

The history of Ireland, since a recent period, forms an indubitable exemplification of the blessings of Temperance, in doing away with crime. Once, and but recently, did it stand unenviably conspicuous among civilized nations, as a land familiarized to deeds of violence and bloodshed—whose courts of justice were occupied with numerous and flagrant criminal cases; but *tempora mutantur*—crime has almost fled the land—in many places, there has scarcely been anything for the judge to do; the violent disorganization in the moral system has been partially and speedily cured, and not more pleasing and striking is the first hush of stillness after the tempest, or the first sweetness of peace after protracted warfare, than is this sudden sinking of the elements of moral discord and violence into the calmness and gentleness of virtue and sobriety.

In our own country too, we are continually hearing witness borne to the good moral effects springing from the principle of total abstinence; every Temperance society can tell some of the blessed fruits that are growing up under their cognizance. The Committee of the Montreal Convention declare "that there is not one report but contains evidences of the good which our principles have effected. Civil, moral, and religious improvement, follow certainly and speedily in the train of our exertions. But if our principles were not good, these results would not attend them."

Are we wrong then in asserting that the system which legalizes a traffic which produces four-fifths of crime in all civilized countries, that destroys the balance between the moral and intellectual powers, must be resting on a fallacious and insidious principle? If intoxicating drinks instigate men to crime, if they fill our jails, and are the greatest occasion of bringing men before the bar of justice, is not that system which connects itself with them, and yet lets them loose on the public, standing in hostility to the moral improvement of the community?

(To be Continued.)

TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL AT HAMILTON.

In last number, we called attention to this celebration, which takes place on the 21st instant; the following extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Gore District Association, communicates some further details, to which we request the notice of the friends of Temperance in that part of the Province. We hope that the proceedings will be forwarded us for publication:

DUNDAS, June 2—I have been directed by the executive committee, to request you to give notice, that a Temperance Festival will take place at Hamilton, on Wednesday the 21st instant, when it is expected that some of the ablest speakers in Western Canada will advocate the cause of total abstinence. Our friends are looking forward to a great day, the arrangements being on a large scale; two thousand tickets have been ordered to be printed, and with a view that all interested in this great work may have an opportunity of attending, the price has been put at 1s 3d—two tickets to admit one gentleman and two ladies. Societies at a distance wishing for tickets, will please send their orders as soon as possible.—R. SPENCER, Cor. Sec.

PROPOSED CONVENTION.

We gladly insert the following letter from the President of the Niagara District Total Abstinence Association, and beg to urge on Temperance Societies throughout the Province the important suggestion contained in the communication relative to forming distant associations preparatory to the general convention which it is proposed to hold during the approaching meeting of the Legislature. "Union is strength" should be our motto, and "onward" our action.

At a meeting of the committee of the Niagara District Total Abstinence Association, held at St. Catharines the 19th May, 1843, it was *Resolved*—That this Association highly approve the

motives that have led the Montreal Society to make the proposition contained in the *Temperance Advocate* of the 15th ult., respecting a general Temperance Convention, to meet at the seat of Government during the next session of the Legislature. Of such importance indeed do this association deem such a general convention, that in their opinion, the District Unions must fall very far short of accomplishing the salutary objects they are capable of without it, and they are desirous that the Convention, whenever called, shall prove efficient in promoting the great objects had in view by the friends of Temperance. They however fear that it would be premature to act in this matter with a view to holding a general convention during the approaching session of Parliament, in consequence of but a minority of the Districts of the Province having formed themselves into associations, and the time to intervene being too limited to bring about those organizations, in which it is also considered very desirable that the districts of Eastern Canada should unite.—JACOB KEEFER, Pres. N.D.T.A.S.

We beg attention to the following notice of a meeting to form another District Association:—

TO EVERY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY IN THE DISTRICT OF VICTORIA.

The committee of the Belleville Temperance Society, invite you to send one or more Delegates to meet them at the E. Methodist Meeting Room in Belleville, on Saturday 24th inst. at one o'clock P. M. The object of the meeting is to consider the propriety of forming a District Association for the purpose of facilitating our movements in the great contest with the monster Intemperance. We have no fear for the result if all will do their duty—victory is as certain as that truth will ultimately prevail over error, and virtue over vice. The good sense of the community is already with us—it is no longer a reproach to be known as a tee-totaller. Friends of humanity (for all Temperance men are such) let neither distance nor expense deter you from rallying round the Temperance standard, which we hope to see rising higher and higher, until all the nations of the earth shall be marshalled under its banner.

Belleville, June 8, 1843.

A. G. COLEMAN, Sec.

The concluding part of the letter from the Secretary of the L'Original Temperance Society is so appropriate that we have transferred it to a more conspicuous place in our columns:—

"I sincerely hope the time will soon come when the influence and contributions of all will be given to the aid of that cause which it is the immediate object of our society to support, and when the question will not be, how much can I consistently spare of superfluous means? but rather, how much is it in my power to give of the goods of Divine Providence, of which, I am but the Steward? Then, and only then, shall we see our (now almost tottering) moral and religious societies sustained, their salutary influence made known, our fellow-men happy, and our country prosperous. 'God loveth the cheerful giver.'"

A correspondent wishes to have our views on the propriety of holding temperance festivals in Inns where all kinds of intoxicating liquors are sold. The opinion of temperance men in this part of the country, would set down this practice as very objectionable; and we beg to urge the friends of temperance, when desirous of enjoying themselves by such pleasant and profitable means as *Soirées* are calculated to be, that they will choose more desirable places. Having the bar shut for the evening does not seem to mend the matter much.

Here, in some instances the churches have been used, and in the old country the practice, we believe, is still more common, when more suitable places are not to be procured. Many persons will no doubt have scruples to employ them for such purposes, but we cannot but think it much more preferable to do so than have temperance men resort to the public house.

The Agent has fixed upon the 5th day of July next for the Juvenile Procession and Pic-Nic. Small hand-bills, however, will be issued, stating the hour, place, line of march, and other particulars. It is expected 4000 young persons will be present.