

within him for the moment soon gave way before its diseased and insatiable cravings.

"Go home," was his harsh and angry exclamation, "what brings you here, running after me, with your everlasting scolding? Go home and mind your own business."

"Oh Robert, dear Robert," answered the unhappy wife, "don't pawn my shawl. Our children are crying for bread, and I have none to give them. Or let me have the money; it is hard to part with that shawl, for it was my mother's gift; but I will let it go rather than see my children starve. Give me the money, Robert, and don't leave us to perish."

I watched the face of the pawn broker, to see what effect this appeal would have upon him, but I watched in vain. He was hardened to distress, and had no sympathy to throw away. "Twelve shillings on these," he said, tossing them back to the drunkard, with a look of perfect indifference.

"Only twelve shillings!" murmured the heart-broken wife, in a tone of despair. "Oh Robert, don't let them go for twelve shillings. Let me try somewhere else."

"Nonsense," answered the brute, "it is as much as they're worth, I suppose. Here, Mr. Crimp, give us the change."

The money was placed before him, and the bundle consigned to a drawer. The woman reached forth her hand towards the silver, but the movement was anticipated by her husband—"there, Mary," he said, giving her half a dollar, "there, go home now and don't make a fuss. I'm going a little way up street, and perhaps I'll bring you something from market when I come home."

The hopeless look of the poor woman, as she meekly turned to the door, told plainly enough how little she trusted to this ambiguous promise. They went on their way—she to her furnishing children, and he to squander the money he had retained.—*Scenes from Real Life.*

## UPPER CANADA.

### FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF SOMBRA TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

SOMBRA, December 31, 1840.

Previous to the winter of 1839-40, a Society had been organized in this Township upon the old pledge, consisting of 150 members; but on the arrival of J. Dougall, Esq., of Montreal, he introduced a far better system, that is, total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks; and from that period, the good cause has prospered. Many have been thereby reclaimed from the error of their ways; and some, we trust, are now converted to God, and enjoy the blessed comfort of religion.

During the past year, eight public meetings were held, which were generally well attended. One of these meetings was addressed by the Rev. J. Baxter, who is a zealous advocate in the cause. At the close, fifteen signed the pledge. At another, the Rev. J. S. Marsden gave an address: at the close, four signatures were obtained. Up to this date, not less than ninety persons have taken the pledge; and, as far as we have access to know, not one of them has violated the rules of the Society. Three of the above number have removed from this place, and one departed this life, leaving the number eighty-six. But we have a fair prospect of many more coming over to help us in the good cause; and though last, not least, the fair of this Township are using all their influence to further the great and good cause of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

Your Committee have further to state, that notwithstanding the good done, and fair prospects of the Society, they are sorry they have to say, that though this Township is comparatively thinly settled, it is reported that there are not less than *ten* persons who deal in the abominable traffic of ardent spirits, and that principally with the Indians, who are numerous in this place, and who suffer much from intemperance. Of the two merchants at Wallaceburgh who promised Mr Dougall to abandon the disgraceful traffic in ardent spirits as soon as their stock would be out, one of them, viz, Lionel Johnston, Esq., has done so, much to his credit.

Your Committee acknowledge with gratitude the liberality of the Society in sending so many copies of the *Advocate* over and above the number subscribed for.

Officers of the Sombra Total Abstinence Society, elected at the

Annual Meeting on 31st December, 1840: Alexander Brown, President; Jesse Palmer, Rev. J. S. Marsden, *Vice-Presidents*: Rev. Hector Brown, *Treasurer*; Daniel T. McDonald, *Secretary*; with a Committee of five.

DANIEL T. McDONALD, *Secretary.*

MURRAY, January 31, 1841.

### REPORT OF THE MURRAY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

This Society was formed in 1837 on the moderate pledge, to which seventeen attached their names; and notwithstanding a flood of opposition, our members increased to ninety; but were reduced again from various causes to about forty. Finding, by experience, that it was necessary to take a step in advance, we have recently adopted the total abstinence pledge, and doubled our diligence, by holding meetings in different parts of the neighbourhood, and enforcing the necessity of abstaining from every thing that can intoxicate. Drunkards are reclaimed. Distillers and tavern-keepers say their business is in danger; and if the temperance advocates do not desist from persuading people not to sell them their grain, nor drink their whiskey, they will be ruined. Onward is our watchword. Our community are earnestly engaged to see who will get the most names against our next meeting, which is to be held on the second Thursday in March. Our present number (130 members) is a pleasing prospect of what we may effect by perseverance.

I am, &c.

PETER WALDRON, *Secretary M. T. A. S.*

PORT SARINIA, U. C., January 23, 1841.

STR,—You will rejoice in learning the progress of the Total Abstinence Society in this place. We held our Anniversary on the 16th ult., when a Report was read, from which the following statistics are furnished:—During the year, 124 names have been enrolled, twenty-five have withdrawn, and eleven been expelled; leaving eighty-eight members in Society,—a good large number for a neighbourhood whose entire population returns are only between 300 and 400. The number of the withdrawals and expulsions are greatly augmented by the military stationed here during the former part of the year. Our meetings have been well attended, and the most pleasing results have followed, viz, a considerable diminution in the business of spirit-venders. Some families are now in comfort and plenty, which were before in poverty and nakedness; several habitual or occasional drunkards are reformed; and the attendance on divine worship greatly increased. To God be all the praise.

In the neighbouring Township of Plympton is a small, steady, and respectable Society of thirty-three members. It has been in operation since August, 1839, and only returns three members who have violated their pledges. The influence of Total Abstinence principles has extended among several families who have no connection with the Society, and even some drunkards have been reformed who have not joined our ranks. One tavern-keeper has been induced to literally turn the bad spirit out of doors, and join the Society. He is greatly improved in every respect—his person, his house, his family, and all around exhibit the happy effects of the change. His last barrel, emptied into a tub, thrown out of doors, and the old man gave a kick from him—vowing no more friendship with the spoiler of his comforts, his peace, and his home.

On the 25th instant, a Society was formed in the rear of this Township, and obtained forty signatures to its pledge. It bids fair to be useful and extensive in its influence in that portion of the Township.

There is a general impression in favour of our principles and operations in circles and families unconnected with our Society. The many striking and interesting cases of improvement completely silence adversaries, and have changed the views of several around, who at first either looked on with indifference or contempt.

The clandestine sale of whiskey to Indians is practised in several places down the river, on the Bear Creek, and on the opposite shore. Several deaths have occurred among the poor Pagans on Walpole Island; some by drowning, and one by being frozen to death. Last week we had a melancholy case of a fine young man who obtained some fire water on the American side of the