

to my appeals, and united themselves together as a formidable army to combat the demon Intemperance; and this fatal enemy of the happiness of the human race not only trembles before them, but flies and avows himself every where vanquished.

Intoxicating drinks did not cost the parish of Beauport less than £1800 to £2000 last year; and this year there will not certainly be £100 spent for them. The good which results from this salutary reform is incalculable in every point of view. To give you an idea of it, I may mention, that in 1838 the *habitans* had only the means of instructing twenty-five or thirty children in a miserable school; whilst now they sustain, by £300 of voluntary subscriptions, six good schools, in which 300 children receive instruction suitable to their condition.

The parish of *L'Ange Gardien* has a Temperance Society of 400 members, and *St. Joachim* one of 600. I may add, that the number of our members increases rapidly every day, and that they are firm and constant in their good resolution. Accept, Sir, the sentiments of high consideration with which I am your very humble servant,

C. CHINIQUY, PASTOR.

[If every parish in Lower Canada were to save £1800 a-year from strong drink, and spend £300 in education, the charge of Ignorance would not long be applicable to our French-Canadian fellow-citizens. It is therefore evident that the priests have very much in their power; and if they all choose to exert themselves, like M. CHINIQUY, Lower Canada may, in one generation, take a high place among enlightened nations.—ED.]

### 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. xiv. 21.—*Macnight's Translation.*

MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1841.

**CIRCULATION OF THE ADVOCATE.**—The circulation of this paper is now much more extensive than it was in former years—being upwards of 6000 copies monthly;—nevertheless, we think it should be much greater. The population of the Canadas is about one million, of which at least half speak the English language. Now, allowing the common estimate of five persons to a family, here are 100,000 families which ought to be supplied with the *Advocate*. These 100,000 families may be said to compose two classes, viz.: those who are friendly to the Temperance Reformation, and those who are opposed to it. The first class should unquestionably deem it a duty to take a Temperance paper; and the second class ought to be supplied with one by enlightened and benevolent neighbours. Indeed there is, perhaps, no way in which philanthropic individuals can do more good to their neighbours and the country at large, than by diffusing Temperance principles; and the press is certainly the best instrument they can employ to do this effectually. The low price at which the *Canada Temperance Advocate* is published, namely, one shilling per annum, exclusive of postage, places it within the reach of all. And the Committee of the Montreal Society stand pledged to continue to publish it at that price whatever the pecuniary sacrifice may be, and to make it as generally interesting and useful as possible.

We therefore entreat Societies and individual friends of the cause to aid in extending the circulation of the *Advocate*. This is the season for public meetings. Let the matter be urged upon the attention of these meetings. Let the office-bearers of Societies or other friends of the cause request every family in their respective districts to subscribe; and let benevolent individuals, who have the means, order a number of copies for gratuitous distribution among their poor or intemperate neighbours. In this way, Temperance

principles will be effectually diffused through the whole mass of society, and a reformation effected which will rejoice every heart, and richly reward all who have laboured in its accomplishment.

If we may judge from the public papers, the people of Kingston and Toronto are greatly troubled at the extraordinary number of licenses which have been granted at these places for taverns and dram-shops; and the evil must indeed be glaring, if the editors of political papers, who are usually the staunch friends of these establishments, cry out against them. This evil may, however, be remedied by the magistrates who caused it. They may grant fewer licenses, or none at all; and all the real wants of travellers will be as well supplied in houses of entertainment, which do not keep intoxicating drinks, as in taverns. But there is another evil, almost equally extensive, which it is beyond their power to remedy—we mean the system now very prevalent of selling without license. The number of persons convicted for this offence in Kingston, Toronto, and elsewhere, is great; and the number dismissed for want of evidence or technical informality, much greater; yet both put together form, no doubt, a very inconsiderable part of the whole number of offenders. This evil is a great and increasing one; and, for the following reasons, we do not see how it can be remedied by laws imposing pains and penalties.

1. They who engage in this business usually love it for its own sake, and wish to drink at prime cost.

2. The immediate profits are large; although, in all probability, gained at the expere of ultimate ruin.

3. Persons who engage in a business which causes the violation of every law of God, will not be likely to care much about infringing Acts of Parliament.

4. The chances of prosecution and conviction are trifling; because the sympathies of all their friends and acquaintances are in this instance with the law-breakers, not with the law, as was strikingly illustrated a short time ago in Kingston, where a number of men went to gaol rather than give evidence against a person who had sold drink without license.

5. It is very difficult to see why, if the business of selling liquor be a good one, it should not be open to every one; and thus prevent much jobbing and favoritism in the granting of licences; and if a bad one, why it should be licensed at all? why should wholesale dealers be perfectly free, and only retailers restricted? If the article sold be dangerous or hurtful, surely the wholesale dealer is equally, or more to be guarded against than the retailer.

We know individuals, who, by their extensive importing business and distilleries with which they are connected, supply each probably from 500 to 1000 tavern and dram-shops, licensed, and unlicensed; and instead of being visited with the reprobation of society, they are loaded with its honours. What consistency would there be in enacting pains and penalties against little dealers, whilst these great ones "went unwhipped of justice?"

But if penal laws will afford no remedy against an evil which bids fair to undermine the whole frame of society, legislators and magistrates may very well ask, What will? This question we are prepared to answer, Let them banish the wine and brandy bottles from their tables, and set the example of abstaining from these superfluous and baneful beverages, and they will soon see it imitated by the people. Let them give, in addition, all the encouragement they can to Mechanics' Institutes, public Libraries, Popular Lectures, Tract distribution, Education, and above all, Religion among the people, and they will very soon find the necessity for penal enactments against unlicensed rum-sellers superseded.