

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY SOBLE & HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

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All communications to the Editors must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

REPORT OF THE SUGAR CREEK TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Nearly two years since a few individuals in the congregation of Sugar Creek, influenced by motives of friendship and good will to their fellow-citizens, resolved to form a Society for the suppression of intemperance.

Knowing the strength of those prejudices which plead for habits long established, and the extent to which a love for ardent spirits pervades the different orders of the community, it was fully expected that the attempt would meet with the ridicule of some, the false reasoning of others, and the silent opposition of still more. But believing, as they had good reason to do, that those who wish to promote objects opposed to the vitiated inclinations of men, wait until the voice of approbation be heard from all, that no benevolent design would ever be accomplished, they determined to go forward, shielded by the consciousness of good intentions and a noble cause.

The constitution adopted requires those who sign it to abstain from distilled spirits, except as a medicine in case of bodily infirmity, not to allow the use of them in their families, nor to provide them for the entertainment of their friends, or for persons in their employment. At first about 20 persons subscribed the Constitution. Since that time the number has increased to 79. Among these we have heard no whisper of regret that the stand they have taken is inconsistent with liberty, or health, or friendship, the prosecution of lawful business, or the enjoyment of domestic or social happiness. If the self-denial be too great, ought not those who submit to it, be the first to complain? On the contrary, they appear to rejoice in finding how easily and satisfactorily they can live without harboring and nourishing a known and acknowledged enemy to health, happiness, or self-government, religion and life. The evils predicted by the enemies of the enterprise have not been felt; whilst the good effects anticipated, if not fully secured, have at least been happily shown.

In estimating the benefits which have resulted to society, it is very difficult to speak with precision. Changes in the habits and manners of people, either good or bad, are generally gradual in their operations, and often gain a uniform and growing influence before they are much observed. And it is not always the events which excite the most attention or produce the most noise, that possess the greatest moral power or lead to the happiest results. We not being able to point to any great or glaring achievement, (which was never aimed at) the inference should by no means be drawn, that no good has been effected. One thing is certain: that the immediate and perceptible effects of this Society are considerable. Where its influence is chiefly felt, the desolating causes which lead to intemperance have been restrained; the temptations to drunkenness have been very much removed; the incentives to sobriety, and order, and Christian virtue have been increased. Neighbors can now shew to each other the evidences of hospitality, and aid each other in transacting the ordinary business of life, without any thing to do with the means of intoxication, or the marks of degradation and wretchedness; and we may add, with as much good feeling and harmony as contentment as drunkards ordinarily either feel or express.

But what is conceived still more important, the remote and imperceptible effects of this association may, and we trust will, be much greater. This leads to the true design of Temperance Societies;—not so much to correct evils which already exist, as to prevent those which may occur in future. To reform the intemperate is in most cases, a hopeless attempt; but to prevent men from becoming so, is by no means impracticable. Human power is not sufficient to drag the drunkard from the vortex of ruin, but timely and prudent efforts may keep back multitudes, who are swiftly approaching the verge of destruction. No truth is capable of more clear demonstration or confirmed by more melancholy experience, than that the habitual use of ardent spirits leads to the formation of those habits of intoxication which destroy thousands and tens of thousands year after year. And while the undiminished use of them continues, and human nature remains what it is, we can discover nothing which will free our country from the ravages of this monster which

all good men profess to abhor. But let *entire abstinence* only prevail, and the face of society would be changed at once. The multiplied and strong temptations which now crowd the paths of the young would comparatively cease. Where poverty, and anguish, and wretchedness, now brood over whole families in every village and neighborhood and city, in the length and breadth of the land, industry, economy, peace, honor, and joy unspeakable might rise up as the memorials of a glorious reformation.—And in all this advancement of truth and good principles, who would be injured?—Whose liberty would be invaded? whose reputation tarnished? whose property squandered? or whose happiness endangered? In this march of sobriety nothing would be lost but the strong holds of the darkest, and foulest, and deadliest enemy of human prosperity. In most of the plans projected and prosecuted for the improvement of society, much money is expended, much toil sustained and many privations submitted to. To bless our country with seminaries of learning, to improve it with roads and canals and bridges, to defend it with forts and arms and vessels, treasures in abundance are freely expended and the labors of years cheerfully endured. But in the improvement which the advancement of temperance would secure, no funds would be wasted, but thousands and millions saved for better purposes—no toils endured to aggrandize the few and degrade the many, but labours of love containing their own reward, and efforts redounding to the freedom and safety of civilized men. Nothing is needed or can be desired but the moral effects of the best moral principles. It is a reformation to be expected and secured by the prevalence of truth and the power of virtue. It is in vain, we know, to appeal for aid and encouragement to men so contracted in their views and so selfish in their principles as to be unwilling to sacrifice any inclination or interest for the good of others, and delight not in efforts to stay the miseries around them. Had all men been of their stamp, where would have been our civil liberties and religious privileges? Where would have been the many institutions which adorn our country and raise and dignify its inhabitants? Give to them the controlling power, and every benevolent institution in the country would be prostrated, and all our temples of honor moulder into the dust.—Carry out their principles, and the cloud of Gothic darkness would swiftly shut out every light but that which leads to barbarism, and the volcano of misdeeds pour its scorching lava upon all that is fair, and upon all that is lovely in the land of our endearments. But happily there are those who can feel for the distress and wretchedness of others, and labor not only to alleviate their sorrows but to remove the producing causes of their misery and degradation.—And in no cause whatever is their benevolence and patriotism more needed than in that of temperance, and in none would the proper exercise of them be more permanently and extensively beneficial. If a foreign despot were to slaughter thirty or forty thousand of our citizens yearly, what heart would not beam with indignation, and whose harp would not be raved for a united and determined resistance of such cruel devastation? Yet intemperance sweeps into an untimely grave, year after year, this appalling number, and comparatively little emotion is felt at the awful havoc.—Were a desolating epidemic to mark its fury by the death of so many of our population in successive years, what consternation would spread throughout our borders, and what efforts would be made to stop its desolation? Yet this fell destroyer does the work, and spreads disease and mourning among thousands of the survivors, and yet some think it strange that attempts should be made to check his polluting and deadly power. If the attempt were made to force our country into the payment of an annual tribute of one million of dollars to some lawless and merciless tyrant, would not the nation be drained of her treasures, and be lavish of her blood, before a tame submission would seal her degradation? And yet to the ruthless power of ardent spirits a tax of several millions is directly or indirectly paid every year, and the hands of our own citizens stretched out to exact the tribute money and confirm the usurpation.

It is all in vain to excuse ourselves by alleging that the evils of intemperance are the necessary results of invincible causes, and cannot be removed. They are voluntarily produced, and bear down upon their agents a fearful responsibility. It is not contended that the race of present drunkards will be reformed. But they will soon leave the stage of action; and who will take their places? Another band as far lost as themselves? Should things remain in their former course doubtless it will be so—but should the noble efforts now making in every part of our country only increase as they have done, and with corresponding success, it will not be so. A generation comparatively sober and of virtuous principles may take their place to the joy of all good men. And why should it not be so?

This is a question for temperate men to answer. It rests with them. They have the power and the only power so far as human means are concerned, to put down intemperance. They can do just what is necessary to be done; cleanse their own hands and houses entirely of the poison, and thus throw intemperate men upon their own resources and to act by themselves. Let this be done and the monster must go down, with hideous struggles it may be, but with inevitable certainty. Intemperance cannot support itself. Take from it the countenance and support which men of sober habits give, directly and indirectly, and it is doomed to extinction. Let the line of distinction only be drawn; let all cease to manufacture or drink or vend ardent spirits but the drunkards, and how long could they exist as a brotherhood carrying on the traffic of abominations? Is it by their labor and perseverance that the fountains of it are kept flowing in the land? Is it by their funds that it is imported and transported and sold in conjunction with other things as an apology for its existence and a salvo from its dominion? Limit any decent merchant to those customers who come for nothing else, and would he not surrender his business with shame and confusion? There may be exceptions in particular cases to the application of these remarks, but taking a view of the whole case, it is believed facts will sustain them.—Intemperance hangs as a burden upon the better part of the community, and sponges from them the aliment on which it feeds; and could it be fed without receiving corruption from its existence, the evil would be more tolerable. How many fathers waste away the bread from their own children as the price of their intoxication? How many husbands convert the hard earnings of their own wives into the means of bringing mere brutal violence and shame and temptation around the family altar? And the extent to which this sinking fund in money and morality too, is kept up, no man can tell until he registers all the injustice and fraud and idleness and falsehood and infamy which stand forth as the loathsome brood of drunkenness.

The question which the true friends of their country and the church should feel an interest about answering, is not whether the moderate use of spirits is wrong in the abstract? but whether it does not call into existence and keep in active operation, a train of causes which beguile and destroy thousands who might otherwise become virtuous and honorable and useful members of society? Is it not a part of patriotism to prevent evils of the first magnitude, when we have power to do so? Is it not an unflinching characteristic of Christian benevolence to check by all prudent means, the vices which destroy their subjects and wage war with the best interests of the community? And will not those who have imbibed the spirit, and are governed by the power of true religion, be willing to surmount obstacles and endure privations to be made instruments in blessing their fellow men when they need all their help? And what are the difficulties to be overcome? They are such as will crumble into the dust whenever the hands of temperate men, which now foster ardent spirits, are washed in innocency.—And what the privations to be submitted to? Nothing but those which spring from the *sheer love* of dram-drinking—and this entire abstinence will root out from the bosom of any man.

It is the moderate use of ardent spirits which leads to brutal intoxication, and all the excesses which accompany it. The whole army of drunkards in the land have been made in this way. They were not born in this road of infamy and ruin. They have gone into it gradually. They have gone into it by the very steps which thousands of moderate drinkers are now taking towards it, and who are still believing themselves secure. But they are not secure. Absolute security to themselves and their children, and to all they hold dear on earth, is to be found only in *entire abstinence*.—Men may scoff at the declaration, but truth is not destroyed by the clamor raised against it. Take the catalogue of *intemperance*, and does it not contain names of multitudes once as temperate, as honorable, as useful and as confident of safety, as any who now plead for the use of spirits? It will be too late to laugh when they come within the sweep of the devouring vortex. It will be too late to plead for harmless indulgences when their children have enlisted for life under the standard of this enemy to all that is good. And after all, what benefits are derived from the use of spirits? Does it promote industry or encourage economy? Does it preserve health or increase domestic tranquility? Does it add to wealth, secure honor, or enhance social enjoyment? Does it uphold civil rights or religious privileges? Has it any tendency to make men wiser or better, or prompt to the discharge of any duty, or restrain from the commission of any crime? Were the use of them entirely discarded from every habitation, not a solitary obligation to moral rectitude would be impaired in the least. On the contrary, the sacred motives which plead for

the preservation of reason, health, property, reputation, liberty, life and the souls of men, would be freed from an intolerable burden, and be felt with renovated power.

Among other resolutions passed by the Society, they have adopted one expressing their abhorrence of the practice so common among candidates for offices, of treating before and after elections, as inconsistent with the spirit of our free institutions, injurious to the morals of the community, and respectful to the feelings of decent and sober men.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.
DAN ALEXANDER, President.
JOS. R. SAMPLE, Vice President.
M. W. ALEXANDER, Cor. Sec'y.
JNO. F. MNEELY, Rec. Sec'y.
JAS. A. MNEELY, Treasurer.
JAS. A. BRADLEY, ALEX. ROBINSON, JAS. P. HENDERSON, Managers.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of respectability and intelligence, near Knoxville, in Tennessee, to a Member of the Director of the South-Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company, dated 14th April, 1831.

"You will observe that owing to the circuitous character of our present route to market, (the Tennessee River,) as well as the dangers of the subsequent voyage from New Orleans to the Atlantic and ports, and to Europe, our citizens are compelled to look out for a more direct communication with the rest of the world, and one in which the value of our produce will not be sunk by its transportation, and our imports be received with shorter delay, and at less expense. The inquiry has thus become an important one, what channel of trade will lead us most directly, with our surplus produce, to the best market, and afford the greatest facilities for the reception of our imports? The circular invites our attention to a land communication between a navigable branch of the Ohio river, and the North-Carolina line. A Committee has examined the route, and reported favorably. It is now proposed that Delegates from all sections of the country interested in the contemplated improvement, should meet on the first Monday in June, to deliberate on the general subject, and to form some plan of extensive co-operation. It occurs to me that it is essential to all concerned, that the South-Carolina Rail Road Company should be represented at the proposed convention. After an extensive examination of the subject, it is my deliberate opinion, that Charleston is the point from which all our European imports should be transported, and that the river should be the outlet to the westward. This is the point from which all our European imports will find the same outlet to market. I am not so sanguine as to believe that the present means of the country are adequate to the completion of a Rail Road, from the point at which your road will terminate, to the "Great West." But in the commencement of our works of internal improvement—in our surveys and examinations, that ultimate object should be kept constantly in view. Our turnpikes and other roads should receive that location and direction, which will ultimately lead to a branch of your Rail Road, and form the basis of a continuation of it to our country. Such a bifurcation it appears to me could be advantageously made through Columbia, and along the dividing ridge between the Tiger and Entree rivers, pursuing pretty much the present route of the State Road, and terminating at the Saluda Gap. Good roads from North-Carolina and Tennessee, already meet your State Road at that point, and are now receiving additional improvements. It is believed that our river, the French Broad, can be made navigable to Newport—a village upon its banks, less than 100 miles from the Saluda Gap. Steam boats may not ascend so high, but that point may be certainly reached by Roels. Should your Company, therefore, continue the road to Saluda Gap, that point will become a depot for the supply of the Western country, and will be within one hundred miles of a navigable branch of the Tennessee River. Should the Sandy river communication be found the most available, the termination of your Rail Road will be within 200 miles of a navigable branch of the Ohio."

In addition to the above, it may be important to notice the following communication concerning the navigation of the Tennessee river, from the Cincinnati Daily Advertiser:—

"Enterprise.—The Knoxville, a beautiful light draught steamboat, measuring 100 feet keel, and 17 1/2 feet beam, belonging to a company at Knoxville, (Tenn.) and built under the superintendence of Col. W. R. A. Ramsey, of that place, is intended to navigate the Tennessee river, from the Muscle Shoals to Knoxville, a distance of 300 miles. She is well calculated to carry freight, and is fitted up with superior accommodations for cabin and deck passengers. Her arrival at her place of destination will, we doubt not, be cheerfully greeted, and tend to produce a new era in the agricultural and commercial interests of that enterprising town."

Young Napoleon.—Ever since the abdication and exile of Napoleon, his son has been vegetating in comparative obscurity, at the Court of his grandfather, the Emperor of Austria. When his father was driven into exile, he was but five or six years of age; for the last sixteen years we have heard of him but occasionally, and the accounts have been of an extremely vague character. We used some time to hear from him by our own travellers, as a pretty, rosy checked boy; of late we have heard of him as having received a commission in the army, and the title of Duke of Reichstadt. The recent revolution and subsequent commotions in France, have brought him into still more interest, as one who may, by the chances and vicissitudes of destiny, be restored to the Empire of his father.

A very late letter has been received from Vienna, which speaks of him as having been just introduced at the court of the Emperor of Austria for the first time. We are inclined to doubt the correctness of this, so far as regards his first coming to court. As he has for some time held a

commission in the army, and been old enough to figure at court as well as in the camp, we are disposed to believe that he must have been before this introduced at the court. Be that as it may, the world is most interested to know something of his inherent traits of character,—whether he partakes of the genius of his father.

Of this, however, we have as yet seen nothing authentic. He has been educated probably by the Austrian Court, so as to be used as the circumstances of the times may require for the benefit of Austria. He has been so secluded from the world, as to render it difficult to determine what his real character is. It has been amusing to read the speculations of different travellers: some have awarded him a great share of genius, while others have asserted that he possesses neither talents nor a good education: the probability is that neither the one or the other class of these itinerants had any means of knowing much about him, and wrote merely for the sake of preparing amusing sketches. Others have said that it was the policy of Prince Metternich to keep him in ignorance of the world, and the world in ignorance of him, with a view to make of him a more pliant instrument for the use of his grandfather. This we apprehend to be the most probable conjecture.—Should the French become dissatisfied with Louis Philippe, and drive him from France as they have the other Bourbons, they might be disposed to receive back the son of Napoleon as Emperor. In such case the Austrian Government would endeavor to turn the tide in its own favour by assisting to put him on the French throne, and thereby secure to itself an influence in the French affairs. This however, is mere matter of speculation, and must depend on the irrisistible operation of events which cannot be foreseen.—*Boston Courier.*

Groton Monument.—We learn from the New London Gazette, that the monument, erected under the patronage of the State of Connecticut, to the memory of the brave men who were massacred at Fort Griswold, on the 6th of September, 1781, by the British, under the command of Benedict Arnold, is completed. It is built of rough granite taken from the spot which has been consecrated by the blood of these martyrs to freedom. The monument, which is 119 feet in height, is about 70 rods from the shore, on the summit of a hill which rises gradually from the river to the height of 130 feet above tide water. From the top of the monument, says the Gazette, "is presented one of the most sublime and extensive prospects that can be imagined."

"On the south and west is presented the Ocean and Long Island Sound, with its shores and Islands, and on the north and east the country around. On the east, south and west, there is no intervening land to limit the sight."

Anecdote.—During the revolutionary war, eighty old German soldiers, who after having long served under different monarchs of Europe, had retired to America and converted their swords into ploughshares, voluntarily formed themselves into a company, and distinguished themselves in various actions on the side of liberty. The captain was nearly one hundred years old, and had been in the army forty years, and present in seventeen battles. The drummer was ninety-four; and the youngest man in the corps on the verge of seventy. Instead of a cockade, each man wore a piece of black crape, as a mark of sorrow for being obliged, at so advanced a period of life, to bear arms: "But," said the veterans, "we should be deficient in gratitude, if we did not act in defence of a country which has afforded us a generous asylum, and protected us from tyranny and oppression." Such a band of soldiers never before, perhaps, appeared in any field of battle.

A friend of ours at the east, on forwarding a package of cuttings, roots, &c. writes—"I also send you two varieties of the White Blackberry, which you will remember, are always red when they are green." *Genesee Farmer.*

The Ithaca Journal mentions that a company of Mormons, (Golden Bible Pilgrims) passed through that place a few days since to their land of Promise, in Ohio. They numbered about a hundred, men, women and children.

A caoutchouc (India rubber) tree is mentioned as growing in a garden in Philadelphia. The Baltimore American says there is also one in the garden of a gentleman residing in North Charles street, in that city. It somewhat resembles the fig tree.

Horseradish.—One drachm of the fresh-scrapped root of this plant, infused with four ounces of water in a close vessel for eight hours, and made into syrup with double its weight of sugar, is an improved recipe for removing hoarseness. A tea spoonful of this has often proved suddenly effectual.