

CORRESPONDENCE

Temperance Question.

To the Editor of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED.

Sir, Huntsville Dec. 12th. 1889.

I received the Nov. No. of your paper as a specimen copy. I think it a very good paper. My reason for writing is this. On page 6 there is an article on the comparative length of life of abstainers and the intemperate. I think the enclosed clipping will give a different aspect of the case. It is a pity that such misleading articles should remain uncontradicted. Of course I do not refer to your remarks as they are sound.

Yours etc.

EDWARD BRAY, JR.

ARE ABSTAINERS LONG-LIVED?

Abstainers and life assurance offices have decided this question in the affirmative. But the present age is nothing if not critical, and "all things, both great and small," are put again and again through the mill of criticism without fear and without remorse. To the inexperienced it seems as if it ought to be perfectly easy to decide a point of this kind, and to make the evidence so plain and clear that even opponents should feel constrained to close their mouths. But the initial difficulties of an inquiry into the longevity of any class are very great, and when the inquiry has been made and completed, it is so difficult as to be practically impossible to get the conclusions universally made known, much more to get them universally believed. Questions that are settled, and have been settled for ages among the initiated, are constantly raised afresh by the ignorant, and often make no small stir among people who are like-minded. For example, there are not wanting even educated men who persist in arguing that the earth is flat, and not spherical. The collective investigation conducted with so much pains and cost by the British Medical Association, has, among other subjects, gathered evidence on the relative longevity of different classes. It was stated a short time ago that the collective investigators, whose opportunities and labors have been almost world-wide, had decided that total abstainers compared unfavorably with moderate drinkers, and even drunkards, with regard to longevity. Everybody was astonished, even the moderate drinkers themselves; and abstainers and life assurance offices declined to accept the supposed conclusion. A short time ago Dr. Owen, one of those who had been engaged in the investigation, took an opportunity of explaining the origin of the rumour, and also of exposing its fallacy. An idea had got abroad, said Dr. Owen, that total abstinence was a very bad thing, and that total abstainers had a relatively earlier mortality than drunkards. This he emphatically denied. The actual facts were these. The temperate had an average of 62 years of life, the intemperate of 52. Total abstainers, on the other hand, did not reach an average of more than 51 years. But this was shown to be clearly due to this one fact, and to it only—that total abstinence preponderates largely among young people, even among children, so that no proper comparison can be made on these data alone. When "all sorts and conditions" of men and women above 40 years of age were compared, it was found that the average expectancy of life—in other words, the average longevity of abstainers—was four years in excess of the intemperate. The investigation also showed that the earlier death of the intemperate was caused in the majority of cases by distinctly alcoholic diseases. There is nothing here to show whether abstainers or moderate drinkers live the longer; but the comparison between abstainers and intemperates is absolutely conclusive and indisputable. Temperance lecturers and assurance offices are proved to be entirely in the right.—*The Hospital.*

Farmers' Institutes.

LIST OF MEETINGS TO BE HELD THIS MONTH IN ONTARIO.

The following meetings of Farmers' Institutes will be held during January:—

I.—NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

Drayton (West Wellington).....	3rd and 4th
Tara (North Bruce).....	7th
Chesley (Centre Bruce).....	8th and 9th
Teeswater (South Bruce).....	10th
Formosa (South Bruce).....	11th
Wroxeter (East Huron).....	13th and 14th
Mount Forest and Kenilworth (East Wellington).....	15th and 16th
Goderich (West Huron).....	17th and 18th
Hensall (South Huron).....	20th
Elora (Centre Wellington).....	22nd

II.—WESTERN DIVISION.

Lucan (North Middlesex).....	7th
Parkhill (North Middlesex).....	8th
Dorchester Station (East Middlesex).....	9th
Alvinston (East Lambton).....	10th and 11th
Glencoe (West Middlesex).....	13th and 14th
Botany (East Kent).....	15th
Zane (East Kent).....	16th
Windsor (North Essex).....	17th and 18th
Amherstburg (South Essex).....	20th
Tilbury Centre (West Kent).....	21st
Chatham (West Kent).....	22nd

III.—SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Freelton (North Wentworth).....	2nd
Drumbo (North Oxford).....	3rd
Innerkip (North Oxford).....	4th
Mount Elgin (South Oxford).....	7th and 8th
Shedden (West Elgin).....	9th
Waterford (North Norfolk).....	10th and 11th
Aylmer (East Elgin).....	13th and 14th
Port Rowan (South Norfolk).....	15th
Simcoe (South Norfolk).....	16th
Selkirk (Haldimand).....	17th and 18th
Marshville (Monck).....	20th and 21st

IV.—SOUTH-CENTRAL DIVISION.

St. George (North Brant).....	3rd and 4th
Brantford (South Brant).....	7th
Welland (Welland).....	8th
Thorold (Welland).....	9th
St. David's (Lincoln).....	10th and 11th
Hamilton (South Wentworth).....	13th
Oakville (Halton).....	14th and 15th
Georgetown (Halton).....	16th
Brampton (Peel).....	17th and 18th
Weston (West York).....	20th
Preston (South Waterloo).....	22nd

V. NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION.

Shelburne (Dufferin).....	3rd
Dundalk (South Grey).....	4th
Flesherton (East Grey).....	7th
Meaford (North Grey).....	8th and 9th
Creemore (West Simcoe).....	10th and 11th
Alliston (South Simcoe).....	18th
Elmvale (Centre Simcoe).....	15th and 16th
Aurora (North York).....	17th and 18th
Markham (East York).....	20th

VI. EAST CENTRAL DIVISION.

Uxbridge (North Ontario).....	3rd
Brechin (North Ontario).....	4th
Lindsay (South Victoria).....	7th
Bobcaygeon (North Victoria).....	8th and 9th
Peterboro' (West Peterboro').....	10th and 11th
Norwood (East Peterboro').....	13th and 14th
Warkworth (East Northumberland).....	15th and 16th
Baltimore (West Northumberland).....	17th and 18th
Bowmanville (West Durham).....	20th
Blackstock (West Durham).....	21st
Oshawa (South Ontario).....	22nd

VII. EASTERN DIVISION.

Pictou (Prince Edward).....	3rd
Centerville (Addington).....	7th
Inverary (Frontenac).....	8th and 9th
Lansdowne (Leeds).....	10th and 11th
Algonquin (Grenville).....	13th and 14th
Iroquois (Dundas).....	15th
Lancaster (Glengarry).....	16th
South Finch (Stormont).....	17th and 18th
Sanark (South Lanark).....	20th
Carleton (South Lanark).....	21st



A Summary of News for the Past Month.

2nd.—Opening of the United States Congress. Death of Mr. George Rogers, one of Montreal's oldest citizens.

3rd.—News received that the New York Herald's commissioner has met Henry M. Stanley in Africa.

4th.—Annual meeting of the International Beekeepers' Association, opened in Brantford, Ont. Mr. Tessier, Nationalist, elected to represent Rimouski in the Quebec Legislature.

5th.—Stanley and his party arrive at Bagamoyo, and are entertained at luncheon at German headquarters; Emin Pasha meets with a serious accident by walking out of an open window. Edward Silcott, cashier of the Sergeant-at-arms of the United States House of Representatives absconds to Canada, with \$72,000 entrusted to his care.

6th.—Death of Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Confederacy, at New Orleans.

7th.—Ex-Emperor Dom Pedro and family arrive at Lisbon, Portugal, and are warmly welcomed by the king. National Line Steamship Co's dock, New York, destroyed by fire, loss \$250,000; eight men burned to death and several seriously injured.

9th.—Death of J. H. Rathbone, founder of the Knights of Pythias, at Lima, Ohio. Death of Henry E. Searle, champion oarsman of the world, at Grafton, New South Wales, from typhoid fever.

10th.—Mr. Pearson elected Mayor of Winnipeg.

11th.—Judge Johnson appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court, Quebec Province. Major Boulton, commander of Boulton's Scouts, during the North-West rebellion, and J. A. Loughhead, Q.C., Calgary, called to the Dominion Senate.

12th.—Death of Robert Browning, the poet, at Venice, aged 77. The corporation of London, England, invites the explorer Stanley to accept the freedom of the city.

13th.—Great damage caused by floods in Sutter County, California, loss to grain crops alone estimated at a quarter million dollars.

14th.—Strained relations reported between Great Britain and Portugal owing to violation of British interests in East Africa. Destructive fire at Port Robinson, Ont., loss \$18,000.

16th.—After seventy hours deliberation the jury in the Cronin murder trial, Chicago, bring in a verdict sentencing Burke, Coughlin, and O'Sullivan, to imprisonment for life, Kunze to three years in the penitentiary, and Bezgas declared not guilty. Mr. Meredith, leader of the Ontario Opposition, lays down his platform at a public meeting in London, Ont.

18th.—Jubilee celebration of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. Mr. Colby, the new minister, re-elected in Stanstead County, Quebec, over his Equal Rights opponent, by a majority of 1045.

19th.—Mr. Parnell banquetted at Liverpool, England, and a cheque for \$17,500, for the Tenants' Defence Fund, presented to him. The North Dakota Prohibition Bill passed by both houses, and will go into force on July 1st.

20th.—Residence of Commander Grinnell, Fall River, Mass., and the famous collection of Arctic relics collected by his historic father, destroyed by fire, loss about \$80,000. Two young girls fatally, and eleven others seriously burned in Detroit, Mich., while rehearsing a Christmas cantata, through the fancy costume of one of them catching fire.

22nd.—W. J. McDonald found guilty in the poisoned candies case. St. John, N.B., with the plea of insanity admitted; the prisoner to be confined during the pleasure of the Crown. Petrolia, Pa., almost destroyed by fire, loss \$100,000.

23rd.—Scientific observations taken of the solar eclipse at St. Paul de Loanda, West Africa. Death of Henry W. Grady, the gifted Southern orator, at Atlanta, Ga.

24th.—John Ford, contractor, Gatineau Point, Ottawa, while temporarily insane, murders his wife and child, sets fire to the house and perishes in the flames. Betrothal of Duke Ernest-Gunther of Schleswig-Holstein to Maud, third daughter of the Prince of Wales, reported.

25th.—Conflict between whites and blacks at Jessup, Ga.; several lives lost.

26th.—Large number of fatal cases from influenza reported in Paris, France.

27th.—Reported that the new State of South Dakota is threatened with bankruptcy. The British squadron of action ordered to Gibraltar, so as to be in readiness to move at once to Lisbon.

28th.—The ex-Empress of Brazil dies suddenly at Oporto, Portugal, from heart disease. Capt. O'Shea, ex-M.P. for Galway, institutes an action for divorce against his wife, naming Mr. Parnell, the Irish leader, as the co-respondent.

29th.—Mr. Gladstone celebrates his eightieth birthday.

30th.—Mr. Owen Murphy, Liberal, elected to represent Quebec West in the Local Legislature. Many cases of influenza reported in Montreal, Winnipeg, and Ottawa.

31st.—Death of Rev. Dr. Patton, President of Howard University, Washington.