

Temperance.

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance Organizations.

Masses. EDITORS, Whatever shades of difference may exist among these, the one object at which they all aim is the suppression of intemperance. That this monster evil is now alarmingly on the increase in many parts of this Province, is manifest to all attentive observers. It is therefore evident, that united, energetic, and indefatigable efforts ought to be put forth, without any delay, for the extermination of this ruinous vice.

The full attainment of this desirable object is not, indeed, to be expected so long as the traffic in intoxicating drinks is legalized. This lamentable state of things seems likely to continue for the present. What, then, is to be done?

The friends of Temperance must not for a moment indulge the idea of abandoning the hope of securing a prohibitory liquor law. By prudent and persevering endeavours, it will undoubtedly be obtained. In order to this, however, moral suasion must be employed with the utmost diligence. The inculcating of one individual with the total abstinence principle, is a step toward the attainment of the end desired.

While it is apparent that there is special need of efforts to promote the Temperance Reform, there is reason to fear that, in many localities, these efforts have been relaxed of late. For this several reasons are clearly assignable. Of these a few may be noticed.

1. There is in frail man a strong propensity to become "weary in well-doing." Hence some who for a time appeared zealous in this good cause, have subsequently grown remiss. Let such call to remembrance the self-evident fact, that "it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing."

2. Some have become disheartened. Through the disappointment of their expectations of having the liquor traffic forthwith prohibited, the extent of importations, the increase of licensed taverns and unlicensed grog-shops, the prevalence of drunkenness, the defection of some of the professed friends of the cause, and the apathy of others, these persons have nearly relinquished all hope of success. They should, however, bear in mind, that it is usually the lot of those who engage in any noble undertaking, to have their faith tried by reverses and untoward events. Those who succumb under these trials, necessarily fail; but men of indomitable persistence happily succeed. Let us, therefore, go forward in the unwavering assurance of ultimate victory.

3. In some instances efforts have been relaxed through the want of harmony among the different Temperance organizations. Some active members of total abstinence societies have, through misapprehension, conceived prejudices against the Order of the Sons of Temperance, and have declined to co-operate with them. Undoubtedly there have been cases in which individuals belonging to the Order, in their well meant zeal to augment its numbers, have used unguarded expressions, adapted to depreciate the value of other societies. This is to be regretted; and it should always be cautiously avoided. Temperance men, however, must never allow themselves to become disaffected toward a body of their fellow labourers, on account of the injudicious remarks of a few of its members.

Such organizations as the Sons of Temperance, Cadets, Cold Water Army, Band of Hope, &c., are evidently adapted to promote the general cause, by enlisting the energies of particular classes of the community. Some persons seem to have imagined, that the whole work may be left to the Sons. This, however, is a great error. To whatever other organizations persons may choose to attach themselves, it is evidently desirable that all should be united with the Total Abstinence Society. This embraces all classes, including old and young, male and female. On its energetic action and wide extension, greatly depends the final triumph of the cause of Temperance.

I would, therefore, urgently entreat all the friends of humanity to engage heartily and perseveringly in this beneficent work. Wherever a Total Abstinence Society now exists, let all rally around it, and labour to bring the community into it. Where there is none now in operation, let effective measures be forthwith employed for the establishment of one.

Temperance meetings should be held with frequency. At these care should be taken to obtain as many additional members as possible. In numerous instances, able lectures have been delivered to large audiences, among whom were many persons whose signatures had not been obtained; and yet no effort has been made to in-

crease the number of members. Through this neglect these favourable opportunities of effecting good have passed by unimproved; as nothing tangible or permanent has been accomplished.

Discipline ought to be enforced with strictness and impartiality. Without this no society can prosper. While, however, faithfulness should be invariably exercised, untiring efforts ought to be employed, with much kindness, for the reclaiming of such as may be unhappily drawn astray.

In conclusion, I beg to notice one important means of advancing the Temperance Reform, which appears to be very generally neglected. I refer to family visitation. To encourage others I may remark, that in this way I have obtained many signatures. I have a pledge drawn out, and now usually take it with me, and solicit the names of those with whom I may be conversant who are not already members. On the 12th inst., I got eleven new subscribers. Of these several attended the Temperance meeting held on the evening of the same day; and evinced an interest in the cause, and a readiness to aid in promoting it. Were the friends of Temperance generally, both male and female, to engage actively in this work, and, in their different localities, to divide the labour among themselves, in a short space of time all the families in the Province might be visited, and every individual earnestly and affectionately solicited to sign the total abstinence pledge. Unquestionably a very great accession would be presently obtained, and a vast amount of good effected.

Yours in Gospel bonds,
C. TUPPER.
Tremont, Aylesford, Jan. 15th, 1857.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Church at Amherst.

As the attention of your readers has been drawn frequently of late, by extracts of letters with editorial remarks, to the Revival in Amherst, we deem it due to them that they should have a more definite statement of the spiritual state, and increase of the Church in this place.

We must agree with your correspondent in saying, that there has been no very exciting means used to bring about the present revival; neither do we think that revivals got up by undue excitement produce permanently satisfactory results.

Whatever religious exercises the people of this vicinity enjoyed during the late session of the association, or any other religious privileges of the past, we cannot but attribute the present revival in a large degree to the faithful and well directed labours of our much beloved, and highly esteemed Pastor, and the frequent and continued prayers of the Church.

We find the words of holy writ verified, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

The church here has been in a low state for the last few years, as regards spiritual things. At the beginning of a quarterly meeting, held here last October, we could hardly hope for a revival, for at the commencement of those meetings, comparatively few of the members attended. Their time and attention appeared to be taken up with the world and its enjoyments. It was with many discouragements that our pastor and other ministering brethren commenced the series of meetings, which, has been followed with such glorious results.

Some of the members of the church had long mourned over the low state of Zion, and felt the necessity of making a special effort, and offering fervent prayer for a revival in the Church, and for the conversion of sinners. Our pastor continued daily to meet with them in the House of God. Through the blessing of the Most High, their continued attendance upon the means of grace, brought new light into their own souls, and as their spirits became revived, their influence was soon apparent on others.

Our Heavenly Father has been pleased to bless the efforts put forth by his people, so that 41 willing converts have been buried with Christ in Baptism, and we hope have arisen to newness of life.

Our pastor still continues to labour with untiring faithfulness, preaching and holding meetings almost daily in different sections of the church.

We believe that the good work thus begun, will still go on if the church of God continue faithful to their vows. And we trust that our brethren in other sections of the province will aid us by their prayers, that God's name may be glorified, and sinners eternally saved.

While we thus have cause of rejoicing in the conversion of sinners, we are also called to mourn the loss of a beloved Sister, the wife of Deacon Samuel Taylor. She has been taken away "as a shock of corn fully ripe." She departed this life on Monday, the 22nd ult., leaving a husband and seven children to mourn the loss of an affectionate wife and tender mother. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

Your valued paper comes to us regularly, and is a welcome Messenger. Your agent here has our willing (though feeble) co-operation in increasing its circulation.
A SUBSCRIBER,
Amherst, Jan. 7th, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from New Brunswick.

My field of labour since I came to this country, has been at the Ledge, St. Stephen, and three of the adjacent settlements. I have travelled some part of the time in other places. The Ledge is an interesting place in the Summer season, many large English and American ships are here loading. The Baptists although few in number, and not at all wealthy, have manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the Sons of the Ocean. They have built a fine Bethel, where the flag has been unfurled every Sunday morning for the last two seasons, to invite the Sons of the Ocean to hear the Word of the Lord. Two years since we formed a Seamen's Society—I visited the ships once a week, supplying the seamen with Tracts and New Testaments, and preached to them on the Sabbath. Since last spring I have been very much affected with a diseased throat, it has troubled me for some years. I have given up preaching in part, and have reason to fear that I shall be deprived of speaking in public.

Your friend,
WM. C. RIDEOUT,
Saint David's, N. B., Dec. 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

AN ADDRESS.

FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT PORTAUPIQUE, TO THE REV. SAMUEL THOMPSON.

DEAR BROTHER,

As you have taken your leave of us, and bid us an affectionate farewell, it is with unfeigned sorrow that we think of having that tie severed, which has bound us together as Pastor and people. Our mingled joys and sorrows have only strengthened our attachments. Although there have been but few added to the Church since you have been labouring with us, yet will it only be known in the day when the secrets of men shall be revealed—how much good has been done. We can rejoice with you that although you have laboured among us under many discouragements, yet other fields of your labour have been enlarged, and sinners have been made to rejoice in the liberty of the Gospel. We would still crave an interest in your prayers and sympathies.

Wherever you may be called to labour, we hope that the Divine blessing may crown your labours with abundant success.

In taking our leave of you, we bid you an affectionate farewell, praying that heaven's blessing may rest upon you, Mrs. Thompson and family.

Signed in behalf of the Church,
ARCHIBALD DAVISON.

REPLY.

DEAR BRETHREN,

It is with feelings of both pleasure and pain I think on the time that we as Pastor and people have spent together. When I think how little fruits of my labours have been seen, I am ready to exclaim, I have spent my strength for nought and in vain; but it is God who giveth the increase.

I desire to feel thankful for the Christian sympathy manifested in your address, and for the harmony that seems to be increasing among you as a Church. It is my earnest prayer to God, for you my brethren, that you may increase more and more. When I think of the night that I bid you farewell, it reminds me of the time Paul took leave of the church at Ephesus. I do sincerely hope my successor may be like Barnabas, "A good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith," and that "much people may be added to the Lord."

I hope God will abundantly bless your prayer meeting and Sabbath school. I feel an earnest desire for the dear young people, that they may flee from the wrath to come, and enter in at the strait gate.

When I think of the solemn countenances and

falling tears, I witnessed on the night we parted, I pray, O Shepherd, gather them with thine arms and carry them in thy bosom.

And now dear brethren I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Mrs. Thompson and family join in sending kind regards to you all, earnestly desiring an interest in your prayers.

SAMUEL THOMPSON.

For the Christian Messenger.
JEDDORE.

MR. EDITOR,

The Baptist Church in Jeddore desire to express their warm gratitude to our Home Missionaries for their labours of love amongst us from time to time. We cannot reward them for their labours of love, but hope they will be rewarded at the resurrection of the just. We have been troubled by an unhappy division here for several years, but have been much refreshed and strengthened by the labours of dear brother Miller. May the Lord bless his own soul more abundantly for his judicious conduct whilst labouring with us, and laying a good foundation for better times. The good seed sown by him we trust will spring up and yield a glorious harvest.

Pray for us dear brethren that the Lord would pour out a blessing and revive his work, that sinners may be converted and God glorified. If any of our ministering brethren are able to visit us at any time they will be gladly received; as the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ is always glad tidings to us in this destitute place.

Yours,
GEORGE HARPELL, Deacon.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

DEACON JOSEPH ROBBINS.

An aged member and valued deacon of the First Yarmouth Baptist Church, has recently gone to his rest.

Brother Joseph Robbins was born at Plymouth, U. S., and removed with his parents to this Province when quite young. For many years, according to his own testimony, he lived without God, and without hope, and although during a portion of that time he was a member of a christian church, yet he was satisfied with the form, while destitute of the power of godliness.

When about 30 years of age he was afflicted with blindness, and such was the nature of the disease, that his sufferings were acute. It was while under this affliction that he was awakened to a sense of his lost condition, and so deep and powerful were his convictions that at times he was almost driven to despair. When every hope seemed to fail him; God in mercy appeared for his deliverance. By faith he was enabled to receive Christ as his Saviour, and to rejoice in the light and liberty of the gospel. Shortly after his conversion, owing to conscientious convictions, he dissolved his connection with the Congregational Church, at Chebogue, of which he had been a member, and after his baptism by Father Harris Harding, was received into the fellowship of the Baptist Church. For many years he has been an earnest and devoted christian. He had his failings, Who has not? Yet in purity of intention, in ardent attachment to God's cause and truth, in unflinching trust in the divine promises, and constant reliance upon the Redeemer's merits, in cheerful and exalted piety, we believe he was surpassed by few. During his last illness his sufferings were severe, but he was patient, submissive, and even joyful in prospect of a speedy release. Not a cloud dimmed the evening of life, and he calmly fell asleep in Jesus on the 15th of October last, aged 78 years. His remains were interred in the burying-ground at Chebogue. After the funeral, an appropriate discourse was delivered to a numerous congregation, by the Rev. H. Angell, from Rev. xiv. 13. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying blessed are the dead, &c."

MRS. HANNAH SMITH.

Another aged pilgrim, a mother in Israel, has left the church militant, to join the hosts above.

Sister S. was converted when quite young, and some years after her conversion she was baptized by Father Harris Harding, and united with the 1st Yarmouth Baptist Church. During life she walked consistently before the world, constantly with the church and devoutly with God. She loved the "gates of Zion," and while her health permitted she was seldom absent from the assembly of the saints. For the last 12 years she was confined to her house by a complaint which, while it baffled the skill of Physicians, occasioned her constant and at times excruciating suffering. She bore it however with exemplary fortitude and patience. At times her mind was depressed, but her faith never failed her, and her hope through all the storms of affliction was as "an anchor" to her soul, "sure and steadfast." Although not permitted to meet with God's people, she rejoiced in their prosperity; and when sinners were converted she seemed to forget her anguish, while her care-worn features were lighted up with smiles of grateful satisfaction. In her last moments there was no rapture, but