

method of declaring that intoxicating drink is *not necessary* for the soldier, and hail with delight, the approach of that happy time, when the benign influence of Temperance principles will be spread through the whole British Army and Navy. This is the humble desire of, &c.

Montreal, April, 1838.

JOHN FRASER,
Sergeant, 85th Regt.

[FOR THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.]

A SHORT SERMON ON BEER DRINKING

By a Tavern-keeper.—Delivered in his own Bar-Room.

"Ye may as well eat the devil, as drink his broth."

Sir,—Some time ago, the above profane observation was addressed by a Tavern-keeper in this place, to a member of the Temperance Society, who till that time had been an advocate for the moderate use of wine and beer, when his ideas on the subject were very much changed by the Tavern-keeper's remark, which he described to me as a sermon he had heard,—"*a short sermon from a wicked man,*" which he will not soon forget.

Feeling himself in need of refreshment, he had stepped into the Tavern, and called for a glass of beer, just at the time when another man, not remarkable for temperate habits, had ordered a glass of whiskey. The latter thinking his own liquor of course the best, asked the other to partake of it, who declined, at the same time expressing his opinion that it was not good to drink ardent spirits, and arguing in favor of the useful qualities of beer. "Oh," says the other, "they are all the same, only you like the beer, and I the whiskey, and its only a notion of your's to prefer the beer."

While discussing the comparative merits of the two, the Tavern-keeper himself stepped forward, and at once settled the point in dispute, and put an end to the debate, by saying, "O yes, they are all the same, and you may just as well eat the devil, as drink his broth."

Drinkers of alcohol, what do you think of the Tavern-keeper's short sermon? What do you think of his opinion of your favorite liquors? Advocates of wine and beer drinking, how can you ask the drinker of ardent spirits to abstain, or hope that he will, as long as he sees you drink, what he thinks you love as well as he loves his ardent spirits?

Members of Temperance Societies, is it right for you to go into taverns, and drink what those who should know its nature well, call *devil's broth*? Keepers of taverns, brewers, distillers, and all ye who traffic in intoxicating drink, when will you cease from sending forth these waters of death, to spread misery, and disease, and crime, and death, through the land?

Followers of Jesus, when will you all unitedly stand up, and with one voice, testify against all the abominations of this accursed traffic, till it is banished from the earth? T. C. W.

Perth, U. C. March 29, 1838.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

Sir,—If the following passage from Major Keppel's Travels has not already appeared in your columns, it may deserve a place, as furnishing a hint for both tavern licensees and tavern frequenters. The semi-barbarous Turks' plan of having a *mad-house* as an appendage to coffee-houses, where opium is consumed, is truly admirable, and conveys a most important truth, in a way that is likely to produce a sensation. Might not mad-houses, among nations who consider themselves polished and civilized, be classed according to the nature of the inmates; for instance, into those whose inhabitants are naturally insane, and into those which would contain self-made lunatics, whether by opium or spirituous liquors? It would be advisable that the institutions of the latter class should be maintained by a tax upon tavern-keepers and spirit-sellers; as the more they sent to them the more they would be obliged to pay.

(From Major Keppel's Travels across the Balkan.)

"Opposite the mosque of Sulimanieh (in Constantinople) is a line of coffee-houses, the usual resort of the opium-eaters. It is now forbidden to indulge in that drug; and, in consequence, many of the coffee-houses have been ruined. Such, however, is the fondness of the Turk for it, that, in defiance of the prohibition,

many, both old and young, may be seen enjoying that state of utter abstraction which opium produces. They are easily recognizable by their sallow, unhealthy looks and vacant stare.

"At the end of these coffee-houses is a mad-house, an appropriate appendage to such a neighbourhood, and the invariable retreat of those whose intellects have been destroyed by the use of the baneful drug. It would seem placed there as if to warn them of their probable fate."

THE LICENSE LAWS.

The assertion, so often repeated, that the Temperance cause is a failure, is signally refuted by the following facts, so public and important that they can neither be concealed nor denied. I mean the recent alterations in the license laws of three of the States in the neighbouring Union, by which it is made illegal to sell a glass of spirituous liquor within their bounds.

When the Temperance Reformation began, I will venture to say, its most sanguine and enthusiastic advocate never for a moment conceived that such a consummation could have been attained in ten years. Yet the increased efforts of Temperance men in lecturing, printing, and distributing publications, till the whole land was penetrated by the light of truth, have accomplished this great work.

Some may be inclined to say that these new laws are passed only for form's sake, but will remain inoperative. And I readily grant that this would be the case, were the majority of the people against them. But it must be recollected that legislative bodies never precede, but always follow, public opinion; and that it is *because the majority of the people wish for such laws that they are passed*. And the majority which has called for them, in this case, must be more than a bare majority; else, the aversion to what is new and untried would have rendered the change impracticable: it must be, and in fact is, an overwhelming majority. And what is more, there are strong indications in eight or nine other States of following, very soon, in the same honorable course.

It may be objected that liquor will still continue to be sold in one way or another; and that these laws will only make men hypocrites as well as drinkers. But it must be recollected that this reasoning would apply to every other crime. Would any one wish to see a state of society where murder, or theft, could be committed openly and unblushingly? Is it not better to set the stamp of public reprobation so strongly upon these sins, that, if they are done at all, they must be done in darkness and secrecy. And is it not clear that the opportunities and temptations for committing them will be infinitely fewer, and more counteracted by the fear of losing character and standing in society, than if there were no laws against them.

The same thing, it appears to me, will hold good with respect to selling alcoholic liquors. When the traffic is stigmatized by law, not only all those who are really good, but all those who wish to appear respectable, will desert it; and it will be left to its appropriate ministers,—the characters who neither fear God nor regard man; and will be carried on in the haunts of obscurity and infamy, where kindred vices abound.

In fact, the vice of drinking, or furnishing alcoholic drinks, will be stripped of all its ornament and tinsel; and displayed to the eyes of a rising generation in its natural hideousness and deformity.

I, however, believe the abrogation of license laws to be more the result of a healthy moral sense in the people, than a mode of producing that state of feeling; for it is an invariable feature in the history of all reforms, religious or moral, that they fight the battle themselves; and conquer without the aid of,—and frequently in spite of, the influence of civil law and power. And legal enactments only come to their aid, when they are strong enough not to need them.

J. D.

IRISH MEMORIAL.—On Saturday last, a memorial of Uriah Ritchie and 480 others, Irish residents of this city, was presented to the Legislature, praying for a repeal of the License Laws, and that a law may be passed, making the sale of ardent spirits a penal offence. This is coming from the right quarter, and will have great weight with the Legislature. No class of our community are greater sufferers, and have a deeper interest in this subject, than the Irish.—*Boston Mercantile Journal*.