

**A PASTORAL LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN.—Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Synod of our Church, at its meeting in June last, received, read, and considered several overtures, and a memorial, on the subject of *Temperance*, and unanimously adopted the following finding, viz:—"The Synod "having heard the overtures, agree to receive and adopt them, and to record "their sorrow and anxiety at the great prevalence of the sin of intemperance, "and, recognizing their obligations at once to testify against, and strive to "suppress the evil, do hereby recommend each Minister of the Church to "take up the subject by an earnest address from the pulpit, at least once "in the year, and in every suitable way endeavour to discountenance the "prevalent drinking usages that lead to intemperance; and that the "Moderator, Dr. Thornton, and Mr. Wardrope, be instructed to prepare a pastoral letter on this subject, to be signed by the Moderator, and "sent to each Session of the Church."

In accordance with the terms of this deliverance, we desire earnestly and affectionately to greet you in the Lord, and to commend to your prayerful consideration the entire question to which it refers.

The subject is one of no ordinary importance and interest at the present time. It has occupied the attention of the highest ecclesiastical courts of other Churches as well as our own, and the united testimony of all is that the general use of intoxicating beverages is a great and terrible evil, and presents a powerful obstacle to the progress of pure religion, and the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

The vice of intemperance is alarmingly prevalent, and exerts its insidious and malign influence among all classes of society. Its baneful effects are seen not only among the poor, the ignorant, the degraded and immoral, but also among the wealthy, the influential, the respectable, and the professedly religious. Neither age nor sex, rank nor class, station nor profession, is exempt. It ruthlessly drags its hopeless victims from every quarter, and its malignant reign casts its shadow over us all; no man is free from danger, no home secure from invasion. The vast army which, under its fatal spell, marches on through indigence, vice, impurity, profanity, recklessness and ruin to a dishonoured grave and a hopeless future, is being ever recruited from the homes of the happy, the prosperous, and the moral, as well as from the hovels of the wretched, the outcast, and the vile.

It is utterly impossible fully to estimate the extent and magnitude of the evils—financial, social, moral and spiritual—which either accompany or flow from the use of alcoholic beverages, nor need we attempt the task, for many of them are patent to every observer, and few indeed, if any, are not called bitterly to grieve over them, and to suffer directly or indirectly in their persons or homes, their fame or fortune. Who of us has not had to weep over the folly, the fatuity, or the fall of some one, over whom our hearts lovingly yearned?