

drink which may be termed *the excessive use*. Generally the appetite of the individual is taken for his own standard, and he seldom if ever thinks *he errs*; and hence while one imbibes a bottle of our strongest wines at a sitting, another is content with his two or three glasses, and yet the latter may be the most intoxicated of the two. The question, what is the excessive use of intoxicating drink, has never been correctly answered by any stickler for its ordinary use as a beverage; but reformed inebriates will to a man declare that *all* use of it is to them and all others in their circumstances, *excessive*. Those fathers who have taught their sons to drink, genteelly, the sparkling glass, until the appetite was formed, and they went down to a drunkard's grave, will also say, all use of the wine cup is excessive. The widowed wife and orphan children, who mourn over a departed husband and father, who fell a victim to the seductive wine cup, will echo the sentiments, all use of the destroyer is excessive. The most eminent physicians in our land, assure us, that the habitual use of any intoxicating drink is injurious to men in health, and that it is destructive to those who have once been drunkards. Many of them also assure us that no man is in possession of the full powers of his body and mind after he has drank one glass of wine. They also assure us that many men bring on that most horrible of all diseases, the *mania a potu*, or horrors, who were never intoxicated in their lives. All the drunkards in our land, began to drink very moderately, and not one of them saw in the distant prospective the end of his course,—the drunkard's grave. Now if it is an admitted fact, that the entire three or five hundred thousand in our land who are drunkards, commenced as temperate drinkers, is it not an insult to the understanding to talk of the excessive use of what caused all this misery—intoxicating drink. We say nothing of the proper emblem of our Saviour's blood at the Eucharist, except that it *cannot* have been any thing which had distilled spirits added to it. In your paper of the 5th instant, you have the address of Professor Parker to the Medical Temperance Society of your city, in which he says, of fifty-two thousand pipes of the stronger wines annually drank in this country, fifty thousand are manufactured without any of the juice of the grape. Now to the other two thousand pipes imported, we have good evidence that large quantities of alcohol are added before they are shipped; indeed, we have strong doubts if any pure wine is ever imported into this country, for we have been assured in wine countries, that such was not the fact. We will not say that all use of any thing which contains the least alcohol is sinful, but we do say that all use, as a beverage, is highly detrimental, and therefore all such use is excessive.

## FIRES.

It is worthy of remark that the great fire at New York, on the 31st March last, was occasioned by a person throwing a glass of liquor into a stove, from which the fire communicated to a chimney, and finally destroyed a hundred houses, and left two thousand persons houseless.—*Messenger*.

Some fires have also occurred here lately which are clearly attributable to the use of intoxicating drinks. Indeed we are convinced that if Insurance Companies would closely investigate the circumstances attending all fires that occur they would find that a very great majority of them are caused in some way or other by alcohol. But who really pays these losses? The Insurance Companies? Certainly not: they make a profitable business.—The payers of premiums or in other words the public pay for them all. The premiums are calculated to cover all risks, and the money paid into Insurance Offices chiefly paid by the temperate part of the community, is chiefly drawn out on account of the sale or use of liquors. Is this equitable? Premiums should in justice be calculated in a new manner, beginning with the rate for Teetotallers, and charging an additional percentage for the liberty of using intoxicating drinks by the master of the establishment himself, and so much more for every member of his household, or individual in his store, who does the same. Or we should have a Teetotal Insurance Office in which the pre-

miums might be very low, less at all events than half of what they now are.

DEATH AMONG THE TAVERN-KEEPERS.—Two of this class of our fellow citizens have recently been cut off in an awfully sudden manner. We beseech the *three or four hundred* who remain, to reflect upon the possibility of being called direct from the bar-room to the judgment—from the business of injuring the bodies and souls of men, to the righteous retribution of that tribunal where there is no respect of persons, and where a corporation license will prove but a small justification. Rum-sellers, ye are our brethren, ye bear in common with every son of Adam, some trace of the image of God. We implore you by every consideration of mercy to the public, as well as to yourselves and your families—we implore you for the sake of Him who died for you, to give up the soul and body destroying traffic in which you are at present engaged.

The Rev. Mr. M'CUNE has produced quite an excitement in the District of Prince Edward. At a lecture of his in Demorestville, fifty-three signed the pledge, and through the course of the night, a tavern-keeper cleared out, bag and baggage. If this be a usual result of the Rev. gentleman's labours, we know other places that stand in need of his services.

Some rum-sellers have undertaken to put down the *Prince Edward Gazette*, for fearlessly admitting temperance articles into its columns; but like most other persecutions, this one has failed of its object. Indeed, in consequence of it, the Editor has obtained many new subscribers.

We are rather inclined to think after reading Mr. M'DONALD'S letter which appears in this number, and to which we call attention, that the District of Prince Edward is the "Banner District" of Canada. We trust, however, that there will soon be more competitors for this distinction in the field.

The committee of the Montreal Temperance Society having in connexion with their Depot, opened a reading room for the diffusion of Christian and Useful Knowledge, request the editors of moral, religious, scientific and commercial papers and periodicals to exchange with the *Advocate*.

We call attention to the Journal of the Victoria men Messrs. WILSON and MITCHEL. They are carrying things before them in a manner worthy of their designation. An addition of 1416 Teetotallers in four weeks is something new for Canada, even in this age of wonders. Still it will be seen by a perusal of the article from the *New York Evangelist*, entitled *The Valley of the Mississippi*, that our neighbours are a-head of us.

We have learned with great satisfaction that the Irish Temperance Society of this City, of which Rev. P. PHELAN is President, now numbers upwards of 5,000 members, of whom about 2500 are Teetotallers.

The appointments for Temperance meetings in the New-Castle and Colborne Districts are advertised upon the last page of the cover.

The Montreal Temperance Reading Room is now open every lawful day. We trust it will be extensively patronized. The terms are uncommonly low. See advertisement.

We thank our respected Perth Correspondent *Spectator*, for the faithful and fearless exposure of so much iniquity, and we earnestly pray friends of the cause every where to send us the particulars of deaths that occur through the use of intoxicating drinks.