

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Measures for promoting Temperance.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

That the traffic in intoxicating drinks is injurious to the community, is too manifest to require proof. It is equally evident, therefore, that it ought not to be tolerated, much less sanctioned, by law. There are, however, so many and so powerful influences combined against a prohibitory enactment, that it can not probably be obtained in this Province immediately. Nevertheless, as this is the only measure adapted to effect the entire prevention of drunkenness, the friends of Temperance ought to labour constantly for the attainment of it. The question, then, which demands attentive consideration, is this:—What preparatory measures are best adapted to secure the attainment of this desirable object? I beg leave to suggest a few:—

1. Moral suasion should be diligently employed. By this means only can we hope to obtain a large majority in favour of a prohibitory law, and to carry it into effect when enacted. All the friends of humanity should exert themselves to the utmost to imbue those around them, old and young, male and female, with true temperance principles, and to bring them into temperance organization, and to induce them to labour actively for the advancement of this good cause.

2. To this end mild, serious, and courteous language should be used, both in public and in private. I have just been reading in the Memoir of the excellent Dr. Justin Edwards an account of his remarkably successful labours in this work of benevolence. One principal cause of his extraordinary success evidently was, the urbanity with which he treated all classes of men. Though he used great plainness in depicting the evils of drinking, and the iniquity of the traffic, yet so gentle, grave, and affectionate were his language and manners, that none could find any pretext for taking offence. Had all the advocates of Temperance adopted the same prudent and winning course, undoubtedly the numbers of its adherents would now have been much greater than they are. Some may think that ridicule, sarcasm, and harsh epithets are the most efficacious; but by these many who might have been won through gentleness, have been offended, and driven into the ranks of opposition. That saying of the wise man should be remembered,—“A soft tongue breaketh the bone.”—(Prov. xxv. 15.)

3. All temperance men should act in unison. The ancient adage, “Union is strength,” is strictly applicable in this case. No diversity of religious sentiment, or political views, preference for any particular organization, or difference of any other kind, should ever be allowed to sever the friends of this noble cause. Let all minor distinctions be merged in one combined, energetic, and determined purpose to destroy the monster Intemperance.

4. All our measures must be strictly accordant with law. Men zealous in a good cause may be tempted, under strong provocation, to overstep legal bounds. Those, however, who in any case adopt *mob law*, expose themselves to all the horrors of it, without redress, and bring their cause into ill savor. That was good advice given by the town-clerk of Ephesus, “Ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.” And an inspired Apostle tells us, “A man . . . is not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

5. Until a better law can be obtained, let what we have be used to the best advantage. It is now in the power of Grand Jurors and Magistrates to withhold licenses. I am aware that some men conscientiously regard this as inexpedient. They think that intoxicating liquors will be sold and drunk; and therefore that it is best to have some revenue from the sale; and that unlicensed drunkeries are usually more demoralizing than licensed taverns. To me, however, it does not appear justifiable to sanction that which is wrong on the ground of expediency. If men will follow a business ruinous to their fellow creatures, those in authority ought not to aid and abet them by giving them license to do it. Money arising from that which is either vile or destructive of human life, is not fit to be put into the treasury. (Deut. xxiii. 18; Matth. xxvii. 6.) It is clear to me from observation, that the licensing of some does not prevent others from selling. In many cases they vend as much strong drink as they would otherwise. It is evident, moreover, that in general those only who are already demoralized, and reckless of reputation, will visit such places; but some who are considered respectable—it

does not increase their *respectability*—will drink intoxicating liquors in licensed taverns. By this means the young and unwary, thinking they may safely follow the example of such men, are drawn into the fatal snare. Furthermore, persons who go to these houses merely to obtain food and lodging, are placed in circumstances of temptation, which frequently lead to their ruin. A place in the circle of my acquaintance was noted for sobriety till a tavern license was granted there; and since that time it has become notorious for scenes of drunkenness and riot. From these considerations I would respectfully and earnestly entreat those who have authority in this matter, to withstand the granting of licenses to retail inebriating drinks, or, in other words, to poison men and destroy them for time and eternity.

As there are unhappily some men who can not be restrained by moral suasion from pursuing this destructive course, it is obviously proper that they should be restrained as much as possible by legal suasion. To this end it is desirable that there should be *Vigilance Committees* appointed in all places where suitable men can be found, to watch every rum-seller, whether licensed or not, and have him brought to justice for every infraction of the law. It is obviously injudicious to make any reference to the nation, denomination, or political party to which a delinquent may belong. All such allusions are adapted to diffuse a spirit of rancour and determined resistance, to divide the friends of Temperance, and consequently to weaken their hands, and afford the transgressor a better opportunity to escape conviction. Every man should be treated individually according to his deserts, irrespectively of all other considerations. It is of no service to assail a man with reproaches. Let him be *quietly fined* to the extent of the law, and the fine be exacted, or he be kept in prison the time allotted; and he will probably soon learn to respect the law. The judicious and successful measures adopted in Canning afford encouragement.

None should allow themselves to be intimidated by threats. “England expects every man to do his duty.” Let it be done faithfully and fearlessly; and both Divine and human protection may be confidently expected.

Some have become disheartened from the fact, that prosecutions have often proved unsuccessful. I apprehend, however, that in many cases there has not been due care exercised. Complainants and Magistrates should be careful to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the law. If the Magistrate before whom a complaint is lodged, be incompetent, unfaithful, or dependent, the cause will probably fail in the issue. But if through any informality, or even unfair means, a cause be lost, a useful lesson should be learned from that failure. Had the allies despaired because they made an unsuccessful assault on Sebastopol, it had never been taken. Let none, then, despond on account of partial failures, with reference to the ultimate demolition of the strongholds of Intemperance.

With earnest desires that these suggestions may, by the Divine blessing, tend in some measure to aid in promoting the interests of Temperance, I remain,

Yours as ever,

C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, Feb. 16, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

DEAR SIR:

The announcement recently made by the Governors of Acadia represents that Institution to be in a dangerous position, and that unless active measures different from what have been adopted take effect forthwith, the College must be suspended.

We see from this that the aid to be derived from scholarships will not be likely to meet the expectations of the Convention, or at all events help from some more ready source must now be obtained to keep up an existence. Taking this idea, it suggests to my mind the necessity of making the support of the College less exclusive and thereby enlisting more effectually the sympathy of our entire body, as every one who feels that his mite has contributed to sustain this Institution will naturally find his interests more strongly centered there. It is true, that if we had as many wealthy men as other denominations, it might not be so difficult to find 200 friends, more or less, to come down with their £100 each; but we are not rich, and this fact is more evident during a crisis such as we are now passing through, and which has been felt throughout the commercial world. Following up these views, I venture to suggest a scheme that will be more likely to relieve present wants from the variety which it embraces and proba-

bly do much if not enough, finally to establish the College on a firm basis. I will suppose that the friends of the College are willing to contribute, in numbers and proportions, the amounts named, irrespective of scholarships, which, for the present, I shall not take into account, although I am willing that as much as possible be realized in that way from those who have the ability. To carry out my plan will require system simplified as much as possible; but possessing energy and determination and I believe it will succeed. You will then have a whole people ready from their contributions to call the College their own, and the renewed sympathy thus enlisted will cause even our children of tender age who cast in their mite to grow up with a cherished affection toward it. It may appear that my calculation is too large, considering the number of poor persons in our churches, and making suitable allowance for the indifferent; but to meet such we have large numbers in our families and congregations who will become contributors under this arrangement. As for the *payment* of the subscriptions I would certainly recommend that time be given for all sums reaching five pounds and upwards, fixed by notes drawing interest, similar to scholarship notes, but varying in proportion to amounts; but the 20s. and smaller subscriptions had better be looked for at once, which would realize sufficient ready money for present wants.

I do hope that the Governors of the College will at least try some such plan as is suggested, if this does not meet their views, and not allow our excellent and efficient Professors to think of leaving us without our first making a vigorous effort to sustain them.

SCHEME:

	£	s	d.	each	£	s
100 subscribers, at 25 0 0	2500				2500	
200 “ 12 10 0	2500				2500	
1,000 “ 5 0 0	5000				5000	
5,000 “ 1 0 0	5000				5000	
10,000 “ 0 5 0	2500				2500	
10,000 children, at 0 0 7½					312 10	
					£17,812 10	

The above will make quite an appearance and will be thought chimerical by many, but let our efficient pastors aided by a few lay brethren in all our churches throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island bestow a few energetic days to the service of collecting the smaller sums as fast as they possibly can, and the work is done, for I am sure that it is practicable. We shall not have too much if we get all that is aimed at in this scheme, it can be well appropriated; but less will be very acceptable if the whole cannot be raised. Our good Brother Thompson has wrought nobly in his agency; but having no authority to work upon a general plan, of course his success had to be in proportion.

The writer has made bold to suggest this scheme, he cannot do less than say that he will be one of the first hundred subscribers.

In hope that something will be done,

I am, truly yours,

A FRIEND TO ACADIA.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

MR. EDITOR,

The objections to suspending the operations of Acadia College are many and serious; among which may be considered that of losing present Professors and Students. The loss of either would be fatal. Without Professors students are not required; without students Professors are useless. We have Professors and students, let us keep them.

But some are ready to enquire, may we not suspend for a time? The answer is, we may, but it will cost too much. “Cost too much!” why I thought we should gain by it. Surely we shall not have to pay for their services unless we have them. This mode of reasoning is very much like the argument of the trader who would say, it will be a great saving to me to purchase no stock, I shall not have to pay for it if I do not buy, forgetful that his income would be destroyed in thus suspending his business. Now in a suspension of the College its interests would be materially damaged; for remember, its objects are not the direct increase of money, but the advance of literature, a literature developing and strengthening the mind, enlarging the sphere of usefulness, thereby *elevating the man*. In the estimation of every well-directed judgment, this is an interest not to be depreciated by a comparison with pounds shillings and pence.

Any partial suspension of the College should be regarded as an evil of dangerous consequences. Suppose that for only one term its doors should be closed; Students now in attendance would mostly, if not all, go abroad to

complete their studies, or suffering the fervor of their zeal to abate would abandon altogether their literary pursuits. There would be no matriculates to form a Fresh-man class, and this added to the fact that there were no matriculates for the last year, although it was understood that several were ready for examination, would give us two years without a graduate—two years with but half a College. But six months suspension would not help us. A year or two would no more than give opportunity, for what some would propose to be done during a suspension—i.e., *put every thing in order*, while it would involve all the labor and expense of a new commencement: for who does not know that we should have the difficulty of obtaining new Professors, and these perhaps untried, that we should be confined to a Fresh-man class, leaving us from four to six years without a Graduate.

It would be sad indeed if we were reduced to such a necessity. We are fully able to go on. The plan advocated, of raising annual support until the endowment shall yield a steady and permanent annual increase of twelve hundred pounds, can be carried out, and I think I hazard but little in saying it will be done.

One thought more and I close this letter.

Can we spare any of the present staff of Professors? Not willingly. We may have to suffer loss in the resignation of the Mathematical Professors, whose services have so long been a very material portion of the efficiency of the College, but if so—we cannot for a moment allow ourselves to think of any other change in the Faculty, and this one must be remedied as far as possible by a selection of the very best man we can obtain from among the Alumni of Acadia. Whatever the loss at present, there will be this consolation, it will be pleasant to have the sons of the College coming forward to fill the places of those who have been their instructors.

Let us therefore gird ourselves afresh in the work, with a holy determination that shall face and overcome every difficulty.

I have leave from the Treasurer to announce, the receipt by him of two Five-pound subscribers to the annual support of the College, since my last.

Yours very truly,

Feb. 26th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In agreement with the wish of the Home Missionary Board, will you kindly give the following letter, from our esteemed Brother Welton of Windsor, a place in your columns?

The example set by the Windsor Church is truly noble. Were other churches to contribute according to the same ratio, as respects numbers and wealth, our funds would be ample. Let us hope that many will imitate, if not exceed.

In the absence of an agent, such voluntary action on the part of churches becomes a necessity. In reference to the employment of an agent, it might be explained that, his work would consist quite as much in preaching the gospel and exploring the field as in collecting funds. But when one is obtained it will be quite time enough to vindicate his appointment. We are now within almost three months of the end of the Society's year. Since the payment into our treasury, of the amounts received from the Central and Eastern Associations, and of membership money received at Hantsport and Onslow, very little has been added to the funds; the following sums have passed through my own hand:—

From Mrs. McCulloch, - - -	£1
“ J. Gourley, - - -	1
“ Rev. I. J. Skinner and others, -	2
“ A friend, North Halifax, - -	2
“ Miss Isabel Soley, - - -	0 5s.

Collections have been made by our missionaries. The missionaries have themselves made donations. Something has been done by the Halifax churches, and no doubt other churches are preparing to act. Some contributions have gone direct to the Treasurer.

But when all is told, our funds are very low. And unless our friends act promptly, we may have to suspend payments in the course of a month. The Board has now three missionaries constantly employed, besides quite a number of shorter engagements. The prospect is that we shall have to go up to the annual meeting in June considerably in arrears.

In view of these facts the Board makes its appeal to the Baptist churches throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

We still feel that our greatest difficulty is the lack of laborers. And whenever an opportunity