

well-grounded. Meetings every where were thinly attended—the *Advocate* continued his monthly visits, but like a neglected visitor, he was made to give way to others of more engrossing interest—many were wavering in their attachment—some were falling back into the ranks of the drunkard—numerous and unfavourable influences were springing up on every side—and the grand enemy was likely to achieve an easy victory. Such was the crisis, such the actual condition, such, to human view, were the prospects of Temperance Societies within these few months. And what has been the issue? It cannot be said that the enemy has been vanquished or driven from the field. Unhappily there is evidence to the contrary in every direction. But this much may be said, and said with confidence, that the enemy has been baffled, and is on the retreat. A reaction has taken place. Every where the good cause is reviving, and is urged onward by a powerful and invisible influence. Canada is organized for the work. She is up, not indeed in all her strength; still, she is up, and in array against this power of darkness.

Nor was this, he said, a mere sudden, and therefore momentary excitement. The movement has been the result of calm, deliberate, intellectual, and conscientious conviction. There is nothing sudden or vapoury about it.

The meeting was a good one, and will live long in the memory of all who attended it.

I cannot close this letter without noticing the lamented death of a fine young man. It occurred in this neighbourhood; and the circumstances that led to it speak volumes in favour of the temperance cause. An Irishman and his wife and their little child, were riding in a train, last March, up the Gatineau River. They had been on a visit to Bytown, and the father and mother had got very tipsy. They had a keg of rum with them, and felt very merry and unconscious of danger. While driving along at a very good rate, they came near a piece in the river where the ice was very bad. Some lumbermen standing near it, warned them of their danger, and told them to take another route. But all to no purpose. Reckless of consequences, they proceeded on their journey. The ice broke under them. Some of the lumbermen ran to their assistance, and with difficulty succeeded in taking them out of the water. The child was taken up apparently lifeless, but afterwards recovered. The most melancholy part of the story remains to be told. One of the young men, who ran to their rescue, the only stay of his aged parents, broke through the ice, and sunk to rise no more! This occurred about four miles from my own house. And I have often thought since—what must be the feelings of that man and that woman. *Surely they will not drink rum any more.*

Yours, &c.,

G. CHURCH.

LOWER CANADA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

St. Andrew's, May, 1839.

Sir,—The Annual Meeting of the St. Andrew's Total Abstinence Society was held in this place on the 21st March last. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Byrne, of L'Orignal, (who kindly came for that purpose), Elder Metcalfe, and Rev. Mr. Edwards, sen., from Clarence, who severally pleaded for abstinence from intoxicating drinks. The following is an extract from the Report:—

"The Temperance cause, like every other good cause, has suffered from the preparations made to resist the late unnatural rebellion. The assembling together of great numbers of men from different parts of the country—their exposure to fatigue, and the inclemency of the season—the false notion, that intoxicating drinks are useful or necessary at such times—the corrupting influence of example, together with the disregard of moral obligations, which the spirit of war teaches; seem to have had a most pernicious effect on the morals of the community; and led numbers back to their old habits of tasting, or occasional drinking, or habitual drunkenness, and to think little, and care less, about Temperance Societies. The last annual meeting of the Society was held on the 7th of March, 1838, at which time thirty signatures were added to the Total Abstinence pledge. The whole number who have been added here is 131: of these, two have died, five have left the place, and nineteen have forfeited their pledge, leaving 105 members, who are recognised as adhering to Total Abstinence from intoxicating drinks.

"Your Committee are aware, that so far from relaxing in any degree their efforts in this good cause, an increase of effort is called for at the present time. Since the last meeting, several persons in the surrounding neighbourhood have gone to the drunkard's grave. One distillery has commenced its fearful work of changing the wholesome bounties of Providence into the 'fire water' of misery and death. The sale of intoxicating drinks, we have reason to believe, has much increased."

The meeting was well attended, and we hope the cause has received some additional life. Since the meeting was held, we have had eighteen new signatures to the Total Abstinence Pledge, and several persons have agreed to take the *Advocate*. The following persons were constituted Office-Bearers of the Society for the ensuing year, viz.: W. G. Blanchard, Esq., *President*; William McEwen, *Vice-President*; J. Edwards, *Secretary*.

Wishing you every encouragement in this benevolent work, I am, dear Sir, your's sincerely,

JOHN EDWARDS, *Sec.*

CLARENCE, July 14, 1839.

Sir,—On the 26th ultimo, the Temperance Society in this place held its semi-annual meeting. Several addresses were delivered on the occasion, and considerable interest evinced in the subject of temperance. Our Society has at length adapted the sweeping measure of Total Abstinence. In taking this step, some diminution in numerical strength has been sustained; yet it is presumed that the stability of the remaining members, and their more efficient exertions in future, will amply compensate this loss. We feel very much the value of the *Advocate* in keeping alive the subject among us, and regard it as the main-spring of temperance in Canada. From the scattered nature of the population generally, without some such vehicle for the communication of information, even such as have already been awakened to the importance of temperance, should be in great danger of sinking into apathy, and permitting the destroyer again to hold undisputed sovereignty among us. Some resolutions, relative to this and other subjects connected with temperance, passed at the above meeting, are here submitted, and also an address* in support of the third resolution. I am, &c.,

WILLIAM EDWARDS, *Sec.*

1. *Resolved*,—That this Society notices, with feelings of unfeigned pleasure and gratitude, the very favourable account contained in the last *Advocate* of reaction in temperance among many Societies in this country.

2. *Resolved*,—That this Society, deeply sensible of criminal apathy for some time past, trusts its future career will be marked by activity and zeal, more corresponding with its responsibility, as a professed engine of reform.

3. *Resolved*,—That this Society views with sentiments of increasing satisfaction, the growing interest and promising usefulness of the *Canada Temperance Advocate*, and considers it the duty of every friend to the cause, to lend his support towards the dissemination of that highly valuable periodical.

4. *Resolved*,—That this Society, satisfied of the utter impossibility of producing by its present pledge that permanent reformation which it is the object of Temperance Societies to establish, agrees that the old pledge be removed, and the entire abstinence pledge be adopted in its room.

ENGLAND.

It gives us sincere pleasure to be able to lay before our readers the following extract from the *Toronto Christian Guardian*. We congratulate the friends of temperance on the firm stand which that influential paper has taken on the side of total abstinence, and augur the happiest results from it.

TEMPERANCE.—We have resumed our department under this head on the last page, which has been for some time discontinued in order to dispose of matters which seemed to demand an immediate as well as prominent attention. The fearful increase of intemperance during the last year or two—with a proportionate decrease in the real interests of the community—admonish us of the necessity and importance of contributing to the utmost of our power towards arresting the progress of the plague, and promoting amongst all

* An abridgement of this excellent address will appear next month.