

medicine from morning till night; and what is truly marvellous, is that it is pronounced the best medicine in the world, and yet it never effects a cure. The patient never recovers so as to lay aside his medicine—is never raised to that state where nature, without the aids of the healing art, can do her perfect work. These things would be deemed brazen-faced absurdities in any other case; but in relation to the use of intoxicating drinks as a medicine, they are deemed in this country perfectly sound and rational.

It is to be feared that too many, who are fond of taking this kind of potions, have heretofore found too much protection under the wing of their physicians and surgeons. But a document has been lately published, which cannot fail of producing a deep and extensive impression on the British empire. It is signed by nearly thirty of the most eminent and distinguished members of the faculty, in London and its immediate vicinity, and must carry authority with it, wherever the persons are known whose names are appended. The following is the document:

‘An opinion, handed down from rude and ignorant times, and imbibed by Englishmen from their youth, has become very general, that the habitual use of some portion of alcoholic drink—as of wine, beer, or spirits—is beneficial to health, and even necessary for those subjected to habitual labour.

‘Anatomy, physiology, and the experience of all ages, when properly examined, must satisfy every mind, well informed in medical science, that the above opinion is altogether erroneous. Man, in ordinary health, like other animals, requires not any such stimulants, and cannot be benefited by the habitual employment of any quantity of them, large or small; nor will their use during his life-time increase the aggregate amount of his labor. In whatever quantity they are employed, they will rather tend to diminish it.

‘When he is in a state temporary debility, from illness or other causes, a temporary use of them, as of other tonic medicines, may be desirable; but as soon as he is raised to his natural standard of health, a continuance of their use can do no good to him, even in the most moderate quantities; while larger quantities (yet such as by many persons are thought moderate) do sooner or later prove injurious to the human constitution, without any exceptions.

‘It is my opinion that the above statement is substantially correct.

I will not transcribe the signatures; but I may state that among them are the names of the physicians of the Queen Dowager, and of her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, and others not less distinguished in their profession. It will be perceived, by the last sentence in this invaluable testimony, that it was signed by these gentlemen singly, and not jointly; so that it is not to be considered a combination of a few men, having a common purpose to accomplish; but the sober, deliberate, and settled opinion of each one, as a person of study, experience and science, without reference to any particular case.

This fact gives additional weight to the above medical testimony, and it is to be hoped that it will effect a mighty revolution in England.”

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.*

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1839.

HOUSES OF ENTERTAINMENT.—An opinion seems to prevail to some extent that intoxicating drinks are essentially necessary in a house of public entertainment; and, that no house can be prepared to furnish accommodation and refreshment to the traveller without the accompaniment of a bar. This is an opinion against which we enter our protest. The presence of intoxicating liquors, in a house of public entertainment, is detrimental to all those purposes for which such a house should exist. They do not assist, but hinder “mine host” in attempting to make his guests comfortable; they often completely neutralise his polite attention, and well meant hospitality, convert his house into a scene of uproar, and send away his guests in the morning, with a sick head, a troubled mind, and wounded virtue. What a happy transformation would be effected, if these houses were purged from the alcoholic poison, and were

still to keep their hospitable doors open, and give a warm invitation to the weary traveller; if the great and small casks that stand ranged behind the bar, charged with death to some unfortunate tippler, were summarily displaced; and shelves of books and Magazines; or, (if the bodily appetite is greater than the mental) store of good victuals, were to occupy their room!

But by whom may we hope such a transformation will be effected. We fear, not by the Government; for it sustains these houses by its act of license and thereby invites men to go in and drink. Nor by the ministers of religion: for they join in the cry, that such houses are a blessing to the public, notwithstanding the black catalogue of crimes which they are daily producing. The Government does not support twenty Schools in Lower Canada, but every village is supplied with one or more taverns, carrying on the work of death under magisterial patronage; and priests and “people love to have it so”—all are ready to condemn the individual who should raise his voice against it, as a wicked, infidel, innovator.

Fellow countrymen, we therefore appeal to you. No great reform has ever been effected by rulers, whether civil or ecclesiastical, but by the people themselves; on you the hope of the temperance reformation must rest; and we are encouraged to believe that you will take hold of it in good earnest, because you are urged to it, not only by strong considerations of duty, as in other reforms, but the all powerful consideration of interest. Your own interest demands that houses of public entertainment should be conducted on another principle. Those intoxicating liquors, which are held out to you under such a tempting variety of names, and colours, and properties, are injurious to your health; they are a bait to deprive you of your money, and liberty, and self-command; they are a match, applied to the train of human passions—they incite to every evil deed. What is the reason, that it is the surest and shortest way to “blackguardism,” to be a frequenter of taverns, but because intoxicating drinks are there; attracting all the most worthless characters in society, and eliciting all that is worthless in these characters while they are together. Banish the drinks, and conduct the tavern on the principles recommended, and you immediately convert it into a school of instruction and virtue, good manners take the place of vulgar swaggering, and harmony that of disorder.

Such a change would be as beneficial to the tavern-keepers themselves, as those whom they entertain. The experiment of temperance coffee-houses is no longer a doubtful one. Wherever they have been conducted by persons of capacity, they have succeeded; and have withdrawn from the rival grog establishments many of their customers. The person who shall first open one in Montreal, will find it a most profitable speculation.

MONTHLY OBITUARY.—The work of death still goes on. Since our last number was issued, the following persons have fallen victims of intemperance.

First. S—, a member of the Bar, a young man of high talent, and a useful and respectable citizen, till disqualified by his intemperate habits. His death was sudden, like that of most drunkards.

Second. T—, a shoemaker, known for some time as a confirmed drunkard. Many of his quondam comrades attended his funeral; when they were returning, one of them said, *he had a dollar to spend in drink*, and proposed that they should go to a tavern for that purpose. But the first person whom he addressed was a teetotalter, and absolutely refused to enter the tavern door. Disappointed, and somewhat irritated, the dram-drinker addressed another, but found that he also was a teetotalter; this mortified him still more. Going on, he discovered that, out of nineteen persons, eleven were teetotalters, and would not join him in the unseemly debauch to which he earnestly pressed them. This roused his resentment beyond the power of farther restraint; he cursed the teetotalters for their want of sociality, and with the remaining seven, went into the tavern, to make merry, over the death of their companion.

Query. Does not this show us, that nothing but total abstinence is sufficient to stop the growing evil of intemperance? In the death of T—, these men received one of the most solemn warnings that could be given them, to beware of intemperance; but, so utterly incapable were they of regarding it, that we find them going