

been paupers and a public charge, who by one dollar's worth of rum to commence with, have become independent of the public's care, and now "sell and make gain." Why not grant such characters the benefit of the magisterial authority to sell instead of giving 18 comparatively wealthy shopkeepers a monopoly of the business? Consistency thou art amiable!

The clergy are among the warm advocates of the cause. They deliver lectures and preach on Sabbaths in favour of Temperance. All very well. But what avail is there lecturing and preaching while they keep the *rumseller* and the *rumdrinker* on their communion roll? Why not take "the more excellent way" and debar them from such privileges?—Were Church Courts to take a higher position and act consistently intemperance could not disgrace her pale.

If this traffic is morally wrong it is the imperative duty of both Church and State to prohibit that moral evil.

I remain yours in T. H. and Progress,

A TEMPERANCE WATCHMAN.
Pictou county, Feb. 25, 1857.

A REVIEW

Of the Temperance Cause in connection with its Society in Chester from its commencement down to the present.

DEAR SIR,—

The Chester Temperance Society was first organized on March 1st, 1831, more than a quarter of a century ago, with Rev Joseph Dimock as President. This Society forbade the use by its members of ardent spirits, but allowed wines and fermented liquors to be drunk, but not to excess, or to cause intoxication.—This continued for six years, when, in March, 1837, the total abstinence pledge was added to the constitution, and persons were at liberty to take either at their option. From that time to February 26th, 1841, 255 persons had belonged to the Society, when at its annual meeting, by unanimous consent, the total abstinence pledge alone was adopted, and 31 persons then present came forward and signed the reformed constitution.

The Society held monthly meetings regularly, receiving additions to their numbers, and too often, alas! having to exclude those who, not having resolution sufficient to enable them to continue firm to their pledge, had tasted of the intoxicating cup. From 1841 to 1845 the number who had signed the reformed pledge was 536. Judge Marshall in his tours used not to forget Chester (I think it was on the occasion of an address from him that I joined the Society upwards of 13 years ago, when ten years old, since which time I have ever remained faithful to my vow), but has frequently raised

his voice in favour of our principles, and with effect. After the death of Rev Joseph Dimock, the President, and I may add the parent of the Society, until the spring of 1818 the Society lay dormant. In March of that year a Mr Halls came to our village and delivered two lectures on temperance, which began to waken again the minds of the temperance community to the subject, and at this time 31 persons came forward and gave in their names. He was soon followed by the great temperance orator, Kellogg, who on the 24th and 25th of April delivered two of his powerful and telling addresses to crowded audiences, which roused the whole community and caused what may be termed a temperance revival. Numbers crowded to enlist themselves under the temperance banner; on the second evening upwards of 80 names were added, and more than 100 on both. The Society was reorganized on the 10th of May and a staff of officers appointed, the late George Mitchell, Esq., being President. Hitherto the meetings had been always held in the Baptist Meeting House, being under the direction of its pastor, but as they took more of a secular character it was thought best to procure the Town House for the future. A temperance choir was started, and added not a little to the interest of the meetings by singing temperance songs and hymns. Through the summer of 1849 a Temperance Hall was erected by the voluntary efforts of the Society's members and the Sons of Chester Division. The Hall is two stories high, the upper room occupied by the Sons and the lower one by the Temperance Society, and was creditably finished in the exterior. In August, 1849, the Society met in it for the first time. On this occasion six clergymen, all Sons of Temperance, were present, who advocated the cause in an able manner. Until the close of 1852 the Society held its meetings regularly, sometimes meeting with much encouragement, so much so that at one period the room, 42 by 25, was insufficient to contain the audiences that assembled, and it was seriously thought of enlarging the building, at others the cause declined, retrograded, until through the winter of 1853 it again relapsed into a state of lethargy. In April, 1853, the Society was again revived. A meeting was called and opened by the President, George Mitchell, Esq., who then stated that feeling old age on him, and wishing to retire more into private life during the remainder of his days, he felt obliged to resign the offices of President and Treasurer which he had held for the past five years, but that the cause was still as much thought of by him as ever, and should always have his best wishes and means to aid in its advancement, and until his death the temperance movement had his warmest

commendation and assistance. A vote of thanks was given him for past services, and a request that he would still countenance the Society by attending occasionally and taking a seat on the platform. James Mosher, Esq., its devoted Secretary for a long course of years, also resigned his office, being about to remove from the place. Thanks for his services were also tendered and duly acknowledged. A new staff of officers was then appointed, Rev James Spencer being President. Several meetings were held during the summer, but on Mr Spencer's removal from Chester they were once more discontinued. In December, 1853, Rev Mr Hurl delivered a lecture in the Sons' room with good effect. Mr Johnson also delivered one, and Rev Mr Francis two, on the same subject, in that winter. In May, 1854, the Society held its annual meeting, when Daniel Dimock, Esq., was chosen President, and other officers and a committee elected.

The Society held its meetings regularly until September, and were addressed by the President, Rev Mr Lightbody of New Brunswick, Rev J. W. DeBlois, Dr Chipman and others, when they once more ceased. From 1841 to 1854, 937 names were enrolled in the Society's book, and of this large number we may fairly suppose some have remained faithful until the present. Looking over the list I count the names of 240 persons whom I know, and believe them to have kept their pledges, while of the large number remaining many may be faithful whom I do not know, so that I may I think count upon 400 still being true and faithful. Of the large remainder, death and removal have taken a great many, and others, I regret to say, are walking the downward road of riot, ruin, and disgrace.

So matters have remained until latterly, and public meetings and demonstrations have been confined to those made and held by the Sons, when efforts were made to enlist the sympathies and aid of the clergy, thinking that the increase of intemperance in the community would render them anxious to assist in any way to promote its prevention and decrease. But this has been more fully treated of by "A Son" in a late number of the *Abstainer*. After the refusal of the clergy to co operate it was at first thought best to abandon the effort, but a few ardent spirits said, "No! something is needed in which the public can unite with us in our labors, let us make the attempt even though we should fail." So it was decided that a public meeting should be held, which accordingly took place in January, at which a goodly number attended. As it was thought a work of too great magnitude to review and revise the Society's old book, and as its pages are nearly covered it was concluded to leave