

Temperance News.

CANADIAN.

reared in contact with vice and every debasing influence, through the drunkenness of their parents? What chiefly prevents the good which a general distribution of the Holy Scriptures is calculated to produce? The drunken habits of the people! Look into the pawn shops and you may see loads of Bibles and ask who brought them there—the answer will probably be “a wretched woman, reduced by extreme want through a husband's intemperance!” The missionary societies, the school societies, the Bible societies, and every benevolent institution, utter the same complaint. “Our path is before us, but a monster obstacle is in our way; strong drink, ale, wine or brandy, by whatsoever name the demon is styled, in whatsoever way it presents itself, whether in the beer-house or dram-shop, in the dining-room of the man of the world, or on the table of the serious professor—this, this prevents our success. Remove this one obstacle and our course will be onward; and our labors will be blessed ten thousand fold.” Reader! do you support any of these societies by your labors, your money or your prayers? Are you sincere in your wishes for their prosperity? If sincere, you can surely give up something for their advancement? You may be rich—to give a subscription is an easy thing; you may have leisure—to give a little time or labor is no great sacrifice; but can you give up a practice, which, though sanctioned by almost universal custom, clearly and directly contributes to defeat your own exertions to benefit your fellow-men? Are you afraid of being thought less hospitable by those who only value you for your mistaken hospitality? Can you bear to be singular? Can you resign a little paltry gratification of the senses, that you may not stand in the way of a great reformation? If you are religious, if you value your privileges if you feel any emotion of gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon you, reflect without bias, if you can, upon this question. Ask yourself, are you doing all you can for the glory of the Creator, and the happiness of His creatures? Examine how far you are causing “your brother to stumble;” compare your conduct with that of the Apostle, who says, “If meat maketh my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” (1 Cor. viii. 13;) and again he says, “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” (Romans xiv. 21.) Consider well these passages—they are of solemn moment; and recollect, that as you will have to render an account of your actions at a bar where trifling excuses will not avail, and where every heart will be laid open, so will you be held responsible for the employment of your influence, and for the proper use of your example.

To drink deeply—to be drunk—is a sin; this is not denied. At what point does the taking of strong drink become a sin? The state in which the body is when not excited by intoxicating drink, is its proper and natural state; drunkenness is the state farthest removed from it. The state of drunkenness is a state of sin; at what stage does it become sin! We suppose a man perfectly sober who has not tasted anything which can intoxicate one glass excites him, and to some extent disturbs the state of sobriety, and so far destroys it; another glass excites him still more; a third fires his eye, heats his blood, loosens his tongue, inflames his passions; a fourth increases all this; a fifth makes him foolish and partially insane; a sixth makes him savage; a seventh or an eighth makes him stupid, a senseless degraded mass—his reason is quenched, his faculties are for the time destroyed. Every noble, and generous, and holy principle within him withers, and the image of God is polluted and defiled. This is sin, awful sin! for “drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” But where does the sin begin? At the first glass—at the first step towards complete intoxication, or at the sixth, or seventh, or eighth? Is not every step from the natural state of the system towards the state of stupid intoxication an advance in sin, and a yielding to the unwearied tempter of the soul? Reader, think of this—think of your own danger, for who is so strong that he may not fall? Think of the millions who lie bound in the chains of this “foul spirit,” and ask yourself, are you all doing your duty in discountenancing the cause of so much sin and misery? If you cannot say “Yes!” with a clear conscience, rise superior to foolish and wicked customs, and join your influence and your example to the efforts of those who have declared war against the causes of the sin of drunkenness, which will only terminate with their extermination from the surface of the earth!

The Scott Act has been carried in Cumberland County, N. S. by a splendid majority. In Amherst, the county town, the vote stood 298 for the Act and 9 against it. “Our cause is rolling on.”

Mrs. Youmans has been lecturing in Ottawa County, Que., with much success. A correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* writes as follows:—

Mrs. Youmans paid a visit to Aylmer on Friday, the 19th October, and held a mass meeting of the children in the Presbyterian Church in the afternoon. In the evening a public meeting was held in the same place. The attendance was good considering the state of the weather. The chair was taken by the pastor of the church, Rev. Geo. Jamieson, who, after a few opening remarks bearing upon the subject before the meeting, introduced Mrs. Youmans, the speaker of the evening. Mrs. Youmans spoke with her usual earnestness and power, and held the attention of the meeting for about an hour. At the close of the meeting quite a number came forward and signed the pledge. A temperance social was held at Cantley, in the Presbyterian Church there, on Monday evening, 22nd ult. The attendance was good. Mr. A. L. Gardiner in the chair. The speakers were Rev. Messrs. Findlay, Jamieson and Mr. Blackburn. The spirit of the meeting was excellent, and at the close forty-three signed the pledge and took the blue ribbon.

The Nova Scotia Branch of the Dominion Alliance met in Halifax on Tuesday morning, the 30th ult., at 10 o'clock. After preliminary business had been completed, Rev. Dr. Burns and P. Monaghan, Esq., Secretary, were appointed to prepare a Resolution in connection with the death of Rev. Thomas Gales, the late Secretary of the Dominion Alliance. Considerable discussion took place on the work and aim of the Alliance. Another session was held next morning at nine o'clock. The committee appointed on the previous day presented the following minute, which was adopted and ordered to be placed on the records, and a copy transmitted to the family of the deceased:

“In the death of Rev. Thomas Gales, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, the cause in Canada has sustained an almost irreparable loss. Those who knew him personally or by reputation, will feel unfeigned sorrow at the removal from the wide field of his love and labor of so earnest, energetic and useful a worker, who, by his courtesy, sincerity and tact, won the esteem of all classes in the community.

“We retain a grateful recollection of his visits to our province and of the benefit we received from his wise counsels, and indefatigable labors.

“We would be stimulated by the taking away in mid-time of his days of so good and faithful a servant, to do with all our might whatsoever our hand findeth to do in a cause which, living or dying, was dear to his heart.

“While bowing reverentially to the Divine Will in this mysterious dispensation, we desire to commend the bereaved widow and family to Him who is the father of the fatherless and husband of the widow in His holy habitation.”

(Signed)

R. F. BURNS,
PAT. MONAGHAN.

Other business being completed the election of officers for the ensuing year took place, with the following result:

President—Hon. Samuel Creelman, M. L. C., Halifax.

Vice-Presidents—Rev. R. Alder Temple, Halifax; Rev. J. Murray, Sydney; Joseph Burrill, Yarmouth.

Secretary—Patrick Monaghan, box 379 P. O., Halifax.

Treasurer—William C. Silver, Halifax.

Executive Committee—Avar Longley, Paradise; Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax; J. T. Bulmer, Halifax; H. A. Taylor, Halifax; Rev. J. D. H. Brown, Halifax; James A. Haliday, Halifax; Rev. W. G. Lane, Halifax; John Eckersley, Halifax; Bowman Corning, Yarmouth; J. E. Lackwood, Cornwallis; J. N. Freeman, Liverpool. Norman J. Layton, Truro; Samuel Archibald, Waterville, Picton; Wm. F. Cutten, Amherst; J. Parsons, Halifax.

Corresponding Members—D. P. Allison, Windsor; Henry Lovitt, Kentville; Rev. I. Strothard, Granville; Francis Hutchison, Digby, Thomas B. Crosby, Yarmouth; Thomas Robertson, M. P., Barrington; S. T. R. Bill, Liverpool; Charles Smith, Chester; Firman