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The First Temperance Group Organized  
in Canada.

This account is taken from the biography of Rev. Thomas B. Brown:

"Matthew Whiting organized the first Temperance Society in Missouri about 1828. He drew up a constitution the main article of which was what was afterwards called the 'short pledge', viz., to abstain from the use of ardent spirits ourselves and to use our influence with others for the same purpose. He asked me to join it. I hesitated at first but after some consideration concluded I would. But we were something like the blind man whom the Saviour healed, who at first saw men as trees walking, we only had our eyes half opened. He found that nothing but total abstinence would do and the total abstinence pledge soon followed. The members of our first society were Joseph Brown, Sr., Nathan P. Allan, George and John Grout, Stephen Peeples, Williams and Thomas Uren, Robert Davis, Turneley May, my brother James, and I. I have since learned that this was the first temperance society in Canada. The next was formed in the township of London and the next in the town, now the City of London.

"Opposition soon developed and Thomas Brown bore his share of persecution from