

## FRUITS OF INTEMPERANCE.—NO. 1.

MR. EDITOR,—I send you for insertion in the *Advocate*, if you think fit, the following account of a melancholy occurrence, which has lately taken place in this town; proposing to give you from time to time notices of similar events, which may spring from the use of intoxicating drink. For the sake of propriety, I shall divide this communication into separate parts.

*The Tragedy.*

On Monday evening, the 28th of last month, about nine or ten o'clock, an old man, named John Williams, long a resident in this place, and who has been for years in the habit of drinking freely, is called upon by an acquaintance, also a frequenter of the bar-room, whom he accompanies to a tavern near at hand, kept by a man who, at this time, had no license to sell intoxicating liquor, where, with two others, one of them son to the old man, they remain drinking till after midnight. During the night the old man finds his way home, and, being let in by his daughter-in-law, proceeds up stairs to go to bed. Next morning, about eight o'clock, she goes up to his room, and finds him with his clothes on, lying on his face—dead; his hands placed under his face, and his feet outside the bed or bunk; the upper part of his body inside, apparently as if he had fallen down as soon as he went up stairs, and died suddenly.

*The Coroner's Inquest.*

An inquest was held on the body the same day, and a number of witnesses examined, principally his drinking associates of the former evening. The evidence given plainly proves that the old man was intoxicated; even the tavern-keeper himself, in whose house they met, declaring that he was intoxicated when he left to go home, though able to walk, and confessed that he had set before them a decanter of malt whiskey, and left them to take as much as they chose.

*The Jury.*

Six of the jury either are at present, or have lately been engaged in tavern-keeping, three of them having occupied successively the very house, where the old man, whose mortal remains now lay before them, had last been indulging in the intoxicating cup. One of them is the present occupier of the house. He was also a witness in the case, as well as a jurymen. About half a dozen men of the jury are in the habit of drinking freely,—not unfrequently to excess.

*The Verdict.*

"Died by the visitation of God!" Three of the jury dissented from this verdict, thinking that intoxication had been the cause of the old man's death.

*The Tavern-keeper's Reward.*

On the day of the funeral, the tavern-keeper is fined £5 for selling liquor without license, not, however, for doing so in this particular case merely, but on former occasions.—Next day he applied to the proper authorities, and received a tavern-license, and may now sell as much liquor as he pleases; die who may in consequence.

*Reflections.*

Who is answerable for this man's death? Can his companions of that fatal evening plead that they are altogether innocent of the blood of old John Williams? Is it according to law that a jurymen should also be a witness in a case upon which he has to decide? sitting in judgment on his own evidence! If not contrary to law, is it expedient, or does it look well, or is it a likely way to promote the ends of justice that such a thing should be done? Was it fit or decent that this man should sit at all as a jurymen in such a case? The man in whose house old Williams was last seen, before he went home, in a state of intoxication! The man, moreover, who, in his evidence says, that he set before the deceased, and his drinking associates that night, a decanter of whiskey, and left them to drink as much as they liked! With regard to the composition of the jury which consisted of 23 persons, 6 of them were tavern-keepers, as many more, shall I call them drunkard's? Let them answer for themselves. Are such persons likely to be the most impartial judges in deciding upon a case of this kind? The verdict too! "Died by the visitation of God!" Is this according to the evidence? No body doubts that the deceased was intoxicated. Is it right to say that

a man dying suddenly in a fit, while intoxicated, has died by the visitation of God? Does it not look like an attempt to shift the blame from himself, or from others upon whom it might rest, and cast it upon God? Did the jury think of this when they returned such a verdict? Will they think of it now? And what are we to think of the tavern-keepers reward? Legal authority given him to destroy, without hindrance, the souls and bodies of his fellow-men! However, the above questions may be answered, one thing is plain—intoxicating liquor has once more in this case done its work; another victim has been added to the many that have already fallen before its deadly power. Who may be the next victim here, we shall probably know before long. The work of death, it is to be feared, is not yet done. If common report be true, this last loud warning has failed to produce any good effect upon some, at least, of those whom it ought to have arrested in the path of drunkenness, or in the business of making drunkards! How long is this state of things to continue? how long shall it be that in every newspaper we take up, we shall find some new account of the deadly effects of intoxicating drink? how long will the legislature legalize, and the people tolerate such a traffic in the land? One question more to those who are engaged in this traffic,—knowing, as you do, the daily effects of the liquors you sell, can you continue in the business without being answerable for the consequence—not merely at the bar of public opinion—but before the tribunal of a just God?

SPECTATOR.

PERTH, April 13, 1842.

## PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE.

## VICTORIA DELEGATION.

JOURNAL OF MESSRS. WILSON AND MITCHEL.

*First Week.*

*Cornwall, 4th April.*—Meeting in the Court House, a complete jam. The meeting went off with great spirit. At the close a tavern-keeper tried to disturb us, but he soon found that nothing would do but cold water; 41 signed the pledge.

*Moulinette, 5th.*—The still here, as well as in Cornwall, was a great novelty, and they were much surprised to see so much alcohol taken from a quart of beer, and then to find what kind of stuff the beer was.

*Osnabruck.*—The meeting was held in a tavern. A pint and a half of wine was distilled, and the audience was quite surprised to see a blue flame arise from what they thought so nourishing and strengthening; at the close 10 signed.

*Williamsburgh, 6th.*—Meeting in school-house; 9 signed the pledge, one of whom was a tavern-keeper, who is determined to sell no more. Another is to give his name soon.

*Matilda.*—A good meeting; a pint of port wine was distilled, which gave great delight to the audience; 34 signed the pledge.

*Prescott, 7th.*—At two p. m., addressed about forty soldiers and distilled a quart of beer. At the close of the meeting 12 signed the pledge. In the evening a meeting was held in the Methodist Chapel, which was full, many spirit merchants and distillers being present. A quart of port wine was distilled and yielded three gills of strong spirit, which greatly surprised the audience; 37 signed the pledge.

*Brockville, 8th.*—The meeting was held in the Methodist Chapel, and although it snowed, we had a large audience. A tavern-keeper went for a quart of his own beer to distil, and charged nothing for it. He was greatly surprised to find what kind of stuff he was selling; 85 signed the pledge, and when I invited any physician present to inspect the stomach plates, Dr. Dunham addressed the audience and told them that there were persons present who had worse looking stomachs than these, for these ought to have been more black and bloody to appearance; 15 more signed after he spoke, making 100 in all.

*Kingston, 9th.*—A small meeting. A bottle of the best London porter was distilled, and the audience were as usual astonished to see so much spirit taken from it; 15 signed. 10th.—Religious temperance meeting in the evening. We visited several families, and the gaol this day. We found that two clergymen sometimes visited the gaol, but no person visited or distributed tracts regularly. They are to set this on foot directly. There were about 40 in the