

would stick to it all his life, for it was a good thing to have a profitable paper, and to get two guineas a day to go out and preach Temperance." This raised a great laugh among the passengers. I quietly remarked, that I knew of no higher objects to which human talent and energy could be directed than the judicious relief of the destitute and miserable, the education and enlightenment of mankind, and the reformation of the drunkard, and of the drinking usages and customs which were ruining more bodies and souls, than all the rest of the evils with which mankind were afflicted. If this be a mania, I added, I wish it might become epidemic; and though I had always had a high opinion of Joseph Livesey, I had now a much higher one, and I trusted that his fellow-citizens would support him liberally, as I was fully convinced no man in England better merited a rich reward. This rather damped my opponent, who said he was no advocate for drunkenness; but that teetotalism was a gross delusion, and reiterated the old arguments about alcohol being in bread, and the food undergoing fermentation in the stomach, &c; plainly showing the necessity that exists for disseminating knowledge on the most common matters.

I was greatly shocked to see so many tipping-houses and taverns in Kingston and Toronto; as a cursory glance it would appear as if alcohol were gradually sapping and undermining the whole frame of society in these places.

I proceeded by the Falls to Buffalo, where taking the steamer for Detroit, I passed up Lake Erie. On this boat, although there was a good deal of tipping at the bar, especially in the morning; yet there was no liquor set down on the table, or called for at meals; so that one could partake of the bounties of Providence without having a bottle of liquid fire thrust under his nose. At Detroit there is a fearful array of groceries, as they are called, or drunkeries as they should be designated.

I crossed over to the Canada side, and as I was going to remain a few days, I took opportunity to converse with some of the most influential folks, about the propriety of calling a meeting, and attempting to form a Total Abstinence Society at Sandwich. They were generally favourable to the scheme, and some of them had before attempted, unsuccessfully, to form Societies on the Moderation plan. I got a book with the Constitution of a Society, and the teetotal pledge engraved; advertised a meeting at the Ferry opposite Detroit, now called Windsor, and had the satisfaction of seeing a very respectable audience of all classes and conditions assemble. Mr. Williams, our teetotal friend from Bristol, who had just arrived, was introduced to the audience by the Chairman, and made, as is usual, a very effective appeal. I followed him, and answered some objections which were made during the course of my address. I then introduced the Constitution and pledge to the attention of the meeting, and invited all those, who were disposed to become Subscribers, to come forward. Twenty individuals signed immediately, among whom were several of the most respectable inhabitants of the place; and a good number of mechanics and working men. One person who signed, said he would have been ten thousand pounds richer than he now was, had it not been for drinking, and I was informed by some persons present, that in all likelihood he spoke the truth. Another individual, a tailor, who has an excellent business, and is an honest good-hearted Englishman, when not in drink; but when tempted to excess, has sometimes been like a demon than a human being; confessed that he would be a hundred pounds a year better, if he could give up drinking. Both these individuals continued to be consistent members, I believe, as long as I staid, and I earnestly hope they are so still, as if they continue firm, a vast number of others, who are now on the verge of destruction, will come in. A second meeting was held a few days after in Sandwich Village, about two miles from the former, which was addressed by Mr. Williams, and the Rev. Mr. Cleveland, from Detroit; a gentleman who has zealously and ably advocated the cause for many years, and who had long and earnestly desired for an opportunity of extending his labours to the Canada side. At this meeting the Clergyman of the Church of England showed a noble example, not only to his flock, but to clergymen in others parts of the world, by giving the weight of his influence and name to the Society. Several other gentlemen, some of them magistrates, joined the Society at this meeting, or shortly after, and several ladies voluntarily signed the pledge, for the purpose of encouraging others, and introducing total abstinence principles into families. The Society numbered, when I left, forty-two members,

and was rapidly increasing. I give below the names of the officers who were elected to serve for the first year.*

I likewise went down to Amherstburgh, about 14 miles below Sandwich, to co-operate with some individuals there, who were anxious to commence a Society, and I think I never met with people more zealous in the cause than some of them were.

A meeting was called which was very well attended. Mr. Williams, a local preacher, and the writer addressed the audience, and a book with constitution and pledge was submitted as at Sandwich. The Presbyterian Clergyman was the first who signed, and he was immediately followed by twenty-five more, almost all heads of families, and many of them among the most respectable persons of the place. After the public meeting, the members elected the officers-bearers, a list of whom will be given in the next *Advocate*, together with the number added to the Society. Thus, total abstinence has proudly unfurled her banner on our South Western frontier; a place where the wretchedness and degradation of drunkenness has been fearfully conspicuous; but where, I trust, drinking, with all its degrading and immoral results, has received a blow, from which it will never recover.

I requested these Societies to put themselves into regular correspondence with Montreal, and promised them supplies of Temperance documents from time to time. There were several persons in other Townships who wished to have Societies formed, but did not know exactly how to set about it; and I regretted that my time did not permit me to visit a greater number of places. If, however, Societies be not formed in my absence, I intend next summer, if possible, to visit Sarnia, the St. Clair, the Thames, and perhaps the Lake Shore, for the purpose of endeavouring to organize active Societies in these places.

I returned by steamboat along the southern Shore of Lake Erie, and was well pleased to see that the ridiculous custom of drinking wine at dinner was not introduced, except by one person who had formerly resided in a very dissipated part of Canada. I understand there is one teetotal boat on Lake Erie, the *North American*. By the bye, there are steamboats named the *Daniel Webster*, *Henry Clay*, *Thomas Jefferson*, &c. I am surprised that there is none yet named after our, who has done at all events as much, and certainly as disinterestedly as any of these great men, for his fellow citizens; I mean Edward C. Delavan.

I saw the thriving villages along the American shores of Lake Erie, with great pleasure. The inhabitants of the State of Ohio are, perhaps, the most prosperous and comfortable portion of the human family. The corn, milk, and honey, the fatness of the land, which the ancient Jews considered the maximum of things to be desired, are here common as the air of heaven, and realised, or realisable, by every individual citizen. What a pity, that whilst Ohio sends forth, as from a granary, its never-failing supplies of food, it should also pour forth a never-failing stream of fiery poison to desolate the land, in the shape of whiskey. If every drop of that whiskey which Ohio has exported so lavishly for many years, could be traced to its destination; if its effects in bar-rooms, and groceries, could be traced along the lakes, rivers, canals, and highways, of this highly favored continent; if it could be followed into the new village, the populous city, or more than all, into the, but for this, happy homes of the farmers of New York, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Canada: what would not Ohio have to answer for! what a dark cloud would settle down over her smoking distilleries, in the public mind!

I landed at Buffalo on the Sabbath morning, and was sorry to see several shops open along the wharf. If shops can be opened every where, however, on this holy day, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, I do not see that society has any right to complain of shops being opened for the sale of other and more harmless articles. Do

*Officers of the Sandwich Township Total Abstinence Society, elected 7th August, 1837:—

President.—Charles Elliott, Esq.

Vice-Presidents.—Rev. W. Johnson, Messrs. D. Stewart and A. Unsworth.

Secretary.—Andrew Lockhart.

Treasurer.—James Dougall.

Committee of Management.—W. T. Cameron, William Williams, James Fortier, Alex. Forbes, A. Borrowman, William Clark, A. Wallace.