

Canada Temperance Advocate.

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor do any thing by which thy brother is made to stumble, or to fall, or is weakened."—Rom. x. 12—*Macnight's Translation.*

PLEDGE OF THE MONTREAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO AGREE, THAT WE WILL NOT USE INTOXICATING LIQUORS AS A BEVERAGE, NOR TRAFFIC IN THEM; THAT WE WILL NOT PROVIDE THEM AS AN ARTICLE OF ENTERTAINMENT, NOR FOR PERSONS IN OUR EMPLOYMENT; AND THAT IN ALL SUITABLE WAYS WE WILL DISCOURTEGE THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

MONTREAL, MAY 10, 1848.

THE TRIPLE DESTRUCTION.

We have spoken of the destruction of grain and its results, and they are such as at once to show that the term *destruction*, with reference to its use as food is not properly applicable. It is said, that sometimes on the continent of Europe, where there has been an abundant harvest, the grain is stored on the ground, covered with mats; and in this position it is often rotted and of course destroyed. Some of it will sprout, and probably in the coming summer produce a beautiful green covering for the heap, but to all good purposes it is destroyed. The same grain, however, cast abroad on the teeming earth prepared by culture to receive it, though seemingly dead and destroyed for a time, awakes again in ten-fold vigour and sometimes an hundred-fold in amount. This is a valuable destruction, and the labour bestowed in all the processes connected therewith is consequently valuable labour. There is a return for it. There can be no doubt that the labour bestowed by the miller and baker on the grain, is valuable as improving it and making it more fit for the use of man as food; and all who buy such food, from the proceeds of labour expended in any way, find a valuable return in it. They are strengthened and fitted for producing more, and as it would be poor economy for a farmer to refuse to throw his seed into the ground because it gets there destroyed and seemingly all rotted, so would it be for a man to refuse to purchase and consume necessary food. The grain consumed by a people in its legitimate shape is ever returning and reproducing itself—other things being equal, there is necessarily continual addition made to capital, as in an ordinarily prosperous state of any nation, it should be able to raise more food and other necessities than it can consume, or something with which to purchase these. There is nothing in the nature of food to prevent addition to capital—but who will venture to say as much of alcoholic drinks?

The value of every article is regulated by the labour bestowed on it. A lumberer cuts down a tree two or three miles from the river, he drags it thither and lays it on the ice, ready for Spring, to be floated away to the market. The nearer it comes to that market it rises in value from the labour bestowed on it. The Carpenter and Upholsterer receive the logs and cut them up into planks, deals, veneers. Tables, chairs, beds, &c., are manufactured from them. The manipulation these men bestow on the wood raises it in value. These articles are

necessary—they are the instruments by means of which man comfortably receives the food God bestows, and takes the rest his body and mind require—they are the machinery which assists in making, planning, acting, thinking for our own good, and that of mankind in general. He who buys them or gives a portion of the process of his labour, has a return in them. They are useful—they are, to a certain extent, a species of reproductive fixed capital. When it is confined within proper limits, investment in furniture is profitable, and long before it is worn out, if at all taken care of, it repays itself. Without chairs, tables, couches, &c., the business of life could not go on.

The case of iron is similar. The miner takes it from the ground, extracts the ore and makes it into what are called pigs. From this it is fashioned into every kind of article, each individual working in it adding to its value, and he who purchases the proceeds of such work, as axes, hammers, knives, razors, lancets, &c., finds his advantage. The more labour bestowed the better should be the article, and the better able will the workman be to perform his allotted work; whether with axe he cut down trees, or with hammer he fasten the nail in its place, or prepares stones for macadamizing our highways, or uses the razor or the surgical instrument. The better of course will he be paid, as with a superior article he does his work in shorter time and in a more efficient manner.

So is it with almost every change which takes place in the process of manufacturing. The value of any article is increased, and the receiver requiring it cheerfully gives what is considered an equivalent, because with what he receives he, in some way, is able to obtain more than he has given. We exchange thus with the upholsterer, because we must sit on a chair, sleep on a bed, and eat from a table; and by all these processes we are strengthened for necessary duties. We pay the tailor and shoe-maker, and the manufacturers of other articles of dress, and thus we are *protected from the weather, and, when chosen with propriety*, there is considerable addition to a man's respectability from these. There is destruction of sheep and cattle in the production of leather and wool, and there is destruction of coats and shoes, in use, and wear and tear on tables, chairs, &c.; but, in the meantime, out of all these we have a return. They are articles indispensable. A distinction is usually drawn between capital invested in instruments of trade, whether simple and complex, and what is laid out for food, clothing, rest, &c.; but, in the present case, it does not seem necessary to draw that distinction, our object being to show, that while, for almost every outlay of money, the proceeds of labour, a return is given which is valuable to the consumer, he who pays for the results of the labour of the distiller, alone receives no return. His money is given for that which is not bread, and his labour for that which satisfieth not.

It has been said that alcoholic liquors are an article of luxury, and that they are in the same category with a mahogany chair, while it happens that the buyer, from the state of his finances, should have been contented with one of pine. But it is not so. A person does not injure his health in the slightest by using a mahogany chair or table,