

emanate. They will be laid before the first Committee Meeting of the Montreal Temperance Society.

St. Catherines, Feb. 29, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—Several circumstances have occurred to prevent an earlier transmission to you of the following resolutions of the Niagara District Total Abstinence Association, assembled here on the first Tuesday of this month. In relation to the third resolution, I would remark that the association mention the third day of the next session of Parliament in the expectation that it would take place in June next; but as this is uncertain, it is deemed advisable that you appoint some day in June for the meeting of said convention, unless you may know of some objections that would render it improper. Among the reasons assigned for holding the convention in June, it has been mentioned as being more convenient, as many merchants will then be visiting your city from almost every part of Canada West, and in many instances, can attend to the business of said convention without incurring any expense to the cause.

It is also considered desirable that every district in Canada West be represented by not less than two delegates, and that Canada East adopt such numbers and plan of representation as the prominent friends of Temperance shall approve. It may be also proper to observe, that the committee of this District Association consider it of the first importance that delegates be able to give the number of teetotallers in their constituencies, and that no part of Canada shall fail of being represented. It is felt to be of the highest importance that said convention shall be strictly a *Temperance Convention* without reference to religious sects or party politics. One requisition only will be necessary, and that is, "Total Abstinence," all else to be common ground.

This committee are very anxious to have a full attendance of delegates, as there will be much important business to transact besides the formation of a Provincial Union. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

A. S. St. John, Cor. Sec.

*Resolved 1st.*—That this association would recommend to the Montreal Temperance Society, to discontinue the free circulation of the *Temperance Advocate*, as it incurs a heavy expense upon the Temperance community, with but little good resulting therefrom.

*Resolved 2d.*—That this Association deem it a matter of vast importance for the furtherance of the cause in the Province, that a Provincial Convention be called, for the organization of a Provincial Association.

*Resolved 3d.*—That this Association would recommend that a Convention of Delegates be called for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Union, to meet at Montreal on the third day of next session of Parliament, and that Mr. Cameron and Mr. Keefer be the delegates to represent this association.

#### A SHORT SERMON ADDRESSED TO CHURCH MEMBERS.

"But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam,"—Rev. ii. 14.

Balaam was a professor of religion who loved money, and who to obtain it put a stumbling block in the way of the Children of Israel, over which many thousands fell and perished; for this conduct his name is held up to peculiar execration, and the church at Pergamos is taken to task by the Faithful Witness for having in its communion followers of his wickedness.

In what respect is the case different with distillers, and rum-selling church members in our own times? Do they not put a stumbling-block in the way of the people, over which multitudes fall and perish, and is not their object gain? If so can it be wondered at that so many churches are barren and unfruitful, seeing that the Faithful Witness has this thing against them? Let all that are so circumstanced hear his words, "Repent, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

#### TO LATE SUBSCRIBERS.

The subscribers to the *Advocate* have multiplied so much faster than was anticipated, since the commencement of the Tenth Volume, that a large surplus printed in the expectation of new

subscribers has been exhausted, and, we are sorry to say, we have in consequence been compelled, in supplying several orders, to omit the numbers for 15th January and 1st February.

The only Temperance Meetings that have been attended with much success, in Montreal, this winter, are those of the Victoria Society. We expect to give some account of them in our next.

A good deal has been said in the newspapers, lately, about the benefits which distillers confer upon the country, in encouraging Agriculture. We propose to examine the subject in next *Advocate*.

## EDUCATION.

### Old Humphrey's Observations,

ON THE PRICE OF THINGS.

Whenever I want any thing, I always ask the price of it, whether it be a new coat, or a shoulder of mutton; a pound of tea, or a ball of pack string. If it appears to be worth the money, I buy it, that is, if I can afford it; but if not, I let it alone; for he is no wise man who pays for a thing more than it is worth.

But not only in the comforts of food and clothing, but in all other things, I ask the same question; for there is a price fixed to a day's enjoyment, as well as to an article of dress; to the pleasures of life, as well as to a joint of butcher's meat. Old Humphrey has now lived some summers and winters in the world, and it would be odd indeed if he had passed through them all, without picking up a little wisdom from his experience. Now, if you will adopt my plan, you will reap much advantage; but if you will not, you will pay too dearly for the things you obtain.

The spendthrift sets his heart on expensive baubles, but he does not ask their price; he is, therefore, obliged to give for them his houses, his lands, his friends, and his comforts; and these are fifty times more than they are worth. The drunkard is determined to have his brandy, his gin, and his strong ale; and as he never makes the price an object, so he pays for them with his wealth, his health, his character, and his peace—and a sad bargain he makes of it! It is the same with others. The gamester will be rich at once, but riches may be bought too dear; for he who in getting money gets also the habit of risking it on the turn of a card, or a throw of the dice, will soon bring his noble to nimpence. The gamester pays for his riches with his rest, his reputation, and his happiness.

Do you think if the highwayman asked the price of ungodly gain, that he could ever commit robbery? No, never! but he does not ask the price, and foolishly gives for it his liberty and his life.

Old Humphrey has little more to say; for if a few words will not make you wise, many will not do so. Ask the price of what you would possess, and make a good bargain. A little prudence will secure you a great deal of peace. But if, after all, you will have the pleasure of sin, I pray you, consider the price you must pay for them.

Yes, thine may be the joys of vice,

And thine without control:

But ah! at what a fearful price—

The price may be thy soul!

"What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"—Matt. xvi. 26.

#### ON EXCELLENT IDEAS.

It was in the summer that I was sitting at a table by myself, in the corner of a public coffee-room, pondering on the pages, of a book which an old friend had just lent me, now and then taking a sip of coffee, and occasionally casting a glance at the flickering gas-light, which flared within a few feet of the table.

There were several well-dressed young men at the opposite end of the room, engaged in conversation, but so deeply occupied was I with my book, and my own speculations, that most likely not a word of all they said would have distinctly reached me, had it not been for an exclamation in which one of them frequently indulged. Scarcely five minutes elapsed without his crying out, "That's an excellent idea!"