

At Kingston I found things in a flourishing state. Two meetings were held when I was there; the last, for discussion, proved rather interesting. The weather, however, was very unfavorable, and the meetings thin; twenty new subscribers to the pledge were obtained, making 124 in all. This Society has produced such an influence on public opinion by the unwearied exertions of its excellent officers, that temperance principles now form a general topic of discussion in Kingston. A Society had also been formed amongst the military at Fort William Henry, which was rapidly increasing.

A gentleman present at the last meeting in Kingston stated that there is in Newburgh Camden East, a Teetotal Society of 102 members, and that a merchant of that place, who is also a tavern-keeper, had stated that his business had prospered with the prosperity of the Society, for though he sold less liquor he sold a great deal more cloth and calico.

At Gananoque the attempt to form a Society two years ago had proved abortive, and the place has been much afflicted with intemperance. The ministerial influence here is adverse to Societies on the total abstinence principle; and wherever that is the case, I have observed that intemperance abounds, and great difficulties attend the formation or carrying on of Temperance Societies. The meeting at Gananoque was a full one, and 101 signatures were obtained to the teetotal pledge, in addition to twenty-two before. A Mr. Legg of this village, who has been left almost alone to labour in this cause, paid me for twenty copies of the *Advocate*, which he means to distribute round the country, and an order for Subscribers in the village was obtained for as many more.

At Brockville the meeting was rather thin; the people of that place generally appearing to treat the matter with great apathy. Nevertheless, there is a Society of about 100 members, of which Paul Glassford, Esq., an influential magistrate, is President, and Mr. Watson Secretary; and at least one minister of the town, the Rev. Mr. Campbell (Scotch Church), is an able and zealous advocate of the cause. The Rev. Mr. Mulkins (formerly Wesleyan, now Church of England) has also aided the Society, but he declined taking any part in the meeting above-mentioned. There is a good Temperance house kept in Brockville by Mr. L. Houghton, one of the most active officers of the Society.

I was here informed that at Farmersville (behind Brockville) a Society formerly existed on the moderation pledge of 300 members, the expulsions from which were four or five a month. They have now a Tee-total Society of 135 members, from which the expulsions have only been two in two years!

At Prescott I had the pleasure of addressing one of the fullest and most respectable meetings that I have seen; and I think the audience were prepared for the consideration of the subject by some awful events which have lately occurred there. No fewer than eleven inhabitants of Prescott have been hurried by strong drink into eternity within the last few months; and I was appalled to hear it stated as a fact, by several intelligent persons, that three out of every four deaths that had taken place amongst the adult male population of the place, for about two years back, had been caused by intemperance. The details connected with many of these deaths are horrible; and if I may judge from appearances, many more of a similar kind will soon follow. Could any war be waged against Prescott more relentless, more cruel, more fatal, than that which the traffic in intoxicating drinks is now waging? Yet its own most respectable, wealthy, and, I may add, public spirited citizens, are engaged in this traffic. Is the wealth that is gained from such a source not steeped in the tears of widows and orphans? Is it not accompanied by the groans and blasphemies of the victims who are hurrying to a drunkard's grave, to a drunkard's eternity? Is it not deeply stained with blood? Is it not the fruits of a traffic which is prying upon the vitals of society? Can it be followed with a blessing? These are serious questions. It is not necessary to answer them to me; nevertheless they must be answered some day to God. I by no means intend by the foregoing remarks to convey the idea, that Prescott is worse than other places; the same thing is going on almost every where; but the victims have been counted in Prescott. If they were counted every where, surely the public would be awakened from the fearful delusion respecting intoxicating drinks, which at present prevails.

If all the miserable victims of intemperance that have been hurried to a premature grave in Upper Canada during the last few years

could be mustered before us, some of them swollen and bloated from drowning, others with their brains blown out by their own hands, others frozen to death, others mangled and crushed by waggon wheels, others shrieking and convulsed with delirium tremens, others bloated up into one hideous mass of corrupt humours, others emaciated to the last degree, others gashed and gory with wounds inflicted in drunken brawls. If all these (and they would amount to thousands) could be arrayed in one hideous battalion, would this sight not put an end to drinking for ever? I am afraid not. If men willfully shut their eyes and understanding to the voice of reason and experience, they would not be convinced though all these rose from the dead.

At Prescott I received invitations to address temperance meetings at Ogdensburgh N. Y., and Cornwall. The meeting at Ogdensburgh was respectable, and I was treated with much courtesy and kindness. I there understood that an Academy, which was established some time ago in the village, had not succeeded, because there were so many saloons and drinkeries about Ogdensburgh, that parents did not like to send young men there for education:—a fact to which I call the attention of the gentlemen concerned in King's College Toronto; Queen's College Kingston; and McGill College, Montreal.

At Cornwall the meeting was held in a small place, which was, however, well filled. All the influential folks (magistrates, officers, ministers, and merchants) in Cornwall stand aloof from the temperance cause, though the lamentable effects produced by intoxicating drinks are staring them in the face in every direction, and leave this great reformation to be carried on by two old men, who, besides earning their bread by the sweat of their brows, find time and means to contend with the prevailing intemperance. I never felt more humbled for human nature, than to see the rich, the learned, the young, and the strong shrinking from the contest with intemperance, or quietly submitting to its chains, and leaving two grey-haired old men to fight the battle almost alone. A few signatures were obtained on the night in question, and a Society has since been organized.

I find that I am still obliged to defer my remarks upon a portion of the magistracy of Upper Canada for the next number of the *Advocate*; but I cannot conclude without expressing devout gratitude to the Almighty for enabling me to keep all the appointments which I announced (not without many misgivings) in the columns of the *Christian Guardian*, as well as several others to which I was invited by the way. I have also to express my best thanks for the kindness and courtesy with which I was every where received, and the excellent arrangements for meetings and speakers that awaited my arrival in the different places.

I am, your obedient Servant,

JOHN DOUGALL.

Letters to the Editor.

LAPRAIRIE, April 25, 1840.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

SIR,—It affords me great pleasure to be able to state, that the cause of temperance is progressing in this place. Since my last, we have had another public meeting: the speakers were Messrs. Dougall, Crofts, and Morton, from Montreal. The facts stated, shewing the awful prevalence of intemperance, with its invariable attendants—poverty, misery, crime, and death—produced a very powerful impression on the minds of all present. At the close of the meeting, twenty-two persons signed the pledge. Our number in society now amounts to forty-six. In proof of the increased interest which is now taken in the temperance cause in this place, may be mentioned the increased demand there is for the *Advocate*: no less than twenty-seven persons have given in their names as subscribers for the *Advocate* since our first meeting. We are looking forward with anxiety to another meeting, which we hope to hold in about a fortnight from this time; for we are conscious that the best method for spreading temperance principles is, to bring the subject of temperance before the minds of the people as often as possible; and we hope, that ere long, by the circulation of the *Advocate*, public meetings, and individual effort, Laprairie will be raised to that rank