned to this subject.—We have been compelled to think. We know of one railroad where several deaths have occurred through the use of strong drink, and where great disturbances have existed to the terror of the quiet people dwelling near the line. Since last summer also, we have noticed in the *Sherbrooke Gazette*, alarming accounts of the manner in which drunken men have attacked families and travellers, these men being railway labourers, under the influence of alcohol. From the same paper of December 27, we cut the following outspoken article:—

**MORE OUTRAGES.**—We are sorry to say that Sherbrooke and its vicinity is getting into bad odor on account of the numerous violations of the peace which are constantly occurring among the floating population which the construction of the railroad has brought amongst us. Scarcely a day passes but some peaceable person is ill-treated, and in several instances persons driving on the highway, between this and Lennoxville, have been stopped and abused; and in one instance, a few miles below Sherbrooke, robbery was attempted. It was on Saturday last, as J. Johnston, Esq., of Ascot was coming up the river, about 7 o'clock in the evening, with a two horse sleigh, he was ordered to stop by a man who seized his horses by the head in the edge of the woods a few rods below the Moffatt bridge, who demanded his money, or his life. Mr. J., not caring to part with either, told the fellow he had but two dollars, which, if he wanted, he must come and get; as soon as he let go the horse's head, J. applied his whip, when the ruffian laid hold of the sleigh and was dragged some rods, when he let go and was left in the snow.

These repeated outrages demand some more efficient efforts than have heretofore been made by the authorities. It is well known that most of the minor assaults and disturbances have grown out of the use of intoxicating drinks, which is fearfully on the increase in this vicinity. We have not only a great number of unlicensed grog shops, but under the new license law, numerous tavern and shop licenses have been given out, from these flow streams which are exerting a most polluting and demoralizing influence. We are told that licenses have been given to the keepers of shanties on the highway, between here and Lennoxville, and that it is from these government-sanctioned dens that the men have sallied out who have stopped and insulted travellers. We have been told that the Inspector is obliged by law to grant shop licenses. If this is so, it is the more shame to the Legislature which passes such an infamous law. It is the business of Government to protect the public from such nuisances, not to inflict them upon it. If the Government cannot forego the "price of blood," received for licenses, it is certainly bound to keep a sufficient police force to guard their drunkeries, and to protect peaceable subjects from outrage and insult from those who support them.

Respecting the duties of Inspectors, and the right to ask and have "shop licenses," we have nothing to add just now. We do hope that the time is not far distant, when it shall be the duty of the inspector not to give license for the sale of liquor, but on ascertaining that it is liquor kept for sale as a beverage, to seize and destroy the same, with costs and penalties to the owner of the mook property. Beside, it is a poor speculation now for the government which receives the "price of blood." It is a