



Canada Temperance Advocate.

Temperance is the moderate use of things beneficial, and abstinence from things hurtful.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

GENERAL MOVEMENT in the United States to procure the prohibition by law of the sale of Intoxicating Liquor.

From the Western Temperance Journal.

A State Convention of the friends of Temperance is proposed in MAINE, to be held previously to the next session of the Legislature, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of enacting laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks.

At the State Convention recently held in Woodstock, VERMONT, it was recommended that the Legislature be requested to pass similar laws, and that the matter be submitted to the people, previously to the next session of the Legislature, for their sanction.

The Legislature of the States of CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, and ILLINOIS, have placed it in the power of the citizens of the respectable towns, in each State, to prohibit the traffic in intoxicating drinks.

The Legislature of the State of NEW YORK will be requested at its next session, to pass an act prohibiting the retail traffic of intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, to such extent as the laws of the United States will allow.

The State Temperance Society of NEW JERSEY, at a recent meeting, in Newark, recommended that immediate measures be taken to effect the same object in that State.

A meeting having in view the same object met recently at Harrisburgh, PENNSYLVANIA.

A State Temperance Convention has just been held in Baltimore, MARYLAND. The abolition of the license law was its object.

A memorial is in circulation, in SOUTH CAROLINA, to procure petitioners to the next Legislature for the repeal of those laws authorising the sale of ardent spirits, under twenty gallons, except by apothecaries and druggists, who may keep them for medicinal purposes.

In GEORGIA, vigorous efforts are making to secure the adoption of similar laws.

KENTUCKY also will be called on at the approaching session of her Legislature, to act in reference to intoxicating drinks.

The Legislature of MASSACHUSETTS, TENNESSEE, and MISSISSIPPI, have already acted. The retail traffic of alcoholic drinks, in their more virulent form, has been prohibited in these States, entirely.

It is right, or it is wrong, to license the sale of intoxicating drinks. Drunkenness is an evil, and it proceeds from intemperate drinking. Intemperate drinking is the result of a promiscuous traffic in whatever intoxicates, thus the promiscuous traffic in whatever intoxicates, constitutes the agent by which drunkenness is produced. Now is it right to establish, by law, an agent that shall spread devastation and ruin through the land? Is it right to establish, by law, an agent whose duty it shall be to dispense through the community the seeds of discord and death, whose province it shall be to promote immorality, to impoverish character, to degrade man? Is it right to establish, by law, an agent whose duty leads to the uprooting of whatever tends to perpetuate the law by which such agent is created? Is it right to establish, by law, an agent whose duty it shall be to protect vice, to destroy virtue, perpetuate licentiousness, to disorganize society? If it is, then it is surely right to license the sale of intoxicating drinks: for none can doubt their agency in producing the evils to which we allude.

We recommend the following questions to the attention of our readers. Make investigation and endeavour to answer them from

facts in your own neighborhood. This we say to friend and foe. By the answers obtained after a faithful inquiry, let our cause stand or fall:

1. What number of Distilleries, Taverns, Grog-shops and Stores, where ardent spirits have been sold, are there now, or have there been, within ten years, in your immediate vicinity, or within your personal knowledge?

2. What have been the effects upon the character, habits and health, of those persons generally, who have been employed in the several branches of business and traffic, specified in the first question, and upon the condition and circumstances of their families?

3. What, in your opinion, is the proportion, in your neighborhood, between the number of those who have died victims to strong drink, within ten years, and the number of moderate drinkers who have become confirmed drunkards, during the same period?

4. What has been the result of your observation, in reference to the habits generally of the sons of drunkards, of moderate drinkers, and of dealers in intoxicating liquor?

5. How many talented and promising young men, of your personal acquaintance, have been utterly ruined in fortune, prospects, character and health, and have gone down to the drunkard's grave, within ten years?

6. How many families, in the circle of your acquaintance, have been wrecked, desolated and reduced to poverty, what is the cause by intemperance?

7. How many beautiful and excellent young ladies have you known, who have had all their bright prospects shrouded in despair, and have been subjected to want, neglect and barbarous abuse, by marrying temperate drinkers, who speedily became abandoned drunkards?

8. What is a probable estimate of the number of broken-hearted wives and mothers, and of agonized sisters and daughters, within your knowledge, whose crushing calamities have been caused by the drunken degradation of husbands or sons, of brothers or fathers?

9. How many distressed widows and destitute orphans, has drunkenness made, in your vicinity, within the last ten years?

10. How many professional men, Clergymen, Lawyers or Physicians, have you known, as the victims of strong drink; having lost character, standing, business, health or life, by the habit of inebriation?

11. How many drunken School-masters have you known within ten years?

12. How many intemperate Ladies have you known, and in how great a proportion of instances was their degradation caused by the example and conduct of their husbands?

13. What length of time is usually requisite, according to your opinion and observation, to conduct a moderate drinker into the territory of confirmed drunkenness, and an habitual drunkard to his grave?

14. We would respectfully inquire of Ministers and Church Officers, in what proportion the cases of apostacy and excommunication, in their several churches, may justly be traced to this destructive vice?

15. We also respectfully solicit from Judges, and Sheriffs, and prosecuting Attorneys, an answer to the inquiry—what is the proportion in which deeds of violence and blood, result from the madness of intoxication?

16. What effects have been produced upon Indians, in your vicinity, by the use of ardent spirits, and by their access to grog-shops, in destroying value, health and life?

17. How many ruined estates, desolate and abandoned habitations, families reduced to beggary and scattered through the west-