

## CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

TEMPERANCE IS THE MODERATE USE OF THINGS BENEFICIAL, AND ABSTINENCE FROM THINGS HURTFUL.

No. 7.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1836.

VOL. II.

## Selected Articles.

**Address of the Convention of Delegates from the several Temperance Societies in Upper Canada, to their fellow-subjects of every rank and condition.**

RESPECTED FELLOW SUBJECTS.—We, the Delegates of several Temperance Societies in the Province, being assembled in Provincial Convention, most respectfully and earnestly call your attention to the subject upon which we are convened,—a subject of the highest moment, bearing upon the peace, prosperity, and happiness of our rising country.

We will not stop to *prove*, what is unanimously admitted by all possessing any ordinary degree of intelligence and candour, that the vice of intemperance is highly detrimental to the best interests of every class of the community,—but just advert to a few particulars, indicative of the *extent* of the evil as, alas! it now exists in our country, and bears upon the several departments of society; the pressure of which must be felt by every individual more or less, whatever may be his opinions, prejudices, profession, occupation, or pursuit: whether he be religious or irreligious, temperate or intemperate, old or young, rich or poor, in a word, whoever he may be or whatever he may be—it matters not—he must feel in some measure, in the first place, *the pecuniary embarrassments and national loss occasioned by the use of intoxicating liquors*. The number of persons using ardent spirits daily in greater or less quantities, may be fairly estimated at not less, throughout the Province, than 90,000. Supposing these to consume at an average a pint per day each, the quantity drank in the year would be 4,106,250 gallons; which at 2s. 6d. per gallon, (a very moderate price indeed for brandy, spirits, and whiskey together,) would amount to the enormous and almost incredible sum of L.543,281 5s.! Here is a tax indeed—a dead loss to the community—to the fearful amount of upwards of Two Millions of Dollars annually; a sum sufficient of itself for every public purpose for which money is required. Apply it to the construction of canals, railroads, public highways and edifices, or to the promotion of education and support of charitable institu-

tions, and what would it not accomplish? what would it not effect on the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing enterprise of the Province? But when we take into account the cost of fermented liquor: with the loss of time, injury of health, derangement of business, and failure of credit, unavoidably attendant on the practice of drinking intoxicating liquor, who can estimate the damage sustained, the public loss incurred, in the use of this degrading and deleterious poison?—In the second place, *the moral profligacy superinduced by means of intoxicating drinks*. It is too notorious to need proof that the far greater part of the murders, riots, assaults, and violence which infest society,—the uncleanness, profanity, and impiety which debase and ruin the human character,—the unfaithfulness, unkindness, ignorance, and poverty which afflict and disturb the domestic circle,—is justly attributable to the influence of intoxicating drinks. Who does not feel, who does not deplore this? Even the poor debased, besotted drunkard himself,—he “who hath wee, who hath sorrow, who hath contentions, who hath babbling, who hath wounds without cause, who hath redness of eyes,” in his sober intervals, will groan in anguish of spirit, under the evils which he suffers, and the wretchedness it brings.

In view of this, need we wonder at the pecuniary embarrassments, lack of public enterprise,—the ignorance, pauperism, and crime, under which the country now suffers and complains?

We refrain from any remarks relative to our accountability to God, the danger and loss of the immortal soul, and the bearing of the subject on the eternal destiny of man; as these more properly come within the province of the ministers of the Gospel; while we trust the hints given above will suffice to arouse, at least, the thinking part of the community to immediate action. What Christian, what moralist, what philanthropist, what patriot,—in a word, who that loves himself, his species, his family, his country, or his God, can be indifferent as to the effects of intemperance? can look supinely on, and not do somewhat, nay, all in his power, to arrest its progress, and drive it from the land?

Do you ask what can be done? We an-

swer, much, very much, by means at once the most simple, easy, effectual, and inoffensive; and which are within the reach of every one. Only let a Temperance Society be formed in every neighbourhood, and in proportion to the numbers united will the cure be effected; and should it comprise the whole of the inhabitants, the evil is stopped at once and completely, *without any person sustaining the least injury or inconvenience whatever*. This must be, this *has* been, the happy result of well-directed Temperance Societies in every place where they have been established. We see or hear of them in the neighbouring States, in Europe, Asia, and even Africa,—spreading their benign influence, and attracting the admiration of the world; and shall Canada be behind? shall we suffer the cause to languish and pine, and our country to bleed, droop, and die under the withering pestilence, for want of a little effort to save her? Heaven forbid! Canada as well as “England expects every man to do his duty.”

The advocates of Temperance Societies are not selfish or bigotted in their views; all they aim is *destruction of intemperance*. Does any one propose a better plan, “a more excellent way;”—promising, from reason and experience, more effectual and immediate results, they are prepared to adopt it without hesitation; but, till then, they must pursue their object in the way already so happily tested.

To the manufacturers and venders of intoxicating liquors, in particular, it is hoped a few remarks may not come amiss. The Convention would approach this description of persons as friends, not as enemies,—as fellow-subjects, interested with them in the general prosperity and happiness of their country. To such the principles and measures of Temperance Societies may at first appear hostile and detrimental, but on further reflection it must be obvious that even they themselves can but profit by the success of Temperance efforts.

No individual ever was, ever can be, profited in the end, by injury inflicted on the community of which he forms a part. Just so far as the body is injured, must each member suffer with it. All the gain the manufacturer of or dealer in spirituous liquors acquires is so much loss to the country in