

tality in the Temperance Section of that office during 8 years, had been less than half the usual rate, being only 6 per 1,000 annually. Out of 136 *Clerks* assured, the only death during eight years, was that of a man aged seventy-three. Out of 150 *Tailors*, not a single death had occurred in eight years. These are singular facts, and calculated to call serious attention to the influence of intoxicating liquors on the bill of mortality.

A FRAGMENT.—The practice of drinking alcoholic liquors has no redeeming qualities to commend it to a Christian's regards. It is favourable to no interest of man, for time or for eternity. True, it is not in all cases ruinous. But to be safe from the bite of a venomous reptile, we must crush it in the egg, and not cherish it on the plea that it has sometimes been domesticated without biting. If we would not be dashed from a precipice, we must not trifle on its verge: we must avoid the beginnings of evil, if we would escape its bitter end. And surely a real Christian will not give his countenance and patronage to that which heads such a train of mischiefs.

WHAT VEGETABLE CONTAINS THE GREATEST QUANTITY OF ALCOHOL?—No vegetable contains alcohol at all, for alcohol is the result of a peculiar kind of fermentation, in which sugar or gluten are both present, particularly the former; those vegetables which contain the largest proportion of sugar, as sugarcane, beet-root, parsnip, the juice of certain trees, &c., are therefore used with most economy in the production of spirits, although spirits does not exist, ready made, in any of them.—*Mugazine of Science.*

THE TRIAL OF THE RECHABITES.

Jeremiah, Chap. xxxv.

(BY THE EDITOR OF THE QUEBEC HERALD.)

The chamber of Hanan—the guests are all met,
The wine-pots and flaggons in order are set;
And the prophet stands forth the command to enjoin,
“Ye children of Rechab, I bid you drink wine.”

How lofty their bearing, how noble their mien,
The heirs of a monarch these shepherds might seem;
They pause not to parley, nor blush to confess,
“No wine for the children of Jonadab's race.
Our father commanded; no houses have ye,
Your home be the land where the roebuck roams free;
Nor trace ye the furrow, nor train ye the vine;
We build not, we sow not, we will not drink wine.
Did Jonadab deem it the basiliaks' heir,
And point to the wine cup, and bid us beware?
Or promise our days in the land should be more,
With the wild fowl's drink, than the wine-drinker's store?
And shall we, his children, his counsel contemn,
And barter our birth-right for bondage and shame?
The youth in his spring-time, the babe at the breast,
The maid and the matron obey the behest;
The wave of the Jordan o'er Carmel shall flow,
Ere we pass from the precept we fearless avow.

The Chaldee has swept o'er the land like a flood,
And the wolf and the vulture are battling in blood.
We fled from the inroad we might not repel,
And to-day, in the city, as strangers we dwell;
To-morrow, the star of Chaldea may wane;
Away to the forest and freedom again.”

The doom of Judea the seer has denounc'd,

Now hear ye the boon which obedience has won;
Their fame who the wine-cup have loath'd and renounc'd,
Shall last while the tide of existence doth run.

While nations shall rise, and shall flourish, and then
The sites of their cities be sought for in vain;
While the sun holds his course and the world doth stand,
The Rechabite never shall cease from the land.

Sound, sound the loud trumpet, go forth and proclaim,
The heirs of the promise, still true to their fame;
Away in the desert, the Arab can tell,
Preserved from contagion, the wineless still dwell;
The nations have passed, as the waves o'er the strand,
But the children of Rechab still dwell in the land.

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1849.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON INTEMPERANCE.

This is one of the most important documents on the question of Temperance that has ever been presented to the public in this Province, not in consideration of its intrinsic merits, but of the place from which it emanates, and the influence which it may consequently be expected to carry. It consists of two parts; first, the Report of the Committee; and, secondly, the evidence on which it is founded; which evidence has been gathered, either from the examination of gentlemen who appeared before the Committee, or from correspondence; or from Public Official Returns, all of which are thrown together without any perceptible order or method. The first of these we shall present to the readers of the *Advocate*, without abridgement, as our space will permit; and many portions of the second are so important, that we shall transfer them also to our pages.

Judging from the Report, the Committee have met at least five times; have examined four persons, and corresponded with ten; four of whom being connected with the Excise, have been applied to only for Official Returns. Their report contains the testimony of only two gentlemen of the Medical Profession, both of whom are resident in Montreal; and of only one Clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy. It is much to be regretted that the Committee did not apply to a greater number of persons, and endeavour to bring evidence from all parts of the Province. As they were a Parliamentary Committee, representing Western as well as Eastern Canada, they ought to have endeavoured to ascertain public sentiment at both ends of the Province. Why did they not address circulars to members of the Medical Profession in Quebec, Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, &c.? Why did they not obtain a return from the Lunatic Asylum in Toronto, as well as at Beaufort? As the subject committed to them is so intimately connected with morality, the Clergy of all denominations had a right to be consulted. It is to be regretted that the labours and investigations of the Committee have been confined within so narrow bounds, this, we fear, will render the influence of their Report more limited and local than it ought to be. Nevertheless, we accept of it most gratefully, in spite of its defects; and if we cannot thank the gentlemen composing the Committee for their great labours, we have to thank them for the bold and fearless manner in which they proclaim the truth on this all-important question. To many of our readers who have been long engaged in the Temperance warfare, struggling with severe opposition and reproach, it must be peculiarly gratifying to find Honourable gentlemen proclaiming the principles of the Temperance Reform-