

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Union among the Friends of Temperance.

Messrs. Editors.

To insure the success of any enterprise, it is obviously necessary that its friends or advocates should be united. The infinitely wise Redeemer has said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

It can not, therefore, be needful to adduce arguments to convince the desirableness of union among the friends of the Temperance Reform. With the success of this noble enterprise the best interests of the present and future generations are manifestly identified. This consideration, together with the notorious fact that its opposers are combined in their sedulous endeavours to destroy it, ought to prompt all who wish well to the cause, to avoid dissention, and to unite heartily in earnest and untiring efforts to secure its triumph.

When large numbers of people, acting voluntarily, and exercising their judgments independently, unite in a great undertaking, questions frequently arise on which diversities of opinion are found to exist among them. It is not strange, then, that it should be so with reference to the cause of Temperance. In this case, as in all others of a similar kind, much prudence and great caution are requisite for the avoidance of such disunion as would tend to frustrate the accomplishment of the object. Every one should give full credit to those whose views on any point may differ from his own, for sincerity in their professed attachment to the cause; and all should cordially combine, so far as they are agreed, in efforts to promote this work of true benevolence.

Some give a preference to one organization, and some to another. Let each labour especially in connexion with that which he prefers; but let all carefully guard against such collision as might prove detrimental to the general cause.

Among the advocates of prohibition some are urgent to have a general prohibitory law enacted immediately, if it be possible, under any circumstances, to obtain it, however small the majority of the Legislature in favour of it, and however slight the prospect of having it carried into effect, or retained. Others, equally staunch friends of the measure, deem it more prudent, in the present state of things, to employ preparatory means, with diligence and assiduity, until the public mind shall be so well informed on the subject, and so deeply imbued with the principle, that there shall evidently be a decided majority, both in the Legislature and in the community, of thorough temperance men; so that we may reasonably hope to secure the passage of the law, to hold it when passed, and to have it generally carried into operation.

As it is evidently the part of prudence in a General to defer attempting to capture a city by assault until he is in such a position that he can consistently expect to succeed in taking it, and in keeping it when taken, I do not hesitate to avow my preference for the latter plan. That my views are not changed, nor modified in the slightest degree, may be shewn indisputably by the following extract from my second Letter on Prohibition, C. M., Jan. 9, 1856:—"Moral Suasion is undoubtedly the ground work on which the friends of Temperance must rest their cause. Unless a majority of the people be convinced of the propriety and utility of total abstinence, and imbued with its principle, a prohibitory law can not be obtained; and if it were, it would not be carried into effect. It is therefore evident, that diligent and persevering efforts should be put forth, by discourses from the pulpit, addresses from the platform, communications from the press, and private admonitions, and by the formation and increase of voluntary organizations for the promotion of Temperance."

When these sentences were penned, (Dec. 26, 1855,) which express precisely my present ideas, I did indeed hope that our position was more favourable than it proved to be. An attempt was made soon after that time to obtain the law, but it failed. It had ever been my earnest desire, as it was that of many other sincere and disinterested advocates of prohibition, to have this subject kept entirely free from all connexion with party politics. Unhappily, however, it came to be regarded as so connected. Direct political pressure was brought to bear upon the question so powerfully, that several Members of

the House changed sides, and the Bill was lost. A knowledge of this state of affairs, as also that many professed friends of Temperance have sacrificed their avowed principle at the shrine of party predilection, coupled with the fact, that the Prohibitory Law prematurely passed in New Brunswick, had not been generally carried out, but was subsequently rejected by the mass of the people, fully convinced me, and many other temperance men, that much labour must still be expended before a successful assault can be made upon the *Sebastopol* of the liquor traffic.

It would be worse than useless for us to deceive ourselves, or to make a vain attempt to deceive our opponents, in reference to this matter. It is obvious that the preparatory work requisite has not yet been performed. Some have indeed been active; but in many places remissness has been lamentably apparent. Many Total Abstinence Societies have been suffered to go down; as have also a number of Divisions of the Sons of Temperance. In many parts of the Province the sale of intoxicating drinks, both by license and without it, has manifestly increased; and the natural consequences are following.

I hope a permissive bill, as a step in the right direction, will be obtained, and be beneficially adopted in some places. But in the present state of the case it does not appear to me advisable to petition the Legislature for a general prohibitory law. It is well known that there are Members who approve of the principle, and who voted for the law when they hoped it might succeed, but who can not consistently do so now, since they are convinced that, if passed, it would fail, and soon be repealed; and that the ultimate result would be disastrous to the cause of Temperance.

It affords me much pleasure to perceive of late some cheering indications of returning life and activity. It appears that during the first quarter of this year there was an accession to the Sons of Temperance of about 600 members. Temperance Conventions have been formed in some Counties. Efforts are likewise being made to enlist more generally the energies of gospel Ministers in this good work. In some localities the illicit sale of intoxicating liquors has been checked.

Let these and other judicious measures be sedulously employed; and, so soon as circumstances will warrant the attempt, instead of a few petitions, signed by small numbers, let many be circulated through the length and breadth of the Province, and let simultaneous and determined efforts be put forth to obtain and enforce a stringent law for the suppression of the ruinous traffic in alcoholic drinks.

This is my unchanged view of the subject, and of the course proper to be adopted. I am ready, however, to unite with persons whose views differ from mine on this or any other point, in every measure wherein we can act in concert.

Men may advantageously assign reasons, in courteous terms, for their opinions; but censorious and harsh expressions should be cautiously avoided. Some friends of temperance and of prohibition, may be able to see or hear their views misrepresented, their motives maligned, and themselves denounced as enemies of the cause, and as advocates of the liquor traffic, without any feeling of resentment or disaffection. This, however, is not to be expected in every case. If men who have long laboured faithfully, and made sacrifices, in this work of humanity, find themselves rewarded with reproaches and attempts to put them down, by professed friends of the cause, on account of their views as to what is expedient in the present state of affairs, is there not reason to fear that, at least in some cases, their aid, influence, union, &c., will be irreversibly lost.

Being ardently desirous to see a general and strict prohibitory liquor law triumphantly established as soon as possible, and aware that the securing of this very desirable object requires the cordial and active co-operation of all its adherents, I would affectionately entreat them to cultivate union, in accordance with the apostolic admonition, "Be at peace among yourselves."

Yours, as ever,

C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, July 14, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Horton Academy.

It may be interesting to the friends of Horton Academy to know the doings of the Executive Committee at their different meetings. They will thereby perceive the objects at which the Committee aim.

The following Resolutions were passed at the meeting held on the 14th instant; and by their

order are now sent for insertion in the *Christian Messenger*. The friends of the Institution will learn from these Resolutions that the Committee have two things in view: the elevation of the Academy as a Literary Institution, and the domestic comfort of those who seek its advantages. The Summer Term will commence on the 20th inst. The Committee most ardently hope that they shall receive enlarged encouragement, and that the Denomination will more generally than heretofore send their sons to Horton, and that the coming year will show such a numerical increase as will encourage them to renewed effort.

The Resolutions referred to are as follows:— I. That in the opinion of this Committee it is desirable that the Academy be divided into two separate departments, viz.: ACADEMICAL and PRIMARY, and that these departments be so distinctly provided for as that their separate character shall at all times appear.

II. That the Executive Committee are decidedly of opinion that due regard to the welfare of the pupils requires such a change in the Boarding Department of the Institution as will give them, as far as possible, the comforts of home, and that therefore the Principal should make arrangements before the commencement of the next year—July 20th, 1859—for taking the said Boarding Department into his own hands.

III. That in order to enable the Principal of the Academy to secure the aid of a well qualified assistant, the additional sum of £25 be given him for the ensuing year, and that in the opinion of this Committee such assistant should be the Graduate of some College.

A. S. HUNT, Sec.

July 15th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

"The little word—No."

The little monosyllable *No* is, in itself, one of the shortest and most simple terms in English Literature. Its use is so common that the smallest prattler can pronounce it, and so universally is its signification understood that a Dictionary is needless to comprehend it. Its utterance is sometimes innocuous, mild, cheerful, pleasant, exhilarating; removing mountains of grief from the sorrowing; obliterating false impressions from the fearful; reviving the spirits of the desponding; holding up fresh inducements to the aspiring; confirming the confidence of the hopeful, and insuring rewards to the faithful. To the reverse of all this, it is frequently harsh, cruel, envious, malignant, unfeeling, repulsive; checking the first risings of a laudable ambition; restraining the ardor of a benevolent zeal; crushing the first developments of an expanding intellect; blasting the fair promise of a ripening genius, and setting the rude stamp of churlish misanthropy upon the noblest powers of a capacious soul. Alas! what incalculable results are daily flowing from the decisive utterance of this little word *No*. Its effects are universal, its power unlimited. It wields the destiny of nations; decides the fate of individuals; it raises man to the highest honors, or degrades him to the lowest infamy.

Fancy a sprightly youth of some 18 or 20 summers launching his bark upon the broad ocean of life to try his fortune amid the perilous arena of secular enterprise. To his naturally shrewd and precocious intellect he has added the advantages of a superior education; his amiable and generous disposition has been elevated to a lofty tone of refinement and polish, and his manly deportment render him the object of universal admiration. A liberal capital furnishes means for the gratification of his highest ambition, and as he advances on the dangerous current of prosperity, his friendship is courted by the aspiring and the gay, and ere he is aware, he is surrounded by a motley group of pretended admirers,—reveling at will through all the luxuries and pleasures of the social arena. How imminent his danger now, it requires not the eye of keen penetration to discover:—standing on the verge of a fearful precipice, another step will hurl him into the fatal current which bears its victim with giant speed to the vortex of irretrievable ruin! The deceitful hand of foul dissipation is extended to entice him onward; and with smooth words and flattering entreaties she allures him from the path of sobriety. She invites him to her fields of pleasure where grows delicious fruit in spontaneous profusion; the air is perfumed with delightful fragrance, and streams of purest nectar flow in perpetual richness.—She proffers the enchanting beverage; she dwells upon its origin and purity—its wholesome properties—its exhilarating effects—its elevating tendencies; and with a bland smile, and imploring look she urges him to taste, and enjoy the pleasures at his command. Already his powers of resistance are shaken; the exhortations of his better judgment are drowned amid the clamors of an awakening appetite, and

integrity itself dwindles beneath the pressure of his new desires! What is he to do? An awful crisis has arrived:—one step, and his case is decided, perhaps forever? Yield, and all is lost; resist and he is safe! One word, and one alone can save him; and that word is *No*; a firm, decided, emphatic *No*!

Am I correct? Examine prisons crowded with the criminal hosts of Rum's devotees; writhing in agony of guilt; overwhelmed with remorse and shame, and trembling beneath the heavy rod of retributive justice. Look at hospitals filled with masses of living putrescence; scathed, blighted, lacerated, bleeding, groaning, dying and dead. Go to the Asylums thronged with victims of mental derangement, witness the hideous glare of the wild-demoniac; the horrid paroxysms of furious rage; the distorted features, and eyes starting from their sockets by the unquenchable fire that rages within. And thus you may explore this boundless field of slaughter until you have reached the last phase of human suffering inflicted by this hydra demon; and when you trace the history of his wretched victims to the incipient stages of their downward career,—when the voice of the charmer first assailed them, and proffered the cup of enchantment;—all their misery, shame and degradation might have been avoided, and their lives spent in the midst of happiness, usefulness, and respectability, and their deaths honored and lamented, had they but possessed the moral courage to have uttered a firm and decided *NO*.

J. C. HURD.

Chester, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Visit to Great Britain.

June 22nd, 1858.

(Concluded.)

LIVERPOOL GIN-PALACES.

The support of Liverpool depends principally on its shipping, and it requires an army of sailors. To call for their tastes there is no want of gin palaces. To give an idea of some of them, I call your attention to one directly facing the Sailor's Home. This is a new building, having a round front, painted and decorated in good style, making it very attractive. With handsome letters, in a line at the top of the building are the words, "Brandy, Rum, Gin, and Whiskey Stores." Then lower down are seen "The Jolly Tars' Wine and Spirit Vaults." Below these, and on the plinth, are the names of some of the most celebrated ships and steamers, viz., *Leviathan, Great Britain, Ocean Monarch, City of Manchester, Champion of the Seas, Red Jacket, White Star, and Marcopolo*. Between each of these are blue stripes on white, to give the whole a marine appearance. On the windows are the words, "John James & Son," "Irish Whiskey," "Dublin Whiskey," and "Wines." The doors are lettered, "Fine Sparkling Ale," "Old Jamaica Rum," "London and Bristol Gin," "Irish and Scotch Whiskey," &c. The kegs within are handsomely painted, and bear their appropriate names in gilt letters, "Old Tom," "Jerry," "Sampson," "Young Sampson," &c. The beauty of the exterior attracts weak minds and depraved appetites. The elegance of the interior, with the prettiest females that can be obtained to wait at the bar, charms the cash from the pocket of the inebriate.

The clergy are not slow to preach against intemperance, but the *great ones* will have to adopt and preach total abstinence before the destruction or prohibition of the traffic can be accomplished.

As we were going to England we set the hands of our watches about thirty minutes forward each day to suit the longitude, returning we had to set them back, the difference of time between Liverpool and Boston being about five hours.

While the Merchants of England charge the hard times to the panic in New York those of New York and Boston lay the blame on the land speculation in the far West.

A carpet manufacturer in England informed me that he lost heavily by a party in Boston, and charged the cause to the spiritualists setting the man's head wrong.

BOSTON SPIRITUALISTS.

With a friend, I went to some of their meetings. At one the amount of what the speaker had to say was that if our minds were low and depraved we could only communicate with such, but if we wished to hold intercourse with spirits of elevated minds we must have our own of the same cast. This seems very much like an echo of one's own mind, and not an answer from a spirit belonging to the other world.

The speaker here was not so much the fool as