

JOSEPH LIVESSEY
LIBRARY.
SECTION _____
NO. _____

THE

SOCIAL REFORMER:

THE ORGAN OF

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL

AND

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Volume XVII.

GL

PERMISSIVE

SOCIAL REFORMER

THE SCOTTISH ...

ROBERT MACLEHOSE, PRINTER, GLASGOW.

INDEX.

	PAGE		PAGE
Temperance and Social Reform:—			
A Beam in the Eye,	131	Mr. Moody's Work in Glasgow,	27
Aphorisms,	87	Mr. Mundella and Scotch Education,	25
Brand and the Branch, The,	91	Mr. Noel, M.P., and his Constituents,	160
Cause and Cure of Intemperance,	67, 83	Mr. Thomas Wallace Russell,	88
Doom of the Beast, The,	165	Mr. Wm. Clark of Rosemount, Aberdeen,	89
Drink Traffic, The, and Vital Statistics,	2	New Year's Tract,	128
Make them Pay,	142	Non-abstaining Clergymen,	28
Nature of the Canadian Temperance Act, The,	123	Novel View of the Question,	118
"Nebraska Notes," and Prohibition in America,	124	Number of Licenses in the Burghs of Scotland,	26
Ought the Traffic in Alcoholic Liquors to be Prohibited?	17, 33	Open-air Agency of the Association,	38
Permissive Bill, The—Arguments for and against,	1	Our Annual Report,	144, 146
Private Vices Public Benefits,	139	Our Ministerial Subscribers,	53
Prohibition Movement in the North, The,	51	Our Seventeenth Volume,	191
Retreat of the 70,000, The,	85	Podharians, The,	55
Science and Scripture on Alcohol,	170, 187	Pollokshaws Town Council,	129
Surface Work,	49	Position of Scotland in regard to Liquor Legislation, The,	40
The Lesson of Ohio,	147	Procedure in Parliament,	129
Turning over a New Leaf,	157	Profits from Drink,	89
Working Man's Bill of Fare, The, 34, 49, 122, 141, 154, 189	157	Progress of the Work, The,	161
		Safeguards for our Soldiers,	89
		Sanquhar Town Council,	146
Leading Articles and Summaries:		Scottish Permissive Bill Association and Lord Colin Campbell's Bill,	6, 24
Abstaining M.P.'s,	6, 73	Shall we Lower our Flag,	158
Activity of the Agitation,	56, 72, 130	Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., M.P.,	90
Alcohol as a Cause of Death,	90	Sir Garnet Wolseley's Soldiers at Tel-el-Kebir,	130
Allsopp's Brewery,	39	Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Urgency Resolution,	190
American Insurance Societies,	89	Special Liquor Legislation for Scotland,	192
An Ideal "Bill,"	39	Spurious Unfermented Wines,	73
Annual Meetings,	88	Sunday Steamers' Liquor Bars,	115
Another Adverse Judgment in the Court of Session,	191	Swiss Cantons, The,	17
Arrests for Drunkenness in Ireland,	145	Temperance Census of Campbeltown,	26,
Barnaid Question, The,	72	Temperance Hundred of Perth,	
Billiard Saloons and Late Hours,	130	Temptations of the Holiday Season, The,	
Bill for the Suppression of Payment of Wages in Public Houses,	6	The Bishop of Peterborough and Moderate Drinking,	
Blue Ribbonism,	39, 56	The Budget and the Revenue from Alcoholic Liquors,	
British Temperance League's Way of Working,	190	The Contest in East Lothian,	
Canon Wilberforce's Letter to Archbishop of Canterbury,	90	The Effects of Prohibition,	
Canada and the Scottish Thistle,	54	The <i>Guardian</i> and Shebeens,	
City Line Steamship Company and Liquor,	160	The <i>Guardian's</i> Forecast,	
Conference Meetings,	6	The <i>Lancet</i> on Grocer's Licenses,	
Consumption of Liquor in United Kingdom,	118	The Mizpah Band,	
Consumption of Liquor in America, The,	28	<i>The National Trade Guardian</i> and the Central Police Court,	
Cunard Steamship Company and Grog,	145	Tract Distribution,	
Defeat of Governor St. John of Kansas, The,	161	Trimming in Ohio,	
Depreciation of Public-house Property,	118	United Kingdom General Provident Institute,	
Diminution in the Revenue from Intoxicating Liquors,	162	U.P.'s and Licensing Boards, The,	
Disappointment to Midlothian, The,	175	Wigan Election, The,	
Dr. Fergus Ferguson and the Glasgow School Board,	160	Wm. Hoyle's Letter to the <i>Times</i> ,	
Duty of Registration, The,	74	Women and Voting,	
Earl Zetland's Appeal to House of Lords,	56		
East Lothian Election,	177	Our Book-Shelf:—	
Edinburgh Election,	129	Alcohol and Health, from a Workingman's View,	
English Cricketers and Lunch,	88	Annual Report—Dundee Temperance Society,	
English Privy Council and the Canada Temperance Act,	90	Annual Report—Newcastle and District Temperance Society,	
Exclusive Voting,	175	Curious Notions,	
Ex-Governor Dingley's latest efforts in Maine,	28	Drink and Strong Drink,	
Extension of Municipal Franchise to Women,	118	Every-Day Stories,	
Forthcoming Liquor Legislation,	176	Foothold of Abstinence,	
High Wages and Improvidence on the Clyde,	7	J	
Horrors of Wine Production, The,	177	He	
Indoor Agitation,	118	I	
Ingenuity of Drink-making, The,	162		
Intoxicating Liquors,	53		
	72		
	99		

	PAGE		PAGE
Correspondence :—		Haddington Burghs Election,	95
Boy Smoker, The,	48	Highland Temperance League,	183
Disastrous Results of Sobriety,	196	Irish Drinking,	148
Diet and Drink,	125	Irish Temperance League,	30
Food Reform,	151	Irvine,	46
Movement in the South, The,	77	Kansas,	62
Need of Prompt Action,	125	Kelso,	62
Sanquhar Town Council,	151	Kirkwall,	62
Sir W. Lawson and his Resolution,	77	Largholm—Temperance Meetings,	79
Teetotalism and Christianity,	63	Lecture at Kemney,	15
Tract Circulation, On,	125	Licensing Laws (Scotland) Bill, The,	9, 31
Use of Drunkenness, The,	86	Local Option Demonstration in Edinburgh,	178
Public Press :—		Milngavie Total Abstinence Society,	134
A Clergyman among the Publicans,	37	Mitchell Monument, The,	150
America,	143	Moffat,	183
How a Member of Parliament was Educated,	199	Mr. Murphy in Edinburgh,	150
Love of Drink,	199	Mr. Murphy's Mission in Glasgow,	147
Mississippi,	143	Municipal Elections,	149
Modern Bardolph, A,	143	Note from Stornoway,	62
Putting the Cup to the Neighbour's Lips,	199	Novel Census,	163
The Drunkard,	167	On the Wing,	127, 167
United States,	143	Parliamentary Recess, The,	181
Whisky Profits,	199	Parliamentary Session, 4, 29, 40, 57, 75, 91,	196
Women's Influence,	167	Permissive Bill Meeting in the West Port,	61
Tales, Sketches, &c. :—		Presentation to Mr. Russell, Dublin,	163
An Enemy in the Mouth, 65, 81, 119, 121, 137, 153, 169, 185	36	" Mr. Waterston, Edinburgh,	164
Gigantic Alcoholic Factory, A,	151	Progress of the Work, 24, 70, 134,	166
Good and Bad,	18	Rev. David Macrae in Perth,	148
Mr. Moody's Temperance Efforts in Glasgow,	68	Rev. J. Scott on the Mizpah Band,	198
Sam Taylor's Electioneering,	68	Rev. Samuel Harding,	78
Poetry :—		Sabbath Evenings in Glasgow,	164
A Night Scene,	22	Scottish Temperance League,	46
A Sonnet,	87	Scottish Temperance Life Assurance Company,	198
A Summer Bird,	200	Limited,	150
Blue Ribbon Hamlet, A,	80	Silver Star Brigade, The,	193
Heather,	173	Sir Wilfrid Lawson at Falkirk,	197
June,	37	" at Leicester,	197
Lost Loves,	80	Table of Population, Electors, and Places Li-	
Mark iv. 35-41,	127	censed for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors	
On,	52	in Burghs of Scotland,	23
Palm xxiii,	168	Teetotal Provosts in Scotland,	163
and Reward,	87	Temperance Demonstration in Aberdeen,	14
to the Sea,	143	Temperance Home for Women,	79
—In the Bay,	127	Temperance in Scandinavian Countries,	134
The Statesman,	22	Temperance Meetings,	62
The Strays,	5	Temperance Movement from a Medical Point	
and, The,	168	of View,	78
—		Temperance Nut, A,	163
and Insurance,	163	Temperance Ship Launch,	61
Medical Association,	134	The School Board Elections,	30
Messel,	78	Thornhill Abstainers' Union,	163
—	182	Twenty-fourth Annual Meetings of S. P. B. and	
Kirkcubright,	133	T. A.,	97
Movement at Perth,	31	United Kingdom Alliance,	132
Abstinence Society,	15	U.P. Synod,	47
—	164	Various, 94, 162,	182
Edinburgh Temperance Society,	183	Wines, Any or Many,	95
The,	58	Work of Fifty Years,	79
—	164	Obituary :—	
of Scotland,	46	Adams, The late R., Aberdeen,	64
—	31	Arthur, " George, Forfar,	48
Edinburgh Moral Reformers to	133	Blair, " Thomas, Tranent,	184
ink, A,	198	Brown, " Councillor, Glasgow,	32
—	182	Bruce, " Rev. Dr.,	152
—	183	Clark, " W., Aberdeen,	136
—	78	Cooper, " Mrs., J. J.,	184
—	78	Darroch, " R., Glasgow,	183
—	164	Dryden, " Adam, Edinburgh,	152
—	15	Hay, " R., Perth,	184
—	164	Hope, " William, Carstairs,	184
—	31	Ivory, " Thos., Esq., Edinburgh,	48
—	3	Johnstone, " Mrs., Perth,	184
—	3	Melrose, " J., Edinburgh,	184
—	3	M'Culloch, " Mrs., Dumfries,	96
—	3	Mitchell, " William, J.P., Montrose,	96
—	3	Munro, " Dr.,	183
—	3	Newbigging, " J., Duns,	48
—	3	Paton, " James,	48
—	3	Simpson, "	48
—	3	Walker, "	48

THE
Social Reformer.

APRIL, 1882.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL—ARGUMENTS
FOR AND AGAINST.

SECOND PRIZE ESSAY, BY MR. JOHN C. HARVEY,
ROTHESAY.

Continued from February number.

It is very amusing to study the reasons which are given by the liquor interest why the Bill should not pass. For example, one party says that the bread would be taken out of the mouths of those engaged in this great industry; while another affirms, that if the Bill were passed to-morrow it would be a dead letter, as no town in the kingdom would take the liberty of putting it into force. If the publicans really believe the latter theory, I am certain their opposition to the passing of it would not be so strong as it is. The majority of them are, however, shrewd enough to see that the people only want the power to rid themselves of the evil. "But," says a voice, "is the question an urgent one?" In defining a question of this nature, I affirm that it should powerfully concern the interests of the community at large, and should be ripe for decision; and what question, I ask, has more right to these characteristics than the treatment of the liquor traffic? The encouragement to drinking given by the State is in a great measure the cause of the drunkenness of the country, and it is the duty of the State to remove the cause. The reasons why the temptations of this traffic have so much power is that they have formed an acquired appetite through social custom. Law is an influential teacher to the great mass of the people, and as the law has raised into power the system of legalised temptation, nothing but the law can destroy it. It is good to preach temperance and to use moral suasion and education, as weapons against drunkenness, but these are only theoretical means; and against them are arrayed throughout the country thousands of seminaries, established by permission of the Government, which practically create drunkards. I cheerfully concur with the opinion expressed by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, that "Government should so legislate as to make it easy to do right and difficult to do wrong." The Right Hon. R. A. Cross expressed the same idea, when he said, "All the Legislature can do will be to place in the hand of the people the means of raising themselves, and to remove all hindrances which exist in present legislation." These gentlemen could scarcely have expressed in better language what the Permissive Bill proposes to do. I firmly believe that any measure of the kind mentioned will have the sympathy and support of the great body of the working classes of the kingdom. Political philosophy should not commend men to rise above their circumstances; it ought rather, by removing temptations which are too strong, to alter the circumstances, and thus gain the desired end. Is it not unworthy of the Government to

allow the drunkard to remain bound hand and foot with grave clothes when they can do something to set him free? In the discharge of their duty to God and their brethren, should our Legislature not free the slaves who are yet within her bounds? Richard Cobden said, "Every day's experience tends more and more to convince me that the temperance cause lies at the foundation of all social and political reform."

I shall now submit the principal objections which have been urged against the Permissive Bill, and I will endeavour to show that they do not deserve much serious consideration. Before proceeding, however, I may state that the great bulk of the objections to the Bill are made by those who have a pecuniary interest in the extension of the traffic, and that those who support the Bill can have no other object than the welfare of the people. It is said, "The liquor traffic is an ancient industry, and it employs upwards of 800,000 persons, besides those dependent on them; and the capital inseparably invested in it is not less than £38,000,000." My answer to all this is that an "industry" may be "ancient" without being either legitimate, respectable, or endurable. A tree is known by its fruits, and if the liquor traffic is bad, surely the fact of its being as old as sin does not prove the legitimacy of it; and the fact that 800,000 persons earn their bread by spreading this evil and that £38,000,000 are sunk for the same end, is anything but an argument for upholding the traffic. Not even those engaged in the liquor trade will venture to assert that their business is an unqualified blessing, nor does it furnish employment to nearly so many as the cotton trade, and yet the capital sunk in the cotton trade is by no means so large. The Caledonian Distillery, having a turn-over of £1,500,000 annually, employs 150 men; while the Atlas Iron Works, Sheffield, with the same turn-over, finds employment for 4,000 men! But I will dismiss this objection by asking if it is not an immoral act to prostitute the virtue of the people to the vested interests of the publican? The next argument is scarcely worth noticing, as it would be going over the same ground as I have just traversed. It is, that "the duties and licenses imposed upon the liquor traffic constitute about one-third of the total revenue of the country." As I have said, the money of the people could be more profitably invested in other trades, and even without the increased wealth arising from this source, the ordinary taxation would be quite adequate to meet the diminished expenditure of the country. To connive at dissolute habits, because they are supposed to be the means of recouping an exhausted treasury, is but a miserable expedient for any Government to adopt; because private vices never can prove to be public benefits. No statement has been more persistently made with regard to the Permissive Bill than that it would prevent the poorer classes of society from obtaining

those beverages which the rich would still be able to keep in their cellars, while it seeks to close the public-house which is the poor man's wine-cellar. It is affirmed that if this Bill is passed class distinctions will be intensified, and that it will virtually establish one law for the rich and another for the poor. The tap will cease to run, but the cellar will be inviolable; and this, it is said, would be an invasion by the rich on the pleasures of the poor. I need scarcely mention, in a paper written in connection with a working men's club, that social enjoyment can be had elsewhere than in a licensed drink-shop, and I believe that the majority of working men hold the same opinion. The *Times* recently said "the demand for a settlement of the liquor law is essentially democratic." If the Permissive Bill is a question of rich *versus* poor, how can the fact be accounted for, that whereas on the first introduction of the Bill, in 1864, before an upper and middle-class Parliament, only 40 members voted for it; while, on its being brought forward in 1871, when the extension of the franchise had made St. Stephen's more of the people's Parliament, 136 voted for the Bill; and without going to the House of Commons, the case of the inhabitants of Grangemouth is an evidence of this assertion. In connection with the notice by the Earl of Zetland that all licensed houses in that town will be closed after Whitsunday first, the local option party took a plebiscite of the town with the result that three-fourths of the inhabitants over sixteen years of age, and four-fifths of the householders, have declared themselves in favour of the withdrawal of the licenses! The people of many other towns have expressed themselves of the same opinion, as the Archbishop of York, who says, that in accordance with all modern legislation and with the feelings of the people in every part of the empire, the proper authority to have the control of the liquor traffic is the people themselves. Cardinal Manning, in the same strain, says, "I look upon the Permissive Bill as no more than giving a legal right and power to the people of this country to protect themselves." Another argument used against the Bill is that it will introduce a principle absolutely new to the constitution—namely, that of giving the majority the power of interfering with the social habits and tastes of the minority. Of course, the inference intended to be drawn is that interference with the liquor traffic would be of this character. Time after time the majority have interfered with the social habits and tastes of those who approve of bull-baiting, cock-fighting, gambling, duelling, and such like. If the majority have no right in this matter, I would ask if the minority have a right to interfere with the majority as exemplified in the cases of the late Prince Consort, Earl Shaftesbury, the Earl of Zetland, and numerous other landlords, who have by their simple fiat decreed that no licensed houses shall exist on their properties. The experience of these noblemen has been of the very happiest description, and entirely disproves the statements made to the effect that illicit traffic and continued attempts to evade the law will result from the passing of the Permissive Bill. The Permissive Bill will be entirely inoperative unless the majority of the people are of opinion that they ought to exercise the powers to be given them in the Act. I again call attention to this fact, because the licensed victuallers are continually making a great outcry about the loss the country would sustain by the removal of inns and hotels. I am perfectly willing to admit that hotel-keepers are a class of great importance, and the loss would be seriously felt by tourists, commercial men, and all who have occasion to leave their homes on business

or pleasure. But do my friends the licensed victuallers forget that there is a great difference between common public houses and hotels; that houses for the entertainment of strangers have been, and are, successfully managed without a license for the sale of intoxicating liquors; and that it is not at all likely that a majority of the people would be in favour of the suppression of inns and hotels as long as they continued to be of utility? I have one general objection to offer to the Permissive Bill, which is that it goes rather far to begin with. Even Sir Wilfrid Lawson has admitted this by forsaking it in the meantime for his Local Option Resolution. I feel certain, however, that if the Resolution had been introduced in 1864, we should now have the Permissive Bill. I think it is a pity that there is no provision made in the Permissive Bill for compensating those liquor dealers who might be disestablished by it. There are, I feel certain, many respectable persons engaged in the traffic, who have expended large sums of money in purchasing their businesses, and it certainly would be a hardship to rob them of their capital and means of livelihood without compensation. This compensation should only, I think, be given to those engaged in the trade prior to the passing of the Act. Even admitting that the traffic is bad, we have a precedent for such a course in the action of our country with regard to the slave trade.

THE DRINK TRAFFIC AND VITAL STATISTICS.

THE influence of the drink traffic on the public health and on the rate of the national mortality has not yet received the amount of attention which it assuredly deserves, and to which it has the highest claims. That there is such a great and powerful influence is all but universally admitted, especially among those who are best able to decide the matter, and has been very generally expressed, though mostly in very vague terms. It is quite common to meet with such expressions as these—"Most of the cases of disease that come under my care owe their origin to or are seriously complicated by, the excessive use of strong drink." Much more than these generalities is required before the public can form any clear and conclusive opinion on the greatness of that influence, and clearer notions are required before the popular mind can be influenced, as we should desire to see it, by these statements. In order to meet this, the Medical Temperance Society has set before itself, as one end to aim at, the collection of statistics bearing on this question. They have as yet, however, only had a very limited time, and the area is but circumscribed. We must, then, make use of such evidence as we can get—and make the best of it. That is of greater importance than many people imagine, and must be gathered from various sources of a character not very promising. It is our object to try and find out the facts, so far as we can reach them, from such evidence as we have been able to collect. The main supply of evidence that we can at present command is derived from the Insurance Companies and Benefit Societies. One of the former has for many years carried on its business, insuring people in one or other of two sections—the temperance section for those who are abstainers, the other, the ordinary section, whose members are not abstainers, though only those are admitted who are very moderate users of alcoholic beverages. As the two sections are kept thoroughly separate, and as the statistics of each are published annually, we have the means of comparing the death-rate of these classes. We have watched the reports for a number of years with great interest, and the results from 1866 to 1880 are now before us; we summarize them thus—

Temperance Section.			Ordinary Section.	
Years	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
1866-70	549	411	1008	944
71-75	723	511	1268	1330
76-80	933	651	1485	1480
	2205	1573	3761	3754

From this table it will be seen, that the mortality in the temperance section is proportionally much lower than in the ordinary section. The expected deaths in the former for the 15 years ending 1880, were 2205, while only 1573 actually died, or 71.3 per cent. of what was expected. When we turn to the ordinary section we find the expected deaths number 3761, and the actual deaths amount to 3754, or 99.8 per cent. of the expectation. There is thus a wide difference between the two sections—the mortality in the temperance section is 28.5 per cent. less than in the ordinary section. Whence, then, comes this marked difference? It does not come from the one section being from a higher class of society than the other—in this respect they are much alike; no difference has yet been suggested other than this—the one section uses alcohol, the other does not. Here we have abstinence placed in comparison with moderation. Sir James Paget says, when writing on this subject, that no statistics have yet been got which show the comparison between the use in moderation of alcoholic liquors and abstinence—on a sufficiently large basis. He says no true comparison can be made, unless at least 500 of each class are taken, and in similar circumstances. Here we have what Sir James desiderates, provided for a period sufficiently long to eliminate all chances of material error. The comparison here is between at least 20 times the number he requires, for a period not of one year, but for fifteen years. And what is the result of the experiment? The life of the abstainer is one-third better than that of the moderate drinker—or in other words, the death-rate of the former is 28.5 per cent. less than that of the latter. If, then, we suppose the whole population were abstainers, the death-rate would be 28.5 less than it would be were all moderate drinkers; or in other words, the total number of deaths in the Kingdom would be at the least somewhere about 150,000 less than it is at present, which just means that moderate drinking kills 150,000 a year in our population.

This experience is not confined to the United Kingdom Temperance and Provident Society, whose statistics we have just quoted. There are several other Insurance Societies which have lately adopted the same mode of working. Another company has this experience. At the end of seven years, the examination of the condition of the company revealed this state of matters. In the general section, the expected deaths were 1836, and the actual number was 1863 or 27 more than were expected; while in the temperance section, the expected deaths were 1070, while the actual mortality was 745. In the former the ratio of actual to expected deaths, was 101.5 per cent. nearly, while in the latter section the ratio was only 69.7, or a difference in favour of abstainers of 31.8 per cent. The Sceptre Life Association has the following experience. For five years ending December 1850 the expected claims in the general section were 308, and the actual claims were 229, or 75 per cent. of the expectancy. In the temperance section the expected deaths were 99, the actual claims were 44, or 45 per cent. of the expectancy. Two or three other Societies of the same class have a similar experience, but none of these have either the breadth of basis, or length of experience, of the United Kingdom Temperance and Provident Association. But they show that the experience of that company is not isolated, but is confirmed by the other societies which adopt the same plan. Hence we may draw a conclusion from that experience with the most perfect certainty, that the inference will, if correctly drawn, be in accordance with the true state of matters. This inference is that compared with moderate drinking, abstinence would increase the average length of life at least nearly one-third if not more. One may say that the comparison is not a fair one. We admit that some

of those who began as moderate drinkers may have become drunkards, or at least not very moderate drinkers. But, on the other hand, we have among the abstainers some who in youth had been addicted to the use of strong drink, and consequently their constitution must have been more or less injured thereby. Thus the comparison is on the whole a very fair one, as between the moderate drinker and the abstainer. But if we take the general population, the comparison would be much more favourable to the abstainers, at least this is the conclusion we would naturally come to, from a survey of the general state of society. That this is true is, we think, shown in the following comparison between the Rechabites and the Odd-Fellows. In the Society of the Rechabites every member is an abstainer. In that of the Odd-Fellows there is no such requirement, but every one is at liberty to use liquor. Indeed, some of them use it freely, while there are among them some who are abstainers. The following gives the result of five years experience—

Rechabites	Number	Odd-Fellows
30,000	500,000	
16.16	Sick per cent.	28.75
7.4	Deaths per 1000	12.6
6.14	Average days sick	10.5

Looking just at the death rate, we find that of the Rechabites is 7.4 per thousand, and that of the Odd-Fellows 12.6, in other words the rate of the former is 41.27 per cent. less than that of the latter. This bears out the inference that if the general population were taken, the odds would be much greater in favour of abstinence than the experience of the U.K. Temperance and Provident shows. The Odd-Fellows admit members who use liquor more freely than the Insurance Society does, hence the death rate is higher compared with abstainers than it is in the Temperance and Provident, and if the whole population were compared with abstainers, we have no doubt that the difference would be found to be greater still. But even this is startling enough. It means that only 59 abstainers die for every 100 of the drinkers as represented by the Odd-Fellows. If this proportion be extended to the population above 15 years of age, the drink-caused deaths cannot be less than 140,000 yearly, and if to these we add one-sixth of the children, killed indirectly by the drink, or about 60,000 (by far too low an estimate we believe) we have a total loss to the nation yearly of 200,000. Dr. B. W. Richardson estimates the death rate caused by drink as one-third of the whole, or about 230,000, and the considerations already brought forward pretty strongly confirm his estimate.

Look now at the sickness—among the Odd-Fellows the rate is 28.75 per cent., and among the Rechabites 16.16 per cent., a difference in favour of abstinence of 43.8 per cent. In the whole population the advantage would be greater. It appears that at least two-fifths of all the cases of sickness in the community are drink caused, if we may judge from the experience of those two societies. But look again at the length of the period of sickness—That of the abstainers was 6.14 days, that of the Odd-Fellows was 10.5—the former less than the latter by fully 41 per cent. If we consider that only 57 cases of sickness occur among the abstainers for every 100 among the Odd-Fellows, and these are sick 6.14 days while the Odd-Fellows are 10.5 days sick, we have, as the result, 350 days sickness among abstainers for 1050 days among the Odd-Fellows, or as nearly as possible three times as much sickness among the latter as among the former. This strongly corroborates the statements made by many medical men, that one third of the sickness of the country is caused by the use of alcoholic liquor. This is confirmed by the experience of the Benefit Society established by the Rev. Stenton Eardley of Streatham Common. The result of the first seven years experience, as detailed by the President, is as follows—Average number of members 117, of whom the average number of abstainers was 38. The whole expense of the Society in the way of sick alimnt, &c., was, £705 10s 4d, of this the abstainers received £56 11s, whereas had their sickness been as great as that of the other members they would have

received £180 lls. The Society was thus saved no less than £124. In other words, the annual charge on behalf of each member was 16s on an average, but that of the abstainers was only 4s 4d; that is, the amount of sickness was only a little more than one-fourth that of the non-abstainers. Similar is the experience of the army in India. In the 65th Regiment, 1874-5, we have the number of non-abstainers reported 900, and of abstainers 260; the former sent to the hospital 357 or 40 per cent. of their number, the latter sent only 59 or 23 per cent. Dr. Munro of Hull, collected some statistics as to the amount of sickness in Benefit Societies in his neighbourhood, and he found as the result of his examination that the sickness in temperance societies was only $1\frac{3}{4}$ days yearly, while in these which admitted non-abstainers or consisted chiefly of these, the average sickness was $11\frac{1}{2}$ days. The death rate he found to be nearly 5 times as great in the latter as in the former.

Such are a few of the facts on which we base our conclusions, some may say that they are far too narrow to build so broad a structure upon. We have seen, however, that from every quarter we get confirmatory evidence, although in itself it may be comparatively of small importance, and this evidence from every quarter, and from every available source all tells the same general tale. In no case that we have ever seen, have we found the sickness or death rate of the abstainers higher than it is among those who drink. The exact proportions may vary, but the preponderance of sickness and deaths is always found among the consumers of alcohol. It is much to be regretted that we have not yet got such a body of evidence collected as would put all doubt on the question out of court; but this too will come before long. We have enough to show that the influence of drink upon health and vitality in this country is a very deadly one. That to drink we owe one-third at least of all our sickness, and consequent loss and expense, and nearly, if not fully one-third of the deaths of the country are due directly or indirectly to strong drink. Truly this is a most important inquiry, and among all the subjects of inquiry under the Legislature we know none more deserving of attention, or more imperatively calling for it than this.

If the facts be, as we think these sources of evidence show that they are, true (we are firmly persuaded they are understated), what are we to do? In the first place we must endeavour to convince the people of the facts, and lead them to adopt such measures as shall compel the Legislature to deal effectually with the cause of all these multifarious evils. Were cholera, or any other epidemic to visit our shores, neither people nor legislature would be satisfied by the adoption of such measures as would reduce the mortality from the plague to one-fourth or one-sixth of the rate, at the same time perpetuating it in a more limited extent, while there was clearly and emphatically pointed out a plain, simple, tried and complete cure, not only for the present evil, but a certain means of preventing the return of the epidemic. Would any M. P. dare to face his constituents and tell them he had resisted the tried and effectual remedy, and had done his best to substitute a palliative which would reduce the mortality, though it certainly would keep it up perpetually in a limited form? Nay, verily! He would soon be given to understand that he must take the tried and effectual remedy, and that if he would not, they would find some one who would. Now, any change in the present License Law would at the very best only limit and confine the evil—would not cure it—but would perpetuate it in some measure, however much it might be limited. License can never cure the evil. Prohibition and that alone can successfully combat the enemy. No place where this has been tried has found it a failure. No people who have given it a fair and full trial have ever had reason to complain that it has not given them the satisfaction they expected. The cause of the evil being removed, the evil itself must also cease. If drink causes all this mischief, remove drink from the land, and the evils so far as they proceed from this cause and so far as they are the fruits thereof must follow in its train. If we are right in our inferences from such facts as we have been able to gather bearing on the

question before us, we are safe in asserting, as has been done by many medical men, that drink is the cause of a very large proportion of the disease and death of the country. The experience of many years tells the same tale. From 1861-66 the drinking of the country steadily increased, and so did the death-rate at the rate of 10,000 yearly. In 1867 the cost of the drink consumed fell somewhat less than four millions owing to the dull trade and the straitened circumstances of the people, the death rate also decreased about 39,000. Drinking increases, death-rate increases—when drinking decreases so does the death-rate.

What then is the remedy? Clearly this, and nothing less, nothing more is required. Prohibit the manufacture, importation and traffic in alcoholic liquors, and our national vitality will rise a third. We shall have a third less sickness, and we shall save annually about 200,000 lives which are now offered a sacrifice to Bacchus, a loss to the nation to the disgrace of our humanity and to the dishonour of our Christianity. Let each man who is a true patriot and loves his nation demand of his representative in the people's House of Parliament such a measure as will, as soon as possible, not merely chain the drink traffic—not only draw a few of its claws and teeth, but for ever close its existence, and so set free the slaves carried captive at its will, and liberate the nation from the frightful incubus resting upon it. This is a thing that all can aid in accomplishing. Never can the nation truly flourish, and health and long life be extended to the largest number of our fellow-citizens so long as the deadly upas tree of the drink traffic flourishes among us. Scotland in this matter expects that every man this season should do his duty. Give no rest to the Scottish M.P.'s until a Bill has been passed giving as the minimum the local veto to the people. This is the very least we can accept as a present settlement of the great drink problem.

THETA.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—II.

MR. S. C. ALLSOPP—TOBACCO CULTURE—DR. CAMERON'S PASSENGER VESSELS (SCOTLAND) BILL—OPIMUM TRAFFIC—DROPPED ORDERS—PURITY OF BEER—HALF YEARLY LICENSES IN IRELAND—LORD COLIN CAMPBELL'S LICENSING (SCOTLAND) BILL—PUBLISHERS HAVING ARMS—BREWING LICENSES—BALLOT ACT—CORNWALL SUNDAY CLOSING BILL—DRUNKENNESS IN INDIA—ARMY REFORMS—PAYMENT OF WAGES IN PUBLIC HOUSES—PROHIBITION BILL.

FEB. 20th.—Mr. S. C. Allsopp, the newly elected member for Taunton, amid Conservative cheers, took the oath and his seat. With the Opposition of the day it seems to be an article of belief that beer is essential to the stability of the Throne and the Constitution.

Mr. Gladstone, in reply to the question whether it was in contemplation to authorise the growth for sale of tobacco by the agriculturists, said that the Government would be glad at any time to find that any plan could be devised under which tobacco could be cultivated in the United Kingdom, and especially for Ireland, which appeared to have special qualities for its growth. But no plan of the kind was at present before the Government.

In committee of the whole House, Dr. Cameron obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to the traffic in excisable liquors in passenger vessels plying between Scottish ports.

FEB. 21st.—Mr. J. W. Pease that day four weeks would move a resolution and an address to Her Majesty on the subject of the opium trade with China.

Mr. Armitage asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was true that the Emperor of China had sanctioned, upon the petition of the Viceroy of Nankeen, an increase of the opium import duty to the extent of 140 taels, equal to £40 per chest. Sir Charles Dilke replied that the statement was not correct.

A resolution, moved by Mr. E. Clarke "That it is desirable that the practice of this House should be so amended that the consideration of Bills which have

passed a second reading but have not become law, should be resumed in the succeeding session of the same Parliament at the stage of committee," was defeated by 126 to 61 votes. The resolution was successfully opposed on the following grounds—1st, It would require an Act of Parliament; 2nd, All proceedings in Parliament were put an end to by prorogation; 3rd, There would be little time lost in beginning *de novo*, &c.

Feb. 23.—The Bill for better securing the purity of beer was brought in by Colonel Barne, and read a first time.

Feb. 27th.—Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Mr. Biggar, stated that there was no existing power to issue half-yearly licenses for beer and wine in Ireland under the Licensing Act.

Lord Colin Campbell obtained leave to bring in a Bill to alter and amend the Licensing Laws of Scotland. The Bill was read a first time.

Feb. 28th.—The question which Mr. Pease, M.P., put to Lord Hartington and Sir Charles Dilke on the opium traffic and the Chefoo Convention was delayed till the publication of certain papers bearing on the subject.

The Attorney-General for Ireland, in reply to Mr. Callan, said that no instructions had been issued to the Licensing Magistrates "that there is an objection as a rule to publicans having arms." [If they had liquor and arms they would prove too much for the peace of any country.—*Ed. S.R.*]

March 2nd.—Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Mr. Beddel, said the number of licenses taken out to brew in the year to the end of September 1881, by persons who did not pay any beer duty was—in England, 83,409, in Scotland, 2285, and in Ireland none.

Mr. Onslow gave notice that on the second reading of the Ballot Act (continuance) Bill, he would move that it was inexpedient to compel local authorities to extend the hours of polling.

Mr. Arthur Vivian obtained leave to bring in a Bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday in Cornwall. The Bill was read a first time.

March 9th.—The Marquis of Hartington stated in answer to Mr. O'Donnel that it was correct that the Excise Revenue of the Punjab for 1880-81 was the largest yet recorded. The gross receipts were 11 lacs 9000 rupees (£110,900), against 10 lacs 94,000 rupees (£109,400) in 1876. The letter of the Rev. Mr. Evans, Monghyr, to Lord Ripon, on the increase of drunkenness in India, and the report of the Bengal Government on it could be laid on the table if the hon. member liked to move for it.

March 13th.—The noble Marquis, replying to Mr. O'Donnel, stated that in the report of the administrator of the Punjab for 1881, Mr. Lyall said there was a growing liking among the natives for rum, now that its price was not very different from that of native liquor, and if the trade were allowed to follow its natural course the consumption would expand rapidly, somewhat to the detriment of the revenue derived from country spirits. The proposal set forth in the question was simply intended to check the practice of those interested in the sale of country spirits who buy up all the rum licenses, not with the view of making a profit by selling rum, but by limiting or preventing its sale, and who, having thus acquired a practical monopoly, prefer to sell country liquor at a higher profit. The Government, therefore, were of opinion that the growing demand for rum which was at least as wholesome as the country spirits should not be discouraged, and approved of Mr. Lyall's proposal.

March 13th.—Mr. Childers, in course of his speech on the Army Estimates said:—"So far as the men are concerned, the first important change which we have introduced relates to canteens. Formerly canteens were often let to contractors, but some years ago they were generally handed over to regimental charge, the profits being devoted to the amusements of the men and their families. Recreation rooms and coffee bars have also been generally established, and shops where groceries and other articles can be got. There have been great varieties in practice, but the shop and often the recreation room has been connected with the can-

teen. It is proposed to separate altogether the shops and recreation rooms from the canteens and attach the coffee bars to the former. (Hear.) The canteen will be almost exclusively used for the sale of beer at a moderate profit, the coffee bar and the shop being merely self-supporting."

March 15th.—The Licensing Laws (Scotland) Bill issued to-day.

March 16th.—In the House of Lords, on the motion of Earl Stanhope, the Payment of Wages in Public Houses Prohibition Bill was read a first time.

In the House of Commons the Marquis of Hartington again in reply to Mr. O'Donnel, stated that what Sir Ashley Eden said was, that while no doubt there might be increased drinking, it was not among the class who frequented the liquor shops in Calcutta, but among the middle classes who drank at their own homes. He also said that careful inquiry had convinced him that the alleged increase of intemperance was more imaginary than real, and that at any rate any such increase was not due to the multiplication of liquor shops, as the number of shops had been reduced in Calcutta. Nor did Sir Ashley Eden absolutely refuse the prayer of the petitions proceeding from the Mohammedan National Association of Merchants and Bankers of Calcutta, and the Anglican Bishops and Clergy of Calcutta. He said he could not fully comply with it during the term of the current licenses, but he promised to close the shops on Sunday until the renewal of the licenses. Although he (the noble Marquis), had no reason to think that there was no disposition on the part of the Government of India to adopt measures which would be a tendency to promote temperance among the population, he should call their attention to the necessity of exercising strict care on the subject.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

Just at your door,
See if you will how they shiver and shake;
Look but a moment for charity's sake,
I ask no more.

Waifs in the street,
Offspring of sorrow, of sin, and of shame;
Some without shelter, or parents, or name,
Or rest for their feet.

Tattered and torn,
Shoeless and hatless, and loveless and sad,
Likely as not going straight to the bad,
Weary and worn.

Only God knows
The burden of agony they have to bear;
You only tell how they lie, steal, and swear;
What of their woes?

Think of them, pray
Look at your own little innocent boy;
Your darling, I doubt not, your pride and your joy,
Your hope night and day.

The child of your prayers,
Picture him roaming a waif in the street,
To beg in despair from each one he meets,
To steal when he dares.

No mother or home.
Out in the rain, and the chill winter snows,
To suffer the torture of frost-bitten toes,
And perhaps die alone.

That's what they do—
Well, you cannot help it; such things must be.
You turn a deaf ear to their pitiful plea,
'Tis nothing to you.

One ear will hear.
These poor waifs and strays are as dear in God's sight
As the child you have reared in the glad gospel light.
He knows their care.

The glad by-and-by
Will give them the love denied to them here;
A recompense sweet for the sorrows they bear,
And a home in the sky.

ANNIE S. SWAN.

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

APRIL, 1882.

* * * We intend to publish another of our valuable tables in our next issue—one showing the number of licences in the Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland, with population, number of electors, present proportion, and proportion contemplated by the bill of Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., &c., &c.

We present with this, the first number of the Seventeenth Volume of the *Social Reformer*, title page and index to Vol. XVI. In doing so we respectfully recommend the new volume to the continued and increased support of our readers, and ask their aid in extending its circulation.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE LICENSING LAWS (SCOTLAND) BILL OF LORD COLIN CAMPBELL, M.P. —The Executive have, after careful deliberation, adopted the following resolutions:—"The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have carefully considered the provisions of the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., and while regarding it as an honest and earnest attempt to deal with the evils of the licensing system in Scotland, and believing that certain of its provisions would undoubtedly abate some of these evils, yet feel called upon to express their deep regret that the bill not only fails adequately to recognise the right of the ratepayers in their several districts to prevent by a direct and full veto public-houses being forced upon them or continued in their midst against their will, but provides for compensation to landlord and tenant, for the sale of licenses, for the granting of a ten years' lease, and generally for the continuance, under certain given conditions, of a system that is essentially mischievous in its nature and operations." "Further, the Executive would very earnestly call upon all the friends of temperance and social reform throughout the country immediately to memorialize their Parliamentary representatives to take such steps as will secure to the ratepayers of Scotland a veto on all facilities for the sale of intoxicating liquors."

R. MACKAY, Secy.

During the past month there has been unceasing activity on the part of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. In addition to the

ordinary efforts of the Association which knows no pause, meetings, mostly preceded by a conference have been held in Dunse, Denny, Brechin, Greenock, Montrose, Dumfries, Rutherglen, Ayr, Strathmiglo, Aberdeen, Stirling, Arbroath, and Tillicoultry. The conviction and determination on the part of the people which these meetings have revealed have been a source of unmingled satisfaction to the Executive. The only regret attaching to such meetings is that they are drawing to a close, and summer renders more of them impossible. Well, of those that are now memories it has to be said that they have far exceeded expectation in numbers and in enthusiasm. They have brought the Executive face to face with their constituents to the mutual satisfaction of both. And it seems undeniable that they have been productive of great gain to the movement, both throughout the country and in St. Stephen's.

The well-informed editor of the *Irish Banner* gives a list of abstaining Members of Parliament. According to him they include Sir W. Lawson, Sir Chas. Dilke, Messrs. S. Morley, T. Burt, W. Fowler, A. Pease, Joseph Cowen, W. S. Allen, Hugh Mason, John Bright, D. Davies, S. Howard, W. S. Cane, J. P. Corry, J. N. Richardson, C. H. Meldon, A. O'Connor, J. A. Blake, B. Whitworth, and T. P. O'Connor—twenty for England and Ireland. He puts down no Scotch abstainers, for the good reason that there is only one, Mr. P. M'Lagan, M.P. for Linlithgowshire. Our contemporary suggests the formation of a Parliamentary Temperance Society. Any one acquainted with the precincts of the House, and the habits of honourable members, will agree with him in saying that no more promising field of labour than this can present itself to energetic temperance reformers. Some day the nation will see a government of brewers, distillers, and moderate drinkers enacting a suppressive veto over the traffic, just as our fathers saw a government of landlords and protectionists throwing down the barriers that made bread so dear. It is the people's will that in the long run rules, not the personality of the legislature.

Anyone acquainted with the customs which prevail at our various shipping ports with regard to the employment of labourers, must feel a deep interest in the Bill of Lord Stanhope for the suppression of all payment of wages in public houses. In Liverpool, Hull, Greenock, Glasgow, Leith, and other large ports, the labourers are with few exceptions in a state of the most odious slavery to stevedores and publicans. These interested parties oppress their unfortunate victims in a way which to find a parallel to we must go back to Goshen and Israel under the Pharaohs. In a recent issue we drew attention to the fearful state to which the ballast heavers of London were reduced by their publican and stevedore tyrants. And we showed that by the late Prince Consort's efforts they were restored by

law to freedom and sobriety. The object of his lordship being to do the same good office for all similarly circumstanced wherever they are or whatever they do, his Bill deserves the hearty co-operation of every well-wisher of his kind. Let our readers write their parliamentary representatives at once, asking their support and vote to this truly suppressive measure. The passage of this Bill into law would emancipate a very large body of our fellow-citizens, throughout the country, from the tyranny of a detestable custom and a detestable institution, and by giving them the control of the fruits of their own labours restore their manliness, and induce them to increase and foster the great wage fund of the country.

Our contemporary the *Christian Leader* deserves much credit for the prominence which it gives to the temperance movement in its columns. In a recent issue Mr. James Henderson, one of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectors, very justly drew attention to the great material prosperity of the ship-building trades on the Clyde, and to the unexampled high wages earned by those employed therein. It would seem from his report that the great pays of 1873, '74, and '75 are again reached. No one who is friendly to our working classes would grudge them big pays, nay, but would be glad rather to see them so prosperous, were they themselves to justify their good fortune by saving and reasonable expenditure. In the first case they would be laying the basis for a comfortable old age; in the second they would be using their high wages to ameliorate their condition, as far as that could be done, by surrounding themselves with means of comfort which would add immensely to their happiness. But we fear that their old vice, intemperance, conquers them, and that they give to the liquor traffic what should bring comforts to their home or help to swell their bank-books. It is years ago since a ship-builder informed us that he could easily get his fellow-ship-builders to join him cheerfully in buying up the 35 public-houses that cursed their employees, if by so doing they would cease to exist. His employees did not work steadily—very far from it. To-day Mr. Henderson points to the same sad folly on their part, and now ex-Provost Ferguson of Whiteinch confirms the painful facts. The allegation will not lie against all the workers—far from it—but it lies against a very large number who, though earning large sums, earn them apparently only to squander them with the publican. The Glasgow Trades Council resent Mr. Henderson's good offices in drawing attention to this flagrant mis-expenditure on the part of their class. If he speaks inaccurately, let them show that he does so, but to speak resentfully of the statement made by him in view of the last sentence of his article, we do not hesitate to say, is unmanly. We do not believe that the Trades Council could successfully defend the ship-building employees from the charge laid against them, and,

instead of abusing the plaintiff's attorney, and thus showing they have no case, let them act upon the advice so kindly tendered by their true friends, and mission Govan, Partick, Whiteinch, and the lower reaches of the Clyde, and thus show to an admiring world that the Clyde ship-building class are not merely industrially great and skilful, but that through their great wisdom as regards their big pays, they promise to be one of the wealthiest sections of our industrial army.

The press representative of the Scottish publicans crows loudly over the service it would have us believe it has rendered to humanity in Glasgow. It has actually, it says, had its suggestion to take a census of the shebeens of Saint Mungo adopted by Chief Constable M'Call. All the night policemen are to be returning officers for their own beats. This great work has been begun and is being carried on because the *Guardian* has been up and doing. Merely pausing to remind our readers that in this matter the *Mail* was up before the *Guardian*, we are decidedly of opinion that some members of the trade will not thank their *Guardian* for his trouble. If the shebeen trade be duly exposed, and, as a result, hunted down, many of the publicans will have to face a serious curtailment of their income. One would really think, from the virtuous indignation of the *Guardian*, that the shebeener was his own brewer and distiller, as well as his own dealer. The fact is different. The shebeener is merely the night shift, and the publican the day shift of the traffic. The shebeener, if forced to tell the source of his supply, would let in a little light upon the publican's dealings, which would hardly square with his great professions of respectability. Where the licensed supply is cut off, the unlicensed traffic also disappears. Men once freed from the allurements of the open sale of liquor do not *en masse* rush madly to the shebeener. It is when they have been fired up until they are maddened, and then thrust out of the licensed shop, that they plunge recklessly into the fangs of the shebeener to drown their craving in another and yet another bumper of the brain-destroyer. We hasten to congratulate the *Guardian* on its work, and suggest that it should throw its "bull's eye" on the other disreputable operations of the liquor traffic. Only, don't let it assume that the publican is better than the shebeener. They are both ministrants to vice, only the one is State-protected and the other is not; and it will be a great day for our beloved land when the licensed trafficker is reduced by the suppressive veto to the level of his disreputable brother. Then honest courses or the jail will be the option of both.

At length the Conservatives of Haddingtonshire have got heartily tired of Lord Elcho, M.P. The noble lord cannot, we think, blame us if we say we are pleased that he is so unceremoniously set aside by his constituents. It is true that he has expressed

a desire to depart from the position of their representative, and it is none the less true that he has managed to get his son called to the vacant chair. While infected by chagrin through his resignation, he will not be consoled by the recollection that he never did or said a word for the relief of those endangered or enslaved by the liquor traffic. Indeed he championed that traffic, and the records of the Scottish prohibitory movement shows him always the friend of the publicans, and not unseldom their advocate. In 1869, 1870, 1873, 1874, 1876, and 1878, he was silent, because when the divisions of most of these years was called he was abroad on urgent private affairs, but in 1864, 1871, 1875, 1879, 1880, and 1881 he voted against the Permissive Bill, and its equivalent, the Local Option resolution, while in 1880 he led a publican deputation into the presence of the Home Secretary, and that same year he assumed the mantle of Mr. Wheelhouse and vied against the veto. Such is the relation of the noble lord to the greatest social question of the day. From the earliest introduction of the veto to its latest he has been the avowed friend of the most tyrannical system that ever enslaved his country, and in other times we would have found him fraternising with those who were leagued to crush her liberties. In parting, we trust for ever, with his lordship as a commoner, we remember that at no distant time if spared he may be found in "another place." We trust that that "place" may be so overawed by the attitude of a justly indignant people, as to make him feel that in opposing the means of abolishing the licensing system he would be merely assisting to strike the knell of its own unmourned doom. We hope that we will on an early date be able to gladden our readers by announcing that the elected successor of Lord Elcho is an admirer and supporter of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and that the electors of Haddingtonshire have come to the resolution that the candidates who successfully woo their suffrages must be pledged to vote for the veto of the liquor traffic by the ratepayers.

In another column our readers will find a very full analysis of the Licensing Bill of Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., with comments thereon with which we entirely agree. We believe that his lordship, with those with whom he took counsel, had the object in view of carrying a measure which would greatly limit the sale of liquors, and secure to the ratepayers the power of voting against all licenses that affected them; would propitiate the publicans, ousted by the operation of the Bill, by affording compensation, and although in the first instance charging the rates with the expenses involved, would ultimately lessen the police rates by the profits derived from the sale of liquor certificates. The licensing system of Scotland will never have the sympathy of the Scottish people, under whatever administration it may be placed, because it maintains a traffic which the people have been trained by

a special education and a painful experience to look upon as an unjustifiable social tyranny, against which they have no present means of redress. It is a despotism sustained by the law of the land, and they know well that the Government shrink from placing that traffic within the power of the ratepayers' ballot, because it would be certain to be voted down. Had his lordship followed the lines on which Sir Wilfrid Lawson moves, and set himself to interpret the wishes of the Scottish people as he interpreted the spirit of the great prohibitory meeting in the City Hall last September, over which he was called to preside, he would have left the regulation and restriction of that system alone, and placing himself at the head of the temperance and social reformers of Scotland, might have led them in a victorious demand from the Government for a suppressive veto over the licensing system of Scotland. That he has not done so is a matter of disappointment and deep regret, not to us only, but to many who with us are ardently desirous of having legal powers on the statute book for the people to apply to ridding themselves of the baneful traffic in operation in the community where they live. We give him credit for an honest and earnest intention to grapple with the evils of the licensing system. We believe, however, he has found out, with ourselves, that no legislation will be satisfactory to the people of Scotland that does not embody the suppression of all facilities for the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the ratepayers. Already the ominous sounds of opposition are heard, both from the temperance party and the publicans, and we have reason to believe that to their assaults the Bill must succumb.

Mr. William Hoyle sends to the *Times* an estimate gathered from the Excise returns of the expenditure upon intoxicating liquors during the year 1881, which we summarise. The quantity of beer consumed in 1881 was 970,788,564 gallons, the value of which, at 1s. 6d. a gallon, is £72,809,142, against £67,881,673 in 1880. The consumption of British wines and spirits was 28,730,719 gallons, which at 20s. a gallon, amounts to £28,730,719, against £28,457,486. In foreign spirits the figures are 8,295,265 gallons at 24s., amounting to £9,954,318, against £10,173,014 in 1880. For wine the figures are 15,644,757 gallons, at 18s., amounting to £14,080,281, against £14,267,102 in 1880; while the consumption of British wines is estimated at 15,000,000 gallons, amounting, at 2s. per gallon, to £1,500,000, the same sum as in 1880. The total for 1881 is £127,074,460, against £122,279,275, an increase of £4,795,185. The consumption of beer shows an increase of 7.3 per cent., and British spirits 0.96 per cent., while foreign spirits show a decrease of 2.1 per cent., and wine 1.3 per cent. Taking the percentage of the total, it gives an aggregate increase of 3.9 per cent. With regard to the consumption of beer, however, Mr. Hoyle finds, by the avowal of the brewing interest itself, that the old computation of its liabilities to the Excise for the malt it used was delusive. Malt was taxed as if a quantity produced fifty-five barrels which in truth produced sixty, and accordingly the real increase in the drink bill is only 0.8 instead of 3.9 per cent.

Mr. Hoyle shows that we have been spending on an average £143,600,000 a year—a daily expenditure

of £393,424 sterling. While we contemplate the enormous magnitude of these figures, the debates by the working classes on the civil list, the consolidated fund and their own wage fund, and the Parliamentary discussions on voting the national supplies dwarf into mere insignificance. Britain is, through her liquor traffic, bleeding to death. Her industries are being starved, her homes are being drained to an extent that defies calculation and mocks estimate. Oh, that the nation were wise enough to adopt the wise suggestion of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and stop the leak and staunch the flow.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE LICENSING LAWS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

THIS boldly conceived and courageous measure, the eighty-sixth bill of the present session, has been introduced, as we have already informed our readers, by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P. for Argyllshire. It is backed by the available members of Parliament for Glasgow, Dr. Cameron and Mr. Anderson; by the member for Renfrewshire, Mr. Crum; the member for Stirlingshire, Mr. Bolton; the member for the Inverness district of burghs, Mr. M'Intosh; the member for South Lanarkshire, Major Hamilton; the member for Greenock, Mr. Stewart; and the member for the St. Andrews district of burghs, Mr. Williamson. Leave was obtained on the 27th February for its introduction and the draft underwent many alterations during its passage through the press. It extends to thirty-nine pages, three of which contain table of contents, twenty-six the fifty-eight clauses of the Bill, and ten the thirteen schedules forming the appendices to the bill. Its main divisions are six in number:—1st, Preliminary; 2nd, the Polling; 3rd, the Granting and Regulating of Licenses; 4th, Compensation to License-holders; 5th, Financial arrangements; and 6th, the Licensing Commission.

The preamble of the bill is as follows:—"Whereas it is expedient that the laws at present in force, whereby the right of granting certificates of license for the sale of excisable liquors, vested in the magistrates of burghs, and in the justices of the peace for counties, should be placed more directly under the control of the ratepayers in such burghs and counties; and that certain alterations and amendments should be made on the laws applicable to licenses for the sale of such liquors, for the more effectual suppression of intoxication, and for other purposes relating thereto. Be it therefore enacted, &c."

The reason for the bill is threefold. Firstly, to give the ratepayers more control over the right of granting licenses; Secondly, that the present laws should be altered and amended to more effectually suppress intoxication; and Thirdly, and for other purposes. As ratepayers the people have no contention with his lordship on the matter of granting licenses, their contention is that they ought to be vested with the right of refusing all applications for the privilege of supplying liquors to them, should necessity for such refusal arise. The granting of licenses "for their good" has in their experience been so manifestly to their injury or their annoyance that the time has come when it ought to be in their power to say whether and when the publican should stay or go. We should have been glad to have a better preamble. The suppression of intoxication depends upon the suppression of the facilities to it. His lordship offers to suppress the effect, we should have preferred that he had seen his way to aim at the suppression of the cause—the traffic in the means of intoxication. We can no more believe that the suppression of intoxication can result from the regulation or improvement of the supply of the intoxicating substance alcohol, than that the opium eater's vice should cease because twenty shops instead of forty places

remain to minister to his craving. The suppression of the facilities is the true way to the suppression of the drinker's indulgence.

The first clause declares that the Act may be cited as the "Licensing (Scotland) Act 1882," and may be construed with the unrepealed portions of the Acts at present in force, and these Acts may be cited together as the "Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1828-1882." The second clause confines the Act to Scotland, and the third provides for its operation to begin at the date of its passage into law, and for its application to all licenses on the first day of November after it becomes law.

The fourth clause repeals the Home Drummond Act 1828, sections 2, 5, 7, 14, 20, 30, 32, 35, and 36. These concern burgh licensing courts and quarter sessions, licensing districts, granting yearly certificates, lodging of applications, keeping lists of yearly applications, the exclusion of brewers, distillers, and publicans from the administration of the law, abolishes right of appeal on renewals and transfers and also old transfer schedules, the penalties presently in force, and the saving clause about repeal. It also repeals the Forbes M'Kenzie Act, 1853, sections 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 and 12. These concern the separation of spirits and groceries, grocer's power of retail, separate licenses for wine and spirits and for beer, the inspection of premises clause, the debarring of tacksman, blacksmiths, &c., from being licensed, the clauses making certificates necessary, about certificate forms and fraudulent certificates. It also repeals of the Public houses Acts, sections 1, 5, 7, 10, 22 and 33. These deal with the time and the form of certificates, the distinction between beer licenses and spirit licenses, abolishing all certificates but those under the Act, making beer sellers responsible, form of application, form of applicant's character, *mala-fide* travellers, &c. By it the whole of the Cameron Act of 1876 is repealed. A glance at this clause and its schedule will show how great the changes are in the licensing system of Scotland which his lordship contemplates.

In the Fifth or Interpretation Clause it is set down that "Burgh" means Parliamentary burghs, so that the bill will deal with the traffic of the 79 Parliamentary burghs, in whole or by the wards in these burghs; all other areas will be called "licensing districts," and shall be the same as a School Board district. Ratepayers shall mean every ratepayer, male or female, qualified to vote for members of a School Board. This is a most important clause, and one which we gladly welcome. We so fully believe that women will, on the whole, decide against the liquor traffic, that we will await the first exercise of their power to vote on the question with perfect confidence. Throughout the agitation, the objection of our opponents to the ratepayers having the power to determine this question has been met by our declaration that we prefer to leave it to the widest franchise to decide, and our declaration will, we firmly believe, be justified by the event.

The Sixth Clause provided for the preparation for a poll on the basis of the census returns.

The Seventh Clause is as follows:—"The maximum number of certificates for license to be fixed by the licensing authority as corresponding to the population shall not in any burgh, ward, or district be more than in the proportion of one license to every five hundred complete of the inhabitants of such burgh, ward, or district, as shown by the last census returns: Provided that in fixing the same number the licensing authority may if it thinks fit make any addition to the number, based on census returns, which in view of the requirements of any ward or district in respect of licenses for hotels or inns shall appear to the licensing authority to be required, and provided that such addition be duly notified to the ratepayers at the time and in the manner required by sections fourteen and fifteen of this Act; and should the inhabitants of any burgh, ward, or district exceed one hundred persons, and not amount to five hundred, the licensing authority may if they see fit fix upon one certificate for license for such burgh, ward, or district, to be voted upon as after mentioned, declaring that none of the existing licenses, which may be continued for a limited period, as provided by sec-

tion forty hereof, or licenses granted to dealers in ship stores as after mentioned, shall be included in the calculation as to the maximum number of licenses to be fixed upon as aforesaid as applicable to any burgh, ward, or district."

This is a most singular provision. Here we have a clause determining the maximum of licenses as one in five hundred. Now this is a most material reduction, as we may see by a glance at the position of the eight principal towns of Scotland—Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Greenock, Leith, Paisley, and Perth. These towns have an aggregate population of 1,197,567, inclusive of 142,458 electors. They have amongst them 165 hotels, 2726 public houses, and 1512 groceries, or a grand total of liquor shops of 4393. This is one public house to every 273 of the population. The bill under consideration would reduce the liquor shops from 4393 to 2395, a reduction of 1998, or within 2 of 2000 sources of public temptation and corruption. This would be a most material reduction if those left were not allowed to extend their capacity of accommodation or of service, but we find no provision against that; and yet it deserves consideration, for if the publican extend his premises to meet the demands certain to be made upon him, it will not much matter making a maximum at all; if his premises cannot be extended, then more sobriety may ensue. The Act will make it more difficult to procure liquor, but not at all impossible. The danger will continue. Within the limits to which it has been compressed it will continue to injure and burden all in its neighbourhood, and the owners and occupiers around it will have no more means of effective relief from its ravages than before. Then the licensing authority can increase the traffic if it see fit. This discretionary power, will, we fear, be liable to great abuse for such places as the watering places on the Clyde. Oban, Portobello, Bridge of Allan, when crowded with summer visitors, may have additional facilities to conviviality, and be all the more dangerous to pleasure seekers. Then all ship stores, and all publicans who accept the option of working out their lease are exempted from the maximum. So that after all the clause may merely keep the promise to the letter and break it as regards the reality. A very serious blot on this clause is the discretionary power which it confers to thrust public houses on those places which now are free from them. Any place having one hundred residents or twenty families may be menaced by this Act with a liquor shop. We have a very serious apprehension that many of those parishes which at present have no public houses, may have them thrust upon them and continued in them for ten years at least. To many of these places there could be no greater calamity, for they are places of refuge to numbers who, in the presence of public houses, are sure to become the victims of intemperate habits. The bill, in this light, instead of being a blessing to Scotland, would be its bane, and such reactionary legislation should meet with firm and uncompromising opposition.

The eighth clause provides for the election of a burgh licensing authority every ten years, on the same day on which the municipal elections occur. The number will be equal to the number of the Town Council in the burgh; the tenure of office one year; then the administration of the Act will, for the next nine years, be the duty of the Town Council.

The ninth clause has respect to the appointment and proceedings of the county licensing authority. But this is merely a temporary arrangement: for whenever a county government is set up, it will act as the licensing authority, and the authority created by this Act is to cease. This appears to foreshadow the establishment of a county board with licensing powers. Such a proposal must be resolutely opposed, because it would be a retrogressive step. Under all such authority the administration of the licensing laws has been an admitted failure, and it is time that the people themselves should be able to decide whether there should be any licensing system whatever to administer.

The tenth clause confers on licensing authorities absolute power to determine areas, rearrange them, &c. The eleventh clause is just an adaptation of the

thirteenth clause of the Home Drummond Act to suit this Act. By the eleventh clause no brewer, distiller, maltster, or dealer or retailer, should act on the licensing authority, or if in the Town Council take part in carrying out this act, nor take an appointment under it, nor sign the requisition or notice of objection, nor grant any certificate under a penalty of fifty pounds for each offence. The penalty may be recovered before the sheriff within six months, and when recovered to go to the license fund.

The twelfth clause determines the quorum as one-third of the whole number: and vests the chairman with a deliberative and a casting vote. The thirteenth clause defines the business at the first meeting of the burgh and county licensing authority: 1st, to decide on the maximum number of licenses in either burgh or wards, if any, and in licensing districts; 2nd, to appoint a chairman; 3rd, a returning officer who may be the chairman; 4th, fix the time of polling; and 5th, draw out regulations for polling. In the fourteenth clause the duties of the burgh returning officer are defined, 1st, to issue the usual polling intimations and advertisements within a month of his appointment. To see that these shall specify the maximum number of licenses, the polling place or places, and the polling day on which ratepayers may vote for the number of licenses, if any, they may prefer. The notice of the polling must be issued at least eight days previously. Clause fifteenth appoints similar duties as are named in the fourteenth clause to the county returning officer, who must also give eight days' notice. The sixteenth clause declares that the Valuation Roll should be conclusive evidence of the qualification of the voter, and copies should be furnished at the undernoted prices:—1000 names 1s., up to 2999 2s. 6d., up to 5999 5s., up to 8999 7s. 6d., and 9000 10s. No prices quoted for a larger number of names, but if on the same scale the roll would not be procurable in Glasgow, its cost being £5 16s.—a very costly roll indeed.

Clause seventeenth we give entire. "The voting should take place in every burgh, ward, and district at the times and places fixed by the returning officer, and should be in accordance with the provisions of the Ballot Act which may then be in force for the election of a member of Parliament, the provisions of which Act except so far as is inconsistent with this Act shall be held as incorporated herewith, [and the reader is referred to schedule C for the form of the ballot paper.] Every ratepayer shall be entitled to mark the number of licenses, not exceeding the maximum allowed by this Act, he or she considers to be required in the burgh, ward, or district respectively within which the ratepayer is entitled to vote, or if the ratepayer considers that none are required in such burgh, ward, or district, the voting paper shall be marked accordingly by the said ratepayer." The first portion of this clause is really good. The Permissive Bill of Sir Wilfrid Lawson provided for the sense of the ratepayers on the existence of the liquor traffic being taken by schedules, but voting by ballot is certainly to be preferred. We highly approve of the provision which gives power to the voter to decline to vote for any licenses, and we share the deep and widespread regret that his lordship did not see his way to fully arm ratepayers with an effective veto over the liquor traffic of their district. With the voting for any number of licenses we have no sympathy, because such a mode of voting can scarcely ever be worked by the voter for the advantage of prohibition.

Take the city of Edinburgh with its 29,000 electors and its 850 liquor shops. Its maximum by the Act would be 456. Now, we shall suppose that the ratepayers vote on these 456 licenses in the proportion of 1, 2, and 5. Then 3,625 would vote for the maximum number or 1,653,000 licenses; 7,250 for 100 licenses or 725,000; together for 2,378,000 licenses; but 18,125 vote against having any. Yet on striking the average, three-fifths of the voters would fix eighty-two public houses on Edinburgh for the next ten years, an instance of the grossest possible tyranny. It is probable that the publicans, publican landlords, and tradesmen dependent on the traffic, and hard drinkers, not to say drun-

kards, would always vote for the maximum number. If only they form an eighth part of the electorate it can be easily seen how much their vote will contribute to the maintenance of public houses; then the moderate drinkers—say polling two-fifths of the votes—would consider one-eighth of the former number of public houses enough, or say one-fifth of the maximum number, and would in conjunction with those interested in the traffic permanently maintain it in any place, even if five-eighths of the voters voted solidly for prohibition! We are heartily averse to such anti-suppressive liquor legislation as this. In no other department of social life have we met with a proposal that more effectually leaves the majority in the power of the minority, and in power of the minority in this bill means to be the thrall of the publican, his landlord, the moderate drinker, and perhaps drunkards.

The eighteenth clause gives effect to this undesirable mode of voting, by declaring that the average number arrived at by this process should be the number in the place striking it, for the next ten years.

The next three clauses we also print entire.

“On the expiry of not less than eight days after the declaration of the result of the poll, the licensing authority shall meet and shall divide the number of licenses declared as applicable to the burgh, ward, or district respectively, into three classes, viz., inns or hotels, public-houses, and grocers' licenses, and, taking into consideration the circumstances of the burgh, ward, or district, shall allocate so many of all or any of such kind of licenses according to the total number of licenses voted for to a particular locality in each burgh, ward, or district, that is to say, if the burgh is divided into wards, so many to each ward, or if not so divided into wards, so many to each part of the burgh to be described according to the best known description, and if in a district as defined by this act, so many to each parish composing the district, but in any case it shall not be necessary to give one or more of each kind of license to every ward, part, or parish.

“If on the summation of the votes in any burgh or district, or any ward of such burgh if the same is divided into wards, as provided by section eighteen, it is found that the total number of licenses voted is less than the number of ratepayers who have voted, the result shall be deemed to be a vote in favour of the total suppression of licenses in such burgh, ward, or district, and the returning officer shall declare the result of the poll accordingly, and advertise the same in the foresaid newspapers: Provided always, that if, within seven days from the date of the publication of the result of the poll, a notice of objection in the form of Schedule D annexed hereto, signed by not fewer than fifty of the ratepayers entered on the register on which the voting for such burgh, ward, or district has taken place, is lodged with the clerk of the licensing authority, the licensing authority shall meet as provided in section nineteen hereof, and adjourn their meeting for the space of fourteen days, and give public intimation in the foresaid newspapers of the time and place of such adjourned meeting. And every ratepayer in such burgh, ward, or district, dissatisfied with the decision of the majority of the ratepayers as before declared, may sign a notice and requisition in the form of Schedule E to this act annexed, which form of notice shall in burghs lie for signature in the office of the clerk of the licensing authority, or such other place as the licensing authority may appoint, and in districts in such places as the licensing authority may appoint, and the same shall be lodged with the clerk of the licensing authority not later than on the day preceding said adjourned meeting. Every ratepayer signing the said notice of objection and notice and requisition respectively shall do so with his own hand, and if from any cause he is unable to write, the same shall be signed by any justice of the peace, notary public, or minister of the gospel whom he may authorise for that purpose, and any person adhibiting the name of any ratepayer to the said notice of objection or notice and requisition respectively, except as before provided, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and shall be liable, on summary conviction before the sheriff of the county, to imprison-

ment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three calendar months.

“At the adjourned meeting of the licensing authority provided for by the preceding section, the notice and requisition shall be laid before the meeting, along with copy of the register on which the voting in regard to licenses took place, and the names on the said notice and requisition shall be there and then checked with the register, and the licensing authority, if in burghs, shall thereupon authorise the granting of a license in the proportion of one to every three hundred complete of the ratepayers of the burgh, or if divided into wards, of the ward who have signed the notice and requisition; but should the total number who have signed such notice and requisition not amount to three hundred, then the licensing authority shall have no power to authorise the granting of a license, unless it has been signed by not less than one hundred ratepayers of such burgh, or, if divided into wards, of the ward in which it is to take effect. And, in regard to districts which comprise several parishes, the licensing authority, on receiving such notice and requisition, shall grant one license in the proportion of one to every two hundred ratepayers complete resident in each parish forming the district who have signed such notice and requisition, and in no case shall they authorise the granting of a license in any parish unless the notice and requisition is signed by not less than one hundred ratepayers resident therein, and in fixing the kind of license to be granted in terms of such notice and requisition in burghs, wards, or parishes, the licensing authority shall give effect to the desire of the majority of ratepayers of such burgh, ward, or parish signing the same as expressed therein.”

In the first of the foregoing clauses power is given to the licensing authority to allocate the liquor shops which clause seventeenth thrusts upon the community. This authority, like the licensing bench it supersedes, plants the liquor temptations where it pleases, even where the people do not choose. May we hope that some may be placed in Burntsfield Links, Moray Place, Northumberland Place, Randolph Cliff in Edinburgh, as well as in Potterrow, Canongate and Cowgate? or in Blythswood Terrace, Park Circus or Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow, as well as in the Saltmarket, the High Street or Garscube Road? If this impartial course were taken we believe that the ranks of the prohibitionists would be largely and influentially reinforced by those who themselves at present, freed from the public house contaminations, sneer at or stand aloof from the well meant efforts of the temperance party, who are striving to expel the oppressor and let the oppressed go free.

The twentieth clause deals with the majority voting suppression. This is the most glaringly objectionable clause in the whole bill. It keeps the promise to the ear, but as certainly breaks it to the hope. We know hardly any of the burghs in Scotland where prohibition by striking the average would take place and where there would be a lesser number of licenses voted than there would be voters. No doubt we may be told that by the growth of temperance sentiment this objection would daily be losing its force, but we want practical relief now and we say that to place insurmountable difficulties in the path of the people aspiring to be better is an injustice. Still, even if this could be done as regards the voting, we find ourselves face to face with a proviso one could not be blamed if one asserted that it was expressly framed in the interests of intemperance. No sooner has prohibition, as the result of the voting, been declared in a place than 50 ratepayers can within seven days thereafter give notice that they wish the traffic reinstated. It will hardly be contended, we think, that as many fellows of the baser sort may easily be found in almost all our Scottish burghs to arrest the action of the majority. And for every complete 300 signing a licensed shop is to be provided, and even should these people fail to get three hundred, if only a hundred of them be found, a temptation is established directly against the wishes of the majority, for ten years. We wonder where this aggression will be tolerated. We, at least, believe that it would be very

difficult in many places to maintain such a source of danger in the teeth of the decided vote of the majority. Some years ago, Mr. George Anderson, the present senior member of Parliament for Glasgow, introduced a bill giving power to the Sheriffs to determine the number of licenses for the counties and burghs of Scotland. This reactionary legislation was opposed by none more strongly than the sheriffs themselves; but his lordship would by this bill vest the power of forcing and maintaining licenses on a community in the hands of a hundred ratepayers we will say from the Saltmarket of Glasgow, the Cowgate of Edinburgh, the Scouringburn of Dundee, and the Vennel of Greenock. The injustice of such a provision is so conspicuous that we believe no committee of the House of Commons would be found to accept it.

With regard to the twenty-first clause it is fair to say that it places a barrier in the way of the respectable drinkers who might otherwise ballot secretly for a very limited public supply of liquor. They must, by that clause, go to the licensing authority's office and sign a requisition to that end. We believe that not many of our reputable citizens will be found leaving their signatures on such a sheet or in such a place. Your minister, that never had a good word to say in favour of sobriety, your medical man that prescribes liquors freely to young wives and fevered patients, your elder, your man of reputation, all will carefully abstain from countenancing this public and indefensible course of action, and it will be left to be done by those who care no more for public opinion than for their own self-respect. To put an instrument in the hands of such to the injury and annoyance of their neighbour, might be simply arming the worst classes in society with unlimited power to injure.

Clauses twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-four provide for the landlords' applications for a license to their property, for the selection of premises, and for applications for certificates. Were landlords to find by this bill that they can no longer shelter themselves behind their factor's name, and that they have to subject their applications to the discretion of the licensing authority, they would pause and reflect whether they might not, by keeping their premises free from a liquor shop, have a better property and better tenants, and after all greater returns. But their factor represents them as before. In the selection of premises we find none are to be chosen which do not enter directly from a thoroughfare, or which communicate with a dwelling house, or are occupied by a tacksman, blacksmith, or as a post office, unless these last are six miles from any public house. This exclusion is an old one, but it is none the less inconsistent. By it servants are debarred from loitering as they might do at such places, if licensed, on the pretence that they were paying toll, or getting their horse shod, or posting a letter, or waiting till the letters were sorted. But their horses and their masters' time is equally wasted by their standing at public house doors anywhere, so that the reason given for the exclusion of the three places in the bill is cogent enough to include every liquor shop in the country. The next clause determines the nature of the liquor seller's application, the day and hour of the auction, the notices to license holders, and the lodgement of applications. The applicant must get a magistrate or justice of the peace to sign a certificate of character and of qualification. It used to be ministers whose testimonials weighed down the scale in the applicant's favour, and they made many an error. Will justices and magistrates succeed better? They will not take kindly to the duty imposed on them by the Act when they read the form of the certificate they have to give. It is as follows:—"I,

one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for
 _____, or one of the Magistrates of the Burgh
 of _____, certify, after careful inquiry,
 that _____, designed in the foregoing
 application, is [here state result of inquiry touching
 applicant's character and qualification].

J.P., or Magistrate."

It is to be earnestly hoped that they may show more sense than the clergyman who testified that "A. B. was

a member of his church and teacher in his Sabbath School, and therefore, in his opinion, admirably qualified to sell intoxicating liquors." The questions to which answers must be truly given by the applicants are as follows:—Whether is it a renewal of transferred certificate or a new certificate which is wanted? Is the applicant twenty-one? Is he bred to the trade, or, if not, what other trade or business? Does he carry on, or intend to carry on any other trade or business? Does he hold a license, and if so, where? Has he an interest in any other licensed business, if so, where is it? If for a renewal, state the actual rent and the name and designation of the factor or proprietor.

The twenty-fifth clause provides that the licensing authority should meet in burghs on the second Tuesday of April, and the third Tuesday of October, and in counties on the third Tuesday of April and last Tuesday of October, each year.

The twenty-sixth clause provides for the auction of certificates, and the highest bidder should have them on paying the price and becoming bound to fulfil the conditions imposed. If not sold, certificate will remain vacant till next general meeting, or will be sold by private bargain. Nothing is said as to the upset price, but only one certificate is to be given to one bidder, rather a serious matter to those who, as in Glasgow and elsewhere, hold so many. But these will have, it is assumed, more time to look after their business, and perhaps to keep clear of violating the law. If any of the offerers are guilty of collusion, certificates so gained are forfeited, and a fifty pound fine or three months' hard labour is the penalty imposed. Penalty if recovered to go to the sinking fund and to the informer.

The twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, and thirtieth clauses have regard to the issue, the forfeiture, the conditions, and the production of certificates. The license-holder must be prepared to pay ready money. Certificates not taken up or forfeited are, in the discretion of the authority, to be either dropped or advertised for sale. The certificates are to be in force for ten years, and the conditions on which they are granted may be altered on a week's notice as the authority may see fit. The hours of opening and closing are slightly better than in the Forbes M'Kenzie and Public Houses Acts; for while these have declared that publicans cannot open earlier than six nor later than eight o'clock in the morning, nor close earlier than nine nor later than eleven o'clock at night, it is in the power of the authority to close at eight at night. Any alterations are to be endorsed on the certificate. Certificate-holders require to take out their license yearly as usual, so that it is their certificate of good character which they buy, and in the event of misconduct it is the certificate which is endorsed. A very serious matter arises here. We find by the bill that compensation is to be awarded immediately the Act comes into operation. But if you propose to compensate a man to whom you only give a yearly privilege, on what grounds can you withhold it from him whose certificate is bought and paid for and is property of the buyer. And if you do not in such circumstances give him compensation, on what grounds can you tax the ratepayers to compensate the present holders because you withdraw a privilege from them? This question cannot be answered so as to justify the compensation of the bill.

Clause thirty-one provides for the permanent operation of the Act, the same procedure having every ten years to be repeated; and clause thirty-two deals with ship's stores, which must have a grocer's license and be under the licensing authority.

The thirty-third clause refers to transfer of certificates, which are to be dealt with as in former statutes; part of the clause is directed against any trafficking in these transfers.

The thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, and thirty-sixth clauses have regard to offences which will be as severely punished as hitherto. The thirty-seventh clause is peculiar, containing within itself the preamble and provisions of a steamboat licensing bill. This is one of the few provisions in the bill which all who travel by ordinary passenger steamer can heartily approve.

The next ten clauses relate to the compensation to

publicans proposed by the bill. The leading idea in the bill is that those publicans shall be compensated which this bill deprives of license. That to compensate them licenses shall be let by auction to the highest bidder; that from this auction, and, if necessary, a local rate, the compensation shall be paid, and if a loan is necessary it shall be repaid within fifty years, and that thereafter all sums from licenses shall go to the police fund. It is never intended by the Act to buy up the traffic—never; when the present license-holders are compensated the traffic continues with the buyers, and the proceeds of the sale of certificates will in the distant future lighten the rates! Such a way out of the difficulty will not answer, because the trade may develop under the new system as it has under the old, and our children's children may be as greatly injured and burdened by the traffic as their great-grandfathers are. It matters little then to us what is the amount of compensation when it does not settle the difficulty. We dispute the right of any privilege-holder to receive money because his privilege is to cease. We should be not more surprised if one of our friends who had placed his country house at the disposal of his friend for a year had to meet a clause for compensation because he intimated that he was to occupy his own house himself. One would, we think, be satisfied for profiting so much through the permission to stay in the house for a year. The excise grants licenses for one year, the licensing authorities existing at present grant certificates for one year, and should the latter refuse to certify we can hardly believe that a claim could be sustained in any court for damages. It is opposed to wise statesmanlike policy for this bill to create the right to compensation. Its glory would have been to give the ratepayers power to render the capital of brewers, distillers, and dealers inoperative for mischief, rather than frame a measure by which they are to continue among the permanent institutions of the country, diminishing her glory and adding to her shame. Not only the license-holder is to be compensated but even his landlord is to be so. This is one of the most singular proposals we have met. The landlord has derived an increased rent for putting his property to the base use of a liquor shop, and yet when it is proposed to allocate public-houses and no longer license his premises, he is to be compensated, and at the same time he may continue to let his premises. It is unjust to allow one man the privilege to realise enormous rents by debasing his premises and deteriorating adjoining property, and while his neighbours suffer through his course, yet propose to compensate him and not them; just as it is unfair to compensate all who profit by the traffic without taking the claims of all who have suffered through its essentially mischievous operations into consideration. An objection is made by the publicans to the amount of the compensation, but when it is considered that sums over three hundred pounds may be awarded, and that there are nearly eight thousand publicans in Scotland to compensate, it will be seen that the interests of the taxpayers, as well as that of the publicans, are worthy of consideration. We will suppose that there are eight thousand license-holders in Scotland put out of employment through the operation of this Act, and as many landlords. Then let us say these on an average substantiate a claim for £200 each, why that represents £3,200,000. Yet the publicans demur to compensation. Never a word is said by them about compensation to their servants—barmaids, waiters, bottlers, and the like. These may go and get work where they can. Well, we say the same to their master and his landlord. They have been well warned of their fate. When it overtakes them, and they are liberated to follow better courses, it will be at their own peril if they are not fully prepared for the change. Clause thirty-eight provides that all license certificates shall lapse at Whitsunday, 1883, and declares that all license holders and owners of licensed premises shall be entitled to compensation. Clause thirty-nine sets forth the conditions under which the claims are lodged: (a) They must be lodged on or before 1st January, 1883, stating the amount of claim; (b) details of fittings, utensils, &c., used in their business, and unfit for other busi-

ness; (c) stating the manner in which they wish their claims adjudicated. Clause forty determines the manner in which the claims are to be settled. Licenses under yearly tenancy, or in the last year of a lease, shall have one year's profits, as shown by the average of three years' income tax returns. License-holders having more than one year's lease, and not exceeding three years, are to receive one and one-half year's nett profits, or in lieu of this may continue to hold their certificate to sell until their lease expires. At the end of that time such will have no claim to compensation. License holders having more than a three years' lease to run, may receive one year and one-half year's nett profits, or run their premises for not more than three years, or they may quit on getting proportion of goodwill paid by them for their place. All leases granted after February last shall be considered yearly tenancies, unless it is proved at law that the negotiations were concluded before 1st February, 1882. Those publicans who have not been in business for three years will be compensated at the discretion of the Court. In the case of grocers and hotel keepers only on one-half of their average income will their claim to compensation be based; and they will require to prove, should their income tax paper show returns from other sources, the sum actually received from their liquor selling business. Should the license holder be a bankrupt or die, his legal representatives shall take his place. License holders contravening their certificates shall suffer a deduction from their claims, and none will be awarded to holders of forfeited certificates. Should there be no bidders for a certificate, and it fall to the man that previously held it, his claim to compensation shall be extinguished. If a man compensated already shall, after six months, get a license in the same district, he will set off his compensation against the purchase price, and either pay or receive from the license fund. This last case strengthens the proof that the compensation in this bill is not intended to buy up the publicans, for here is a provision giving an already compensated publican liberty to get a license in the very same district in which he once ministered to the acquired appetites of his customers. The income tax commissioners have to hand the income tax returns of claimants for compensation to the licensing authority. Not only is the license holder to be by this bill entitled to compensation for license, but also for fittings. The fittings shall be valued by two valuers, and an oversman may be called in. The fittings, when paid for, shall belong to the licensing authority. The officers of the licensing authority shall take the fittings in charge and roup them, or dispose of them, and hand the proceeds to the licensing fund's treasurer. Then, in clause forty-six, we have determined the nature and amount of compensation to proprietors of licensed premises. If let from year to year, one year's rent. If under lease executed prior to 1st February, 1882, and extending more than a year from Whitsunday, 1883, two years' rent. The Court will fix the proportion of rent compensation from grocers and hotels. In case the tenant elects to run till the lease expires, the landlord shall have no compensation. If the tenant shall be convicted of contravening his certificate, the landlord's compensation shall be lessened. Should the licensing authority select the landlord's premises, under this bill his claim for compensation will be extinguished. If the landlord be a tenant, he shall be compensated as tenants are. If the claim for compensation does not exceed £300, it is to be determined either by the sheriff, whose decision shall be final, or by the licensing commission. If above that sum, then the claimant can require his claim to be determined by a jury or by the licensing commission. The person whose claim to compensation has been sustained has to present an extract of the decree of the Court. This procures a certificate from the clerk of the licensing authority, and the treasurer of a burgh or clerk of supply in a county, will, on getting certificate and receipt, pay his claim in full.

We now come to the finance arrangements of the bill. These take up clauses 49-53. The forty-ninth clause makes provision for defraying the polling and all other

expenses connected with the bill by a licensing fund, and if there be any deficiency the commissioners of police and clerk of supply respectively must levy a rate to defray it, and the rate will be imposed as required when other assessments are. By clause fifty all sums received for the sale of certificates in burghs or districts are to be accounted for to the burgh treasurer and clerk of supply respectively, and the fund shall be termed "Licensing Fund Account." The fifty-first clause confers borrowing powers on the police commissioners and clerk of supply, who may spread the expenses incurred in paying off compensation claims over several years, not exceeding fifty. The licensing fund and licensing rate are to be the security. The authority may repay the sum borrowed in equal annual instalments not exceeding fifty, or they shall set aside one-fiftieth of the borrowed sum annually as a sinking fund. The Public Works Loan Commissioners may lend any money required, such loan to be repaid in fifty years, and to bear interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. The fifty-second clause gives power to impose a local rate, and clause fifty-three determines that after the compensation debt is cleared off the special assessment shall cease, and the amount received from the sale of certificates shall be applied to the police purposes of burgh and county.

Clauses 54-58 have respect to a licensing commission, its constitution, tenure of office, its place of meeting, its officials, and its powers. Clause fifty-four provides for the commission, but no number is suggested. It is to hear and determine all matters whether of law or fact relating to compensation, and whose claims have not been settled by sheriff by jury, and its decision is to be final. It can enforce the attendance and examination of witnesses, the production of books, papers, &c.; can issue any commission for the examination of witnesses, can punish persons who refuse to give evidence or produce documents, or may be guilty of contempt, and it can make or enforce any order whatever, and shall have all rights, powers, &c., for the full carrying out of the Act. By clause fifty-five it is to hold office for a year or longer at the discretion of the Home Secretary, and its expenses are to be charged to Parliament. By clause fifty-six, its head-quarters shall be in Edinburgh, but it will proceed to burghs and licensing districts to determine cases, and shall meet in the court houses there. The fifty-seventh respects the appointment and removal of its officials and the appointment of a sub-commission; and the fifty-eighth clause regards the rules which it may from time to time make and enforce for the carrying out of the Act.

There are many good points in this remarkable bill; for instance, the reduction of licenses to one in 500, which might reduce the licenses in Scotland by nearly one half; the only allowing one license to one man; the taking in the widest possible franchise to poll on the traffic by ballot; allowing the people to vote for no license whatever; and by the provision that all who require public houses shall publicly sign a requisition for them. But these good points are entirely overborne by the other provisions of the bill; such as instituting a licensing authority or commission; in the powers given to the first-named to establish the liquor traffic in places at present free from them; in giving a minority of fifty power to arrest the vote of the majority in favour of suppression; in enabling any number of three hundred of the ratepayers to reinstate the liquor traffic; and in conferring power on one hundred ratepayers to have a license in their district; in that it creates a private traffic in certificates, and has power to plant liquor shops in any part of a burgh or district; in that it can certify to a person's character for the long period of ten years; in that it can compensate the publican for his license and his fittings, and yet he may resume business in the same district; in that it can compensate the landlord of licensed premises, who may then let his property for other purposes and get as high a rent as his neighbouring proprietors; in that the publican, by purchase of a certificate, may be vested with proprietary rights which might entitle him to compensation; and in that even although compensation is awarded the liquor traffic shall not cease.

We rise from the investigation of this bill with a stronger conviction than ever that it is impossible to satisfactorily regulate the liquor traffic, and we regret that his lordship did not address himself to the task of suppressing it by a veto vested in the ratepayers. Had he attempted to do this he might not have succeeded without a hard fight. The liquor traffic will die hard; but in the fight he would have been supported by the combined strength of the temperance party in Scotland, by the churches and the great body of moral and social reformers, and would, by his success, dignify the ancient and illustrious house to which he belongs by the great services which such a measure would have conferred upon all classes in his suffering country.

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION IN ABERDEEN.—CONFERENCE ON TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.—A conference of temperance reformers took place on Monday, 20th ult., in the Upper Room, St. Katharine's Hall, Aberdeen, when there was a large attendance. Mr. William Davidson, president, local branch of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, occupied the chair. The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. A. Stewart, an excellent tea was served. Thereafter, the chairman, in opening the proceedings, made appropriate reference to the death of the late Mr. John Macdonald, who had done much to promote the interests of the temperance cause in the city, and then proceeded to state the object for which they had met, viz., to consider the question of temperance legislation for Scotland. He said the temperance question was getting more and more important, and also more and more popular, but yet they felt it had not reached that step of progress which they would all like to see it attain. He concluded by calling on Mr. A. S. Cook to open the discussion. Mr. Cook then in a paper gave an excellent summary of the "Licensing Laws (Scotland) Bill," and was loudly applauded at the close. A discussion followed, which was taken part in by the members of the deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, viz.:—Messrs. Raper, London; W. Smith, Balzeordie; R. Mackay, Glasgow; Rev. A. Stewart, Messrs. James Paterson, George Kemp, A. Murray, W. Stevenson, John Leith, and James Craig. At the close of the discussion, Mr. A. S. Cook proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Badenoch, and carried unanimously:—"That the conference, on considering the Licensing Liquors (Scotland) Bill, unanimously request the members of Parliament for the city and county of Aberdeen to use their influence to get the twentieth and twenty-first clauses of that bill substituted by the following:—'That if a majority of the voters vote for no license, then the licensing authority shall declare the suppression of the liquor traffic in the district so voting, and that no compensation be given to either liquor sellers or proprietors of licensed houses; and that in no case should licenses extend beyond the tenure now existing; and that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery, the Lord Advocate, Lord Colin Campbell, and other gentlemen whose names are on the back of the bill.'"—In the evening a public meeting was held in St. Katharine's Hall, Shiprow. There was a good attendance. Mr. James Paterson, president of the Aberdeen Temperance Society, presided. The chairman said that they were met that night to receive a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill Association—Mr. Smith and Mr. Mackay—and Mr. Raper, from the United Kingdom Alliance—(applause). The temperance question had now become one of the practical political questions of the day—(applause)—and must be considered by every candidate who came forward to solicit the suffrages of the people—(applause). Mr. Alexander Esslemont moved the first resolution, which was—"That this meeting deplores the evils inflicted upon society by the liquor traffic; views with serious apprehension the consequent social and moral debasement of so many of Her Majesty's subjects through its baneful operations; regards the vast expenditure of money as obstructive of the material prosperity of the country; and therefore calls upon all good

citizens to promote the spread of temperance principles in the community." Mr. Smith, Balzeordie, seconded, and Mr. Mackay, Glasgow, supported the resolution, which was unanimously adopted. Mr. George Kemp moved the second resolution, which was similar to the conference resolution. Mr. Raper seconded the resolution. He did not wish to discuss Lord Colin Campbell's bill. He rather regarded that bill as the reflection of some considerable agitation in Scotland, and as supplying to the Scottish people a topic for discussing in a concrete form the various proposals that had been before the country for some time. As a temperance reformer, he was very grateful for the bill. He regarded the effort made by Lord Colin Campbell and those who were co-operating with him as a sincere honest effort to help their countrymen into a better position—(applause). He was one of the party in the British nation, however, who had long since entirely separated himself from the idea of licensing ever being satisfactory—(hear, hear). He had studied the licensing system on the Continent very largely, and he had never seen a licensing system which he thought right—(laughter and applause). Mr. Raper then referred to the Maine and Kansas laws, and said that in the latter State a clause had been incorporated in the Constitution prohibiting the drink traffic for ever. The resolution was adopted unanimously. Mr. A. S. Cook moved the transmission of the resolution to Parliamentary representatives. Mr. Stevenson heartily supported the resolution, and it was agreed to unanimously. On the motion of the chairman, the thanks of the meeting were awarded to the gentlemen from a distance. On the motion of Mr. R. Mackay, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for presiding, and the Rev. John Duncan having pronounced the benediction, the meeting ended.

BRECHIN TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—A largely attended public meeting under the auspices of the Total Abstinence Society was held in the Temperance Hall on Wednesday, 22nd ult.—Mr. Joseph Gillam presiding. Addresses of an exceedingly interesting and practical nature were delivered by Rev. Hugh Aird, City Road U.P. Church; Rev. E. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy; Messrs. W. Smith, Balzeordie; Mackay and Stevenson, Glasgow. Rev. Mr. Boon said the great matter was to put the licensing question in the hands of the people. He had faith in the instincts of the people, and he for one would be quite satisfied with their decision as to whether the drink traffic was to exist or not. Let the question be put fairly and clearly—license or no license—making exception of no one, and it would say all the less for them as temperance men, and for the principles they contended for, if they were not able to spread the truth and cultivate temperance sentiment that the people would vote in the right direction. The paper by Mr. Mackay was able and convincing. It gave a synopsis of the principles of Local Option, and he urged on all to bring their influence, by petition and otherwise, to bear on the subject, and secure a place for it on the Statute Book. Mr. Stevenson said the Permissive Bill wished to invest the ratepayers with the power of closing all the public-houses. The resolution called Local Option was neither more nor less, according to their meaning, than the Permissive Bill minus its details. Mr. Aird, in an able speech, moved a resolution embodying the principle of Local Option. In the course of his remarks he stated that he was one of the earliest supporters of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, and he would go forward with Local Option in the one hand and the Gospel Temperance Union in the other. The resolution was supported by Mr. Smith in his usual eloquent and thoroughly practical style, and unanimously agreed to. Regarding the question of public-houses in our neighbouring parishes, Mr. Smith stated that a petition went round to get a license restored to a house in Menmuir, and only two voted in favour of it—the applicant and the proprietor. The Rev. A. Mitchell moved that the resolution be forwarded to the local M.P.'s and the Earl of Rosebery. At the close, Mr. James Bell, billposter, in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, said that he was now convinced that Local Option was "the right thing."

He never was convinced before, he was a new convert, and he hoped all the speakers would get a hearty vote of thanks for "enlightenin' him." Mr. Willocks, in a neat speech, seconded, and the thanks of the meeting were heartily awarded.—*Brechin Advertiser*.

KEMNEY—LECTURE.—A lecture on the "Great Reforms of the Present Century" was delivered in the Public Hall on Thursday evening, 23rd ult., by Mr. William Blackwood, Aberdeen. The speaker reviewed the principal reforms since the passing of the first Reform Bill down to the present time, showing in a clear and forcible manner how every subsequent measure tended to increase the power and extend the influence of the working classes. Speaking of the reforms yet to come, but lying in the near future, he quoted the words of Mr. Gladstone relating to the extension of the county franchise, and urged his hearers as working men to rise to the dignity of their position, to realise the power which was theirs, and to use it aright in the work of reforming and purifying social abuses. An eloquent peroration in favour of temperance reform brought an interesting and instructive lecture to a close. There was a fair attendance, and from beginning to end the lecture was listened to with marked attention, the many excellent points of the speaker being keenly caught up and greeted with warm applause. Mr. H. M'Combie, Milton, occupied the chair, and moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Blackwood, which was very heartily responded to. A like compliment being paid to the chairman at the request of Mr. Blackwood, the meeting broke up.—*Aberdeen Free Press*.

DUMFRIES—TEMPERANCE MEETING.—A public meeting, to hear addresses on the temperance question by Mr. Bennet, Dysart, and Mr. R. Mackay, secretary of the Permissive Bill Association, was held in Greyfriars' Hall, Dumfries, on Tuesday night, 13th ult. There was a good attendance. Dr. McCulloch presided at the earlier part of the meeting, and opened the proceedings with a few pointed remarks, his place being afterwards taken by Rev. Mr. Strachan. Mr. Bennett, in a closely reasoned and interesting address, arraigned the liquor traffic as the most prolific source of evil we have to contend with in modern times, and pleaded that a legal power should be conferred on the people to overthrow it by a prohibitive veto. The traffic had grown up and developed under the sanction and protection of the law, and what the law had built up the law was quite entitled to pull down. He urged that temperance reformers should unite and bring their political influence to bear upon the Government. Mr. Mackay replied to the argument against prohibition based on the loss of revenue. He urged working men to set themselves against the traffic on the grounds of political economy, and to organise their political power for the purpose of securing a thorough-going measure for Scotland. A vote of thanks was heartily awarded to the deputation, on the motion of Mr. Farries.—*Dumfries Standard*.

UNFERMENTED WINE guaranteed to be the true fruit of the vine and un-intoxicating, imported direct from the vineyard by Frank Wright, 27 Merton Road, Kensington, London. We have so often had occasion to write in terms of admiration of Mr. Wright's Unfermented Wine that it is difficult to add anything to what we have previously said in its praise. His wines have answered every test to which they have been subjected; have met trade jealousy, ecclesiastical hostility, medical investigation with the most triumphant results. It is now the only wine which temperance men can confidently accept, and is in use in nearly fifteen hundred churches. We are glad to see that Mr. Matthew Waddell, of the City Dining Rooms, 60 Union Street and 42 Argyle Street, Glasgow, is the agent for Glasgow and the West of Scotland, as his well known enterprise should bring this grateful beverage before a larger portion of the community.

THOMPSON'S CHOCOLATE ESSENCE; A CONCENTRATED EXTRACT OF COCOA.—Cocoa has deservedly found increased favour with the British public, as much from the skilful modes of preparation as from the grateful character of the article itself. Mr. Thompson, the

chemist of 17 Gordon Street, Glasgow, offers a preparation which merits a foremost place. For purity, strength, and flavour it excels, and is one of the very best cocoa essences at present before the public. Easy of preparation, it may, with the needful cream and sugar, be instantaneously made, and it proves a luxurious addition to the breakfast table. It is said to be suitable equally to the strong as to the weak. We can only speak for the strong, but if it should be found to adapt itself to the weak as it has certainly done to the other, Mr. Thompson is to be congratulated on his success, and his delicious preparation will only need to be known to be largely patronized.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Christian Commonwealth. London: S. W. Partridge & Co. A number of this journal, devoted to "the advocacy of good and right and truth throughout the world," is before us, and contains many interesting and instructive articles kindred to its object, which ought to command a large circle of readers.

Onward and Onward Reciter for March are also before us, and both are as attractive and interesting as usual. The *Reciter* contains the full text of "The Beautiful Snow," as it first appeared in the *Galaxy* for July, 1869, together with an account of the real circumstances upon which the poem was founded.

The Welcome for March is as attractive as ever. Under the heading "Men and Women of Mark," we are favoured with short sketches and excellent portraits of those champions of the prohibitory movement, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and J. H. Raper, Esq. Besides the usual wealth of illustration, this excellent monthly contains a serial story of eastern life, an account of life and adventure in Japan, short readings upon the miracles of Christ, and a great variety of other interesting matter.

The British Temperance Advocate is quite a model temperance paper, and is a favourite with us. The number for March contains many interesting articles on the question, and is replete with temperance intelligence. The veteran prohibitionist, Dr. F. R. Lees, begins the first of what appears to be a series of letters on "The New Testament in relation to Intemperance," which, like everything coming from his fertile pen, is worthy of careful perusal.

House and Home for March begins a new, and, to our minds, improved series of that most instructive magazine. Several new features, calculated to increase its popularity are introduced, and writers of first-rate ability on the various subjects embraced in its programme are announced amongst its contributors. For ourselves we must say that we are very favourably impressed with the rich permanent nature of the contents of the number before us, and we can safely predict for it an appreciative circulation amongst the thoughtful members of society.

Alcohol and Health, from a Woman's Point of View. Read at the Annual Council of the Scottish Christian Union, Edinburgh, 30th Nov., 1881. By Mrs. Helen Kirk. This is a truly excellent paper, and, on the subject of which it treats, most exhaustive. The lady proceeds to analyse "stimulants," which she does most thoroughly into alcohol, and shows that that substance is neither a stimulant nor an irritant, but a sedative. Treating of its mistaken application to the head, to the brain, to throat and lungs, to the great nerve centre—the solar plexus—and to the periodical disturbances and other disorders of women, she shows most conclusively its fell power to benumb and enslave, and she in an admirable manner contrasts its operations with a course of treatment by hydropathic applications much more innocent and yet effectual, having unlike alcoholic indulgence no injurious after effects. This little paper should be circulated widely and constantly by Women's Temperance Prayer Unions, and will be found worth its weight in gold as a means of counteracting the traditional and medical application of alcohol to those diseases peculiar to the gentle sex.

Reggie's Boast and other Stories.—By F. M. Holmes. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price, one shilling. Mr. Holmes' indefatigable pen presents the reading world with six effective Temperance Stories. They are all of even excellence, and are admirably told. Cleverly constructed, they vividly portray the dangers of intemperance. The book is handsomely bound, artistically illustrated, and will, we confidently believe, be hailed with delight by those who have been already under the spell of Mr. Holmes' fiction.

Every Day Stories.—By Emilie Searchfield, author of *Christmas Chimes, etc., etc.* London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price, three shillings and sixpence. We have from the diligent and practised pen of Miss Searchfield twenty-four short tales, which, for variety and conception, could hardly be excelled. In "Frits," we have the old man becoming a wanderer that his youthful friend may take his place and marry pretty Elsbeth. In "Her Christmas Joy," we find that true love clings to a lover who sacrificed her beauty in nursing a dependent. In "A Chain of Events," we have a well-told instance of restitution. "An April Day" shows the unfortunate consequences of an elopement. "Auld Robin Gray" is simply a Welsh paraphrase on the delightful Scotch original. "Home Sweet Home" shows how a hollow marriage became one of tender and lifelong affection; and so on with the whole. A healthy tone pervades them all. All are most effective in treatment, skilfully constructed, and evidently aimed to convey a moral lesson. We can testify that the perusal of the book has afforded us the liveliest pleasure, and we cordially recommend it to all who may be wondering what to purchase as a present for a young friend. It is profusely illustrated and hand handsomely bound.

Onward: A Band of Hope and Temperance Magazine. Vol. XVI., 1881. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. Cloth, two shillings; extra gilt, three shillings. Post free. As usual *Onward* in its volume form charms the eye in its garb of green and gold, while its contents captivate the attention of its youthful and delighted readers. Full of delightful stories, charming music and poetry, interesting and instructive essays and dialogues, and lovely illustrations, it offers a great literary feast to its numerous readers. The present excels all previous volumes, and ought to have place on the drawing-room table. It will form a handsome prize for either Sabbath School or Band of Hope gatherings.

Annual Report of the Newcastle and Gateshead Auxiliary to the United Kingdom Alliance for 1881-82. Newcastle: 21 Northumberland Court. This is a healthy report, a record of vigorous work. The Auxiliary is superintended by a committee that are proud to work with all kindred organisations and to avail themselves of all opportunities. The report is enthusiastic on the Blue Ribbon movement in Newcastle, and bears emphatic evidence to the good which through it has been done. Very truly it adds after the record of what has been done: "The end, however, is not yet. We have only entered upon another stage of our work. We have only got really face to face with the enemy. The enormous vested interest will not be easily overcome. The traffic will die hard, but die it must, if the people are to prosper. The traffic cannot continue to co-exist in the midst of a prosperous nation; one or the other must eventually be crushed; we do rejoice to believe that the signs of the times are in favour of the best interests of the people triumphing." There are eulogistic notices of the visits of Mr. Pator and Mr. Waterston to the Newcastle district, where they appear to have evoked much deserved enthusiasm. The accounts are reported as slightly favourable.

Books received—*The Parliamentary Compensation, with Historical References; Local Option—Local Control; Scottish Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Return of Crimes and Offences for the Burgh of Dundee; Report of Glasgow Abstinence Union; The Drink Catechism; A Plea for the Nationalization of the Land; Grammar for the Million, &c., &c.*

THE
Social Reformer.

MAY, 1882.

UGHT THE TRAFFIC IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS TO BE PROHIBITED?

THE traffic in alcoholic liquors is peculiarly exceptional. In any other trade we find the demand regulating the supply, but in this one that law is to a great extent reversed—the supply of alcoholic liquors stimulating a demand for them. This is owing “to the passion for indulging in them which these liquors awaken in a large proportion of our fellow-men.” The evils flowing from this over-indulgence have from time immemorial been so great that the Government of almost every civilized country has been compelled to regulate and restrict the traffic in which these evils have their rise. The laws passed in our own country for the regulation of the traffic have gradually been becoming more stringent, and the results proportionately more satisfactory. Notwithstanding this, however, the ends desired are at best so far from being attained that it must be patent to everyone who has bestowed any study on the question at all that not restriction but prohibition can solve the problem.

I shall now give your readers a very brief sketch of the history of past legislation in regard to the traffic in Scotland and Ireland. We are informed by one of the early Scotch historians that in the year 860 A.D. the sellers of mead were looked on as public enemies, so much so that at this early period they themselves were banished by the King, their goods confiscated, and their houses destroyed. Constantine II., on the revival of the evil, re-enacted the law in 861, adding the penalty of death to such as should not comply with it. In the middle ages beer and French wines took the place of mead, and regarding the sale of these a law was passed in 1436 by which the penalty of imprisonment was inflicted on any one found in a house for the sale of drink after the tolling of the curfew. In the 16th century the trade was open, and the country consequently crowded with inebriates. At this time the discovery of the mode of distilling whisky made matters worse. In 1625 the religious reformation of the time did much to stem the evil. The people now said “the Government was so strict they had not liberty to sin,” and the taverners now complained “their trade was broken, the people were become so sober.” Unfortunately matters did not long so remain. In 1698 the country was in as bad a state as ever. In 1750 we find no improvement. Drunkenness appears now to have been more prevalent than at any other time. In 1812 the quantity of spirits entered for home consumption amounted to less than 9 of a gallon per head of the population. In 1821, with a reduced duty, it rose to fully a gallon per head. In 1840, the duty being further reduced by a half, the quantity reached was two and a half gallons. Within the next ten years the increase nearly quadrupled the increase of population. Comparing seven years ending 1863 with other

seven ending 1878, we find, while the population of the United Kingdom had in that time increased 15 per cent., the consumption of intoxicating liquors had increased to the alarming extent of 55 per cent. This is the result of the many Acts which have been passed within the last few centuries for the restriction of the traffic.

Turning to Ireland, we find there, in the middle of the 16th century, a state of affairs as deplorable as characterised Scotland at that time, the cause of which was the use of usquebaugh. This fact was impressed on the mind of the Lord-Deputy, Sir John Perrot, who even at that period had but too good cause to regret the wholesale destruction of corn for purposes of distillation. He it was who suggested that whisky, instead of being called “aqua vitæ” ought rather to be termed “aqua mortis,” which I think we must all agree would certainly be a more appropriate designation. The Government suppressed the traffic in the reign of Philip and Mary. Ireland now remained in a satisfactory state until, in the reign of Anne and the first Georges, Government, under the mistaken idea of encouraging tillage, and increasing the revenue, once more permitted the manufacture of spirits. The consumption rapidly grew. From 1729 to 1795 the population only doubled, while the quantity of liquors sold increased eleven-fold. The natural result was the decay of manufactures, the degeneracy of the people, innumerable murders and constantly-recurring brawls; indeed, things had come to such a pass that we find even the Corporation of Brewers complaining that “the consumption of spirituous liquors has been daily increasing, beyond all conception or belief, to the infinite prejudice of trade and manufacture; the health, sobriety, and morals of the people.” Petitions against this state of affairs kept pouring into Parliament. Nothing of importance was, however, tried in the way of remedy until in the year 1791 Acts were passed restricting the sale of spirits, and giving the brewers unprecedented privileges. Improvement followed; it proved, however, of a transitory nature. Foreign affairs shortly afterwards engaging the attention of Government, the beneficent Acts, instead of being rigorously enforced, were allowed to fall gradually into abeyance. In 1809-10 and 1812-13, owing to the scarcity of corn, the distilleries were stopped, and the results proved most satisfactory.

Space will not permit of our entering on the consideration of the history of English legislation bearing on the traffic; suffice it to say that the results were similar to those shown in the two countries we have just been referring to. The only Act that calls for special notice is the Beer Act of William IV., under which anyone could obtain a license to sell beer on payment of two guineas. This Act, notwithstanding others of a remedial nature, which followed shortly after, has proved a great curse to England, increasing as it did the houses for the sale

of intoxicating drinks from 8830 to 123,306, which meant a proportionate increase of crime, poverty, disease, and consequent taxation.

So much for the history of the liquor traffic, some of the particular phases of which we shall now consider in their social and commercial bearing.

I.—Socially, what are the fruits of the traffic? In a general way we may classify them under Disease and Premature Death, Poverty, Insanity, and Crime.

1. *Disease and Premature Death.* It is a well-known fact that total abstainers as a class are much more exempt from disease than any other class in society. It has been ascertained that while the death rate amongst total abstainers is at the rate of 1 per cent., that of the moderate drinkers and the intemperate stands at the rate of 2 and 4 per cent. respectively, a fact surely sufficiently appalling in itself to make thoughtful people seriously consider the advisability of doing away altogether with this most deadly traffic. Dr. Norman Kerr of London, anxious to demonstrate the truth or falsity of the assertion that 60,000 drunkards died every year in the United Kingdom, lately instituted an inquiry for this purpose. Here we have an avowed sceptic going into the matter for the purpose of satisfying himself, and what does he make of it? I shall give you his own words:—"I was compelled," says Dr. Kerr, "to admit that at least 120,000 of our population annually lost their lives through alcoholic excess, 40,500 dying from their own intemperance, and 79,500 from accident, violence, poverty, or disease, arising from the intemperance of others." Dr. Richardson says if Britain were converted to abstinence the vitality of the nation would be increased one-third in value. His estimate of the deaths from drinking is 227,000, which is almost one-third of the entire national mortality. Regarding disease, as an example of which let us take cholera—watch the ravages of this most terrible of epidemics wherever it has got a hold; note how it passes the abstainer, lays hold of the moderate drinker, and almost without exception deals to the drunkard his death-blow. Take, for instance, that visitation of cholera in Guernsey in 1849 as proof of this. Dr. Collinette, who was then a medical practitioner there, informs us that "a very large proportion of the then drunkards were swept away; many respectable and moderate drinkers likewise became its victims, but the teetotalers to a man were spared." Your readers will probably ask how it is that in ordinary bills of mortality intemperance is so seldom specified as the cause of death? I answer that it is simply because medical men as a rule, in order to avoid hurting the feelings of friends of deceased inebriates, give the approximate instead of the real cause of death. Dr. Hardwicke, a recent coroner for Central Middlesex, informs us that he found very few deaths attributed to alcohol; when he ascertained the truth, however, he found that between the ages of 25 and 50, something like 30 to 50 per cent. were really killed by alcohol. Truly did Milton say, "Intemperance on the earth shall bring diseases dire, of which a monstrous crew before thee shall appear."

2. *Poverty.* I feel certain that I am under the mark when I state that the liquor traffic is responsible for the creation of 75 per cent. of our paupers now on the roll. Some years ago there was a return made to Parliament from the different parishes in Scotland, containing, among other matter, information regarding the drinking facilities and amount of the poors-rates in each. From these reports we find that at that time there were 34 parishes in the country without a public-house, and in none of them had the parishioners a single penny of poors-rates to pay. One parish, which had once experienced the

same happiness, had five public-houses planted in its midst, and the consequence was that instead of having nothing to pay, the parishioners were soon burdened with a poors-rate of 1s. 8d. on the pound. From the return referred to, it is evident that the amount of poors-rates is in proportion to the drinking facilities of each parish. I think we have a right to object to pay a tax a great proportion of which finally finds its way into the pockets of publicans, and this is undoubtedly the case with the poors-rates. I refer you to any honest publican for the authenticity of my statement. One man in Glasgow some years ago could always rely on drawing £10 more on the pay-day of the poor than any other day in the week. This shows us that money is powerless in promoting the welfare of the poor, unless backed up by some means of preventing its expenditure on liquor, and the only way in which this can be accomplished is by prohibiting the traffic.

(To be continued).

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

MR. MOODY'S TEMPERANCE EFFORTS IN GLASGOW.

"DRINKING baffles us, confounds us, shames us, and mocks us at every point. It outwits alike the teacher, the man of business, the patriot, the legislator. Every other institution flounders in hopeless difficulties; the public house holds its triumphant course. . . . The huge mischief in one way or other confounds us all, and may, for we cannot be sure, crush and ruin any one of us." This is not teetotal rant, it is extracted from a leader of the *Times*. Probably such sentiments have arisen in the mind of the great American revivalist, Mr. Moody. Be that as it may, he has felt it to be his duty to say that he has seen more drunkenness in one night in Glasgow, than in any other city he has visited. He has felt, no doubt, that there are thousands, tens of thousands, in Glasgow, who might hear the gospel's joyful sound only for their indulgence in strong drink.

So, after thirty-five Bible readings in St. Andrews Hall, and other meetings which no man can number, he gave out his intention of making a grand assault on the intemperance of the city. He was to begin in Newsome's Circus, which stands at the junction of Ingram and High Streets. A preliminary meeting was held there on the afternoon of Friday, 14th ult., and a few minutes after two o'clock we found ourselves in that famed abode of equestrianism.

Newsome's Circus is just a huge wooden shed done up in the usual garish style of such places of entertainment. The prevailing colours of the decorations are red and white; the roof being a gigantic striped blind in these colours. At the west end of the building—the pit—the platform is erected, and is most luxuriously fitted up. Looking to the audience you have on your right a numerous choir, conducted by Mr. William Moodie, Miss Bonar presiding at a finely-toned harmonium. On your left the ministers and other friends to whom the chief seats are reserved. At your back you have a large inscription, "Seek ye the Lord," and on one side, "None righteous," on the other "The blood cleanseth." The roof is supported on twelve pillars, on these are banners bearing little flags of all nations. On these banners, beginning on the right of the platform, there are such inscriptions as "Lord help me," "Call on Me," "Praise the Lord," "Look unto Me," "Jesus only," "God is love." On the left we find "All have sinned," "Save me," "I am the way," "Watch and pray," "Trust in the Lord," and "Come unto Me." On the wall at the east end, that is, opposite the platform, there are "Follow Jesus," "Look and live," "Why will ye die," and "He will save you." The place, as daylight struggled with the lowered gaslight, looked a tawdry enough place. One could hardly believe that here the grand combat of

Ivanhoe, the famous ride of Turpin, the imposing carnival of Venice, could have taken place. He might have remembered, however, that within the compass of Shakespeare's "Wooden O" at Blackfriars were presented the glorious achievements of the Black Prince and Harry the Fifth in France. Stealing in, in twos and threes, came people eager to hear what was to be said. The audience ranged from the poor to the affluent, and was for the most part of the leisure classes. The merchant, professional men, ministers, and women. We knew the most of them. We saw many of the active temperance workers, city philanthropists, the supporters of religious efforts, all mingled together. By this time, 2.45, the platform, pit, promenade, and ring were getting filled. The gas was raised, and from the grand chandelier and from the rods before the pillars a flood of brilliancy lighted up the place. Mr. William Moodie led the choir, who began, to relieve the tedium of waiting, by singing several of the beautiful hymns in the new collection of sacred songs and solos. By three the building was nearly filled. At that hour Mr. Moody moved on to the platform, on which on his left might have been seen the Revs. Dr. Lang, Brown, and Wallace, Revs. Messrs. H. Hall, Renfrew, Douglas, M'Dougall, Edgar, Mackay, Lawrie, Somerville, M'Lean, and others; Bailies Dickson and Selkirk, ex-Bailie Torrens; Messrs. A. Allan, W. Govan, J. C. White, Gray, R. C. Morgan, B. Scott, Quarrier, and many others. Mr. Moody immediately on coming forward gave out the favourite hymn, "Rescue the perishing," which was fervently sung, and Rev. Dr. Brown offered up an impressive prayer only audible to those around him. Silent prayer was asked for while Mr. Scroggie read out requests for prayer. These formed a melancholy list. Prayer was sought on behalf of sisters, brothers, only brothers, father, a family in great affliction in consequence of the intemperance of some of its members. For a drunkard, that God may compel him to come in and be saved; for a father and mother who have promised to come to the evening meeting, for a woman who has often pledged but cannot keep it, for a husband, for a woman in prison on account of drunkenness. After a short interval of silent prayer we had prayer again offered, but some expressions grated on our ear, such as "Will you put forth thy power that thousands may be saved and that we may call thee blessed?" The 117th hymn was sung and then Mr. Moody read a portion of Mark ix, 14, after which he offered up prayer. "We pray for those persons who are in the requests which are before thee. Son of God, look with pity on them. May they seek thee as their only deliverer. May they come to thee, and thou wilt raise them up. We pray that thy blessing may rest on every one here that names the name of Christ. Help us to be of one mind as they were on the day of Pentecost. We want resurrection power to speak to the hearts and consciences of these dead people that they may, a great multitude of them, although drunkards, be rescued from death. Amen." The 14th hymn was then sung. Mr. Moody then said, "There's one clause in the portion read to which I wish to draw attention, and that is, 'Bring him to me.' The disciples had failed, Satan had his own way as he often has. The people stood around laughing and jeering, the scribes questioning just as such people do now. If we bring dear friends who have gone astray to him, we shall have a great glory. It is as easy for God to save the drunkard as any other. When the woman went to Elisha to come and give her back her child, she would not go without the master. When he sent Gehazi to lay his staff on the dead child's face, she did not go with him. She did not believe in the staff but in the master. Then by prayer bring the Master with you, and you will see the breaking and snapping of fetters all around." The speaker gave the substance of a letter from a sister who long prayed for her wandering prodigal brother, but at length God found him in a Chicago meeting, impelled him to the inquiry room and took away his appetite, and now he is free. "You, too, may have prayed long and often, but trust in the Lord. Pray on, keep on praying, and God will answer your prayer." Rev. Dr. Wallace was called and gave the

well known story of Willie Torrance of Shotts. Prayer was then offered up, and Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang was the next speaker. He said, "I thank God for this meeting. St. Andrew's Halls have had their full share and Newsome's Circus is now the centre of attraction. I am glad that specific dealing with the root of bitterness which is such a sad ingredient in our life in this city is now decided upon. The action begun to-day is hopeful, united, successful action. We are all of one accord in this place. (Hallelujah). Brethren, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. If we believe this let us show it by our action. Such fasting as self-control, self-constraint, and that measure of true abstinence as shall prove our earnestness in the work. (Hallelujah and applause, which was hushed). We are a hopeful band of brothers and we are united, and we must succeed. The evil is not unassailable. We are told that heredity cannot be saved. But all things are possible through prayer to God, who out of chaos made the world of beauty in which we dwell, and surely if it was possible for him to give us beauty out of chaos it is as possible for him to bring a new birth and life out of the drunkard. (Yes, yes). We will take the whole armour of God and we hear our great Captain saying, Go on, there is victory ahead. I baptised a man lately who for many years had been greatly under the power of drunkenness, and if one man can be saved why should we doubt about the salvation of any other." (Applause). Mr. Moody then said—"If we are to do anything we must visit these people at their homes and get them to love God and leave off drinking. (Amen). You must all work hard. These people don't need to be taught, for they know that they are slaves and will be glad to be saved. Many of these sort of people will be here to-night, and you must give them a good seat, a front seat; you will relinquish the best seats for them; if you have to go to the back seats or even outside, you can go and pray for them as you stand there. (A laugh). You must not wait to be introduced to those you wish to save. If I saw a man struggling in the Clyde do you think I should wait till introduced to him. Oh, no; I should save him and then we should know and rejoice together in praising God. I am greatly cheered by this meeting and seeing so many present so early in the afternoon. How many of you would like to come here every afternoon at three o'clock?" Almost all the audience held up their hands. He then briefly prayed for the movement in this city. "May the shout of the King be heard in our camp, and may work be done which shall be heard of in heaven." The choir then commenced to sing and the large gathering dwindled away.

In the evening when we turned up before seven we found a considerable number already seated. All parts of the building kept filling up, and at 7.5, Mr. Moody, whose motto might well have been "Ready, aye ready," appeared in front of the platform. The choir were already in their place and Miss Bonar at the harmonium. He asked some of those in front to say what hymn they wished to hear. One ready response was 391, which was sung at once by the choir; then 166, 363, 297, and 304. The pleasure evident in the tone and faces of the audience could not be mistaken. By this time the building was crowded in every part and presented a brilliant appearance. During the singing Mr. Moody occasionally interrupted by declaring the people were not singing loud enough. "Sing louder; now we'll have the women, now the men." This course was followed with great good nature on the part of the audience, and it was amusing to see him leading in the hymn 304, "Come, great Deliverer, come!" It was at this stage intimated that there was an overflow meeting in the Albion Hall, and Mr. Richard Hill left to conduct it. While 401 was being sung we glanced over the platform, on which we observed Revs. Drs. Wallace and Dobbie, Revs. Messrs. Hall, Pirret, Sloan, Stewart, and others. Sir William Collins, Bailie Dickson, Messrs. Wm. Govan, J. C. White, A. Allan, Gray, Simpson, and others. We looked over the audience and it was a most magnificent sight, intelligent, respectable, orderly, and devout. Of all ranks in life,

and all animated by the highest sentiments which can actuate the human breast, it was a sight to linger long in the memory and in many memories it will abide for ever. There was an exception—inebriates who called forth the remark of Mr. Moody that their friends should place them near the entrance so that when they did break out they might be taken out and made better by the fresh air. (Laughter). Miss Bonar here sang the beautiful idyllic hymn 302, accompanying herself on the harmonium, the audience assisting her with the chorus. This was a most charming contribution to the singing of the evening and was hailed with evident delight by the entranced audience. Mr. Moody asked the meeting to engage in silent prayer while Mr. Scroggie read out the requests for prayer. The number of these was so great that to save time they were classified as follows:—three sons, three brothers, a sister, a husband, a wife, two women given to strong drink, eight men, some of them present, a friend, two mothers, a brother-in-law, a father, and a young mother. The following farther summary will show more clearly what these requests are like:—prayer is requested for a young mother given to drink, for the mother of a large family almost ruined in body and soul by the use of strong drink, for an elderly woman who cannot resist the craving for liquor, also for a young and an elderly woman who have given way to drink but are at present struggling against the desire, that grace may be given them to abstain altogether from the intoxicating cup. After a brief interval of silent prayer the Rev. Mr. Paton led the prayers of the large assembly, after which No. 49 was sung by the choir. Mr. Moody himself offered up a most practical prayer supplicating the blessing of God on the efforts that might be made here and elsewhere so that a great number of drunkards might be saved. May the Son of God, he prayed, go from heart to heart touching them that we may be all able to give him glory for a great salvation. Mrs. Hector Hall, who now presided at the harmonium with signal ability, gave us a solo, hymn 399, with deep feeling. Meetings were given out at this stage; Mr. Moody remarking that the drunkard had many friends here who would give him what assistance lay in their power. He then read from 5th Mark referring to the cures which Jesus wrought recorded in the chapter on the demoniac, the diseased woman and the dead child. He then said,—

“Now, the question that evening to be answered was whether a drunkard could be saved or not. He had no more doubt of that than he had of his existence. He believed it was as easy for Jesus Christ to save a drunkard as it was for anyone present to lift up his own hand; and if they looked to him and expected him to do the work, and gave up trying to save themselves, only casting themselves upon him for aid, they would not be disappointed. In that same chapter we read of a man possessed with a legion of devils, and it is said of him that an effort was made to chain him down, but failure was the result. Like Samson he broke his fetters and escaped. So when Christ met him he was out in the tombs among the dead, trying to find stones that he might mar that temple in which the Holy Ghost loved to dwell. The man cried out—“Thou Son of the most high God, hast thou come to torment me before my time?” He thought Christ was his enemy. That was the belief of drunkards. They also thought Christ was their enemy. Now, there was no greater lie ever told by the devil than that. There was no drunk man or woman in the city but might have a friend in Christ if he or she only knew it. He had the power to cast out the strong man armed, and could give them victory over their appetite—over their terrible sin—which had been binding them down for many years. This was not a myth; this was not a fiction. It was a living fact that Christ had power to overcome and save the drunkard. All that the drunkard wanted was to believe that Christ had that supernatural power. Further, we read of a woman coming to him. She had suffered many things without getting any remedy; in fact, she was a thorough incurable, and if there had been institutions for such persons in those days, no doubt she would have been an inmate. But she be-

lieved that Christ was able to cure her, and that is true. He has in himself more medicine than was in all the doctor's shops in the East. The medicine-men had got all her money, just as the publicans have got yours. Hearing that he was in her neighbourhood, she went up to him. She could not dress to go, she was now poor in means but rich in faith. Rough men pushed her back, and tried to keep her away from Christ, but she struggled into his presence, and the result of her marvellous faith was that the Master cured her. Christ put the question, Who touched me? and the people smiled at him putting such a question. They could not distinguish between the touch of matter and the touch of faith, and it is so now. If Jesus could cure her he could keep her; if he could heal her he could save every drunkard here. We should remember that Christ had power over devils, disease, and death, and that the vilest drunkard that reeled through the streets of Glasgow could be saved. We must not limit the power of the Holy One of Israel. When he (Mr. Moody) was preaching eight years ago in Newcastle, a lady said, “Mr. Moody, I am going to have my nephew at your meeting. I am the only one left who takes an interest in him. He has promised to attend in order to gratify me. If he is not reached to-night, probably he never will be.” Mr. Moody said, “Am I God that can kill and make alive?” But he preached as well as he could, and when the meeting was over he pushed through the crowd, and saw the lady coming to him. Her nephew managed to slip away and disappeared. But notice. A year afterwards that young man, who was a graduate of Cambridge, and a solicitor, whose practice, however, was going from him, was sitting one night in his London lodgings, his pipe in his mouth, when the thought came into his mind that he ought to be a different man, and that he should stop drinking. But he was afraid he could not, his appetite having got the mastery over him. He had tried many times, but it was impossible. Then the thought came into his mind that with God everything was possible. That thought laid hold of him; and, removing the pipe from his mouth, he got down upon his knees and called upon God to help him. He then went out and tried to seek for a minister, but could not find one. He was afraid to go to bed, fearful lest he should sleep off his good resolution, and be at the drink in the morning. But finally he asked God to make him bad next morning, because he believed that if he felt bad God would not have done with him. We have often heard of people asking God to make them good, but this man wanted to be made bad, and when he rose bad he felt that God's spirit was still striving to save him. This took place seven years last November, and from that night he had not tasted one drop of liquor. Such was the result of the thought taking hold of the man that with God all things were possible. If he could create a world he could save the drunkard. He had a long arm; it would reach down to the deepest pit, lay hold of the vilest drunkard, and put a new song in his mouth. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, says the Holy One, because he has sent me to give liberty to the captives, to set at liberty them that are bound. Pray then to him that he may loosen your bonds and set you free, but never allow the idea room in your minds that you cannot be saved.” Mrs. Hector Hall rendered with exquisite grace and feeling, “She only touched the hem of his garment,” No. 293. Mr. Moody then called upon several men who came forward and in a simple, homely way gave their experience of how they relinquished drinking. Mr. Turnbull said he had been an abstainer for five years, and he thanked God who had delivered him from the power of strong drink. He liked to dwell upon the difference between saving one's self and being saved by Jesus. Since he had found him he had had great delight in being an abstainer. Mr. Moody asked him if he had as great delight in being a Christian as he had in the public houses when he went to them. Mr. Turnbull's answer was eminently wise:—There is a pleasure in drinking, but I would not give one five minutes of the love of Christ for all the jollity I ever had in drinking. Now, Mr. Turnbull, go you over to the Albion Hall and give similar testimony. Mr.

Moody, turning to the audience, said, Do you believe testimony? Yes, yes, came from all parts of the house. The next gentleman said he was born in 1851, and born again in January, 1882. Christ brought me to the knowledge of him after a drunken spree. Rising in the night to get some water the thought of God and Christ came into my mind. I had a good mother and sister who earnestly and long prayed for me. Next day God's power drew me to the mission meeting I had often despised, and led me to rely on the work of his Son. I never thought I could speak before such an audience as this, but it is not I but the Spirit of God which strengthens me. From the moment I found Christ I have not let the liquor ever pass my lips, and I have never even desired it. Mr. Moody asked, Have you been troubled with the appetite? No; I have lost all the desire. My home is happy, and I try to teach them there to live to God, and my wife is also accepted and saved. Another man stood up and said that he had been an abstainer for five months only. The Lord had laid hold on him and placed him on a rock. It is not a half salvation he gives. Only believe and he will save you body and soul. If you accept Christ you have no need of strong drink. It is not prohibition it is a substitution; Christ for drink! I am rejoicing at my deliverance, and my mother is rejoicing too. I went and wrote out a pledge, "I hereby promise to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages." I offered up prayer, and have kept the pledge till now. I was not converted, however, and felt anxious to hear Mr. Moody. His text was, "God is not mocked," and it made me very anxious about my soul. He wanted all who were anxious for their soul to stand up, but the devil had me, and I continued to sit. But on the following Monday I went to get peace, and thanks to God I found it. Although I spoke of not keeping abstinence through temperance lodges or temperance societies I am not against them; join them, but only don't trust entirely to them, ask God to help and bless you. Dr. Wallace then offered up prayer for those who had given their testimony to them that evening, and that God would bless their families. Well may they say the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. We thank thee, O God, that all over Scotland prayer of a similar nature is being offered up to thee. Lord, there are many in this meeting who could give similar testimony. O thou who stood at the grave of Lazarus and said, Loose him and let him go, O Spirit of the living God, do not allow us to separate till thou hast brought many trophies.

Mr. Moody then asked those who had given testimonies in favour of abstinence to stand. A large number did so, whom he asked to keep standing. He then asked those who desired to be free to stand up. A great many stood up in all parts of the building, and as he urged, others rose, until a fourth of the audience were standing. Those who had given oral testimony left during the singing of hymn 361 to the overflow meetings in the Albion and Argyll Halls; and as 274 was being sung, Mr. Moody calling on his workers dashed in among the audience, urging the people seeking freedom from intemperance to go into one or other of the numerous adjoining rooms. Closing our note-book and buttoning ourselves up against the inroads of the raw, gusty rainy night, we left the circus with the words

"Bringing in the sheaves!
Bringing in the sheaves!
We shall come rejoicing,
Bringing in the sheaves!"

ringing melodiously in our ears.

CLEVER TO IMPUDENCE.—The other day an American sewing girl went to her mistress and said; "I fear that I will not be able to work much longer." "Why? you seem to get along excellently with your work?" "Yes but I can no longer see any meat on my plate at dinner." Next day the girls were served with very large but very thin slices of meat. "What happiness" said our girl, "my sight has now come back. I can now see better than ever." "Why? how can that be?" said her mistress. "Why at this moment I can see the plate through the meat."

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 12th February, to 15th April, 1882, inclusive. During that period 180 meetings were held, 84 being deputationary, and 96 ordinary. At these meetings 370 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Aberdeen, Wick, Thurso, Inverurie, Kenmay, Gourdon, Ferryden, Montrose, Woodside, Portsoy, Stonehaven, and Buchanhaven, and addressed 41 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Govan, Glasgow, Denny, Brechin, Alloa, Montrose, Alexandria, Bonhill, Hurlet, Stonefield, Beith, Arbroath, Crieff, Tillicoultry, Perth, Dundee, Ferryden, Montrose, Alyth, Port-Glasgow, Motherwell, Catrine, and Paisley, and addressed 40 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Leith, Ceres, St. Andrews, Cupar, Anstruther, Edinburgh, Dunse, Nenthorn, Dairsie, Strathmiglo, Roslin, Galston, Newmilns, Denholm, Stow, Broxburn, Kettle, Cults, Largoward, and Bo'ness, and addressed 38 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Kilmalcolm, Glasgow, Denny, Kilbarchan, Dunse, Brechin, Whiteinch, Montrose, Dumfries, Ayr, Aberdeen, Stirling, Kilsyth, and Milngavie, and addressed 24 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Partick, Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Kirkintilloch, Greenock, and Ayr, and addressed 17 meetings.

Mr. R. Semple has visited Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Aberdeen, Wick, and Thurso, and addressed 15 meetings.

Baillie Selkirk, J.P., has addressed 7 meetings in Glasgow, Uddingston, Rutherglen, Ayr, Maryhill, and Kilsyth.

Ex-Baillie Lewis, J.P., has addressed 7 meetings in Edinburgh, Lesmahagow, Roslin, Motherwell, and Eyemouth.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has addressed 7 meetings in Glasgow and Whiteinch.

Rev. E. J. Boon has addressed 6 meetings in Anstruther, Montrose, Arbroath, and Brechin.

Ex-Provost Dick has addressed 6 meetings in Glasgow, Lesmahagow, Greenock, Stirling, and Douglas.

Ex-Baillie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 5 meetings in Glasgow, Uddingston, Greenock, and Rutherglen.

Mr. J. H. Raper has addressed 5 meetings in Ayr, Aberdeen, and Stirling.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh and Bo'ness.

Rev. S. Harding has addressed 3 meetings in Brechin, Tillicoultry, and Kilsyth.

Mr. Wm. Smith has addressed 3 meetings in Aberdeen and Brechin.

Mr. James Winning has addressed 3 meetings in Ayr and Arbroath.

Mr. J. W. Mackay has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow.

Rev. Dr. Wilson has addressed 2 meetings in Bo'ness.

Rev. M. Mc'Gregor has addressed 2 meetings in St. Andrews and Cupar.

Rev. W. M'Leilan has addressed 2 meetings in Stirling.

Rev. G. Yuille has addressed 2 meetings in Stirling.

Thos. Hope, Esq., J.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Bo'ness.

Councillor Yellowlees has addressed 2 meetings in Stirling.

Dr. Whitelaw has addressed 2 meetings in Kirkintilloch.

Mr. R. Ritchie has addressed 2 meetings in Cupar.

Mr. J. Nisbet has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. D. Anderson has addressed 2 meetings in Denny.

Mr. F. Lindsay has addressed 2 meetings in Denny.

Mr. A. Bennet has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Dumfries.

Mr. A. S. Cook has addressed 2 meetings in Aberdeen.

Mr. G. Kemp has addressed 2 meetings in Aberdeen.
Mr. A. Herd has addressed 2 meetings in Arbroath.
Mr. A. Lauder has addressed 2 meetings in Stirling.
Miss Wigham has addressed a meeting in Edinburgh.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Rev. Drs. Stewart, Aberdeen; Kennedy, Port-Glasgow; Teape, Edinburgh; and Adamson, Edinburgh; Revs. J. Lewis, Glasgow; R. Troup, St. Andrews; J. Whitson, Anstruther; M. Lockie, Anstruther; W. M'Intosh, Anstruther; J. M'Queen, Lesmahagow; J. Jack, Dunse; R. Inglis, Dunse; N. M'Pherson, Nenthorn; J. Barclay, Greenock; A. Davidson, Greenock; G. S. Sutherland, Montrose; J. W. Hay, Montrose; D. Galbraith, Arbroath; J. Hooper, Stirling; H. Aird, Brechin; A. Mitchell, Brechin; J. T. Burton, Newmilns; T. Fowler, Newmilns; J. Wemyss, Edinburgh; J. Kirk, Edinburgh; A. M. Brown, Kirkintilloch; W. Patrick, Kirkintilloch; T. C. Pitt, Denholm; J. Primrose, Broxburn; A. D. Anderson, Port-Glasgow; A. Baird, Port-Glasgow; W. Turner, Edinburgh; and F. L. Armitage, Bo'ness; Provost Campbell, Greenock; Ex-Provosts Lyle, Greenock; and Downie, Kirkintilloch; Bailie Brymner, Greenock; Ex-Bailie Erskine, Greenock; Councillors Hall, St. Andrews; and Whyte, Arbroath; Ex-Councillor Cooper, Cupar; Captains M'Lean, Glasgow; Brotchie, Greenock; and Bruce, Stirling; Dr. Bowie, Edinburgh; Messrs G. Archer, Leith; J. Cooper, Glasgow; T. Turpie, Ceres; J. Brown, Ceres; J. Robertson, St. Andrews; J. Wilson, St. Andrews; J. Toye, St. Andrews; W. Smith, St. Andrews; D. Stenhouse, Cupar; S. Baker, Cupar; T. Young, Cupar; J. Hart, Cupar; D. Black, Anstruther; G. Peebles, Anstruther; T. Barclay, Blackford; A. Murdoch, Lesmahagow; J. Reid, Denny; W. Stewart, Denny; G. Fortune, Dunse; J. Lang, Greenock; R. Mitchell, Montrose; J. Pert, Montrose; G. Lamb, Montrose; J. Mudie, Montrose; R. M'Callum, Glasgow; J. Hunter, Glasgow; J. Stevenson, Aberdeen; J. B. Robertson, Arbroath; W. Salmoud, Arbroath; J. Ross, Arbroath; T. Fraser, Arbroath; J. Aitken, Stirling; J. Macfarlane, Stirling; J. Willocks, Brechin; D. Macara, Roslin; H. Morton, Newmilns; T. Ivory, Edinburgh; T. T. M'Lagan, Edinburgh; P. Turner, Edinburgh; R. M'Laren, Edinburgh; G. Tait, Edinburgh; J. Russell, Douglas; J. Gray, Port-Glasgow; J. Russell, Port-Glasgow; J. Duguid, Port-Glasgow; R. Rodger, Port-Glasgow; H. A. Ross, Port-Glasgow; D. Fortune, Glasgow; R. Lockhart, Edinburgh; J. Ramsay, Bo'ness; A. Newton, Bo'ness; R. Baxter, Bo'ness; J. Menzies, Bo'ness; J. Haggie, Bo'ness; P. M. Mitchell, Bo'ness; R. Murray, Bo'ness; W. Hopekirk, Glasgow; and C. Johnstone, Perth.

Whisky left in a cask seven years will lose its poisonous fusel oil. A cask left in a printing office about as many days will lose both poison and whisky.

WE WON'T GO HOME TILL MORNING.—Young lady (starting)—“My goodness!” Young gent (a late stayer), “What is the matter?” Young lady (glancing at the clock), “Nothing. I thought I heard the milkman!”

THRIFT.—Two men from a neighbouring village were hurrying through the Lang Toon o' Kirkcaldy to the railway station, when, passing a druggist's shop, James said to his neighbour, “Wait a minit, Davie, till I get a poother for the bairn.” “Weel, Jamie, what did you pay for your poother?” asked Davie. “Oh a penny, of course, an' a gey sma' morsel it is; but poothers are a' penny pies wi' thae gentry.” “Man, Jamie, I see ye canna buy poothers for bairns; I wud 'a' gotten twa as big as yours for a penny.” “Ay,” says Jamie, “hoo wud you manage that?” “Weel, I'll tell ye. He wud spier hoo auld the bairn wus?” “Ay, of course, an' I tell't him it wus six weeks auld.” “Weel, if it had been me, you see, I wud 'a' said six months, an' I wud 'a' gotten ane as big again, and then devided it in twa.” “Man, Davie, that thocht never struck me,” answered Jamie, “or I wud 'a' soucht it for its mither.”

POETRY.

A NIGHT SCENE.

The night breeze is so still, you scarcely hear
A rustle 'mong the ancient forest trees,
The river wanders on in quiet ease,
And all is calm. A cot is standing near,
Whose lighted windows give a cheerful gleam,
And like tall ghosts the hoary oak trees stand,
Their shaggy limbs spread out, and all the land
Seems lonely at this hour. A pensive dream
Comes o'er me, and I listen for a sound,
And gaze intently on the darkened sky.
It has no cloud. There is no star on high,
But the moon travels on its nightly round,
And like a burning globe it darts its beams
On darkling woods and fairy-haunted streams.

ANDREW M. LANG.

THE WISE STATESMAN!

Hark to the publican's till!
With its clink, clink, clink;
Hark to the drunkard's will!
Give me drink, drink, drink.

Hark to the statesman wise,
As he gathers the license fee!
What though the soul eternally dies,
What does it matter to me?

What are statistics of crime?
What is the pauper's long roll?
What in the annals of time
Is the endless death of the soul?

Hark to the statesman wise,
As he gathers the license fee!
What though the soul eternally dies,
What does it matter to me?

What are the drunkard's rags?
What is the orphan's plea?
So long as I fill up my money-bags,
What does it matter to me?

What is the ruined health?
What is the early bier?
What is the squandered wealth?
Or what is the widow's tear?

What is each blighted hope
To filthy lucre and gain?
What is even the hangman's rope?
Or what is the shattered brain?

What are all these to me,
Saith the crafty statesman and wise,
For I still gather my license fee,
Though the soul eternally dies?

Oh that the Lord would come,
And take to Himself the power!
But what will it be to some,
The judgment's decisive hour?

To hear the sad word “depart,”
Pronounced on each unclean soul,
What will it be to each blackened heart
While eternal ages roll?

Then, alas, for each statesman wise,
As they gather their last great fee!
Each ruined soul that eternally dies,
Will their scourge in eternity be!

A woman who carried round milk in Paris said a naive thing the other day. One of the cooks to whom she brought milk, looked into the can and remarked with surprise, “Why, there is actually nothing there but water!” The woman leisurely looked into the can, and said: “Well, if I didn't forget to put in the milk.”—*Figaro.*

Table of Population, Electors, and Places Licensed for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors in the Seventy-nine Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland with the relative proportion of these places to Population and Families, also showing the contemplated operation of the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill on the number of Licenses.

PARLIAMENTARY BURGH.	Population.	Electors.	LICENSED PREMISES.				RELATIVE PROPORTION.		
			Hotels.	Public Houses.	Licensed Grocers.	Total.	To Populat'n.	To Families.	To every 500.
Aberdeen,	105,003	14,178	32	102	256	390	269	54	210
Airdrie,	13,366	1,789	2	89	21	112	119	24	26
Annan,	3,366	422	2	11	6	19	177	35	6
Anstruther East,	1,248	207	3	5	8	16	78	16	2
Anstruther West,	673	86	0	1	3	4	168	34	1
Arbroath,	21,995	3,387	6	42	63	111	198	40	43
Ayr,	20,821	2,287	16	59	33	108	193	39	41
Banff,	4,203	485	5	4	8	17	247	49	8
Bervie,	1,094	170	3	3	1	7	156	31	2
Brechin,	9,031	1,148	14	11	19	44	205	41	18
Burntisland,	4,096	645	3	10	17	30	137	27	8
Campbeltown,	7,558	593	5	29	5	39	194	39	15
Crail,	1,112	195	1	4	2	7	159	32	2
Cromarty,	1,352	83	3	2	4	9	150	30	2
Cullen,	2,042	321	2	3	4	9	227	45	4
Culross,	373	59	0	2	3	5	75	15	0
Cupar Fife,	5,010	733	6	16	23	45	111	22	10
Dingwall,	1,917	229	6	3	8	17	113	23	3
Dornoch,	496	71	2	0	1	3	165	33	0
Dumbarton,	13,782	1,758	1	21	3	25	551	110	27
Dumfries,	15,769	1,858	19	46	20	85	186	37	31
Dunbar,	3,651	466	8	7	15	30	122	24	7
Dundee,	140,054	15,827	8	259	212	479	293	59	280
Dunfermline,	17,085	2,330	10	29	58	97	176	35	34
Dysart,	2,650	388	1	12	11	24	110	22	5
Edinburgh,	228,190	28,894	44	333	473	850	268	54	456
Elgin,	7,395	930	11	7	54	72	103	21	14
Falkirk,	13,165	1,508	5	53	33	91	145	29	26
Forfar,	12,818	1,452	12	31	14	57	225	45	25
Forres,	4,031	407	5	4	9	18	224	45	8
Fortrose,	869	142	2	4	0	6	145	29	1
Galashiels,	15,343	1,867	5	7	25	37	415	83	30
Glasgow,	511,532	63,323	26	1,497	271	1,794	285	57	1,023
Greenock,	69,229	7,191	8	181	39	228	304	61	138
Haddington,	4,042	572	5	7	18	30	135	27	8
Hamilton,	18,519	1,454	8	51	38	97	191	38	37
Hawick,	16,184	2,344	10	10	25	45	360	72	32
Inverary,	939	109	3	3	2	8	117	23	1
Inverkeithing,	1,646	186	2	4	5	11	150	30	3
Inverness,	17,362	2,109	13	34	46	93	187	37	34
Inverurie,	2,928	397	2	6	4	12	244	49	5
Irvine,	8,503	1,044	11	20	38	69	123	25	17
Jedburgh,	3,400	426	8	2	14	24	142	28	6
Kilmarnock,	25,833	3,498	10	75	43	128	202	40	51
Kilrenny,	3,270	348	0	4	5	9	363	73	6
Kinghorn,	1,806	225	1	3	8	12	151	30	3
Kintore,	660	91	2	0	2	4	165	33	1
Kirkcaldy,	23,305	3,503	5	41	65	111	210	42	46
Kirkcubright,	2,571	316	4	3	5	12	214	43	5
Kirkwall,	3,923	401	4	1	8	13	302	60	7
Lanark,	5,872	554	11	21	8	40	147	29	11
Lauder,	964	147	3	1	7	11	88	18	1
Leith,	58,193	8,683	7	135	180	322	181	36	116
Linlithgow,	3,913	368	3	20	11	34	115	23	7
Lochmaben,	1,217	167	3	1	4	8	152	30	2
Montrose,	14,975	2,017	5	16	34	55	272	54	29
Musselburgh,	7,865	1,082	0	23	18	41	192	38	15
Nairn,	4,161	359	5	3	12	20	208	42	8
New Galloway,	442	60	2	0	1	3	147	29	0
North Berwick,	1,698	230	2	3	8	13	131	26	3
Oban,	4,330	334	13	5	7	25	173	35	8
Paisley,	55,642	5,142	6	176	40	222	251	50	111
Perth,	29,724	4,135	24	42	42	108	275	55	59
Peterhead,	11,316	1,017	2	16	41	59	192	38	22
Pittenween,	2,119	304	1	8	8	17	125	25	4
Port-Glasgow,	13,264	1,340	1	38	9	48	276	55	26
Portobello,	6,793	949	0	18	20	38	179	36	13
Queensferry South,	941	178	3	2	8	13	72	14	1
Renfrew,	5,502	508	0	25	2	27	204	41	11
Rutherglen,	10,305	1,434	0	37	13	50	206	41	20
St. Andrews,	6,452	766	6	9	29	44	147	29	12
Sanquhar,	1,378	229	2	1	2	5	276	55	2
Selkirk,	6,090	887	5	1	13	19	321	64	12
Stirling,	16,013	2,058	12	50	35	97	165	33	32
Stranraer,	6,342	852	19	18	9	46	138	28	12
Tain,	1,742	237	2	6	7	15	116	23	3
Whithorn,	1,653	229	4	3	2	9	184	37	3
Wick,	8,025	756	7	21	12	40	201	40	16
Wigtown,	1,722	260	2	8	1	11	157	31	3
	1,683,811	207,534	514	3,858	2,631	7,003			3,330

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

MAY, 1882.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Offices—112 Bath Street,
Glasgow, April 1882.

DEAR FRIEND,—We are desired by the Executive of this Association to respectfully remind you that Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., intends on Wednesday, 10th May, to move the second reading of the "Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill."

We beg to lay before you the Executive's deliverance on that Bill, which is as follows:—

"The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have carefully considered the provisions of the 'Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill,' introduced into the House of Commons by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., and while regarding it as an honest and earnest attempt to deal with the evils of the licensing system in Scotland, and believing that certain of its provisions would undoubtedly abate some of these evils, yet feel called upon to express their deep regret that the Bill not only fails adequately to recognise the right of the ratepayers in their several districts to prevent by a direct and full veto public-houses being forced upon them or continued in their midst against their will, but provides for compensation to landlord and tenant, for the sale of licenses, for the granting of a ten years' lease, and generally for the continuance, under certain given conditions, of a system that is essentially mischievous in its nature and operations. Further, the Executive would very earnestly call upon all friends of temperance and social reform throughout the country immediately to memorialise their Parliamentary representatives to take such steps as will secure to the ratepayers of Scotland a veto on all facilities for the sale of intoxicating liquors."

They regret that the Bill fails to interpret the convictions of the people of Scotland on the evils of the liquor traffic, and the necessity for its immediate removal. Instead of giving effect to their evident desire to have a veto to protect themselves, it proposes to enable a minority, swayed by interest and appetite, to override the decision of a majority, who in the interests of trade and commerce, education, morality, and religion, have voted for the suppression of that system, with its gross evils and excessive burdens. They feel that they cannot, as prohibitionists or citizens, ask their friends to give to this measure in its present objectionable shape either countenance or support.

On the other hand, its discussion next month affords all desirous of the local suppression of the liquor traffic an excellent opportunity of laying clearly before their Parliamentary representatives the urgent claim of the ratepayers and householders to an effective protection against such a traffic. Besides, the Government may, in the immediate future, introduce their County Government Licensing Bill. By availing themselves of the approaching discussion on the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill, the Permissive Prohibitionists may

enlist the intelligence and sympathy of their Parliamentary representatives, who can judge for themselves the value of their reasonable demand for a suppressive veto, as contrasted with the merely restrictive measure which will on the 10th May be brought under their consideration.

At the present advanced stage of the agitation, no scheme proposing to deal with the liquor traffic, which does not embody an absolute veto, should be entertained. Licensing in any form or degree is so clearly opposed to national welfare, that the strongest representations to Parliamentary representatives, and also to the Government, should be made by every elector having the welfare of his country at heart. Those so addressed might then be constrained to come to a clear understanding with the electoral body on this great national question, and a measure adequate to its final settlement embodied into law.

Seeing what has been done to advance the interests of the Permissive Prohibitory agitation in Scotland—that Churches, Town Councils, Poor Law Boards, and other public bodies have declared in favour of its object; that numerous conferences have been held to advance the passage of a veto into law; that petitions and memorials have been presented in its behalf; that personal representations, by deputation and by letter, have been made in its favour; that bye-elections have been fought out upon veto or no veto; that at the general election it was the paramount issue in almost every contest deciding the possession of many a seat; that no question having respect to Scottish affairs in Parliament has received such an overwhelming vote as it has done—the Executive trust you will, on receipt of this communication, in courteous and earnest terms, press upon your representative the necessity of urging on the attention of Government the fact that the people of Scotland have no faith in legislation to merely abate the evils of the liquor traffic; that their desire is to be entrusted with power to absolutely veto all traffic in alcoholic liquors within their licensing areas.

Your ready compliance with this request will not only promote the interests of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory agitation, but may exert a most beneficial influence on the forthcoming licensing proposals of the Government.—We are, yours sincerely,

JAMES HAMILTON, J.P., *President.*

JAMES TORRENS, J.P., *Chairman of Executive.*

THOMAS DICK, *Vice-Chairman of Executive.*

JAMES L. SELKIRK, J.P., *Hon. Secretary.*

WILLIAM SMITH, *Treasurer.*

ROBERT MACKAY, *Secretary.*

This is in course of issue to the country.

Whatever opinion of the merits of Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Bill may be entertained, there can be no doubt that it has fairly put the aiders and abettors of licensing to flight. Instead of finding favour with a certain section of the temperance party as would have been the case three years, nay, one year ago, it is clear that throughout all the temperance ranks that Bill does not seem as if it had a friend. Its mission is to abate the evils of the licensing system. The evident desire of the country is to abolish that system, and that mission and this desire can no more blend than the blue ether and the small dust in the balance. "Abate" means the continued existence of the liquor traffic, but nothing is so manifest as the loathing with which a farther term of licensing is viewed on all hands, and the impetus which has been given to the conviction that "abolish" and that only should be the rallying cry of temperance and social reformers. We hope that those prominent in the movement who had other leanings will lay the lesson of this

revolution in public sentiment to heart, and that dismissing the licensing system and its amendment from their farther consideration, they may be found devoting their efforts to exalt the absolute veto over that system into the realm of legislative fact. With licensing so thoroughly discredited as it has been during the discussion on Lord Campbell's Bill, the way is clearer than before for a union of effort in favour of such a veto, and in the near future there ought to be an unbroken unanimity of sentiment and action in the ranks of the Scottish temperance movement with this object solely in view. This gratifying revolution in the conviction and aim of the temperance movement in Scotland has been long in preparation, and is the outgrowth of that vigorous prosecution of the work so zealously supported by the Scottish prohibitionists. They are beginning to realize the fruits of their labours: they pledged their votes for a veto; they registered their electoral strength on its behalf; they have been in successful conflict with their "natural enemies," the publicans, at the polling booth; they made a gallant stand at the general election, and they are rewarded by the advanced position taken up by the country on the futility of licensing and the necessity of suppression. Their efforts which have brought about so salutary a change on the country are by no means spent; they have discredited license but they must secure abolition; their sphere will change now from the country to the House of Commons. While the licensing system had its supporters in the country Parliamentary representatives waited for the appearance of some preference on the part of temperance men. Now that they will perceive a strong national preference for an absolute veto over the drink traffic, it is easy to see how their attitude to permissive prohibition must change and in what direction. The difficulty of getting them interested in the advanced legislation we aim to secure was very great, but that difficulty will doubtless be found a vanishing one, no longer adding to our Parliamentary complications, and the hour of prohibition and the man to get it enacted may gladden the immediate future. The hope of every true prohibitionist should derive increased buoyancy, and their energies encouragement from this change. Doomed like so many with grievances to wait for redress from a Parliament encumbered by work and enfeebled by obstruction, they must not be inactive, but with their loins girt and their lamps burning be ready at any moment to make a decisive advance against the colossal drink iniquity of our country now tottering to its ruin.

We stop the press to record our gratification at the admission made by Mr. Gladstone in his Budget speech that the altered habits of the people in the direction of temperance and frugality are really telling on the revenue from alcoholic liquors. The

people are, in consequence of these altered habits, learning the road to the savings' banks now instead of loitering in the losing banks which are licensed by the State to dispense seductive liquors; and are drinking tea, coffee, cocoa and such like harmless beverages, instead of alcoholic poison. The income of the country, depending not on their virtue but on the law-fostered intemperance of the nation, does not advance by leaps and bounds. The prosperity of the country can never be stable while based on the drinking habits and prodigality of that community. It is real and progressive when it rests on their skill, diligence, and frugality. It seems as if we were no longer to swell our budgets with the fruits of our drink taxation, and we will not when statesmen learn this weighty truth that the "revenue can never suffer from the enrichment and elevation of a people." Never! Let us pray God that alcohol may soon be discarded as a factor of our national income.

Devoted to special education—the exposure of the great drink lie—we most heartily rejoice at the progress of national education in Scotland, in which she is far ahead of the sister kingdoms. How proud we should be when Mr. Mundella feels constrained to say of us, "The figures for England, although they showed a general steady advance, compared unfavourably with Scotland! The average attendance in England was 71, in Scotland 75.2. The percentage of passes in England was 81.82, in Scotland 88.33. The percentage of scholars examined in Standard IV. was in England 26.83, in Scotland it was 33.13; so that, at least, there were 10 per cent. more children over 14 in Scotland than England. In Scotland they were sending out increasing numbers to the Universities of Scotland. The rate of progress shown last year would seem to indicate that the School Boards there had pretty well gathered in all the children; they only increased last year by 11,000. They had completed nearly the whole supply of accommodation to the population. It was impossible to close his remarks without saying that Scotland had done wonders under the Education Act. Her progress had been much more marked than that of England." What a grand nation Scotland might be in a few years, were her people, with their developed brain power, wise enough to shut off the liquor taps! On the other hand, of what avail to develop a massive brain power only to soak it with beer, or inflame it with spirits! With their great brain power, their strong wills, their clear understanding, their large self-control, and their moral strength uncontaminated by strong drink in any form, the sons of Scotland might take the front seats on the high places of the earth.

When we used to read in the prints objecting to the adoption of the Permissive Liquor Act, about

the drinkers' dissatisfaction, their veiled rebellion and breaches of the peace, the calling out of the force, the special constables, and the military, and of the consequent "garments rolled in blood," we used to feel our hair rising on end, and our tongues cleaving to our mouth's roof, and our mind trying to think of who would flinch or who would fight. But it was always the mort-head turnip of our youthful terror, with its gorgon face, the waving sheet, and the dark night. True, saucy doubts and fears did sometimes assail us, but joy always came in the morning. Evidences came trooping fast in of places where, if liquor taps were set aflowing, the rioting might be on the other side. We have Kansas, for instance—one of the American border States, where lawless, cruel, reckless men, utterly out-with all order or constraint, once made life a terror. Yet, under constitutional prohibition, this region affords to the whole English-speaking race a noble example of the success of legislation with a moral end. *The Topeka Capital*—one of the best dailies in the State—in a recent editorial writes, "If the question of prohibition were submitted again tomorrow, the verdict of last November would be repeated with the emphasis of a largely increased majority. The conduct of those who have sought to nullify the new law, and bring it into contempt, has made thousands of converts to prohibition among those who hesitated to indorse it a year ago, when the issue was yet an open one. This prohibitory doctrine of temperance is the settled policy of Kansas, and it will be enforced, never fear." We don't fear. Wherever communities taste of the sweets of prohibition—see for themselves the quiet, safe streets, the lessened crime, decreased poverty, with the positive blessings of peace, plenty, prosperity, and happiness, and at the same time see interested, unscrupulous, reckless men among them aiming to restore the old days of maddened indulgence, riot, and wickedness, you will see them standing staunchly and stedfastly for prohibition, with its social blessings, its good order, its widening and deepening civilization, and its national progress. Instead of mankind resisting the removal of the liquor traffic, they will hereafter be found combining to hurl it out of society.

We have from time to time drawn attention to the burgh of Campbeltown. Through having so many parties interested in the liquor trade in the Town Council its control of the liquor traffic is lost. The friends of temperance there, however, have never lost heart. They have availed themselves of all means within their power to keep the question before the people. Observing that on the 19th March last only 2,925 persons went to all the churches, or 38 per cent. of the population, they inferred that there would have been certainly a better attendance if so many had not been to the 35 public houses on the previous day and evening.

But like wise people, they resolved to put this inference to the test, and accordingly 42 young men were told off to take the census of the public-house traffic of Campbeltown on Saturday, 8th April. The results are as startling as deplorable. The time employed was from 8 o'clock to 11 o'clock p.m. We give the result:—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
8 to 9	647	201	128	976
9 to 10	627	253	118	998
10 to 11	595	306	131	1032
	1869	760	377	3006

or 39 per cent. of the population. We are willing to admit that all these visitors might not have been separate persons, but while doing so we have a solemn conviction that that number has been largely increased by the drink carried home, so that if we could have added to those going to the shop the numbers drinking in private houses the census would have been appalling in the magnitude of its figures when the population is taken into account. The law says that the publican shall not sell to intoxicated persons, and that the police officers shall note all that issue from public houses intoxicated. Has the law in these respects been duly observed. The law says that boys or girls shall not be supplied with liquor unless an understanding with the publican has been come to by the parents. Is this observed? If so what a dreadful amount of private drinking goes on in Campbeltown, and what an amount of guilty knowledge of private intemperance the publicans must possess. We hope other temperance reformers may emulate the temperance reformers of Campbeltown, for we have long been of the opinion that if on one day a census of all visits paid to liquor shops of every kind in Scotland were taken, the results would be so startling that the nation would not rest till the evil was suppressed. Even the justices at Campbeltown felt constrained to refuse every application, a widow's for a transfer excepted, and on the ground, as one of them said, of the frightful state of the burgh, when they were confronted with the fact that 3000 of the inhabitants went into public houses, there was a clamant call on them to do all that they could to restrict the accommodation. We congratulate the temperance reformers of Campbeltown on their zeal and success.

We present, as we promised, a table giving the population, the electorate, and the number of liquor shops in the seventy-nine Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland. After careful observation of the conduct of the licensing magistrates and justices last month, we believe our table will be scarcely if at all affected by their action. It offers to our readers and friends a clearer estimate of the magnitude of the aggression of the liquor traffic on the amenities of these burghs than has hitherto been possible. Notwithstanding the administration of the Scottish licensing system by magistrates and justices whose character and

integrity are above suspicion, burghers are here and now having their interests menaced by 7000 liquor taps for ever dribbling out their base contents to the injury of all within the range of their deadly influence. These drink institutions neither spare age nor sex, the gray hairs of the sire nor the life of the only son of his mother; the earnings of the husband or the capital of his master. The drug they so diligently dispense five-eighths of every lawful day regardless of the consequences to the weak and the wicked which the law is of course supposed to accept. As soon as its physiological effects become apparent it disturbs the divine harmonies of the individual and the ordered progress of the race. But for the law, whose heavy gripe has some deterrent force, these institutions would engulf every interest of man for time or for eternity. As it is, notwithstanding that they are cribbed, cabined, and confined, they are undermining the very foundations of humanity and society. Allowing only two victims to each of these snares, certainly within the mark, and we find a great army of 14,000 human souls passing onward to the great sad premature hereafter. Yet when we look at their numbers and at those of the electorate, we see a minority that, on every occasion in which they have come into conflict with good citizens, have with ease been overthrown. Admit that these publicans are able to bring 70,000 votes to the poll, the electors could bring in that number and have more than 100,000 votes to spare, and in a few years will have double the numbers. Such a survey of the field of agitation as that table shows should nerve every one who has a vote to consecrate it first of all to the abolition of this iniquitous system, which is unable to stand like the baker, the butcher, or the builder on the ground alone of its usefulness to society, and leans heavily upon a law which is a deep disgrace to the British Statute Book, a law which, were the constituencies wise, would cease to protect the publican in his essentially mischievous calling, and declare it felony hereafter for any person who would coolly devote his capital to stimulating the vile propensities of his fellows, be deaf to all remonstrances, and with unparalleled audacity demand a compensation because he is debarred from farther carrying havoc to every interest but his own.

In our sketch book our readers will find an account of a visit paid to the first of the series of temperance meetings held last month by Mr. Moody, the great American revivalist in Glasgow. From that they should, we think, obtain a clear idea of the attitude he has taken up on the temperance question. We were delighted with the account of the visit paid. The importance of temperance as a social lever was duly recognised by the leading sympathisers with all religion and philanthropic effort in the city. Ministers of all denominations, evangelists, rulers, and merchant princes, with

Lydias and Dorcases were there. Temperance was on the high places of the earth, and drunkenness was to be deprived of her power over mankind. The services were most attractive, short prayers eminently practical, hymns beautiful in sentiment and exquisitely sung, together with addresses fervent, reaching to and stirring up the heart. The pledge also is most appropriate to the work. It reads, "I hereby promise, by Divine assistance, to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and to try to induce others to do the same." We rejoice to find the chief men and women of Glasgow trooping forth to rescue the perishing, to pluck the brands from the fire. It is true that all that this movement aimed at was simply the rescue of the perishing, for as to that of preventing by legal prohibition all danger of perishing they gave no sign. None. There stood the drunkard, but the drunkard maker was never once taken into account. Quite true; but shall we look coldly on their effort because it stops far short of the necessity, or shall we oppose it because it does not seek just now to stop the evil at its source? Nay, rather let us, relieved by their efforts from trying to diminish the awful effects of intemperance so painfully evident, address ourselves the more energetically to our work of legal prevention, so that when our friends realise as clearly the power of the public house as at present they do the sad condition of its victims, we shall find them shoulder to shoulder with us, not merely striving to pluck the brands from the burning but to put out the fire. They may not have the unction of the intelligent prohibitionists, but "he who is not against us is on our part," and it is often by a painfully slow experience that men are led to advanced positions. Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers; so our friends, though they only seek the salvation of the drunkard now, may become so appalled by the havoc done upon him by the liquor traffic, as to be stirred as we are to abolish utterly that debasing licensing system that is the greatest outward obstacle to the progress of the everlasting gospel.

We have added a column to our table—the last one—to show what would be the effect on the reduction of the number of licenses through, let us suppose, the operation of Lord Colin Campbell's Bill. At present we have 7003; under the seventh clause of the Bill, we are promised only 3330. This may seem a real restriction, but it is only an apparent one. We have long dealt with our licenses as landlords have dealt with their lands. They throw in small crofts in to large farms, to the undoubted increase of their productive power; just so with justices and magistrates: they sweep away "wee" drink shops in favour of palatial liquor shops: and counting doors, they say see how we have reduced the power of the traffic for evil. We who have had a painful experience of the whole case know the deplorable fallacy of reducing the number of licenses and not

their capacities as well. These 3330 public houses, expanding during ten years as they have done the last twenty-five, would supply as much liquor as the 7006 did. If our table should meet the eye of some liquor tap restrictionist, it may enlighten him upon the futility of expecting any tangible benefit from the operation of the Bill, even although it apparently and so sweepingly cuts off nearly one-half of the numbers. In the old public houses the facilities for distribution and consumption were of the most primitive order: "a but and a ben," generally only the kitchen, was all the resources of accommodation. Our modern liquor taps are palatial structures, and a man bent on gross indulgence can go to them when they open, get breakfast, dinner, and tea, drinking all the time until, forced by the law, they are compelled to let him go. The liquor trap of the future will as fully develop its capacities. It is not the number of premises but the amount of facilities for the sale and consumption of liquor, which, all things being equal, generate the intemperance of a people, and where there is to be sobriety there must not be even one public house to tempt the weak or the unwary one to the fatal paths of intemperance.

We are glad to learn from our American contemporaries that ex-Governor Dingley of Maine is going right on for the removal of one of the greatest obstructions to the Maine law which it has had to meet. It makes one almost despair of progress when he sees the American government so insensible to the signally beneficent results of the liquor law in Maine, as to still insist on granting liquor licenses for that State. The deplorable spectacle may be witnessed of the State constabulary hunting down ruffians licensed by the Federal government to sell alcoholic liquors. The brave citizens of the Diredgo State, animated by their success in spite of this censurable conduct, have now determined to beat off this interference of the Federal government. Mr. Dingley, of Lewiston, Maine, has introduced into the House of Representatives "a bill to subject the sale of imported alcoholic liquors to the same laws that control the sale of domestic liquors. Be it enacted, &c., that the payment of any duty imposed by the laws of the United States on imported, distilled, and fermented liquors, should not be held to authorise the sale of such liquors in any State, contrary to the laws of such State, or in places where such sale is prohibited by municipal laws." Maine has all but crushed out the sale of liquors; there is not a distillery in all her borders, and if she succeeds in placing the barrier of law against all importation, she will stand before the world as having solved the whole problem of prohibition through her experience, and clearly shown that only by suppression vigilantly and vigorously enforced, can prohibition be truly attained.

A glance at America just now is important. Notwithstanding every effort being made by women's temperance unions, by blue ribbon and red ribbon clubs, and by numerous State temperance organizations on behalf of total abstinence, the consumption of liquor continues to grow at a formidable pace. We give the Bureau of Statistics figures for 1879 and 1881. In the former year the consumpt of distilled spirits was 54,278,475 gallons; of wines 20,000,000 gallons; of malt liquors 345,076,118 gallons. Total, 419,354,593 gallons. In 1881, the consumpt was—of spirits 70,507,081 gallons; of wines 20,000,000 gallons; of malt liquors 444,806,373 gallons; total 538,413,454 gallons. These are deplorable figures; but it is "estimated that ten per cent. of spirits and malt liquors produced escape taxation." Then the figures for 1881 only represent ninety per cent. of the consumption of liquors in America last year. Can we wonder at the persistent efforts being made to change the laws that protect a vicious section of the population in flooding the brains of the American people with such an enormous amount of deadly poison? We cannot; and we are glad to find that Maine and Kansas stand out conspicuous through their prohibitory laws as comparatively free from the appalling results that must of necessity come from such gross alcoholic indulgence as disgraces and debases the other of the United States.

The editor, *Irish Temperance Banner*, has been induced, by the marked absence from Mr. Murphy's Gospel Temperance meetings at Dublin of the clergy of all denominations, to take stock of their abstinence. There are 163 ministers in Dublin, and of these 50 Irish clergymen, 7 Presbyterians ministers, 15 Methodist preachers, and 4 of other denominations, abstain—this gives 78 out of the whole number. They hardly countenanced the late Blue Ribbon crusade; they only acted, however, as their brethren everywhere have acted—stayed away in their studies, paid visits, quietly ignoring in fact, the whole affair. We gladly except the gallant few who did their duty like brave men and Christian ministers. But we fear that the ministers who abstain are in the minority nearly everywhere, and since our temperance friends are oftentimes perplexed and disheartened by the stolid indifference of their pastors to the cause of sobriety, let them take a census of the ministers in their own community, distinguishing the abstainer from his non-abstaining brother. In our opinion, the census would do more to open the eyes of the flock to the convivial leanings of the shepherd than all that has been attempted, besides enabling us to see, so far as temperance and prohibition are concerned, whose hearts are perfect in this matter.

There are quite a number of croaking people just now who sneer at the idea of our women going to

the polls. Only think, they say, of our darlings going among rude excited men to cast their ballots! Of course, this is hardly complimentary to the men. But, without waiting to repel this—an unjust reflection on our own sex in general, and ourselves in particular—we wish to point to Mrs. Goldsmith's polling experiences at Lowell, Massachusetts. She says, "In company with my husband, I entered for the first time crowded ward rooms, the policemen clearing the passage, and notwithstanding I was the only woman in the room, I heard no comment, and it is far more safe to go to the polls than to our post office." She naively adds, "I did so want to cast a ballot for 'no license,' and I am more than ever convinced that we shall never crush the rum traffic until *women vote it down*." Thanks on behalf of all good men for the compliment paid them by you, Mrs. Goldsmith, and though we cannot promise the company of husbands to female voters in this country, we can, we think, promise them chivalrous conduct at the poll. Oh that our sisters who are voters would, like Mrs. Goldsmith, so want to vote "no license." They would find that a poll apart from drink and its grossness, is as free from annoyance as a church; and we who have borne the burden of the fight hitherto would be proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them, sternly and implacably casting our votes, as the Israelites did their stones, with the same result—the death of the doomed object of our just indignation, and of our strict impartial justice.

Amid the vagaries of the Quarter Sessions and the Licensing Bench, it is pleasing to come athwart gleams of great good sense. A notable gleam shines on us from Dunbar. Mr. Adam Swinton had entered on the purchase of the Commercial Hotel there, and made the usual formal application for a certificate, but the Fates frowned on Adam. There were four magistrates; one of the four, however, was disqualified through being the lessee of a hotel. Of the remaining three the Provost was strongly in Adam's favour; but alas for him! the other two were credited with being abstainers, and the certificate was lost. Undaunted, Mr. Swinton appealed to the Justices, but alas! with equal ill fortune, for his appeal was dismissed. The chairman, Sir Hew Dalrymple, said to all whom it concerned, that he "thought it very invidious that the Session should interfere with the business of Dunbar. He was of opinion that they should manage their own business. He was sure they would agree with him that they would do much better if they left it to the gentlemen of Dunbar to settle it among themselves. He was very glad to hear that there was so much temperance in Dunbar." There spoke a discerning Justice—one who recognises clearly the attitude which when the Justices are wise they will assume towards the liquor traffic. Instead of being accessory to the aggressions of the publicans on the

amenities of the people, Sir Hew Dalrymple, and all adhering to him, would stand aside and let the Licensing Bench deal with the liquor bar as it deserves. We are glad of this episode in the monotonous round of licensing, not that we know anything of Adam Swinton, but that at least one chairman of Quarter Sessions has placed it on record that while the licensing system continues, it should be administered by Magistrates indirectly accountable to the people, rather than by those who have often neither part nor lot in the community on whom they are pleased to saddle public houses. The next step will be to leave it to the people themselves.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—III.

MAR. 20th.—Mr. Redmond asked Mr. Forster whether it was a fact that Michael Slattery was arrested in Clonmell on 16th January at 5 a.m., conveyed to Naas jail, where he arrived at 2 p.m., and that he did not get any food all that time; and whether in future he would give general instructions that refreshments should be supplied to suspects on their way to prison. Mr. Forster said Slattery was offered breakfast at Limerick, but refused to take it. He took a quart of ale, however. [Silly Slattery, to prefer a quart of ale to a breakfast. *Ed. S. R.*]

In reply to Mr. Whitely, Lord F. Cavendish said that as malt might now be roasted without any payment of duty the revenue would be endangered if a mixture of malt and coffee were allowed to be sold as coffee.

Dr. Cameron's bill to extend the female franchise to police burghs in Scotland passed through Committee without amendment, and the third reading fixed for the 27th current.

MAR. 21st.—In his speech on electoral reform the Hon. A. D. Elliott said that "the questions affecting social legislation, liquor laws, education, artisan's dwellings—such matters would be much better dealt with if the constituencies were larger."

MAR. 24th.—The Irish Attorney-General, in reply to a question by Mr. Metge, said his attention had been called to the case of a sub-constable of the Kells police force convicted and fined in October last for being drunk, and that the court had examined several witnesses, and found the charge proven, and the finding had been confirmed by the Inspector-General. Two medical men had given evidence on the case; one who saw the man one hour and twenty-five minutes after the charge said the man was sober; the other, who saw him two hours after the charge, said that the swaggering gait and swaying motion were due to "ear vertigo."

MAR. 28th.—Mr. Gladstone referred Mr. R. Power to his answer to a question put by Mr. Biggar on March 29th, 1881, regarding the license duty paid by beer retailers, which was £1 5s., in addition to which they have to pay a sum of £3 6s. 1½d.

MAR. 29th.—Dr. Cameron obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1867.

APRIL 3rd.—Mr. Biggar, having stated that grocers in Ireland under £20 had to pay for off licenses for selling beer, spirits, and wine £16 4s. 7d., while a publican's license under the same rateable value was £8, and whether he (Mr. Gladstone) was prepared, in his forthcoming budget, to alter this. Mr. Gladstone said these licenses were peculiar to Ireland, and he would have no objection to their reduction on the score of revenue. The spirit grocers were not under the jurisdiction of the magistrates in the same way as

the publicans. It was a matter, however, with which he could not deal.

April 4th.—The House adjourned to-day for the Easter holidays, to meet on Monday 17th current for business.

April 17th.—The House resumed after the Easter holidays.

Sir George Campbell, M.P., has forwarded the handsome donation of £20 for the new hall fund, Pathhead.

It is currently reported that John Leng, Esq., of the *Dundee Advertiser*, is likely to be brought forward as a candidate for the representation of the burghs at next election.—*Kirkcaldy Free Press*.

Bailie Cranston of Edinburgh has been the honoured recipient last month of several addresses from his fellow citizens. The addresses are quite eulogistic and show that the Bailie is held in high esteem.

RENFREWSHIRE.—Among the gentlemen recently placed on the commission of the peace for this county we are glad to see Stewart Clark, Esq., Kilnside; John Clark, Gateside of Paisley; Provost Campbell, of Greenock; Abram Lyle, Esq., Greenock; and Bailie M'Onie, Glasgow.

A SCOTCH TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE INVITED TO AMERICA.—We understand that to Mr J. H. Waterston, of Edinburgh, has been forwarded a very pressing invitation from America asking him to pay a visit to that country during the present year, and to take a lecturing tour extending for three months.—*Daily Review*.

REPRESENTATION OF KIRKCALDY BURGHS.—Sir George Campbell's hold of the Kirkcaldy Burghs—his letter of apology and explanation notwithstanding—would appear to be gone. Two new candidates for the seat, as soon as Sir George makes up his mind to retire, are spoken of. They are both Liberal, and both wealthy, one young and one old; but it is understood that the crucial question between them will be Disestablishment.—*Cupar News*.

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, 112 BATH STREET, GLASGOW.—An able report, giving a well-written account of battles fought and conquests won. In 1879-80 the association counted 5,483 subscribers, with 122 societies, contributing to it £1,686 17s. 5d., and a special donation of £100 was given besides. In 1880-81 the subscribers were 5,695, the societies contributing 135, and the money contributed £1,854 6s. May funds increase year by year. The work, we know, will be faithfully done.—*The British Temperance Advocate*.

WHAT BEER DOES.—A writer in the *Boston Advertiser* says that "while spirits stimulate to violence and lust, beer produces merely sound somnolence (sleep)." But we know a man who for twelve years has never used any liquor save beer. He comes home from his elegant store, behind his handsome pair of horses and makes home a terror. He runs after his wife with an axe, and makes a beast of himself in a thousand ways. Is that somnolence? We know another man who uses beer only who has beaten his wife so as to make her helpless for days; was dead drunk with beer when the neighbours helped to bury his infant son; and has repeatedly knocked down and beaten his girl of eight and boy of five. Is that somnolence? We never heard it called by that name before.—*Congregationalist*.

Dr. Buckie, Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, at London, Ontario, reports, after another year's experience, that he is more than ever convinced of the non-necessity of alcohol in the treatment of those under his care. He says, that as he has given up the use of alcohol, he has needed and used less morphia and chloral; and as he discontinued the use of all three, there has been less need for seclusion or restraint. After carefully watching the effect, he is morally certain that the alcohol which he did use during last year in the treatment of those under his

care, did no good. The Medical Superintendent of the Asylum at Kingston says there have been no alcoholic liquors used in that asylum for the last ten years, and he has every reason to be satisfied with the result. This is valuable testimony.—Yours faithfully, G. H. HALE.

ABBAY CHURCH BAND OF HOPE.—The first musical demonstration of this association was held on Saturday night in the Abbey Parish Church, Abbeyhill—the Rev. Robert Milne in the chair, who in his remarks sketched the origin and progress of the Band of Hope, and mentioned that, although, only three months in existence, there was a membership of 300. He attributed its success mainly to the energy of the superintendent Mr Smith, the ability of the music conductor Mr Morrison, and the hearty co-operation of office-bearers and members of the church. He also pointed out the advantages of such an association as being not only beneficial to the children, but of the utmost importance to the church, and earnestly invited parents to give the movement their hearty support. The programme, which consisted largely of sacred pieces, was gone through with much spirit by an adult and a juvenile choir of 40 and 250 voices respectively. Perhaps the most successful effort of the juvenile choir was in a part song entitled "Work away with all your might;" while the adult choir gave a very good rendering of an anthem entitled "Look not upon the wine." A solo entitled "Guardian Angel," was well sung by Miss Marshall; and the singing of a duet entitled "O Lovely Peace," by two boys with very good voices, was also well received. Mr. George Morrison officiated as conductor, and Mr. Woods presided at the organ.

The School Board Elections are now about over, and although, with the exception of Edinburgh, temperance in schools does not appear to have been an issue, we are glad to see many of our friends elected or returned to their respective Boards. The Rev. James Stewart, Peterhead; Mr. R. Smith, Mr. R. Donald, Aberdeen; Rev. Dr. Adamson, G. H. Watt, Esq., and Mrs. Nicholas, Edinburgh; Messrs. Somerville and Anderson, Leith; Provost M'Pherson, Grangemouth; Thomas Hope, Esq., J.P., Bo'ness; General Grant, Corstorphine; Adam Brown, Falkirk; Rev. J. Murray, Dairsie; Rev. J. Brown, Lochgelly; Rev. W. Affleck, Auchtermuchty; Mr. James Brown, Anstruther; Alex. A. Lawson, Kingskettle; Rev. S. Currie, Peebles; Rev. J. Kilgour, Tranent; Rev. J. Maekay, Prestonpans; Rev. Mr. M'Kerrow, Penicuik; Rev. Drs. M. Lang and F. Ferguson; Messrs. Cuthbertson, Pyfe, and Kidston, Glasgow; Provost Moneur, Rev. D. Macrae and W. Hamilton, and W. Doig, Dundee; Mr. J. P. Fairgrieve, Greenock; Messrs. John Moncrieff and C. A. Hunt, Perth; Bailie M'Lelland and Mr. H. T. Rayburn, Kilmarnock; Ex-Bailie Buchanan, Messrs. A. Brown and D. Rogerson, Dumbarton; Provost Binnie, Gourack; Mr. Joseph Russell, Port-Glasgow; Rev. Dr. Russell, Campbelltown; Mr. D. Paton, Largs; Rev. G. Sherwood, Stranraer; Mr. A. M'Clymont, Maybole; Mr. James Wyllie, Troon; Bailie Kennedy, Moffat; Mr. J. P. Wilson, Prestwick; Provost Wyllie, Stewarton; M. E. M'Ewen, Mauchline; Mr. J. P. West, Terrydeer, Montrose; Mr. D. G. Simpson, Kilwinning, and others.

IRISH TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The anniversary meetings of this Association were held in Belfast last month. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was represented at them by Rev. John M'Queen, M.A., Kilmarnock, and Ex-Provost Dick, Kinning Park. The opening soiree on Wednesday, 19th, was a grand affair—thirty-three ladies providing tables for guests; and the band of the 2nd battalion West Yorkshire Regiment provided the music. The spacious Horticultural Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens, looked magnificent during the proceedings. Rev. John M'Queen was included in the programme. The next day the annual business meeting took place. Mr. Dalway, ex-M.P., in the chair. The report was read and unanimously adopted. It showed well for the year and bristled with statistical information on the Sunday

closing question. The balance of funds to carry forward amounted to £51 12s. 3d. At this meeting, Ex-Provost Dick was asked to support the fourth resolution, which we give entire:—"That the forcing public houses upon the people against the people's will is a gross and intolerable injustice, rendered doubly inexcusable by the twice-repeated acknowledgment by Parliament of the people's right to a legal power of preventing it. In view, therefore, of this crying wrong, of the fearful evils still flowing from the liquor traffic, of two decisions of the House of Commons in favour of a popular control over licenses, and of the promise of the Prime Minister to deal early with the licensing laws on the principle of local option, this meeting would respectfully urge upon her Majesty's Government the duty of introducing as one of their very first measures a Bill enabling local communities to effectually protect themselves from a trade so obnoxious and so hurtful." In the afternoon of the same day, a public dinner was held at which Ex-Provost Dick responded to the sentiment of The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and in the evening the public meeting was held in the Horticultural Hall, which was crowded. The Rev. John M'Queen, M.A., seconded a similar resolution to that supported by his colleague at the business meeting. The whole proceedings were signally successful, and the Executive of the League know how keenly the Executive of the Scottish Association sympathise with them in their labours, and how gladly they share in the hearty congratulations they are meeting with on this year's success.

THE BLUE-RIBBON MOVEMENT AT PERTH.—We were glad to learn that Mr. Murphy, so long expected, paid his promised visit to the fair city last month. The friends took the sensible course of preparing the way by heartily engaging in special efforts to gather in the fallen. Councillor Russell, at the meeting on Friday, 14th ult., told the audience which met to welcome Mr. Murphy in the City Hall that "during the last two months they had held seventeen meetings, each with an average attendance of 1,800 people. At these meetings 2,400 persons had taken the pledge, and 10,000 had donned the little badge of blue. They heartily rejoiced at the impetus given to the movement, which they hoped would move on until it had moved the drink completely out of their beloved Scotland." This information was received with loud plaudits and many expressions of rejoicing. Addresses followed from Messrs. Murphy, Willson, J. Allingham (the Dublin publican), Daniells, and Mrs. Willson. There was also fine singing by Mr. and Mrs. Willson, and then the practical work—210 persons signing the pledge at the close. On Saturday afternoon another crowded meeting took place in the Tay Street Hall, conducted by Mr. Murphy in his well known manner. In the evening a crowded meeting was held in the City Hall, over which Councillor Campbell presided. Spirited addresses from the chairman, Mr. Murphy, and many others, followed, interspersed with the singing of appropriate hymns. At the close, among those who took the pledge were George Fenton, a boatman, a convicted criminal through drink alone; and John Graham, licensed grocer, Crieff. These are certainly great trophies of the movement. As the result of both meetings, 240 took the pledge, and 800 donned the blue ribbon. On Sunday, at the Fechny Institution, an interesting service was held, during which the Rev. Mr. Daniells, and Mr. T. E. Methven, of Dundee, addressed the meeting, at the close of which all the boys signed the pledge, and donned the blue ribbon. The farewell meeting took place in the City Hall, on Sabbath evening, which was densely packed an hour before the time announced. The Rev. D. D. Bannerman presided, and welcomed the movement and Mr. Murphy, because they placed total abstinence and the blue ribbon in its right place—as the handmaid of the gospel, and not as a substitute for it. There were numerous hymns sung, and the speakers included Mr. Murphy, Bailie Moncur of Forfar, Messrs. Allingham and Methven. At the close, 644 took the pledge, bringing up the number of

pledges during his visit to 1,064. Mr. Murphy then took an affectionate farewell of his audience, shaking hands with all within reach as he was leaving the hall. There was an overflow meeting in the Middle Parish Church, which was also densely packed, and where similar singing and speaking was listened to. The friends deserve much credit for their arrangements, and are to be heartily congratulated on their well-deserved success.

THE LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) BILL is meeting with strenuous opposition in Scotland. 1st, From public bodies, *i.e.*, the Conference of Temperance Reformers on the Bill at Edinburgh; from the Convention of Royal Burghs; from the Dumfries and Maxwellton Temperance Union; the Edinburgh Town Council, &c. 2nd, From the publicans at all their meetings. The Glasgow Wine, Beer and Spirit Trade Association condemned it as "a most cruel, unjust, and oppressive measure, and if passed into law would sanction the confiscation of our honestly (?) acquired property;" and they resolved to reject it *in toto*. The licensed grocers of Edinburgh and Leith strenuously oppose it. The Dublin Vintners' Association are desirous of combining with the English Publican Association to assist the Scotch publicans in their opposition to the Bill. At all their annual dinners and banquets it is coming in for a scathing animadversion. They sent a deputation to Lord Rosebery too, so that the Bill is, defective though it be as a settlement of the liquor difficulty, "fluttering the Volscians in their camp." 3rd, From the leading temperance organizations in Scotland, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association with its deliverance, then the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and lastly, the Scottish Temperance League and others. All these condemn it in more or less qualified terms. 4th, Then the idea of having a national declaration to Parliament apart from any Association originated in Edinburgh, and has been largely taken up. It is as follows:—"Declaration of Scottish Parliamentary Electors anent proposed Temperance Legislation for Scotland. We, the undersigned Parliamentary electors in Scotland, hereby declare that no legislative measure affecting the liquor traffic can be approved or accepted by us which would give power to grant or renew licenses for a longer period than one year; which would give power to levy a public tax for the purpose of providing compensation to the liquor sellers and the proprietors of licensed premises; or which refuses to confer upon a majority of the ratepayers the full legal power to prohibit the drink traffic in their respective localities." It will, we hope, be largely signed throughout the country, and it will be a significant proof of the national conviction and the national desire on the suppressive veto of all traffic in Scotland in alcoholic liquors. Mr. S. Williamson, M.P. for St. Andrews district of burghs, says—"Although his name is on the back of the Bill this endorsement is simply meant to guarantee the *bona fides* of his Lordship's effort to grapple with a difficult question." He does not approve of all its clauses—several of these he believes are defective. He thinks the Bill may serve a useful purpose by affording a basis for discussion in the country, but more than this he does not expect from its introduction. The *Christian Reader* says—It is pretty evident that Mr. Williamson has here hit the mark.

A COOKERY EXHIBIT.—On Wednesday, the 19th ult., we visited one of the most interesting little exhibits it has been ever our pleasure to see. The Glasgow Abstainers' Union have been for years engaging, through their Bible-women, the attention of those among whom they labour to the improvement of their cookery. In this phase of their efforts they have met with encouraging success, and to stimulate a wider attention to this essential feature of a happy home they announced a competition in household cookery on the part of the wives and daughters of working men. On the date above-named we went to see the result, and unfeigned admiration at its success filled our breasts. The City Hall Saloon was elegantly arranged—plants and shrubs making, with the snowy tablecloths, and

the tasteful array of dishes and foods, a most inviting display. Tables were placed round the Saloon, and in the middle of the floor, affording ample room and verge enough for visitors. On the south table there was a most interesting variety of scones, and on the east table this exhibit was continued for two-thirds of its whole length. On the whole the variety and preparation of these is highly creditable to the bakers; then we had on the same table, preparation of corn-flour for invalids; and a better answer to the questioning wonder of what the poor sick do when unwell could not be given than let them have a few dishes like what we saw, and they will be "in clover." On the north table we had puddings, rhubarb, scrap and rice, the prize puddings being "dainty dishes to place before a king." On the west table, heated by gas, we had porridge, soups, mince, liver, etc., all hot, hot, hot. On the long centre table we had outcake in an immense variety of manufacture, and on nine kitchen tables, placed east and west, a set dinner for the working man. This to us was the great sight of the day, for we have been so often told of the utter want of ability to cook, to make market, to, in fact, discharge the duties of a housewife, on the part of a working man's wife that we had come to believe that they would shrink from showing off in such a competition. Ah, if we had had their detractors alongside on that day we should have "reddened their faces" for them by showing them over this delightful cookery exhibit; and we would have asked them to apologise to Sarah Nicol, Calton, who is a prize-taker in three departments, and the first prize-woman for the workman's dinner; and also to the other deserving women who contended for the honours of housewifery. There were 110 entries, and 17 first prizes of £1, 17 second of 10s., and 17 third of 5s. The judges were ladies from the West End, Pollokshields, Crosshill, and Dennistoun, and deserve no small amount of credit, for they seemed to please by their findings not only the visitors, but even the competitors themselves. During the day the inclement weather diminished the number of visitors, but during the evening the working classes and their sympathisers mustered in force. Altogether, the Glasgow Abstainers' Union ought to be greatly encouraged by this, their first attempt to popularize an interest in working class cookery, and we hope that they will soon score another success on the same lines. "Robin Goodfellow" has promised to draw attention to this matter next month.

A polite scoundrel is brought up before the police court. Just as the presiding magistrate is to begin his questioning, the prisoner says affably to the policeman, "Wears his years well, the judge does,—doesn't look a day older than he did when we were introduced to each other ten years ago."

FASHION'S FAULTS.—Near Prospect Street she dropped a little red bow with a golden pin attached, and it fluttered to the edge of the sidewalk. She stopped and looked at it. It might as well have fluttered to the edge of the universe and dropped over for anything that she could do to get it. She walked around it two or three times, gazed sadly at it, and then walked a block to Bolivar Street, got a small boy and paid him 10 cents to come back and pick up that bow. As the boy rejoined his companions he remarked—"Darned if I ever seen a woman so proud. She wouldn't pick up her own things from the sidewalk." But it wasn't pride.—*Cleveland Herald.*

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Dioghluimean's Na h-Achaidh, le Seoras Beuton. Edinburgh: Maclachlan and Stewart, 1881. This is a thoroughly praiseworthy effort to record and preserve a phase of spiritual life and experience almost peculiar to the Scottish Highlands. The book is unique in Gaelic literature. It is a pity the author did not give us the names of the speakers instead of initials. We hope that in a second edition he will do so. We cordially commend his little book to our Gaelic readers.

The Foster Brother's Story, with other Tales and Sketches.—By James Yeames. With illustrations. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price, one shilling. We are glad to meet again with Mr. Yeames in the character of a story teller. He can wear it so gracefully. His *Foster Brother* is well done, and is most pleasantly told. The foster brother is jealous for the honour of his high-born brother, and seeing him evidently bent on the ruin of a country girl, sets off to save the maiden and restore the erring man to his father. The plot is skilfully carried on, and we get quite enlisted in sympathy with the foster brother's determination, and so will our readers. *Dollie and Dottie* is a little gem of a tale, reminding one of Dickens' Christmas Stories. The others—*Mother and Sister, The Little Cripple, and How the Sailor won his Bride*—are full of interest. We shall be glad to see Mr. Yeames taking a longer and higher flight. His *Foster Brother* will make others as well as us desire a novel from his skilful hand. The illustrations are capital in conception and execution, and altogether the volume should find a host of admiring readers.

Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Dundee Temperance Society, 1881-82. Dundee: 19 High Street. This report is as may be expected an elaborate document crowded with the events of a year's vigorous work. The Blue Ribbon agitation, which secured the pledges of 36,000 persons—meetings, conferences, public prayer and mission, are all briefly referred to, legislative and literary effort has received much attention, and the agent's report is a meritorious document. The income is £169 6s. 4d., leaving a small balance of £3 17s. 3d. in the treasurer's hand. We heartily congratulate the committee on the progress of their work.

Home: its Duties and Privileges. A New Year's Address. By Rev. Archie M'Kinlay, Belfast. Belfast: W. E. Mayne, 1 Donegal Square. We don't know why this little book should be called a new year's address, unless because it was published at that time. It is such an admirable book for home that we don't know when it would be out of season. We certainly would include it in a little knot of books with which we would furnish every new home. Full of grave counsel pressed home with vigorous emphasis, it is worthy of the careful perusal and practical application of all who would increase the training power and consequent joy and gladness of our homes.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE COUNCILLOR W. BROWN, GLASGOW.—It is our melancholy duty to record the death of this widely-known and highly-esteemed citizen of Glasgow, who was cut off somewhat suddenly, on Saturday 15th ult., in his 74th year. He was seized while in his counting-room, on the Wednesday previous, and succumbed in a few days' illness to pleurisy. He was an eminent example of a successful Glasgow merchant, having left his native town, Paisley, long ago, and started in business in Glasgow along with his friend the late Mr. Thomas Downes. The well-known firm extended and expanded into a large and flourishing concern, and to its special object added paper manufacturing at Overton, Greenock, and Dalmarnock, Glasgow. Councillor Brown gave twelve years' service, at different times, to the Town Council, and at the time of his death was one of the representatives of the first ward. He was an office-bearer in his brother's church—Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown,—an active philanthropist, taking a special interest in the blind, and in every good work. He was a subscriber to the funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, although inclined at times to remonstrate against the attitude maintained in the suppression of the liquor traffic. His somewhat lithe, tall presence, silvered hair, and mild, thoughtful face, will be known no more; but in him a worthy man has passed away, regretted by a large circle of sorrowing friends.

THE
Social Reformer.

JUNE, 1882.

SHOULD THE TRAFFIC IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS TO BE PROHIBITED?

II.

3. *Insanity*—one half of which is caused by excessive drinking. Lord Shaftesbury, after having acted as a Commissioner of Lunacy for 20 years, and as chairman of the Commission for 16 years, informs us that "six-tenths of all the cases of insanity to be found in these realms and in America arise from no other cause than from the habits of intemperance in which the people have indulged." It has been ascertained that "insanity in every country corresponds in the main to the use of intoxicating drinks." Some years since there was in the State of Cairo 1 lunatic in every 30,714 of the population, in a portion of Normandy 1 in 700, in Sweden 1 in 710, and in Ireland 1 in 500. In the first instance cited abstinence from intoxicating liquors is an article of religion with the inhabitants, whilst in the other cases the alcohol consumed per head averaged 5, 5, and 3 gallons respectively.

4. *Crime*. Drinking facilities gauge crime. Take Ireland for instance at two different points of its history, viz., 7 years prior to 1839 and other 7 prior to 1845. Within the former period, when there were distilled 7,100,000 gallons with much illicit distillation, convictions for assaults stood at 26,000; in the latter, with a reduced distillation of 4,500,000 gallons, the number of convictions only amounted to 13,000. Under this division a great deal might be said. It is, however, I think unnecessary to pursue it very far, as we must all more or less have considerable acquaintance with the connection between the liquor traffic and its offspring crime. Judges are constantly reminding us that were it not for this most iniquitous traffic their office would be a sinecure and so on. There is just one other point I would remind your readers of here, and that is the connection between intemperance and immorality. The two are to a great extent inseparable. I need not enlarge on this important phase of the question; the mere suggestion will call to your recollection all the evils flowing from that strong undercurrent of immorality which permeates society, enervating the nation, and breaking up the domestic peace and happiness of thousands. This is an evil which has existed from the earliest times, and which probably will exist so long as the world lasts. It cannot be rooted out, but it might be lessened; yes, I hold that it might be reduced to one fourth of its present magnitude. There is, however, only one way of doing so, and that is by the abolition of the liquor traffic.

Let us now consider the liquor traffic from its commercial point of view. In 1878 the amount spent on drink was £142,188,900. The grain destroyed would have produced 12,000,000 4lb. loaves, a sufficient quantity to have maintained the entire population of the United Kingdom for four months.

Much better, not perhaps for the farmer, but for the nation, that the corn should rot in the field than that it should be devoted to the manufacture of what has been aptly termed the devil in solution. Suppose a man neglects a corn crop value £100 until it is utterly useless, the consequence is that man is £100 poorer than he might have been; instead of doing this, however, had he sold the corn to a distiller or brewer, and afterwards repurchased it in its new form at a price say of £500, he is infinitely worse than he was before. And this is what is being done every day—men, instead of spending money as it ought to be spent, viz, on goods for their own support or happiness, or in utensils for the tillage of their ground, or some kindred purpose, throw it away on drink, by which means they make themselves more liable to the attacks of disease; in many cases it causes them to neglect their work one day in the week, which means no inconsiderable loss to the nation, besides which, as we have already seen, it reduces the producing power of the country by premature death, disease, and pauperism, and still farther by necessitating the maintenance of a police force between 30,000 and 40,000 strong. Again, if the vast capital now locked up in the traffic was let loose on the development of commerce of a rightful nature, it would, by increasing the demand for labour to an enormous extent remove totally a class of whom we have of late heard so much, viz., the unemployed. For instance, take the Caledonian Distillery Co. in Edinburgh. Not long ago they had a turn-over of £1,500,000 and employed 150 men. Now suppose this money was spent on cotton goods, cutlery, or furniture, it would give employment to 8,000 or 10,000 men. We can get an idea of the benefits which would flow from a commercial point of view from the abolition of the traffic by comparing Ireland when the distilleries were in full swing with that period when they were stopped. Dr. Lees says, "On reference to the table of imports into Ireland, and a comparison of the years of the stoppage of the distilleries and the consequent comparative sobriety of the nation with the years when they were in full activity, destroying food and demoralizing the nation, we arrive at the startling anomaly that a year of scarcity with prohibition is better than a year of plenty without it."

Now let us consider what would be the beneficial results of the abolition of the traffic commercially and socially. It would, as I have said, incalculably further the development of trade in the country by unlocking the enormous capital now withheld. It would enable men to work steadily six days in the week, thereby increasing the productive power of the country on an average one-sixth. It would add further to this power by greatly reducing the 1,250,000 of paupers mainly made by the traffic whom we have now to support, and by permitting the reduction of the police force and customs and excise establishments. Socially considered the ad-

vantages would be innumerable. We can only specify a few of them. The abolition of the traffic would add greatly to the comfort of the poorer classes as a whole by the larger wages which a more prosperous trade would insure, while the houses of that portion now desolated by drink would soon become worthy of the name, and millions now sunk in poverty and vice would through time be raised to a degree of comfort and prosperity equal to their peers. The vitality of the nation would be enhanced to a very great extent. Immorality and crime would dwindle down to insignificance on the removal of that which, by kindling the passions, engenders both, and sinks mankind to a condition of bestiality which has no parallel amongst the lower animals.

From the sketch given of the history of legislation bearing on the subject, I think it will be agreed that all that can be done in the way of restriction to remedy the state of affairs we so much deplore has been tried and has utterly failed to accomplish the ends in view. We can look for no satisfactory results from further legislation, until it is directed to the root of the evil, in prohibiting entirely the brewing and distilling of home liquors and the importation of foreign wines and spirits. If we are agreed with Bentham that "the sole object of Government ought to be the greatest happiness of the greatest possible number of the community," in the face of facts so well known of which I have here given a few, no one surely could object to a step which must prove decisive on the old pretext of its interfering with the liberty of the subject; and a nation that willingly lost a loan of £20,000,000 for the emancipation of the slaves, could not object to amply compensate those engaged in the liquor traffic, thereby emancipating in as true a sense of the word millions of their fellow-men. In order to show your readers that this idea of abolition is by no means utopian, allow me briefly to specify a few instances in which it is now more or less in force. In 1877 there were in Scotland 151 parishes without a public house, one of which contained a population of 5,880. In 1869 there were in the province of Canterbury 1,400 parishes in the same condition. We have self-imposed prohibition in a portion of Tyrone County, Ireland, inhabited by nearly 10,000 people. In Bessbrook, a factory town in Ireland of 3,000 inhabitants, we have it also, and there, we are told, "there is no quarrelling, no theft, no crime, no infanticide, in short the operatives are models of sobriety and good order." Saltaire is in the same condition. Prohibition is in force in Norfolk Island, and of it the *Daily Telegraph*, although no friend of the measure, speaks in the most laudatory terms. Referring to the inhabitants it says, "They live in a state of innocence, the golden age brought back. They have no taxes, no police, no courts of law. Their condition is enough to tempt gentlemen with fixed incomes to remove to an island where collectors cease from troubling, and householders are at rest." In America we have many instances, such as the State of Maine; there, however, things are not in such a satisfactory condition as they might be, owing to the fact of the States' laws being antagonistic to the measure, that is to say, while Maine prohibits, the Union sanctions and grants licenses. The State can and does prevent the manufacture of liquor, but it cannot prevent importation. Notwithstanding this anomaly, however, public opinion is so far advanced that in this particular instance a more satisfactory state of affairs need hardly be desired.

In conclusion I shall give your readers a brief sketch of Vineland as an example of what prohibition can do. Vineland is a district in the State of

New Jersey covering 50 square miles. This tract of land was purchased by Mr. Landis in 1861 with a view to colonization. Similar attempts had been made before in the district, however, without success. Mr. Landis, a shrewd lawyer, although not an advocate of temperance principles, seeing in alcohol the cause of previous failure, determined to prevent its introduction into the new colony. The way he went about it was this—he would point out to those who wanted to purchase land from him the evils which would certainly accrue from the introduction of public houses. On having the matter placed before them in the clear and business-like way which the proprietor adopted, they, without exception, willingly pledged themselves to aid him to their utmost in preventing the sale of liquors in their midst. By-and-bye a liquor seller came from Michigan and commenced the sale of porter and ale. A public meeting was called, and the result was that the stranger departed by the first train next morning, in consequence of advice he received, and in order to avoid the humiliation of a public ejection. For the purpose of preventing such occurrences in the future, a law of a prohibitory nature was passed. Vineland is a success, having surpassed the expectations of the sanguine proprietor. The population, originally consisting of four families, had increased in 1874 to 11,000 individuals. Police taxes and poor-rates are almost nominal. Commerce flourishes, and health, wealth, and happiness reign supreme.

I have endeavoured to show that the traffic in alcoholic liquors acts as a drag on Great Britain, preventing that moral and commercial improvement which alone could enable it to maintain the distinguished position it has so long held amongst the nations of the world. I have shown how restriction in the multitudinous forms in which it has been tried has miserably failed in the accomplishment of the end in view, and in closing I would just remind your readers that the evils already referred to are as rampant as they ever were, and this notwithstanding all the restriction now bearing down on the traffic which gives them birth, and the fact, too, that the traffic is at this present time in the hands of men than whom as a class there are none more respectable engaged in any other branch of commerce. I have no doubt that most of those engaged in the trade agree with the philanthropic brewer Sir F. F. Buxton, in deploring the evils of which we complain; but I trust there are some who, recognizing alcohol as the fountainhead of these evils, are willing to go even further, and sinking personal interest before the claims of humanity give all their support to the suppression of the liquor traffic.

J. R. DALRYMPLE.

THE WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE.

WHEN that aspiring gentleman Claude Melnotte got stung to the quick by the rejection of his poetical offering to the Beauty of Lyons, he passionately apostrophised his order in the well-known words, "Oh that we—we, the hewers of wood and drawers of water—were swept away, that the rich might know what the world would be without us." It can't be done. The working classes, happily for those above them, won't go; so the rich are spared the agony and indignity of helping themselves. But they know that the working classes feel the inevitable and irksome drudgery of their lot, and that they only want an opportunity of being free to avail themselves of it, and these rich people are so sensible as to believe that this freedom would be a calamity to them. Hence their pervading interest in many schemes that affect the wellbeing of the

working classes, and their generous support to many movements maintained to render their condition less miserable. In passing, we may add that there are many, though their name may not be legion, who heartily sympathise with the working man because he is a man and a brother. They seek to soften the rigour of his toil, to enlighten his mind, rebuke his intemperance, restrain his improvidence, and substitute the living principles of the gospel for the irreligion that adds so directly to his folly and subtracts so largely from the sum of his happiness. The first, from fear, interest themselves; the second, inspired by benevolence, are his truest friends. Whether through fear or affection, much is attempted and much is done for the working man. Not so long ago his patrons thought they did their duty by providing abundance of gross pleasures for him—sports, races, prize fights, dog fights, and the means of intemperate excess; but now this questionable kind of beneficence has been abandoned, and, in hearty alliance, the purse-proud, ostentatious giver and the sound-hearted philanthropist may lay no inconsiderable claim to be the benefactors of the working man.

There is a fundamental difference, however, in the way in which this beneficence presents itself. The one class seek, by dealing with the circumstances that surround him, to elevate the object of their efforts in the scale of being; the other, by dealing with the man himself, endeavour to render him superior to the vicissitudes and chances of his lot. The first have won many a triumph on account of their schemes for the improvement of the dwellings of the working class, for public parks, for museums, public-houses without the drink, and cocoa shops. The latter class may as proudly point to their efforts at day and Sabbath school instruction, at mechanics' institutes, public libraries, schools of art, popular lectures, public baths, and penny and savings banks. Both have their supporters; both deserve praise; for whether we affect a man directly by enlarging his capacities for improvement, or indirectly through his circumstances, we cannot fail to make an indifferent man good and a good man better.

The Glasgow Abstiners' Union deals directly with the man. They get up high-class concerts and charm him by the vocal and instrumental efforts of the chief artists of the present day; they provide him a refuge by their public-houses; they improve his nature by their social reforms; and they point out to him the folly of sin and the wisdom of preparation for meeting the solemn realities of another world. To those afflicted by loss of health or vigour, they offer a short sojourn at "the coast"; so that altogether this Union presents as substantial benefits to the working people, male and female, as are within their reach.

But we are to restrict ourselves to one phase of the Union's efforts, and that is its cookery classes. Through its mission agencies among the poor, it has doubtless been made acquainted with the sadly defective condition of the means of food-preparation. There is nothing half so deplorable in its results as the want of a knowledge of cookery among the poor. Many a pretty girl enters thoughtlessly into the marriage state as little fitted for its varied duties as the ring on her finger that symbolizes her entrance. She looks upon the exactions of her new state at first with a smile, next with bewilderment, and alas, too often with disgust. She at length lets things drift until she sinks into the condition of a sloven, without the knowledge and without the hope of doing better. A small number, startled by the frightful disorganization around them, make a bold and determined effort to be free. In the struggle they break down, and becoming thoroughly dis-

couraged they yield to what they deem their fate, relinquishing all desire to better their unhappy state. Only a few of themselves ever emerge out of the household chaos, and, moved by their own sad experience, and their affection for their daughters, begin to train them for a life far different from that which marked so many of the years of their own married life. We believe that it is not to be denied that the best housewife is she who has had the benefit of the intelligence, the sound sense, the wide experience, and the careful training of a good mother. This may be fully admitted without allowing it in any degree to justify those not so trained from resting in the deplorable condition of a wife at once senseless, shiftless, and handless. These unhappy women may hardly hope to reach the excellence of the housewife trained from her youth, but they yet may become so expert in their household duties as to merit all the praise a worthy husband is willing to bestow. Now, the Abstiners' Union steps in to enable such an unhappy woman to improve her position, and to prevent the young untaught girl from meeting with a married experience so dire. The difficulties which beset their cookery scheme on its first appearance were enough to discourage a saint, but their resolution was greater than the obstructions which met it, and their perseverance was followed by an amount of success known only to those whose duty it was to conduct the cookery lessons. The Directors felt, however, that the scheme would not answer their purpose by being known only to those benefited; it required the breeze of popular interest and applause to give an impetus to the scheme. Hence their resolution to have the cookery exhibit which was lately so successful. The chief interest at that exhibit centred in the display of workmen's dinners, nine women (unmarried and married) competing for the coveted prizes. Each of the friendly rivals merely provided one dinner, but drew up a bill of fare for other six days, thus actually giving one whole week's dinners with an actual specimen of what they were able to serve. The Directors have from the nine dinner schemes drafted a bill of fare of their own for general circulation among the poor; and many a good-hearted, ignorant, well-meaning housewife will be found turning it to good account. We give it entire:—

BILL OF FARE

For seven days' dinners, suitable for a family of six, with a change each day, and cost of same.

No. 1.—*Pie, Potatoes, and Pudding.*

Pot or Sea Pie.— $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. scrap meat, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; onion, carrot, turnip, 1d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour, 1d.; 2 oz. suet, 1d.; salt, pepper, baking powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—8d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ stone potatoes, 3d.

Pudding.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rice, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rhubarb, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. sugar, $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 2.—*Harricot Bean Soup, Potatoe Pie, Pudding.*

Soup.—1 lb. beans, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; onion, carrot, parsley, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.—3d.

Pie.— $\frac{1}{2}$ stone potatoes, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2 oz. tapioca, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2 oz. dripping, 1d.; onions, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; 1 lb. flour, 2d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. dripping, 2d.; baking powder, salt, pepper, and sage, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—8d.

Pudding.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. hominy, 1d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. treacle, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.— $1\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 3.—*Pie, Potatoes, and Pudding.*

Pie.— $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. scrap meat, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. liver, 1d.; $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. flour, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 3 oz. dripping, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.; onion, baking powder, salt, pepper, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.—9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ stone potatoes, 3d.

Pudding, 2 lb. rhubarb, 2d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 4.—*Broth, Beef, and Potatoes.*

Broth.—1 lb. beef, 8d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. barley, 1d.; cabbage, leeks, carrot, turnip, parsley, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Potatoes.— $\frac{1}{2}$ stone potatoes, 3d.; pepper and salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 2d.

No. 5.—*Lentil Soup, Stewed Mutton, and Potatoes.*

Soup.—1 lb. lentils, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2 oz. barley meal, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; onions, turnip, carrot, and celery, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—3d.

Stewed Mutton.— $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. flank mutton, 6d.; onions, carrots, turnips, 1d.; flour, salt, and pepper, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Potatoes.— $\frac{1}{2}$ stone, 3d.

Total cost, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 6.—*Fish, Potatoes, and Pudding.*

Fish.—2 lbs. fish, 5d.; 2 oz. dripping, 1d.; pepper, salt, bread crumbs, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Potatoes.— $\frac{1}{2}$ stone, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Pudding.—1 lb. flour, 2d.; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. suet, 2d.; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. currants, 1d.; sugar, baking powder, and rice, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

No. 7.—*Pea Soup, Potatoes, and Scrap Bread Pudding.*

Pea Soup.—1 lb. split peas, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1 lb. bacon, 6d.; leeks, celery, parsnip, carrot, turnip, spearmint, pepper, and salt, 2d.—9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Potatoes.— $\frac{1}{2}$ stone 3d.; cabbage, 1d.—4d.

Scrap Bread Pudding.—Scrap bread, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; skim milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; currants and nutmeg, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Total cost, 1s. 4d.

Prices may vary a little in different localities and at different seasons.

A set of dinners at *cheaper rates* might be quoted, but it is thought the above will best serve the purpose intended, which is not economy alone, but also the providing of wholesome and substantial dinners, at a cost suited to small incomes.

This bill of fare may be objected to on several grounds. First, many a working man's wife will ask how she could be expected to expend 8s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a week on dinners, and feed, clothe, and shelter six on 30s. a week. This is a very common form of an objection to all suggestions for the improvement of the household cookery, not merely of the working man, but even of his master and others similarly favoured by fortune. It by no means follows that those for whom this table is prepared are not to exercise their own judgment or the power of adaptation. This dinner scheme is merely a rough and ready scheme, capable of being adjusted to meet the varying circumstances of those to whom it is submitted. One with less than a husband and four children can have less quantity and better quality, while another, with husband and as many children as Mrs. Ginx, may shape a savoury meal by its friendly hints. We think that in the mind of a sensible woman this objection may easily be obviated. Another objection presents itself, founded upon the cost. Some of the women will assuredly firmly deny the possibility of buying some of the items at the cost set down. Well, perhaps it may be that in a working class quarter and in working class shops the articles may be readily supplied at the prices named. If they are clean and wholesome, it will be to the greater praise of the guidwife that she can, by her care and skill, make a savoury and grateful mess out of what may be thought inferior materials. She who can "make old things look almost as good as new" will surely not fail here. It is in this very matter that a comparison between British and French women, not always to the advantage of the former, is often made. What, then, avails her skill if she cannot show that dishes formed of second-rate ingredients are not superior to first-class ones spoiled in the cooking? But another answer may be given—that is, that working men's wives should learn to purchase their food at whole-

sale rates. In this way they might easily possess themselves of the finest qualities of food materials at prices little if any above what they pay for inferior goods to merchants with whom they have a pass book. There is still another objection to this bill of fare, and that is that there are many articles which they, or some one or other of the household, don't like. Well, first, if we are bent on pleasing the palate rather than satisfying the stomach, this may be true, but it shows that we have spoiled our appetite by dainty, costly, and inappropriate feeding; and if homely food, skilfully prepared, combined with a little resolution for the change, will not win us back to the simple desires of nature, we must not blame the cook. Nature is easily satisfied, and the man who has obeyed her will gratefully enjoy the little he needs all the more that it owes much to the proficient hand of his careful wife. Second, again we reiterate that the bill of fare is not absolute as to what one is to eat any more than it is as to what it will cost. The housewife can replace the item to which she or her household may be averse by something equally moderate in price, but more agreeable. There are those who have devoted years of observation to this matter who tell us that six hundred different dishes can be prepared from the animal and vegetable worlds. Yet out of that immense variety, provided by a bountiful Maker, only two classes of food are found—the flesh-formers and the heat-givers. When we find so many kinds, which can be largely increased by skilful combination, it is a waste of time to urge an objection on account of the exact items in the bill of fare.

But our space is exhausted. We may in your next issue contrast it with another bill of fare, based on the teachings of the Bread Reform Society.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

A GIGANTIC ALCOHOLIC FACTORY.

How often have good but ignorant men pleaded for liberty to "liquor up" on the ground that the alcoholic drugs they eagerly, insanely desired was a good creature of God. Their foolish hearts were darkened by the veil of appetite, and they could not, or would not try whether the liquors that were stealing away their brains were, indeed, bad creatures of man's invention. Any one that has doubt of the earthly origin of the liquor has only to read for himself what we transcribe and condense about the Allsop ale from our cotemporary the *National Trade Guardian*.

Situated in the very bosom of the valley of the Trent stands the ancient and well-known town of Burton. Take away its breweries, and Burton at once subsides into the quietest and most unpretending of country towns; with them it becomes the centre round which the brewing world revolves. As the English are the best brewers in the world, so true it is that the best pale ale England produces is made at Burton. The secret of its waters being specially adapted for brewing was first discovered by some monks of Wetmore. It is evident from this that teetotal ideas met with no encouragement from the mediæval church. The modern advance of the trade towards its present colossal proportions dates from 1825.

The water for brewing is obtained from enormous wells yielding a never-failing supply. The property that commends them consists of sulphite of lime and is derived from the gypsous deposits contained in the keuper marls of the district. The water contains nearly 19 grains of sulphate and 15 grains of carbonate of lime to the imperial gallon, besides sulphate of potassa and magnesia, while the freedom from organic matter is very advantageous to the brewer. These wells have a depth of 40 feet on an average, but one well has a depth of 120 feet. Six wells are 20 feet in diameter, one is 46 feet in diameter, the others are on

the American or tube principle. There are 11 of them and they yield 100,000 gallons an hour. The new brewery covers a space of 50 acres and was built in 1862. The firm have four great malting establishments—Burton, Shobnall, Beccles, and Grantham, and ten small places at Burton, but they have also to buy malt from firms of repute. One of the secrets of good beer is the using of good materials in brewing it, and the firm spare no expense in providing their brewers with the best hops and the best malt that money can procure. No matter what the fluctuation of the market, nothing but first-class materials are allowed to be received into the brewery, cost in such matters being quite a secondary consideration to maintaining the high credit which the firm enjoys for the production of one uniform quality of ale. Malt is simply barley steeped and dried. The barley first screened and dressed is steeped for three days in water and then spread out upon a floor of the malt-house to germinate, and when it has sprouted to a certain length is transferred from the floor to the kiln and dried. In the process of drying the radicles or sprouts are broken off and the grain resumes its ordinary appearance. In the process of malting the starch contained in the barley is transformed to soluble gum and sugar, which is extracted in the process of brewing. The firm use 200,000 qrs. per annum and 3,000,000 lbs. hops of the most delicate growths, the result being an unvarying and superior quality of ale. The malt after being again screened and sifted is crushed by powerful machinery at the rate of 200 bushels per hour per mill. There are eight enormous mash tuns, each capable of mashing 60 qrs. of malt in eight hours—the working capacity of these tuns is something like 3,400 qrs. per week. This is at the new brewery. At the old Brewery an additional 2500 qrs. per week are mashed, making a grand total of 5900 qrs. per week.

The process of mashing consists in mixing malt together with water heated to a temperature of from 150 to 180 degrees. Enormous coppers supply water at the rate of 1,000,000 gallons per week. The water carefully tempered and the malt flow into the mash tub together, and so delicate is the process that during its going on you must not speak to the brewer. They are thoroughly mixed together by machinery with rotating bearers in from 30 to 40 minutes. Then follows the sparging, that is dosing the mash with a shower of hot water. Afterwards it stands for 3 to 4 hours to take out all the saccharine matter. The liquid now named wort is run off into gigantic coppers where the wort is boiled with the hops in ten enormous vessels capable of boiling 90 barrels or 3250 gallons per copper. After due boiling the wort is run off into hopbacks, a large receptacle with a perforated or false bottom. Here the liquors drain from the hops and ascend by pipes to the coolers at the top of the building. These are shallow troughs, and in them the worts remain for about an hour and a-half when it is run over the refrigerator for final cooling. The hops are, after being pressed by hydraulic presses, sold as manure. There are twelve hydraulic presses used in this way. The wort leaves the refrigerators for the fermenting rounds below, of which there are 241. Of these 142 can ferment 12 barrels at a time, the remaining 99, 70 barrels, making a grand total of 9000 barrels. *The principle involved in fermentation is the conversion of the saccharine matter in the wort into carbonic acid gas and alcohol, the fermentation being produced by the addition of yeast to the wort after it has been collected into the rounds.* The process lasts on an average from 2½ to 3 days, the old ales taking a longer time than the mild and bitter descriptions. One of the principal features in connection with the Burton brewery is that the fermentation is not completed in the rounds. The wort is run into the casks in the "union" rooms, and over these casks there are wooden troughs and through "swan necks" or syphons the yeasts rises to these troughs. This process occupies from 4 to 7 days when the ale is racked off into the casks into which it goes forth to the world. Such is the destructive process of converting good barley into brain-maddening liquor, according to the *National Trade Guardian*.

PUBLIC PRESS.

A CLERGYMAN AMONG THE PUBLICANS.—It is nothing new to find a clergyman certifying that an individual is a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a license to sell intoxicating liquors. Indeed, that is a very common experience at all licensing courts. And when we find a clergyman replying at a publicans' banquet to the toast of "The Clergy of all denominations," which had just been drunk with a "hip, hip, hurrah!" we naturally expect something of the same kind. The Rev. D. Miller, M.A., minister of St. John's parish, Glasgow, distinguished himself in this direction last week. Mr. Miller was put forward not only as the representative of the Established Church but to reply for "all denominations," the clergy of which were conspicuous by their absence, and he is reported to have said that, "as a clergyman of twenty years' experience, he could safely say that his experience of those engaged in the trade was that their personal character and Christian liberality proved them to be at least equal to the rest of the public." We would not for one moment suggest that Mr. Miller's twenty years' ministerial experience must have been a very limited and peculiar one, because he has found the public generally with whom he is acquainted do not in these respects equal or surpass the publicans he knows; but we do say that the trade in which they are engaged is one which destroys the personal character, and hinders the Christian liberality of every one of the public who frequents their premises. The almost universal testimony of clergymen and city missionaries is that the drink trade is the greatest hindrance to the progress of Christianity. He said also that "so long as the trade was well conducted it was a legitimate one, and had a right to be let alone." He seems to have forgotten that it is the one trade which cannot be "let alone." Parliament has ever to be taking a special care of it, passing laws intended to "regulate" it; licensing courts, and other courts are constantly paying special attention to it, and yet it seems impossible to have it "well conducted." The articles dealt in are poisonous, and a terrible host of evils is entailed by their use. We have the testimony of the Prime Minister himself to the fact that they produce more evils in the community than war, pestilence, and famine. But like Balaam of old the Glasgow prophet disappointed his friends; only Mr. Miller had come to bless, and lo! he cursed them altogether. He said, "There are some people who would abolish this trade altogether, and I believe these people are entitled to have the right of their convictions. . . . If anything is to be done in the way of abolition, the only effective move would be to abolish the manufacture of the article." There can be no doubt that Mr. Miller's prescription would be as effective as the Yankee's cure for hydrophobia—viz., cutting off the dog's tail close behind his ears.—*The Christian Leader*.

Student under the examination. "What planets were known to the ancients?" Well, sir, there were Venus and Jupiter and—after a pause—the Earth, but I am not quite sure."

JUNE.

It is the leafy month of June, when flowers
Are thickly scattered over wood and lea;
Sweet rosy June, parent of golden hours,
When earth is full of love and melody.
By poets often sung, bright rosy June,
How sweet it is when hearts are young and strong
To wander gaily in the golden noon,
To roam in woods and vales the live day long.
Wild as a schoolboy on a holiday,
O'er the smooth grass to trip with merry feet,
To roam in gladness o'er the woodland way,
Or sit beside the laughing brooklet sweet,
While sunshine smiles on earth and sea and sky,
And nought but beauty meets the ear and eye.

ANDREW M. LANG.

THE FUNDS.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

JUNE, 1882.

*** "Notes on Lunacy," "Surface Work," our "Book Shelf," "Report on the Free Church Assembly," Poetry, and other interesting matter have been crushed out by our long Parliamentary report. These will receive attention next month.*

**SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.**

112 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW.

Last month we gave the results of the census taken of the customers of the public houses in Campbeltown. That return was slightly incorrect. From the revised return we present the following figures:—There are 34 public houses into which, on the 8th of April, there entered between the hours of 8 and 11 p.m. 1,910 men, 752 women, and 371 children—a total of 3,033. A curious feature of the census was the extent of the patronage bestowed: it ranged from 2 to 315 visitors. Five liquor shops had less than 25; seven, 50 and under; five, less than 75; six, less than 100; eight, less than 200; two had 206 and 297 respectively; while one only had 315 customers. Yet, supposing that these 3,033 customers only spent one shilling each on an average, and that is putting it at a low figure when some were drinking for Saturday, and some also providing for Sunday, no less than £151 13s. perished in the questionable liquor transactions of that night. It would be hardly possible to find a parallel to this miserable misexpenditure. Throwing the sum into the loch would be better, for not only is the money spent in liquor wasted, but in the process there may be many and grievous evils entailed upon the spenders which will exact, some time or other, an unsparing retribution.

MR. ANDREW BENNET.

We have the pleasure to announce that this gentleman has joined the agency staff of the Scot-

tish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. He comes highly recommended to the Executive. He has been an unwearied and disinterested worker in the cause of temperance and prohibition, and he appears likely to prove a decided acquisition to the Scottish prohibitory movement. His sphere of effort will lie in the south of Scotland, and his residence will meantime be in Dumfries. The committee of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Temperance Union have signified their intention to afford him a cordial and vigorous support; and the leading friends in that district are prepared to offer him an encouraging welcome and efficient assistance. Under such very hopeful auspices Mr. Bennett has entered upon his labours, and we have every reason to believe that he will justify his appointment by his enthusiastic, intrepid, and devoted labours in the service of the association, and on behalf of the Scottish Permissive prohibitory agitation. As we go to press, we learn that he entered upon his duties on the 22nd ult., on the evening of which day he was cordially welcomed at a largely-attended social meeting in Dumfries, over which Dr. McCulloch presided, at which many ministers were present, and where Mr. Winning and Mr. R. Mackay represented the Executive.

The most energetic activity has been shown last month by the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association and its friends. The peculiar line of that activity has been open-air meetings, of which there has been an unusual number so early in the season. Many of the towns have awakened to the necessity of placing sound information on their demand for a special veto before the people. Mr. Waterston has been engaged with several of his constituencies where change, as in East Lothian, is desirable; in Kirkcaldy, where rumoured opposition is threatened; and in the Border Burghs, where a re-election was rendered necessary through the honour conferred on Mr. Trevelyan of the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland. There will be an electoral campaign at once in East Lothian, the Hon. Hugo Charteris, eldest son of Lord Elcho, aspiring to represent the Tories and the publicans, and Mr. Findlay, who is the Liberal candidate, who has very much to learn on our question, and who has a long way to come before he reaches our position. The feeling in the Kirkcaldy Burghs for the present appears to have subsided; and as all who know the cordial relations between Mr. Trevelyan and his constituents would have expected, that gentleman has been returned unopposed. Mr. Blackwood was in the far north on a lecturing tour. He traversed Ross-shire, Cromartyshire, Skye, Caithness-shire, Orkney, and Shetland, and was gratified with the amount and tone of the sentiment everywhere manifested. Mr. Stevenson has been labouring in the west of Scotland, where also Messrs. Dransfield and Kesson have been labouring. The demands on the Association for open-air lectures this season are so numerous as to threaten to absorb all the avail-

able open-air agency of the Association. The appointments for the present month largely exceed those of last year. Educate the people, and then you will have an intelligent vote, is the belief of the Association.

Scotland is being meantime honeycombed with the Blue Ribbon mission. Singularly enough the mission appears to go of itself. It is no ways indebted to organisation, but here, there, and everywhere, one might say, it is moving on more or less successfully. Some follow Mr. Noble; others—the greater portion—Mr. Murphy. The north-east and north are still the most ardent fields of the crusade. Forfar, Dundee, Montrose, Arbroath, Brechin, Stirling, and Perth, have been overtaken, and in these the impetus given by Mr. Murphy still continues. While we write, Aberdeen offers a striking manifestation of the power of that gentleman; nearly 12,000 having in the Granite City taken from him “the badge of blue.” Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Irvine, Paisley, Callander, and many other places, are all working away, being set in motion by impulses from the great mission centres. We are heartily glad to see this movement diffusing itself all over our country. Great good will, on the lowest calculation, result from it to the prohibitory cause. In the first place, many who join will remain faithful all their days, perhaps becoming themselves able and zealous reformers; in the second place, “outsiders” will soon perceive the immense benefits which flow from the multitude of abstentions in prosperous trade, in the increase of religious feeling, in the better attendance on religious duties, and in social and moral reform; and, in the third place, in the desire that these advantages should be rendered permanent by the suppressive veto over the liquor traffic. Let our friends assist it as much as lies in their power. It is extremely popular. Lord Mount-Temple, the Countess Dowager of Aberdeen, Canon Wilberforce, and the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, are all displaying its modest symbol; so that, if we add to its own intrinsic merits the element of popularity, we have, we believe, sufficiently commended it to the large-hearted sympathy and the earnest support of all who labour for temperance in the love of it, especially in the West of Scotland.

Since the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill became a dropped order we have been asked to set forth, as briefly as we can, the idea of a Bill which we would like to see introduced into Parliament by a Scotch representative. There is nothing formidable in the task set before us. It seems to us so easy that although with diffidence we submit the following to our readers as to what should, in our opinion, fully meet all the necessities of the case. “That on any lawful day previous to the first of March in any year, the Provost or Sheriff, as the case may be, shall, on receipt of a requisition from not less than a tenth part of the registered electors of any burgh, parish, or district, in Scotland, making request for a

poll to determine the continuance or discontinuance of the traffic in intoxicating liquors therein, appoint a poll to be held in said burgh, parish, or district, within seven clear days from the presentation of said requisition, when all electors duly qualified to vote at municipal or school board elections respectively, can vote on the question, ‘Shall the liquor traffic exist in said burgh, parish, or district?’ If those voting ‘no’ be a clear majority of those voting, then all traffic in intoxicating liquors therein shall cease on the 28th May next ensuing. If the majority vote ‘aye,’ then the question can only be raised by another requisition, but said requisition cannot be received by any Provost or Sheriff until an interval of two years has elapsed from the date of the presentation of the previous requisition.’ There in a nutshell is the suppressive or absolute veto or Scottish Permissive Bill. That bill or clause could be run with any bill or run alone. It clearly sets forth the simple plan we Scottish Permissive Prohibitionists have for the extermination of the liquor traffic, and we leave it to the careful consideration of our readers. They will, we hope, as vividly conceive as we have, the just, practical, and expedient measure which we would fain see embodied in legislation and applied by the people everywhere to the liquor traffic, that bane of our country, and the cause of the misery and suffering that makes so many of our people mourn.

In our sketch book will be found a short notice of Allsop's alcoholic factory. The buildings, the space occupied, the skill manifested, the capital devoted to the production of Allsop's ale are enormous. The money and plant may be measured by millions pounds sterling, and the “out-put” simply dwarfs calculation. One could dwell with rapture on the account of the water, the processes, and machinery, if he could put out of view the harrowing fact that he is reading of the stupendous manufacture of a pernicious and seductive poison which drives so many of those who consume it into madness, poverty, crime, and the grave. He is here being initiated into the mystery of “a glass of ale.” But he cannot shut his eyes to the after consequences of that glass of ale. It flows on through society, kindling the natures it touches into the flames of lust and hate, untruthfulness and impiety even, till they burn to the nethermost hell. And he shudders as he reads of a business so dangerous and deadly being permitted by a Christian state. The foundation of that glass of ale, for which Allsop is so famed, is good grain and good sugar. Look at the boast made that no expense is spared to get the best malt that money can procure; so that we sober people not only have to pay the burden entailed upon us by the law that forces the traffic in this drug upon us, but have to wait till the brewer and the distiller have had the first offer of the grain on which our lives depend. No matter what fluctuations there may be in the market, none but first-class food materials are de-

stroyed to make Allsop's ale, cost being with him a secondary consideration. Well done, "Fool's" pence which procures the finest grain, transforms it into the poison that makes your earners lean, lazy, lustful, and loathsome, and leaves for their wives and their neighbours inferior grain for food. It is not merely waste, it is worse than waste, it is the turning of the greatest good of man, the God-sent grain, to the deadliest poison. What says the writer of that sketch? Listen. "The principle involved in fermentation is the conversion of the saccharine matter in the wort into carbonic acid and alcohol." The one, he might have said, the deadliest of gases, the other, the most mortal of poisons. Yet, in this enlightened age, to quote the glib remark on many a tongue, men are so much under the spell of appetite, habit, and custom, that the process and the poison have not only their apologists among the intelligent, and let us even say, the virtuous, but their commendators. This factory is only one of thousands all engaged in the privileged destruction of our grain. Men, like wisdom, cry aloud in the gate, warning the poison drinkers; they play to entice them from its use, they preach to them of its horrors, they lead their prayers to be delivered from its effects, they pledge them to abstinence from its use; but after all it is the few that are saved, the many that are injured beyond remedy. So long as the vast interest which is measured by millions of profit lies on the side of the poison maker, it is idle, it is foolish, it is wicked to hope for the end of his infamous business, unless the law is invoked to put forth its all-powerful arm and overwhelm that business with destruction.

We present a very full report of the discussion on Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill, in the House of Commons on the 10th of last month. That report, to any observant mind, is full of meaning as to the position of the movement in Scotland. Lord Campbell was evidently as much astonished at the result of the ascent of his pilot balloon as anyone could be, for it showed him that the current of popular opinion had set strongly in in favour of the suppressive veto. Nothing, therefore, he was able to offer in the way of restriction was worth the acceptance of the Scottish social and moral reformers. The discussion will do more than this, it will fix the attention of those that uphold prohibition on the weak points of the agitation. The Lord-Advocate touched one of the most glaring of them. He said that there was a want of a consensus of opinion in Scotland on the remedy required for the removal of the evils of the liquor traffic. Nothing could be more true, but nothing is easier of amendment. The advanced opinion now held, that that remedy must be applied by the people for the people, is the result of a vigorous, national education on the evils of the liquor traffic in affording facilities for the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors, and on the necessity for its exclusion from any locality affected by it by the vote of a majority of

the owners and occupiers of property therein. But this vigorous education was not confined to teaching merely, it included the electoral canvass. People had not only pointed out to them the nature, extent, and consequences of the licensing system, but they were taught to see that to vote for license and not for suppression was political suicide, destroying by their vote what they had achieved by their agitation. At this time the licensing proposal of Lord Campbell came before the country. At first, it appeared in harmony with the spirit of the agitation. It gave every elector power to vote down all traffic, but it so hedged that power as to make its exercise impracticable, and this veto on a veto was fatal to the Bill. The discussion showed us how much more has still to be done. The education so vigorously carried on in the past must be maintained and increased. Scotland should be sown knee-deep in literature. The traffic must be completely exposed. The people must be roused to their danger from the evil, and their duty to abolish it; while it lives they have no immunity from its dire effects. Only in this way can the country become unanimous in its demand for protection from the fearful havoc inflicted upon the people by the drink traffic. Once unanimous, how long will their representatives exhibit such a diversity of opinion as was so painful to contemplate on the 10th ult. Their school is their candidature and the polling booth. Their education has not been so efficient on the whole as that of the country, hence many of them appeared as at once favourable to the principle that the ratepayers should have power over the existence of the drink traffic, and at the same time opposed to that principle in operation being wholly suppressive of the traffic. To expect a leader to lead a movement in Parliament for the Scottish Permissive Bill, when the representation is itself so divided, is to expect grapes from thistles, or harmony from discord. We must have the Scotch vote as unequivocal for suppression as it is for local option. How? By being true to our convictions on all occasions when the election of a Parliamentary representative is in progress, especially at the polling booth. Unanimous there on a candidate earnestly resolved to secure the settlement of our demand, the unanimity of the Scottish members of Parliament is certain to follow. It is not conceivable that in such eminently favourable circumstances a leader will not be forthcoming. Under far less favourable circumstances, a cause, not more noble than ours, has been championed to victory. But such a unanimity on the part of the country will be fatal to the continued inaction of the Government. It will be constrained to deal with the traffic; not by licensing boards, restrictive vetoes, or other equally questionable schemes, but by granting the people the absolute power and right of determining its existence for themselves. They will have to settle this question in this way if they would finally settle it, or they will be in real danger of wrecking their administration. A people united on

the final redress of a great grievance cannot with impunity be trifled with by any Government. With the suppressive veto on the Statute Book, its adoption by the people is merely a matter of course. The fiery cross did not evoke more enthusiasm, call forth more speedily the choicest spirits of the time for offence or defence, nor more rapidly bring together a great army than will the Permissive veto summon the aid of good citizens to inaugurate its operations in the burghs, parishes, and districts of our country. The moving power to compel such glorious results is in the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement; but the conditions of its success must be complied with. These, we repeat, are the unanimity of social and moral reformers on the suppressive veto as the most just, practical, and feasible remedy for the evils of the licensing system; on the unanimity of the representatives they vote into Parliament; on the consequent introduction of the bill so supported; on a leader who will have their single aim to fight for; on the consequent vigorous action on the part of the Government and the triumphant passage of the veto. Let them heartily support the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association which is conducting the agitation on these lines; in order that morally and financially it may be able the more earnestly, if that were possible, more frequently, if that were possible, to direct and rivet the attention of the community on their objects and aims. There is no man nor body of men who can strike at the root of the great evil with which we war but legislation. That that legislation may be speedy, efficient, and invincible, let them enlist the pulpit, the press, the platform, and the polling booth on their side, ask God to bless their efforts, and then and then only will a great and a decisive success crown their unwearied labours.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—IV.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC—PAYMENT OF PENSIONS—THE BUDGET—CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL—THE MALT TAX—THE BUDGET—PROOF SPIRITS—SUNDAY CLOSING IN YORKSHIRE—SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S QUESTION—MR. GLADSTONE'S ANSWER—SIR WILFRID'S NOTICE OF RESOLUTION ON LOCAL OPTION—SPANISH WINE DUTIES—EXCLUDING SOLDIERS FROM PUBLIC HOUSES—IRISH PUBLICAN'S MISTAKE—OPIUM TRAFFIC—SPIRITS IN BOND BILL—LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

APRIL 24.—Sir Charles Dilke, in reply to Mr. Puleston, said her Majesty's government had long been in communication with the Chinese government on the subject of the condition of the trade in opium between India and China. Negotiations upon that subject had been suspended in consequence of the receipt of a new proposal from the Chinese government which had to be considered here. Sir Thomas Wade's report on this matter was expected immediately.

Mr. Childers, replying to Mr. Gorst, said that the pensions due on 1st April had all been paid. The delay which arose through the Exchequer and the ending of the financial year, would not occur again. In reply to Mr. Puleston, he said that the reasons why pensions

were sent out by post-office orders was that it was found that pensioners on getting payment personally spent much of their money in public houses.

Mr. Gladstone on rising to make his annual speech on the Budget was loudly cheered. Referring to the liquor traffic aspect of it, he said the differential charge arising from a readjustment of the foreign spirits was estimated to produce £180,000. It has produced that amount. The estimate I gave last year for the beer duty was £8,800,000, and this is the first complete year in which we had to deal with that duty. The levying of the duty has been perfectly satisfactory. The change has worked favourably and well in regard to the practice of private brewing. It has not extinguished the practice. The number of licenses taken out is very large; no less than £46,000 has been received from those licenses, the enormous majority of which is taken at 6s. a-piece, so that the Committee will see what a large number avail themselves of the practice. The estimate of the beer duty was taken rather high in deference to gentlemen connected with the trade. The estimate was for £8,800,000, the actual yield £8,580,000, that is £220,000 short of the estimate. If we compare the yield with the malt duty, which yielded £7,737,000, we seem to have gained £843,000. That comparison is entirely fallacious, for the harvest was bad and trade depressed, affording no proper comparison. Take the six years of malt duty, from 1873 to 1879, and the average is £8,672,000, so that the malt duty produced yearly on an average £92,000 more than we have got from the beer duty. Obviously, as I have admitted, we get nearly 2s. a-quarter on the beer duty as compared with the old malt duty, and as I have also shown that notwithstanding the increase of population our receipt from beer duty is less by £90,000 than the average receipt from the old malt duty in the prosperous years of 1873-1879. I represent a state of facts in which there must be a collapse somewhere. Is that collapse due to any alteration in the habits and practices of the people? (Hear, hear.) The Board of Inland Revenue officers, whom I consider to be good authorities on the subject, do not exclude that supposition, but they do not look to it as the main cause. They say that although employment in the country is general, yet wages have not yet reached the full average level, and undoubtedly have not reached anything like the level which they reached in the years of prosperity between 1873 and 1879. They also observe, and I have no doubt there is something in this, that last year in the cider counties there was a very great abundance of fruit, and a very large consumption of cider. Then comes another fact—the great increase of coffee-houses and clubs, which lead to the supposition that the more temperate habits of the people are at the root of this deficiency in the revenue. (Cheers.) I think the House will deem it quite worth their while to spend a few minutes in endeavouring to get as accurate information as we can upon this subject and to put ourselves in a position to estimate fairly the influences which are at work. We have a group of simultaneous facts, which, taken together, are very curious, and do not all run quite in the same direction. In the first place, there is a very decided decline of the drink revenues proper. I hope my hon. friend the member for Carlisle approves of the term I use. (Hear, hear.) It is something disparaging, and that I am sure will be agreeable to his feelings. (Laughter.) I have got here a statement of the revenue derived from spirits, wine, malt, and beer, with the attendant license duties and so forth at three separate periods. I have taken 1867-68, which was before the great rise in price; 1874-75, when that rise of price and wages was still on the whole in operation; and 1881-2, the last financial year. The entire revenue from these sources in 1867-68 was £23,001,000. In 1874-5 the revenue had sprung to £31,029,000. The total of these revenues fell from £31,029,000 to about £28,500,000, or roundly about one-eighth; but the duty on wine fell from £1,719,000 to £1,366,000, or by more than one-fifth. However, there is the fact that there is a great diminution, notwithstanding the large increase of population between 1867 and 1881,—an

increase in the population which could not be less than 4,000,000 people. The gross revenue from these sources which had risen to £31,029,000 in 1874, fell by more than £2,500,000, with an increase of population between 1874-75 and 1881-82 of considerably over 2,000,000 people. It is also rather curious to take the proportion in which we have been dependent on this source of the revenue of the country, and in order to show that I have compared the liquor-taxation of the country, as I would call it, with the non-liquor taxation, I put on one side the taxation derived from alcoholic liquors and on the other side the taxes derived from all other sources except the income-tax. Taking the percentages on that basis, they stand as follow. In the six years from 1859 to 1865 we levied 37½ per cent. on our taxation from alcoholic liquors, and 62 from non-alcoholic sources. Since then came the reaction. I have carried you thus far down to the year 1879-80, when we may say that one-half our taxes came from alcoholic drinks and the other half from other sources. But during the last three years a reaction had begun. Alcohol had gone down to 47½ per cent. and non-alcohol had risen to 53 per cent. But then, you may say, "If this diminution of consumption is going on, and you have shown it to be so considerable, and if a main cause of this diminution is the foundation of those valuable and useful institutions known all over the country as coffee and cocoa houses, we ought to see a large increase of revenue, at least, from other sources." But that increase we do not find. That is a curious fact. I am not going to include tea, because tea, after all, is not much used in these public places. ("Yes.") The revenue derived in 1867-8 jointly—I will not give all the details—from chicory, cocoa, and coffee, was £523,000. The revenue derived from the same sources in 1874-5 had fallen to £310,000, but the joint yield of these three articles, which in 1874 was £310,000, was only £306,000 in 1881. When we turn to tea, the case is very different. There it is not in the cocoa houses, but the domestic use of tea that is advancing at such a rate that there you have a powerful champion able to encounter alcoholic drink in a fair field and to throw it in fair fight. The revenue on tea, which in 1867 was £3,350,000, had risen in 1874 to £3,875,000, and in 1881 to £4,200,000. The increase in the population during that period of fourteen years was 4,900,000. But there was no corresponding augmentation in the revenue from coffee and chicory. One other circumstance in connection with this state of facts and with the great diminution in alcoholic drinks I have ventured to lay before the committee; for certainly I do not hesitate to say that I think the committee will agree with me that we can trace the operation of this diminution in the use of alcoholic drinks precisely where we should wish to trace it—that is, in the augmented savings of the people. I look first to the old savings banks. In 1846 their deposits were 31½ millions. In 1861 they had risen to 41½ millions; in 1867, owing to the competition of the Post-office savings banks, which paid a considerably lower rate of interest, they had fallen to 36½ millions. Since that time they have been advancing, not rapidly, but steadily. In 1874 they were 41½ millions; in 1881 they were £44,175,000, showing an annual increment of about £350,000. The Post-office savings banks, as the committee are aware, were founded in 1861. They have advanced on the whole very steadily. Even the most unfavourable state of circumstances among the labouring classes has never done more than reduce, not inconsiderably, but still not vitally, not the amount of the deposits, but the yearly increment of the deposits. The ordinary increment of the deposits in the Post-office savings banks has been from £1,600,000 to £1,800,000. In the first decade the lowest amount for any year is £1,533,000, and the highest £1,926,000. The lowest year in the second decade was 1879, when there was great distress and want of employment; but even in that year the deposits were £1,600,000. In the highest of the prosperity years—1872—the savings were £2,293,000, but there is no doubt that the wages of the labouring classes are much lower at this moment than they were in 1872. And yet, though wages are much lower, the

deposits in the Post-office savings banks have risen even higher than they were then. I reckon that I may take them thus. The deposits made there and remaining there are £2,449,000, nearly 2½ millions, and, besides that, we have invested for the depositors £750,000, so that the whole sum placed in our hands by depositors—although a portion has passed into the funds—for 1881-2, with a great diminution of means on the part of the labouring population, has risen to £3,189,000. (Hear, hear.) I think that shows that, whatever other effects this diminution of the duty on spirits is producing, it is clearly associated with the gradual extension of more saving habits among the people.

Mr. Wills said that to continue the fourpenny duty on tobacco would cause great inconvenience to the working classes. The high duty lowered the quality.

Mr. Chaplain admitted that the repeal of the malt duty was a great boon to farmers. It however enabled the brewer to use maize and rice with barley, to the deterioration of the quality of beer. It also depreciated the price of barley.

Mr. Arnold pointed out that there was one part of the Budget of 1880 which the right hon. gentleman had not reviewed. He referred to the increase in the spirit licences then imposed. At present, if a man occupied a house rated at £50 a year, he had to pay 50 per cent. for his licence. If his house was rated at £100, he paid 30 per cent.; if at £400 he paid 10 per cent.; and if at £1000, 6 per cent. Now, there could be no doubt that, in consequence of the extension of clubs, the trade of those licensed houses had largely diminished. That was a reason against the heavy increase in the spirit licenses, especially in the case of houses rated at from £50 to £150 a year.

Mr. A. Cross remarked that the increase of £800,000 from the change from the malt to the beer duty came out of the pockets of the wage-earning class, and was equivalent to an income-tax of 1d. per £.

Mr. Carbutt moved as an amendment to the Corrupt Practices Bill, that no bill would meet the wants of the country unless it had a clause in it providing that all public houses should be closed on the day of election. He did not intend to move that as a resolution, because he understood that if he carried it it would have the effect of throwing out the Attorney-General's bill. He did not wish to do so, but he hoped when the bill went into committee they should have an opportunity of discussing the necessity for introducing a clause to the effect he had indicated. Mr. E. Clarke said when the proposition to close public houses on election days came before the house he should oppose it. He thought the bill as it stood at present was unfair to the licensed victuallers, who would be attacked by that resolution. The Attorney-General said the closing of public houses on the polling day was matter for very grave consideration, and on which a great deal might be said on both sides. A great mass of corrupt practices took place in public houses. Not only corrupt treating, but the bribery that took place would be found to be taking place in the public houses, and he believed that if practically this measure could be carried with the closing of public houses on the polling day they should get rid of a vast amount of the corruption which took place. The argument was used that this would be pressing heavily on licensed victuallers and the trade. He did not think that would be the view that would be accepted by the respectable licensed victuallers who wished to conduct their business properly. He was not at all sure that when the matter came to be discussed it would not be found to be better for the publican that his house should be closed on the polling day.

25th April.—Mr. Chaplain gave notice that on the motion for the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill he should call attention to the fact that the repeal of the malt tax, by encouraging the use of rice, maize, and other articles, as substitutes for malt in brewing, had operated injuriously instead of beneficially to the interests of the farmer, and he should move a resolution the terms of which he should place on the paper.

Sir Wm. Barttelot (the budget being under discussion) said:—"With regard to the repeal of the malt tax the result of the right hon. gentleman's scheme had been to lower the price of barley."—[Mr. Gladstone—Hear, hear—(laughter).] Sir William, continuing—"It was true all the same, because the small brewers used other substances than barley for making beer. The hon. member for Scarborough (Mr. Caine) wished that people would drink only water—(laughter)—but the people still liked their beer, and good beer. The malt tax had not been the boon which so many expected." Mr. Earp gave it as his opinion that the falling off in the price of barley was due to the depressed state of the brewing trade, and he had no doubt that with the recovery of that trade they would very soon see, not only a restitution of the old price of barley, but higher prices for the cereal. Mr. M'Iver remarked that so long as so large a revenue was derived from exciseable liquors, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whoever he was, would be under temptation to stimulate rather than discourage intemperance. Mr. Duckham attributed the fall of barley to a bad season and deficiency in quality. Mr. A. J. Balfour had no doubt the motive of the Prime Minister in abolishing the malt tax and substituting a duty on beer was to enable brewers to use other materials than barley. That being so, the price of barley must fall. The British farmer then was exposed to the double competition of foreign barley and foreign ingredients in the manufacture of beer. Mr. Caine observed that if the hon. baronet (Sir Wm. Barttelot) would study the statement of the Prime Minister with reference to the falling off of the revenue derived from alcoholic liquors he would find that the depression was caused by the great increase in society of those who, like himself, believed it was better to drink wholesome water than unwholesome beer. (Laughter.)

April 26.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice of his question to the Prime Minister on local option.

April 27.—On the motion of Mr. Boord, a return was ordered showing the number of gallons of proof spirits distilled in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom; the gallons delivered, duty paid, from distillers' stocks, and the gallons put into bond in the year ended 31st Dec., 1881, and other details.

On the adjourned debate on the Corrupt Practices Bill, Mr. Biggar said he approved of the clause which prohibited having committee meetings in public houses.

April 28.—Mr. Wilson gave notice that on Monday next he should ask leave to introduce a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday in the county of York, the city of York, and in the county of the town of Kingston-on-Hull.

Sir W. Lawson asked the first Lord of the Treasury with reference to the announcement in his budget that the county government bill would not be proceeded with at present, whether the Government contemplated the introduction of any other legislation during the present session for giving effect to the resolution which this house had already twice passed in favour of giving localities control over the liquor traffic by some efficient measure of local option. Mr. Gladstone—It is certainly quite true that we contemplated legislation in connection with the subject of County Boards, which would indirectly but materially have borne upon the question in which my hon. friend takes so great an interest—the question of local option. But being compelled reluctantly to abandon the plan of a County Boards Bill for the present session, I do not see that we have any means of making any proposal to the House upon that subject during the session. Later on Sir W. Lawson said in consequence of the answer of the Prime Minister he should on the earliest opportunity move—"In view of the great and grievous evils arising from the liquor traffic, this house is of opinion that the power to remove the cause of these evils by some efficient measure of local option should be entrusted to local communities at the earliest opportunity." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Warton gave notice of his intention to oppose the application for leave to bring in a bill for closing public houses on Sunday in the county of York, city of York, and Kingston-on-Hull.

May 1st.—Sir C. Dilke in answer to Earl Percy said that the matter of the duty on Spanish Wine had been and was still under the consideration of Government.

May 2nd.—On the motion of Mr. Richardson leave was given to bring in a bill to renew and amend the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act. The bill was read a first time.

May 4th.—Mr. M'Iver wished to postpone his question on the Spanish wine duties for a few days. Sir C. Dilke could not see why he should do so, and allow a misapprehension of facts to remain on the paper. The subject was still under consideration.

May 5th.—Sir W. Harcourt replying to Mr. Milne Home said it would not be proper or legal on the part of an inn-keeper to exclude any person from his hotel. The exercise of that exclusion against a man who had the honour to wear the Queen's uniform seemed to him to be extremely improper. (Cheers.) So far from being regarded as a person to be looked down upon and excluded he ought to be looked upon as a person to be especially honoured. (Cheers.)

May 5th.—The Attorney-General for Ireland in reply to Mr. O'Sullivan said that he was not aware that the person whom Mr. J. R. O'Gorman, publican, refused to serve was an emergency man, but he knew that he had brought two actions against O'Gorman, and in one of them had been awarded heavy damages.

May 9th.—Mr. J. Pease postponed till this day four weeks his motion on the opium question.

May 9th.—Mr. O'Sullivan moved the second reading of the spirits in bond, but as there was no responsible person on the Treasury bench, the motion was after some discussion adjourned.

LICENSING LAWS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

May 10th.—Lord Colin Campbell, in moving the second reading of this Bill, admitted that there was a disposition, at least on this side of the House, to regard this as a question which must very soon engage the practical attention of Parliament. He was one of those who regretted that the Government did not find itself able to introduce a measure which would give effect to the clearly expressed opinion of the House as twice declared. It was impossible to conceive either that they had the time or opportunity to deal with this question, but looking to the state of public business he thought he should not be challenged, if he ventured to send up what he might call a pilot balloon to demonstrate those peculiar currents of opinion which had been set up by the hon. baronet (Sir W. Lawson), and which had already—he spoke of the temperance feeling in Scotland—made shipwreck of this Bill. Why should Scotland not have exceptional legislation? The Prime Minister in 1880, speaking on this question, said, "This is eminently a question in which the feeling of one great section of the country, when thoroughly ascertained and tested by experience for some length of time, ought to command the greatest attention and the willing assent of the House." He was sure Scottish members would testify to the strength of the feeling throughout the country, and to the fact that the feeling of Scotland in favour of reform had been a very strong one. From his own recollection he had no hesitation in saying that it was very urgently desired in Scotland that there should be some legislation upon this question, and he should point to the authority of the predecessor of the Lord-Advocate. In Dec., 1880, the right hon. gentleman said he would make it his duty to inform the Government that a general desire existed in the northern part of the island for an improvement of the licensing system. He would also like to take the vote of Scottish members during the last two years. On the first occasion the vote was 8 to 1 in favour of the hon. baronet's proposal, and on the second occasion the vote was still farther increased. Scotland had for more than a quarter of a century led the way in the matter of Sunday closing. He did not think that by

introducing a measure which in any degree resembled the Permissive Bill he should have done anything to advance the question in the slightest. The Permissive Bill was nine times considered by the House of Commons and he believed by three separate Parliaments, and the lines of that measure had if not abandoned at least been despaired of by the hon. baronet (Sir W. Lawson—"no, no"). The hon. baronet said "No," but he should like to ask him why he did not introduce a Bill clearly defining what he meant by that ambiguous phrase "Local Option." He (Lord Colin) had ventured to give his definition, and he would like to say why. He had another reason for not introducing a measure which might remind hon. members of the Bill of the hon. baronet. The reason simply was that he was not himself a believer in the justice and in the expediency of the Permissive Bill, in the first place because it proposed to subject the rights of individuals and minorities to the arbitrary power of majorities, and in the second place because it proposed to sweep away a trade which, whatever might be said of its effects on the happiness and prosperity of the people, was at least a trade which had enormous and most extensive vested rights. There were two points in this Bill which had aroused opposition. The first was to protect the rights of minorities, and the second was to give trade compensation for the changes which might result from the exercise of the popular vote. These seemed to him to be at the foundation of social liberty and social justice. He could not help thinking that it would deprive minorities of personal and private rights in the abstract by depriving them of the reasonable means of exercising them as they had done under the sanction of legislation. The twentieth clause aimed at protecting them by giving them what he called a veto on a veto. That was to say, that whenever, by the operation of the machinery of the Bill, the popular vote resulted in total prohibition, the minority should have power to put a veto in the form of a requisition, which should require the licensing authority to grant one license in the proportion of 200 or 300 ratepayers who had signed the requisition. This proposal had been met in Scotland with those who had made themselves prominent in the agitation with unqualified condemnation. He sincerely trusted the hon. baronet would not consider it necessary to lend his powerful voice to swell the chorus of disapprobation which that proposal had aroused, otherwise he should feel even more completely than he had done what a rash thing he had done in taking the hon. baronet's advice in introducing a bill dealing with the licensing question in Scotland. The principle of compensation was just and expedient, but it was a subject of great difficulty and perplexity. Two questions arose under this head, the basis of compensation and the means of making it. If the Bill came into committee, of which he was not very hopeful (laughter), the clause could be amended. He thought that if they found compensation the locality relieved of the liquor traffic should bear the cost. The present licensing system was arbitrary enough. His lordship quoted figures to show this (a glance at the table in last month's *Social Reformer* shows this clearly). It was admitted by the publicans that the magistrates all over the country were endeavouring to reduce licenses; but what was that but an admission that the licensing system had worked badly in the past. He thought the magistrates were endeavouring to act on an entirely true principle. They were now brought to see that licenses should only be granted in strict accordance with the requirements of the people. Still the magistrates had shown an excessive liberality to the trade, and the consequence was that a vast amount of capital had been sunk in the trade, and magistrates had, as they had seen, been telling deputations waiting on them to get licenses reduced, that however willing they were to get licenses reduced they could not confiscate lawfully acquired property. He regretted the attitude of some of the temperance associations in Scotland. They seemed to him to fail to recognize what he believed was an undoubted fact, that if Parliament was to take up this question the locality should bear the cost and burden of the change. He hoped

that they would not take the course of saying that the trade in which the publican was engaged was a trade abhorrent to the morality of the country. Parliament should, he thought, take the course it took on the question of slavery. The House did not say to those engaged in the slave-trade, "You are engaged in trade which is repugnant to the well-being of the country. You have no claim to compensation. You should rather disgorge your ill-gotten claims." No; it said it was true that this trade was contrary to the spirit of British law. It was repugnant to every principle of philanthropy, but it was an institution which had flourished with the encouragement and under the sanction of the legislature, and therefore it said that when they changed the law they should recognise their claim to compensation. In the slave-trade matter loss was only supposed to take place here; they might be sure that loss would accrue to the liquor sellers. The Bill made no change in the fiscal arrangements; the licenses would require to be got every year, but the certificate might only be purchased for ten years, and it would have a considerable value. As to allegation that a vested right would be created, he should like to point out that, under the existing system, the license had a greater claim to be considered a vested right, for it was the fact that a publican who conformed strictly to the terms of his certificate was absolutely certain of having it renewed annually until he got it for something like fifteen or twenty years. He did not believe it was possible to effect a sudden and violent revolution in our existing licensing system. It was necessary for Parliament to provide for a transitional state of things, and because he believed that this Bill, however crude and faulty, might afford an indication of the change in the law which Parliament might be willing to sanction, he ventured to move the second reading of the measure. (Hear, hear.) Sir Herbert Maxwell, in moving its rejection, affirmed his belief that the Bill was fitted to cause a disturbance of the social system. The subject should not be dealt with by a private member, but by a responsible minister of the Crown. He admitted that the licensing system of Scotland was capable of amelioration, not compulsorily but gradually. The Bill proposed to reduce the licenses from 6810 to 3252. That would give the House a sense of the magnitude of the reduction proposed by the Bill. He called it confiscation. The compensation proposed was merely nominal. The existing licensing authority, if time was given it, would, at no very distant period, bring about the results the noble lord had in view. The population of the Parliamentary burghs had in ten years increased by 175,490, while the licenses therein had decreased by 237. This showed that the magistrates had at heart proper regulations and control of the liquor traffic. Sir John Hay reminded him that in his parish in his youth there was nineteen public houses, but now there were only five. He believed that was only part of what had been going on all over Scotland. These burghs had practical local option. The ratepayers elected those that granted the licenses, and he believed the magistrates as a body had most carefully and to a certain extent most successfully endeavoured to control and keep within due limits this liquor traffic. By this Bill twenty burghs would at once lose all licenses. Lord Colin Campbell pointed out that by the Bill the licensing authority had power to grant licenses to places they thought insufficiently supplied. Sir Herbert continuing said, he would remind the noble lord that temperance, like other virtues, should begin at home. The population of Inverary was 902 in 1871, and 863 in 1881, and last year the number of licensed houses was eight. The maximum number under the Bill would be one. He should like to know if the noble lord approved of laying the burden of compensating the seven licensed victuallers on that town who would be deprived of their licenses. He could not imagine anything more trifling and illusory than the compensation that was offered. He thought that before the Bill was accepted by the House it should be shown that the existing authority had failed. Perhaps the most dangerous effect of the Bill would be the encouragement of illicit

distillation and spurious clabs. The truest remedy for the evils of intemperance would be found to be our State education; this would be more effectual than any artificial legislation such as is proposed. He moved that the Bill be read that day six months. Mr. Anderson agreed with many of the proposals of the noble lord, but not of everything in the Bill by any means. He had always opposed the Permissive Bill, but supported the Local Option resolution. He thought that the Bill was a fair and honest attempt to give expression to the meaning of the House when it declared in favour of Local Option. (No, no.) He would ask those who said No to bring forward their views that the House might see if they could produce a more satisfactory measure. The magistrates were only indirectly elected by the ratepayers, and he did not think it would be a good thing for the municipal elections to hinge upon the drink question. He thought one of the great points of the Bill was that there should in no case be an absolute veto, and he did not think that in any place there would be a total absence of public houses under this Bill, and so total and complete prohibition would be prevented. He would refer the Bill to a select committee. Mr. Dalrymple regretted that the mover of the Bill did not show more hopefulness. The question was one from which party should be excluded, and yet there were nine names on the back of the Bill all drawn from the other side of the House. The proposal to limit public houses to a certain number of the population was one familiar to the House; it was a leading part of Sir Robert Anstruther's bill, of which it was a valuable provision. He considered clause 11th as very offensive, for he did not see why a man, because he was in the traffic, should be deprived of the rights of his citizenship. Compensation in any bill dealing with the liquor traffic must be contemplated, although he was ready to admit that there was a difficulty as to where the means was to come from. He wanted to hear the opinion of the Government not only on this Bill but on the question of Local Option, because it had attracted great interest in Scotland, and because it had, along with many of its supporters, supported Local Option. He would not oppose the second reading of the Bill. Mr. Williamson supported the Bill, first, because it was a laudable effort on the part of his lordship to deal with a difficult subject; second, because it tended to still farther restrict a most injurious traffic; third, it presented a basis for the discussion of the licensing question. If this Bill fell he hoped that the noble lord would next session bring in one of a more perfect nature, or that the discussion had paved the way for the Government doing so. The present licensing system had failed, and he was sure the Scottish people would not rest satisfied unless a remedy was sooner or later found. Having said that much, he hoped that if not this session, at least very soon, a measure dealing with this most dangerous traffic would be carried through the House. Sir Wilfrid Lawson sympathised with the noble lord, because it appeared he was attacked from both sides. He was afraid that if the noble lord had got into any trouble on this matter it was partly at his instigation, because he had suggested at a meeting at which the noble lord was present he would be a very fit and proper person to bring in a Local Option Bill confining it to Scotland. He never asked his lordship to bring in a licensing Bill. The noble lord had erred in excess of zeal. He had tried to combine licensing with the popular veto. What he would have liked his lordship to confine himself to was to give the people of Scotland a popular veto on the issue of licenses, and to allow them to protect themselves where they did not please to have licenses forced upon them. He thought he was justified in suggesting that, because the members for Scotland, by a majority of 8 to 1, had on more than one occasion declared in that House that it was a right to which the people of this country were entitled. If that had been all that had been in the Bill of his noble friend it would not only have had his hearty support and co-operation, but would have secured, he believed, support throughout all Scotland. He was sorry to see

that his lordship had incurred opposition, but he hoped he would not be discouraged in his excellent work. There was one thing in favour of the Bill, and that was the fury of the publicans against it. He saw that in the Parliamentary burghs of Scotland the places for the sale of drink would be by the Bill reduced by one half. If that was not a bill to do something to promote temperance, he failed to see what bill would really do any good. The hon. baronet referred to compensation, showing that the proposal to compensate the Irish Sunday closing publicans was absolutely laughed out of the House. Yet the noble lord proposed to actually compensate the publicans of Scotland. When he brought forward his Bill on this subject hon. members had always insisted on discussing the details as well as the principles, so, in order to get his principle adopted he had reduced his Bill to a mere preamble, and in that form it had twice been adopted by the House. The Government would be obliged to take up this question before very long—he told the Government very distinctly—if they wished to retain the confidence of the country which placed them in power. Hon. members laughed, but they did not know so well as he did what was going on in the country. He knew what he was speaking about, and he knew there was no question about which the people of this country were so determined as that they would have the power of protecting themselves from this liquor traffic which was bringing ruin and desolation into our country. That being the case his noble friend had gone on the right direction, whatever the details of his bill might be. Scotch members by giving it their support would simply say that Scotland was determined that the liquor traffic ought to be diminished, and that they were ready and willing to take the lead in this matter, if not in the exact method proposed in the Bill yet in some other measure conferring the control of the traffic on the ratepayers. Sir John Hay opposed the Bill. He concurred with the sentiments of the hon. member for Wigtownshire (Sir H. Maxwell). To what better source than to the magistracy of this country could they look for the regulation of this traffic? To give the ratepayers power would militate very much against the peace of a district. The magistracy would be more capable of determining wisely the necessities of their district than the breath of public opinion. Mr. O'Sullivan said if this Bill were carried for Scotland it would be sure to be proposed for Ireland next. Mr. Stewart wished to see the Bill referred to a select committee. Dr. Cameron said they were told that the Government should have brought forward a bill of the magnitude of the present bill. He would like to see one introduced by the Government; but if the Government were unable meantime to do so, that it was hardly fair when a private member made an attempt to lay a scheme before the House he should be met with such an objection. A Scotch member could hardly attend a political meeting without being asked questions on this subject—so great was the general interest on this question. He therefore trusted the Government would take the matter out of the hands of the noble lord, who, he felt confident, would be very happy to relinquish it into their hands. He thought the suggestion by his hon. colleague (Mr. Anderson) an eminently practical one. He believed if the Bill were referred to a select committee they would receive a very valuable report. Sir T. E. Colebrooke had no objection to the discussion raised by the Bill, nor to a select committee to consider the whole question. He defended the existing licensing authorities, who in his opinion justified the confidence of the country. He would only go with the Bill so far as to giving greater popular control over licenses. Mr. C. S. Parker intended to support the second reading, as he was in favour of the main principle of the Bill. He attacked Sir W. Lawson in his well known manner. He advocated licensing boards. He would vote as understanding Local Option and the Permissive Bill as different, and that the Bill was based on the former and not at all on the latter. Mr. T. R. Buchanan spoke in favour of the Bill. Mr. Orr Ewing hoped the Government would oppose the Bill until they brought forward a general

measure. The Lord-Advocate said, I am sure that we are all indebted to my noble friend, the member for Argyllshire, for having brought this large and important question before them in the shape of the Bill now on the table. There is no part of the United Kingdom where its importance is more recognised than in Scotland, nor is there any place where a larger and more widespread interest is felt than in that country: and it is very significant that the votes last year on the Local Option resolution were in the proportion of 8 to 1. That I think must be taken as expressing very clearly that north of the Tweed there is a strong feeling in favour of confiding to local bodies the large power of regulating and controlling the traffic. He thought, however, that the discussion to-day, as well as the many petitions which had been received, must have shown that there is not at present such a consensus of opinion as to the precise modes of giving effect to that resolution as would make it expedient for the noble lord to press his bill farther on this season. Mr. Warton talked out the Bill, which became a dropped order.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER, VOL. XVI, GLASGOW, 112 BATH STREET, 1882.—Of *The Social Reformer* we have often spoken before, and in another portion of this present issue we have said a word about it. This is its 16th volume. Those who file it, as we do, will have volumes full of interest and instruction, and this 16th volume will be in no way behind its many able predecessors. . . . We can truly say that amongst our very numerous exchanges, none is more welcome to us than *The Social Reformer*.—*The British Temperance Advocate*.

IRVINE.—With exemplary spirit, the enterprising social reformers of this burgh agreed to introduce the Blue Ribbon mission to the community. On the 8th ult. the first of a series of meetings was held with that object, in the West U.P. Church, when the Rev. S. Harding, of Paisley, preached on the words of Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. iv. 9.) The meetings were continued for a fortnight, when several of the well-known temperance advocates addressed the audiences. Messrs. Simpson and Hamilton, Rev. J. Blackie, and Rev. J. M'Queen, Kilmarnock. Ex-Provost Dick, Messrs. J. Winning, R. Mackay, and R. Dransfield, of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, took part in the meetings. At our last advices more than 300 had donned the blue ribbon, and it was admitted that never had so great an interest been shown in temperance enterprise by the people of Irvine. The committee are jubilant, and well they may. They deserve much credit for their efforts.

"THE SOCIAL REFORMER," VOL. XVI.—Temperance orators will find the new volume of *The Social Reformer* equal to any of its predecessors as a storehouse whence to draw arguments, incidents, facts, figures, sallies of wit, or stanzas fitted to aid in the work of converting the world to teetotalism. It contains all the memorable orations of the year in the cause of temperance. Newspaper snippings favourable to the teetotal creed, taken from most diverse prints, are without number. The editor's ingenuity and alertness in scenting the iniquities which result from drink are admirable. An old toper is said to have soliloquised that "man wants but little here below, yet wants that little strong," and apparently this is the belief of the supporters of *The Social Reformer*. It confines itself entirely to advocating the absolute disuse of spirituous liquors, and its advocacy is marked by extreme pertinacity and resolution.—*Dundee Advertiser*.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SCOTLAND.—This body met this year in the Augustine Church, Edinburgh, on the 25th April. On the afternoon of that day the annual meeting of the Total Abstinence Society in connection with the Union was held in the hall of the Augustine Church, under the presidency of the Rev. Robert Auchterlonie. There was a large attendance. After a service of tea, and an address had been given by the chairman, the Rev. Mr. M'Lean, secretary, gave

some account of the progress of the society since its formation fifteen years ago, and stated that the number who had paid subscriptions for the present year was 270. Last year all the students in the Theological Hall were abstainers. (Applause.) Dr. Wylie, secretary of the Baptist Temperance Society, gave an account of the progress of that association, and stated that, so far as he knew, about one-half of the ministers of the Baptist Church were total abstainers. In reply to a gentleman present, Mr. M'Lean said he thought about 75 per cent. of the ministers in connection with the Union were total abstainers. Dr. Adamson (Evangelical Union), who also gave an address, said that 100 per cent. of the Evangelical Union ministers were temperance men. (Applause.) He referred with satisfaction to the decrease of receipts for excisable liquors, as set forth in the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday night, and trusted that Mr. Gladstone would be spared to see a far greater decrease and until he would have to come forward and say that he would require to raise 20 millions on account of the drink traffic having totally gone down. (Applause.)

GLASGOW ABSTAINERS' UNION.—The annual meeting of the members of the Glasgow Abstainers' Union was held on the 4th ult., in the Religious Institution Rooms—Mr. John Lindsay in the chair. The twenty-eighth annual report, which was read by Mr. Airlie, the secretary, contained a detailed statement of the work of the Union during the year. Reference was made to the domestic mission, in connection with which it was stated that the penny savings banks had been pretty freely taken advantage of, the transactions numbering 1541, and the amount deposited £49 13s. 2d. The cookery classes held by the Union, and the recent exhibition and competition of plain household cookery, were also referred to; and it was stated that the public-houses without the drink continued to be pretty largely taken advantage of, although not to such an extent in the evenings as could be desired. The weekly visits to the Calton house had averaged 1075, making a total for the year of 55,900; while the average weekly visits to the Stobcross Street house had been 2757, giving a yearly total of 143,364. In both houses 1136 persons had taken the abstinence pledge. The Saturday evening concerts were dealt with in the report at some length, and with reference to the Kilmun Sea-Side Home it was stated that 962 persons had enjoyed its benefits during the year. Of these, 691 were restored to health, 179 were improved, 90 were reported "no better," and 2, it was stated, died. The subscriptions for the maintenance of the Home, including a legacy of £100, amounted to £1175 1s. 8d. The amount required annually to maintain the Home efficiently was stated to be about £1300. The report concluded with the statement that the finances of the Union were in a satisfactory position. The subscriptions, &c., for the general purposes of the society amounted to £575 10s. 6d. The treasurer's report was also read. Mr. Westlands moved that the reports be adopted, and printed, and circulated, and this was seconded by Mr. Coghill and agreed to. The directors for the year having been elected, the meeting was terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

THE SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The anniversary meetings of the Scottish Temperance League were held on the last days of April, and the first days of May. The series include the Band of Hope demonstration, the delivery of a large number of sermons, the annual sermon by some eminent divine, the public meeting, the business meeting, the breakfast party, and the closing soiree. These meetings were carried through with conspicuous success. The sermon by Canon Wilberforce was unusually eloquent, and stirred the heart's core of the vast audience who heard it. The public meeting was the best attended the League has yet had; a fact due to the eminent reputation of Canon Wilberforce, and to the curiosity to see the founder of the Blue Ribbon Army. The speaking was, both in its temperance and prohibitory aspects, singularly advanced, and went home to the hearts of the hearers with demonstration and power. Dr. Marshall

Lang and Mr. James Guthrie, J.P., Brechin, took part in the meeting, over which Sir W. Collins, Knight, presided. The breakfast party was as usual a very enjoyable meeting. At this meeting the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was represented by ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., and Mr. John Forrester. The annual business meeting was lively, considerable interest being manifest throughout the proceedings. The annual report was as usual lengthy and interesting. The introduction made claim to the League being the source of all the moral suasion effort now so active in Scotland. A deserved eulogy is awarded to the memory of the late Mr. John M'Gavin. The publication department is as usual vigorous, 50,000 volumes being issued, and 440,000 tracts being put into circulation. Reference is made to the withdrawal of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from the Joint Executives' deliberation, but the reason of the separation is withheld. References are made to the legal and political efforts of the League, to the Suspensory Bill, Sunday Closing, Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, and Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Bill. The funds are not, we are sorry to observe, so gratifying as previously, but they amount to £3861 7s. 1d., and with publication income £3907 19s. 4d., to a total of £7769 6s. 5d., the balance to carry forward being £10 9s. 0½d. The business done at this meeting was of the usual character, and a most enjoyable tea meeting brought a most interesting anniversary to a close.

U.P. SYNOD.—The Synod met in Edinburgh on the 8th ult. The Rev. Dr. Young, Glasgow, was elected Moderator. On Tuesday Dr. Scott presented the statistics of the church. There was a small increase in the membership, and an increase of £765 to the funds. He said that the increase of the stipends was 34·666 per cent. greater than 1868. Dr. Mair, reporting on the Scholarships Committee, said that the applications for examination were 115, being a decrease of 8 as compared with 1880, and of 27 as compared with 1879. The students numbered 103. The scholarship payments were £485; for special scholarships, £295. A number enter as students, but do not continue to the end, going into other denominations. Mr. Slight showed that the total income of the Synod was £98,641, 14s. 11d. This amount had only been once exceeded—namely, in 1876. The Finance Committee reported that there was a decrease on the income of £6,489, 10s. 3d., and an increase in the expenditure of £434, 0s. 5d. Dr. Wood reported on the attendance of members at the Synod, which was 743—447 ministers and 296 elders—an increase over last year. Dr. Blair laid before the Synod the report on Temperance. It referred to the Blue Ribbon movement. Forty Bands of Hope had been formed, either in the mission station or congregation, or in both. The committee had waited on Lord Rosebery to urge the necessity of Local Option for Scotland. It was agreed by the Synod that the committee petition for the earlier closing of public-houses, and for a control over the liquor traffic by ratepayers. Dr. Blair moved the Synod to urge its members and the membership of the Church to discourage all social drinking usages. Dr. Hutton seconded. He advocated the withdrawal of intoxicating liquors from the table and the home. They might do what they liked about public-houses, &c., but unless they worked within the dwelling, and unless they educated the young and rising generation in the home that these usages were dangerous, and that the liquors themselves were poisonous, their endeavours would be unavailing. If they wanted to evangelise the masses, they would have to take hold of them through the temperance reformation. (Applause.) The debate was adjourned until the evening on the motion of Principal Cairns. In the evening Principal Cairns said that he should not have moved the adjournment of the debate if he had not thought there was need for, and likewise a call by Providence for a somewhat more lengthened discussion than the report of the committee seemed likely to receive. Divergent as the convictions of the members of the Synod were—composed, as the court was, of abstainers and non-abstainers, might not they,

with all clearness of conscience and unity of human feeling, recommend to the members to take into favourable consideration the question, in the special circumstances of the country, whether, amid the agitation which this temperance question was awakening, the Synod might not see it to be their duty, not only to discourage generally drinking usages, but personally to discontinue the use of intoxicating liquors. (Applause.) He was sure that the Synod was prepared to take a step in advance. If he could carry this point, he would then ask the membership to consider how far it was their duty to personally discontinue the use of intoxicating beverages. Was the Church, he asked, to be outstripped by any Salvation Army, or by any agency in the field? Was the regular army of the Church of Christ, with their regular organisation, not to take a lead in this all-important question? Were they to stand there as Christian brethren to stretch out to the erring and the fallen, who were in danger, the hand of fellowship, the hand of protection, the hand of safety? Instead of saying, "Take the step, and take it alone," rather let them cast the arm of Christian love around them, saying, "Come with us, come with this Synod, and we will do you good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel." (Applause.) Dr. George Jeffrey said he had been a total abstainer for forty-six years, but now he was more strongly convinced than ever that at present there was a loud call for the Church to do what they could in this direction. The great bar to the cause of Christ was intoxicating drink, and had they not that to deal with, they would have little to do in regard to their sessional discipline. Principal Cairns then moved, "That the Synod discourage all public drinking usages, and recommend the membership of the Church sincerely and earnestly to consider how far it might be their duty to discontinue the personal use of intoxicating liquors." Dr. George Jeffrey seconded the motion. The discussion was continued by Rev. Dr. Wallace, Rev. Mr. Clark, and Dr. Brown, Paisley, who said he thought it clear that no greater error could be committed than to outrun the sympathy and the opinion of the Church on this general question. The most objectionable of drinking usages were not social but private usages. There was a difference of opinion with regard to Christian duty in this matter. There were some of their members who felt it to be their duty, in view of the acknowledged evils of the drinking system, that while the world standeth they would drink no wine that would cause their brother to offend—(loud applause)—and there were others of their brethren—and he would be a bold man to say they were less devout, less earnest, or less self-sacrificing—who deemed that they could promote the cause of temperance better without laying down the rule for themselves of entire abstinence, and by striving conscientiously, in all circumstances, by giving an example of temperance and sobriety. He moved, "That the Synod, as in former years, discourage all drinking usages connected with ordinances, inductions, and funerals, and earnestly recommend all the members of the Church to consider prayerfully how they could best promote the cause of temperance, and put an end to the evil of drunkenness among them." There was an exciting discussion, the Synod applauding Mr. Coghill for expressing the hope that the time was not far distant when all the ministers of the U.P. Church would be total abstainers. Rev. Mr. Sharp, Rev. Mr. Rennie (Glasgow), Rev. Mr. Corbett (Glasgow), and Rev. Dr. Drummond (Glasgow) supported Dr. Brown. Rev. Dr. Mair suggested an arrangement, but it was not adopted. The elders were in favour of the Rev. Principal. On the vote, 84 voted with Principal Cairns, and 74 with Dr. Brown. A number then intimated their intention to lodge reasons for their dissent, which later on was done, and their reasons answered by Principal Cairns.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER, VOL. XVI.—When the minds of a large section of the community are being stirred—as they are at the present time—with regard to total abstinence, and when large numbers are being enlisted in its ranks, the yearly volume of the *Social Reformer* in being issued now makes its appearance

very opportunely. Filled as its pages are with interesting articles which give forth no uncertain sound on the total abstinence question, the book is one which would prove of great value to those who are not fully persuaded as to the advisability of crossing to the total abstinence side of the line, as well as in strengthening and encouraging those who may but recently have crossed, it may be, from a life of wretchedness to the peace and happiness which follow in the train of total abstinence. Temperance organisations would benefit largely from the circulation of the work, which breathes forth a spirit of fervent love to fallen humanity.—*Stirling Observer*.

THE BOY SMOKER.

DEAR SIR,—Accept a parent's best thanks for the review of the Smokers' Guide in a recent *Social Reformer*. I calculate you will not be called upon for some time to come to review another of the tobacco trade's literary productions. You will not regret it when you find that you have been able to expose the great evil of smoking. This evil of smoking by boys is growing every day. You cannot pass along the street at any time without meeting with a little fellow puffing away at his pipe with an earnestness that shows to me that the vice is already hugging him closely. Sometimes it is wonderful to see his companions *looking up to him*, with a kind of admiration, as he holds his pipe just like a man! Or, perhaps, they may be awaiting with eager desire their turn to have a puff of his pipe when he is done. At such times I wonder if the parent of the smoking boy is a smoker. If he is, then it is useless to hope for the reformation of the boy till the man reforms. It is not what the father says, but what he does, that moves the son. "If the pipe is good for my father it can't be bad for me." It is not the nature of the thing itself that is looked to, but does anybody use it that rules this truly detestable practice, which is fostered by parents or tolerated by them, and stimulated by all the costly apparatus in tobacconists' shops. If those parents who eschewed smoking were to resolutely compel their children to break up the vile habit much less smoking would prevail. A glance at the consequences they are allowing their children to bring on themselves would be sufficient to urge them to set about a vigorous reformation in their household, and maintain a constant watchfulness, lest in future the habit might be formed or resumed. Professor Parkes, the great hygienist, says—"When a boy takes to smoking he frequently becomes pale, and he has an unhealthy skin. Moreover, boys who smoke much are less disposed to bodily exertion. Smoking interferes with appetite, impairs bodily activity, and in some way must damage the circulation or the composition of the blood." The Lord Bishop of Manchester says—"The habit of tobacco smoking among young boys is an evil, and it seems to me a growing one which I have often observed and deplored. Whatever may be thought of the habit of smoking generally, I believe that medical authorities are universally agreed that it is physically most mischievous to young people under the age of eighteen. The moral effects consequent on the too frequent association of this habit with others of a pernicious tendency, are not less hurtful to the character. It has often been a matter both of surprise and regret to me that parents seem so indifferent to both these classes of consequences to their sons." I will not strain your courtesy by quoting more. I have written enough, I hope, to convince the indifferent and to induce the thoughtful to do what they can to expose this practice to all within their reach. It is a matter of deep gratification that women, if we except a few old women who smoke by medical orders, or who are vagrants or bondagers, never smoke. True, I have heard that "fast young ladies" smoke cigarettes; but these vicious young women are already straying from virtue and from goodness, and clothing themselves with the filthy rags and habits of sin and shame. The real ladies, whether high or lowly born, studiously avoid contaminating themselves through the practice of this vice. Long may they do so, and may they be found frowning it down in their husbands, or others, and us. MELIORA.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE THOMAS IVORY, ESQ., EDINBURGH.—It is with feelings of unusual regret that we record the sudden death of this much esteemed gentleman on the 6th ult. Mr. Ivory was a son of the late Lord Ivory, one of the Lords of Session. Although bred to the bar he devoted his time to philanthropy, the temperance reform and evangelistic effort. He had nearest his heart the amelioration of the condition of the poor and their conversion to a vital Christianity. An elder in the Free Church he entered with all the energy of his large-souled nature into the revival movement, and it is believed that his devotion to such work hastened his death. He was the lessee of the Chalmers Institute, Ponton Street, using it for the regular carrying on of mission work. Working so much and so intelligently among the working classes and those beneath them, he saw to what a deplorable extent drink was their bane, and he approved highly of the means advocated by the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for their permanent relief from the evils of intemperance by an absolute veto over the liquor traffic.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE ARTHUR, FORFAR.—We feel a keen sorrow in recording this staunch adherent of temperance among our departed friends. He passed away on the 13th ult. at the venerable age of 76. Mr. Arthur's death was sudden, although not quite unexpected. He died in his chair while his daughter was reading to him. He was an unwearied friend of temperance, ever willing and always ready to render help for its advancement. He was given to hospitality to the lecturer, on whom he had always a word of welcome and of encouragement to bestow; and he was not so proud as to shrink from taking his place at the Cross to cheer the speakers advocating temperance and prohibition. He was, in short, a man every inch of him, clear, intelligent, and persuaded of the truths that underlie the great temperance reformation. So far from speaking of it with bated breath, he might have been said to have gloried in his total abstinence, for on all occasions he most heartily avowed it. For many years he filled the office of Inspector of Poor with fidelity and honour. He deeply sympathised with the efforts of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and longed for its success; which like many other of its staunch friends he has not been permitted to see. We tender our sincere condolence to those he has left mourning his loss, and acknowledge with pleasing recollection the signal worth of the departed.—S.

THE LATE MR. J. NEWBIGGING, DUNSE.—We regret to have to record the somewhat sudden decease of this worthy gentleman, who died on Monday, 15th ult., in the 67th year of his age. His friends were concerned at the evident failure of his health. Still, no serious apprehensions were entertained regarding it, but only a few days illness carried him off. He was liberal in politics, voluntary in his religious opinions, and an ardent advocate of temperance. He entered largely into public life, being a commissioner of the burgh, a member of the School Board, and an elder of the West U.P. Church, but the temperance movement absorbed by far the greater portion of his efforts. During much of the last forty years he spent much of his time in addressing meetings and in other ways in behalf of the temperance enterprise. Few temperance reformers wrought more earnestly or at more self-sacrifice, and his removal will be mourned throughout temperance circles in the county of Berwickshire. Strongly attached to the moral suasion aspect of the temperance question, he at first withheld his sympathy from the legal aspect of it, but, latterly, he was in hearty accord with the permissive prohibitionists, who often were indebted to him as chairman of their local meetings. His funeral was the largest seen in the town of Dunse for many years, representatives of Temperance organization being present from the various districts of the county. Temperance friends carried his remains to their last resting-place, and the shops in town were closed out of respect to his memory. Mr. J. H. Waterston represented the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the melancholy occasion.

THE
Social Reformer.

JULY, 1882.

SURFACE WORK.

BY REV. S. HARDING, PAISLEY.

We are not insensible to the fact that a vast amount of work has been accomplished in the temperance cause, and that the present state of public opinion is mainly due to the agitation which has been carried on during the past half century. At no period of the movement has there been so much effort put forth, and such a diversity of methods adopted as at the present time. We have armies bearing the diversified colours of red, white, and blue; leagues formed on the most improved principles; alliances embracing all ranks, professions, creeds, and politics; brotherhoods claiming the world as their field of operation, and knowing no distinction of colour, race, or sex. All the phases of the movement are fully represented by able and distinguished advocates. The platform, the pulpit, and the press are lending their valuable aid. Patriots, philanthropists, and Christians are propounding schemes for the amelioration of suffering humanity, each believing his plan to be "the missing link," the panacea for degradation, suffering, and woe. Our hospitals, asylums, houses of refuge, reformatories, prisons, poor-houses, orphan homes, ragged schools, free breakfasts, sanitary and political reforms, are the outcome of earnest, loving, sympathizing, honest hearts. The Church has departed somewhat from her old landmarks, and, by its evangelistic agency, made inroads into the kingdom of darkness. "The lapsed masses" and outcasts are sought after, novel and unique measures are adopted to ensure success. And yet with all these agencies at work, how little has been done, how few have been rescued from the destroyer!

To save the fallen is a grand work, but to prevent them "from falling into the snares of the tempter" is a grander, a nobler achievement.

Were it not for the liquor traffic there would be less need for infirmaries, lunatic asylums, houses of refuge for the outcast, reformatories for the fallen, poorhouses for the destitute. There would be fewer orphans cast forth upon the world improvident. Free breakfasts would be superseded by every family having its own happy fireside; ragged schools be only remembered as a disgrace to our civilization. Instead of the people waiting for the extension of the franchise they would extend it themselves, and improve their own position in society. Were it not for intemperance "the lapsed masses" would be found to a very large extent attending our sanctuaries clothed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, in their right mind. The efforts put forth by most of the agencies referred to are only in the direction of lopping off some of the branches of the "great upas" tree in our midst. There are far more paupers, lunatics, criminals, and street arabs manufactured by the liquor traffic than are saved by the united efforts of patriots, philanthropists, and Christians.

The agencies for evil are far more numerous and powerful than those put forth for good.

Our patriots, philanthropists, and Christians, have failed to a large extent to apprehend the real secret of overcoming evil. They have only realized one part of the mission of Christ into the world. That is "to save sinners." This he came to do, and has done, and is doing. The enemies of Christ passed the highest eulogium on his name and character when they said, "This man receiveth sinners."

But is this all he came to do? Verily no! This is only a small part of his mission into the world, and this is only a small portion of the gospel! His great work is thus set forth, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Here we have a solution of the question how to overcome the liquor traffic, and the secret why so little success has attended the efforts put forth by the various agencies. The Church and the State are afraid to attack this stronghold of the devil. The revenue derived from the traffic silences the statesman, and the traffickers in the church gag the watchman of Israel. The Saviour gives a practical illustration how to deal with offenders against morality and religion, by overturning the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves (harmless creatures), and driving them out of the temple, lashing them with a whip of cords, saying, "It is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

The teaching of the Baptist, the forerunner of the Saviour, is orthodox, and indicates the only legitimate method of overthrowing this great evil, "And now the axe is laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire."

Let our politicians, philanthropists, and Christians bring their axes, and get down to the roots of this terrible upas tree of iniquity and sever them. Then not only will the effects cease, but the cause of intemperance will be removed. This prolific source being dried up, there will be nothing left in this direction to "hurt nor destroy in all God's holy mountain."

THE WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE.

FOLLOWING out the intention expressed in our last paper we will now look at this subject in the light of the Food Reform Society. That Society is not necessarily vegetarian but merely aims to secure a better selection and preparation of food. They hold that working people might make a great change for the better in the direction of excellence and economy by cleaving to a farinaceous rather than to a flesh diet. They would have a better expenditure of their wages and a diet more in harmony with the demands made by their exertions upon their system; and they point with considerable force to the agricultural servants

of Scotland who, up to a time not yet remote, lived almost upon grain, vegetables, and milk, rarely or ever tasting animal food from year's end to year's end. Dr. Johnson to close a discussion taunted his opponent, a Scotchman, by declaring that the beggarly Scots were content to feed on the oats the Englishmen gave to their horses, but met with the severe query—Ah, where can one see such horses or such men? We have been long familiar with the porters of the Levant living on a few grains of food and yet bearing enormous loads with ease. The question, we think, scarcely admits of contention or dispute. We merely allude to the horse, the ox, the elephant, to show what labour may be performed, what quality produced, or what bulk sustained without animal food. Now, our contention is not the excellency of the vegetist's dietary or its superiority over the carnivorists mode of feeding. We bring it to the front for the purpose of testing whether it will yield more vigour at the same cost or yield the same vigour at a lesser cost.

For our purpose we submit a bill of fare where animal food is rigorously excluded (butter and milk excepted) in order that a just comparison may be made between a granivorous and a carnivorous dinner. This, then, is our promised

BILL OF FARE

For seven days' dinners, suitable for a family of six, with a change each day, and cost of same.

No. 1.—*Lentil Soup, Bread Pudding.*

Lentil soup.—1 lb. lentils, 1½d.; ½ lb. Indian meal, ½d.; onion, pepper, salt, &c., ¾d.; brown bread, 1d.—3¾d.

Bread pudding.—Brown bread (stale) 2d.; currants, 1d.; sugar and ginger, 1½d.; sweet milk, 1d.—5½d.

Total cost, 9d.

No. 2.—*Haricot Bean, Rhubarb.*

Haricot bean pie.—1 lb. beans, 2d.; 5 oz. tapioca, 1d.; wheat meal or flour for crust, 1½d.; butter and salt, 2d.—5½d. Serve with onion sauce made with milk, 1d.; flour and onion and salt, ½d.—1½d.

Stewed rhubarb.—Rhubarb, 1d.; sugar, 1d.—2d.

Total cost, 9½d.

No. 3.—*Stewed Vegetables, Lemon Pudding.*

Stewed vegetables.—¼ stone potatoes, 1½d.; carrot, turnip, onion, etc., 3d.; butter, pepper, and salt, 2d.—6½d.

Lemon pudding.—1½ lb. bread crumbs, 1d.; 6 oz. flour, ¾d.; sugar, ¾d.; 1½ oz. butter, 1½d.; milk, ¾d.; Lemon, 1d.—5½d.

Total cost, 1s.

No. 4.—*Cabbage Potatoes, Milk, Mush.*

Cabbage and milk.—Cabbage, 3d.; milk, 1½d.; ½ stone potatoes, 3d.—7½d.

Mush or crushed wheat.—Mush, 2d.; currants, ½d.; sweet milk, 1d.; sugar, ¾d.—4½d.

Total cost, 11½d.

No. 5.—*Haricot Beans, Rice Pudding.*

Haricot beans.—1½ lb. beans (with onion sauce) 3d.; milk, 1d.; flour and parsley, ½d.—4½d.

Rice pudding.—Rice, 1d.; milk, 3d.; sugar, cinnamon, etc., 1d.—5d.

Total cost, 9½d.

No. 6.—*Peas and Potatoes, Hominy.*

Peas and Potatoes.—1 lb. pease, 2d.; ½ stone potatoes, 3d.; served with parsley or onion sauce with a little mustard or with butter, 3d.—5d.

Hominy pudding.—Hominy, 1½d.; milk, sugar, etc., 2½d.—4d.

Total cost, 1s.

No. 7.—*Lentils, Potatoes, Corn Flour.*

Stewed lentils.—Split lentils, 1d.; carrot, turnip, onions, celery, etc., 3d.; ¼ stone potatoes, 1½d.—5½d. To be served with white sauce (milk, 1d.; flour and salt, ½d.—1½d.)

Moulded corn flour.—Corn flour, 1½d.; skim milk, 1½d.; sugar with half a lemon to flavour, 1d.; stewed rhubarb, 1½d.—5½d.

Total cost, 1s. ½d.

It will be seen that this bill of fare is more economical than the one presented in our last. Its cost being 6s. 3½d. as against 8s. 3½d. the cost of the other, thus showing a clear difference of £5, 4s. a-year, a very substantial gain indeed to an artisan's family. It will also be admitted that such a set of dinners must be more pleasant to the taste. The pleasure of eating is certainly on the side of the granivorous foods. The young especially delight in these preparations, and it can hardly be disputed that soups made with the materials in our second bill of fare are the most nutritive which can be procured. The superiority of French over our average English cookery, lies in the delicious and substantial soups which the French women can so economically prepare. The objection which an Englishman might advance that our bill of fare is simply horse and hen food with nothing in it, arises from the fact that he can hardly appreciate anything but solid beef or mutton. The roast beef he prides himself so much upon will not compare in feeding value, cost for cost with that on the table we present. His meal is wasteful and coarse when contrasted with such a meal as any of the seven days' would supply.

We anticipate another objection, and that is, that the amount of the ration must be very small and consequently unsatisfactory. This is a very plausible objection but not very forcible. We have been in this country accustomed to regard the quantity rather than the quality of our food, and to eat rather to avert supposed privation than with intelligence. Once fully educated upon the matter of what and how much to eat, we will just be in the habit of taking enough and no more of what is needed for repair and for needful energy. When the true relation between our wants and supplies is once recognized, we shall enjoy our food in quantity and quality in a manner that will leave nothing to be desired.

It is not to be denied that there is too much gross eating prevalent among all classes. Sir Henry Thompson gives an excellent description of an old-fashioned dinner such as is not even yet discarded, we fear, by plutocrats. To begin with, the guests had oysters, turtle soups, punch, salmon, turbot with lobster sauce, sherry, oyster patties, mutton or lamb cutlets, hock and champagne, saddle of mutton, currant jelly, cold vegetables, flabby salad, boiled fowl and tongue or turkey with force meat, game and slice of ham, hot pudding, other sweets, iced pudding, wines in variety, etc., etc., biscuits and cheese. The agony of a stomach attempting self-control under such circumstances is only, we think, exceeded by that of one which suffers from indulgence in so vast a dinner. No doubt this is an extreme instance, and that we are very much improved in our habits of feeding, but both in society and at home we eat by far too much, and find that we are haunted in our several employments with that sense of uneasiness which has its source in advanced indigestion. To the working man gross feeding either in quantity or in quality is a serious thing. Foods which are unsuitable to his daily needs or which are far too costly for his income should be replaced by those which are fit and proper, and also easily within his means. Now tea, beef, mutton, new bread are dear and inappropriate, and should, if not relinquished, be most sparingly used, while he should rely as much as possible upon that nourishment which the table we submit would instruct him to supply.

The table is, however, far from niggardly, we think, in its provision. Taking three diets per day as the average and assuming that these are about equal, our table marks an expenditure of 2d. per head of our supposed family. This, looking to what our food consists of, and to the fact that the children are ten years and under, is a very generous provision. We might have sought out a table far more sparsely provided than the one we have printed here. For it is beyond debate that men of a very studious disposition have lived upon

almost nothing, for instance, there is Chrysostom the golden-tongued father who ate but one meal of dinner and herbs a day, and St. Anuphrates who only ate a little bread after sunset. Between these meals and either of those on our tables there is a great gulf. We readily admit our only purpose in adducing samples of a very large body of evidence is to cut the idea up by the root that large eating and vigorous labour go together. The reverse will, on enquiry, be found to be the case. It is demonstrated that only as much gastric juice is secreted by the stomach, and as much saliva by the salivary glands as will make up what the condition of the system requires. Any one impressed with a sublime sense of the design by which all our bodies are perfected can well believe that this is a true state of the case. Hence it is said that when the stomach finds superfluous food present it sets up a fermentive or putrifaactive process in order to get rid of the excess.

The lessons then of our two papers will, we hope, be self-evident that there should be a more careful attention paid to our food, both as regards quantity and quality; that this attention, if wisely paid, will be found in the line of a simpler and less costly diet: that grains and fruits, on the whole, contain more flesh-forming and heat-giving food than flesh; and hence it is the bounden duty of the working-classes to reduce their consumption of flesh and increase the vegetable and cereal portion of their diet.

We may be able in another article to present some bills of fare even more interesting than those before our readers.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

THE PROHIBITION MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.

READERS of the *Social Reformer* are generally pleased to get a little information regarding the progress of the cause. As I have spent several weeks in the northern counties, I crave a portion of your space to lay before your readers a few thoughts which may be of interest to them. One of the first places I visited in my tour was the burgh of Fortrose. A number of active friends had made arrangements for a meeting in the Drill Hall, and having secured the services of James Fletcher, Esq., of Rosehaugh, to take the chair, they were gratified by seeing a good turn-out. This was the first time that I had visited this little burgh, and it was a matter of no small importance to me to get acquainted with so many true friends. I stayed with Mr. A. McKenzie, of Courthill, a veteran of great repute in the temperance ranks. After this I went to Inverness, where I addressed an open-air meeting. My next meeting was held at Beaulieu. Here there is a Good Templar lodge supported by a few loyal friends. There is also a good Band of Hope in the village, conducted by Mr. A. MacLennan. Dingwall was the next town I visited. The Good Templars have built a splendid hall which will enable them to carry on the work with more vigour than they have done, if that be possible. I had a most excellent meeting, and the temperance men in the burgh gave me a kindly reception. Cromarty is one of the northern burghs which is not flourishing commercially, but it is a place of great interest, and one cannot visit it without having his mind stirred by many pleasing associations. Every place round about it is hallowed by the genius of Hugh Miller. His monument stands on a rising ground above the town. It consists of a tall round column set upon a square base, on the top of which stands a figure of the geologist looking at a piece of stone, while a number of books lie at his feet. The monument occupies the spot where Mr. Miller often stood when he was a boy watching his father's sloops coming in between the Sutors. The house in which he was born, and the woods and walks where he meditated are all familiar to the good folks in Cromarty. I addressed a temperance meeting in the Free Church on the Sabbath evening. I was very hospitably entertained during my stay in the Black Isle by Mr. James A. Gordon of Udale, and Mr. T. Middleton of Farness.

Both these gentlemen interested themselves in getting up a meeting at Newhall in the School House, which was well attended, and a number took the pledge at the close. I addressed an open-air meeting at Invergordon, then I took train to Dingwall, thence to Garve, on the Skye line. From the latter station there is a mail gig to Ullapool. A drive of twenty-five miles brings you to the head of Lochbroom. By a previous invitation I was requested to pass a night with Mr. Murdo Maclay, the schoolmaster of Lochbroom. Mr. Maclay is a fine type of a Highlander, open-hearted, kind, and intelligent. His conversation is alternately humorous and instructive. He is well acquainted with Highland character, and his intimate knowledge of the "big strath" and all that part of the Highlands, rendered him a most excellent and worthy host. His supper table was replenished with the good things of this life, and that never fails to afford consolation to the weary and jaded traveller. Being an ardent Good Templar he gave me information which impressed me much regarding the influence of the temperance movement round about him. He had been instrumental in getting all the men at the top of Lochbroom to go and join the lodge at Ullapool, seven miles distant. When enthusiasm was high they walked along the loch side to the lodge, but, alas! for the power of the liquor shops in Ullapool. They proved stronger as a corrupting power than the lodge did as a social purifying influence, and the Ullapool lodge is no mean one, for it has as good men in it as any lodge in the order has. All broke their pledges either before they went into the lodge or after they came out of it. They were safer seven miles up the valley where there was no public house and no lodge, than they were in Ullapool in a lodge and beset before and behind with temptations to drink. The lesson of course to be learned from this is that the law should be changed, and a suppressive veto placed in the hands of the people to enable them to shut the doors of the drink shops. Thousands who cannot withstand the fascinating attractions of the liquor, would in their best moments, when the opportunity was given them, vote away out of their sight those places which have proved a curse to them and theirs. I will not readily forget the pleasant night I spent with the "Dominie" of Lochbroom. A gentleman kindly gave us a drive on the following day to Ullapool. Here I addressed two meetings under the auspices of the Good Templars, and experienced much pleasure in my visit to Ullapool. The Good Templars are aiming at erecting a new hall. It is a brave attempt, and who would not wish them success? May the good men in Ullapool yet be able to conquer the dire enemy of their interesting town—strong drink. From Ullapool it is about 60 miles across the Minch to Stornoway. It is always an inspiration to go to the capital of the Outer Hebrides. Here one meets with a class of temperance men who are an honour to the temperance movement. Loyal to it in all its phases, and thoroughly ready for the popular vote, they would inspire faltering and timid men who tell our countrymen in half-despairing tones that we are not ready to prohibit the liquor traffic. Let such go to Stornoway, and the reformers there will tell them a different tale. This doctrine that is frequently taught is pernicious to the temperance enterprise. What would a farmer think if a lugubrious fellow were to go to him when he was preparing for harvest and tell him that all the farm was not ready? The wise farmer would say, "I know, but I intend to cut down the fields and the portions of fields which are ready, and I shall wait till the sun ripens the others." This is what the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was formed to teach and enforce. It says "Give the ratepayers or the people the power by law to put in the prohibition sickle whenever their burghs, or parishes, or licensing areas are ripe for prohibition, and let them gather the harvest, and then we shall bring the sun of public opinion, and the power of our prohibitory agitation to bear upon districts which have been more exposed to the chilling blasts of the liquor traffic." The idea of waiting till *all* the country was ready is a hallucination that never entered into their minds. If the

farmer did not reap his field when it was ripe he would soon lose it, and so when we have no power in law to reap prohibition in districts when public sentiment is in our favour, we lose it, for it is the nature of the drink institution to drag down public sentiment to its own level. The Stornoway reformers know this well. The sentiment there is above the level of the liquor traffic, hence they were able to defeat a number of licences, at last term, which were sought to be placed among them. This was due to the action of the Good Templars, aided by a number of the best men in the town whose sympathies are all in the lines of the temperance reformation. The Good Templars in Stornoway deserve credit for this advance in public opinion. Having created it, they wish to sustain it, hence their eagerness for a popular vote to enable them to smite the system of licence, and to usher in the day of complete emancipation from the drink bondage. I addressed meetings each evening of the week I stayed there, and during the day I had many pleasing interviews with all classes of the community. One interesting fact may be noted, that when the Duke of Edinburgh was in Stornoway in January last, at the request of Lady Matheson all the hotels were closed for 24 hours, and order and sobriety reigned supreme. The passage across the Minch to Ullapool is accomplished in 5 hours. Standing on the deck of the steamer, about the middle of the Minch, and looking eastward, a magnificent prospect meets the eye. It is a "Parliament of mountains." Some rise in gigantic ridges, others shoot their conical peaks up among the clouds, while others, like huge round boulders, tower to an immense height, and bear upon their ample foreheads patches of virgin snow. Those mountain ranges stretch along the west coasts of Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness-shires, and their bold and majestic forms cannot fail to impress every lover of nature with the sublimity of the scene. It is 100 miles from Stornoway to Dingwall, and all the way the traveller can enjoy some of the grandest scenery of the Western Highlands. The next place I visited was Tain. Here a special effort was made to get a good meeting, and the friends were successful. People just estimate the temperance movement in a town as it is estimated by those local men who guide the cause. Councillor M'Tavish presided, and gave a good tone to the meeting, which was well attended. I have no hesitation in saying that the drink trade in Tain would fall by the popular vote. There is an excellent Good Templar Lodge, and a temperance society with reformers in it of substantial character. My meeting in Golspie was small, but I received encouragement from the kindly reception I got from the temperance men of the town, and their words of sympathy and aid cheered me as I went on my way. I hope to have good meetings yet in Golspie. I had arranged before leaving Aberdeen to meet with the Rev. W. A. Farquhar of Lerwick at Wick in order to go with him to the Shetlands. We had a beautiful passage. I was a fortnight in Shetland, and during that time I addressed a series of interesting meetings held chiefly in the open air. There are two Good Templar Lodges in Lerwick and a Juvenile Lodge. The town is rising, and at the present time there is a great demand for house accommodation. Active, enterprising, and intelligent, the people of Lerwick are certain to win their way to a greater commercial prosperity than that to which they have already attained. A splendid Town Hall is in course of erection. They have an Educational Institution, whose pupils, for their intellectual acquirements, stand amongst the first in the kingdom. The Rector, Mr. John Allardyce, takes a great pride in his distinguished pupils. The fishing is being rapidly developed at Lerwick, and from all sources of information, I learned that there is a superabundance of wealth in the sea around Shetland. This wealth will be utilised by-and-by, for a larger class of boats are now being used by Shetland fishermen, and they are sure to reap a better harvest for their toil. Lerwick Bay, at this season, often presents a fascinating picture. The numerous ships lying at anchor, the fishing boats sailing out and in to the bay, the small pleasure crafts gliding through the water with their white sails

spread to the breeze, while the sea-fowls soar overhead or bathe their plumage in the rippling waves, all combine to make the scene gay and attractive. I have not met with more pronounced prohibitionists anywhere than I have met with in Lerwick. Submit, say they, the question of license to the people themselves, and let the system stand or fall by the veto. This thought was caught by the old reformers in Lerwick at the time of the formation of the United Kingdom Alliance, and was held tenaciously by them at a critical moment, when short-sighted temperance men in more favoured circles would have snuffed out that noble organization—all honour then to the men of Lerwick. I stayed for a fortnight under the hospitable roof tree of the Rev. Mr. Farquhar, of the Congregational Church, Lerwick. I will not soon forget the kindness shown to me by him, and also by his excellent wife. To Mr. Farquhar and to Mr. Hector Morrison and other noble workers, the cause owes much. Their unflinching devotion to it is well known. Coming to Orkney, I addressed three meetings in Kirkwall and two in Stromness. There are two Good Templar lodges in Kirkwall and a temperance society. Efforts are being made in Stromness to resuscitate the temperance society. There is no reason why there should not be a good society in Stromness, for there are sound temperance men there. They only need cohesion. I had a good meeting in Thurso. The Temperance Society has regular meetings, and in that way the interest is maintained. Helmsdale has a model society, with constant meetings. The Rev. D. M. Macrae, of the Free Church, makes an admirable leader, and is a stern and uncompromising reformer. They always turn out large meetings in Helmsdale, *for they try to do it*. I addressed a fine meeting in Brora, and then ran to Aberdeen. I might have said much more regarding the latter places I have mentioned, but I must not weary your readers. Suffice it to say that during the seven weeks I was in the far north, I received many tokens of kindness, and the association which I represented was frequently wished God-speed in its mission.

Aberdeen.

W. BLACKWOOD.

NOON.

'Tis noon, and on the pleasant lea,
The light is bright as it could be,
The sun in its meridian height
Has filled the earth with ruddy light.

The summer hills are tinged with gold,
The glowing meads beneath are rolled,
And golden-tipped the rivers run,
Rejoicing in the summer sun.

Now is the hour, the glorious hour,
For man and for man's sport and power,
Now hand and brain with toil are fraught,
The soul has now its fullest draught.

Man in his labour stands supreme,
Pursues the object of his dream,
And onward toils with power and might,
Still mindful of the coming night.

And standing on this pleasant lea,
This thought comes still to you and me,
How in past ages men have thought,
And what great marvellous things they wrought.

They laboured in the world of mind,
And left a legacy behind,
The wise, heroic, and the witty,
O think of Newton, Burns, and Goethe.

Now time is ours to work and play,
Or to cast idly all away;
We all have something still to do,
Some useful object to pursue.

The golden radiance of the noon,
Will pass away, alas, too soon,
And when the night comes on we close
Our eyes and hasten to repose.

ANDREW M. LANG.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

JULY, 1882.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE Twenty-fourth Annual Meetings of this Association will be held (D.V.) in Glasgow on Tuesday, 26th September, 1882.

The Executive confidently hope that the friends of the movement will make arrangements to be present, as most important business will be brought under their consideration.

Particulars will be given in future issues of this magazine, and otherwise.

R. MACKAY, Secy.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS RESOLUTION.

AFTER persistent ballotting for a place, Sir Wilfrid Lawson has secured a first place on Tuesday 18th inst., in which to move his resolution, which is in the following terms:—

“That in view of the great and grievous evils which the nation suffers from the Liquor Traffic, this House is of opinion that the power of removing the cause of these evils by some efficient measure of local option, as recommended by the resolutions of this House of June 18th, 1880, and June 14th, 1881, be entrusted to local communities at the earliest practicable opportunity.”

The Executive have resolved to afford the resolution active support, and hope to largely swell the British majority in its favour. They have already asked the co-operation of the Scottish Temperance League, The Independent Order of Good Templars, both sections, the Sons of Temperance, the Rechabites, the United Temperance Association, the Women's Christian Union, &c., and their own members and friends. The Blue Ribbon and Gospel Temperance movements are at present so active that it may be said some fifty or sixty thousand in Scotland have taken the pledge and donned “the bit of blue.” Let us see the political power of this new and welcome accession to the temperance forces exhibited in an increased vote on Tuesday the 18th inst. If the public-houses are suffering by the great drain on the publican's custom, we cherish no undue anticipation

when we say we expect that honourable members will hear from these rescued friends urging them to secure power to them to vote away those public-houses which have been a curse to them, and may be as great, or even greater danger to their children. We rely on other staunch friends to stand by Sir Wilfrid Lawson as they have done so nobly and so often, and another great success is assured.

It will gratify our readers to know that we continue in increasing measure to receive the substantial sympathy of the ministers of all denominations in Scotland. In our last annual report there were fully seven hundred ministers, and up to the present time that number has been increased to eight hundred and fifty. It may enhance our readers' gratification to know in what proportion that support is afforded. The Free Church is at the head of the list with 308 subscribers, followed by the U.P. body with 222, the Established Church with 125, the Evangelical Unionists with 56, the Congregationalists with 41, the Baptists with 20, the Methodists with 16, the Episcopalians with 10, the Original Secessionists with 8, the Roman Catholics with 4, and the Independents with 2; while 36 subscriptions are received from those not in charges or whose denomination is not known, making a grand total of 850. This is a signal proof of the progress of the Association, and of the sympathy being extended by all the churches to its efforts to secure for the Scottish communities the power to suppress all traffic in alcoholic liquors. When the victory it aims to secure is decisively achieved, none will have greater cause for rejoicing than the churches in Scotland. That fervent piety once so characteristic of the Scottish people will once more glow in the church and in the household, and the wail so often heard over the lapsed mass and the fearful degeneracy of the times will cease to be heard. God hasten it.

During the joyous “outing” season now in full swing, with its excursions, picnics, garden parties, and delightful boatings, many dangers lurk in the way of the inexperienced and unsophisticated abstainer. It often seems proved that people appear to feel a fiendish pleasure in getting those to whom strong drink is really a temptation to break their recently formed vow of abstinence, and fall back into the odious slavery from which they have been but newly rescued. But the inexperienced, if obliged to consort with moderate drinkers, should exercise an unrelaxing and vigilant guard against all the wiles to which they may at one time or another be subjected. A firm and frank avowal of their resolution to adhere to the practice of abstinence most effectually puts the tempter to the rout; and this course we most heartily recommend. Where this is not made, the enemy must be met in detail. The request to drink a health should be parried; the proffer of liquor at dinner, or lunch, or repast, declined; the hinted badness of the water through sewage or organisms

defied; the suggestion that liquor is the true remedy for fatigue should be met by withdrawal for repose; in every circumstance they should courteously resist the allurements of alcoholic hospitality. The evidence in favour of abstinence in travel or "Change" is overwhelming. People have made the "grand" tour, passed their holidays in distant lands or on the boundless deep, or in solitudes remote, and fortified by their abstinence from strong drink have keenly enjoyed all the pleasure they sought after, and have returned to their usual avocations fully recreated and with abundant energy to carry them through their labours until sweet summer returns. The "staying" power of the tourist or the holiday-seeker should be found in water—honest water, too weak to be a sinner.

When Neal Dow was asked to what he chiefly owed the intelligent appreciation of his proposed liquor law, he is said to have answered, "To having sown Maine knee-deep with literature." In our own country the most graphically told of all Joseph Livesey's efforts for the promotion of temperance is his week's run through Lancashire, with his colleagues, his car, his temperance flag, and his 9500 tracts. Whenever a halt was made to announce, by bell or drum, that a meeting was to be held, we are unfailingly told that tracts were showered upon the crowds. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association decided to have an unusually large supply of leaflets for their present summer open-air campaign. They printed a very large quantity, which is being rapidly exhausted. They have sold more than fifteen hundred *Social Reformers* for June at their open-air meetings. All this has been done with little or any help from the societies or from the great body of their friends. It seems as if these have been as yet unable to realize the immense importance of tract and literature distribution; but this apathy should be shaken off, and a hearty co-operation take its place. We should be able to keep a press continually in operation throwing off the most impressive, the most salient, the most telling facts and illustrations of our movement. We need add no more, but ask the attention of our readers to our advertisement in this issue of the excellent leaflets on sale at our offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow.

If, Asmodeus-like, we could peep into the chest that is being packed by many an emigrant bent on a departure to the land of the setting sun, we should have occasion, many times, for the outflow and overflow of our emotions. Among the more substantial portion of the providing, we should no doubt find a sprig of forget-me-not from the wimpling burnie's side, a sod from a baby's grave, or a daisy from the last low resting-place of a lost love, a lock of hair, part of the fair tresses of her who will never return, a leaf of the posey that Jamie ga'e me, a ribbon he

bought to tie up my bonnie brown hair, a locket in which his likeness and mine are enshrined. How often are the wee flowers and the green sod watered with tears! How oft the ribbon and the jewel pressed almost convulsively to the quivering lip! Even stalwart, determined men have their little mementoes to be taken across the ocean wave. The mavis, that it may sing in their far-off land of an unforgettable home; the "bairdly" thistle, "Scotia's darling emblem," has often been transplanted, that it might wave as proudly over the prairie as it did over the lea. Alas for the patriotic intention that took it to bloom beyond the sea, for instead of being a glory it has become a pest. Wafted by the breeze, its down has sped over the land, struck its roots deep into the soil, and successfully absorbed the moisture and the sun that should have ripened the farmer's harvest. It has been found hardly possible to eradicate it, and consideration for the emotion of patriotism it sustains has been thrown aside, and the communities of British Canada came to an understanding to have a permissive law for its extinction. But it appears that these communities have been found slow to wage an exterminating war on a symbol so dear, and it is now made compulsory on them to have all thistles in their boundaries cut down by the 25th of June each year. So, in obedience to district necessities, the thistle dies. What matters the manly thoughts, proud national feelings, the historical associations inseparably entwined with its name, and its still grander motto—the people, acting on the stern old law that private feelings must give way to national necessities, have resolved that it shall no longer cumber the ground or usurp the soil. We forbear to paint Scotland "greetin' o'er her thistle," but rather ask, if Canadian townships are constrained to enter upon a war of extermination against the proud emblem of Scotland upon the ground of its rapacious usurpations, why does not a greater reason impel us to assail an interest doing a million times more evil than the thistle can do; which baffles our philanthropists, and flourishes in spite of all we have power meantime to do? The Canadians are consistent; they prefer the honest, sober citizen to the citizen embruted by drink, and they are suppressing the drinking saloon. They prefer barley, rye, maple, sugar, and apples to the thistle, even with its proud associations, and they are uprooting the emblem. Let us make our choice. Let us also continue to declare that we prefer the welfare of our own kith and kin to that of the publican. Let us make no mistake. Let not the associations inseparable from the traffic, its hollow pleasures, its boasted claims upon the revenue, blind us to its dreadful nature and its deplorable consequences, but rather quicken our zeal, invigorate our energies, and strengthen our resolves till we successfully combine our political power in an invincible effort for its overthrow by the power of the national will and through the form of a rate-payers' veto.

A few months back we drew attention to the proposed constitution of a "Home Colonist" party in a remote settlement of the United States. The constitution showed that these colonists were returning to that true simplicity of life which we generally associate with the golden age. We pointed this colony out, not as a sample, and in fact not as solitary, but as a specimen of many similar communities to be found on the surface of the earth. Last month we see from a paper read before the French Geographical Society by Dr. Le Bon, that away in the remote regions of the Carpathian mountains in Gallacia, there dwells a most primitive and unsophisticated community. There are several thousands in it, and all rejoice in the name of 'Podhalians.' Riches have no charms for them. They neither use strong drink nor eat animal food. Though poor they are content, and though their diet is spare and monotonous, they enjoy perfect health and live long lives. Their food is principally oats made in cakes, and for five months in the year they live, while in the mountain pastures, on goat milk whey. What is the character of this mountain race? They are remarkable for their vigour and energy, and are incontestably superior, physically and intellectually, to the neighbouring population. Their physique is remarkably pure; they are quick of apprehension and frank in manner. Their way of life is easy and tranquil—not because they have abundance, but because their needs are few, and they are free from the craving of stimulants, which is the curse of working people in other parts of Europe! They are poets and musicians, and their poetry is tender and artless in sentiment, generous and elevated in style—qualities which Dr. Le Bon attributes to natures that know neither violent passions nor unnatural excitements. It is hardly possible to conceive a greater contrast to the feverish civilization of to-day than that presented by this mountain tribe, or to imagine a more severe rebuke to its love of wealth, its manifold cravings, and its restless existence, than these simple people give by their unsophisticated lives. Love of wealth, love of feasting, love of excitement, have no charms for them. Yet these are the very errors to which the present members of so-called educated and cultured society are most prone, and through which they so deeply suffer. The race for wealth, the lust of feeding, and the alcoholic drink craving find no place in the desires of the Podhalians, and physically, morally, and emotionally, they tower above their neighbours. Their poetry, their song, their music, the dance, complete their round of recreations, and simple diet and abstinence from alcoholic liquors make up their joyous alimentary desires. Compare their life, in its linked sweetness long drawn out, with the people of our own land, and who will be so bold as to say that it does not immeasurably transcend that want of satisfaction, that fierce struggle for existence, that abnormal nervous drink excitement, that enfeebled constitution, and that

doubtful future which is so eminently characteristic of so many of the people of our highly civilised society.

In prospect of a vacancy in East Lothian, by the resignation of Lord Elcho, or because of his succession to the Earldom of Wemyss, Mr. R. B. Finlay, of London, has been making the tour of the county giving expression to his views on the great questions of the day. On some of these much division of opinion exists, the *Scotsman*—ominous sign—being elated with him. On the question of prohibition he is nearly as bad as Lord Elcho, for he openly prefers licensing control through that political fraud, a Board specially elected by the ratepayers, and invested with plenary powers! We have nothing but opposition to such candidatures, and we expect that by and by they will be tossed aside as too shallow and ignorant for a robust prohibitory constituency anywhere in Scotland. The time is approaching rapidly when the franchise will be extended, and the new accession will be in no humour even to listen to a man that thinks he has solved the great drink difficulty, by proposing to deal with the liquor traffic effectively by an administrative Board rather than by an absolute veto; by a medicine that prolongs its sickly days rather than by a blow that stills its iniquities for ever. On the liquor question there must be no trimming. What help would such a candidate really be to Sir Wilfrid Lawson? He might be pressed to vote for the second reading of his bill, but in committee would be found defeating his object by voting for the old state of things under a new name. The candidate who pledges himself to support the absolute veto, through all its stages, is alone worth the working for, and alone worthy of support.

"S." the indefatigable correspondent of the *Alliance News*, says very wisely,—“The natural impatience felt by the friends of the Alliance at the parliamentary block should be no stop, but rather a spur to increased activity on behalf of prohibition. The manufacture and storage of force is always in season, and the application of it in the two forms—of getting an Act, and putting the Act into operation—will be proportioned to the amount of this power. It is in this way that hindrances and reverses may be “blessings in disguise.” Till Parliament can be acted on, let every temperance reformer give himself to the hopeful task of making those round him informed as to the character of the reform required, and interested in its promotion. This will make Sir Wilfrid all the stronger when he does get a hearing, and it will shape any Government measure into more complete conformity with our wishes.

Success, decisive and progressive, waits obsequiously upon the United Kingdom General Provident Institution. The last annual report is signally satisfactory. We have often drawn attention to its position, but rarely with such pleasure as we do now. There are two sections, one composed of very occasional or, as they like to style themselves, moderate drinkers: the other total abstainers. It is hardly to be conceived that there should be much difference between these two classes, but there is very much. A few years ago, the auditor, Mr. Hardy, grimly explained the reason of the difference; “the drinkers die so fast.” The effect of these repeated disclosures of the immense superiority of the temperance section over that of the general one, has

had an educative effect of great importance, the members of the general section adopting abstinence that they might be qualified for the abstinence section. There were 533 expected claims on the Institution during the year, the actual claims were 421. In the general section the expected were 320, value, £68,664, the actual, 290, value, £61,055, only a difference of 30 claims: a close shave. This showed that for every 20 deaths expected 18 took place. Now look at the temperance section. There the expected claims were 213, value £46,987, the actual were 131 for £25,249, a difference in claims of 82. A very large difference. For every 20 deaths in the temperance section there were not quite 13 deaths, or 27% of a gain. Nothing can equal the significance of these figures; they eloquently speak of the great benefit of temperance, and show clearly how it contributes to length of days.

The Earl of Zetland is to be congratulated on the success of his appeal to the House of Lords. His gain, and it is an important one, is this. He is perfectly within his rights to make a stipulation in his leases or feus which excludes the liquor traffic from his property in all time coming. This is a most important deliverance, for it will vindicate the wisdom of those landlords who have in like manner excluded the liquor traffic from the soil they own by a proviso in their feu charters. And this judgment is not limited by any after proceedings in the Grangemouth case. If his lordship, as we heartily hope not, has proved to have been too dilatory in enforcing his rights and the publicans swarm in that busy port in spite of him, he may rely on the inhabitants availing themselves as soon as they may of the absolute veto and applying it without compunction and without compensation to their publican tyrants. We hope confidently that the evidence will be found overwhelmingly in favour of his lordship's contentions. Meantime it is a pleasure to read the public comments on the subject from the Duke of Argyll to the Anonymas of the press. His Grace may have strong leanings to feudal right, but his views on the evils of the public house are clear and forcible, and his advocacy of feuars and landlords' rights, deteriorated too often by the presence of liquor shops, are eminently cogent and convincing. But the Grangemouth case has a broader field of view. Citizens can rejoice at it. True, they may not be landlords but they are certainly electors, and they are themselves always in danger from, and but too often injured by, the sale of alcoholic drinks. They can alter and modify the order of existence in which they find themselves. They have done so times without number and for reasons not nearly so strong as those which should urge them to emulate Lord Zetland and enforce a righteous prohibitory law against the publicans who infest our centres, and having first squatted by sufferance demand to remain unmolested and secure.

During the past month the activity of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has been intense; and what is unusual, a number of friends who felt unable to assist the Association, out of doors have had numerous opportunities through the Blue Ribbon agitation to create and direct a sound prohibitory conviction, of which they have largely availed themselves. But the great strain of the work has fallen upon the open-air speakers. Mr. Blackwood speaks for himself in another part of this magazine. Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Waterstone, and Mr. A. Bennet find honourable mention in our intelligence columns. Mr. Waterstone has had a candidature, that of East Lothian on his hands, and

for the future gain of the agitation it is to be regretted that he had not better candidates upon whom to exercise his electioneering abilities. Mr. Stevenson has had a signally successful series of meetings in the north. Mr. A. Bennet is rapidly ingratiating himself with the friends in the south of Scotland; while Rev. Samuel Harding, Mr. James Scrymgeour, Dundee, Messrs. Dransfield, Mackay, and Kesson have been earning golden opinions through their labours around Glasgow. They are all needed, for conjoined with the great movements in Scotland there is a great deal of zeal without knowledge. Like every other propaganda the Scottish prohibitory movement is shut out from parliamentary effort, but it does not fold its hands in either discouragement or despair. It continues its appeals to the people in the confidence and in the patience of a hope that when an opportunity does appear the friends it has made will be all the stronger to bend that opportunity to the great purpose of securing power to overthrow the liquor traffic.

It is deplorable that the Government will not be more vigorous in their dealings with the liquor traffic; but where they fail in vigour the temperance forces fail in unity, thus giving a Government averse to effective action the excuse that the country has not made up its mind, and therefore they must wait a little. Now the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association never has deviated from its conception of the evil, nor ever interpreted local option as other than entrusting communities with the power to abolish all liquor traffic injuriously affecting them. But other temperance reformers, instead of supporting the enactment of a law so eminently practical and just, are promoting schemes which are not prohibitory and never can be used for prohibition. We find that a large and most respectable body of United Presbyterians are busily engaged getting signatures to a document which sets forth "that local option is urgently demanded; that it should be vested in local boards elected by the ratepayers for the one specific purpose of dealing with the drink traffic, and that these boards should possess the same legal powers to refuse, grant, or renew licenses as possessed by the licensing courts under the existing law." Now this is simply to have a different authority with the same powers, and these powers are exclusive of the power to suppress. The friends of prohibition must repudiate such a scheme, which every publican and publican organisation will hail with delight; for under it the traffic will flourish in spite of all attempts these boards may make for its control. There are not more than the signatures of three licensing magistrates or justices at this declaration, the rest being ministers and heads of colleges. Now what we would like to see would be these ministers formed into a board of liquor control. They would be in a relation to the traffic near enough to see it in all its horrors, and we should soon see them as warm friends of the veto over the traffic, as they seem to be of a board for its regulation.

The Blue Ribbon movement continues to produce wondrous results wherever the friends combine their money and their efforts to achieve success. Aberdeen and Paisley have been the centres where Mr. Murphy and his friends have been bringing in the reclaimed from the drink swamps of our land. Fifteen thousand from Aberdeen, and nineteen thousand from Paisley, as accessions to the Blue Ribbon Army, speak with great power of the desire of the people to be freed from the drink bondage. It makes effectual answer to that silly objection that

the people will not enforce prohibition when they have it in their power. Indeed! If they are so eager to lay aside the habit of drinking, is it to be believed that they will hesitate to banish temptation to drinking when they have it in their power? In Stewarton, Johnstone, Denny, Leith, and many other places, this aspect of the agitation finds great favour. The Scottish Permissive Bill Association rejoices at this work, even although its immediate result may not be prohibition. Every one won from the power of the drinking customs weakens the traffic, and strengthens prohibitory convictions. Hence its advocates and agents have gladly thrown themselves into the work, at the same time convinced that, great and urgent as the work of making abstainers is, it is greater and more urgent to stop the public-house, and thus stop the making of drinkers whom the good and the sober will have to attempt to rescue, and yet have their hearts wrung with sorrow, that notwithstanding all their efforts, so many will perish in their debasing sin. The greatest lesson which this mission presents is that an effort in favour of prohibition on the same scale as is now being made in favour of total abstinence, would bring prohibition into actual operation over Scotland nearer by years. We rejoice to think that this thought is finding a place in the minds of many friends. May it deepen and strengthen day by day!

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—V.

PAYMENT OF WAGES IN PUBLIC HOUSES—OPENING OF MUSEUMS—ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS—SUNDAY CLOSING (ENGLAND)—PETERHEAD LICENSING CASE—CORK RACES—DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY—SPANISH WINES—PETERHEAD LICENSING CASE.

May 19.—The payment of wages in Public-Houses' Prevention Bill was read a third time and passed in the House of Lords.

— in the House of Commons Mr. G. Howard moved in favour of the opening of all museums and picture galleries supported by national funds. In course of his speech he said, "As things were at present, the only place any one had to go to was the public-house. (Cheers.) The churches were shut many hours of the Sunday. (Hear, hear.) If the local option majority were in earnest they would support this resolution—(hear, hear)—which, though it did not deal directly with the temperance question, provided an attraction for the people on the day when temptations to intemperance were the greatest. (Hear, hear.) Some might say the right way was to shut up the public-houses altogether on Sundays. He was one of these people, but if they did shut up the public-houses the demand for opening up some other places would be far stronger than now. Mr. Burt said that in the working men's clubs, working men had thrown aside the idle and the frivolous, though innocent amusements, in which they indulged in on other days and devoted their time to the listening to lectures and solid methods of improvement. His impression was that public opinion was going entirely and very fast ripening in the direction of closing altogether the beer shops and gin palaces on Sunday—(cheers)—and, at the same time in the direction of throwing open these purer and more healthy places of recreation as a substitute for the demoralizing influence of the public-houses. (Cheers.) Mr. Alex. Arthur said while he did not think the opening of these institutions would wean the people from the public-houses he believed they would draw them away from the Sunday schools which had done so much to elevate the people of this country. He also believed that it would increase the consumption of ardent spirits, because wherever they had these places open they must have refreshment bars. Mr. Cairne said his amendment that these places do

not open before one o'clock had been accepted by the mover of the resolution. With regard to the extraordinary statement of the honourable member for Leicester (Mr. M'Arthur) that the opening of museums and innocent places of amusement on Sunday would produce a larger consumption of ardent spirits, he desired to remind the House that it had twice affirmed the desirability of entire Sunday closing of public-houses, while it had not once expressed an affirmative opinion on the question now under consideration, so that they were more likely to have legislation first on the former subject than on the latter. Mr. Onslow believed that nothing would fill the public-houses more than the opening of these places. How would hon. members like to be on their legs in the National Gallery or in the Crystal Palace for three hours without getting some refreshment, and where could people go but to the public-houses. (Cheers.) Do not let any one suppose he was in favour of closing public-houses. (Ironical cheers.) Still to be consistent he must tell hon. members opposite that if they carried out their views nothing more would tend to fill the public-houses than the opening of these places of amusement. Sir W. Lawson said the hon. member for Guilford (Mr. Onslow) was one of the strongest advocates for opening public-houses and yet he would shut museums. (Laughter.) It seemed to him as if the established religion of this country was the worship of Bacchus—(laughter)—and the hon. member shuddered lest the power of Bacchus should be diminished if this motion were adopted. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) He did not believe that going to see stuffed monkeys—(laughter)—would elevate a man to the highest pitch. (Renewed laughter.) All he said was that it was much better to go there than to these abominable places which the law opened for them to go at present. (Cheers.) The motion was lost by 208 to 83 votes. The result was loudly cheered.

May 22.—On the motion of Mr. Corry a return was ordered giving the number of arrests for drunkenness within the metropolitan district of Dublin, the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford, and the town of Belfast on Sundays between the 1st day of May, 1881, and the 30th day of April, 1882, both days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays until 8 a.m. on Mondays.

May 24.—Mr. Stevenson obtained leave to bring in a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday.

June 5.—In reply to Dr. Cameron the Lord Advocate said that he had made careful inquiry in the case at Peterhead to which the hon. member had referred. At the joint Confirmation Licensing Committee on 15th May applications were presented for the confirmation of three licenses which had been unanimously granted by the magistrates. Two of these were for porter and ale licenses which had expired that day. There was not a quorum present, only three out of six being present. Those present made the following deliverance—"The Confirming Committee confirm, so far as they have power to confirm (a quorum not being present), the above three certificates subject to the parties taking the risk of the Court not being complete, and, in respect of no one appearing to oppose the application, and, further, that the magistrates unanimously granted the licenses at the Licensing Court." If the whole committee had attended the confirmation would have been assured. The remark of the provost that he did not think that "there was much fear of them, and if it were him he would take the risk and give a fellow the drink he wanted" was merely spoken in jest, and they were so understood by those addressed. The applicants have been selling liquors since that date, and the Excise have accepted the duty on deposit till a Confirmation Court is held. He would not say if the confirmations were legal or not. Dr. Cameron said that he would give notice to ask the secretary of the treasury whether it was not the case that the Excise had accepted these confirmations, and if so, under what statute they had power to do so.

— Mr. Trevelyan, in reply to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, said it was true that a meeting of the Cork

city magistrates was held on 28th May, at which it was resolved not to grant any occasional licenses for the races there on 7th June, and that one magistrate had attempted to defeat this resolution by signing the necessary certificates for such licenses, but as the magistrates who were themselves responsible for the peace and good order of the city had not complained, the Executive did not see their way to interfere.

June 12.—Mr. Caine gave notice that he would ask the Judge Advocate-General this day week how many punishments for drunkenness, either summary or by court-martial, had been inflicted on officers and men in the army during 1880 and 1881, and whether a circular had been issued by the War Office in which it was stated that special advantages were offered to soldiers for obtaining beer in the canteens.

June 13.—Mr. Courtenay, replying to Dr. Cameron, who gave notice of his question on 15th, said,—“The Excise had not granted any of the three licenses at Peterhead, but, in accordance with their usual practice and not in contravention of any Act of Parliament, they informed the applicants that if they thought, subject to the license duty to sell on their own responsibility pending full confirmation, they would not be interfered with so far as the Excise was concerned. Dr. Cameron gave notice that he would, on Thursday, ask whether the Act did not prevent the granting of licenses on new certificates until full confirmation had taken place.

June 15.—Sir Chas. Dilke, in answer to Mr. H. Lea said, that the Government were not in a position to explain the nature of the negotiations on Spanish wine.

— Mr. Courtenay, in answer to Dr. Cameron, said, that the Board of Inland Revenue were alone responsible for the course taken by their officer at Peterhead in allowing the three parties who were selling liquors there to sell liquors without having such licenses confirmed, and they would not take action against any of their own officers. The Board did not grant licenses. The Justices' clerk said that a meeting would be held about the middle of this month. The taking action on the applicants would be unjust to them who, but for the non-attendance of the Confirmation Court, would have had their licenses granted or refused, but if they or any other person chose they could proceed against them for selling liquor without a license.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The venerable Assembly was opened on Thursday, 25th ult., by the Earl of Aberdeen, the High Commissioner, with the usual formalities. On the 3rd curt., Rev. G. Wilson, of Cramond, gave in the report of the Committee on Intemperance, which stated that much effective work had been done during the year. The report showed that from every part of Scotland ministers, elders, and members were striving against the evils of drunkenness with deeper interest, more earnest zeal, and more direct agency. Intemperance is more frequently referred to in sermons, and the annual sermon enjoined by the Assembly is more effective in its influence. The number of temperance associations throughout the Church is increasing, their management is becoming more successful, and their influence more apparent, and their conferences more frequent. The Blue Ribbon movement is favourably noticed, the churches showing sympathy and giving aid. The most popular agency in behalf of temperance is Bands of Hope, which have sprung up in all directions. The University temperance societies are flourishing. The ladies' association has got under way in a most auspicious manner, and counteractive agencies are growing. The committee call attention to (1) That magistrates should be more strict in granting licenses; (2) That chief constables should make a systematic report of persons seen leaving public-houses intoxicated; (3) More strict and careful enforcement of the law relating to transfers should be attended to. The committee would like to see (1) Public-houses earlier closed, because there is more drunkenness produced after 10 o'clock, and on Saturday they might be closed earlier than 10 p.m.; (2) Road-

side inns should be reduced to taverns so that the *bona fide* traveller might be abolished; (3) There should be a radical change in the law relating to grocers' licenses; (4) The age at which boys and girls should get liquor should be raised. The committee, pointing out the measures which had been before Parliament—Free Licensing, Permissive Bill, Gothenburg System, the Chamberlain System, and Lord Campbell's Bill—say that this fact shows that the next bill which passes into law will give effect to a restrictive policy. Mr. J. N. Cuthbertson, Glasgow (elder), moved the following deliverance:—“The Assembly approve of the report, reappoint the committee, with Rev. George Wilson, convener. The Assembly, deploring the intemperance prevalent in Scotland, and recognising that it is one of the greatest hindrances to the prosperity of the Church and the welfare of the country, strongly recommend all members of the Church to give earnest attention to this important subject, and to promote, by personal example and every lawful effort, the observance of temperance throughout the Church; and instruct the committee to promote, wherever practicable, organisations with a total abstinence and general section, and to further the formation of juvenile branches, that the Church may be united in her strength against the evils of drunkenness. The Assembly learn with satisfaction that a Church of Scotland Ladies' Temperance Association has been formed, and warmly commend it to the sympathy and support of the women throughout the Church. The Assembly commend to the consideration of the inferior courts of the Church the statement in the report concerning the statutes regulating the liquor traffic, with the suggestions thereon. The Assembly, believing that much good would result from a reduction in the number of licensed houses and the earlier closing of public-houses, would hail with satisfaction legislation in this direction, and instruct the committee to watch over any measure coming before the Legislature that affects the temperance interests of the Church. The Assembly recommend ministers frequently to direct and exhort their congregations from the pulpit on the subject of intemperance, and specially to do this on Sunday, 17th December next.” He said that no agencies could succeed unless the Church took its proper place in the matter. The committee was not a total abstinence committee but one for the suppression of intemperance, and he thought the Church was within its duty in condemning intemperance. He asked the Church to strengthen the rising temperance opinion in the country, which it had the power to do, and all should cordially cooperate in this matter. Mr. M'Kenzie, Little Dunkeld, said it was noticeable that wherever the ministers of the Church of Scotland gave countenance to the Blue Ribbon movement it had succeeded beyond expectation, but where they had merely given their sympathy and refused their cooperation it did not meet with the success which had attended it in other places. Rev. Dr. F. L. Robertson, Glasgow, said that although ministers held different opinions on this matter, all should cooperate. He had thorough and cordial sympathy with the work done by the committee. He was not himself personally a teetotaler, nor imagined it likely that he ever would be one, but thought the Church was bound to the enterprise for the sake of the men engaged in the trade. Large numbers of the trade were in their churches, and as was sometimes done, they ought not to discourage these from becoming members of their churches. So long as a man engaged in a lawful trade, and carried it on with integrity, faithfulness, and purity of life, he was entitled to be a member of the Church. They should protect these men from the evils of the trade, and in any efforts in favour of wholesome legislation they were neglecting what might prove a very potent and valuable ally in not endeavouring to gather round them the better spirited members of the trade. When they held up a particular calling, whether lawful or not, to contempt, and heaped contumely upon it, they thereby tended to degrade in their own self-respect all the men engaged in it, and he did not think that the Church was warranted in doing so with respect to what was after all undoubtedly a legal calling. He knew of no calling requiring greater faithfulness, greater

strength of character and will than that of the liquor traffic. If a bold effort was made to induce the legislature to insist that public-houses should not be opened before eight or nine in the morning and should be closed at nine at night, the question would be practically settled for a generation; about nine-tenths of the evil would vanish, and surely twelve hours a-day afforded ample opportunity for a man to get drunk if he was determined to get drunk. He did not think that closing public-houses as he proposed would be any interference with the liberty of the subject, and he was certain it would produce a most beneficial revolution, at all events among certain classes of society. Rev. Mr. Gunn, Dollar, urged personal abstinence as the most powerful of all influences in the matter of temperance reform. Rev. Dr. Lees, Edinburgh, said that he had the most intense sympathy with all movements in the direction of promoting temperance. He sympathised with Mr. Gunn to a very considerable extent, though he did not, like that gentleman, see his way to become an abstainer, because he believed he should have less influence in his present position by becoming an abstainer than he had by cultivating what he ventured to call temperance and showing, as he hoped he did, moderation in this as in other things. He believed the true remedy for this fearful curse was to be found in moral and spiritual influences. He had not the same faith that some good men had in restrictive measures, and, so far as external remedies were concerned, he went rather for counter-acting agencies, and should like to see a great deal more done in the way of promoting sound amusement for the people. So long as human nature was what it was, it must have, and would have, amusement; if a man did not get it in one place he would go and find it in another; and he believed there was nothing in a city like Edinburgh that tended so much to hinder the cause of temperance as the fact that the working man often had no place for recreation and for unbending himself after the toils of the day except the public-house. (Hear, hear.) He had travelled in many countries of Europe, and had often watched with admiration the working man and his family sitting out in the evening in beautiful gardens, and listening to beautiful music; and he should like to see more facilities in that direction given in this country. It was often said our climate was against it. That was true; but in Holland and in Sweden he had seen large palaces to which, if the weather was inclement, people could repair, and where, amid beautiful flowers and plants, they could listen to music and have coffee or some light refreshment, and go home none the worse; and, in a city like Edinburgh or Glasgow, no man could confer a greater benefit on the community than in erecting a large glass palace, where working people and others could go and spend an evening free from the temptations of the kind they were considering. After suggesting that ministers might do good by getting medical men to deliver lectures, such as were given in Edinburgh during the winter, on the diseases caused by intemperance, Dr. Lees went on to say he believed there was a great deal of fearful intemperance caused by the vile stuff often sold to the working classes under the name of drink. In Paisley, he had heard men coming out of a foundry saying, "Let's have a glass of spell the wa'"—"spell the wa'" being a fearful stimulant of vitriolic character, which so maddened them that they felt inclined to climb any wall they came in contact with. He believed a great deal would be done, in the way of promoting the objects they had in view, if some steps could be taken to stop the sale of the most fearful poisonous stuff that was often sold to the working classes under the name of liquor.

Professor CHARTERIS suggested that the Assembly should recognise the service which had been rendered by the committee in presenting a connected view of licensing legislation.

Words to this effect were accordingly inserted in the deliverance, which, after a few remarks from Mr. Wilson, expressive of satisfaction with the spirit of the discussion, was unanimously adopted.

Mr. MACINTOSH, secretary to the Glasgow Working

Men's and West of Scotland Sabbath Protection Association, was introduced by Dr. Campbell, M.P., and submitted a memorial setting forth the grave abuses attending the sale of alcoholic liquors on board Sunday steamers. Dr. Campbell moved the Assembly to remit the memorial to the Committee on Intemperance with powers. Mr. Campbell Swinton, seconding, expressed his surprise that this matter had not been more persistently pressed upon their attention, and by them upon the legislature. He knew what a monstrous and crying evil it was, and it was impossible for the committee to take too speedy means of bringing it before Parliament. The motion was agreed to, and the association and its representative, Mr. Macintosh, awarded a vote of thanks.

THE FREE CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—This Assembly met at Edinburgh on Thursday, 18th ult., Rev. Dr. M'Donald, moderator. On the 19th Rev. Alex. M'Kenzie brought up the report on religion and morals, which bore that Sabbath-breaking was on the increase, that discipline is exercised principally for ante-nuptial fornication and drunkenness, that there is much reading of profane literature on Sundays; indifference and irreligion too often characterise the farm servants who, as a class, do not attend the Free Church. There is much to be thankful for however, and the visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey is favourably referred to. The convener said that there was no mention of the Salvation Army in the report. There were different reports and different judgments on it. Their modes of procedure in conducting their work were not what as a Church they to a large extent approve. Perhaps the evil did counterbalance the good, and while the good might be more evanescent the evil might be more permanent. He felt a difficulty in whether or not classifying these workers under the class which our Lord referred to. "He that is not against us is for us." With all that was doing outside the Church the question might be asked, "What was the Church itself doing?" And when he spoke of the Church he meant not its ministers only but its members. What was the power of the Church in this light on the evils of the world in correcting and subduing them? The last census of church attendance brought out a sad state of religious indifference, and it was to be feared that this defective attendance on divine ordinances was not to be laid at the door of one class only but of all classes. Dr. Adams, in speaking to the report, deplored the weakened reverence for the Sabbath, the increased facilities for Sabbath travelling, and the institution of the Sunday Society. Rev. Dr. A. Bonar deprecated the Salvation Army and praised the movement conducted by Messrs. Moody and Sankey. The rest of the discussion afforded nothing of interest. The Church is evidently far from seeing the means of holding her own and making progress. On the 20th the Assembly dealt with a reference from the Presbytery of Glasgow in the case of Rev. W. J. Thomson, junr., minister of Bridge-ton Free Church. Mr. Thomson had confessed that as a member of an Irish presbytery he had been guilty of intoxication, and in his late charge he had also been intoxicated. He tendered his resignation, the which the Presbytery declined, suspending him, however. Although summoned five times he had failed to appear, and was deposed, but finally resolved to report to the General Assembly. The Assembly was moved to depose, and after prayer the moderator in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ solemnly deposed W. J. Thomson from the office of the ministry. On Monday there was a conference on temperance for two hours. The first speaker was Rev. J. Scott, B.Sc., Glasgow, who gave an account of the gospel temperance and evangelical movement in Glasgow, carried on under the auspices of the United Evangelistic Association. Mr. Moody had kept them so hard at work that they had not been able to make up their annual report, but they had the previous year pledged 6,000. The crowded meetings in the Circus had been very successful, and the testimonies given by converted drunkards had induced others to take the pledge. Hundreds of men had been converted to Christ. Mr. Moody gave a

most characteristic speech. In course of it he frankly admitted that he had not given the subject of Bible temperance sufficient attention. It seemed to him that the Church of God should look at this question. It was time she did when one out of every eleven of the inhabitants of Britain was either in the madhouse or in the penitentiary, or a pauper or a drunkard. Pointing to God's prohibition of drinking by the priests, he said, Had not the time come in Scotland when the ministers were putting it away. (Applause.) He did not come to censure or condemn, God forbid. He wished all the drink in the Atlantic Ocean and all the brewers and distillers in the kingdom of God. (Applause.) What were they going to do with these men that were taking drink, for if they did not reach out a hand to them they would lapse and become worse than ever. Could they honestly advise a man to go to a church the minister of which was a moderate drinker. Here they had got hundreds of these men and some of them had not been sober on a Sabbath for a year, but now they were struggling into liberty, coming out of captivity, getting their feet set upon a rock, and God was putting a new song into their mouth. Would they put them under moderate-drinking ministers and thus tempt the men? If these men were nursed and looked after by the Church he believed they would stand. The Rev. Dr. Gordon, of Boston, admitted into his church twenty-six confirmed drunkards. A few months ago the speaker wrote asking for results. The answer was that twenty-three had stood for the four years—(applause)—one had died, one had a slip but was again reclaimed, and one only had fallen out of the whole. (Applause.) He believed if the church of God arose at this present time and reached out a helping hand to these men that were struggling to be free, it would be the grandest day Scotland had ever seen. (Applause.) He was amazed to see how these men wished the temptation put out of their way—they said it would be all right if it were not for the public-houses. (Applause.) Referring to the extraordinary immigration to Kansas, he said that he believed the working classes were going away from their old homes to be out of the way of temptation. He was told that the moderate use was a higher ground than teetotalism, but he could not see how a man could get any higher than putting away a thing for Christ's sake. (Applause.) Nation after nation had gone down on account of it, and he could not see how this nation could stand it much longer. The time, he thought, had come when every Christian man should put it away and set an example. It was hard work when they had godly men advocating moderate drinking. When he met a godly man—a man they looked up to, a man seemingly living in communion with God—defending drink, it was pretty hard work to go and tell these men in the gutter to give up drinking. He used to think and say, Preach the gospel and do not take the pledge, and to-day he would keep holding up Christ's gospel, but at the same time let a man take the pledge and stand firm to it. (Applause.) If they brought him to Christ and let him hear that moderate drinking was not very bad, he might fall and bring scandal on the cause of Jesus Christ. After referring to the Israelites, Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist, he continued, he could do as much work as most men—(laughter and applause)—and that without stimulants. He did not believe the world was to be reached by drinking ministers. He was talking to a publican who had four shops in Glasgow, and to his amazement the publican took up some of the arguments he had heard from ministers advocating that it was one of God's great mercies. Now, he said, "Look here, my friend, pray over the matter. If it is right, let us go down to your shop to-morrow morning, and let us open it with prayer if you say your business is honourable." A distiller in Campbellton where he had visited said, "If you can show me my business is not according to the Word of God I will give it up." He (Mr. Moody) said—"Look at it this way—Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Now, do you distil your whisky to the glory of God?" (Applause.) He would like to see a distiller go down beside a barrel of whisky to pray to God, "Send out

this whisky and let it be a blessing to my fellow-men." (Loud applause). Mr. J. C. White, Glasgow, next addressed the Assembly, narrating how he had been induced in December last, after dealing with a victim of intemperance at the close of an evangelistic meeting, to become an abstainer, because he felt that his influence would be powerless in the work of reclaiming the intemperate unless he, for their sake, abstained from the use of all intoxicating drinks. He now felt strongly that, unless they made up their minds, for Christ's sake, to give up the use of intoxicating drink, they would not have the power over the class of intemperate men that they otherwise would have. Six months ago he could not have endorsed what Mr. Moody had just said; but from his experience in evangelistic work amongst the intemperate, he felt satisfied that if a minister wished to hold up Christ to sinners so as to rescue them from the power of this prevailing sin, he must have his own hands clear of the drinking customs. (Applause.) Rev. Dr. Andrew Bonar concurred. Mr. Howie, Govan, said that at one time, by medical advice, he took bitter beer; but he soon found that if he had the smell of beer he would lose his influence over the people. He had been for seventeen or eighteen years a teetotaler, and he wished that all his brethren in the ministry would think of the influence they might exercise over others by being abstainers. Mr. Bannerman said he had received a letter from Mr. J. H. Martin, the secretary of the Dundee Temperance Society, intimating that Provost Moncur had abolished the cake-and-wine banquet usually held on the Queen's birthday, and to show that total abstainers were not lacking in loyalty he had issued invitations for a temperance luncheon that day. Upwards of 30,000 names had been enrolled in connection with the blue ribbon movement in Dundee, and of these the visitors found that comparatively few had lapsed, and these were more than made up for by those who joined in connection with the visitation. (Applause.) On Thursday the annual meeting of the Temperance Society was held in the Bible Society's rooms. Rev. J. C. Burns presided. The report was submitted by Rev. W. Ross, secretary. He said that there are fully 500 abstaining ministers in the Free Church. Great progress had been made in some quarters, and during the past eighteen months 80 Highland ministers had adhered to their principles. The chairman was of opinion that the conference was the best he ever remembered to have seen. Rev. R. Milligan reported on the marvellous progress of the cause in Dundee. The movement there had begun to tell upon the revenue to an alarming extent. (Applause.) The revenue from liquor was decreasing at the rate of £1000 per week. Mr. J. Guthrie, J.P., Brechin, gave a humorous address, and through his appeal 40 of those present put on the blue ribbon. Provost Campbell, Greenock, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and several new members were enrolled at the close. The same evening the Assembly resumed the consideration of the committee's report on temperance. As regards local option, a deputation from the Free Church and U.P. Church had had an interview with Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate; and 16 Presbyteries and 2 Synods had petitioned in favour of a local option measure for Scotland. The subject was discussed at presbyterial conferences; and the declaration in favour of licensing boards had been widely signed by ministers and others of the F.C. The report referred to the Gospel Temperance and Blue Ribbon missions in favourable terms. It had been successful where its founder and his coadjutors had never been. Several presbyteries had petitioned in favour of Dr. Cameron's bill. The committee was engaged with the consideration of Lord Campbell's Licensing Bill, which had been strongly opposed by both publicans and teetotalers. The committee, though glad that a youthful member of Parliament should give his attention to this matter, looked upon his bill as unworkable. The committee recommended a special conference on local option and gospel temperance, and that the Assembly again petition in favour of local option. Rev. D. D. Bannerman, in submitting the re-

port, said there was a rising interest in the temperance cause, and a wave of moral quickening passing over the country of the most remarkable and hopeful kind. He remembered getting three rules from Rev. Dr. Fairbairn of Newhaven for such a time as this. Whenever you are brought into contact with any spiritual movement such as that amongst us, first sympathise, second superintend, third supplement. He specially commended the gospel temperance movement to the sympathy of the younger members of the Church. In regard to local option for Scotland, to which this committee had devoted during the past year a great deal of consideration and a great deal of effort, he hoped the brethren would consider carefully what was said in the report. Mr. Guthrie, J.P., Brechin, moved the deliverance of the Assembly, thanking the committee for its labours; renewing the injunction to preach a sermon on temperance on third Sabbath of December; rejoicing in the encouraging statements in the report; exhorting ministers and office-bearers to show sympathy with such movements as those promoted by Messrs. Moody, Murphy, and others, and to use the opportunities presented to them by such movements for the restoration of the fallen; expressing their sympathy with the declaration of the Glasgow conference; instructing the committee to take all steps to further the object of the declaration, and to petition in favour of a local option measure for Scotland. Mr. Guthrie said that he considered the Church countenanced drinking, and it remained with the Church to cure drunkenness. He hoped to live to see the time when all Christian ministers would be total abstainers. (Applause.) Rev. Lewis Davidson, St. Andrews, in seconding the motion, said the temperance question was now in the forefront. In its behalf there had been an awakening of sympathy, conscience, and intelligence, and though the battle was not won, there was an opportunity offered for brave men stepping in and obtaining the victory. (Applause.) Were they to follow or were they to lead in this movement? That question addressed itself to every minister in the Church. He should not only give his sympathy, but he should step down into the arena and take his place in the fight. The young ministers in the Church were ready to take their part in the fight. (Applause.) Rev. Mr. Martin, Stornoway, referred to the importance of cutting off the supply of drink as the best means of curing intemperance. Major Ross, Aberdeen, said that the tide of temperance was rising and it would rise till it had submerged this abominable traffic in drink. One great hope he had in Mr. Murphy's movement was that it was taking such a hold of the young. This drink traffic with which they had been tampering and trifling these years past was destroying all around, and they refused to deny themselves a little luxury that this accursed thing might be swept out of their country. (Applause.) Rev. Mr. M'Kinnon, from Canada, detailed the working of the Scott Act. In Georgetown they had abolished the public-houses. The result is that drunkenness has disappeared. (Applause.) The county jail of the town, where there was a considerable number of people always, was emptied, so that several times when the court sat there were no criminals to try, and the jailor said they were thinking of turning the prison into a hydropathic. (Laughter.) It was true the Act had not entirely abolished the sale and the drinking, but it had sent the sale into the category of crime, and the illicit sale was confined to the very lowest classes. All the ministers and most of the elders were teetotalers. (Applause.) Rev. Dr. Nicholson, Linlithgow, a born teetotaler, said that toast-drinking had been abolished at ordinations in the Presbytery of Linlithgow. (Applause.) Bailie Dickson, Glasgow, said that the last time he sat on the bench, out of 95 cases brought before him, 85 cases sprang directly from drink. Rev. J. G. Cunningham remarked on the largeness of the meeting. He was glad that the testimony of the Church at this time was so largely in favour of personal abstinence and local option. (Applause.) Those in favour of the traffic dared not speak in its behalf, and there was a mighty power in public opinion that might be brought to bear

on this traffic to an extent unprecedented. The deliverance was adopted. The committee, on the application of Rev. A. C. Kay to be reponed, could not recommend that he be so just now. The Assembly left his case to the Commission, with powers.

The Weekly Tract Society, which issues excellent narrative tracts in large type for working people, every week, is for a short time making one-third price grants of the tracts issued by the society. Thus for 5s., 15s. worth of useful tracts can be obtained. As the quantity set apart for distribution on these conditions is very limited, early application should be made to the secretary, Mr. Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

DUNDEE—GOSPEL TEMPERANCE UNION.—Last night (4th ult.) a great open-air meeting of the Union was held in the Barrack Park. Notwithstanding the threatening character of the weather, from 1600 to 2000 persons were congregated. The Rev. Andrew Inglis presided. Mr. Robert Stevenson, of Glasgow, made a powerful appeal in favour of the general adoption of abstinence from intoxicating liquors. Messrs. James Scrymgeour and John Carter also delivered telling addresses. Upwards of 2000 tracts and leaflets were distributed, and a considerable number of persons took the pledge, and donned the blue ribbon at the close of the meeting.—*Dundee Courier and Argus*.

DUNDEE—OPEN-AIR TEMPERANCE MEETING.—The last of the present series of open-air meetings for the advocacy of the Permissive Bill and local option principles was held at the High School Gate on 8th ult. In the absence of Councillor Smith, the chair was occupied by Mr. John Carter, agent of the Dundee Temperance Society. There was a large attendance, with a mixture of all classes, and all were apparently interested in the proceedings. Stirring addresses were delivered by the chairman, Mr. James Scrymgeour, and Mr. Robert Stevenson, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. Many hundreds of temperance tracts were distributed, and at the close a good many names were registered in the blue ribbon roll.—*Dundee Advertiser*.

TEMPERANCE SHIP LAUNCH.—At ship launches it has hitherto been the custom to use, in the christening ceremony, a bottle of wine; it is, however, satisfactory to record that at the yard of Messrs. Edward Withy & Co., Hartlepool, water is used instead. On the 2nd ult., a fine large steamer, about 3,100 tons burthen, was launched for Mr. F. Herskind, of West Hartlepool, the senior partner in the firm of shipbuilders, Mr. Edward Withy, wearing "the ribbon of blue," leading Mrs. J. J. Woods to a raised platform to perform the ceremony of christening the vessel, the "Hypatia." Probably this is the first steamer launched under the combined auspices of the Good Templar and Blue Ribbon movements.—*Cor.* [It is a common occurrence on the Clyde to launch with water instead of wine. We can't see why ships should be christened with wine any more than babies.—Ed. S.R.]

Sunday School teachers will be glad to know that by a liberal arrangement, made by the publisher, the annual volume of the *Teachers' Storehouse and Treasury*, will be supplied to them, for a limited period, at half price, viz., one shilling, or post free for one shilling and fourpence; as the work is a perfect "storehouse" of useful material for the teacher's use, we advise our readers to apply for the book to Mr. Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

PERMISSIVE BILL MEETING IN THE WEST PORT.—Last night (5th ult.) a large open-air meeting on behalf of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association was held in the West Port. Mr. Alexander Ewan, bookseller, presided. The Chairman opened the proceedings in a short address, setting forth the principle of the people having the right of declaring whether they will have publichouses or not. Mr. James Scrymgeour followed with an address, showing that the true patriots and reformers of a country were those who reformed themselves and their own homes. Mr. Robert Stevenson,

from Glasgow, the agent of the Association, demonstrated the necessity of right action in putting down the liquor traffic, and explained the doctrine of local option. Several thousand tracts were distributed among the audience, and a number of fresh adherents to the Blue Ribbon Union enrolled.—*Dundee Courier and Argus*.

TEMPERANCE MEETINGS.—Addresses on temperance were delivered by Mr. Andrew Bennet, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, in front of the Town Hall, Annan, on Monday and Tuesday evenings, 12th and 13th ult. The Rev. E. Young presided on Monday evening, and the Rev. J. Ronald on Tuesday evening. Mr. Bennet has just taken up his residence in Dumfries, having been appointed by the above-mentioned Society to superintend their operations in the three south-western counties. He argued strongly in favour of the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic, and was listened to with much attention. Adjournment was made on Tuesday evening to the Independent Chapel, where, after further address from Mr. Bennet, it was urged that the temperance friends in Annan should rally more strongly than heretofore round the local Society.—*Annapdale Observer*.

GROCERS' LICENSES.—Friends of temperance, is it right to buy your provisions at a licensed grocer's? Can there be fair competition in trade where one person is granted a license, and another, equally good, is refused? Ought those persons to receive your favour who year by year beg leave from the magistrates to sell maddening poison, which debases your fellow-creatures; which causes so large a part of your taxation; and which makes many a house no home, but a hell? Do you know what is the use to the licensed grocers of the darkened windows, and the walls of boxes, &c., inside their shops? or do you know what goes on in the hidden corners? Have you marked the late hours many of them keep open? Be consistent, and avoid buying in drink shops. Encourage those tradespeople who suffer for conscience sake—who will not touch profits from such a desolating traffic.—*Poster circulated in Ayr*.

KIRKWALL—LECTURE.—Mr. W. Blackwood, District Agent, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, delivered a lecture on British Political Parties, in the Good Templar's Hall, on 3rd ult. Mr. T. Smith Peace presided. The lecturer traced the rise of partizanship during the reign of Charles the Second, and dilated upon the principal political struggles which characterised the reigns of the Prince of Orange, Queen Anne, and the Georges. The civil war between the Cavaliers and the Roundheads, the origin of Whig and Tory, the union between Scotland and England, and other important crises in the nation's history were commented upon. Looking at the condition of parties at the present time in connection with social and political reform, the lecturer showed the necessity of temperance reformers urging their claims in preference to all others upon the different parties, and concluded by showing that the suppression of the drink traffic would conduce to the diffusion of national wealth, and to the great betterment of societies. The usual votes of thanks terminated the meeting.—*Orkney and Shetland Telegraph*.

NOTE FROM STORNOWAY.—Mr. William Blackwood, of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, concluded his series of open air lectures on Saturday last. The weather being stormy last week, and the fishermen being consequently on shore, the lecturer on each occasion had large and attentive audiences, and they seemed very much impressed by the admirable and pointed addresses of Mr. Blackwood. It is to be hoped that they will be productive of much good. There has not yet been quite so much uproar, &c., about the public-houses as there was last year, and for two or three years previously. Still, there are threatening signs, and the rowdy element is rather well represented about some places already. However, let us hope that the disgraceful scenes of last year will not be

repeated. Let the paid preservers of the peace practise more vigilance than they have hitherto done, and let the disturbers of the peace understand that they are in the midst of respectable and order-loving people, while those who traffic in the "element of discord" should also be made to understand that the public are watching their conduct, and they should also bear in mind that when the people have obtained "Local Option" they will know how to use it.—*Inverness Advertiser*.

KELSO.—TEMPERANCE ADDRESSES.—On Thursday, 15th ult., Mr. Lossock and Mr. Waterston, agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, addressed a meeting in front of the Town Hall. Mr. Lossock denounced the public-house traffic, and pointed out that all who considered their own interest and that of their families could not do otherwise than join the movement which God in his love to man had inaugurated in the country. Mr. Waterston, in the course of a humorous address, gave three reasons why he was a total abstainer. First, because he was a Scotchman, and liked to get the most value for his money. This could not be got in whisky, the best class of which was worth on an average about 5s. per gallon, and when retailed in gills, and "crystal nips," cost from 24s. to 32s. An ordinary gill of whisky in Kelso would cost 7d., and the purchaser only got one pennyworth; the distiller and publican got 3d.; and the Government got 3d. for allowing them to carry on the swindle. The second reason was that every man engaged in a trade ought to be proud of what he made, but he pointed out that the publican was ashamed of his drunken customer. His third reason was because the publican refused to "porter" his goods. He also stated that half of the crime in Roxburghshire was associated with drink, and that if the magistrates would do as much to protect the public from ale, porter, and whisky as they did to pounce on the poachers for taking salmon it would be a blessing to the country. Some "sharp shooting" was indulged in between Mr. Waterston and the onlookers during the delivery of the address. An adjournment was then made to the Foresters' Hall, where the large room was pretty well filled. Mr. Hogarth occupied the chair, and introduced the speakers. Mr. Lossock first addressed the meeting, and referred to the evils, especially of a religious kind, resulting from the use of intoxicating liquor. Mr. Waterston followed, urging three reasons for abandoning drink, such as the destruction of grain, the high price of house rents, and the misappropriation of public money, and urged upon his hearers the desirability of helping on total abstinence for the safety of the individual and prohibition for the welfare of the nation. Having pointed out the great desirability of granting the people the power of effectively dealing with the liquor traffic in their midst as the only means of producing a sober nation, the meeting was concluded with the usual votes of thanks.—*Kelso Chronicle*.

KANSAS.—When the new law went into force in Kansas last May, the *San Francisco Rescue* called for fifty first-class liars to employ their talent in proving the failure of prohibition there, and pointed out their various fields of industry. It is with a feeling of no ordinary degree of gratitude and appreciation that this journal publicly recognizes the alacrity and courtesy and self-sacrificing devotion with which the whole fifty have responded to the call, and have thrown themselves heart and soul into that heroic labour of love. They have proved everything demanded and more. Headed by Ex-Governor Robinson, who, with a consistency and devotion worthy of the martyr's stake, if not the martyr's crown, they declare has always been an earnest temperance worker from "*prohibitory Boston*." They have proved (1) that drunkenness in Kansas has increased to an appalling extent; (2) That much more liquor is sold now than formerly; (3) That a doctor cannot buy a drop of liquor in the State for a dying consumptive patient; (4) That a shocking injustice is done to the churches who cannot get a drop of intoxicating liquor for communion; (5) That the liquor business was never so prosperous as now in Kansas;

6) That since all sales of liquor have ceased in the State, 40,000 people have emigrated from it; (7) That owing to the largely increased sale of liquor crime has become terribly rampant; (8) That because there is not even a glass of beer to be purchased for love or money in Kansas, the German immigrants don't go there any more; (9) That Missouri is getting rich selling whisky all over Kansas; (10) That it is no use sending an agent to Kansas from Missouri to sell liquor, for they won't buy a drop, and that has killed business there dead; (11) Saloons doing a capital business all over the State; (12) Business dead since all the saloons closed up; (13) Prohibition is an utter failure all over Kansas and don't at all stop the sale of liquor; (14) The prohibitory law is so injurious to somebody that the liquor dealers and brewers are willing to spend five or ten million dollars of their own money to have it repealed, and keep people from getting so abominably drunken on that prohibitory law. And they are five million dollars afraid it will pass in Iowa too. Good, kind, liberal, devoted, noble rumsellers! Kind, obliging, artistic, heroic, aesthetic, double-turreted, three-decker, hundred-tongued lie-peddlers!!! Try again, keep it up.—*Delaware Signal.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

TEETOTALISM AND CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of Social Reformer.

SIR,—In the *Trades' Guardian*, the Scotch drink interest organ, I met with a letter of such importance as to merit a congratulatory leader in that print. The letter is founded on a catechism, which, as I have not seen it, I will pass over. But the letter itself affords such a signal instance of dense ignorance on our question, prevalent among professedly religious people, that I will, with your permission, look at it for a moment. The writer recognises the sin and horror of intemperance, but holds that we only sin when we drink deeply. Now he calls himself a Christian, and as such should feel a peculiar horror of the very inception of sin, for Christ called his followers to be pure in thought, because pure at its source the fountain flows purely. The writer who calls himself "Christian," utterly ignoring this fact, would deal with intemperance, not in aversion or antagonism, but by indulgence in, of course, a moderate degree. He considers it absurd for the church to debar makers of strong drink from membership, but the church when it is in true relations with its Lord deals with the overt act immediately it is perceived, and the minister, the elder, as well as the member, have been excommunicated for intemperance. A true church knows that if it does not subject offenders to discipline it shares the sin of the sinner. I believe that the churches now, alas, demoralised on this matter will yet be impelled to banish the intemperate, and those that produce them and sympathise with them—the brewer, distiller, and importer—before she can really make progress. The ignorance of "Christian" is as deplorable as his morals, and is fitted to provoke a smile if it were not so serious for him. He ought to know his Bible and rise to its level, rather than bring its teachings down to fit in with his beliefs and actions. He is ignorant that there are two sorts of wine in the Bible, and exhibits Christ choosing the worse in presence of the better when he charges him with making alcoholic liquors at Cana. He forgets that Christ, as the divine Logos, made the world and all things therein, and, of course, wine in the cluster, but at Cana, as God manifest in the flesh, "Christian" believes he changed his mind and made liquor which makes men fiends. The Spirit, through Solomon, declares wine to be a mocker, yet at Cana, says "Christian," Christ makes the mocker, and becomes the patron saint of brewer and distillers, and the exemplar to all that seek pleasure in liquor. "Christian," but for his ignorance, might stand aghast at these inferences from his reckless statement. He knows so little of the Bible that he believes intoxicating liquor was used by Christ at the last Supper. He may not know that all

Jews, at the Passover season, purged their houses of everything connected with leaven or ferment; and might not, in ignorance of that act, find it difficult to show why they could have intoxicating liquors, but, as one who has sat at the Lord's table commemorating his dying love, he ought to know that the word "wine" does not occur in all the accounts of the institution of the supper. The word or phrase is fruit of the vine; and he must be worse than ignorant if he believes that fruit of the vine is identical with Messrs. Gilbey's "Rota Tent Wine, with just as much alcohol as will make it keep." He knows so little of scriptural interpretation that he sets up Jotham's parable as if it bore the brand of Thus saith the Lord. He might quote the eleventh verse of the last chapter of Revelation—"He that is filthy let him be filthy still," and preach against all sanitary improvement. The letter killeth, it is the spirit that giveth life. He actually imagines Christ at a modern feast drinking alcoholic liquors, and asks the teetotaler what he would do in that case, and suggests that he must either give up his beliefs or reject Christ. I cannot permit myself to form so vile a fancy as to imagine anything of the sort. It is inconceivable to me that Christ could do anything of the kind; indeed, there could be no greater reason for his rejection than the fact of his disciples labouring now to save the intemperate, he himself siding with the distiller, brewer, and publican. The state of mind of "Christian" offers two mighty lessons:—1st, We should act like the noble Bereans and first make ourselves acquainted with the knowledge of the Bible temperance question; and 2nd, We should strengthen our teaching agencies until the ideas that prevail on drink being good in any degree or under any circumstances are dislodged from the minds of our people.—I am, etc.,

MELIORA.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

Onward and Onward Reciter for June fully maintain their justly earned reputation as excellent Band of Hope and temperance monthlies. The former is full of short and interesting stories, and the latter, in addition to its usual variety of well-selected pieces, contains a dialogue written by Wm. Hoyle, Esq., entitled "Professor Barcup's Troubles."

The Temperance Worker has always a hearty welcome from us. Its pages from month to month exhibit a fullness and freshness which reflects great credit on its indefatigable editor, the Rev. F. Wagstaff, F.R.H.S. Lecturers, conductors, and superintendents of Bands of Hope and Juvenile Temples, &c., must find it of great assistance to them in the work.

Hand and Heart for May may be called a wedding number. It devotes much of its space to the recent royal marriage. Excellent portraits are given of the Queen, Prince Albert, Duke of Albany, and Princess Helen of Waldeck, and the articles of special importance have all a special reference to ordinance of marriage in general and royal marriages in particular.

Sharpened Saws. By the Rev. John Thomas. (London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C.) This is a neat little addition to our proverbial literature. The ability and renown of its author is sufficient guarantee of its excellence. The twelve short articles which compose it illustrate very aptly some of our familiar proverbs, and give them a practical turn and application.

Local Option—Local Control. By Canon Ellison, (London: Church of England Temperance Publication Depot). This tract aims at accomplishing two objects. (1) To give a short history of the Church of England temperance society's legislative operations; and (2) to show wherein Local Option differs from and is inferior to Local Control as a policy for temperance men. In the first of these objects it is successful, but in our

opinion it fails in the second. We admit that it shows a decided difference existing between Local Option and Local Control, but we cannot admit that it demonstrates even faintly the superior claims of the latter over the former. Local Control, as explained by the writer, is the application to licensing of the principle of local self-government through a licensing board specially appointed. Local Option, as understood by us, is the application of the same principle directly by the people themselves. The one provides for the continuance of the traffic, the other may dispense with it at once.

The Welcome: for July, S. W. Partridge, London, has already reached us, and is altogether superb. There are thirty-five illustrations, most of them of unusual, and many of them of surpassing excellence. We hardly ever have seen more diversified subjects, portraits of Carlyle, Dr. John Brown, ("Rab and his friends"), Joseph Livesey, Garibaldi and his daughter, Midhat Pasha, Thos. Cook the excursionist, besides a tinted plate illustration of Lawson the Sculptor. The letterpress is equally excellent and varied. The poetry and music are a most attractive feature, so that our friends, whether at home or abroad, whether by sea or on shore, should secure this delightful monthly part. We cannot conceive of a greater pleasure than looking over its pages under some shady tree, where the birds warble, and the waters near whimpe, and the leaves rustle bass to the delightful melody.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. R. ADAMS, ABERDEEN.—It is with painful regret that we record the death of Mr. Adams at Aberdeen on the 13th ult., in the 68th year of his age, after a few weeks illness. He was a meat salesman all his life, and yet none among his fellows were held in higher esteem than he was, possessing as he did all those high qualities which go to make up a truly excellent business man. It is, however, as a citizen that we feel a melancholy pleasure in dwelling upon his memory. For the last forty years he has exerted a power for good over the working people which was not excelled by any in his native city. In the trade to which he belonged he laboured to elevate both salesmen and slaughtermen, and to diminish the long hours which was the custom of the trade. After a great struggle this was accomplished, and a holiday secured besides. In political movements his steady perseverance and good sense were conspicuous. In the Chartist movement he held to the constitutional side—the side which achieved all the good which flowed from that agitation. At parliamentary elections the working men felt that in him they had a sagacious councillor. In the struggle for further reform he laboured with ability and success, and had the pleasure of seeing his fellows entering on the exercise of political power for which he had striven for so many years. It was during his labours as a political reformer that he saw how much evil was being done to the interest of his class through their unhappy addiction to strong liquors, and he early threw himself into the work of temperance reform. He was soon elected to a seat in the direction of the Aberdeen Temperance Society, but there was nothing institutional about him; the principle and the merits of a matter were to him the first consequence, the form he often declared was shaped by circumstances, so he was willing to labour side by side with any one. In the Band of Hope movement he was exemplary in his attendance, and most assiduous in instilling into the youthful minds under his care those principles which underlie the great temperance reformation. Mr. Adams hailed the formation of the United Kingdom Alliance, and with his usual zeal entered heartily into the propagation of its principles in Aberdeen. Much opposition was encountered, and to his ability and experience the efforts made on its behalf were very deeply indebted.

Mr. Adams continued his labours among the young, and at one time might be found trying to take the man from the drink, and at another, labouring to take the drink from the man. On the introduction of Good Templarism into Aberdeen, Mr. Adams immediately joined it. He attached himself to the Bon Accord Lodge, and was as might have been expected speedily elected worthy chief, a post which he held uninterruptedly for ten years—an unprecedented term. He was ably seconded in his labours in connection with the order by Mrs. Adams, who was equally zealous in the cause as himself. Their labours were not confined to the lodge room, but embraced every phase of the work. Several times the members of the lodge testified to their warm appreciation of Mr. Adams' ability and labours by the presentation of substantial testimonials of their loving regard. It was only in February last that he was presented with an illuminated address on the occasion of his sixty-eighth birthday, testifying to his praiseworthy conduct in the chair, and to efficient labours in connection with the lodge. At that time few could have dreamed that the powers of nature were to fail so suddenly. Some months ago his condition gave occasion for concern to his wife, and almost imperceptibly from that time his frame yielded to the encroachments of dissolution. Calmly he awaited the solemn summons with a mind clear and a faith strong in the goodness of God, and the mercy and the merits of his Saviour. Surrounded by his sorrowful family he passed within the dark valley fearing no ill, accompanied by the heavenly radiance of redeeming love. Our eye grows dim with tears as we think that on earth we shall see his face no more; but hope springs exultant on triumphant wings and whispers we may meet to part no more and still together be. Mr. Adams was a most sociable, agreeable and lovable companion, full of genuine humour. He could be angry but never vindictive. He knew the good and cleaved to it and heartily abhorred whatever was mean and base. He was honest and sincere in all his dealings: and ever ready to believe in the uprightness of others. He never despaired of any man and poured the spirit of hope into the ears of the truly penitent, and the balm of consolation into the grieved and wounded ear. He was remarkable for self control, indeed, his equanimity of disposition was often misconstrued. He was at the same time firm and immovable where principle was concerned, and persistent to a degree in a course which had commanded itself to his sense of right. He was largely read, especially in political, Temperance, and religious literature, and his stores were heartily at the service of all who sought them. His mind was clear and the expression of his thoughts were an evidence that he had formed them after a thorough logical method. When he spoke, which was but seldom, it was felt he might have been a most impressive speaker had he turned his attention to oratory: his great talents felt pleasure in the department of organization and arrangement, and in the conduct of the business of agitation. No man could have been more highly respected than Mr. Adams, and it says much for him, that during so long a period of life, he never lost a friend or made an enemy. In his family relations he endeared himself to his wife and family, and people felt their better nature stirred by observing the conjugal tenderness so manifest in Mr. and Mrs. Adams. He is survived by his second wife by whom he has no surviving issue, and by two daughters who have been happily married. He had a public funeral which was largely representative of local associations. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, of which he had long been an honorary director, was represented by W. Davidson, Esq., Mr. W. Blackwood, district agent, and Mr. R. Mackay, Secretary, the latter enjoying the friendship of Mr. Adams for nearly thirty years. The Executive of the Association have recorded their high appreciation of his character and services to the cause of Temperance and prohibition, and the local auxiliary has also done so.

Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my early days;
None knew thee but to love thee
Or named thee but to praise.

THE
Social Reformer.

AUGUST, 1882.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

By ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER I.—A SHADOWED HOME.

It was Saturday afternoon. An intense black frost held the earth with a band of iron, and the great loch at Strathglide was a sheet of smooth glittering ice, alive with skaters. The hum of gay voices, the echoes of merry laughter, and the ring of skates sounded through the frosty air. Even those who did not join in the sport enjoyed the busy scene. As the afternoon wore on the north wind whistled more shrilly through the leafless trees, and the low-hanging sullen sky gave promises of the first snows of the season.

From the study windows of the manse, the minister of Strathglide watched the skaters, at least his eyes looked towards them, his thoughts were elsewhere. Upon the table lay an open Bible, and a sheet of paper beside it bore the words, from which it was his intention to speak to his people on the morrow,—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

These words of sweet assurance gave no comfort to the minister of Strathglide that day; his heart was sick within him. The lamp of faith was burning very dimly, it seemed to him that his refuge and strength had deserted him in his time of trouble. Who among us have not such hours of doubt and despair when we feel inclined to cry in bitterness of spirit, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

In years the minister was still in his prime, but his hair was grey, and his brow furrowed deep with the lines of care. It was a fine face; the mouth was tender and mobile as a woman's, but its expression sad beyond description.

Four o'clock chimed from the timepiece on the mantel, and the minister turned from the window with a start, and sat down to his work. It was a cheerless, comfortless place that study, and though the afternoon was bitterly cold, there were but a few red embers smouldering in the dirty grate.

Outside, the sere leaves lay thickly on the grass-grown footpaths of the old-fashioned garden, and the gate swung to and fro on its hinges with a dreary creaking. From the nursery overhead came the noise and shouts of the children at their play; in their careless glee they had no thought of the weary brain which would have given a world for rest. The minister read his text mechanically, then rose and crossed the lobby into the room on the opposite side.

It was the drawing-room of the house, and though a fire burned brightly there it had the same air of neglect which characterised the study. On a comfortable-looking lounge drawn up on the hearth, a lady reclined, attired in a handsome dressing-gown, a dainty lace cap rested on her jet black hair, and she held an open novel in her plump white hand.

“Margaret, is it quite impossible to keep the children quiet,” said the minister gently. “The noise is simply deafening. Is Laura with them?”

“Laura!” was the sharp retort. “She went to the town to do an errand for me, and she has been gone quite two hours. Just like her to linger on the way. She doesn't care what is happening at home if she gets her pleasure.”

“Hush!” said the minister sternly. “It would be well indeed if we were all as faithful as that dear child.”

“I wish you would sit down, Mr. Tennant, if you mean to remain here,” said his wife petulantly. “It makes one ill to see your restless walking.”

He paused. “My study is very cold,” he said, glancing at the fire. “Will you send Jane with some coals?”

“Laura might have seen to the fires,” replied Mrs. Tennant fretfully. “The girl can't do everything.”

The minister bit his lip, and went back to his own room. He drew the embers together in the grate, and resuming his seat at the desk, lifted his pen. It dropped from his fingers before he had written many words, and he hid his face in his hands. God only knew what were his thoughts. He did not hear the door open softly, nor the light footfall that crossed the floor, and he started when a gentle hand fell on his bowed head, and the voice dearest to him on earth said anxiously, “Dear papa, what is it? Does your head ache again?”

The speaker was a young girl, clad in a well-worn walking-suit, which could not hide the lithe, graceful figure. Her sunny brown hair lay in ripples on an open white brow, and long lashes shaded eyes full of gentlest feeling. She was not beautiful, but her face was one of the sweetest eyes could rest on. Her father seemed to find it so, for his eyes brightened as they looked. She stooped and laid her cheek to his, but neither spoke. The love existing between these two needed no words, but it was stronger than death.

“How cold it is here,” said Laura, glancing round with a slight shiver. “Did Jane bring your tea, papa?”

“No, dear, I daresay she forgot. She has plenty to do.”

Laura looked distressed. “It is past four, papa, and you have not written a dozen words,” she said. “Have the children been noisy?”

“Rather, but you will quiet them.”

“In two minutes they will be as quiet as mice, and I'll be back to attend to you,” said she with a sunny smile, and she left the room, and ran lightly upstairs. Entering the nursery, she beheld the chairs turned upside down, and her four brothers and sisters playing menagerie.

“How could you do it, children, when I asked you to be good and quiet for poor papa's sake?” she said quickly. “Lottie, I thought I might have trusted you,” she said, turning to a tall slip of a girl whose pinafore was a mass of rents and her hair a perfect tangle. Lottie hung her head, and pinched little Daisy till she screamed. The boys, Tom and Frank, rose from all-fours with shame-stricken faces.

“Well, look here, Laura,” cried Frank, who though the younger was always spokesman, “It was so poky playing quiet games. Mamma would not let us out. We'll be good now; and, oh, did you bring the toffee?”

“Yes, but I cannot give you it to-day as you broke your promise,” said the elder sister gravely. “Lottie,

put on a clean pinafore, and wash Daisy's face. Boys, make yourselves fit to be seen while I go and attend to papa: he is not well. If you are very good you shall have tea half-an-hour earlier and a story after it."

In inexpressible delight the penitents proceeded to do their sister's bidding, while she went to her own little room, took off her jacket and hat, and tying on a huge white apron, ran downstairs to the kitchen, where Jean was busily engaged in her weekly "redd up," as she termed it.

"You forgot papa's tea, Jean, though I told you so often," said the young lady gently. "Is there any boiling water?"

The girl looked really distressed. "I clean forgot, Miss Laura, ye see I've ha'en tae answer the mistress's bell gey often, an' it gied oot o' my heid. I'm sair vext, but the kettle's just on the sing, it'll be ready in a crack o' time."

She left her scrubbing and applied the poker vigorously to the fire, while Laura, satisfied that Jean would do her best, went back to her father. A few pieces of stick converted the dull embers into a brisk flame, and she drew the easy chair close to it.

"Now, papa, come and take a rest while I talk to you," said she, "your tea will be here directly."

"This is nice, Laura," said the minister, leaning back on the cushions. "You are the very sunshine of my heart, my love."

The sweet face flushed. "Hush, papa, I wish I could do more for you, it is such a pleasure." She leaned her head on his knee, and fixed her eyes upon the fire.

"I have had such a happy walk," she continued after a moment's pause. "I ran in for a few minutes to see poor old Mrs. Scott, she was so pleased, only she is in great distress about George. He has been drinking for a week back, and Mr. Gillespie refuses to allow him to come back to the mill."

"Poor boy, poor lad, how foolish. He is so easily led. I shall see what can be done."

"Papa, I am afraid the Half-way House is doing harm in Strathglide already. From what I heard to-day I gather that it is leading very many astray."

The minister made no reply, perhaps none was needed. Presently Jean entered with the tea-tray, and Laura rose reluctantly.

"I should like to stay with you, papa, but I must go and look after my family upstairs. If I had not been so annoyed at them disturbing you, I should have laughed to see them. Lottie was playing kangaroo, and Frank a leopard ready to spring at her. Will that girl ever learn to be proper? She ought to have been a boy."

"She will have to take your place by and by, my darling," said her father with a half smile. "We cannot keep you always."

Laura blushed, and fled to the nursery. There the clamorous tongues were hushed into unusual silence. A shiny-faced boy sat on either end of the fender, while Lottie, attired in a clean pinafore, was soberly brushing Daisy's elfin locks. Laura drew out the table, laid the cloth, and directed Lottie to set the cups. Cracked and chipped all of them were, and scarcely two to match, and the knives and spoons were battered out of all shape. The boys toasted the bread while Laura made the tea.

There was a wild scramble for seats, during which Daisy upset the milk-jug, and intimated the fact by a piteous scream. A look of utter weariness and sickness of heart crossed the elder sister's face, yet she spoke very gently.

"Boys, do be quiet. Frank, give Tom that seat, dear, he is the elder you know. Lottie, don't lie on the table like that. Daisy, darling, I trust there is plenty more milk for you."

The door opened and somebody came in. Laura looked up suddenly; she looked away as suddenly and turned her face to the fire.

The children sprang to the intruder heedless of the half-finished meal.

"Oh, Mr. Walter, come away, let us have some fun, Laura's so cross."

"Cross, you little sinners," said the young man with a smile. "An angel would fling her patience to the winds. How are you all? How are you, Laura?"

The emphasis made her downcast face burn, and she gave him her hand without looking up.

"I am a little tired," she said quietly. "Have you come straight from Barossa?"

He nodded, and the unruly members having gulped down the remainder of their tea, now surrounded the young man, clamouring for his attention.

"Oh, I say, Mr. Walter, that old boat you made me went out into the middle of the loch on Tuesday, and it's got jammed in the ice. If I get it out I'll call it the Erebus and Terror, cos it's jammed ever so tight like they were in the Arctic regions," said Frank in great glee. "Here make us another." He produced a broken-bladed knife from his pocket, and a knotty log from under the cabinet, and held them out.

"It's my turn," broke in Tom. "Mend my kite, Mr. Walter. The tail blew away, and it won't go up."

The young man laughed. "Run down to the garden all of you, and take a race. See, the sun is just setting. Don't make too much noise, and I'll do anything for you when you come in."

The unsuspecting quartette disappeared instanter, and Walter closed the door behind them. Then he came back to the hearthrug, and drew the slender figure standing there very close to him.

"Laura, my dearest, you must come to me one of these days and let me take care of you," he whispered. "This constant worry is killing you."

"Nonsense, Walter," but she hid her eyes so that he might not see how dim they were.

"I am quite well, only I get so tired sometimes. I don't think I am so strong as I used to be." She drew closer to him and hid her face.

"Walter!"

The voice was very low, almost inaudible.

"Yes, my darling."

"Mamma was ill again this morning; it is becoming an every-day occurrence. If it were not for papa and the children I think I should die. It is breaking papa's heart. I can see it every day. I cannot keep it from the children any longer. To-day Lottie asked me why mamma talked so much nonsense. I—I—" She broke down, and there was a brief silence.

"Walter!"

"Yes, my darling."

"Does Mr. Gillespie know I am your promised wife?"

"Not yet. How many days have you been so. Why, I have not even asked your father yet. It is so sweet to keep it to ourselves for a little. It will be public property soon enough."

"Papa knows, though he has not heard it in so many words. Walter, do you think it likely your father will approve your choice?"

"Why should he not?"

Laura remained silent, thinking of the gloomy, proud master of Barossa, the great mill-owner, whom many feared and few loved. Was it likely that he should approve of his only son and heir taking for a wife the daughter of a poor parish minister.

"I am a man now, Laura, and I claim a man's right to choose my wife. Here she stands, if she will have me, if not I shall have none other," said Walter.

She loved him, and could not listen to such words unmoved. For the time her heart was at rest.

"Come down and see mamma for a minute or two," said Laura by and by. "Papa is very busy. Saturday night you know."

Walter assented, and they repaired to the drawing-room. Whenever Laura opened the door, they were greeted by a strong odour of spirits, and she sprang to her mother's side.

"Oh, mamma!" was all she could say.

"Well, mamma, what!" repeated Mrs. Tennant crossly. "Ah, Mr. Walter, how are you? Laura, why did you stay so long down town? These dreadful children were like to bring the house down."

"I was as quick as I could be, mamma," said the

girl in a low voice. "I am sorry if you were disturbed."

"Much you care," was the reply, followed by a burst of childish weeping. "It is a dreadful thing, Mr. Walter, to toil and bring up ungrateful children who think their ailing mother a burden."

Every vestige of colour died from Laura's face. They say we can grow accustomed to anything in this world, but, my friends, it is not true. There are things which repetition only makes harder to bear. This was one of them.

Walter Gillespie understood the mute appeal in Laura's eyes, and they left the room together. At the outer door they paused, and watched for a moment through the glass door the children flying round the garden—the last rays of the red sunset gleaming on their bare heads and happy faces. As yet the shadow which darkened their home could not darken their hearts. God be thanked that there is a childhood. We who have faced life and borne its burdens wonder at the light-heartedness of childhood. Looking back upon our own, we find memory dim.

"Walter," said Laura through her pale lips, "since the Half-way House was opened at the toll, mamma is never without it. It is brought to her somehow or another."

Walter was silent. His father had opened the first public-house in Strathglide, and on its opening day, not a week ago, he, Walter, had made a speech approving of it, and had drunk success to it in a glass of the landlord's whisky. Here was its first condemnation, touching him in his tenderest part.

"Drink in moderation," he had said to the men. "Grow social and cheerful over your ale, but don't abuse it. Don't embrate yourselves. I should like it to be said of you all that you would be ashamed to be seen drunk." And much more to the same effect, which had been loudly applauded by his listeners. With that wreck of womanhood in the room he had just left, with Laura's saddened face and shadowed eyes uplifted to his own, do you wonder if he remembered his words with shame?

To be continued.

CAUSES AND CURE OF INTEMPERANCE.*

SYSTEMATIC inquiries into the extent, causes, and results of intemperance, prosecuted during a period of half a century, and certain tentative experiments for the repression of this serious evil, have apparently brought the bulk of temperance reformers to a number of definite conclusions. It is these, with some of the facts and reasons from whence they are deduced, which we desire to lay very briefly before our readers for their consideration, not merely to excite to thought and elicit opinion, but, so far as is possible, to evoke sympathy towards practical measures for the material diminution of an evil which is a reproach to the intelligence and civilization of which Britons are so apt to boast. To dwell on the frightful extent of drunkenness, public and private, would be worse than to repeat a thrice-told tale. It is universally conceded that we are, in this respect, in a very unsatisfactory condition. In Liverpool, for example, the police report records, under the head of drunk and disorderly, that 7,000 males and nearly 5,000 females are annually taken up in the streets. The daily and weekly papers teem with the most shocking illustrations of this vice and its effects, iterated to the point of disgust. Every day proves, says a recent number of *The Press*, that drunkenness is the monster evil of the age in England. Its effects make themselves felt in all departments of social life. The colonel of a crack regiment wages ineffectual war against the drunkenness which so often deprives him of the services of his best men. The master of the household strives in vain against the potations of the servants' hall, or the still more dangerous attractions of the neighbouring "public," which have proved the ruin of so many a good servant. Men who appear a concentrated epitome of all other virtues,

* From *Meliora*, vol. iii., page 39, *et seq.*

who for honesty, steadiness, and willingness to oblige are alike irreproachable, cannot bear the application of the test of sobriety. The causes of this widespread and deeply-seated national vice are what should first be ascertained by a true social science, since the knowledge of the cause is the only correct indicator of the effectual remedy. Physiology has distinctly proclaimed the nature of that habitual craving for strong liquors which, being gratified, ends in drunkenness. It is an abnormal state of the nerves and brain, engendered by the persistent use of the stimulant of alcohol, under the operation of a law which finds its analogue in the instance of opium, hashish, tobacco, and other narcotics. All such drugs, without exception, it is alleged, operate through the subtle machinery of the nervous structure, and tend by necessary law to the creation of an appetite which grows by what it feeds on.* While the original quantity, by repetition, loses its power to reproduce its first pleasing effect, it is found to leave a craving void behind. Thus, the sensual nature demands an increase of the stimulant, both in time and measure, and at the same time the moral-resisting power is either partially weakened or absolutely annulled. Such is the theory of the history and genesis of all the actual excess which temperance reformers deprecate and deplore. The love of pleasure on the one hand, ever mounting to a transient crisis, and on the other, an aversion to pain, are the twin forces whereby the fetters of an insatiable lust are imperceptibly but surely riveted upon the intemperate man.† In this state of vassalage, and in the midst of his misery, the drinker exclaims, "I will seek it yet again!" Universal history, it is affirmed, attests and verifies this dictum of physiological science. It records no single example, amidst the multifarious conditions of social life, where these seductive intoxicants, once introduced, have not been widely abused; or where their use has remained stationary at some fixed point of desiderated moderation. The old Egyptian, the pagan Arab, the favoured Jew, the refined and cultured Greek, the strong Roman, the wild Scythian, and the ancient German, all in turn passed through the experience which has been repeated amongst the civilized Celts, and the Christianized Anglo-Saxons of modern times. No matter what other social conditions prevail, of poverty or plenty, of knowledge or ignorance, of barbarism or refinement, of religion or irreligion, the use of intoxicants always spreads and increases. The passion for narcotics, once engendered, never dies out, never ceases—nay, it is for ever enlarging itself with the supply. Not only has the extent of surface over which the use reigned become greater by

* Huc, the intelligent traveller in China, declares that, save with some exceptional organizations, opium smoking in moderation leads with fearful certainty and speed to excess; and excess to crime and a frightful mortality. Mr. De Quincey, more than sixty years ago (1821) in his celebrated "Confessions of an Opium Eater," noticed the gradual increase in the consumption of that perilous narcotic, and traces it to a law which we have seen since illustrated in the augmented frequency of tobacco-smoking in Britain, with its £8,000,000 of profligate waste. I do not believe that any man, having once tasted the divine luxuries of opium, will afterwards descend to the gross and mortal enjoyment of alcohol. I take it for granted,

That those eat now who never ate before;
And those who always ate, now eat the more.

† Mr. De Quincey long since pointed out the fact that, in this respect, wine was more of a deceiver even than opium. Mr. Thackeray too, in his "Virginians," has declared the truth "in the face of all the pumps," and he is an excellent authority on such a point:—"There is a moment in a bout of good wine, at which, if a man could but remain, wit, wisdom, courage, generosity, eloquence, happiness, were his; but the moment passes, and that other glass somehow spoils the state of beatitude." Mr. De Quincey has a similar observation:—"The pleasure given by wine is always mounting, and tending to a crisis, after which it as rapidly declines. There is a crowning point in the movement upwards, which, once attained, cannot be renewed; and it is the blind, unconscious, but always unsuccessful effort of the obstinate drinker to restore this supreme attitude of enjoyment which tempts him into excesses that become dangerous."

time, but wherever special efforts, including abstinence and prohibition, have been neglected for the repression of the evil, the vice has grown more intense in its power, and has most surely augmented in the number of its votaries and victims. Where special abstinence is inculcated, as amongst the ancient Jews, the later Mahomedans, and the modern teetotalers, we have an example of an empire, within an empire, governed by special laws. This is a case where individuals have, so to speak, withdrawn themselves from the operation of the law in question. Hence, in estimating the prevalence of intemperance amongst a general population, we should first of all exclude the members of temperance societies, as not fairly coming within the circle of the influence which we are investigating. Weak beverages, and mild narcotics amongst those who use them, become stepping-stones to stronger and more potent agents of inebriation. Tobacco prepares for opium, beer for gin, and light wines for French brandy. Thus has human nature, in its infatuated search after false and forbidden pleasure, passed through the discordant gamut of a bad and bitter experience, until, in the nineteenth century of the Christian era, to adopt the language of the great historian Michelet, we have reached an age in which the progressive invasion of spirits and narcotics is an invincible fact, bringing with it results varying according to the population, here obscuring the mind and barbarizing beyond recovery; there fatally penetrating the foundations of the physical life, and attainting the race itself. Dr. Morel, in his great work "On the Causes of Physical Degeneracy," founded on an extensive survey of the social condition of the people of Germany and France, places the universal use of alcoholics and narcotics amongst the chief causes of that decay in the physical existence of the people, which is unerringly indicated by their diminution of stature and weight, by the abridged duration of adult life, and, above all, by an increased proclivity to mental disorder. Having, from the nature and quality of the drink proximately explained the phenomena of drunkenness, as a subjective state, the temperance philosopher goes back a step to account for the drinking itself. Ignoring the few reckless debauchees who resort of set purpose to the use of alcoholics as a means of exciting sensuous pleasure, and who must be placed on the same moral level with the Hindoo or Chinese smoker of opium, he asks why people in general first begin the use of strong liquor. Two chief grounds may be indicated. First, men drink because they have faith in the traditional virtues of the beverage consumed, be it home-brewed, pale ale, or crusted port. Opinion always governs practice to a certain extent, but especially in pleasant things. Appetite is credulous of all assertions which jump with it. The wish is patron to the thought. While the popular opinion of the excellency of alcoholics prevails, men at large may be expected to continue drinking whence will follow the old sad sequences as before. This belief, therefore, must be weakened or dissipated by the diffusion of sound physiological knowledge, which is the business of the educator and the temperance reformer. The experience of teetotalers everywhere shows that, as compared with drinkers, they possess a singular immunity from sickness. Extensive statistics demonstrate the fact, that a body of abstainers will, placed under even less favourable circumstances than careful drinkers, only be subject to one-half the disease, and for less than half the time; whilst the highest teachers of physiological science, as Lehmann, Moleschott, Liebig, and Carpenter, coincide in casting alcoholics from their usurped place in the ranks of food, and in remitting them, for exceptional use, to the category of medical stimulants. That alcohol is a very dangerous and tricky spirit, needing the (supernatural) power of a Prospero to make it obedient,* is the admission of its ablest and subtlest champion. The introduction and common use of such an article within our family circle can hardly be recommended on any sound principle of ethical philosophy. It is, in fact, a brain poison.

*G. H. Lewis in "Westminster Review," and Physiology of Common Life.

A second cause of drinking, which is perhaps still more potent with the multitude, is custom. It is in vain that men inculcate moral theories, so long as the practical atmosphere of social life antagonizes them. Ideas are powerless against institutions, interests, and temptations. People may proclaim the uselessness or the harmfulness of liquor, the danger of drinking, the evil example set to the young, the unwary, or the weak, and enlogize the excellence of abstinence—no matter if Fashion, the true queen of the world, decrees to drink, and Interest, its strongest king, commands to create and tempt, men will continue to do so. It may be a practice more honoured in the breach than the observance, but what is that to

Monster custom, that all sense
Doth eat, of habits—Devil?

All that we teach, dietetically or ethically, will come to naught, unless our social institutions, our daily customs and environments, are in harmony with it. As Lord Bacon declares, "The bravery of words must be corroborate by custom." This is the philosophy of temperance pledges and organizations, which furnish needful aids to the isolated virtue of individual example, giving a collective sanction to a novel or neglected protest, which shall neutralize the ignorant despotism of custom, since that which is impossible to be done alone is very easily achieved in association. As it is not to be expected that a people will rise above their circumstances by any sudden impulse, it therefore becomes the duty and business of the social philosopher, with whom the idea is an actual potency, to inaugurate new conditions of a more harmonious and genial kind, out of which the germ of an improved social life may spring up into fruitful development.

(To be concluded in our next.)

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

SAM TAYLOR'S ELECTIONEERING.

BY THE REV. F. WAGSTAFF, F.R.H.S.

DID you ever hear how Sam Taylor got on electioneering the first year after he set up housekeeping? I don't know that ever I told you, and as all this hubbub about the dissolution of Parliament and the general election have brought it to my mind, I may as well tell you now, especially as we've a quiet hour to spare. By the way, though, what was that I heard Mr. Wilson talking about to-day? I heard him and Lawyer Flint having a confab as I passed out of the yard; and Mr. Wilson, he said, says he, just as I went by, "I'll tell you what it is, Lawyer Flint," says he, "this here general election what has come upon us so sudden like is all owing to that cooked 'tater o' Gladstone's—that's what it is."

[The speaker was a worthy old gentleman of our acquaintance, with whom we have had many a pleasant chat; and the time was January, 1874. We need scarcely say that the puzzling remark of Mr. Wilson's had nothing whatever to do with the Prime Minister's potatoes, whether cooked or raw; but, being no political admirer of the Premier, he had formed, and was expressing to the lawyer, an opinion that the sudden dissolution of Parliament was a *coup d'état*. We explained this as well as we could to our old friend, who, after a due pause to digest the new idea and the foreign phrase, proceeded with his story of Sam Taylor's electioneering, as near as may be in the words that follow.]

Ah, well, I've been thinking all day that 'twas a mighty queer thing for Gladstone to have anything to do with cooked 'taters; or, supposing he had, that they could have had anything to do with this here electioneering move. However, that's neither here nor there; what I've got to tell you happened about four years since, when old Colonel Jones died, and there had to be a fresh election for Lansingborough. Colonel Jones always was a Liberal, but for my part, when I've read his speeches in the *Lansingborough Trumpet*, I never could make out much difference between them and the speeches which Sir Henry Brookes used to

make at the Conservative dinners. But when the old Colonel died, the Liberal Committee brought out a clever chap they called Mr. Astley, from London, who said we must vote for him, or else the country would be ruined by taxes, and war, and jobbery, and all that sort of thing. Well, the Conservatives they brought down a man too, and his name was Croft, who went about canvassing and speech-making like one o'clock. He says, says he, "Now all you people must just vote for me, or else the country will be ruined by taxes, and war, and jobbery, and all that sort o' thing."

Yes; you may well laugh. I did, I know, at the time. Lor! it were as good as a play to hear they two gentlemen a-telling all on us that the country would be ruined if we didn't vote for them. It seemed to me like as if 'twere to be ruined whichever way things went. But I must get on with my tale, if you can have patience with an old fellow like me.

[We assured our venerable friend that in the matter of patience we were fit to serve as a model for Job himself, and that we were never better pleased than to hear him tell his stories in his own way.]

Thank 'ee kindly, sir, and I'll try and get on; but where was I? Oh, about Mr. Croft and Mr. Astley both going to save the country from ruin. Well, just afore all this Sam Taylor had got married and took a house all to himself, instead o' lodgings, as most young fellows in his line used to do; and of course he got his name on the register and was a voter for the burgh, just like any one of the great folks. I remember well saying to him, "Sam, says I, "however can you afford to have a house all to yourself, when Tom Saunders—that works at your place, and gets 5s. a-week more wages than you—can only live in two miserable rooms?" And Sam, he makes answer, says he, "The reason is that Tom Saunders drinks and smokes, and I don't." That's how it is too, sir, with scores on 'em.

Well Sam being a voter, and on the register, had the candidates round after him in a brace o' shakes, asking for his vote and interest. Though why they always want interest when nobody don't owe 'em anything is what I can't make out.

[We quietly interposed an explanation of this orthodox electioneering phrase, which we trust was satisfactory to our venerable friend.]

Oh, I see, sir; 'twas another blunder o' mine, as bad as Gladstone's 'taters; but then, you see, I was never much of a scholar. Mr. Croft he was round first, and says he hopes he'd have the honour of Mr. Taylor's vote and interest. Sam says at once as how he were a Liberal; what were Mr. Croft? Mr. Croft said he was a Conservative; but, of course, a Liberal-Conservative, and, as everybody knew, he and his party had always been the working men's friends, and so on. To all this Sam says, says he, "How about the Permissive Bill?" The question in a manner took Mr. Croft aback. He said he hardly knew how to answer the question, upon which Sam says, "Well, I votes for nobody who won't vote for the Permissive Bill; so good morning." And that ended the matter for that time.

Mr. Croft and his friends had scarcely got out o' the street before up comes Mr. Astley and a troop o' his folks. "Good morning, Mr. Taylor," says one o' the party; and "Good morning, sir, to you," says Sam. "We've come to ask for your vote and interest," says Mr. Astley, with a bow, as if Sam were a master tradesman and he a poor chap after a job. "What'll you vote for?" says Sam, as much as if he'd been a master a-trying to find out what sort o' work Mr. Astley could do.

"Oh," said Mr. Astley right away, "I'm a thorough Liberal, and of course shall support Mr. Gladstone and Liberal measures."

"What Liberal measures?" was Sam's natural inquiry.

"Oh, 'trenchment and reform—taking off the taxes, and improving the condition of the country," was what Mr. Astley said for answer.

"All very well," says Sam, "and seein' as how I'm a Liberal, I'd like to see them things done pretty quick."

"Them sentiments does you credit, Mr. Taylor," says Mr. Astley, whipping a little book out of his pocket, and beginning to put down Sam's vote and interest like fun.

"Not so fast," says Sam; "there's one question I should like to ask first."

"Certainly, Mr. Taylor," says Mr. Astley, with another bow; "I'd be happy, I'm sure, to answer any question from so intelligent a voter."

"What about the Permissive Bill?" was Sam's question, and you should have seen how Mr. Astley started and coloured up like a turkey-cock, for, don't you see, he'd got the chairman of his committee with him, as well as several others; and the chairman was a brewer and owned several public-houses round. Besides this, he was principal deacon at one of the chapels, and had wonderful influence with all the religious people in the place. So, you see, it didn't please Mr. Astley to hear anything said about the Permissive Bill. However, in a bit he says to Sam as how of course he couldn't support that measure, which was so extreme, and would never work, and which the people would never stand, and a lot more to the same effect.

"It may be extreme," says Sam; "but there's such a mortal lot o' mischief done by the drink that we must have extreme remedies for the extreme evil." Them was Sam's very words.

"Well, my good sir," said Mr. Astley again, "I hate drunkenness as much as you do, and would gladly see a wise and well-considered bill brought in to diminish intemperance." You must remember this was just before Mr. Bruce brought in the Licensing Bill. "You must know," he goes on, "that the Government have promised to deal with this subject next session, and of course if I am elected, I shall feel it to be my duty to give my best consideration to their bill."

"That's all very well," Sam goes on to say—"that's all very well, sir; but I hold that the people ought to have a voice in this matter, instead o' letting the magistrates do as they please. I am resolved not to vote for any one except he'll vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Bill."

"But, my good friend," said Mr. Astley, "if you do that, you'll let the Tories in."

"Can't help that," says Sam.

"Why, I thought you said just now you was a Liberal," said the candidate.

"So I am," says Sam.

"Well, as a Liberal, you must, of course, wish to see carried all the other things I was just now talking about," said Mr. Astley.

Sam nodded his head, and says, "Certainly I should."

"Well," says the candidate again—and he says "well" so many times that I think he must ha' been a well-digger—excuse an old man's joke. "Well, don't you think, Mr. Taylor, that it is your duty as a Liberal to sink minor differences, and go with your party, to keep the Tories out?"

"What's a minor difference?" was Sam's question on the nail.

"Oh, this Permissive Bill of yours, even suppose it could ever be carried, is a minor question compared with these others."

"That's a matter of opinion," says Sam. "I think it is the question just now."

"But you ought to support your party," says Mr. Astley.

"I want to ask two more questions," says Sam. "You talk about the Liberals; hasn't it always been their boast that they think for themselves, and don't bind themselves down to old ways? Didn't I hear you say at your meeting the other night that the Liberals had done everything for the country, because they'd been men that dared to think for themselves?"

Mr. Astley said yes; he believed he did say so.

"And didn't you say, too, sir, that the Tories were people that only did and voted as they were told by their party?"

Mr. Astley was obliged to confess that he had said so.

"Now," Sam goes on, "you say that I must vote with my party even though they oppose the Permissive Bill. If I am told I must vote with my party, that, according to your own showing, is to be a Tory; but I'm a Liberal, and mean to vote according to my opinions, and I'll not vote for any one who will not vote for the Permissive Bill."

They didn't stop with Sam long after that, I can tell you. The brewer got as savage as a bear, and Mr. Astley warn't half so polite when he went away as he was when he came. I believe he said "Good morning," but he forgot to say "sir" or "Mr. Taylor," and never touched his hat any more.

And Sam kept to his word like a man, and so did a lot of others in the town. They tried all sorts o' hard words and abuse, did the committee and canvassers, and called Sam and his mates "fools" and "fanatics," and worse; but they held fast. Mr. Croft tried his hand again with Sam, and got coached up—I think they call it—about the Permissive Bill, so as to understand a little better than he did at first what it meant. He would never promise to vote with Sir Wilfrid; but he said as how he wouldn't vote against the bill, which was all that could be got out o' him.

Mr. Astley stuck to it that he would vote against the bill, and Sam and his mates also stuck to it that they wouldn't vote at all. So the long and short of it was that the Liberals lost the election, and Sam and his friends were told again and again that they had let the Tory in.

Sam never seemed to mind that, but always says he cannot understand how any reasonable man can expect him to vote for a candidate who is opposed to what he believes to be right and just. At anyrate, as he says often, if they—meaning himself and a few other Liberals—had voted for party, instead of standing aloof for principle, there would have been one more vote in the House of Commons against the Permissive Bill, sent there by the very friends of the Bill.

And that's the story about Sam's electioneering. I only wish there were scores and hundreds more like him.

[Need we say that we agree with our old friend in his wish?]

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, from 16th April to 15th July, 1882 inclusive. During that period 338 meetings were held, 147 being deputational, and 191 ordinary. At these meetings 488 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited St. Monance, Buckhaven, Dysart, Pathhead, Edinburgh, Grangemouth, Freuchie, Duns, Broxburn, Bo'ness, Lathons, Lorgow, Largo, Leith, Cockenzie, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, and Cupar, and addressed 84 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Govan, Troon, Glasgow, Nitshill, Partick, Prestwick, Balfron, Bonhill, Alexandria, Kilmarnock, Perth, Dundee, Montrose, Ferryden, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Greenock, Campbeltown, Denny, Tarbert, Kilmalcolm, Johnstone, Aitkenhead, Mauchline, Stewarton, Renfrew, and Stirling, and addressed 71 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Woodside, Aberdeen, Campbeltown, Fortrose, Beauly, Inverness, Dingwall, Cromarty, Invergordon, Alness, Davidson, Newhall, Ullapool, Stornoway, Tain, Golspie, Lerwick, Unst, Kirkwall, Stromness, Thurso, Helmsdale, Brora, Peterhead, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hamilton, Perth, and Stonehaven, and addressed 64 meetings.

Mr. R. Drausfield has visited Partick, Govan, Glasgow, Greenock, Irvine, Ayr, Dumbarton, Bonhill, Kilmalcolm, Kilsyth, Hamilton, Barrhead, Mauchline, Stewarton, Renfrew, and Denny, and addressed 41 meetings.

Mr. A. Bennet has visited Pathhead, Dumfries, Dalbeattie, Annan, Ecclefechan, Maxwellton, Moffat, and Lockerbie, and addressed 36 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Glasgow, Pollokshaws, Govan, Irvine, Rothesay, Dumfries, Paisley, Dalbeattie, Largs, Greenock, Kilmalcolm, Port-Glasgow, Moffat, and Hamilton, and addressed 32 meetings.

Rev. S. Harding has visited Rothesay, Kilmarnock, Partick, Pollokshaws, Ayr, Dumbarton, Port-Glasgow, Largs, Kilsyth, Campbeltown, Barrhead, Johnstone, Denny, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, and addressed 28 meetings.

Mr. W. Kesson has visited Pollokshaws, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, and Stirling, and addressed 20 meetings.

Mr. J. Scrymgeour has addressed 12 meetings in Dundee, Montrose, Forfar, and Kirriemuir.

Rev. J. Strachan has addressed 8 meetings in Dumfries.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 7 meetings in Leith, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Kirkcaldy, and Cupar.

Ex-Provost Dick has addressed 5 meetings in Belfast, Glasgow, Irvine, and Govan.

Mr. J. Winning has addressed 5 meetings in Irvine, Paisley, Dumfries, Govan, and West Kilbride.

Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow, Govan, Paisley, and West Kilbride.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh, Broxburn, Pathhead, and Leith.

Mr. H. Hobkirk has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow, Kilmalcolm, and Johnstone.

Rev. G. W. Tooty has addressed 3 meetings in Dumfries.

Rev. Dr. Adamson has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Rev. J. M'Queen has addressed 2 meetings in Belfast.

Rev. D. J. Martin has addressed 2 meetings in Stornoway.

Rev. J. Cooper has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries.

Rev. F. Binns has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries.

Miss Johnston has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries and Maxwellton.

Captain M'Lean has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Govan.

Mr. R. M'Callum has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Denny.

Mr. T. Clapperton has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Revs. J. J. Mackay, Buckhaven; J. Pollock, Buckhaven; W. M'Ghie, Buckhaven; N. M'Leod, Freuchie; W. L. Craig, Freuchie; J. G. Train, Freuchie; J. Primrose, Broxburn; S. Sleath, Bo'ness; G. Weir, Dumfries; D. Galbraith, Montrose; J. Baxter, Montrose; J. Chalmers, Denny; D. Pirret, Govan; J. D. M'Kinnon, Dumfries, and H. Jones, Cockenzie; Bailie Selkirk, J.P., Nitshill; Ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P., Carnwath; Councillor Campbell, Dundee; Drs. M'Culloch, Dumfries, and Smith, Govan; Messrs. Smart, Grangemouth; G. A. Barclay, Edinburgh; W. J. Wood, Glasgow; James Horn, Glasgow; Mudie, Pathhead; A. Sinclair, Pathhead; J. Balfour, Pathhead; G. Reekie, Pathhead; D. Stark, Dumfries; T. Barclay, Blackford; J. Longmore, Dumfries; A. Nicolson, Leith; R. Hermon, Montrose; J. Ripely, Edinburgh; J. Villiers, Dumfries; J. H. Gray, Glasgow; J. Butters, Edinburgh; Hardie, Edinburgh; Lee, Edinburgh; D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; J. Wylie, Dumfries; and H. M'Laren, Glasgow.

"It is true" said an old philosopher, "that two heads are usually better than one, but it never could be thus with two heads on the same pin."

We give the following as we received it:—A teetotaller, who never adorns his table with wicked wine, gave his servant a homeopathic dose of whisky to clean the plate with. The girl, however, was troubled with a "sair tooth," and "necessity's sharp pinch" prompted her to drink the whisky and blow her breath on the spoons!

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

AUGUST, 1882.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH Annual Meetings of this Association will be held in Glasgow, on Tuesday 26th September, 1882.

The members and friends will meet for BUSINESS in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, at Ten o'clock A.M. Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., president of the Association, will occupy the chair. The annual report and treasurer's statement will be laid before the meeting; office-bearers elected in the room of those retiring; and important business brought under consideration.

The ANNUAL TEA PARTY will take place in the City Hall Saloon, Candleriggs, at 3.30 P.M. precisely. Representatives from the various Temperance Associations in Scotland have been invited to this meeting, and addresses from delegates and representatives will be delivered. Tickets one shilling each, for which early application is necessary.

The ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the City Hall in the evening at half-past seven o'clock.

Fuller particulars will appear in the next issue of the *Social Reformer*. The early notice given will allow the friends ample time to shape their arrangements so as to enable them to be present. The Executive rely with confidence on a large and enthusiastic attendance at all the meetings.

R. MACKAY, Secy.

With feelings of regret and mortification as keen as our own, the friends sympathising with the earnest efforts of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory Movement must have learned that, after all his efforts to move the House and the Government, Sir Wilfrid Lawson was on Tuesday, 18th ult., denied a hearing for his Resolution. It may be true or false that the publicans did their very best to prevent his resolution coming on—the fact that they are so widely blamed, does not speak much for their reputation when their own pernicious interests are at stake. The fact, the mortifying fact, remains that Sir Wilfrid was not heard. We refer our readers to his letter to the Daily Press, published in another por-

tion of our magazine. Of the letter this much may be freely admitted, that he takes his repulse with an admirable temper, and that his gay wisdom has not deserted him. Never in all the divisions on the Bill has he been similarly repulsed as he was last month. True, in 1872 there was no division taken, but that arose from a desire on the part of Sir Frederick Heygate that the debate should be adjourned, and he moved accordingly. He was defeated, but immediately, by the rules of the House, the debate stood adjourned. That same year an attempt was made again to bring on the Bill but it failed. In 1877 Sir Wilfrid gave way that Ireland might get her Sunday Closing Bill passed into law. At every other time, and twice in 1880, Sir Wilfrid had his innings. Well, we in Scotland have done our best to assist him. We have petitioned for his Bill till we resolved to relinquish petitions and send men to support him. We memorialised on behalf of his Bill and his resolution. Every election in Scotland has found the Association stirring up the electors, even as the eagle stirreth up her nest. Deputation after deputation have gone to London and laboured earnestly and persistently in his support. With what result it is for our readers rather than the Executive to say. But of what avail the pressure. It is undoubtedly great and singularly worthy of the agitation, but it is evidently not enough for the purpose. The Association must appeal to the country and ask it to increase the force and pressure of its demand. That Government should longer evade satisfying the just claims of the Scottish people is not to be tolerated. The pressure already exerted has told powerfully upon Scottish Parliamentary representatives, as may be easily divined from their voting upon the question whenever the calling of a division has presented them with an opportunity, but it is the Government that loiters and delays. Mr. Gladstone made a confession the other day hardly creditable to the strong Government of which he is the head. He is reported to have said, he thought that the arrangements at present in force, if any arrangements can be said to be in force for the transaction of Scotch business, which it seems to him is never transacted at all, are so unsatisfactory that the imperative duty of the Government must be to endeavour to make better provision in future. There is an opportunity for the Scottish people to get their numerous and weighty grievances redressed. Let them avail themselves of it. The Association is, we believe, bent upon a vigorous attempt to get special legislation for Scotland, upon which, we hope, it will concentrate all future efforts. If the Government will make provision for the transaction of Scotch business to the extent of that provision, its labours may be lightened, but its main reliance is upon its own supporters. Let them afford it the needful pressure, let them combine and enable the Executive to impress upon the Government the conviction that the liquor traffic of Scotland must be

grappled with at once if the support of the Scottish people is to be longer counted upon, and there need be no fear that the relief demanded will be gracefully and speedily afforded.

During the past months the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have been hard pressed through their earnest desire to meet the growing demands of the agitation. Their agents and advocates have been having an incessantly busy time, and have been greatly encouraged by the reception everywhere accorded to them. A week's meetings—two meetings nightly—were held in Glasgow with the greatest success. Mr. Bennet excepted, the whole staff of the Association took part in these, and great good will, we believe, follow the efforts made. A week's meetings in Dumfries, Paisley, Greenock, in and around Inverness, and a fortnight's meetings in Edinburgh, add to the ordinary work of the Association, not to speak of those gatherings which were on a less extensive scale. So far as our information goes the audience cheered the advanced sentiments of the speakers, and those who are incredulous as to state of public feeling on the principles and policy of the Association, should just go with the agents on a week's tour. They will return without even a shred of unbelief as to the country's wish for an absolute veto. Wherever the agents of the Association take up their stand they impeach the traffic in alcoholic liquors, whether licensed or furtive, as the blackest source of corruption that ever menaced the liberties or the virtue of any country, and to their proposal that its fate should be finally determined by the ratepayers there, is always the hearty amen of a large and sympathetic audience.

The British Temperance League Conference was this year held at Preston, so indelibly associated with the rise and progress of the Temperance Reformation. It is claimed for it, and justly we believe, that it was the best Conference ever held. A most noteworthy incident of the proceedings was the visit of Mr. Joseph Livesey to the Conference meeting on the 4th ult. Frail in body, yet with the old spirit—clear and sensible, the veteran met the audience hushed at his request into respectful and reverent silence, and passed along leaning on the arms of Mr. William and Mrs. Livesey. He paced twice the length of the room shaking hands with Mr. John Sergeant, his dear friend, and another. Arriving at the entrance he turned and said: "God bless you all. If I was not so feeble I would have spoken to you," and passed out amid the tearful regards of beating hearts. It is more than fifty years since this indomitable champion of personal abstinence began his manifold labours on behalf of temperance, and his labours have commended themselves to two generations. He has fought a good fight and kept his faith in the principles of teetotal-

ism, brightened by constant use. We have often regretted that he never saw his way to support the Permissive Bill, but we have never forgotten his wise words, "While the public houses exist the main obstacle to the temperance reformation remains unmoved." The difference between us is merely one of means and not of principle. With him all is well. The tabernacle of clay in which so much worth has for so long been enshrined is slowly but surely crumbling to decay, but the soul that conceived the work and gave so liberally for carrying it on need have little to fear. Dissolution sooner or later will release it from this vale of tears, and through the Saviour's merit will waft it into life that shall never end.

Canon Hopkins in several of this year's issues of *The Church of England Temperance Chronicle* treats in an exhaustive and impressive manner the barmaid question. This is a question which always crops up, and it is not long since we brought before our readers the opinion of an American lady on this sad phase of our present day civilization. The Rev. Canon was led to make his inquiry owing to the barmaid of the Criterion destroying herself because of the heartless cruelty of a naval officer. Barmaids at railway stations are not nearly so dangerously beset nor afflict such mischievous consequences upon their customers as those in the bar-rooms of our cities. These latter only answer their end when they induce their customers to a gross indulgence in their master's hurtful wares. He very fairly puts on record the grievances of this class as stated by themselves. The story may be easily guessed—it is one of long hours and short pay—the market is over-supplied and there are more aspirants for their position than would twice overfill their places. Thoughtless girls devoid of moral training or discrimination, as beautiful as them, looking in and seeing them dressed like ladies, flirting with young men with better clothes than brains, are prepared to make any risk to be barmaids. The glitter is what is seen, the loss of self-respect, of virtue, is not seen. The barmaids themselves cannot relinquish their position, they cannot step down to virtue and a crust, and they cling to vice and its hollow pleasures, shutting their eyes to the goal—intemperance, gay life, the streets, or the early and dishonoured grave. Canon Hopkins also allows the literary friends of the barmaids to advocate their case. But after all that they can say they have to admit that the most serious dangers to health of body and purity of soul are inseparable from her calling. In his last article he quotes a fearful account from the *Christian* of the mode pursued by French barmaids. These unfortunate creatures, to induce their visitors to drink, drink with them, and the result is fearful in the extreme. In Glasgow this custom has already begun, although it is confined, as yet, to one place of resort. Still things bad begun make strong themselves by ill. This barmaid question is one of the most

alarming in connection with the drink traffic. Everywhere charming and beautiful women are being pressed into the publican's service, they exert a powerful fascination over their customers which is always to their injury, and they themselves, in the generality of cases, sooner or later, stripped of all the purity and excellence which go to form the truly amiable, virtuous, and lovable woman, sink into wretchedness and misery: the "good things" they once enjoyed adding by their remembrance to the horrors or the hardships of their unhappy lot.

Not long ago we exposed a sacramental wine for temperance people as a great fraud, for which we were soundly bullied by the makers of it. Subsequently we published an analysis of wine for temperance people, which analysis was furnished by the Unfermented Wine Vigilance Company and showed that they were all, with the exception of the famous wine of Mr. Frank Wright, loaded with alcohol. We have lying before us a statement by Mr. Malins of Birmingham about Good Templar champagne. This liquor contains 19½ per cent. of proof spirit, nearly four times the strength of ordinary Edinburgh ale or London porter. The agents for it admit in their price lists that it contains 9 per cent. of alcohol and yet vend it for the special use of Good Templars. Appeals to their conscience are vain it appears. We should not be surprised if they should be offended that their audacious cleverness in making a dash at the very designation of the noble order is not heartily acknowledged. Mr. Malins directs attention to the so-called "sacramental wines." The "Ruby" wine has 11.2 per cent. of absolute alcohol or 24.3 per cent. of proof spirit. "Rota tent," the wine recommended at one of the Wesleyan Conferences for sacramental purposes, is as intoxicating as "Ruby tent." Next of the disclosures is that of "Hop Bitters." It contains 12 per cent. of alcohol and costs 4s. 6d. per bottle. Bavarian, Danish, and Lager beer are all intoxicating liquors. The absurd idea that man must drink something lies at the bottom of this credulity on the part of abstainers, and at the success of such commercial swindling. There are men of a deciduous nature who content themselves with the water in their food and fruits, and they never feel the want of draughts of tea, milk, or soup. The proportion of liquids in food and fruits is their standard and they loyally adhere to it. Others confine themselves to milk and tea or coffee, avoiding all other artificial drinks. Those who crave such beverages as are now advertised are in the path of danger and should at once seek safety in an abstinence which excludes all such dubious liquors.

One of the importations which is finding favour with the bibulous in our land is lager beer. Of course its virtues (!) are loudly trumpeted by the interested, and in consequence quantities of it are

being increasingly swilled by beer drinkers. That fearful nemesis of beer—Bright's disease—does not pass by the drinkers of lager beer. An eminent American physician observes that "the man who habitually drinks beer is sure to have Bright's disease. Beer in large quantities is one of the worst things a man can ruin his stomach and organs with. In Germany where the students drink a great deal of beer their kidneys and bladders are always affected." So along with this insidious liquor will come a proportionate amount of misery and suffering—all the sadder that it might be so easily averted, and having a fatal termination in numerous cases. Addison brings before his readers a problem of the schoolmen. Supposing the whole body of the earth were a mass of the finest sand and that a single grain of it were annihilated every thousand years, and supposing one had it in his choice to be happy all the while this prodigious mass of sand was being consumed on condition that he was to be miserable ever after, or supposing that he was to be miserable during the slow process of its destruction on condition of being happy ever after, what would be his choice? The gentle moralist expresses a fear that many having a greater imagination than reason would sink under the consideration of such a length of time of misery and give themselves up to the happiness of the hour considering that it would be so near and last so very long. We fear that Addison must have had liquor drinkers in his mind's eye, at least he would have made no mistake if he had, for while we think of the extreme folly of those who will, despite warning and in deliberate ignorance, indulge in strong liquors, we cannot help associating them with those unhappy beings who will sacrifice the happiness of length of days and a blissful future to the fleeting pleasures of a few short years.

It always affords us pleasure to find that the number of honourable members in Parliament who are total abstainers shows a steady increase. The number is now thirty-two—twenty-five English representatives—Lord E. Fitzmaurice (Calne), Sir W. V. Harcourt, Bart. (Derby), Sir C. Dilke, Bart. (Chelsea), Sir W. Lawson, Bart. (Carlisle), Messrs. W. S. Allen (Newcastle under Lyne), John Bright (Birmingham), T. Burt (Morpeth), W. S. Caine (Scarbro'), H. C. E. Childers (Pontefract), Joseph Cowen (Newcastle), D. Davies (Cardigan), R. Davies (Anglesey), W. Fowler (Cambridge), Theo. Fry (Darlington), E. S. Howard (East Cumberland), Alfred Illingworth (Broadford), C. B. M'Laren (Stafford), H. Mason (Ashton under Line), S. Morley (Bristol), George Palmer (Reading), Arthur Pease (Whitby), H. B. Saunderson (Frome), J. C. Stevenson (South Shields), C. T. Thompson (Durham), and Professor Bryce (Tower Hamlets). Six Irish representatives: J. A. Blake (Waterford County), J. P. Corry (Belfast), C. H. Meldon (Kildare), Arthur O'Connor (Queen's County), J. R. Richardson (Armagh)

County), and Benjamin Whitworth (Drogheda). One Scotch representative: Mr. P. M'Lagan (Linthgow). We indulge the hope that Scotland will, after next election, have a larger number of abstaining representatives. In this matter she should not hold a bottom place.

We have again to remind our readers of their duty towards the Electoral Register. This is a very imperative matter at the present moment; for there never was a time when the urgency of crowding it with the friends of prohibition was so evident. We do not write to needlessly alarm our friends, but really they cannot, any more than we ourselves, feel easy about the political future. Kings and crowns are proverbially unstable, but in our age the same has to be said of governments, a breath can make them as a breath has made, and a word has kindled up the fiercest elements of parliamentary strife and driven a government into the chill shades of the Opposition. This may be the fate of the Government of the day: it is threatened with the destructive vote of those which it has done most for, it is menaced by its inveterate foes the Opposition, and there is open disaffection among its own supporters. At such a perilous moment it is the bounden duty of the prohibitionist to see that the Electoral Register is all right—that he is prepared for any eventuality. No doubt greater attention is bestowed upon the Roll now than ever was the case, but year by year friend after friend departs and the gap left by their decease should be filled by one as friendly to the cause. How many men are there in every locality who should be there and are even thought to be there who, when the struggle arises, are found among the absentees? This may arise from ignorance of their right and their duty, but the committee cannot be absolved from censure, for they ought to know and should have enrolled all such. They should never forget that Providence is on the side of the strongest battalions. There are also the lodgers. They must be looked after year by year, and many a majority might be made overwhelming if they were duly mustered. This year the Electoral Rolls of our burghs will be largely augmented by the registration of female ratepayers. This new accession cannot but strengthen the hands of Prohibitionists, and render the struggle more decisive for them. We heartily welcome them: they have been a source of political strength wherever virtue has needed help at the polling booth, and we will we believe have to thank God more heartily that our triumph over the publicans has been swelled through their voting. We leave this matter in the hands of our friends. They know how much our present progress owes to their attention to the Electoral Register hitherto, and we leave them to maintain, by their vigilant care of it, the proud Parliamentary position we possess. We remind them that in burghs, ratepayers who have paid their rates due at 20th June are qualified, and their

names should appear on the register. The roll has to be completed by the 15th September, when it will be exhibited publicly for examination by the inhabitants. It should be narrowly scrutinized lest the names of friends should have been omitted or wrongly entered. Lodgers must be entered every year. Local committees should have plenty of blank forms in which to enter those omitted or not entered. If the party omitted is a Liberal the Liberal committee will gladly see after him; if a Conservative that party will do likewise. But in any case let our friends look to this important matter and make it their supreme care to do it all needful justice: their satisfaction will be felt through the knowledge that they are prepared for any eventuality, their triumph will come with the great success they may have earned through their vigilance in the Registration Court. "LET ALL FRIENDS OF AN ABSOLUTE VETO OVER THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC ATTEND TO THE ELECTORAL REGISTER."

The Clubs (working men's and other) have been so very persistently decried as being little else than "shebeens" that we are glad to know that the working men's Liberal Club at Salisbury voted last month on drink or no drink to members. On the vote being taken (by ballot) it was found that 271 had voted—237 no, 30 yes, and neutral 4. This is what we should expect to be the result of a vote in any club instituted by working men for self improvement. And when the national issue, liquor traffic or voluntary prohibition, is put to them their vote will, we anticipate, show that their order is overwhelmingly in favour of the suppression of the liquor traffic. Their rulers believe this also—why do they decline to give them the opportunity of voting on this issue? When, however, the working class awaken to the fact that their rulers cannot forego the twenty-three millions sterling accruing from the debasing indulgence into which so many of their order are entrapped, they will know what use to put their votes to—the destruction of the liquor traffic as the main cause of the enforced idleness, the meagre pay, the unfrugality, the irreligion which is such a sad reflection on the toiling millions, and which goes so far to obscure their hardy virtues.

Notwithstanding the Sunday Closing Act which is bound to operate in Wales speedily, and the many restrictions on their business which the publicans complain of having to endure, the eye is arrested by advertisements in publican newspapers which ought to fix the serious attention of moral and social reformers. We are offered by a licensed valuer in Wales, seventeen years' lease of premises, perfectly free, and asserted to be the best paying and easiest conducted trade in the town. The money required is twelve hundred pounds, and the concern, we are told, is a certain fortune to a business man. The devil hardly ever put forth a more tempting bait

than that. He tempts us all, but to some minds the alluring bait of a fortune for twelve hundred pounds invested in the best paying and easiest conducted trade in a busy, manufacturing, mining, and shipping port will be irresistible. Golden as the bait is, the price to be paid for it will be found much more than the sum that passes between the buyer and the offerer. To be a sound business publican means skill in the doctoring of liquors, blending them more to bring out their capacity of saturation than to increase their quality, tact and push as seen in the beauty of the barmaid, the artistic splendour of the fittings, the knowledge of the night side of human nature, that callousness which is impervious to moral consideration, and that deference to the exactions of self-interest which quietly puts aside all sympathy for those who fall by the power of his "strong ones." Such a man will kill four customers every year by his liquors besides shortening the lives and diminishing the happiness of hundred others. He will be cursed by his customers and will never have the blessing of those who are ready to perish. Like a "switcher" on the railway line he will stand on the road that leads from the cradle to the grave, and turning the points for many an unsuspecting youth and maiden, hurl them into those fearful swamps in which they will sink to rise no more—and sinking wish that they might sink beyond the reach of the Archangel's trump. No, we do not share the belief of the license valuer. The man who runs the drink selling business will find it is a losing business and one that can only be best conducted in the absence of all the better qualities of humanity. The money earned by such a fearful trade may form the fearful links of the galling chain that will confine him to those dismal shades where hope never comes.

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—VI.

June 19.—Mr. R. W. Duff, M.P. for Banffshire, on his re-election as a junior Lord of the Treasury, took the oath and his seat amid cheers.

— Mr. Osborne Morgan, in reply to Mr. Caine, said, The number of punishments for drunkenness in the army during 1881 was 43,606, and the total number of men so punished was 23,365. He was sorry to say that these figures were slightly in excess of those for the previous year, but much less than the average for the last ten years. In regard to the number of punishments for crimes arising out of drunkenness, he was sorry he could not give the figures as there was no separate record, and it would be difficult to make out one, but a very large proportion of the crimes of violence and insubordination committed by the soldiers were committed by them when under the influence of drink. It was quite true that the purchase of beer, tobacco, &c., from the regimental canteen at low rates, together with other privileges such as the use of the library, recreation rooms, and gymnasium, were offered as inducements by the circular issued through the post office to recruits to enlist, but he might say that the beer so supplied was of a very wholesome nature. (Laughter and cheers.) Cases of drunkenness arising from its use were exceedingly rare. He thought he might almost say that they were unknown, but he might add that no spirits were sold at these canteens. He

thought he might say the real cause of drunkenness in the army was certainly not the beer sold in the canteens, but the abominable stuff which soldiers obtained under the name of spirits in low public houses in the neighbourhood of their barracks, and for which this beer is intended so far as possible to be a substitute.

June 20.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice that he should move a resolution in favour of local option that day month.

Mr. Dobson, in reply to Mr. Macfarlane, stated that it was open to any purchaser to take proceedings with regard to the sale of an adulterated article. If a shopkeeper sold an article as cheese which contained foreign ingredients and the purchaser was prejudiced thereby, the shopkeeper could be proceeded against for penalties under the sale of Food and Drugs Act. The shopkeeper could protect himself by informing the purchaser at the time of the sale that the article was mixed.

— Mr. Caine asked the Judge Advocate-General if it was his intention to introduce any bill dealing with "those low public-houses" to which he ascribed the lamentable fact that 23,255 men out of a total of 180,000, constituting the British Army, had received 43,656 punishments for drunkenness in a single year, besides many other punishments for crime and insubordination committed under the influence of liquor. Mr. O. Morgan said that however desirable it might be to interfere with low public houses in which adulterated spirits were sold to soldiers and other people, he was not aware that it was any part of his duty to bring in a bill for that purpose. He was afraid therefore that he must leave that task to his honourable friend and to those who thought it part of their parliamentary mission to interfere with that class of property. Mr. Caine gave notice that at the earliest possible date he should call the attention of the house to the national injury and disgrace resulting from the increased intemperance of the army in consequence of the low public houses in garrison towns and move a resolution.

June 29.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Mr. Barclay, said that the Government have signified to the Government of Spain that the finances of this country do not permit of any reduction in the duties on Spanish wines in the meantime, while they have signified that they are not at all unwilling to approach the question in a more favourable condition of finance.

July 4.—Sir W. Harcourt, in reply to Mr. Lloyd, said it was incorrect that a knowledge of the English language was a necessary qualification of a publican in Wales.

July 9.—Sir H. Maxwell gave notice that on Monday, on the second reading of the Licensing Laws (Scotland) amendment Bill, he would move that order be read and discharged.

July 10.—On the motion of the Lord-Advocate, leave was given to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to licenses to retail intoxicating liquors on passenger vessels in Scotland. The Bill was read a first time.

July 11.—Mr. Stevenson presented a huge petition signed by 159,327 wives, mothers, and daughters in England and Scotland, including the county of Aberdeen, against the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday. The petition, which formed a roll as large as a barrel, bound up with broad bands of blue ribbon, was carried up to the table by the honourable member and Mr. Broadhurst, and deposited at the Speaker's feet amid laughter and cheers.

Mr. Onslow presented a petition on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers Protection Society against the closing of public houses on Sunday, and moved that it be read by the clerk at the table, which was done.

July 12.—The Beer Dealers' Retail Licenses Act (1880) amendment Bill as amended, was considered and read a third time.

July 13.—Mr. Courtenay moved the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, the object being that the Bill might be reprinted, so that the full financial proposals of the Government should be brought before the House. The discussion, it was proposed, should take place on the motion that the Speaker do

leave the chair. Mr. Harcourt opposed the motion, and moved, that in the opinion of the House, the financial arrangements comprised in the Bill will not be satisfactory unless provision is therein made for giving immediate relief to the ratepayers from the incidence of the rates levied for the maintenance of main roads in England. (Opposition cheers.) Mr. M'Iver moved that the debate be now adjourned, but the honourable member finding no seconder the motion fell to the ground. Mr. Courtenay complained that the motion of the honourable member for Oxfordshire was unexpectedly sprung upon the Government, and that to discuss it was very inconvenient in the absence of the Prime Minister. The discussion was continued by Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Hartington, and Mr. Reives. The House then divided. For amendment 131 against 149—majority against 18. The Bill was then read a second time.

July 14.—The House went into committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, when amendments were introduced, and the Bill ordered to be reported.

July 17.—Mr. Stewart asked the Prime Minister whether in view of the dissatisfaction caused by the manner in which the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Bill had been dealt with, and the additional proof thereby afforded of the necessity which existed for securing the proper conduct of Scotch business in Parliament—(cheers)—he would consider the advisability of seizing the opportunity the present vacancy in the Cabinet afforded to obtain that object by merging the sinecure office of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster in that of a Secretary of State for Scotland? (Cheers.)

Mr. Gladstone—I trust my honourable friend will not believe, from the unfavourable tenor of the answer I shall give to his inquiry, that I at all differ from him in regard to the preamble to the question. I think the arrangements at present in force for the transaction of Scotch business, which it seems to me is never transacted at all—(cheers)—are very unsatisfactory—and I deem it an imperative part of the duty of the Government in the measures they have immediately in contemplation to endeavour to make better provision for this purpose.

— In reply to a question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson stated that he intended to bring in his Local Option Resolution to-morrow night, if he possibly could, and he appealed to the Government to state to the House what facilities he might expect. Mr. Gladstone pointed out that if a committee on the Arrears Bill were finished before to-morrow evening, then the honourable baronet would be able to bring on his motion.

July 18.—Mr. Stewart Wortley presented two petitions from Sheffield, one being a quarter of a mile in length, and containing the signatures of 30,000 adult males of the population of Sheffield against the Sunday closing of public houses.

July 19.—Mr. Stevenson moved the second reading of his Sunday Closing (England) Bill in a brief speech. Mr. C. N. Warton moved its rejection. In favour the following spoke—Sir J. W. Pease, Mr. Ewart, Mr. Hibbert. Against were—Sir H. Selwin Ibbetson, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Gibson, Mr. J. G. Talbot, and Colonel Makins. Mr. Callan talked until at 5.45 the Bill became a dropped order. The discussion of this day was of some value.

THE LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION.

As our readers are aware, the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association immediately that Sir Wilfrid Lawson had apparently secured Tuesday, 18th ult., on which to move his resolution, asked the esteemed co-operation of every temperance organisation in Scotland; and communicated with their immediate friends and supporters through the country, and specially with the eight hundred and fifty ministers of the Gospel who substantially sympathise with the Association. They appointed the following gentlemen to represent them in London:—Ex-Provost Dick; J. Williams, Esq., J.P.; Messrs. Forrester, Selkirk, Winning, and Mackay.

The labours of their deputation were arduous. Not

withstanding the adverse fate which overtook the resolution, they were enabled to serve the interests of the Scottish Permissive prohibitory movement in many ways. They had interviews with fifty-two hon. members, and were gratified to find that the approach was never so cordial, nor the results more satisfactory. A marked and gratifying change has come over the minds of Scottish parliamentary representatives which will appear in greater progress in the House of Commons. Special interviews were obtained with the Right Hon. the Lord-Advocate, the Solicitor-General, Lord Colin Campbell, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen. These, we are informed, were all of a most encouraging nature, and, on the whole, the deputation were able to report in gratifying terms of their efforts. They fully expected that, if the resolution had come up for discussion and division, there would have been a larger vote for Scotland; at the same time, the adverse vote would not have been less, nor, they believe, otherwise; their expectations were securely based, and it is matter for no little regret that the Arrears Bill should not have been out of the way of the resolution. There was an impression prevalent in the Lobby that the publicans were pulling the wires in order to shunt the resolution. Nothing else could have been expected; but they have been doing so on every occasion and all along, yet with little retarding effect on the progress of the agitation. There is reason to believe that the fate of the resolution will tell as much in our favour as it would have done had it been divided upon. It was not the discussion of a principle but a cry for the application of a principle which the House has already emphatically endorsed, and the fact that the cry is raised for urgency cannot be set aside by a refusal, in consequence of a prior engagement, to listen to it. The Executive are prepared to take the sense of a Parliament in another way—a way that will approve itself to the country, and will vindicate itself to all who earnestly desire the relief of their country and kindred from the intolerable tyranny of the drink system.

The last duty of the deputation was to meet with kindred spirits in the offices of the United Kingdom Alliance, Parliament Street, London, on Wednesday, 19th ult. There was a pretty large gathering of kindred spirits by no means downcast, rather, we should say, too resolute and enthusiastic for dismay. We missed the genial presence of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who was quite absorbed in Egyptian affairs.

The gentlemen taking part in the proceedings were—Ex-Provost Dick, Glasgow; Messrs. Adams and Hussey, Birmingham; Mr. Wilkinson, Belfast; ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P., Edinburgh; Mr. Mackay, Glasgow; Mr. Schofield, Cardiff; Messrs. Raper, Kempster, Wall, and Fithian, Hilton, the Rev. Dawson Burns, London; Mr. Whitwell, Kendal; Mr. Davidson, Leeds; Mr. Brambley, Cambridge; Mr. Hibbert, Bradford.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

I. "That this meeting of temperance reformers from various parts of the country deeply regrets that the exigencies of business, contrary to the expressed hopes of Mr. Gladstone on Monday last, precluded Sir Wilfrid Lawson and the House of Commons from again urging on the Government, by a resolution, the importance of passing an efficient local option law; at the same time this meeting rejoices in the manifold evidences of a rapidly maturing public opinion, which will render it impossible to much longer delay the enactment of a measure giving a popular veto on the liquor traffic, which is more urgent than any other question of domestic legislation."

II. "That having regard to the widespread ruin and demoralisation which are entailed upon the nation by the traffic in intoxicating liquors and the fearful obstacles it presents to all material, moral, and social progress, this meeting strongly urges upon the constituencies of the United Kingdom the paramount duty of pressing upon their representatives in Parliament the great urgency which exists for promptly and effectively dealing with a system which is fraught with such universal disaster to all that is valuable in the community."

Scotland was ably represented on the occasion by ex-Provost Dick, and ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P. The eloquent fervour of the ex-Bailie made a most marked impression on his hearers. This last, but not the least interesting of their duties discharged, the deputation separated, enjoying the solid satisfaction that they had done their best for the interests of the Association and the movement they had the honour to represent, and cherishing a confident anticipation of substantial results following their labours in the not at all remote future.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON ON HIS RESOLUTION.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—In some comments which have been published on recent proceedings in the House of Commons, it has been suggested that an intentional prolongation of debate on the Arrears Bill, and other questions, was promoted in order to exclude my resolution in favour of Local Option from the consideration which it was hoped it might have obtained yesterday evening.

I know not whether a prolonged debate was or was not carried on, but appearances were suspicious. But as it is most unlikely that this session will afford me another opportunity of bringing forward my motion, I should like shortly to explain how the question of Local Option now stands, and the reason why I was desirous to debate and to divide on the resolution of which I had given notice. You will remember, sir, that in the year 1880, soon after the assembling of the new Parliament, I succeeded in carrying through the House the following resolution:—

That, inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of Local Option.

This resolution simply declares the impolicy and injustice of licensing authorities being permitted to force licenses for the sale of drink on localities the dwellers in which decidedly object to having places for the sale of intoxicating liquors among them.

The House of Commons the following session reaffirmed this resolution by an increased majority, and those who warmly supported the proposed change in the Liquor Laws were in hopes that the Government would be able, at any rate during the present session, to introduce legislation on the lines of the resolution which I have mentioned.

You know, sir, how they have been disappointed, and how the exigencies of Ireland have retarded the enactment of almost all domestic reforms in other portions of the United Kingdom.

The object which I had in view in asking the House of Commons once more to declare its approval of a popular veto on the issue of licenses, was to ensure that there should be no further unnecessary delay in dealing with the matter, and so prove to the Government that they would receive parliamentary and popular support in legislating to provide efficient local control over the Liquor Traffic.

I am perfectly convinced (and I speak with some experience in the matter), that there is no public question which at present excites so much interest among the masses of the people, as does this question of Local Option.

It is no wonder that* this is so, when we remember that the Prime Minister himself has declared "that our drinking habits bring on the country the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine."

Thanking you for affording me space for this letter, I will only add that the friends of Local Option need not be disheartened at the temporary disappointment of last night, as I am not sure it will not supply a greater stimulus to the growth of a vigorous public opinion against the liquor traffic, out of doors, than

would have been provided had I been allowed to bring on the debate in the House.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
WILFRID LAWSON.

A circular, of which the following is a copy, was forwarded to every Scotch representative in view of the 18th ult.:—"Intoxicating Liquors Resolution. House of Commons, Tuesday, 18th July, 1882. Right Honourable and Honourable Members are respectfully reminded that on Tuesday next the following Resolution will be moved by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart.:—"That in view of the great and grievous evils which the nation suffers from the Liquor Traffic, this House is of opinion that the power of removing the cause of these evils by some efficient measure of local option, as recommended by the resolutions of this House of June 18th, 1880, and June 14th, 1881, be entrusted to local communities at the earliest practicable opportunity." The House of Commons has already, on three several occasions, divided on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution. The Scotch vote, on each occasion, has been as follows:—On 5th March, 1880, votes and pairs, for 32, against 7; on 18th June, 1880, votes and pairs, for 43, against 5; on 14th June, 1881, votes and pairs, for 43, against 5. In renewing, in this form, the appeal to the Scottish Representatives to support Sir Wilfrid Lawson, it is deemed advisable to repeat in substance, and with, if possible, greater emphasis, the terms of the statement of the case made last year, namely, that on no public question of practical and pressing importance is there such substantial unanimity of opinion in Scotland as on this, the votes referred to being a significant and indisputable proof of it; and, further, that a widespread impatience has been manifested throughout the country at the delay in giving effect to the Resolution. While the state of public business may be pleaded, on the part of the Government, as a reason for inaction in reference to this question, it is earnestly hoped that nothing will now prevent it being dealt with 'at the earliest practicable opportunity.' Right Honourable and Honourable Members are earnestly requested to be in their places on Tuesday next, and to support the Resolution, in order to strengthen the hands of the Government in giving effect, without delay, to the decision of the House. James Hamilton, J.P., President; James Torrens, J.P., Chairman of Executive; Thos. Dick, Vice-Chairman; James L. Selkirk, J.P., Honorary Secretary; William Smith, Treasurer; Robert Mackay, Secretary.—Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Offices: 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, 14th July, 1882.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—Kindly allow me a short space in your columns while I give those of your readers who may be interested an idea of the feeling in the southern district so far as I have been able to ascertain it. Brevity being a point to be kept in view in correspondence of this kind my survey of the situation will be given in as few sentences as possible. From the enthusiastic reception given me on 22nd May, when I began work in Dumfries town, I was led to form a very favourable impression of the sentiment prevalent in the neighbourhood, and the results obtained since then have fully justified my expectations. The friends render a willing assistance, and the public always accord a good reception. We have just concluded a week's meetings in Dumfries and we are told that the success attending these, considering that the burden has been borne entirely by the local friends, is almost unprecedented. Sound prohibitory principles were advocated at all the meetings. The officials of the Dumfries and Maxwellton Union are, I am glad to say, succeeding in securing the united co-operation of all the lodges and societies in town, and much effective work will yet be accomplished. Of the other places I have visited I cannot speak so favourably as of Dumfries. For the greater part they stand greatly in need of stirring up. In some places the main difficulty is to find some one sufficiently interested to co-

operate with the visitor. In other places want of faith seems to me to be the great drawback. Persons who have laboured long in connection with the movement have succumbed to the sickening influences of hope deferred, and retired from the conflict. A little pressure, however, may induce them to renew their efforts and ensure their co-operation.

In this district as elsewhere throughout the country, we come in contact and have to contend with the opposition of some teetotalers who take exception to our principles and policy. Some of these are vigorous enough in their denunciation of the drink traffic, but they either *can't* or *won't* understand the necessity of agitating for its total suppression. The Licensing Bill of Lord Colin Campbell has found no favour in this district so far as I can ascertain, in feeling most of the friends I have met are totally opposed to it, and there are few who take an interest in the question and understand the position of the prohibitory movement who regard the measure with any amount of favour.

While the general condition of the district so far as I have seen it is not by any means encouraging, yet with the assistance and counsel of the few tried friends who are prepared to stand by me in most of the places, I expect in course of time to succeed in creating a deeper interest in the question and enlisting not only the sympathy but the co-operation of many who are yet without the pale of the movement. The tide of temperance revival which has been sweeping over the north and east, and now in the west, is coming in our direction, and come when it will we shall take it at the flood and in conjunction with the others strike an effective blow at the system so dishonouring to God and hurtful to man.

A. BENNET.

The American Congress forbids liquors to be used in its own dining room.

Sergeant Lawrence, Dumbarton, the winner of the much-coveted Queen's Prize at Wimbledon this year, is an abstainer.

A "Green Ribbon" Army, composed of members of Roman Catholic temperance organisations throughout the United Kingdom, is about to be formed.

Mr. F. Murphy concluded on 30th June a week's meetings at Alloa. During the week 900 took the Blue Ribbon pledge, and 700 donned the Blue Ribbon.

The Mizpah Band—a society mainly composed of those rescued from the power of liquor during Mr. Moody's visit to Glasgow—numbering, with wives and families, about 500, had a most enjoyable excursion into the country on Glasgow Fair Saturday.

Quite a number of temperance reformers are, even yet, as inconsistent as the old farmer who prayed in Dutch and swore in English. These men pray to God on behalf of the temperance reformation, but they vote with the devil in support of the liquor traffic.—*Our Union*.

LICENSE AND PROHIBITION.—Taking an average for the six years ending 1880, we find that Ontario has five times the crime and more than five times the drunkenness of Maine; and in proportion to population nearly twice the crime and drunkenness. Maine has suppression, Ontario has license.

When a national religion totally forbids the use of intoxicating drugs, vigilance in the State is less needful; opinion, or even show of disgust and violence effectively stifles the evil. But if the national religion does not forbid the use but solely enjoins moderation (a word which every one interprets for himself) a far heavier task falls upon the State.—Prof. NEWMAN.

The *Licensed Victuallers Guardian* in reply to a correspondent says—"Minding our P's and Q's" undoubtedly originated in the tavern practice of checking or scoring debts by customers, the P's signifying pints and the Q's quarts. It was the practice of obtaining credit for intoxicating liquors which led to the passing of the 'Tippling Act' in the reign of George II. when gin was sold in pennyworths at the corner of streets in London."

A correspondent in the *Echo* gives the following as Wallace Ross's opinion of English scullers:—"Boyd was the best of English oarsmen, but in Canada there were plenty of men who would beat any of the present English scullers. Since the days of Renforth they had been steadily declining. In his opinion they drank too much beer."

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.—This nobleman has, since we last went to press, written an admirable letter to the *Scotsman* on the Grangemouth case, and at the opening of the Kilerregan and Cove Waterworks last month expressed his determination to on no account allow public-houses on these portions of his estate. This is an example which we would be glad to see followed by all landlords.

REV. SAMUEL HARDING.—A complimentary soiree was given to the above gentleman on Monday, 17th ult., on the occasion of his leaving Paisley for Glasgow. During the evening the guest was presented with a purse of sovereigns to mark the givers' grateful sense of Mr. Harding's manifold labours in the temperance cause. A presentation to Miss Harding was made at the same time. The rev. gentleman feelingly replied for himself and Miss Harding.

ANCIENT COUNSEL.—If thou workest at that which is before thee, following right reason seriously, vigorously, calmly, without allowing anything else to distract thee but keeping thy divine part pure as if thou shouldst be bound to give it back immediately. If thou holdest to this, expecting nothing, fearing nothing, but satisfied with thy presumed activity according to nature, and with heroic truth in every word and sound which thou utterest, thou wilt live happy. And there is no man who is able to prevent this.—MARCUS AURELIUS.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT FROM A MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW.—Our readers who have possessed themselves of a copy of this pamphlet of which Dr. McCulloch of Dumfries is the author will be glad to hear that it is appearing in a shorthand dress (the reporting style) in the *Phonetic Journal*. Shorthand writers and readers will, we have no doubt, enjoy the reading of it very much in shorthand. As nearly fourteen thousand copies of the *Phonetic Journal* are circulated weekly this admirable lecture will meet with a still larger class of thoughtful, and we fully believe, appreciative readers.

What is alcohol? It is an irritant narcotic poison admitted by the highest authority on wine growth and manufacture to be a poison even in small doses. We find in whisky, one pint, no less than 10½ ozs., and in a pint of brandy the same, and in rum 15 ozs.—a large amount, you see, of the poison. Port and sherry contain 4 ozs., spirit champagne, 3 ozs.; claret, 2 ozs.; London stout, 1½ ozs.; pale ale, 2½ ozs.; cyder, 1 oz. to the pint. Half an ounce of alcohol having been known to kill a child four years old, it follows that there is as much in a pint of Trent as will prove fatal to a child of this age and half kill another, and as much in a pint of rum as would kill thirty.—Alcohol and its Uses in *Medical Temperance Journal*.

DUMFRIES—THE BLUE RIBBON UNION.—The "week of special effort"—in the form of open-air meetings—which this society has been conducting in Dumfries, has now been brought to a close, and has proved a most successful campaign. On Saturday night, 15th ult., an evidence of the enthusiasm that has been aroused in the movement was shown in the large procession of teetotalers that marched through the streets with banner flying to the music of a volunteer brass band. The meeting that night on the Dock was addressed again by Mr. Wylie, the ex-publican from Govan, and Mr. A. Bennet; and the singing was accompanied on the harmonium by Miss Emma Johnstone. On Sabbath evening there was again a large meeting on the Dock, and vigorous addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Strachan and Mr. Bennet. The last of the series took place on Monday, when Mr. Wylie again spoke for a short time. The number of new pledges taken up to Monday evening was 1927.—*Dumfries and Galloway Standard*.

"Couldn't help it, wife. I hunted for this street all night, but in vain. They had changed its name, so I could not find it."

The Lord Advocate has brought in a Bill wholly abolishing the sale of liquors on board passenger steamboats plying on Sunday on Scotch waters with pleasure excursionists. Mr. Callan has meantime blocked it.

LANGHOLM—TEMPERANCE MEETINGS.—Mr. A. Bennet, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, visited Langholm and held meetings on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, 17th and 18th inst. On Monday evening a very large open-air meeting was held in the market place, the Rev. W. Watson presiding. The weather was very unfavourable, nevertheless the meeting was carried on, and Mr. Bennet gave an address which was listened to with great attention during a heavy fall of rain. On Tuesday a short open-air service was held at the same place, the weather proving unfavourable the company adjourned to the Infant School Room, where Mr. Watson (chairman) made a few remarks and Mr. Bennet gave an address on the "Blue Ribbon Army." Rev. J. Pantou also spoke. A number of pledges were taken and several put on the Blue Ribbon before the close of the meeting. After votes of thanks to the chairman and Mr. Bennett for his address and labours here, the meeting was closed with prayer.—*Communicated.*

THE WORK OF FIFTY YEARS.—A close computation of the number of adult abstainers total or all but total, from the use of ardent spirits, beer, and wine as beverages in this country at the present time, it would not be easy to arrive at. Great numbers would have to be reckoned in who have taken no abstinence pledge and are registered members of no association. One million of husbands and one million of wives would represent as many families, and a population of more than five millions who have completely discarded alcoholic drinks. The complete muster roll of the practical temperance people of the United Kingdom would, we trust, far exceed that number, which would leave nearly thirty millions still to be delivered from the dangerous custom of taking that kind of drink. That the degrading vice of excessive drinking is unknown in as many as two millions of families representing ten millions of the British population of all ages we should like to be able to conclude. The labours of temperance advocates for fifty years would have yielded a splendid harvest if as many as ten millions of the Queen's subjects in the mother country had been released from the moral slavery of a fatal indulgence. They would have secured a firm foothold and an inestimable advantage ground for operating systematically and vigorously upon the remaining twenty-five millions.—*Preston Guardian.*

TEMPERANCE HOME FOR WOMEN, PEEBLESHIRE.—We have pleasure in directing the attention of all whom it may concern to this valuable institution which is only five miles from the town of Peebles. It is only for those women who, being addicted to the habit of intemperance, are sincerely desirous of breaking it up and willing to undergo restraint until the habit is fairly broken. As there is no hope of reform where the liquor is accessible this retreat offers to all sincerely penitent the privacy and solitude so essential to their relinquishment of so odious a practice as drinking is to women. After six months of restraint they should be reformed, but in most cases more time is required. Women whose minds are affected, or who are immoral, or who frequent places of evil repute, or who have serious disease are inadmissible. A reference to a doctor or a minister is a pre-requisite to admission. This secures respectable society. There are stringent rules, but to the earnest longer for freedom they ought to be by no means irksome, and the work of the house should furnish suitable employment and engage the thoughts of the inmates fully and wisely too. The board is seven shillings per week, a sum which should bring the merits of the home under the attention of those of moderate incomes. Mrs. Wallace, Minden, Peebles, will afford all information necessary, and we hope that all who require such an institution will not be backward to enquire at her.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Temperance Lecture. By Mr. Samuel Cavan, Kirkcudbright: M. E. Maxwell. We are glad that the friends in Kirkcudbright have published this interesting lecture by our good friend Mr. Cavan. It is eminently worthy of a wider publicity than the limited precincts of their Mackenzie Hall, in which it was originally delivered, can afford, and deserves to be largely read and earnestly pondered by others than those inside the Burgh of Kirkcudbright. In accurate and forcible language it deals with the financial, physical, and social aspects of the drink question, and, what is a special and commendable feature of it, it in some instances localizes the evils arising from the liquor traffic, so that they might have a direct and special bearing upon those to whom it was first addressed.

The Foothold of Abstinence in the New Testament Law. By the Rev. J. P. Lilley, M.A. Arbroath: John Broadie. This is an able and eloquent lecture. It deals principally with the current objections to the religious and scriptural aspects of the temperance question, and passes in review the old arguments with which mistaken or insincere opponents have from time to time, with marvellous persistency, attempted to oppose the steady march of our great enterprise. These the lecturer groups into three classes—(1) those directed against the lawfulness of abstinence; (2) those urged against its propriety; and (3) those set against its scriptural foundation and social necessity. Of course to the intelligent temperance reformer there may be nothing very new in either the objections themselves or the convincing replies which they receive; still he will be grateful to Mr. Lilley for the clear, concise, and logical statement of the question which his lecture in a high degree exhibits.

Parliamentary Providence of Compensation.—By Edward Pearson, (Manchester: United Kingdom Alliance). This interesting, and we shall add, masterly pamphlet, deals with the abstract principle of compensation, laying down clearly and distinctly the legitimate and just bases upon which it must rest its reasonable claims: and also by apt historical reference it seeks to show the application of that principle to prominent legislative enactments in the past. Compensation is the bug-bear of modern statesmanship. An unjust monopoly or a dangerous traffic cannot be proposed to be legislatively dealt with, without evoking from those interested, the clamorous cry for compensation: and if to this cry you express the least dubiety, you will be confidently referred to the twenty million vote to the Colonies in 1833, as affording the one full and adequate precedent for any claim which may have been advanced. Mr. Pearson devotes a considerable part of his pamphlet to the consideration of this vote, and insists on regarding it as given, not as a matter of principle, but solely on the questionable ground of expediency. In regard to the publican's claim for compensation, the writer admits that they have a right to make such a claim, but he holds with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and against Mr. Gladstone, that we "must wait on the claim to be raised," and meanwhile protests that legislation on the main question at issue shall not be delayed by what must be regarded as a very minor consideration by all lovers of their country. The tract throughout displays an acquaintance with the parliamentary providence of compensation which renders it an invaluable document to every true reformer. We sincerely wish it, what it deserves, a large circulation.

The Right and Duty of every State to enforce Sobriety upon its own Citizens. By Professor Newman, M.R.A.S. Nottingham: Stevenson, Bailey & Smith. Everything on the Prohibitory question from the pen of Professor Newman is entitled to the most thoughtful consideration. He has done great and valued service to the movement. Latterly he has become politic and is aiming, as in this tract, after a common ground on which the abstaining and the drinking politician may meet. But we are unable to agree with him on the pro-

visions of a measure which stops short of the prohibition to which we have made vehement and formidable claim. Professor Newman accepts the drunkard as inevitable and desires a veto on him or her, whether procurable by husband, brother, wife, or daughter: he looks favourably upon the civil damage act: he anticipates from the stringency with which the Permissive Bill of Sir Wilfrid Lawson would be enforced an outcry from local medical men, chemists, etc., and believes that the highest form of legislation to meet these points is county boards, or their best substitutes local elective boards. To our mind a more effective objection to such boards than this tract of the learned professor could not be imagined. He demands in principle suppression, but as he is as yet unable to conceive of a suppression which would leave the moderate drinker high and dry on a voluntary mainland, he suits his sails to the passing gale. We, on the other hand, wish to veto the whole system—never contemplate anything other than that—and we believe that we will give a good account of a veto on drunkards, on the civil damage law and on the thirst of the moderate drinker, by simply suppressing all traffic and obviating all such evils as those for which he would have to make legal provision to the crack of doom.

Intemperance: its bearing upon Agriculture. By John Abbey. London: National Temperance Publication Depot. Price 6d.; 100, £1; 1,000 £5 10s. British agriculture is, and has been for some time, the subject of earnest solicitude by every lover of his country. From every quarter the cry has arisen that farmers cannot now make farming pay; that they are being beaten on their own ground by the enterprising Yankee, and that, as a consequence, they have had seriously to consider the advisability of quitting their native soil for "fresh fields and pastures new." A return to protection or a reform of the land laws have been the two rival remedies advocated as most likely to give the desired relief. Mr. Abbey, in the pamphlet before us, has, however, sounded the depths of true wisdom in ascribing to our alarming national intemperance a principal share in our agricultural depression. He shows by facts and figures "which winna ding and daurna be disputed," how this great inbred evil most seriously affects the landlord—in the increase of his rates and taxes and in a variety of other ways; how it affects the tenant in the loss of time, capital, and mental power; in the increased rates and taxes; trouble, accidents, neglect, inferior labour, and other losses; how it affects the market and prevents the farmer meeting with a ready sale for his produce; how it affects the farm labourer and his family, and gives him "a wet groat instead of a dry shilling" during harvest and other times. The author also gives an elaborate appendix, which contains many testimonies from landlords, farmers, labourers, and travellers of a most conclusive and convincing nature. Altogether we have had much pleasure in perusing the pages of this pamphlet which shows an amount of research and labour truly astounding. We heartily acquiesce in the conclusion at which he arrives, viz., "That landlords should endeavour to prohibit public-houses on their property; that tenants and labourers should abstain from the liquors sold in them; and that the Church and the clergy should take up the question in earnest and assist to carry it to a successful and happy issue."

"Why men drink is what staggers us," said a lady at a temperance meeting. "What men drink staggers them," said a listener.

Drink is the best stalking horse the devil has got. He gets within reach of many a soul by the help of a drink that he would not be able to bring to ruin in any other way.—*Archbishop of York.*

THE RULING PASSION.—Dr. D. has a bright little girl about four years of age who is very fond of dolls, and he buys a new one for her nearly every day. He bought a new one the other evening, but it did not impart the usual pleasure. "What!" he said, "don't you like the nice new doll?" "No; I've tired of stuff dolls. I want a real meat baby," she earnestly replied.

POETRY.

A "BLUE RIBBON" HAMLET.

To spree, or not to spree, that is the question :—
Whether 'tis nobler in a man to suffer
The pangs of agonising thirst in silence,
Resolved that he'll keep sober, or to get
Most gloriously drunk? You drink—get drunk—
No more; and by this simple means forget
The heartache, and in jovial mood can laugh
At unpaid bills and angry creditors. 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. You call for beer—you drink—
You drink—perchance get drunk; ay, there's the rub;
For in that drunken state what dreams may come,
When you have shuffled out the thronging pub.,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes sobriety desirable;
For who would bear the racking thoughts of debt,
The shrill reproaches of a shrewish landlady,
The haunting shadows of one's creditors,
The seedy raiment, and the consciousness
Of hopeless impecuniosity
When he himself might all his troubles drown
In foaming bitter? Who would sober keep
To chafe and scowl in deep despondency,
But that the dread of waking from a "burst"—
That wretched moment and that splitting head
No reveller escapes—frightens us still,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know well of.

—*Quiz.*

LOST LOVES.

The summer though beauteous
No joy can impart;
Cold and dead lies the love
That once glowed in my heart.
The sunshine brings memories
That crowd on my brain,
And fill my sad bosom
With anguish and pain.

At e'en when I wander
Alone through the dells,
I miss the dear fingers
That pluck'd the bluebells.
I long for the voices
That whispered to me,
As gaily we sang
By the beautiful sea.

When I bask in the warmth
Of the sun's glowing breath,
I weep for those sleeping
The chill sleep of death.
I think that Sol's brightness
Should e'en death's fetters part,
And bring back my lost ones
Again to my heart.

While the happy birds sing
And the fair flowers wave,
I think that my dear ones
Should rise from the grave.
I shed scarce a tear
When the winter winds blew,
And hid the green graves
Of my lov'd ones from view.

Yet, as vain was my weeping,
For the friends lying low
Sleep not the less soundly
Though clad by the snow.
But there's comfort to me
In the winter's cold breath,
When all things lie shrouded
In coldness and death.

MARY GRANT,

THE
Social Reformer.

SEPTEMBER, 1882.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER II.—MANY SORROWS.

THE inhabitants of Strathglide called it a town; at which city folks who happened to visit it smiled in amusement. It had a High Street, with a few minor streets branching off it; a Parish Kirk, and a Presbyterian one; a prosperous school, and a Town Hall, presented to the place by Mr. Gillespie, the millowner. A great pile of works at the west end of Strathglide belonged to him, and papermaking was the industry of the place. His residence, Barossa, was a fine solid mansion on the eastern confines of the loch.

Strathglide possessed one medical man, of whom it had been justly proud, for his skill was spoken of far beyond the limits of the little place where his lot was cast. "Had been proud," I say, because of late there had been whisperings abroad that the young doctor's character was not altogether without blemish.

"He is only a little wild, as many young men are," his devoted admirers said excusingly. "Wild oats must be sown some time." But there were others who shook their heads, and said the reaping would be a bitter one.

Dr. Hislop occupied a roomy villa between the east end of the High Street and the toll on the manse road. His sister kept house for him, and all Strathglide spoke well of Miss Hislop. The two were orphans, and might have been all the world to each other, but there was not much in common between them. One afternoon in the last week of December Laura Tennant tied on her hat, and ran up to Strathview for half-an-hour's chat with Miss Hislop. They were warm friends; at one time Laura had hoped to call her by a nearer name, but that was past.

She was at home, and alone, the servant said, so Laura without ceremony opened the sitting-room door and went in. Lizzie was sewing by the fire in the fading light, and rose to greet her friend. She was a slight insignificant-looking little creature, with a grave sweet face, a firm, determined mouth, and large, earnest grey eyes. A continual shadow lay in their depths. You do see such eyes sometimes. I often wonder what tragedies have been enacted behind the scenes to make them look so. She was not a timid, shrinking thing this girl, she looked like a woman who had learned to think and act for herself. In later years also she had learned to bear and make no sign.

The girls shook hands warmly. They were not the kind of women who could kiss and make a great fuss over each other. They loved each other well, but not with the flimsy surface love which finds its chief delight in caresses and endearing words.

Laura removed her hat, declining her friend's offer to go upstairs, then she knelt down on the hearthrug and stretched out her hands to the blaze.

"Are you quite well, Lizzie?" she asked, thinking her friend paler than her wont.

"Yes, I have been sitting here, Laura, trying to

solve the problem of a woman's life," said Lizzie, in an odd, abrupt way. "We go on taking care of people all our lives, with, God knows, little enough joy to help us through. What recompense have we?"

"At the end Mary's part," said Laura softly, then there was a little silence.

"Lizzie, our talk is different from that of other girls, there seems to be some new trouble every day."

Lizzie dropped her work, and looked up suddenly.

"What is new to-day?" she asked.

"Arthur is coming home."

Very low bent Lizzie's head upon her breast, and again there was a silence.

"I came to tell you, Lizzie, because I believed you ought to be prepared. Here are the letters."

Lizzie held out her hand, took the letters, and opened them. The first was addressed to Mr. Tennant, and ran as follows:—

ST. VINCENT ST., GLASGOW, Dec. 15th, 18—.

Dear Sir,—We regret to inform you that we have been obliged to dismiss Mr. Arthur Tennant from our service, as his conduct for some time past has been the reverse of satisfactory.

For your sake we might have borne with him a little longer, but his influence among the rest of the clerks is deteriorating to our interests.

With best regards and sympathy, we remain, yours faithfully,
DRUMMOND & GRAHAM.

"It is carefully worded, Lizzie," said Laura, as she replaced it in its covering. "But it is easy to guess how much lies hid beneath these guarded phrases. These gentlemen wish to spare papa as much as possible."

Lizzie, without speaking, opened the other letter and read:—

GLASGOW, Dec. 20th, 18—.

Dear Laura,—I shall likely be home the day before Christmas, as I have got the sack from the upright governors. They will probably notify you of the same. Smooth things up for me down there, and don't let a fellow's first visit for six months be spoiled by sour looks and sourer words. I hope you are as pretty as ever.—Yours,
A. TENNANT.

"I am glad you told me, Laura," said Lizzie, in a strange, dry voice, wrung from a sorely troubled heart.

"Papa is at a meeting at Claybridge, Lizzie, and this awaits his home-coming. We were beginning to feel a little easier about Arthur. There have been no complaints of late."

"Having had so much experience of the curse," said Lizzie, in the same slow, dry way, "I did not think you could have lulled your heart with such frail hopes."

"Arthur was very penitent when he left home, and seemed bent on atoning for the past, and trying to win you yet. He did love you, Lizzie."

"Yes, but not so well as drink. I know exactly how the case stands," said Lizzie; then she added passionately, "This drink demon has no mercy on us, Laura. It will have our all, even the last drop of our heart's blood. It has stolen my brother from me, and my husband that might have been. My poor Laura, it has given you many a heart agony. You look

shocked—well, perhaps I am vehement; who would not be? I have a heart, and it will cry out sometimes, though they call me a most self-possessed young woman." She rose to her feet, her cheeks burning, her eyes gleaming with intense emotion, and began a restless walking up and down the floor. "God gives frail women heavy burdens to bear, Laura," she said by-and-bye, "physically and mentally we are unfit to bear and live; so we die before our time, and are laid in unremembered graves. I do not know what may come after. I have strange doubtings sometimes which you in your sweet faith could not understand. I cannot say with you it is all good."

"In your inmost heart I believe your faith is more perfect than mine," answered Laura, struggling with the tears she could not keep back. "Your life proclaims it. Many wonder at your saintly patience, your—"

"Hush, hush!" said Lizzie, "you know me better than that. You have seen me rebel now, for instance. Like other women, I have cravings for the love which is perfected in a happy home; but, like some women, I do not proclaim my sorrows on the house-top. What will you do with Arthur?" she broke off suddenly.

Laura shook her head. "I have scarcely faced it yet. Oh, Lizzie, Lizzie, when I look back on what he was, when I remember the promise of his early manhood, his college career, his talents, his bright winning way, and manly heart, and think of him now, my heart is like to break."

She put her hands before her face, and rocked herself to and fro, sobbing; but Lizzie continued her restless walking to and fro.

"There's Tom, Laura. Get up and dry your eyes, or we shall have him sifting us like wheat," said Miss Hislop suddenly; and Laura rose at once and began to tie on her bonnet. In her present mood she had no desire for a conversation with Dr. Hislop. On her way out she met him in the lobby. He shook hands with her, nodded to his sister in his careless way, and passed into the dining room. Evidently he was not in a mood for talking either.

Lizzie accompanied her friend to the gate, and they parted there, Laura to go home and prepare herself for the task of breaking the news to her father; and Lizzie to steel herself anew for a meeting with Arthur Tennant. She loved him, as you know, but that was the beginning and the end. There must never be a closer relationship than mere acquaintanceship between them, for Lizzie Hislop was no believer in the doctrine that a woman can reform her husband if his habits before marriage have been objectionable. That is a quicksand upon which many a woman's heart has been wrecked.

It was half-past ten before Mr. Tennant reached home that night. Claybridge was the market town, five miles distant, and there had been no conveyance provided for him. Laura sat up for him alone, keeping the study fire burning brightly, and watching for him out of the window. When she heard the garden-gate creak on its hinges, she ran to the door to meet him, and helped him off with his overcoat.

"Are you very tired, papa?"

"Yes, my love; I spoke for an hour and a half at Claybridge, and it is a long walk home."

"Your coffee is hot, papa, and there is a nice fire in the study."

The minister smiled, and followed his daughter into the study.

"Was it a good meeting, papa?"

"Very good, my dear. Has your mother gone to bed?"

"Yes, papa."

Her voice was very low, and, looking at her more closely, the minister saw traces of recent tears upon her cheek.

"You have been crying, Laura."

"Oh, papa," cried the girl in a great burst of sorrow, "Arthur is coming home. Two letters came to-day. I read them. There they are."

Her father took them in his trembling hands, and scanned them hastily. Then his head drooped on

his breast, and a stifled cry went up from the depths of his stricken heart.

Laura rose then, and laid her arms about his neck, trying to comfort him.

"God will help us, dear papa, there is no sorrow so great but He can heal it," she sobbed. "Let us ask Him. He is our only help."

God heard the prayer which followed, and father and daughter parted for the night, heavy of heart indeed, but not despairing, for

"Earth hath no sorrow
Which Heaven cannot heal."

CHAPTER III.—LOWERING DOWN.

On the afternoon of New Year's Day, a young man came up the road from the Manse, towards Strathview. Tall and well-proportioned, with a grand head and finely featured face, lighted by keen black eyes, he was undeniably a handsome man. He was the only child of the house of Tennants closely resembling the mother. He was her living image. He walked leisurely with his hands in his pockets, and paused at the Half-way House, as the new tavern was called, to chat a moment with the landlord at the door. That worthy pressed him to come in and have "something," but being bent upon an errand, Arthur Tennant declined the offer.

After a few common-place remarks, he sauntered on again, quickening his pace when he came within range of the windows of Strathview. There was no one looking out, or possibly he might not have gained such prompt admittance when he knocked. The girl, a stranger to the place, ushered in the gentleman to her mistress's presence without announcement.

Sitting at her piano, with her back to the door, Miss Hislop was unaware of his entrance till she heard it shut behind him. Then she rose, pale to the lips, and, facing him, spoke in tones as cold as ice.

"Laura told me you were coming home," she said, "but I am unable to understand why you have sought me so soon." She hardly dare meet those eyes which in days gone had looked upon her with such tenderness that she had thought herself the most blessed of women.

"Lizzie, Lizzie, have you not a word for me?" he said, and took a step towards her.

"No, no," she cried, putting up her hand as if to keep him from her. "Oh, Arthur, if you have any pity, leave me now, and never let me look upon your face again!"

"I expected a warmer welcome than this, Lizzie," he said, coming nearer still. "You cannot have forgotten what has been between us." Listening to these loved tones, for one moment the girl's heart failed her—only for a moment.

"No, I have not forgotten," she said passionately. "But surely you, Arthur, have forgotten what I said to you the last time we stood in this room together. You have broken, times without number, the promises you made to me, almost on your knees. You said that if I would give you another chance you would conquer the curse which shadows your home, and is ruining you. I do not believe you have even tried to do it. And now, dismissed from your office in disgrace, and knowing how faithless you have been, you come to me here, asking me to welcome you. I am a woman, Arthur Tennant, and I love you, but I am not so weak as you deem me."

The unutterable scorn in the clear voice brought a flush to her listener's face. He moved to the window and stood there. For five minutes there was silence between them.

"Lizzie, will you listen to me for a moment?"

"I am listening," she said coldly, without lifting her head.

"Your words have stung me more than you have the least idea of. I have tried to give it up, Lizzie, but the demon is too strong for me to fight alone. If I swear to you never to touch another drop, will you go with me to Australia as my wife, and help me to keep my resolution?"

She raised her eyes to his face. There was sincerity written there, and his eyes were full of passionate pleading. For one brief moment the impulse was strong upon her to go to him, saying she was willing to go, if need be, to the ends of the earth with him. But the memory of the past, with its long list of broken promises and bitter disappointments, came before her and forced her answer.

"Too late for that now, Arthur," she said sadly but firmly. "I know something of the misery of life with those who sin as you have done. What help could I give you with my influence with you is apparently so slight." He winced at the implied reproach. "But Arthur, for your own sake, for the sake of those to whom you are very dear, try again. God can and will help you, and my prayers are always with you. Good-bye."

"It costs you little to give me up," he said bitterly. "Women are all alike, fickle as the wind."

Without waiting to answer him, she glided from the room, and there was nothing for Arthur Tennant but to leave the house, which he did and took the road home. But at the Half-way House, he paused a moment, and after a second's consideration turned in and asked a glass of brandy.

"Laura, where is Arthur? Papa was asking a minute ago," asked Charlie Tennant coming to his sister in the drawing-room.

"At Dr. Hislop's, I think; he will likely be home soon," she replied cheerfully, but she glanced nervously at the clock, which pointed to eight, and he had been absent since dinner.

Charlie conveyed the information to his father, and returned to Laura. He was nearly four years younger than she, but they were seldom apart. Of all her brothers and sisters, Laura loved this one the best. They drew their chairs close to the fire, and watched in silence the flickering fire.

"Is mamma better to-night, Laura?"

"A little," Laura answered.

Just then they were startled by a violent ringing of a bell upstairs. "Mamma's bell," cried Laura, and springing to her feet, she hurried up to her mother's room. Mrs. Tennant had been confined to bed for three days, consequent upon a drinking fit. Where she had got it remained a mystery to them. Possibly Mr. Sutherland could have solved it. Laura turned the handle of the door, and went in. The lamp was turned to its full light, and her mother was out of bed, sitting in her night dress. Her eyes were gleaming with an unnatural brilliancy, and her hands were clenched together on her knees.

"Mamma, what is it? Why are you up?" cried the girl, half afraid.

"I must have something to drink, Laura," said she in a low hurried voice. "Only a mouthful, but I must have it,—*must*, I tell you, there is something tearing my very heart out? Oh, I have had such horrid dreams, and that would clear my head and send me to sleep. Is there none in the house? Send Jean to Sutherland's."

"It is too late now," said Laura soothingly. "Come, mamma, let me help you into bed, and I will sit beside you till you fall asleep."

"I can't, I tell you," she said, half fiercely. "I must have it to still the gnawing at my heart. It is eating my life out; it is killing me; only a mouthful to satisfy the craving; I must get it."

"Stay here, then," said Laura, and, turning from the room, she hurried down to the study. Mr. Tennant was there writing.

"I wish you would come upstairs, papa," she said. "I don't know what to do with mamma; I think she is worse."

He rose at once and went up, while Laura went back to the drawing-room, but it was empty; Charlie had gone to bed. She flung herself on the sofa, burying her face among the cushions, and lay thus for nearly an hour. All was quiet upstairs till she heard her father's footstep on the landing. She rose and went out.

"She has gone to sleep now," he said, drawing his hand across his haggard brow. "Oh, Laura, Laura, where is this to end?"

She did not answer him, not knowing what to say.

"Is Arthur home?" was his next question.

"No, papa."

"Then I must go and seek him," he said, taking down his coat and hat. "It will soon be eleven o'clock." She helped him on with them, and before he went out he stooped and kissed her.

"Go to bed, my darling, and try and sleep; your waking hours are not so happy that you should seek to prolong them."

"As long as I have you, papa," she sobbed, clinging to him for a moment; "As long as I have you, I can bear anything." Then she went back to the deserted drawing-room to watch and wait. Sleep was out of the question.

Nearly an hour afterwards she heard heavy footsteps on the gravel outside, and in another moment the front door was opened, and she heard them come in. They passed the drawing-room door, and she knew her father was guiding Arthur's unsteady steps up to his own room. Not daring to meet him again, she blew out the lamp, and hurrying to her room she shut the door.

The moonlight lay white across the floor and on the bed, where Daisy lay asleep. She went to the bedside and looked at the lovely childish face, with its flushed cheeks and rosy lips, parted in a happy smile. The golden hair clustered on the pillow, and one dimpled hand lay outside the coverlet. Laura knelt down and laid her tired head for a moment beside the golden one, with a sick dead feeling of misery at her heart which could not find relief in tears. The shadows were gathering and deepening round her home, and, looking into the future, she could see not one gleam of light; and in her heart was the same cry which rose from the room below, "Lord, help, or we perish!"

(To be Continued.)

CAUSES AND CURE OF INTEMPERANCE.

(Concluded from our last.)

This is emphatically true of a third cause of drinking, the social temptations presented by the gin-palace, the beer shop and the tavern. The author does not select any section of the traffic for special reprobation, and assuredly we do not believe that the 40,000 beer-shops inflict more injury than the 60,000 public-houses. It is quite desirable, indeed, that the laws on this subject should be assimilated and codified into one system, and referred to one executive authority; but it is contrary to history and experience to suppose that an authority which has never yet controlled the old public houses effectually, will be able to repress the abuses of a system which will be extended by the assignment of so many beer-shops to their jurisdiction. It is also a delusion to suppose that more crime springs from the beer-shop—the public-house of the poor man—than from the tavern. Taking an average of many towns, it will be found that 10 per cent. of robberies from the person take place in the magisterially-licensed house, against less than 3 per cent. in the excise licensed beer-shop. At the origin of beer-shops, absurd and exaggerated expectations were formed of their benefits (in utter ignorance of the physical law which determines that drunkenness increases in exact ratio with the consumption of strong drink); we ought not now to fall into the opposite blunder of painting these shops in darker colours than the truth warrants, and thus indirectly turn away the attention of the public mind from the cognate and more chronic evils of public-houses. It will be a great gain to destroy the beer-shops, but the suppression of the dram-shops and taverns would be a greater. The whole system must socially and logically stand or fall together. The traffic is sustained morally, and protected legally, by the authority of the law. As a political institution, raised into power and privilege by Parliament, it can only be suppressed, directly or indirectly, by the same

power, whether by positive decree or delegated permission matters not. This is a question which it behoves every citizen to consider, and to decide according to the evidence. What, then, are the results of this system? Drunkenness and disorder, beggary, madness, suicide, and murder. Crime is so completely traceable to the perversion of drinking and the temptations and accessories of the public-house and beer-shop that the presiding judge at the Worcester summer assizes for 1859, declared, from a survey of the calendar, that had there been no drinking-houses, there would apparently have been no crime in that county. Since drunkenness, disease, depravity, and crime—evils, the reduction of which to a minimum is amongst the first and last objects of the social union—are the continual fruitage of the three classes of drinking houses, it would seem but a principle of common justice, that the authority of deciding for or against their existence in any neighbourhood, should be remitted to the judgment of the inhabitants for the supply of whose wants, as it is alleged, these houses are allowed to carry on their business. Who more likely to judge aright than those who constantly live around such houses, and who are to be affected, in person, property and purse, by the "curse," or the "convenience" of this peculiar trade? Statistics bring out the old truth that drinking is the existing cause of at least three-fourths of serious crime; they also furnish a conjoint measure of the drunkenness and crime, by revealing "the cause of the cause." In fine, the measure of the public traffic is the general measure of the drunkenness and the disorder. Public-houses are the great factor in the causation of crime, at once neutralizing good agencies, and adding virulence to evil ones. As the traffic expands or collapses, other things remaining the same, so do drunkenness and violence. The public-house is the tangible cause, the *fons et origo* of our social mischief. Appealing to a preformed desire for intoxicants, it spreads the temptation and the snare; it suggests by signs and associations the forbidden and dangerous pleasure; it supplies the facilities; it hides the beginning, and profits by the excess of the evil, and, to crown and complete the whole, it carries on the process of the seduction and ruin under the sanction and blazonry of law. Can we wonder when such colleges of crime and nurseries of sensualism are thickly planted in the midst of the homes and workshops of the labouring classes, that mechanics' institutes languish in debt and difficulty; or that temperance societies themselves are but a series of spasmodic efforts, composed of alternate successes and relapses. It is the rankness of public-houses in the centres of industry, not the denseness of population—for that is a mere abstraction—which accounts for the prevalence of crime. So it is the number of temptations in any district, and not the fact of education or ignorance, that measures the drunkenness and violence. Compté d'Augeville has shown that six of the best educated provinces of France are among the most criminal, while seven of the worst educated are the least criminal.*

The solution is easy, for in the six we find the most, and in the seven the fewest, drinking facilities. Ireland supplies a similar illustration. Ignorant, dirty, and neglected Connaught is far less criminal than educated Leinster and Munster. Why? Because there are forty-two drinking-houses fewer to every 100,000 of the population than in any other province, and the percentage of drunkenness is less than one-half the average. As observed by Mr. Moncrieff Wilson, "the sale of intoxicating liquor has, perhaps, as powerful an effect upon crime in increasing it, as education and occupation combined have in lessening it." In Sweden and many parts of Scotland, again, we find an excess of religious and secular instruction co-existing with great drunkenness, much crime, and an amount of illegitimacy which equals the worst cities of Europe. In other words, drinking facilities counteract the tendencies of instruction, both secular and religious. In Baden, Württemberg, and other states of

* Vide "Meliora," vol. ii., p. 176. Art. Educational Fallacy.

educated Germany, as attested by the inquiries of Mr. Recorder Hill, criminals are brought to prison, not by negative ignorance, but because they have become, there as here, the victims of beer and wine drinking. M. Quetelet, referring to the fact that "of 2,297 murders committed in France during four years, 446 were in consequence of quarrels and contentions in taverns," observes that "Man is not driven to crime because he is poor, but more generally because of an inadequacy to supply the artificial wants he has created." The statistics of English counties enforce the same conclusions. The unvarying correspondent of the crime is the public-house. If public-houses are beneath or above the average, so is crime. Crime, in short, dogs the steps of the traffic. Take six counties having fewest, and six having most drinking-shops, the following result appears:—With the public-house to 235 persons we have the criminal to 762. With the public-house to 109 persons we have the criminal to 591. Cornwall and Monmouth have nearly the same average of worship, yet Cornwall is the least, and Monmouth the most, criminal of our counties.* In the first we have 1 drink-shop to 304 persons, in the second, 1 to every 118. Save one, all remedies for intemperance in modern times, either from inadequacy or defect, have failed satisfactorily to abate the evil. Improved sanitary conditions and social privileges have not prevented its ravages. Full employment and high wages have been perverted to prodigate uses. Liberty has run into intemperate license, and shamed our political suffrages. Recreations, at home and abroad, unless dissociated from drink, have degenerated into riot. National education and normal schools, pale cider and light wines, have co-existed with a continued increase of drunkenness both in America and in Germany. The approach to free trade in cheap beer, and the beer bill at home, have failed worst of all; and the proposal to extend this principle a little further can be regarded simply as the despair of philanthropy. Even temperance societies, while accomplishing a necessary work, and achieving an unquestioned good, are quite inadequate to cope with that "throne of iniquity," which, under the license of law, is perpetually laying waste the fields of social beauty which moral suasion had reclaimed. The suppression of public-houses, however, has always succeeded to the extent to which it has been tried. The removal of the cause cannot fail to abate the effect. Actual facts confirm and illustrate the axiom. There are districts on the continent (Kornthall is one) where, the traffic suppressed, the entire social and moral condition of the people has undergone surprising change for the better. There are villages and parishes in England and Wales (as Scorton,† Dinorwick, and some Devon parishes) in which,

* Difference of employment and of race will not affect the argument, since formerly Cornwall was much more criminal; while the people of Monmouth and South Wales when the proprietors remove the drink-shops out of the way, as they have recently done in several localities, become as sober and law-observing as any other.

† In the village of Scorton, near Lancaster, there are but about two families who do not regularly attend the Wesleyan Chapel. The late George Fishwick, Esq. (a man of great wealth and influence, a perfect gentleman and Christian), had a great abhorrence of liquor-shops, and conducted his own house on strictly temperance principles. He encouraged the working people to abstain from spending their "money for that which is not bread"; allowing many of them to keep each a milk cow on his farm, on easy terms, so that each family had a good supply of milk and butter. As the village was not wholly in his hands two attempts were made to establish a public-house; but the people would neither go nor send to it; so it was soon closed and the village is free from the nuisance to this day. Now, what is the state of this village. Pauperism is almost unknown. There has been only one case before the magistrates for twenty years, and then the whole village felt itself disgraced, though the breaker of the law was a stranger among them. If a policeman happens to pass through the village the children run out to look at him as a curiosity. There is a Wesleyan day-school, of which the people make good use, and a large and well-conducted Sunday-school. The chapel is filled with devout and attentive hearers, their easy circumstances being

over a series of years, the removal of the public-house has been followed by the almost utter absence of drunkenness and pauperism, and the extinction of crime. In Scotland, there are about 150 parishes without a public-house, and in many of these no serious crime has been committed for years, poor-rates have become unnecessary, and drunkenness is "a strange thing." If prohibition at the mere will of proprietors or magistrates works so beneficially, we need hardly anticipate the failure of the same principle when sanctioned by the popular vote. After the first novelty has passed, the law will resolve itself gradually into the fixed habits of the people, and the amazing benefits of its operation must surely guarantee its permanence. If we have, then, any clear and true perception of the nature and causes of intemperance; if we apprehend the fact aright, that it is not only a vice and crime in itself, but one which is concatenated with evils which are rife and most ruinous in our midst, and which stand in the path of a juster civilization; if we regard it as an effect of our own social habits, having its causes in false opinions and mistaken laws; if we believe that we can make powerful at home, a remedy which is potent in Massachusetts and Maine, where it has become the settled policy of the people, winning year by year increasing majorities by the unerring logic of its marvellous consequences; if we sincerely desire to behold the unimpeded triumph of our educational agencies of various kinds,—is it too much to hope that our country will, at no distant day, rise to the dignity of a patriotic surrender of those habits and institutions which weigh down her divinest energies, that tarnish the character of her people, that introduce elements of disturbance into every sphere of social life, and which frustrate the chief ends and highest aims of Government itself?

THE RETREAT OF THE 70,000.

SPEECH OF GOVERNOR J. P. ST. JOHN, DELIVERED AT SEYMOUR, JULY, 1882.

MR. PRESIDENT AND CITIZENS,—In the beginning God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." (A voice, "Amen.") And God intended the light that burst forth upon the world in the beginning should be for the benefit of man. He intended that we should use it in giving to the world a grander, a better, a purer civilization, as one age followed another; and any subject under discussion to-day that will not bear the fullest rays of God's light, is unworthy the support of any true American citizen. (Applause.) I believe, further, that while a man may be in favour of temperance and not be a Christian, I am equally firm in the belief that no citizen can be a Christian and be opposed to temperance. (Applause.) I would like to speak to the Republicans of Indiana, and say, Be brave, step to the front, call upon God to vindicate your acts, raise the battle-axe for prohibition against the whisky traffic, and say to the cohorts to come on—we are ready to meet you face to face (applause); and in a great warfare like this, who shall there be in this broad land that can stand against us? The legislature of Kansas submitted to the people to be passed upon by them at the ballot-box in November, in 1880, the proposition to amend the Constitution of the State, by which it was proposed to for ever prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in that State, except for medicinal, scientific, and mechanical purposes. When the people reached this proposition at the ballot-box in November, 1880, by their votes, they crowned it with 8,000 majority. (Applause.) Brought to bear against us in the fight was the combined money power of the whisky ring of this nation. After we had adopted prohibition—after our legislature had passed the law, what has been the result? Are the politicians all against us to-day? No! When we demonstrated the power of the people—that the great majority were in favour of prohibition—the politicians tumbled off plainly manifest in their clothing and general appearance. What Seorton is without a public-house, thousands of villages will soon become when we get the Permissive Bill.

the log on the right side, as the little turtles tumble off the logs along the sloughs here in Indiana at the approach of danger. (Applause and laughter.) Now, the whisky ring of this country—and I charge it home to it, and have no fear of contradiction—it never tells the truth, because there is no truth on its side—(applause);—and I propose here to-day, in the discussion of this question, as to the relation of the success of prohibition in Kansas, out of its own mouth to convict it of falsehood. (Applause.) I hold here in my hands a pamphlet entitled "Prohibition in Missouri, is it Practicable or Desirable?" This pamphlet was issued by the brewers of St. Louis, and signed by Jacob Lemp, and I don't know how many more "distinguished statesmen" of that State. They flooded Iowa with this pamphlet before the vote there on the 27th of last month. They are sending them broadcast over Kansas, and I desire no better prohibition document than this pamphlet, issued by the brewers of Missouri. I said they never told the truth. I will read to you from page 11. In speaking of the bad effects of prohibition in Kansas, it says:—

"That hundreds of thousands of dollars annually derived from the licenses went into the fund for the support of the common schools."

That is true in part. But I am prouder of Kansas to-day than ever before in my life, to stand here and to be able to say to you that Kansas no longer suffers the disgrace of educating the children of the State at the expense of licensed dram-shops. (Applause.) Now, then, mark you the additional language here.

"But this is not all. These sums, now, instead of going to the school fund, go into the pocket of the saloon-keeper, who continues to sell just as much, and just as bad intoxicating liquors as ever before. The law has turned a tide of emigration from the State. It is estimated that no less than 70,000 people have left the State since the passage of that obnoxious law, to make their homes in other States and territories where right and liberty are better assured to them than in this misgoverned commonwealth, and multitudes more will follow just as soon as they are able to dispose of their property."

What inconsistency! Selling more whisky now than ever before, and yet 70,000 people leaving the State because they cannot get a drop! (Applause.) That is the kind of logic—that is the kind of argument, that the brewers, and distillers, and saloon-keepers, and whisky ring in this country try to force upon an intelligent people in the States of Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. Now, what will become of these 70,000 people? Did you ever think of that? Why, says one, go right over into south-west Missouri. Why, God bless you, Missouri, out of 114 counties in the State, prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors in 33 of them—(applause),—and Missouri, to-day, is moving on to prohibition as surely as the sun is to go down in the west this afternoon. (Applause.) So it is only a question of time, until they will have to pack their knapsacks and get out of Missouri. Why, says another, they can pass down into Arkansas. They cannot go to Arkansas, and why? Because they have a law there by which the people can prohibit a dram-shop at any point within three miles of a school-house or a church. Now, since that law has passed, the State of Arkansas has become literally dotted with churches and school-houses. How is that? says one. Why, whenever in any community a saloon is opened, the better element get together and build a school-house alongside the saloon—(laughter and applause),—and therefore, under the law, the saloon is compelled to go. So they will not go to Arkansas. (Cheers.) Yes, but, says one, go to Illinois. Well, while Illinois is the banner whisky State of this nation, yet out of 848 towns in Illinois, some three years ago, I remember there were 632 of them that refused licenses to dram-shops in that State. (Applause.) Why, they say, let them go to Iowa. Recently, by the voice of the people, with 30,000 majority, it condemned the traffic, and they cannot go to Iowa. Why, says one, if they can't go to Iowa, they can cross over into Nebraska, and I guess they will stay there. No, they won't; because those people have pending an Amendment to

the State Constitution, by which the people at the election next November, propose to put the ballot in the hands of the women in Nebraska—(applause),—and whenever you put the wives, mothers, and sisters behind the power of the ballot, the whisky traffic cannot live a single year. (Applause.) Let me tell you, if the wives and mothers of Indiana could vote to-day, the resolution of the party at Indianaopolis yesterday never would have been adopted. (Applause.) Well, says a fellow, I know where they can go? They can go right across into the Cherokee nation, among the Indians. Now, he is surely mistaken about that, because I have a letter here from the Indian Chief, D. W. Bushyhead, of the Cherokee nation, that tells me, the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicants, under the laws of the nation, is absolutely prohibited. (Applause.) I have also with me a copy of the law that makes it a finable offence—50 dollars fine and six months imprisonment in the national prison for violating the law. It makes it the duty of the sheriffs and constables to seize and destroy every drop of intoxicating liquor found within the Indian territory. It don't stop there. If a man is once convicted, and persists in violating the law, the second time, the same law confers powers upon the fathers and mothers, and upon the people, to band themselves together and utterly destroy the evil place of business, and make such disposition of the evil-doer as, in the judgment of the people, will be calculated to rid them of his presence. (Applause.) So you see they cannot go down among the Indians. What can we do with them? You older men remember that we used to pass around the hat many years ago at religious meetings, and take up collections to aid in sending missionaries down among the Indians to teach them a higher civilization, and to point them to Christ; and we taught them better than we knew; and it seems to me it would be proper, and it would be just and right now, for these Cherokee Indians—remembering our kindness to them in the past—to send a few Cherokee Indian missionaries among the 70,000 that left Kansas on account of prohibition. I know of no other means of salvation for them. (Applause.)

Now, is there any truth in the assertion of these brewers, that 70,000 people have left the State of Kansas on account of prohibition? No! scarcely a word of it; and I will tell you why. I have some means of knowing. I undertake to say here to-day that, outside of a few distillers, and brewers, and saloon-keepers, we have lost no population on account of prohibition. I undertake to say to-day that the people of that State, without regard to condition, race, colour, religion, or politics, will verify my statement. I have talked during the past ninety days to no less, perhaps, than thirty or forty thousand Kansans, and I have put this question to them, If you know of a single individual engaged in a legitimate business who has left Kansas on account of prohibition, hold up your hands. I have yet to see the first hand to go up, among the vast crowds I have talked to in that State. (Applause.) On the other hand, I have propounded this question: If your citizens know of any one who has come to Kansas on account of prohibition, hold up your hands. And from a dozen to as high as 200 or 300 hands go up in every audience I have addressed in Kansas. Have you anything to fortify this further? Let us see. We compare the census of 1881 with 1882, and with what result? We find that we have gained a little over 26,000 during the past year. Now, suppose we act upon the statement of the whisky ring, that 70,000 have left the State on account of prohibition, then, in order to have made an aggregate gain of 26,000 during the past year, you would have to have emigration enough first to make up this 70,000 that left the State, and then 26,000 to make the aggregate increase which, according to the figures of the whisky ring, would give us an immigration of 96,000 in a single year. (Applause.) Now, I don't claim that I said the whisky ring never told the truth. They love and they make a lie. We are not only gaining in population, but it is an intelligent, bright, and honourable population, unsurpassed by that received by ano-

ther State in this nation—men that help to build churches, school-houses, business blocks, and railroads, and help to make a State worthy of the admiration of mankind. (Cheers.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE USE OF DRUNKENNESS.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I opened my eyes widely on seeing an article in *Knowledge* with the above title. I am yet unable to satisfy myself with any good reason why it should have appeared in that scientific magazine, or what the editor should have seen in it to induce him to transfer it from *The Gentleman's Magazine* to his own columns. There are things "no fellah can understand," and this is without doubt one of them. The author, Mr. Williams, begins by admitting that he has been already worsted in a previous conflict with temperance reformers. Opponents like himself often used to think that they settled the non-alcoholists by their assertion that "these things were sent for our use," and that therefore it was flying in the face of providence to refuse a social glass. He, however, acknowledges that his arguments were overturned by the abstainers who have been "unquestionably victorious all along the line, especially since Dr. Richardson has become their commander-in-chief." Much can be forgiven the man that makes an admission of this kind, for it will meet the eye of very many to whom temperance periodicals are as little known as the "ever-circulators" of the Japanese.

He seems one of the class that never knows when it is beaten, and reminds one of Satan trying to get within the guard of the angelic hosts. Notwithstanding his beating he has forged a new weapon from material supplied by the late Dr. Darwin. His newly begotten thesis is that the drunkenness which prevails at the present day is promoting civilization and the general forward progress of the human race. This, according to the views promulgated by the *Social Reformer*, must be doing evil that good may follow with a vengeance. It exalts the whole fraternity of publicans, brewers, and distillers into the ranks of agents of civilization, and their machinery unto the high level of co-operative factors in the onward and upward progress of the race. The publican, the teacher, the pastor, these are the forces of advancement. The publican kills off the irreclaimable, unsalvageable, unfittest portion; the teacher trains the mental, and the pastor the moral part of the fittest who survive. After all there may be something in the cry, "Beer and the Bible"—beer being the negative and the Bible the positive force appointed for the elevation of humanity.

Going upon the Malthusian theory, revived in our day in the interests of lust, Mr. Williams states that that theory attempted to prove that increasing numbers and decreasing food led to poverty and degradation, but that Dr. Darwin, with the same belief, inferred that the over-population led to a struggle in which the weakest necessarily went to the wall; that this arrangement resulted in the superior class which struggling as before resulted in the emergence of the fittest. It is when Mr. Williams seeks to apply his theory that he entirely fails either to show the evolution he praises or the use of drunkenness he desires. He paints the earlier civilizations as brought about by brute force, that being needful for the physical struggles necessary through the surroundings of the earlier races. But how limited his survey when it excludes from consideration those great monarchies on the shores of the Mediterranean, Assyria, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. None can, we think, maintain that brutal or physical energies were the be-all and end-all of these. The very Pyramids themselves in their construction, the laws of Moses, the grand tour of the Grecian philosophers, embracing the Eastern nationalities, all disprove the assumption of Mr. Williams that the brutal and physical were the dominant characteristics of the early

civilizations. The later and Western civilizations have much to learn before they can claim any superiority over those great gray fathers of the past. But if we understand Mr. Williams he leaves the evolution of the brutal and physical and comes to that sort of development which distinguishes the present age. True, he leaves a gap which he does not stop to fill. The brutal and physical ideal is abandoned, and science and mental ability become the dominant powers in use. At what time this change came about Mr. Williams fails to inform us, but we must take what he likes to give, and it is quite sufficient to enable us to infer that the change is not evolution whatever it be. Mr. Williams may not admit that the modern progress of the race owes its supremacy to the diffusion of Christianity, but we can find in its power a truer solution than any which Mr. Williams has laid before us.

Of course Mr. Williams finds in the higher civilization under which we move that the old positive checks of Malthus are gradually giving way—that famine and the ague no longer eat us up, and that war is in its last phase—a merely chastening force. Despairing of the world largely using the preventive checks of Malthus, he looks around for a new positive one, and finds it in drunkenness. This vice is a heaven-sent means of pruning society, cutting off unworthy growths, and purging the population of its grosser fruits. The sober are alone the excellent of the earth, and from them and them alone will spring that high culmination of humanity, the saints on earth. He meets revulsion of feeling at this fearful view by informing us that it is desirable that this self-extinction of the coarse and brutal specimens of humanity should be performed by themselves, and if they enjoy the process all the objections that humanity might suggest are removed. He is careful to exclude from his consideration a number of hereditary victims of this sad vice, and then he pours the vial of his invective on the others. He has only such appellations for them as so coarse, brutal, gross, that the excitement of alcoholic stimulation is to them a delicious delirium, a wild saturnalia of animal exultation, and just as drink swept away the Red Indian this beneficent agent, if allowed to do its natural work, will similarly remove the savage elements that still remain as impediments to the onward progress of the more crowded communities of the old world. With him the drunkard is concurrently a criminal, prudent, but still a criminal. Drinkers do not require their courage stimulated, but drink to remove this prudence that they may be criminal without restraint and without disguise. The general conclusion of Mr. Williams is brief if not convincing. All human beings desirous to be among the fittest should avoid intoxicating liquors, provided no artificial pressure of absurd drinking customs is applied to them, while those who are incapable of the general self-restraint demanded by advancing civilization, and cannot share its moral and intellectual refinements, are provided with alcohol as a means of "happy despatch."

Looking over this view we are struck by the utter failure of the author to in any sense appreciate humanity. With him it is not a whit higher than the long train of brutal existences which form the first links of the evolutionary chain. The drunkard is as worthless as the fox or the rabbit, and failing to answer expectation is without compunction sent to his own place. That he should have any of the elements of a fine character is too great a stretch of imagination, or be tempted and fall from a higher and nobler existence, is never taken into account. That, reclaimed from his vice, he might be restored to society and redeem the time, never seems to have entered into the conceptions of the theorist, or that he has a soul to be saved would be as great a surprise to Mr. Williams as it is the fact that stimulates the benevolence of all who love their brother because they love their Lord. Every attribute of man is eliminated from the drunkard, and every attribute of Deity from the theory, and we have to thank God that facts are against this view. In Maine Law localities there are so few unfit for this working day world that the costly and cruel machinery of the liquor traffic to sift the bad from the good is not re-

quired, and when crowded old world towns are wise enough to dispense with drink facilities they will find as Charles Mackay sang, that

"The meanest wretch that ever trod,
The deepest sunk in sin and sorrow,
Will stand erect in self-respect
Before God's teeming earth to-morrow."

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

POETRY.

REST AND REWARD.

Not the thick and torpid pool
Which lies dull, and slow, and full,
Which is never stirred to strife,
Seeming without force or life,
Is the image of true rest,
Such as makes men calmly blest.

But on ocean when the wind
Roars no more, and leaves behind
Quiet slumber on the deep;
When the ocean lies asleep
There is rest, the sweetest calm,
Quiet as a healing balm.

And the soul that never felt
Passion's force can never melt
Into ecstasies of peace;
When the battle's noises cease,
Then the warriors feel a glow
Such as others never know.

After battle rest is sweet;
He who ne'er stood battle's heat,
Never fought and never won,
Cannot put fresh laurels on;
But the victor's brow shall wear
Precious wreaths of laurel fair.

ANDREW M. LANG.

APHORISMS.

Written specially for the "Social Reformer."

1. When principle reigns within prosperity reigns without.
2. Temperance is the friend of few vices; intemperance of fewer virtues.
3. Temperance is safer than intemperance; but abstinence is the absolute safety.
4. The soul and intellect of the intemperate man are in the foul grip of his passions.
5. The drunkard is at war with virtue, and is not at peace with vice. For vice is the very soul of dis-peace.
6. A drunkard's house is not a home.

N. M.

A SONNET.

Had I but known that thou, my restless heart
Would seek to play this foolish, trifling part,
I should have made thy swinging portal fast,
And barred thy windows with the greatest care:
If not for aye, at least till *this* was past,
And then 'twould not have seemed so hard to bear.
What though the lock grow rusty—weeds grow rank?
'Twere better far than what I now behold,
A ruthless waste, a desolation blank,
Envy and scorn and misery unfold.
Bright sun, thou seem'st to mock me in my woe,
O birdies, hush that merry roundelay,
For I must hush those tears that fain would flow,
And strive to act my part in seeming gay.

August, 1882.

POLA.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

SEPTEMBER, 1882.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL MEETINGS.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of this Association will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday, 26th September, 1882.

The business meeting will be held in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, at half past ten o'clock a.m. Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., President of the Association, will preside. The annual reports will be submitted, office-bearers elected, and business of vital importance brought under consideration.

The social tea-party of members and their friends will be held in the saloon of the City Hall, Candle-riggs, at half-past three o'clock p.m. Provost Macpherson, Grangemouth, will preside. Addresses will be delivered by delegates, representatives of kindred associations, and others. Tickets, one shilling each, early application for which will avert disappointment. These may be had at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, or will be sent to any address; applications to contain stamped addressed envelope.

The public meeting will take place in the City Hall in the evening at half-past seven o'clock.

JAMES STEWART, Esq., M.P., will preside.

The following gentlemen are expected to be present.

DR. CHAS. CAMERON, M.P., Glasgow.

C. H. MELDON, Esq., M.P., Q.C., LL.D., Kildare County, Ireland.

J. M. RAPER, Esq., U.K. Alliance.

REV. J. M'DERMOTT, M.A., Belfast, Irish Temperance League.

REV. G. GLADSTONE, I.O.G.T., Scotland.

Other speakers will be duly announced in future advertisements.

The Executive anticipate with confidence a large gathering of members and friends at all the meetings. It is most important that there should be a very large attendance at the business meeting; and that in view of the satisfactory state of the agitation and the consequent growing desire for special legislation for Scotland, measures be devised for a vigor-

ous agitation both in the country and in Parliament through which such legislation may be obtained.

Members and friends are respectfully reminded that the treasurer's book must close on Wednesday, 20th inst., to allow of an abstract of accounts being prepared for the business meeting. It is hoped that they will kindly remit to the Secretary by that date.

R. MACKAY, Secy.

A very thorough temperance reformer is the Mayor of Leeds—Mayor Tatham. He has been greatly interested in the good English game of cricket, and accepted recently an invitation to a match. At its close he candidly told his hearers that "he was dissatisfied with the result of so many matches with the Australians and his fellow-countrymen; and he believed that the failure of the English could be prevented. Our English cricketers did well in the morning, but after lunch, champagne and cigars, they fell away. The Australians were all abstemious, seven or eight actually abstainers. So long as the difference lay there the Englishmen would have to take a second place. If they wanted to win they must give up drink and tobacco." The worthy mayor's statement can be easily verified or disproved, but when Hanlon, Pearson, Trickett, Cameron, in short all who have in river or road or at target won supreme honours were abstainers, and felt that they had not steadiness of nerve unless they were, it is somewhat exceptional to believe that victory is to fall to the cricketers who imbibe and smoke rather than to their more sober if not altogether sober opponents. Very slowly we are free to admit, but certainly, we believe, the people are wakening up to the unassailable truth that in all things victory is his who, all things being equal, is sober rather than not.

A resignation which will create a wide-spread feeling of regret in temperance circles, will take effect this month. Mr. Thomas Wallace Russel, the secretary of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Intemperance, on the 30th inst. retires from that post. Although he will continue to labour in the good cause as health will permit, yet, to all intents and purposes, he will be no longer "the man at the wheel," and in this view his resignation is a loss to the Irish temperance movement. Mr. Russel has held his present position for nearly twenty years, and it is to his energy and perseverance that the passage of the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act is mainly due. Although but forty years of age, his health is far from robust, and he feels that it will be best for him, and it may be best for the future of the movement, which he will never desert, that he should seek a long rest. We hope that he will be long spared to labour, as he intends, in the temperance ranks, freed from the trammels of office, and that by his release from its duties he may gather health and strength to last him for many years.

The temperance movement in Scotland, and the movement in Aberdeen particularly, has lost a sound prohibitionist, an able writer, and an eloquent platform advocate, in Mr. William Clark, of Rosemount, Aberdeen, who last month left our shores for Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Mr. Clark was one of the most fully informed on the Total Abstinence question we know; possessed of sound prohibitory views, which he was ever eager to maintain and defend, both on the platform and in the press. He was an esteemed contributor to this magazine, where many of his papers have appeared, and were eagerly read by its numerous readers. The Executive Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and publisher, and editor of the *Social Reformer*, join in wishing him every success in his chosen settlement, and trust that many there will appreciate him as heartily as he was everywhere appreciated in the North of Scotland. The Aberdeen Temperance Society did honour to him and honour to themselves in recognising his merits by the presentation of a laudatory address.

The American Insurance Societies are taking a leaf out of the books of the British ones. Finding that with increased membership came an increased ratio of losses, the Ancient Order of United Workmen made an investigation. They found that they must exclude the "daily" drinker and the saloon keeper. The supreme medical examiner says in his report, "A man who drinks liquor as a beverage daily or habitually, if not actually intemperate, in the ordinary meaning of the word, is at least putting such a trammel on the physiological functions of his system as to render him a hazardous risk in an insurance sense." The occupation of the saloon keeper is "undoubtedly the most extra-hazardous of any business generally indulged in." Other evidence was adduced, to the effect that their statistics show a marked difference in mortality between beer-drinking and temperance communities; that, in proportion to membership, the mortality is vastly greater in the beer-drinking States than others. "This," says the *National Temperance Advocate*, "is the significant testimony, not of temperance fanatics, but of the business managers of a provident institution." Let all true hearts work more energetically, and pray more fervently for success, when they see so great a prospect of the crime-creating, pauper-inducing, death-hastening liquor traffic, within measurable distance of being commercially condemned and outlawed.

In the *Financial Reformer* for August prominence is given to an extract from a tract on the "Profits from Drink," by Mr. Warren, who writes strongly on his subject. He shows that from the Customs the import duty on liquors yields the revenue £5,482,274, and that from the Excise on home-made drinks the revenue derives £24,642,322, or a total

of £30,124,596 sterling; and he remarks,—“The nation's profit on 'Drink,' which means its gain in money by the wretchedness and ruin of many millions of its members.” He adds significantly, “But the strange thing is that, enormous and disgraceful as this gain is, the making of it, and that only, is the cause of an equally enormous and disgraceful profit by the individuals who distribute it to these wretched and ruined millions.” He backs his assertion by a truth that should make people who secretly favour the drink system ashamed of themselves. A publican buys a cask of rum $36\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, at 4s. 6d. per gallon—the price in bond = £8 4s. 6d. The duty is 10s. 2d. per proof gallon = £24 8s. = £32 12s. 6d. But the seller adds 19 gallons of water, making $55\frac{1}{2}$ “drinkable” gallons, which supply 3,522 glasses at 4d. each, equal to £59 4s., or a profit of £26 11s. 6d., or 81.5 per cent. Mr. Warren's contention is not for the suppression of such a huge and injurious traffic, but merely for the abolition of the duty, as he holds that if the glass could be got for a penny drinking would cease! We cannot admit the soundness of this view, but rather wish to bring the case before our readers, that they may see what an amount of wealth is being squandered on a pleasure that poisons him that drinks it, and, besides the sum it costs, drains the physical, mental, and moral vigour of the consumer, until, like the ruined gambler, he awakens from his delirium, to find himself bereft of means, the advantages of time, and the hopes associated with a happy future.

By and bye we will be found in this country urgently imploring our drunken relatives to enlist in the army and get drafted on active service. Sir Garnet Wolesley knows that precious little honour will redound to the British army if drink gets inside the soldiers; and he very properly warns the natives of Alexandria and Ismailia and other places in Egypt not to sell to the troops any liquors, for if they will he will close their premises. Nothing else could be expected from the author of the *Soldier's Book* and the hero of the Red River Expedition, Abyssinia, and Ashantee. It does provoke reflection to think that a Briton at home engaged in the arts of peace should be exposed by his Government to the dangers and temptations of the public-house, while Britons abroad engaged in war should be so sedulously protected from the solicitations of the grog or arrack shop. A drunken artizan is a matter of indifference, a drunken soldier cannot be tolerated in the tented field. We are engaged fighting for civil and religious equality, but it is more our interest to have equality with our warriors and be abreast of them in our freedom from the curse and snare of drink. Pity it is the interest of our Government to keep our feet ever on the brink of such legalised pitfalls to inebriety. The day is on the wing that will constrain our rulers to leave the liquor traffic in our hands. On that day the British artizans will be as

our gallant soldiers are to-day, no longer menaced and enslaved by the abomination that maketh desolate—the drink system of Britain.

Last month Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., M.P., resigned his seat for the Haddington Burghs to which he was elected in 1879. We deeply sympathise with him, and are very sorry, indeed, that the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory Movement will lose meantime his valuable support. Our best wishes go with him in his search of health, and we trust to see him soon in Parliament again reinvigorated for the service of his country.

Mr. Alex. Craig-Sellar is now member for the Haddington Burghs. He has seen how strong the tide in the group of burghs he is to represent flows in favour of a people's veto, and we are glad to hear that he believes he is in hearty accord with the best electors in the constituency in taking up an advanced position on the ratepayers' veto over all traffic in alcoholic liquors. Where were the publicans during this struggle? They were evidently like the editor of the *Trades Guardian*, the Scotch organ of the drink interest, snarling at a success they could neither control nor prevent.

At the meeting of the British Medical Association, that indefatigable advocate of temperance, Dr. N. S. Kerr, submitted in a masterly paper the results of his inquiries into alcohol as a cause of death, proportion of sickness and death caused by alcohol, the mortality from intemperance, the use of stimulants in workhouses, habitual inebriety and the increased consumption of non-alcoholic drinks. The talented paper was followed by a discussion which leaned far more to unstinted praise of the views of Dr. Kerr than objections to what was advanced. The medical profession are leaving the ranks of the drink interest and with them will disappear the last great support of our public house system.

We have pleasure in announcing a further issue of leaflets by the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. This will make a quarter of a million of these most useful little messengers this season. They have been eagerly read by the great out-door audiences addressed by the advocates and agents of the Association. Our friends have found them invaluable for indoor meetings as being only printed on one side, the other side can have the local meeting intimation printed thereon, and circulated by the local tract distributors. Our friends should try them—they will find them a superior means of spreading temperance and prohibitionist truth. Specimens can be had at the Offices or will be sent to any address by Mr. R. Mackay, Secretary, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow.

Canon Basil Wilberforce, stung by the knowledge that the National Church is the largest owner of the property on which the public-houses of the country stand, has written to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject. His case is invincible. He holds that the Established Church exists as an institution for the purification of the national life, while the drink interest is the chief source of social degradation and debasement. The Canon points to the shameful facts published in the *Sword and Trowel*, and asks his Grace either to contradict the statements in his letter, or, if they are true, to sweep away a condition of things which is morally as discreditable, as it is politically short-sighted; or prevent such a state of things for the future. He

himself is doing what he can to reduce this frightful anomaly by refusing absolutely to sign any lease without having inserted therein a clause prohibiting the use of the land under his control for any purpose of building or occupation for distillery, brewery or publican purposes. He implored his Grace to do the same, and, if possible, to get a law restraining the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from implicating the Established Church in such a baneful trade. We should wait patiently for his Grace's reply, and we hope for the interests, first of the country and then of the Church itself, that means will be devised by her followers to wipe away a reproach which will not only diminish the lustre of her reputation but will threaten her very existence.

The twenty-third day of June was a red letter day for the Canadian Prohibitionists. On that day the English Privy Council delivered a judgment on an appeal made against a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada, sustaining the legality of the Canada Temperance Act. As our readers are aware, in 1867 a strong agitation commenced for a general prohibitory Act for the whole Dominion. This was induced by the fact that many places were already under prohibition in one way or other: but it was thought that a uniform Act would be best. In 1873-4 petitions with half a million signatures were sent to the Canadian Parliament praying for such a law. In 1874 Parliament authorized the appointment of two Commissioners to make a thorough investigation into the working prohibitory laws of the States. The Commissioners, one of whom was Mr. J. W. Manning of Ontario, well known to many of our readers, brought back a report so favourable to such legislation that, in 1878, the Scott Act was introduced and adopted, and is now law in 24 of the 25 constituencies to which it has been submitted, being adopted by an average majority of three to one. It has been opposed and its validity challenged more than once, but its legality was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, one judge only dissenting, and it is an appeal from the Court to the English Privy Council on which the Council's judgment has been delivered. The judgment reviews three objections to the legality of the Act—First, that it injuriously affects the revenue and thus contravenes the North British America Act. This is met by the proof that it is not a fiscal law, but a law for promoting the peace, good order, and good government of Canada. The second objection, that it affected property and civil rights is met by the statement that it does not affect property or rights *per se*, but has regard primarily to public order and safety, and although in that case it may affect property, its interference with it is only so far as such interests as the public order and safety demands; then, as to rights, it was surely not intended by the North British America Act to prevent and enact that certain uses of property and certain Acts in relation to property, were sinful. Laws make it criminal for a man to set fire to his own house, on the ground that such an act endangers the public safety, although the law affects the property so used and its owner's right to do what he likes with his own. Laws of this nature designed for the promotion of public order, safety, or morals, and which subject those who contravene them to criminal procedure and punishment, belong to the subject of public wrongs rather than that of civil rights. The third objection, that the Act was in force in some places and not in others is aptly repelled. Their Lordships remarked that as soon as the Act was passed it might have been adopted anywhere and everywhere,—“Its object was to promote temperance by means of a uniform law throughout the

Dominion." The legislation is clearly meant to apply a remedy to an evil assumed to exist throughout the Dominion, and the local option no more localizes the subject and scope of the Act than a provision in an Act for the prevention of contagious disease, that a public officer should proclaim in what districts it should come into effect, would make the statute a mere local Act for the places proclaimed. In statutes of this kind the legislation is general, and the provision for the special application of it to particular places does not alter its character. This great deliverance shows first that the peace, good order and safety of the people, is greater than the revenue, and that these are not to be endangered that the revenue may be swelled: it shows that it is not a civil right to sell liquor but a public wrong: it is the drink interest that is the great aggressor against the peace and good order of humanity, and a law is competent that deprives any one of the right to use his or her property to wrong their neighbours; and, lastly, it shows that local option means neither more nor less than the local application of a general or impartial law by the electors, who by it are enabled to arm themselves effectually against the intolerable source of the wrongs inflicted on them by the drink interest. We congratulate Canada on this judgment, and now that the law is declared constitutional by the Supreme Court, and that declaration sustained by judicial authority at home, we trust to hear that all the Dominion is rapidly putting itself under the benign protection of the Canada Temperance Law.

THE BRAND AND THE BRANCH.

No human biography has ever been *fully* written. Men's actions may be recorded, a portion of their thoughts expressed, but how these thoughts and actions are influenced by the ministering spirits of salvation or by the powers of darkness that move unseen around the life of each, has never been recorded by pen of mortal man. Only in the book of God is disclosed the solemnity of life, the spirits that surround us and the eternity that stretches before us in gloom or glory endless.

In the third chapter of Zechariah's prophecy we obtain a glimpse of a fact that is too little thought of. We see the *Lord* and *Satan* with the sinner between. What an interest is shown in the sinner's life. The Prince of Peace, heaven's representative, the Prince of Darkness, hell's representative, bidding for man's life.

What an ugly name the Lord gives to Joshua—a Brand, yet how befitting. That brand was in the fire—else it could not be taken out—the fire was in the brand, burning its very heart and making it black, useless, and unsightly. Such is the state of the unsaved soul. Christ longs for it, Satan bids for it. That fire is sin and its guilt, and in this element the soul slumbers; but this element slumbers not but rages in the soul, marring it and charring it. So must that brand, that soul abide for ever, if some one outside that circle of fire, some one free from sin and guilt plunge not a divine-human hand into the burning mass and seizing the brand *pluck it out of the fire*. Oh Christ! thou only couldst love a brand, a red, burning brand, thou only couldst rescue it, and in rescuing, wound thyself.

The brand plucked out of the fire is still a brand. And though the flame seems all gone, how easily and naturally it may catch fire again, even from the flying spark. So with the sinner saved if he do not watch and pray. Sins once abjured may come back, passions thought to be dead and buried may prove to have been only buried alive, and may reassert

themselves with a demoniacal power, constraining the unwatchful one to cry in the bitterness of his soul, 'Oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?'

But that black, charred brand plucked out at such pains from the fire, of what use is it to God or man? Behold the brand in the hand of the great husbandman, with marvellous skill he engrafts it into the true vine, and by degrees the charred brand takes on a verdure, sends out its twigs, is beautified with blossoms and bends under the weight of its ripening fruit, after the manner of my "servant the branch." What a mystery of grace is here! "Herein," saith the master gardener, "herein is my Father glorified that ye"—the brands plucked from the fire—"bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples."

Better be the charred but plucked and engrafted brand than the green bay tree—better be the poorest wretch united to Christ than the purest apart from him. So engrafted, the unsightly brand becomes a thing of beauty; instead of fire and death within and around it, it has now fertility and life.

N. M.

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—VIII.

SUNDAY CLOSING (ENGLAND) BILL—SUNDAY CLOSING (IRELAND) BILL—DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY—BEER DEALERS' LICENSES ACT AMENDMENT BILL—REPEAL OF THE MALT TAX—IMPORT OF WINES—SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE DRUNKENNESS OF THE ARMY—WRIT FOR HADDINGTON DISTRICT OF BURGHS—THE PASSENGER VESSELS LICENSES (SCOTLAND) BILL—CORNWALL SUNDAY CLOSING BILL—SPANISH WINE DUTIES—COUNTY ELECTORAL RETURN—RETURN OF CONVICTIONS FOR SUNDAY DRINKING (SCOTLAND) AND ARREST OF SUNDAY DRUNKARDS (SCOTLAND) BILL—PAYMENT OF WAGES IN PUBLIC-HOUSES PROHIBITION BILL—RETURN OF LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN WORK HOUSES (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL—ADJOURNMENT OF BOTH HOUSES.

July 19.—Mr. Stevenson, in moving the Sunday Closing (England) Bill, said that its object was to provide for the total closing of public houses in England on Sunday. It was now twenty-eight years since a Sunday Closing Bill was passed for Scotland, and upon a searching enquiry into its working a Sunday Bill for Ireland was passed. Public opinion was strongly in favour of the Bill, and he submitted that the House ought to have regard to this opinion and remove from the working men the temptations to spend their wages on the only day on which they could spend them. It was also desirable in the interest of three or four thousand barmaids and barmen that the anomaly of a long day's work on Sunday should be removed. He moved the second reading of the Bill. Mr. Warton moved the rejection of the Bill, because it would shut up public houses altogether. He could not understand the high principle that would exempt the *bona fide* traveller. This Bill was a piece of radical tyranny. (Laughter.) Some people never saw anybody but themselves. He hoped for the time when all would moderately indulge and none excessively. It was all very well for well-dressed, well-fed, radical members to aim at depriving the working man of his rational enjoyment of a Sunday. It was very likely that in the Reform Club over a glass of whisky and water on a Sunday, that this Bill was drawn up to deprive the poor man of his beer. (Ironical cheers.) He moved that the Bill be read that day three months. The Bill was supported by Sir Joseph M. Pease, Mr. Ewart, and Mr. Gibson, and opposed by Sir Selwin Ibbetson, and Sir C. Phipps. Mr. Herbert, although not speaking officially, spoke favourably of Sunday closing, which he declared the people desired. He thought that there would be greater difficulties in the south than in the north, and that if Cornwall wanted a Bill she

should have it; for it was very much a matter of local feeling. Mr. Talbot moved the adjournment of the debate. Colonel Makins seconded and Mr. Callan talked out the Bill.

July 20.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Mr. Richardson said, he was afraid that he could afford no facilities for the passage of the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday (Ireland) Bill.

July 21.—The Beer Dealers Licenses Act (1880) Amendment Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords.

July 24.—Mr. Osborne Morgan, in answer to Mr. Caine, stated that the average number of men stationed at Aldershot, in 1881, was 11,639, which was about the usual average. He was unable to state the number of punishments either for drunkenness or other offences inflicted on these men during that period. Some of the regiments stationed at Aldershot last year were at present abroad, and he supposed the authorities to whom he applied for the information had their hands full of other matters at present. (Mr. Warton—Hear, hear.) The total number of licensed public-houses in the two parishes of Aldershot and Farnborough was 49, beer-houses licensed to sell on the premises 51, beer-houses licensed to sell off the premises 28, grocers and confectioners licensed to sell intoxicating liquor 9, canteen licenses 19, making a total of 156. During 1881 not a single licensed person was brought before the magistrates charged with permitting of drunkenness or supplying liquor to drunken persons.

July 28th.—Mr. Chaplin, in Committee on the Customs and Revenue (recommitted) Bill, moved the following resolution:—"That no financial scheme will be satisfactory which does not amend the law with regard to the use of ingredients other than sugar, malt, and hops, in the brewing of beer for sale." He argued that the repeal of the malt tax, by encouraging the use of rice, maize, and other articles as substitutes for malt in brewing, had proved to be injurious instead of beneficial to the farmer, and that the manufacture of beer of inferior quality from such articles was contrary to the public welfare, as well as detrimental to the interests of agriculture. He asked the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) to entertain this amendment, with a view to making the repeal of the malt tax correspond with the object for which it was intended—namely, to confer a benefit, and not an injury, on the agricultural community of this country. The amendment was not placed on the paper in a spirit of hostility to the financial proposals of the right hon. gentleman, but to enable him (Mr. Chaplin) to state the views of a great many who were interested in the question, and in order to enable him to make this appeal to the right hon. gentleman. Colonel Barne concurred. Mr. Gladstone deprecated bringing the resolution forward at the present juncture. The terms of the motion cast a disagreeable light on a policy which has been steadily pursued for over a quarter of a century. The party with which Mr. Chaplin is connected have represented the repeal of the malt tax as the grand specific for all agricultural woes and grievances. (Hear, hear.) The uniform strain in which the recommendations for the repeal of the malt tax were supported was by invoking the goddess of freedom. It was the removal of restraint, it was liberating the hands of producers, and now that that has been done, the hon. member says:—Oh yes, liberate the hands of a particular description of producers, but tie up the hands of another class of producers. But, sir, it is an extremely painful circumstance to me that the unfortunate farmer of this country should for fifty years have been taught by those who unquestionably believed themselves the best friends the farmer had, and who often say they are his only friends, to place his hope and reliance on a remedy of which the hon. gentleman now deliberately declares that the disadvantages greatly outweigh the advantages. Now the Government had set the trade wholly free and was leaving everybody to judge what kind of beer they would like. It is a sad fact that the repeal of this tax, of which the Tory Government spoke so much, should be a sad failure. So far, however, as a mischievous article is produced by the

use of certain ingredients in the making of beer is not a matter of finance at all, but a question of adulteration. It is not a subject which the financial department can entertain. I do not think the hon. gentleman could expect the House of Commons to proscribe the use of articles other than malt, hops, and sugar in the making of beer, because the introduction of them tends to reduce the price of barley. The motion, on that point of view, strikes at the very root of all progress and advance in the industry of the country. (Cheers.) My firm belief is, that the admission of all these articles will be beneficial to the public, because this is a trade that depends upon the use of bulky commodities; and the more free we are to purchase these bulky commodities, the larger will be the use of them. To give an absolute free choice of material, setting aside the question of adulteration, to the producers of this country, is absolutely the first and most necessary condition of progress in industry and manufactures. If you do not do that, you will undo the whole legislation of the last century, which has tended to set British industry free, and begin again to manufacture the fetters which formerly bound up the energies, the industry, the skill, and the capital of this country, and carry it back to the condition of comparative poverty and disgrace in which it lay before those operations began. I could not with honesty pretend to be prepared to entertain in any way the question of restricting the use of any materials in the production of beer which are not obnoxious, and on the ground of their sanitary effects. This is no question of finance. I wish the hon. member every kind of success in an operation of this kind, but I think it is rather hard when we come forward with our Tax Bill to supply the absolute wants of the country, at a period when the House is much exhausted with the labours of a lengthened session, to bring upon the Tax Bill a question of that kind. The result is, that it is now in the last days of July, when we have been obliged to give up the very best of our important legislative measures for the year; and I think the hon. member will find that it would not be desirable that we should enter at large into the question of elementary principles, or make in the very smallest degree concessions which would strike at the root of the legislation which has done so much to render this country more powerful and contented. (Cheers.) Mr. Fowler was going into the consideration of the finances of the country, when Mr. W. H. Smith successfully implored him to allow the motion to be discussed. Sir W. Bartlett admitted that it would be difficult to restrict the ingredients of which beer might be composed. But the repeal of the tax had reduced the price of barley and had enabled brewers to use ingredients not beneficial to the consumers. Mr. James Howard held that no attempt had been made to prove the deleteriousness of the ingredients used by brewers, nor that the abolition of the tax had caused a decline in the price of barley. Why, in 1881 the price of barley was 10s. per quarter dearer than in 1880. (Cheers.) He was free to confess that immediately after the repeal of the malt tax, there was a considerable decline in the price of barley. He was somewhat astonished at that result, and on inquiring the cause at one of the largest malsters, he was told it was due to the stock of malt left over. Not satisfied with that statement, he went to the largest brewers, who said that malt could be got almost on their own terms. Hon. members were bound to show the necessity for the change they advocated, and he maintained no such proof had been given. After Sir B. Leighton and Sir G. Balfour had spoken, the House divided. For the motion 52, against it 125; majority against 73. The motion was therefore lost.

July 31.—Mr. Norwood wanted Mr. Gladstone to lay on the table a statement showing the quantity of wine imported into the United Kingdom in 1881, and also its degrees of strength. Mr. Gladstone said that this return could only be got at great labour and expense. He recommended his hon. friend to apply to the Customs for information.

August 8.—Mr. Stevenson moved that the order of the day for the Sunday Closing (England) Bill be

discharged. The bill therefore became a dropped order.

— Mr. Osborne Morgan in reply to Mr. Caine, stated that he was not able to give precise information, but the number of individual men punished for drunkenness in the army during 1880-1 was 120 or 130 per thousand. He thought Aldershot would compare favourably with regiments stationed on the outskirts of large towns. Making allowance for those soldiers who were constantly punished for drunkenness he must admit that the list was a very bad one. The Secretary of State for War and himself were fully persuaded of the importance of the subject, and whatever the military authorities could do would be done to diminish the evil.

August 9.—The order for the Sale of Liquors on Sunday (Ireland) Bill was discharged. It is a dropped order.

August 10.—Mr. Caine gave notice that early next session he would move for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into cause of drunkenness in the army, and the remedies necessary for its removal.

August 11.—A new writ was, on the motion of Lord R. Grosvenor, issued for the Haddington district of burghs, in room of Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., who, since his election, had accepted the office of Steward of the Manor of North Stead.

— The Passenger Vessels Licenses (Scotland) Bill passed through committee without amendment, and on the motion of the Lord Advocate was read a third time.

August 12.—Mr. A. P. Vivian moved the second reading of the "Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday (Cornwall) Bill," the object of which was to forbid the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday in the county of Cornwall. The feeling of the county was, he stated, decidedly in favour of the bill; 11 out of the 13 members representing the county being in favour of it. Mr. Warton at great length strongly opposed the bill. He objected to the bill as intended to restrain public liberty. It displayed one of the worst features of modern democracy. The Radical of the present day, when compounded with the teetotaler, was one of the grossest forms of tyrants. Sir W. Harcourt said that if anything was wanting to commend the bill to the House it was observations of the character of those which the hon. member had just made. (Cheers.) A more wanton and unjustifiable waste of time he had never observed. (Cheers.) He thought that was an opinion which the majority of the House would entirely share in. (Cheers.) The hon. member for Bridport (Mr. Warton) did not care for the opinions of the people of Cornwall, but the hon. member was not always indifferent to those opinions. The block which he had placed against the bill disappeared when there came to be an election for the county of Cornwall, because it was not thought convenient that a block to the bill should appear from the Conservative benches. The block reappeared, however, in the name of the hon. member for Louth (Mr. Callan), who had just attempted to count out the House. That was the character of the opposition to this bill; and the manner in which the feelings of the people of Cornwall were dealt with by those who called themselves the Independent Opposition. This question of dealing with public houses was essentially a local question, and questions of that kind ought to be governed by the opinion of the locality. Parliament had acted upon that principle with regard to Sunday closing in Ireland and in Wales, and that principle was acted upon at an earlier period in Scotland. If the whole county of Cornwall was really unanimous on the subject, all that had to be done was just to ask what reason there was to refuse the demand. If there were any reasons, they had not been supplied in the speech of the hon. member for Bridport. He did not think they could find a decent man in Cornwall to say a word against the bill. Lord Elcho said that the question of regulating public houses was a question of the majority interfering with the minority—that was to say, the majority who could not control their own appetites coming to Parliament for legislation to enable them to do so, and to prevent those

who were able to control their appetite from getting a glass of beer when they wanted it. On that point the Home Secretary once made a speech in a very different tone from that which he had now made. What he maintained was, that the suppression of drunkenness ought not to be brought about by Acts of this kind, but by elevating the people, so that they should look upon drunkenness with horror. It was the police who ought to deal with this matter. If a man was found drunk in the streets let them take him before a magistrate, but do not let them deal with the question in this way. They dared not bring in a Sunday Closing Bill for the whole of England, including the metropolis, and that showed the worthlessness of their principle. In London there would be such a row if they attempted to close all the public houses on Sundays that they dare not do it. Why was that? Because a large number of the people of London felt that they had a right, if they chose, on a Sunday to get a glass of beer, and here they were going to allow the majority to tyrannise over the minority. It was because he did not believe the working men of England, or anything like the majority of them, were drunkards, that he opposed this bill, and protested against the majority being allowed to tyrannise over the minority, and he should certainly divide the House against the bill. Mr. Onslow said that, from the fact that there were only two Cornish members in the House, he was justified in saying that the Cornish members did not care two straws for this bill. They had it on the authority of Mr. Parnell that the Irish Sunday Closing Bill had not done any good, while they knew that Scotland, which had also Sunday closing, was a more drunken place than any other in Her Majesty's dominions. Mr. Callan, after some observations on the bill, again attempted a count out, which, however, proved unsuccessful. Mr. Round, Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck, and Mr. Daly having spoken, the House divided, when there voted—

For the second reading,	41
Against,	8
Majority for,	33

The bill was then read a second time.

Aug. 14.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Mr. O'Donnell, stated that there were no prohibitory duties on British goods in Spain, but Spain had been making a legislative change which had the effect of making an enormous difference of duty on most British commodities. That Government had strongly complained of our invidious distinction in wine duties, on the difference of duty on French and Spanish wine. He could not at present alter that duty because it would involve a loss to the revenue of hundreds of thousands of pounds, but Spain knew whenever we were in a position to do so that the question would have the best consideration.

Aug. 15.—The Earl of Rosebery in the House of Lords in moving the second reading of the Passenger Vessels Licenses (Scotland) Bill, said that the measure was unanimously approved by the public of Scotland. The bill was intended to regulate the granting of licenses for the consumption of strong liquors on board of passenger vessels. These licenses were now granted by the Board of Inland Revenue, who were not the ordinary licensing authority, and under these licenses scenes of great scandal and disorder had taken place on board Sunday steamers. It was proposed that the Inland Revenue have power to prevent the selling of liquor on Sunday under these circumstances. The bill was read a second time, and on a division it was resolved not to send it to Committee.

— In the Commons, Mr. Buchanan moved a return for the year 1881 of the number of electors on the register of each county in England and Wales, exhibiting the several qualifications, and similar returns for Scotland and Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 342 of Session 1872).

Aug. 16.—The Passenger Vessels Licenses (Scotland) Bill was, on the motion of Earl Rosebery, read a third time in the Upper House and passed.

— In the Lower House, Mr. Warton, in the absence of Mr. Montague Scott, moved for a return of all convictions since the 29th day of September, 1876,

to the 29th September, 1882, of all persons arrested for drunkenness on Sunday in Scotland, indicating the number in each particular county or burgh, and the population of each such county or burgh.

Aug. 17.—On the order of the second reading of the Payment of Wages in Public Houses Prohibition Bill, an unsuccessful attempt to count out the House was made by Mr. Warton. Mr. Broadhurst then moved that the bill be read a second time, Mr. Warton moved that it be read a second time that day six months. No hon. member would second the amendment, and the second reading was agreed to.

— Mr Whitworth moved a return showing the amount of spirits, wine, and malt liquors consumed in each workhouse in England and Wales in the year ending the 31st December, 1881, together with the expenditure in each workhouse of each such kind of intoxicating liquor for the same period; also stating the daily average number of inmates in each workhouse during the said term. Mr. Callan attempted to count out the House, but the Speaker declared the motion for the return agreed to.

Aug. 18.—The Royal assent was given in the House of Lords to the Passenger Vessels License Amendment (Scotland) Bill, which is now law.

Parliament with the usual formalities adjourned until Tuesday, 24th October, 1882.

REV. C. GARRETT is now president of the Wesleyan Conference; none we know has better merited the honour.

"What is this man charged with?" asked the judge—"With whisky, your worship," was the sententious reply of the policeman.

A new edition (the sixth) of *More than Conquerors* has just been published. We are glad to hear it, and we hope there will be many more.

AFTER an absence of some months, Mr. T. H. Barker has returned to his duties as the secretary of the Grand Alliance. He is vastly recruited in health.

It is said that a certain old gentleman in Edinburgh is so rigid a teetotaler that he refuses to take milk from a cow that is fed on the draff of a brewery.

The War Office now acknowledge the existence of teetotal soldiers and their wives, and provide tea and sugar for them in lieu of porter, or a penny a day.

"One must sow his wild oats, you know," exclaimed the rather youthful John. "Perhaps," said sister Ann, "but if so, he needn't sow them so soon after cradling."

In Ackfield, Sussex, a publican rejoices in the name B. Ware. It would be a good thing if the people would look upon the name as a piece of advice, and act upon it.

The shopkeepers in Alexandria have now received notice that the sale of intoxicating liquors to troops will at once entail a closing of the establishment reported as offending.

For the purpose of engaging a good lecturer on temperance for New Zealand, Mr. John Harding offers £100 in three if the rest of £1,000 is made up in the three years.

Ex-Provost Rough, Dundee, has been presented by his fellow citizens with his portrait. Provost Moncur presided, and G. Armitstead, Esq., M.P., made the presentation.

In a discussion in a board of aldermen, while they were debating a proposition to supply a new style of lamp-post, one member got up and innocently remarked that he, for one, had always found the old ones "good enough to stand by."

A prodigal was reproached by a Boston lady for his evil ways. "I am sure," said he, "I would rather be an outright devil than a hypocritical saint." "The preference is quite natural," was the reply, "Mr. Emerson said the devil was an ass!"

Pure old whisky used to be spelled with an "e" before they began adulterating it. They probably knocked out the "e" to let the drugs into the barrel.

The firemen were industriously trying to extinguish a blaze in a public-house the other night, when an impetuous Pat, who had been drinking "on tick," beseeching his friend, the pipeman, said—"For the love of heaven, Thomas, play on the shlate!"

"I just went out to see a friend for a moment," remarked Jones to his wife the other evening as he returned to his seat at the theatre. "Indeed," replied Mrs. Jones, with sarcastic surprise, "I supposed from the odour of your breath that you had been out seeing your worst enemy."

Be true; so shall you discover the wealth of soul that is in you. Every man's spirit is a mine that requires working that its riches may be revealed. The true heart comes forth from its labours laden with golden ore; the irresolute and the dissipated waste their effort and lose their day.

Since Mr. Noble's branch of the Blue Ribbon was established in this country, 470,000 pledge cards have been despatched to various parts of the country. When we read this don't let our thoughts dwell on the many who have fallen, but on the number that have kept their ribbon unstained by liquor.

F. G. in an interesting article on Cricket, in *Time*, speaking of the Australian eleven says:—"Money may have made the mare to go; but training not only in cricket, but in diet, and above all drink, has done more." "Merlin," in the *Evening News*, in regard to the above says:—"That the men who play the most consistently good cricket are the men who take care of themselves. And, in connection with this matter, I rejoice that you can get tea as well as beer and spirits at most cricket grounds. Let each of my readers ask himself honestly and candidly, whether he does not know who has failed, and whose failure is distinctly due to drink."

The Social Reformer (Glasgow: Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 112 Bath Street) contains the first instalment of a temperance tale by Annie Swan, entitled "An Enemy in the Mouth," and "The Causes and Cure of Intemperance," the latter a pithy article sure to commend itself to any unbiassed mind. "Sam Taylor's Electioneering," by the Rev. F. Wagstaff, is in that gentleman's usual racy style, while a number of interesting paragraphs, Parliamentary and other intelligence, go towards making up a good number.—*Stirling Observer*.

PROGRESS OF TEMPERANCE IN BLACKFORD.—Three years ago a meeting convened by Mr. T. Barclay, Middleton House, in the Board Schoolroom of this village, attended by upwards of 200 of an audience, was addressed by ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P. The year following another meeting was convened and addressed by Messrs. Stevenson and Dransfield, lecturers of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which was also well attended, the result of which was the formation of a society under the Order of Good Templarism, the membership of which now amounts to a twelfth part of the inhabitants of this village, and has been attended with great good to the members and pecuniary loss to the taverns.

"THE DRINK PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION."—This is the title of a book of great value, the author of which is David Lewis, J.P., of Edinburgh, Scotland. It opens with an able discussion of the province of civil government in its relation to the liquor traffic, considers the effect of the traffic upon labour and commerce, its social results, and the remedial measures—religious, moral, and legislative. Its treatment of the subjects of "permissive" and "imperial" prohibition, and the "objections to prohibition" will be of great interest to all thoughtful students of the liquor problem on both sides of the Atlantic. It is one of the best books ever published on the other side of the Atlantic, and we have imported a few copies which will be sent post paid to any address for one dollar fifty cents (6s. 3d.)—*National Temperance Advocate (America)*.

A Berkshire clergyman has decided to use zoedone as a substitute for wine at the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

There is a great organisation rising in America called the Knights of Labour. It is to settle differences between employers and employed, to avoid strikes if possible, but if impossible, to strike as one man. Its membership excludes bankers, brokers, lawyers, physicians, *saloon keepers, including bar tenders.* The workmen are becoming wise, they feel that they can get along better by having nothing to do with the public or the publican landlord.

WINES, ANY OR MANY—AN HONEST MAN.—When we got back to the hotel King Arthur's round table was ready for us in its white drapery, and the head waiter and his first assistant, in swallow tails and white cravats, brought in the soup and the hot plates at once. Mr. X. had ordered the dinner, and when the wine came on he picked up a bottle, glanced at the label, and then turned to the grave, the melancholy, the sepulchral head waiter, and said it was not the sort of wine he had asked for. The head waiter picked up the bottle, cast his undertaker-eye on it and said, "It is true; I beg pardon." Then he turned on his subordinate and calmly said, "Bring another label!" At the same time he slid the present label off with his hand and laid it aside—it had been newly put on, its paste was still wet. When the new label came he put it on—our French wine being now turned into German wine, according to desire. The head waiter went blandly about his other duties as if the working of this sort of miracle was a common and easy thing to him. Mr. X. said he had not known before that there were people honest enough to do this miracle in public, but he was aware that thousands upon thousands of labels were imported into America from Europe every year to enable dealers to furnish to their customers in a quiet and inexpensive way all the different kinds of foreign wines they might require.—*Mark Twain's Tramp Abroad*, chap. xii.

In the 'Records of Later Life,' by Fanny Kemble, just published, there is a reference to her experiences with farm labourers in America. In Vol. I. we read:—I have spoken of the semi-disapprobation with which my Quaker farmer declined the wine and beer offered him at my 4th July festival. Some years after, when I found the men employed in mowing a meadow of mine at Lenox with no refreshment but "water from the well," I sent in much distress a considerable distance for a barrel of beer, which seemed to me an indispensable adjunct to such labour under the fervid heat of that summer sky, and was most seriously expostulated with by my admirable friend, Mr. Charles Sedgwick, as introducing among the labourers of Lenox a mischievous need and deleterious habit till then utterly unknown there, and setting a pernicious example to both employers and employed throughout the whole neighbourhood—in short, my poor barrel of beer was an offence to the manners and morals of the community I lived in, and my meadow was mowed upon "cold water from the well;" of which, indeed, the water was so delicious that I often longed for it as King David did for that which, after all, he would not drink because his three mighty men had risked their lives in procuring it for him. The use of either wine or beer at the tables of the Philadelphians, when I first lived among them, was quite exceptional; and the usual custom of the best society at the early three o'clock dinner was water-drinking. Nor had the immense increase of the German population then flooded Philadelphia with perennial streams from innumerable cellars and saloons; the universal rule at the time when these letters were written was absolute temperance, the exception to it a rare occasional case of absolute intemperance. . . . I need not say that, under the above state of things, no provision was made for what I should call domestic or household drunkenness in American families. Beer or beer-money was not found necessary to sustain the strength of footmen driving about town on a coach-box for an hour or two of an afternoon, or valets laying out their master's

boots and cravats for dinner, or ladies' maids pinning caps on their mistresses' heads, or even young housemaids condemned to the exhausting labour of making beds and dusting furniture. The deplorable practice of swilling malt liquor two or three times a day begun in early boy and girlhood, among English servants, had not in America, as I am convinced it has with us, laid the foundation for later habits of drinking in a whole class of the community, among whom a pernicious inherited necessity for the indulgence is one of its consequences; while another and more lamentable one is the wide-spread immorality, to remedy (and, if possible, prevent) which is the object of the institution of the G.F.S. and similar benevolent institutions; none of which, I am persuaded, will effectually fulfil their object until the vicious propensity to drink ceases to be fostered in the kitchens and servants' halls of our most respectable people.—*Church of England Temperance Chronicle*.

HADDINGTON BURGHS ELECTION.—A change in the representation of the Haddington district of Burghs took place last month. As our readers are no doubt aware, these burghs have been loyal to the principles and policy of prohibition. Sir Henry F. Davie was one of the ten Scotch members who, in 1864, supported Mr., now Sir, W. Lawson when he introduced his Permissive Bill for the first time; and with two exceptions—absence in 1870 and 1874—he was always in the lobby with his leader. Sir David Wedderburn in 1876 succeeded Sir Henry, and never was absent from a division on the bill or resolution. Sir David, quite unexpectedly on the 1st ult., resigned his seat. The Liberal constituency, without a moment's loss of time, appointed delegates to meet at Edinburgh on the 4th to choose a successor. They, at that meeting, expressed their regret at the loss of Sir David's services, and chose Mr. A. Craig-Sellar as their candidate. Mr. Sellar issued his address on the 7th, and in it thus refers to the licensing question:—"On the licensing question I entertain the view that the ratepayers should have the control of the licenses; and I think that the present system, which, in the counties, gives the control to the justices—nominees of the Crown—ought to be altered by substituting for them some agency freely elected by the voice of the people." That same day, a deputation of Local Optionists met him to tell him that his views were not the views of his constituency, and that they wanted absolute power over the traffic to be directly vested in ratepayers. The interview resulted in the candidate showing some progress. On the 10th at Jedburgh, he referred to the licensing question, when he told his audience that the system of licensing which gave justices control over the traffic was indefensible—the administration of justice and the distribution of licenses should not be entrusted to the same persons. This was the opinion of Lord John Russell. He should not like to commit himself that night. He did think it inexpedient that Special Boards should be elected for licensing, but rather thought the power should be vested in a majority of the Town Councils, and he anticipated that, as both parties in the State thought that something should be done, they might rely on some measure soon being introduced which would give the control of licenses to the people. After meeting in every burgh in the group with a deputation Mr. Sellar said that he was prepared to vote for directly investing the people with a veto over the liquor traffic. Mr. W. Scott Seton Karr, almost at the last moment, entered the field in the Conservative interest. He, too, was interviewed in the interests of local prohibition. He was prepared to vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, without pledging himself to details. He could not say what licensing authority he would prefer if the magistrates could no longer license; but the people should have some voice in the matter. After fairly weighing the views of the two gentlemen the temperance electors resolved to give their united support to Mr. Sellar. The contest was most exciting, but the result was never doubtful. The polling took place on the 22nd, and the poll was declared the next day. The numbers were—Mr. Sellar, 833; Mr. Seton Karr, 544; majority, 289.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MRS. M'CUCCLOCH OF DUMFRIES.—It is with deep regret that we record the decease of this most estimable lady who died at Hereford on the 4th ult. in her 71st year. She left Dumfries some time ago with her daughter and son-in-law—the latter being seriously indisposed—and it was on her way home, which, alas, she never reached, that she caught that chill which has had so fatal and grievous a termination. In her last moments she had the sedulous and affectionate care of her beloved daughter Mrs. M'Kinnel, and passed so peacefully away that the exact moment of her decease will never be known—the hour was about 10 a.m. Mrs. M'Cuclloch was of a noble Huguenot family who, like so many others, had to take refuge on our shores from the relentless persecutions to which they were subjected. The family finally settled down in Lancashire where her father, the late Samuel Lafone, Esq., was a Liverpool merchant. Her brothers have also acquired distinction in the commercial world. She was brought up in the Baptist Communion and was a most devout believer in the truths of Christianity. Nearly fifty years ago she was united in marriage to Dr. James Murray M'Cuclloch of Dumfries, a gentleman who has endeared himself to all true reformers in the south of Scotland. The union was exuberant in the tender affection and regard for each other manifest on the part of both husband and wife. She was a true yoke-fellow, and it is to her affectionate care and attention that, apart from his acknowledged skill, Dr. M'Cuclloch has been able to attain to that distinguished position in his profession which he holds to-day. In her own place she was remarkable for her kindness of disposition. She was easily accessible by the poor, the needy and distressed, and ready to lend assistance to any scheme "that had the reward of individual merit, the redress of individual misery, the overthrow of a great evil, or the furtherance of the public weal for its end and object." She strongly advocated the rights of women and has lived long enough to find that question entering upon its final phases. She was equally enthusiastic upon the question of temperance, and felt the liveliest interest in all that concerned the progress of the Scottish prohibitory movement. To all the natural graces of a high-born lady she added the great advantage of a wide and deep culture. At her own table it was a pleasure of no ordinary kind to listen to her discourse, and one felt in her presence the power of female influence in its loftiest phase. For solid wealth of thought clothed in the easy grace of a charming style, she was unexcelled, and all her stores were freely at the command of her friends. Her departure to the silent land leaves an aching void in her sorrowing husband's heart which time will never fill: the society and affection of his daughter, who is her mother's second self, must, we believe, greatly assuage his sore affliction, and he may rest assured that not only in Dumfries but wherever he or she is known, a very sincere and heartfelt sympathy is felt for them on the death of a lady so gifted, so loving, and so good as Mary Ellison Lafone M'Cuclloch. The following resolution was adopted by the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the melancholy event,—“That this executive have learned with unfeigned regret of the decease of Mrs. M'Cuclloch, Dumfries, whose life was conspicuous for the highest domestic virtues, for tender sympathy with suffering and down-trodden humanity, for untiring efforts for the freedom and elevation of her own sex, for the amelioration of the lot of the poor, and for an unceasing solicitude for the progress and triumph of the temperance reformation: records their profound sorrow at her decease: offers their sincere and mournful condolences to Dr. M'Cuclloch and her bereaved family, on the irreparable loss which they have sustained by her

death. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. M'Cuclloch, and to his and her daughter, Mrs. M'Kinnel.” The funeral took place on Thursday, 10th ult. The remains of the deceased were followed to their last resting place by a large body of citizens, by their number and their demeanour testifying to the high regard and estimation in which the deceased was held. The churchyard, St. Mary's, was crowded by hundreds whose sad and tearful faces showed that they had lost a friend. The coffin was heaped with immortelles. Messrs. A. Bennet and R. Mackay specially represented the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the melancholy occasion.

THE LATE MR. D. M. SIMPSON, GREENOCK.—We regret to record the death of this gentleman, who died at the comparatively early age of 44 years. He was early devoted to the temperance cause, and was among the first to join the Good Templar order, and was a devoted friend of prohibition. He was highly gratified with the last annual meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and was, up till the spring of this year, full of hope in the expectation of again enjoying the pleasure of being present at our approaching annual gathering. But God has called him up higher to the enjoyments of that better land where sin and sorrow are unknown, and where there is nothing to hurt or destroy. He has left a mourning widow and three children, for whom much sympathy is felt in Greenock.—S.

THE LATE JAMES PATON, ESQ., J. P., TILlicOUNTRY.—After an illness extending over two years, this highly respected gentleman has gone the way of all living. He peacefully expired on Wednesday, 9th ult., in his 85th year. Born in Alloa, he went to Tillicoultry fifty-seven years ago, and with his brother commenced business as a firm which has, for its fabrics, become world famed: the enterprise of the firm brought to the village of Tillicoultry a very large measure of the prosperity it has enjoyed. The deceased gentleman took an active part in all schemes for the benefit and the advancement of the people. He was one of the Church's most munificent supporters—superintended a Sabbath School; maintained an energetic missionary; gifted a British Workman Public House to the village; and the Christian Fellowship Rooms has, for years, been maintained by him for the diffusion of religious truth. To the poor “he had a tear for pity, and a hand open as day for melting charity.” He was an esteemed vice-president of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which had his hearty sympathy and liberal support. He leaves a widow who was a faithful wife and loving helpmate, and found her highest pleasure in sharing his many labours for the good of his fellowmen. His remains were followed to the grave with every demonstration of respect and sorrow by the largest following ever witnessed in the village.

THE LATE WILLIAM MITCHELL, ESQ., J. P., MONTROSE.—Great gloom overspread this burgh when it became known that this much respected citizen had died somewhat suddenly at Dalnally, on the 18th ult., in his 66th year. He had, for the past few years, been in a declining state of health, and was on his way to Oban for its restoration. On the journey he took seriously ill, and lingering at the Dalnally Hotel for four days, there passed away. He was a native of Lasswade, but came to Montrose when young, where he has built himself a reputation for business qualities and commercial honour such as few of his fellow-citizens can boast. He entered the council in 1864, and became provost in 1872. Was first chairman of the School Board; member of the Harbour Board, Asylum Board; Director of the local railway, etc., etc. He was a most benevolent giver to local necessities, and was deeply and widely esteemed. He sympathised with the Scottish prohibitory movement, which enjoyed his liberal support. In religious activity he was untiring, and felt great happiness in assisting all efforts for the spread of pure and undefiled religion. His life was crowded with duties bravely done, and his memory will be long cherished by a community which knew and revered his worth.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER.

OCTOBER, 1882.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Last month may fairly claim to be a memorable one in the history of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The twenty-fourth annual meetings of the Association were such a signal success. The position of the Association was never so satisfactory; in no year were the results of the agitation more abundant, its prospects more hopeful, nor its friends and supporters more satisfied as to its progress, more hopeful of its future. The attitude of the publicans must soon change. They used to smile superciliously at its attempts to arouse the public mind to the real nature of the business to which they cling, and by which they live, but they cannot avert the feelings of dismay. They see indications of triumph which no shrugs or sneers will dissipate, and such as no sensible man will despise. As one of the speakers said, they of all men can best testify to the growing power and the coming triumph of the resolute body of reformers who, by their sympathy, their devotion, and their liberality have made the Association the formidable prohibitory power which it so evidently is to-day.

The marked feature of the business meeting was the numerous attendance of ladies and gentlemen, whose demeanour was of that quiet business-like character which goes so far to impress the observer with a sense of their unwavering fidelity to principles and of their resolute determination to uphold and advance the great interests which have drawn them together. The blessing of the Almighty was reverently invoked, and then the business proceeded with celerity, unanimity, and despatch. The Annual Report dealt with the varied operations of the year briefly and clearly, and it is not possible to produce in all the past record of endeavour so much of successful effort as was crowded within its compass. The Treasurer's account showed the great elasticity of the funds, and the sound financial condition of the Association. We were glad to note that the Executive has been materially strengthened by the addition of new members, and that conferences are again to be the feature of what will doubtless be a busy year. The fourth resolution was significant of coming parliamentary action, and from the evident enthusiasm which attended its adoption, we augur that the Executive are entering upon what we cannot otherwise regard than as the decisive struggle of the agitation. The resolution on finance was heartily adopted, and we were glad to see that this matter was so frequently referred to throughout the day. Mr. John Williams deserves honourable mention for expressing his intention to raise his generous subscription of £25 to double that amount, and may be certain that his doing so will have the effect of stimulating other generous supporters to give more liberally, in order to bring heavier artillery into the field of conflict. We were glad to listen to the many kind words of appreciation spoken in favour of the *Social Reformer*. We are more than proud of them, and we shall at least endeavour to justify these kind expressions by our future conduct of the magazine. "Tis not in mortals to command success," but it is in our power to endeavour to deserve it. We rejoice at the whole proceedings of this meeting, and regard it as in every way the most satisfactory ever held during the existence of the Association.

The City Hall Saloon was in the afternoon filled by the most influential assemblage we have ever seen sit down to tea at the invitation of the Association. A glance at the platform recognised the presence of representatives of the Blue Ribbon Mission, the Women's Temperance Association, the Scottish Temperance League, the Irish Temperance League, the United Kingdom Alliance, and the Imperial Parliament. A glance at the large and influential gathering must have convinced every one present that on no previous occasion have they observed such a widespread representation of

the movement as was then before them. The tea service was, as regards viands and service of supreme excellence. The chairman—the Provost of Grangemouth—was certainly the right man in the right place. The picture of most enjoyable health, with a reputation of most unwavering fidelity to the movement and the Association, whose efforts in the town whose destinies he guides are marked by earnestness and devotion; a better choice could not have been made, and his speech was eminently worthy of the man; it glowed with fervour, and deservedly merited the cheers by which it was so heartily greeted. The addresses were conspicuous for their excellence, and the cordial reception awarded to them. But time interposed, and many delegates were prevented from contributing to the great enjoyment of the afternoon.

The evening meeting was a thorough success. True, it lacked the great attraction of the previous annual meeting, but no one could mistake the impression the meeting conveyed of their warm sympathy and their glowing enthusiasm. As the chairman, Mr. Stewart, M.P., and the speakers filed on the platform, they were met with deafening cheers, again and again renewed. Quietness restored, and the proceedings constituted by a most appropriate prayer from Rev. Mr. Paton, the minister of St. Paul's, the chairman rose amid cordial cheers to address the meeting. What was wanting in his oratory was fully compensated for in his matter. His speech was most encouraging to those who consider the time come for a decisive parliamentary struggle. The Rev. Mr. M'Dermott, from Ireland, gave a speech that stirred the deeper sympathies of our nature, and was a great success. Mr. Meldon's speech was full of facts and arguments, and thoroughly enlisted the judgment of his delighted hearers. Dr. Cameron's reception was most enthusiastic, and deservedly so. When first he came before the citizens of Glasgow it was to challenge the strength of the Temperance party, and through him that party have gained a position they have ever since maintained. He has made several important amendments on the licensing law, and through him prohibition reigns triumphant over our Sunday steamers' liquor bars. These things were not forgotten, but appeared in the great cordiality of his reception. His speech was singularly able, upheld temperance truth, and clearly set forth the justice of our claims to a veto power which must be vested in the ratepayers. Rev. Mr. Gladstone soared to the loftiest heights of oratory. It is now fifteen years since he was invited by the Association to step to the front, and his career since that time as an orator has amply justified the Executive in their selection of the youthful minister at Sanquhar as one of their speakers at their annual meeting of 1867. On this occasion he fairly carried away his audience who applauded him to the very echo that doth applaud again. Mr. Brown, J.P., had not the opportunity he deserved, but the few words he did say were highly appreciated, and when he does again appear his position on the programme will be to his advantage. The worthy President of the Association exercised great judgment in seconding the last resolution without remark, as Mr. Wilson, J.P., had time to pay a most graceful compliment to the chairman and the speakers when moving the thanks of the meeting to them. We are again on the forward march, and we believe that these meetings have stimulated all who have attended them, and that the great space which the press has given to the reports of them has stimulated many more. The past, with its crowded record of effort, is pleasant to look back upon, but to our mind the future, teeming as it does with great possibilities, with hopeful prospects, with the growing certainty of coming triumph, is to our mind far better. Let all of us address ourselves earnestly and faithfully to the great patriotic work that lies before us and we shall, like the joyous reapers in the reforms of all ages, return rejoicing bringing the sheaves of triumph and blessing with us.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THE twenty-fourth annual business meeting of this Association took place in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, on Tuesday, 26th ult. There was a very large attendance. James Hamilton, Esq., J.P., President of the Association, was called to the chair. He was supported by Ex-Provost Dick, Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Messrs. John Williams, J.P., J. Winning, and R. Mackay. Present during the day we observed the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Provost Macpherson, Grangemouth; Bailie Selkirk, J.P., Glasgow; Bailie Colquhoun, Bothwell; Bailie Dickson, Glasgow; Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Glasgow; Councillor Russell, Perth; James Hamilton, J.P., Glasgow; John Williams, J.P., Wishaw; Andw. Brown, J.P., Kerse, Falkirk; John Wilson, J.P., Glasgow; Rev. W. Adamson, D.D., Edinburgh; Rev. A. Davidson, Greenock; Rev. Sam. Harding, Glasgow; Rev. R. Wallace, do.; Rev. John M'Dermott, Belfast; Rev. George Bell, M.A., Hamilton; Rev. John M'Queen, M.A., Kilmarnock; Rev. Alex. Cross, Ardrossan; Alexander Black, Glasgow; William Blackwood, Aberdeen; A. Bennet, Dumfries; Robert Semple, Paisley; John M'Diarmid, Dollar; Thomas Anderson, Johnstone; R. Mackay, Glasgow; John Curle, Jedburgh; Wm. Kesson, Whiteinch; R. M'Callum, Glasgow; R. Stevenson, do.; Wm. Fulton, Paisley; Andrew Husband, Glasgow; James Winning, Paisley; W. Denham, Glasgow; Wm. Smith, Greenock; James Ronald, Gourrock; Robert S. Simpson, do.; Wm. W. Hunter, Denny; William Craig, Barrhead; Wm. Paterson, Partick; Wm. W. Grant, Edinburgh; Gavin Cross, Hamilton; James Horn, Lanark; J. F. Shorey, of New York, U.S.A.; Thomas Wallace, Grangemouth; Thomas Dick, Glasgow; John Moncrieff, Perth; Joseph A. Clark, Glasgow; Robert Winning, Paisley; John Stewart, Glasgow; John Jeffrey, Edinburgh; James M'Adam, do.; John Cochrane, Barrhead; John Wingate, Parkhead; John Gray, Glasgow; J. G. Temple, do.; James Hamilton, do.; Joseph Young, Galston; Robert Henderson, Edinburgh; George Melville, Bonhill; J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; James M'Kenzie, Bonhill; Thomas Robinson, Hurlet; Robert Millar, Greenock; John Conchar, Glasgow; Donald Brochie, Greenock; George Kerr, Glasgow; Isaac Lynas, do.; Robert Dransfield, do.; Andrew Crawford, do.; Joseph Morris, Broxburn; John Steel, Edinburgh; Hugh Chalmers, Glasgow; John Lindsay, do.; James Young, Baillieston; John Lawson, Glasgow; Peter Fraser, Innellan; James Fullarton, Saltcoats; James Millar, Monkton; Wm. Hart, Kilsyth; John Smith, Stenhouse-muir; Wm. Ross, Perth; John Brooks, Glasgow; Andrew Picken, do.; James Osborne, Mearns; John Simpson, Glasgow; J. H. Raper, London; James Rae, Falkirk; J. R. Livingston, Glasgow; George Gray, do.; Henry Wyatt, do.; James Dymock, Bo'ness; Wm. Galloway, Glasgow; Henry W. Reid, Coatbridge; Daniel M'Farlane, Barrhead; S. R. Geddes, Grangemouth; James Beckett, Glasgow; James Jamieson, Ayr; James Forrester, Bathgate; James Greenshiel, Aitkenhead; John Hill, Edinburgh; Robert Patrick, Barrhead; David Fortune, Glasgow; John Struthers, do.; John Paterson, do.; John M'Adam, Edinburgh; George Hunter, Gourrock; John Neilson, Glasgow; R. Macaulay, do.; James Drysdale, Bridge of Allan; Wm. Hart, sen., Kilsyth; James Thorburn, Glasgow; J. P. Lossock, Peebles; George Andrew, Glasgow; John Lang, Greenock; W. Stewart, Glasgow; J. W. Mackay, do.; David G. Findlay, do.; John M'Allister, Langbank; Peter Ferguson, Glasgow; Robert Risk, Paisley; James Semple, Glasgow; Robert Young, Pollokshaws; Robert Cross, Hamilton; Andrew F. Shanks, Barrhead; Mrs. J. Smith, Bothwell; Mrs. Jas. Rae, Falkirk; Mrs. Hill, Edinburgh; Mrs. Robertson, Paisley; Mrs. M'Adam, Edinburgh; Mrs. Williams, Wishaw; Mrs. Lossock; Peebles; Mrs. Adamson, Edinburgh; Mrs.

Ainslie, do.; Miss A. D. Hill, do.; Miss J. K. Hill, do.; Miss Robertson, Paisley; Miss Henderson, Edinburgh.

The Chairman called on Mr. Mackay to read the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which was as follows:—

Your Executive have again the pleasing duty of submitting to you a rapid survey of the work and progress of the bye-past year. On no occasion have they felt more abundant satisfaction than they feel to-day. They were never more convinced of the soundness of their principles, and of the policy which they are doing what they can to get the country to believe, support, and finally adopt: nor have they ever entertained a more confident anticipation of success. All other proposals dealing with the liquor traffic enjoy equal opportunities of discussion to theirs, yet consideration in the case of these sooner or later proves them to be awaiting in the element which can alone offer a final settlement of the question we all have so much at heart. The people are rapidly coming to recognise that their hopes of permanent relief from the evils of the licensing system centre in your agitation, and your Executive believe that in the near future they will be found resolutely and earnestly co-operating with you at the polling booth in the return of men who will accept the duty of introducing or supporting a measure, enabling those localities who adopt it to abolish their natural enemy the Public House. There are increasing signs of progress in the ventilation of the subject of our national intemperance and its remedy in and out of Parliament, at church and evangelistic meetings and conferences, in the columns of the press, on the public platform, with an intensity of interest, and with such an appreciation of the important issues involved as confirms your Executive in their conviction that the movement has advanced far towards the stage of practical legislative recognition.

THE AGENCY.

They have pleasure in referring to the condition of the Agency, which was never so efficient as at the present time. On the staff there are at present Messrs. Bennet, Black, Blackwood, Dransfield, Kesson, Lossock, Stevenson, and Waterston: all of whom perform their arduous duties to your Executive's satisfaction. Mr. Waterston continues to superintend the Eastern district of your operations with singular ability. Mr. W. Blackwood has the Northern district under his care, and it bears ample testimony to his energetic superintendence. Mr. Stevenson now superintends the Western or Midland district, which has his careful and judicious supervision. His district up to May last was far too extended for such efficient superintendence as your Executive desired, and at last Annual Meeting they suggested the addition of another agent to the staff. This suggestion did not fall to the ground, for during the year they have been able to enter upon an arrangement with the friends in the three Southern counties, under which they have appointed Mr. Andrew Bennet to the post of Southern District Superintendent, with residence meantime in Dumfries. He entered upon his duties in May, and they have great cause for satisfaction already with this arrangement, for Mr. Bennet gives promise of being a faithful standard bearer of the movement in that part of Scotland. Mr. Stevenson will in future have Glasgow and the Midland counties under his care, and will be able to work these more effectively. Messrs. Lossock and Black devote themselves wholly to the treasurer's department, and more faithful and devoted financial agents it would be hard to find. Messrs. Dransfield and Kesson are partially engaged, and have earned for themselves a merited reputation as able and eloquent exponents and defenders of the principles and the policy of the Association. Mr. John Paton was placed at the disposal of your Executive from the Annual Meeting until 20th December last, and he will be at the disposal of your successors from 1st October to 16th or thereby of December. The Rev. Mr. Harding has been at your Executive's disposal a great part of the year, and they deem his services a great acquisition to the

advocacy. It is due to your district superintendents to say of them that they are a hard working body of men. The collection of funds and the delivery of lectures are but a small portion of their very onerous duties. They have to see to the organisation of their districts, watch over municipal, Parliamentary, and bye-elections, see to the distribution of literature, and discharge these duties with great credit to themselves and benefit to the movement.

It may interest you to know your Agents' platform appearances during the year. Mr. Waterston, 275; Mr. Stevenson, 256; Mr. Blackwood, 234; Mr. Dransfield, 118; Mr. Bennet, 88; and Mr. Kessen, 48. Mr. Paton delivered 62 lectures, Rev. Samuel Harding 54, and Mr. Mackay, your Secretary, 101.

MEETINGS.

During the year your Executive have vigorously prosecuted the agitation with the Agencies and means at their disposal: being cheered by the conviction that the people are becoming increasingly sympathetic, and more deeply interested in their efforts. Were the means at your Executive's disposal augmented, the meetings might be multiplied to any extent. They are stirring the country to a thorough consideration of the licensing question, and the time is rapidly approaching when that system will appear to the people of this country, as it appears to you and your Executive, as a system which from its nature and operations must be entirely overthrown.

The meetings of the year were unusually varied. They consisted of Demonstrative, Alliance, outdoor, and conference meetings. The number held during the year was 1,148. Of these 672 were ordinary and 476 deputational. At them 1,904 addresses were delivered. These figures show a very large increase of meetings and addresses as compared with last year. These figures, however, give no adequate summation of the number of meetings held throughout Scotland at which the principles and policy of the Association are expounded and enforced. Temperance meetings in this part of the kingdom scarcely possess an iota of interest apart from the advocacy of the suppression of the liquor traffic by the veto of the ratepayers; and it gives your Executive pleasure to report that their efforts to create and direct an enlightened public opinion on the evils of the liquor traffic are gladly shared by the most steadfast friends of the temperance movement throughout the country. Whatever is proposed other or less than what you propose is merely put forth as an expedient to reduce the present virulence of the social disorder arising from the liquor traffic, and this is done with a frank admission that a permanent solution of the drink problem will only be found possible on the lines of the just and constitutional proposal of this Association.

Your last annual public meeting was densely crowded. The chair was filled on the occasion by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., and the speakers included Sir W. Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Provost Macpherson, Grangemouth; Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; John Wilson, Esq., J.P.; Rev. Dr. Nicolson; Rev. R. J. Lynde; Rev. R. Wallace; and Mr. W. Noble. The proceedings were most enthusiastic, much of it being evoked by the chairman's promising to assist to introduce a bill into Parliament for Scotland. The next important gathering was held in Edinburgh in December, when T. R. Buchanan, Esq., one of the M.P.'s for the city, occupied the chair. The speakers on this occasion included Sir W. Lawson, Bart., M.P., Sheriff Guthrie Smith, Rev. Principal Cairns, Rev. Professor Blaikie, Revs. Drs. Adamson, Kay, and Gray, Revs. R. J. Lynde, and Young, John Wilson, Esq., J.P., and other gentlemen. This was looked upon as the most influential, important, and enthusiastic meeting ever held in Edinburgh on the temperance question; and its influence in advancing our objects in Edinburgh is not yet spent. The Jubilee public meeting in Paisley with Provost M'Kean in the chair, was addressed by Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., your representative, and the same evening an excellent meeting in the Christian Institute, Grangemouth, presided over by Provost Macpherson, was addressed by your

deputation, Rev. S. Harding, John Steel, Esq., and Mr. Waterston. At Peebles a very enthusiastic meeting was addressed by your deputation, Rev. E. J. Boon, J. Coutts, Esq., S.S.C., Messrs. J. P. Lossock, Waterston and Mackay. An excellent meeting at Kirkcaldy deserves mention; it was presided over by Bailie Speedie and addressed by Rev. E. J. Boon, Messrs. Steel, Bennet, and Mackay. A splendid district social meeting at Lesmahagow was addressed by Ex-Provost Dick, your deputy, and also by Ex-Bailie Lewis and Rev. John M'Queen. A very interesting Gospel temperance meeting at Uddingston was addressed by Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., and Bailie Selkirk, J.P. At Brechin a large and enthusiastic Blue Ribbon meeting was addressed by Rev. S. Harding, and Messrs. Mackay and Stevenson; James Guthrie, Esq., J.P., one of your vice-presidents, occupying the chair. After a short interval another large and effective meeting there was addressed by Rev. E. J. Boon and Messrs. Mackay and Stevenson. A highly successful meeting took place in Greenock over which Provost Campbell presided, and was addressed by Ex-Bailie Torrens, Ex-Provost Dick, and leading local gentlemen. At Montrose a crowded meeting was held in the Guild Hall, which was addressed by Rev. E. J. Boon and Messrs. Stevenson and Mackay. At Hawick an excellent meeting was convened to hear addresses from your deputation, Rev. Dr. Adamson and Mr. Waterston; and at St. Andrews Rev. M. M'Gregor and Mr. Waterston as your deputation, addressed a highly successful meeting. A largely attended meeting was held in Rutherglen, which was addressed by Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., and Bailie Selkirk J.P., Sir W. Collins occupying the chair. A meeting, excellent in tone and attendance, was held in Dumfries, at which Dr. M'Culloch presided, the object of which was to welcome Mr. A. Bennet to Dumfries, as superintendent of the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown. Messrs. Winning and Mackay, along with Mr. Bennet, represented the Association, and quite a host of friends addressing the meeting heartily welcomed Mr. Bennet to this sphere of his labours. At Paisley, ex-Bailie Torrens addressed one of the Murphy Blue Ribbon audiences, of nearly three thousand persons. A very excellent Gospel temperance meeting was held at West Kilbride, the chairman being J. S. Napier, Esq., and the speakers Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., and Mr. J. Winning. Many other meetings deserve mention such as those of Renfrew, Barrhead, Hamilton, Irvine, Linlithgow, Galashiels, Maybole, Earlston, Whithorn, Kelso, Cupar, Anstruther, Dunse, Strathmiglo, Tillicoultry, Bo'ness, Inverness, &c., &c.

OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

The recent summer season was one of the most active in out-door work which your Executive have ever had, and at no stage of their operations do they believe that so much good has been done. Their advocates and agents have visited every town of importance from Lerwick in the far north to Annan on the borders, from Dunbar on the east to Campbellton on the west, and have everywhere been hailed as reformers with a thorough-going remedy for the dire evils flowing from the liquor traffic. They visited some places more than once, and your Executive have been greatly encouraged by their favourable reports. The only drawback to their gratification was the feeling that they could have prosecuted the season's campaign even more vigorously had they had means of defraying the expense. They hope, however, that by another year they may be able to enter upon the out-door advocacy of their question with augmented means and agencies. No mode yet devised of getting at the mass of the people excels these open-air gatherings, and none has helped your Executive more to gain the ear and the sympathy of the common people. A special feature of the year has been the number of series meetings. Edinburgh ranks first in this respect, open-air meetings being held on alternate weeks extending from June 19th to August 11th. The brunt of the speaking this year fell upon Mr. Waterston and the local friends. Your Executive had, however, the pleasure to secure Rev. Mr. Harding for a week. Greenock has had a series of meetings

on alternate Mondays throughout the season besides a week's meetings from 31st July to August 5th. Interesting series took place in Stevenston, Saltcoats, and Ardrossan, from 31st July to August 4th, and were very successful indeed. A very excellent series was held in Aberdeen, remarkable for the co-operation manifest on the part of all the local organizations. In no locality does harmonious co-operation among the various sections of the movement prevail to the same extent as in Aberdeen. The series in Glasgow was more than ordinarily successful. Two meetings every evening for a week were held at various points, all your available open-air advocacy being engaged. The meetings in Dundee, Perth, and adjacent towns, were worked by a deputation, including Mr. James Scrymgeour (of Dundee), and Mr. Stevenson, with the happiest results. In Dumfries a most satisfactory series has taken place, Mr. Bennet being well supported by local friends, one of them (Miss Johnstone) deserving special mention for her zealous co-operation. Your Executive believe that in no former season have they derived more encouragement or satisfaction from their open-air meetings than in that now passed, all having largely contributed to that national enlightenment on the object of the Association which will one day be backed by the national executive power, and hurl the traffic into merited oblivion.

The open-air Sabbath meetings on Glasgow Green have been a great success this year. At first it looked as if they were to fail owing to having to be removed from where they have been held for the last fifty years to a different part of the Green. But in numbers, in interest, and in success they have proved as good as could have been expected, and your Executive hope that they will be allowed the use of their old position by another year. They are still under the genial, skilful, and popular conduct of Mr. R. Dransfield, who has been assisted by ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Rev. Samuel Harding, Messrs. James Horn, R. Stevenson, J. H. Waterston, W. Blackwood, A. Bennet, R. Mackay, W. Hobkirk, W. Kesson, and other gentlemen. The services of these gentlemen have been most praiseworthy. Gospel temperance for more than fifty years has been the staple of the many heart-searching and soul-stirring addresses delivered at these meetings on summer Sabbath evenings, and many a one has had reason on earth to bless the efforts there put forth, and because of them many a soul is now rejoicing among the redeemed in heaven.

These various meetings have been of the greatest service to the agitation, attracting the notice and obtaining the aid of the leading friends in the localities in which they took place. Your Executive feel pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services at these meetings during the year of the following gentlemen:—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; P. M'Lagan, Esq., M.P.; Sheriff G. Smith; ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P.; John Wilson, Esq., J.P.; Rev. Principal Cairns, Rev. Professor Blaikie, Rev. Professor Kirk, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. Dr. Stewart, Rev. William Barker, Rev. R. J. Lynde, Rev. John M'Queen, A.M., Rev. W. C. M'Dougal, Rev. M. Macgregor, Rev. E. J. Boon, Rev. A. Wilson, Rev. Samuel Harding, Rev. G. W. Tooley, Rev. J. Cooper, Rev. F. Binns, Rev. J. Strachan, Dr. Whitelaw, Dr. J. M. M'Culloch, Captain Brodie, Greenock; James H. Raper, Esq.; J. Coutts, Esq., S.S.C.; Messrs. W. Smith, A. S. Cook, D. Ramsay, John Butters, T. Robinson, Matt. Edwards, H. Hobkirk, J. W. Mackay, Miss Johnston, and many others. The following members of Executive have rendered valuable aid to the advocacy during the year:—Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Bailie Selkirk, J.P.; ex-Provost Dick; Messrs. J. Winning, John Steel, R. M'Callum, and R. Mackay.

ALLIANCE DEPUTATIONS.

A series of interesting meetings, marked by uniform success, were those addressed by deputations from the United Kingdom Alliance. The first series began at Dumfries, where Dr. M'Culloch presided over an excellent meeting, which was addressed by Rev. W. Barker, Rector of West Cowes, now of Marylebone, London;

Messrs. Winning and Mackay. Next evening at Port-Glasgow, Robt. Duncan, Esq., presiding, the speakers were, Rev. W. Barker, Capt. Brodie, Messrs. Winning and Stevenson. Next evening at Perth, with Councillor Russel in the chair, the speakers were the Rev. Mr. Barker, ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Bailie Selkirk, J.P., and Mr. R. Mackay. The last of this series was held at Portobello, where the meeting was under the presidency of John Telfor, Esq., and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Barker, Captain Brodie, and Messrs. Lossock and Waterston. These meetings were all excellent in tone and attendance, the audiences enthusiastic, and have had a marked effect upon the opinion of the respective localities in which they took place. In March your Executive had the pleasure of arranging for another series, Mr. J. H. Raper on this occasion representing the United Kingdom Alliance in his usual felicitous manner. The first of the series was held in Ayr, where Mr. Raper was supported by Bailie Selkirk, J.P., Messrs. Winning and Mackay. Major Oldham presided, and the proceedings were characterised by marked enthusiasm and success. The next meeting was at Aberdeen, James Paterson, Esq., presiding. Mr. Raper had the support of Wm. Smith, Esq., Brechin, Mr. R. Mackay, and local friends. This was a most important if not so well attended a meeting as is usually the case in Aberdeen, for it took a statesman-like view of Lord Colin Campbell's Bill. The last of the series was held at Stirling, Provost Anderson occupying the chair. The speakers included ex-Provost Dick, Messrs. Raper, and R. Mackay, as well as several staunch local friends, and a most successful meeting rewarded the labours of the local committee. With one exception both series of meetings were preceded by unexceptionally successful conferences, marked by a happy and profitable interchange of sentiment.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Vigorously following up the recommendation of the last annual meeting, your Executive held a large number of conferences during the winter season. These conferences have afforded the most striking and encouraging signs of the progress of the year. The interchange of sentiment which took place was in the highest degree gratifying, and calculated to give an impetus to the movement in the localities visited, which will continue to exert itself long after the occasion which called it forth is forgotten. These conferences wherever practicable were followed by public meetings. They were held in Edinburgh, Renfrew, Barrhead, Hamilton, Irvine, Portobello, Paisley, Grangemouth, Linlithgow, Peebles, Galashiels, Maybole, Earlston, Whithorn, Kirkcaldy, Jedburgh, Kelso, Hawick, St. Andrews, Cupar, Denny, Montrose, Strathmiglo, Arbroath, Aberdeen, Bo'ness, Inverness, Dunse, Broxburn, &c., &c. It was exceedingly gratifying to your Executive to learn from their representatives at the various conferences that their own convictions were in so much accord with those of their friends throughout the country, and at the same time to know that whenever a farther advance in the direction of Parliamentary effort is deemed advisable that they would have the sustained support and co-operation of the friends whom they are so glad to find, approve so highly of these opportunities of meeting the representatives of the Association face to face. Your Executive will in the future gladly avail themselves as often as possible of this truly excellent means of strengthening and deepening the sentiments of mutual good-will on the part of the supporters of the Association and themselves.

There are other meetings which merit notice. Your Executive engaged Mr. R. Semple, of Paisley, to accompany Mr. Blackwood on a short tour in the northern district. The arrangements were carried out in a manner reflecting great credit on both. Mr. Semple proved a most indefatigable worker, and his advocacy was worthy of praise. A series of meetings took place at Irvine in the interests of blue-ribbonism, in which your advocates and agent took a prominent part. At Denny, where a persistent gospel temperance campaign

has stirred the hearts of all in that town, your Executive has co-operated repeatedly with the workers by sending on speakers. At Hamilton, during the summer, your advocates and agents have responded to repeated invitations. Several visits to Port-Glasgow, Govan, Partick, and Pollokshaws have marked at once the desire of the friends to arrange meetings for your representatives, and at the same time the desire of your Executive to favourably entertain as far as lies in their power every application made to them for assistance.

Your Executive, having in view the injunctions of the U. P. Synod, the General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and Free Church to ministers to preach a sermon in view of the Christmas and New Year festivities, resolved to invite the Rev. R. J. Lynde of Belfast to preach in Glasgow in December. Mr. Lynde heartily accepted the invitation, and delivered a most eloquent and impressive discourse to a large audience in St. George's Free Church from Isaiah xi. 9—"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain."

DEPUTATION TO LORD ROSEBERY.

Your Executive, accompanied by leading friends from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other Scottish towns, had an interview with the Right Hon. Lord Rosebery, in the Lord-Advocate's Chambers, Edinburgh, in October last. His lordship was attended by D. Crawford, Esq., secretary to the Lord-Advocate. Mr. John Wilson, J.P., Hillhead, introduced the business of the deputation by reading a statement to his lordship, embodying reasons why the Government should fulfil its promise, as regards Scotland at least, of vesting in the ratepayers the power of suppressing the liquor traffic by a majority of their number. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh; ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Glasgow; and ex-Provost Dick, Glasgow. His lordship listened with evident interest and attention to the statement and also to the observations that followed. He expressed his great satisfaction at the manner in which the deputation had stated the case of the Association and the movement, and intimated that he would have pleasure in favourably representing the views so ably laid before him to the Government.

On the occasion of his lordship's visit to Greenock in December, the temperance reformers there asked his lordship to grant them an interview. To his lordship's regret, this was not possible. He agreed to the subsequent request that a statement should be laid before him. Mr. Stevenson's services were called in to get the statement duly signed, and in the course of a few days the able document had the signatures of Provost Campbell, ex-Provosts Morton and Lyle, Magistrates, Town Councillors, Police Commissioners, nearly all the ministers of the gospel, the leading gentlemen in town, and the President and the Committee of the Greenock Total Abstinence Society, as well as members of the Committee of the Cartdyke Total Abstinence Society. His lordship received the document with pleasure, and intimated his intention to give it his most careful consideration.

LITERATURE.

During the past year an increased issue of temperance and prohibitory literature on all phases of the question has taken place. The production of temperance literature in this country has become an industry of magnitude. The general press is now a great channel for the communication of information on all that concerns the temperance reformation, and leading articles on arguments or opinions adduced by its advocates are of everyday occurrence. The agitation cannot yet congratulate itself on having wholly won over the press to its side, but its friends are bound to feel pleasure in seeing to what an extent the public press really serves the movement.

The movement continues to derive great assistance from *The Alliance News*, *The Temperance Record*, *The Church of England Temperance Chronicle*, *The Christian News*, *The Scottish Temperance League Journal*, *Irish Temperance League Journal*, *Irish Temperance Banner*,

and *British Temperance Advocate*, which, in their several ways and spheres, render invaluable service to the movement. *The Social Reformer* continues to meet with increasing appreciation. At last annual meeting some excellent suggestions for its better circulation were thrown out, and as the result its circulation this year has been the largest it has yet enjoyed. The editor has been fortunate in meeting with a number of co-workers who have materially contributed to the approval with which it has been received. While your Executive cannot but be gratified at this, their convictions are deepening regarding the fact that the agitation is fast outgrowing the usefulness of *The Social Reformer*. Published only once a month it is unable to do justice to the extended operations and the weekly progress of the movement in Scotland. Were the friends of the Association to resolve on publishing it week by week instead of monthly, as at present, they would find it become one of the most efficient of their agencies; a fearless exponent and a dauntless defender at all times of their principles and policy. Your Executive leave this matter in your hands to determine, and they hope that you may be guided to do what is for the best interests of the cause. Were they once assured of your support, a weekly organ worthy of the Association, reflecting week by week the progress of the movement, would soon be found among the favourite journals of the day.

During the year your Executive have issued a series of leaflets to the extent of a quarter of a million copies, and have found them of the greatest service in the spread of brief, incisive, and interesting information on the varied aspects of the question. Were their merits more fully known their circulation would be ten-fold greater than it is. Your committee are gratified at the success these tiny messengers have met with, and they will continue to supply the demand for them as it may arise.

The New Year tract for 1882 was entitled National Poverty, and was the production of the Rev. Professor Kirk, Edinburgh. It had a larger circulation than any of these tracts for years, owing to the acknowledged merit and deserved fame of the writer. The tract for 1883 will, it is hoped, be equally excellent and meet with equal appreciation.

KINDRED ORGANIZATIONS.

Your Executive have uniformly had the pleasure to report that they are on terms of cordiality with all kindred Associations, and this year is no exception to the rule.

Their relations with the United Kingdom Alliance continue of the most cordial character, and they expect to have the pleasure of welcoming to-day Mr. Whitworth, M.P., and Mr. J. H. Eaper as the representatives of that powerful national organization. Ex-Provost Dick, Mr. J. Nisbet, and your Secretary represented this Association at their annual meetings in October last, and were of the opinion that these meetings conclusively showed that time was on the side of the "Grand" Alliance.

Ex-Provost Dick and Rev. John M'Queen, A.M., Kilmarnock, represented your Association at the annual meetings of the Irish Temperance League in April last, and on their return reported that nothing could exceed the power and influence which the League wielded in Ireland. You will be glad to know that the Rev. J. M'Dermott, M.A., represents the League at your meetings to-day.

Ex-Bailie Torrens and John Forrester, Esq., represented this Association at the breakfast party of the Scottish Temperance League, and to-day that national institution is to be represented at your annual social meeting by Messrs. A. M'Dougall and David Fortune.

Councillor Campbell of Perth, one of your esteemed vice-presidents, was your representative at the Grand sessions of the Independent Order of Good Templars, Scotland at Dundee, and has stated that the proceedings at that gathering afforded reason for the heartiest congratulation. The Rev. Geo. Gladstone represents that Order here to-day.

It is within your remembrance that your Executive

have had a great many conference meetings with the Directors of the Scottish Temperance League and the I.O.G.T. Executive, and your Executive cherished the hope that these might yet lead to cordial unanimity of action. On the principle that the ratepayers should have a direct veto on the liquor traffic there was no difference whatever, but while your Executive insisted that the yea or nay of the poll should determine the issue between the ratepayers and the drink interest, the Scottish Temperance League was no less firm in declaring that the matter should be determined by plebiscite, admitting a three-fold choice on the part of the voter—1st to put down all traffic; 2nd, to put down part of it; and 3rd, to oppose all new licenses. The Good Templar Executive, on the other hand, expressed a decided preference for Local Licensing Boards, specially elected for the purpose of dealing solely with the traffic. When on the 11th October last, a conference was summoned for the consideration of these last methods, your Executive respectfully expressed its resolution to withdraw from these conferences, as it could not entertain either of the proposals to be then submitted. There and then the parting took place, but it was accompanied by such expressions of mutual goodwill as removed all elements of dissatisfaction, and your Executive are hopeful that they will secure from both organizations most hearty co-operation whenever they may be in a position to require it.

Your Executive are glad to have to report that the British Women's Temperance Association is to-day represented at your social party by Mrs. Helen Kirk, Miss Robertson, and Miss Grieve, and they hope that in the time to come they will find this Association among their strongest allies.

The Executive anticipate a representation from every leading organization in Scotland at one or other of the meetings to-day—a proof, in their opinion, how thoroughly all sections of the temperance movement share with them the conviction that the liquor traffic should be suppressed by the veto of the ratepayers.

THE CHURCHES.

One of the most cheering indications of the progress being made on all the lines of the temperance movement in Scotland is to be found in the rapidly changing attitude of the churches of Scotland towards intemperance and the liquor traffic. These are being brought face to face with the evils of intemperance in a manner hitherto unknown. The use of strong drink has always been gross in its nature, and dreadful in its consequences, but the Church, like the world, looked upon alcoholic liquor as a good thing liable to be abused unless men were endowed with sufficient restraining grace. This state of matters no longer exists. The Church is arousing itself, and now the question never can rest until the legalised facilities to intemperance have been excluded from society. In the U. P. Synod a most important discussion took place on the occasion of the committee on temperance presenting their report. The report referred to the Blue Ribbon movement, to the formation of Bands of Hope, to the committee's deputation to Lord Rosebery on Local Option; and it was agreed by the Synod that the committee petition for the earlier closing of public houses, and for control over the liquor traffic by ratepayers. The Rev. Dr. Blair initiated a debate on the discouragement of all social drinking usages in which the leading members of the Synod took part, and a motion by the Rev. Principal Cairns was ultimately carried. The motion was in the following terms:—"That the Synod discourage all public drinking usages, and recommend the membership of the Church sincerely and earnestly to consider how far it might be their duty to discontinue the personal use of intoxicating liquors." Your committee hail this result; as whenever ministers find that alcoholic liquors are not useful they will be easier induced to throw their influence and their efforts into the scale against the whole drink system. The Assembly of the Free Church met at Edinburgh on the 18th May. The Report on Religion and Morals declared that discipline was exercised principally for immorality and drunkenness. The conference on temperance

lasted two hours. Rev. Jas. Scott stated that 6,000 persons had been pledged through the efforts of the Evangelistic Association in one year in Glasgow. Mr. Moody's Glasgow Mizpah Band meetings were referred to. Hundreds of drunkards had been converted to Christ. At this conference, Mr. Moody gave a remarkable speech in course of which he frankly confessed that he had not given the subject of Bible temperance sufficient attention. He thought that the Church of God should look at this question. "Had not the time come when the ministers should be putting the drink away? What were they going to do with those men who were drinking; for if they did not stretch out a hand to them they would lapse and become worse than ever? Could they honestly advise a man to go to any church, the pulpit of which was filled by a moderate drinker? He believed that if the Church of God arose at this present time and reached out a helping hand to those struggling to be free, it would be the grandest day that Scotland had ever seen." The committee's report on temperance directed attention to the combined U.P. and F.C. deputation to Lord Rosebery on Local Option, and that 16 Presbyteries and 2 Synods had petitioned in favour of a Local Option measure for Scotland. The declaration in favour of licensing boards had been largely signed by ministers and others in the Church. The report referred to the Gospel Temperance and Blue Ribbon missions in favourable terms. Several presbyteries had petitioned in favour of Dr. Cameron's Passenger Vessel Licenses (Scotland) Bill; and looked upon Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Bill as unworkable. The report concluded by recommending a special conference on Local Option and Gospel Temperance, and that the Assembly again petition in favour of Local Option. Mr. Guthrie, J.P., moved the deliverance of the Assembly, "thanking the committee for their labours, renewing the injunction to preach a temperance sermon on third Sabbath of December, rejoicing in the encouraging statements of the report, exhorting ministers and office-bearers to show sympathy with the movements promoted by Messrs. Moody and Murphy and use these for the restoration of the fallen, expressing their sympathy with the declaration of the Glasgow Conference, instructing the committee to take all steps to further the objects of the declaration and to petition in favour of a Local Option measure for Scotland." After quite a cloud of witnesses in favour of total abstinence and prohibition had spoken, the deliverance became the deliverance of the Assembly. During its sittings, the Assembly had to depose the Rev. W. J. Thomson, of Glasgow, for intoxication, and to refuse meantime to repon the Rev. A. C. Kay, who, for the same offence, had been deposed from the ministry. His case was, however, left to the Commission with powers.

The venerable Assembly of the Established Church met at Edinburgh on the 25th May; and on the 3rd June the committee on temperance gave in their report which stated that much good work had been effected during the year. The moral agencies at the disposal of the Church had been energetic and progressive. The most popular of them all were Bands of Hope. The references to the Licensing Law were made in more sombre language. The committee expressed the hope, 1st, that the magistrates should be more strict in granting licenses; 2nd, that chief constables should make a systematic report of persons seen leaving public houses in an intoxicated condition; 3rd, that more strict and careful enforcement of the law relating to transfers should be attended to. The committee stated 1st, that they would like to see the public houses earlier closed because there is more drunkenness produced after ten o'clock, and on Saturdays they might be closed earlier than ten o'clock p.m.; 2nd, roadside inns should be reduced to taverns, so that the *bona fide* traveller might be abolished; 3rd, that a radical change in the law should be made as regards grocers' licenses; 4th, the age at which boys and girls can get liquor should be raised. The committee after pointing out the measures then before Parliament—Free Licensing, Permissive Bill, Gothenburg system, the Chamberlain system, and Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Bill—say that this fact shows that

the next bill which passes into law will give effect to a restrictive policy. Mr. Cuthbertson, of Glasgow, moved the following as the deliverance of the Assembly—"The Assembly approve of the report, reappoint the committee, with Rev. G. Wilson convener. The Assembly deploring the intemperance prevailing in Scotland, and recognising it as one of the greatest hindrances to the prosperity of the Church and the welfare of the country, strongly recommends all members of the Church to give earnest attention to this important subject, and to promote by personal example and every lawful effort the observance of temperance throughout the Church, and to instruct the committee to promote wherever practicable organisation with a total abstinence and general section, and to further the formation of juvenile branches that the Church may be united in her strength against the evils of drunkenness. The Assembly learn with satisfaction that a Church of Scotland Ladies' Temperance Association has been formed, and warmly commend it to the sympathy and support of the women throughout the Church. The Assembly commend to the consideration of the inferior courts of the Church the statement in the report concerning the statutes regulating the liquor traffic with the suggestions thereanent. The Assembly believing that much good would result from the reduction in the number of licensed houses, and the earlier closing of public houses, would hail with satisfaction legislation in this direction, and instruct the committee to watch over any measure coming before the legislature that affects the interests of the Church. The Assembly recommend ministers frequently to direct and exhort their congregations from the pulpit on the subject of intemperance, and specially to do this on Sunday, 17th December next." After a very animated discussion in which those holding advanced views on temperance and prohibition had by far the best of it, the deliverance proposed became the deliverance of the Assembly. It is matter for thankfulness that the Assembly manifests undoubted progress in the direction of prohibition.

The Evangelical Union, the Congregational Union, the Baptist Union, and other religious bodies, have during the year given earnest heed to the important subject of temperance, and have more or less shown a growing sympathy in favour of a legislative recognition of the principles for which your Association contends. It will be a great day for the country we love so well when the Churches of Scotland, "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners," in one united phalanx march forth bent on the removal of the licensing system.

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.

Your Executive for the first time find themselves called upon to report on their tenure of office during an adjournment of the Parliamentary session, and not as usual during its recess. So far as the session has gone, it has been one of the most disappointing to temperance reformers. It had been thought that as the Government had given almost entirely two former sessions to the consideration of Irish questions, this one would be marked by the transaction of business in which Great Britain was chiefly and deeply interested; but the Parliamentary sky was soon overcast and a session passed on to adjournment with the most barren result conceivable as regards British domestic legislation.

Under such discouraging circumstances liquor traffic abolitionists did not lose heart, but manfully endeavoured in the face of singular vicissitudes, party wranglings, and unparalleled obstruction, to secure for their ardently desired measure full legislative recognition.

The House met on the 7th February. In the Queen's Speech there was no reference to the licensing question. A very large number of notices of questions and bills relating indirectly or directly to liquor legislation were given notice of on the opening day. Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice of a question asking if the Government contemplated any alteration in the licensing laws; Mr. Pease of another on the opium traffic; then Mr. Warton gave notice of a bill to amend the Sunday Closing

(Wales) Act; Mr. Stevenson to re-introduce his Sunday Closing (England) Bill; Mr. Carbutt of a bill to close public houses during the hours of polling at Parliamentary elections; Mr. O'Sullivan of a bill for the improvement of spirits before being sent out of bond for consumption; Sir John St. Aubyn of a bill to prohibit the sale of liquors on Sunday in Cornwall; Mr. Lewis Fry of a bill to amend the law regarding "off" licenses; Mr. Morgan Lloyd to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections, which would include dealing with committee rooms in public houses; and the Attorney-General of a bill for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at Parliamentary elections. On the following day Colonel Barne asked leave to introduce a bill to prevent the adulteration of beer. On the 9th Dr. Cameron obtained leave to introduce his bill to amend the law relating to the traffic in exciseable liquors in passenger vessels plying on Sunday between Scotch ports. Such was the intention of temperance reformers, and in a legislature self-governed the publicans might well have appeared dismayed, but the Parliament is not self-governed, and as events proved, almost all of these temperance measures which were so courageously launched came to grief through party antagonisms and obstruction. Mr. Gladstone's reply to the question of Sir Wilfrid Lawson was that "the Government did not contemplate bringing in any measure for the alteration of the licensing laws during the present session, but their intention was to introduce a measure with respect to local government, which would have a bearing on the licensing question; he hoped that Sir Wilfrid would wait until the bill appeared when he would see how far it was an answer to his question. Mr. Gladstone in his budget speech threw over the County Boards bill, and on Sir Wilfrid asking if the Government contemplated the introduction of any other legislation giving effect to the resolution on local option twice affirmed by the House of Commons, answered, that having abandoned the bill he did not see that the Government had any means of making a proposal to the House on that subject during the session. That same evening Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice of his intention on the earliest opportunity to move "In view of the great and grievous evils arising from the liquor traffic, this House is of opinion that the power to remove the cause of these evils by some efficient measure of local option should be entrusted to local communities at the earliest opportunity." This was on the 28th April, and Sir Wilfrid began steadily to ballot for a first place, but it was not until nearly the end of June that he was successful. He however got the first place for Tuesday 18th July. Immediately this was fixed the whole kingdom was astir on the matter, and honourable members had a lively time of it reading over the communications from their constituents who favoured the resolution and from those who did not. Your Executive at once communicated with all their friends and with all known sections of the movement in Scotland asking for their co-operation. Their district superintendents in their respective districts availed themselves of the opportunity of securing the co-operation of the constituencies under their care in favour of a higher numerical division, and your Executive appointed the following deputation to proceed to London in the interests of the resolution:—ex-Provost Dick, J. Williams, Esq., J.P., Messrs. J. Winning, T. L. Selkirk, J. Forrester, and R. Mackay. These laboured earnestly on behalf of the resolution. Of the 59 available representatives for Scotland they saw 52, and communicated with four absent in the country. They arranged a deputation to the Lord-Advocate and Solicitor-General, and were joined by Sir D. Wedderburn, P. M'Lagan, Esq., Stephen Williamson, Esq., James Stewart, Esq., and J. D. Peddie, Esq. The interview was very satisfactory, the Lord-Advocate promising his continued support to the resolution, and the Solicitor-General expressing his intention to vote for the resolution for the first time. The deputation had also an interesting interview with Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., and another with the Right Honourable the Earl of Aberdeen. As the date for the second reading drew

near there were ominous head-shakings and grave doubts, freely expressed, of Sir Wilfrid being able to move his resolution. So long as Sir Wilfrid continued hopeful your Deputation put forth their energies on his behalf. When the House met it was evident that hope was crushed, the publican sympathisers lending their aid to the party of obstruction. The Arrears Bill dragged its slow, wearisome progress over the precious hours on which Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his supporters should have been discussing and dividing on the principle of efficient local option. The feeling of disappointment at the moment was very great, but as all on the side of the resolution had done their duty by it the feeling soon subsided. Your Deputation had many an interesting interview with the representatives waited upon, and believe that the time has come when a determined struggle for special liquor legislation for Scotland might be entered upon with some hopes of progress. They are not insensible to the difficulties that surround such an attempt—Parliament utterly unable to control itself: a Government unwilling to burn the boats or cut down the bridges that are supposed to attach it to the liquor interest: an almost omnipotent Premier who has loaded the liquor traffic with taxation, and cannot at present devise other means for yielding equal revenue, and who went in wholly unpledged on this matter: an Opposition many of whom glory in the harmonious relations existing between it and "the trade," over whose banquets they have a fondness for presiding. But all these difficulties must yield to the fiat of the sovereign people, and it is on them that the leaders of the movement rely. With a restricted franchise unexampled progress has been made in Scotland. When that franchise includes the enfranchised classes in the counties, the supporters of your principles will be largely reinforced. It has been pointed out that there are only 60 Scotch Members, and that any bill for Scotland will have the combined vote of the publican interest of England against it, which would be overwhelming. To that there is but one reply: in that case it will be for Scotland to say whether she means to maintain her local self-government, or whether she is indifferent on the subject. Your Executive cannot and will not believe that if her representatives show an almost unbroken unanimity in favour of her ratepayers having the power to remove the liquor traffic, that she will tamely submit to the dictation of the English Members when they say "her ratepayers shall not." Such an objection, formidable though it appears, will not deter them from using every legitimate effort in their power to enlist the sympathy of the constituencies and their representatives in favour of such desirable justice to Scotland, and it will be for you and all who yearn for deliverance from the direful results of the liquor traffic to determine how near or how far the time is when such justice to Scotland shall be meted out through the Imperial Parliament entrusting Scottish ratepayers with a veto over the liquor traffic of their respective localities.

Whatever has taken place in Parliament bearing in any way on liquor legislation has been so fully recorded in the *Social Reformer* that it is unnecessary to encumber the report with details. Your Committee, however, cannot exempt from consideration two measures for Scotland, the one Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Acts Amendment Bill, and the other Dr. Cameron's Passenger Steamers' Licenses (Scotland) Bill. At the last Annual Public Meeting of the Association his Lordship said "if after consultation with other members of Parliament it may seem wise and expedient—it may seem wise to take a separate line of action for Scotland, I shall be glad indeed, and I should esteem it a great honour to put my name on the back of a bill which should give the people of Scotland that for which they have pronounced in the most unmistakable terms." Your Executive were favoured by hearing the Bill in draft read, and saw in the twentieth clause an important concession to their demand, fettered, however, by a proviso which they believed might be easily got rid of in Committee. They were then fully prepared to recommend their friends everywhere to support that clause. When the Bill appeared they found that a

double proviso had been added to the clause, as if the noble author of the Bill himself believed that everywhere the bill when passed into law would be adopted, and that the interests of the minority demanded that special provision should be made for their indulgence. Your Executive, after earnest consideration of the Bill, gave their deliverance as follows:—

"The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have carefully considered the provisions of the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., and while regarding it as an honest and earnest attempt to deal with the evils of the licensing system in Scotland, and believing that certain of its provisions would undoubtedly abate some of these evils, yet feel called upon to express their deep regret that the bill not only fails adequately to recognise the right of the ratepayers in their several districts to prevent by a direct and full veto public-houses being forced upon them or continued in their midst against their will, but provides for compensation to landlord and tenant, for the sale of licenses, for the granting of a ten years' lease, and generally for the continuance, under certain given conditions, of a system that is essentially mischievous in its nature and operations."

The bill was not acceptable to any section of the movement in Scotland, and indeed did not secure the approval of any class of social reformers. Lord Colin Campbell, by attempting too great changes in the licensing laws, making unwarrantable concessions to the drink interest, and at the same time shrinking from the only course which will yield success, leading the advanced prohibitory sentiment of Scotland in Parliament, has unfortunately done nothing to redress the grievances inflicted by the liquor traffic on our suffering country. His lordship has not altogether failed, however; he has showed that the great bulk of the people view with chilling apathy merely palliative schemes, and your Executive regret that all the trouble his lordship has taken and the undoubted genius he has shown, should have been rendered abortive through his lordship's belief in a phantom—the rights of the minority. Had he been as eager in favour of the rights of the suffering majority as of the imbibing and interested minority, the movement might have been, under the shadow of his illustrious name, reaching forward to a great and decisive victory over the liquor traffic.

Dr. Cameron introduced his Passenger Licenses Bill during the session. The Right Hon. the Lord-Advocate, however, took it in hand, and carried it through all its stages in the Commons, and the Earl of Rosebery did the same office for it in the House of Lords; and on the 18th August the Royal assent was given to the bill, which is now law. It is too early yet to ascertain its effect on the evils against which it is directed, but Dr. Cameron is to be congratulated on getting another slice of prohibitory legislation for the country.

A very large number of interesting questions relative to the malt tax question were put and answered during the session. It appears that after all, the disinclination to repeal the tax was to prevent the lowering of the price of barley and the use of other than bere, bigg, and barley in the manufacture of beer. The reduction of the duty on sugar facilitated the use of sugar and molasses in the manufacture of liquor, and now the repeal of the malt tax has induced brewers to produce beer from maize, rice, and other substances. Beer, the hypothetical poor man's strengthener, is no longer juice of malt, but a fermented compound which produces more bodily diseases than has ever been laid to the account of malt liquors.

The question of intemperance in the army and navy has been often brought under the notice of the House by Mr. Caine, M.P. Notwithstanding that much reform on this matter has taken place much more is required, and we believe that great good to soldier, sailor, and marine, will follow the consideration on the subject which has been forced upon "the House."

The Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act has not been improved as had been expected by the repeal of the exemptory clauses which would have put Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, Cork and Belfast, under Sunday

closing. The Act is continued, and by another year we may hope for the fuller measure for Sunday closing to take effect, for which Ireland is willing and ready.

The Sunday Closing (Cornwall) Bill passed its second reading, and it may, it is to be hoped, be passed before Parliament separates for the recess.

BYE-ELECTIONS.

There has only been one bye-election in Scotland since your Executive submitted their last annual report. Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., M.P. for the Haddington Burghs somewhat suddenly resigned his seat owing to ill-health, which your Executive regret has had a fatal termination. Sir David Wedderburn, all the time he sat in Parliament, was a firm supporter of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and heartily supported the Permissive Bill at a time when few ventured to do so. He presided at one of the annual public meetings of this Association. Immediately on his resignation Mr. A. C. Sellar entered the field in the Liberal interest. He was at once chosen by the Liberal party of the Burghs as their champion, but a few days before the election he was opposed in the Conservative interest by Mr. Seton-Karr. Mr. Sellar looked upon the question of permissive prohibition as quite a subordinate matter until your district superintendent, Mr. Waterston, brought him face to face with its friends in all the burghs. The result was that he promised to vote for a suppressive veto over the liquor traffic. Mr. Seton-Karr found it necessary also from his knowledge of the sentiments of the electors to promise that he would vote for the Local Option resolution which the House of Commons have twice affirmed, but he would reserve power to amend details in committee. The friends, after a careful consideration of the claims of both candidates, unhesitatingly gave their votes and influence to Mr. A. C. Sellar, who is now member of Parliament, by the large majority of 289; the numbers being—Mr. Craig Sellar, 833, Mr. Seton-Karr, 544. This leaves the Scotch voting for permissive prohibition unchanged, but the contest affords additional evidence that no candidate need bring his claim before any Scottish burgh constituency with hopes of success unless he is sound upon the policy of a suppressive veto over the liquor traffic to be applied by the ratepayers.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

Scotland has been stirred to enthusiasm by Americans, one promoting the Blue Ribbon Mission and the other gospel temperance. Mr. Francis Murphy entered upon a lengthened campaign in Scotland at Forfar, which enthusiastically responded to the call to don the blue ribbon, Dundee followed, then came the other northern towns, Arbroath, Brechin, Perth, followed by Aberdeen, and then Paisley, Stirling, &c. In many places the mission went on although never visited by Mr. Murphy. One cheering fact deserves mention. In previous "revivals" the surest way to create interest was to deprecate prohibition, but to-day the most actively engaged in this phase of the agitation believe most firmly in the necessity and urgency of suppression. At Dundee on the 24th January, an all-day conference of the friends of this agitation took place. Provost Moncur, Dundee, presided. On the motion of Mr. A. S. Cook, Aberdeen, the following resolution was adopted:—"As the liquor traffic ostensibly exists for the public convenience, this conference believes that the time has now come when power should be given to the people to veto the traffic when and where they are disposed." It was supported by Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh, your representative, and was adopted by the entire conference rising to their feet. A signal proof of the feeling on the motion which actuated the assemblage.

The gospel temperance mission, believing that a person who drinks will when converted lose all desire or appetite for strong liquors, does not put much faith in the power of the law. However much this may be regretted—because there is really no antagonism between gospel temperance, truly so called, and prohibition—your Executive have availed themselves of every opportunity to assist this movement, and to correct the

views of those who lightly esteem the power of law to serve the gospel, by abolishing its greatest outward obstacle.

The School Board elections this year resulted in the return of almost all the steadfast friends of temperance and prohibition, and in the election of others, so that the number of members favouring temperance on these boards has slightly increased.

Canon Wilberforce lately startled the temperance world by the publication of a letter which he addressed to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. In it he drew attention to the conduct of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in letting and feuing so much of the Church lands under their care to the makers and sellers of intoxicating liquors. He asks His Grace either to deny the existence of a state of things which might properly be termed scandalous, or if he cannot do that, to put an end to them at once. The rev. Canon says proudly that he will not allow the Church property under his care to be put to any such use, and so soon as leases fall in in the property feued, they will not be used by the liquor traffickers on any pretence whatever. We shall hear more of this, and hope that the Church may shake herself entirely free from any commercial connection with the modern Belial.

Mr. Gladstone, in his Budget speech, accounted for the decrease of revenue from the liquor traffic by attributing it to growing habits of sobriety among the people, and their growing habit of saving. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue in their latest report confirmed this statement. They say, "this deficiency [in the revenue from liquor] may be accounted for in several ways, but principally, we think, by the improved habits of the people. Temperance principles seem to be influencing certain classes of the population largely, the past year having been apparently one of unusual progress in this direction." Who would have dreamed of finding Government among the crowd of witnesses testifying on behalf of the temperance reformation?

The British Privy Council have in a remarkably able document affirmed the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada sustaining the legality of the Canada Temperance Act. The grounds of the judgment of the Privy Council is that the law is a law promoting the peace, good order, and good government of Canada; that it only affects property so far as such interests as the public order and safety demand; that laws like the Scott Act belong to the class of public wrongs rather than civil rights. With regard to the optional powers of the Act the Council declares that the Act is intended to promote temperance by means of a uniform law throughout the Dominion—the fact is, the law is general, and although local in its application, the mode of applying it does not alter its character. This most important judgment is of great importance to everyone in this country as giving the legal bearings of the legislation which Associations like yours aim to secure.

DEPARTED FRIENDS.

Since you assembled here your Executive have had to deplore the decease of many warm friends of the movement. In no year have so many passed on to the land of silence. Many of them were the steadfast, unwavering friends of the Association from its beginning, and recognised that the principles for which it has so strenuously contended were eminently constitutional, reasonable, and just. By his retreat from Parliament and his early death, the movement has lost in Sir David Wedderburn one of the best of friends and supporters. The decease of Mr. Duncan Smith marks a real loss to the movement; he laboured so persistently in the distribution of literature, and his cheerful encouragement was at all times highly valued. Mr. John Buchanan, of Dumbuck, was an ardent supporter of the cause, and an unwavering believer in the crowning success of your agitation. Another vice-president, Mr. James Paton, J.P., of Lethangie, has passed away. While he lived, he gave a generous support to the agitation. Mr. Edward Howat, of Dundee, was one of your warmest and most generous friends. He held office in your Executive till he left Glasgow, and was a vice-president up to the time of his death. He was a most zealous

supporter of the Association, and through his efforts many have become attached to the movement. Mr. Robert Adams, of Aberdeen, an honorary director, is no more to be numbered among your co-workers, but while he lived he was true to the core, and was one of four to whom the prohibitory movement in Aberdeen stands deeply indebted. Mr. Wm. Clark, of Aberdeen, a vice-president, has also passed away. He rendered great service to your Association both in the press and on the platform. Honourable and mournful mention may be made of Mr. James Walls, Kirkwall; Mr. Lockhart Dobbie, J.P., Rothesay; Bailie Cuthbertson, Renfrew; Councillor Brown, Glasgow; Provost Mitchell, Montrose; Messrs. George Arthur, Forfar; James Newbigging, Dunse; James Morrison, Bo'ness; Andrew Steven, Bothwell; G. M'Farlane, Glasgow; R. Lorimer, Dundee; Thos. Ivory, Edinburgh; D. M. Simpson, Greenock; and Ex-Bailie Eaglesham, Paisley. Among those departed, your Executive regret to have to number Rev. D. Croom, Edinburgh, a helpful and attached friend; Rev. J. Robertson, Gatehouse; Rev. D. Cooper, Burntisland; Rev. Dr. Robertson, Edinburgh; Rev. J. M'Dermid, Glasgow; Rev. D. Mitchell, Bridge-of-Allan; and Rev. G. Kerr, Glasgow. They have also been called upon to mourn the departure of Mrs. M'ulloch, a lady who was one of the most truly devoted friends the Association or the movement ever had. Mrs. Williamson, Anstruther; Mrs. Dougall, Ratho; Miss A. Mitchell, Montrose; Miss Salmond, of Kirkcaldy, and very many more. All these have obtained a good report, having contributed in various degrees but with unanimity of will to the onward progress of the agitation. They have, by their ready co-operation, their liberality, and steadfastness, inspired the energies, renewed the hopes, and sustained the efforts of those immediately entrusted with the conduct of the movement, and it is for those that remain a little longer than they on the stage of time to emulate their intelligence, their active efforts, and their generous aid to the good cause.

THE FUNDS.

The funds claim special attention, for upon them the power and capacity of the agitation essentially depend. Your Executive may propose; it is the members and subscribers who dispose. Your Executive have had to forego many plans and lose many opportunities for promoting the interests of the Association, simply on the ground that they had no funds with which to carry out the one or avail themselves of the other. They cherish a deep sense of the confidence you repose in them as measured by the resources you from time to time place at their disposal. Hitherto these have been sufficient for the work they have overtaken, but they are not so for any extraordinary work of an electoral or Parliamentary nature, such as must arise from the substantial and natural progress of the agitation. They are glad to have to report a considerable increase in the number of subscribers. There is one most cheering fact connected therewith. They found, on a recent examination of their subscription list, that there are thereon 850 ministers of the gospel in Scotland who subscribe to the funds. It may interest you to know the denominational proportions of this grand total. Of the Free Church there are 308, of the U.P. Church 222, of the Established Church 125, the Evangelical Unionists 56, the Congregationalists 41, the Baptists 20, the Methodists 16, the Episcopalians 10, the Original Secessionists 8, the Roman Catholics 4, the Independents 2; while of those not in charges, or whose denomination is unknown, there are 36. Your Executive expect that next year this number may exceed a thousand. There have been no special efforts made to enlist these influential citizens, and your Executive view such a large and growing accession as a signal proof of the progress your question is making in the Church. In the immediate future that progress will be greatly accelerated by the powerful impetus which these welcome adherents will exert in favour of the objects and operations of your Association. The income also shows an increase, the amount received, exclusive of balance, being £2,196 7s. 9½d., an increase of £124 12s. 8½d. over last year; but any in-

crease has been nearly absorbed by the expenditure entailed on the funds through the numerous conferences which, on your instruction, have been held throughout the country during the year. The amount expended during the year is £2192 11s. 9½d, leaving a balance over slightly larger than that of the last two years.

During the year two most important bequests have been received. Miss Nicol of Blairgowrie paid into your funds, in memory of her father and brothers, the sum of £40 stg., a most handsome recognition of the usefulness of the Association, and a merited and affectionate tribute to her father and brothers, who were in their lifetime among the most steadfast friends of the movement. The second was a like sum paid in by your respected treasurer, Mr. Wm. Smith, on behalf of the executors of the late Duncan Smith, Esq., one of your vice-presidents. Your Executive had in the late Mr. Smith a warm and steadfast friend and one who was a most generous distributor of the literature of the movement. Your Executive earnestly recommend the example of Miss Nicol and the executors of the late Mr. Smith to all their friends.

Your Executive were so encouraged by the generous response to their letter last year, asking the friends to indicate the extent to which your Executive might rely on their support during the coming year, that they have ventured to issue another letter of the same import. Already they are happy to be able to state that the response is equally gratifying, so that their successors will be able to enter upon their labours with a knowledge of the probable extent and scale on which they may plan and carry out the duties entrusted to their discharge.

Still, in view of the parliamentary and electoral work of the year, they feel that a very urgent appeal will have to be made to their friends for resources adequate to such arduous and costly work. It is very discouraging to have, in emergencies, to enter upon the question of finance, or to feel how much more might be attained if there were a special fund available for such extraordinary demands. Some years ago your Executive induced the friends to place special funds at their disposal, and the result of their generous liberality was seen in the electoral efforts of the Association, whose fruits at the general election were so manifold and so gratifying. Many friends have not yet given this important matter their serious consideration, but it is to the honour of numerous others that, so far from being satisfied with what they give, they have intimated their resolve to increase their generous contributions. Your Executive need not add one word as to what would be the effect on the public mind or on the leaders of the agitation, were all its supporters to be actuated by such generous and praiseworthy sentiments. The agitation would proceed by leaps and bounds.

CONCLUSION.

In bringing their report to a conclusion, your Executive have to congratulate you upon the position and prospects of the Association. Its agencies are efficient, its resources elastic, its membership showing a steady increase, its principles and policy fast becoming the dominant policy of the Temperance reformation. It is what its friends are making it—a growing power to compel the removal of the liquor traffic from the community; and just as the friends of which it is composed devote themselves to liberally augmenting its resources and earnestly co-operating in its labours, will it the more speedily accomplish the object at which it aims. On the lines of moral suasion the people are viewing with desire the advantages of personal abstinence, and evangelists and ministers are being led to the conviction that Temperance is truly the hand-maid to the Gospel. The multiplying facilities for recreation and enjoyment are fast improving the habits of the people, and making easy that order of a higher social and moral existence which your association and similar organisations are labouring so devotedly to obtain and maintain. On the other hand, the triumphs of law over the evils of intemperance are manifesting themselves all over the world, and effecting a revolution in men's thoughts regarding the nature of the drink traffic. In our

country the people are clamouring for power to reduce the evils inherent in that traffic, which are everywhere becoming intolerable. Principalities, counties, and even burgh committees are approaching Government, asking special powers of protection against "the common enemy," and Parliament has been urged again and again to give effect to its twice affirmed resolution in favour of communities having efficient local option for this purpose. At such a moment it appears to your Executive that a decisive struggle to get special veto power to the ratepayers of Scotland should be vigorously entered upon. The magnitude, determination, and rapidity of that struggle lie solely in your own hands. The Government [will take nothing on trust. Be it yours then to be prepared when they challenge the strength of your agitation to show by the power and fervour of your appeal to the constituencies that the people of Scotland are entirely with you, that you have not underrated the direction nor the power of the public desire to be relieved from the aggressions of the liquor traffic and its foul brood of monstrous evils, and you may rest assured that Parliament never did give more emphatic sanction to those great legislative measures which have swept away the evils of slavery and protection than it will to a measure investing the community with power to stop the fountain of suffering and misery flowing from the liquor traffic.

Mr. MACKAY, after reading a letter from Mr. William Smith, treasurer, in which he stated that he was unable, from severe illness, to be present, submitted the following

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1882.

<i>Income.</i>	
To Balance from last year, - - -	£64 17 2
„ Subscriptions, - - - - -	1955 17 3
„ Publications and Advertising, - - -	142 9 11½
„ Collections at Public Meetings, - - -	98 0 7
	£2261 4 11½
<i>Expenditure.</i>	
By Salaries and Expenses, - - - - -	£963 3 2½
„ Publications, - - - - -	106 1 3
„ Deputational Tours, &c., - - - - -	260 19 8½
„ Office Expenses, Clerks' Salaries, Stationery, Rent, Taxes, &c., - - -	245 2 10½
„ Printing and Advertising, - - - - -	437 4 5½
„ Postages, Telegrams, Carriages, &c., - - -	180 0 3½
„ Balance on hand, - - - - -	68 13 2
	£2261 4 11½
ASSETS.	
To Accounts due Association, - - - - -	£35 4 5
„ Office Furniture, - - - - -	55 9 0
„ Publications and Stationery, - - - - -	86 15 0
„ Cash on hand, - - - - -	68 13 2
	£246 1 7
LIABILITIES.	
By Accounts due by Association, - - - - -	£29 11 11
„ Balance in favour of Association, - - - - -	216 9 8
	£246 1 7

Glasgow, 25th September, 1882.—I have examined the books of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for the year ending 23rd September, 1882, and compared them with the vouchers produced, and I certify the whole to be correct—the cash on hand being Sixty-eight pounds thirteen shillings and twopence sterling.
(Signed) JOHN GOURLAY, C.A.,
Auditor.

The CHAIRMAN felt it to be his first duty, at this the twenty-fourth annual meeting, to congratulate the members on their present favourable position. He was glad to see a number of the old faces who were in the habit of attending from year to year. All their labours were as much required as ever. In due time they would

reap if they fainted not. Their work was not yet done. The day before a city magistrate said to him that it was distressing that so many men so soon as they began to get an addition to their wages were sure to begin to drink; and that when they were in poverty they were generally in good health; but when they had plenty of money they soon lost their health by hard drinking. The report had referred to Parliamentary measures. Certainly a great number of references had been made in Parliament in connection with the drink question. It was well known, from the obstructions which took place in Parliament, that many Temperance measures were not considered. Of course they were glad that Dr. Cameron's bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Sunday steamers had become law. (Applause.) Further, there was reason for congratulation because of the great scientific progress which had been made on the temperance question. This showed that the medical profession, who could understand these things thoroughly, had got very much light on the subject. In fact, they did not now require to ask individuals to support the temperance movement for the good of their neighbours alone, or for the good of the Church alone, or for the good of the community alone; but they were now in a position to ask every individual to adopt the abstinence principle for his own good, because alcohol was not a good creature of God. There was still great ignorance on the subject, and it was surprising to what small trifles those who were in the habit of taking a little drop did cling. Some time ago eminent chemists had discovered alcohol in everything. Of course this discovery was very satisfactory to the drinkers, and they said every creature of God was good, but forgot that alcohol was not good for everything. In one of our Saviour's parables we were told that he ordered the net to be cast into the sea. A number of fish were enclosed. He then told the fishermen to separate the good from the bad. It was to be supposed that all the fish were creatures of God which had gone into the net, but it was left to the discretion of the fishermen to make a selection of the good. So it was with regard to alcohol or any creature of God. (Applause.) He was glad that the Church was taking an active interest in the temperance movement. No doubt it had been a stumbling-block in the way of the temperance reformation, but, happily, great changes had taken place. He hoped that the proceedings to-day would be as gratifying as ever they had been. He would say he hoped that they would be better than they had ever been. (Applause.)

Mr. ANDREW BROWN, J.P., moved the first resolution—"That the report be approved, printed, and widely circulated." It was a pleasure, he said, to read a report of such earnest work. He hoped every member would make it his business to read it carefully, because they could never be interested in the work of the Association unless they knew what was being done in all parts of the country. Let them not only read it for themselves, but also hand it to others, in order to interest them in the question and induce them to take part in the temperance reformation. Of course the report was not altogether satisfactory. It was not pleasant that the Executive should tell them that if they had funds at their disposal they would have done much work which they had to leave undone. He hoped there would be a suggestion to remedy this evil, because if they got funds for a year or two the end would be sooner. It was also disappointing that they had been able to do so little in the House of Commons. Notwithstanding the vigilance of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, obstruction had succeeded, but there was some encouragement even in that feature of the case. The agitation would be like a pent-up stream, the waters of which would burst and sweep away all obstruction. (Applause.) Some years ago the licensed victuallers would not have given themselves the trouble to obstruct, but now they were so afraid of the temperance party that they tried to arrest temperance legislation at the very threshold of the House of Commons. (Applause.)

Rev. J. M'QUEEN, Kilmarnock, in seconding the motion, said that the circumstances under which they

received the report of their work were encouraging, there being everything to lead them to put forth greater energy than before. The time was when their aims were treated as Utopian. That period had almost passed away. Total abstainers were found in every sphere of life and in every calling save one, in which, of course, it was not desired to see them. (Laughter.) There was reason to be thankful because of the decisions given in their favour in Parliament. Though they had not obtained all they desired, much had, however, been done. But to him the greatest encouragement of all came from the fact that the religious life of Scotland had been awakened to take an interest in the temperance movement. The time was when many good people looked upon total abstinence with suspicion and doubt, regarding it as in opposition to the gospel, and even seeking to supplement it. There never was any greater mistake; but now such an opinion was utterly untenable. The greatest evangelists now give an important part of their work to the enforcement of total abstinence. A victory had also been achieved upon the physical side of the question, the doctors now being with them. Further, a victory had been achieved on the political side, for many members of Parliament had gone in for prohibition, and we had only to look around to see that the Blue Ribbon was extensively worn by religious people, indicating that temperance went hand in hand with the gospel. It was said that the Association was hampered in its work for want of means, but he hoped that steps would be taken to obtain the necessary funds. Over the land the temperance wave was spreading, and it would be melancholy if the Association could not take advantage of the flood which would carry them to fortune. (Applause.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and adopted.

Mr. J. MILLAR, of Monkton, moved a list of office-bearers.

That the following gentlemen be Vice-Presidents of the Association in room of those that retire:—Rev. J. S. Mackenzie, Little Dunkeld; Thos. Robinson, Esq., Hurlst; A. Ritchie, Esq., Edinburgh; A. Buchanan, Esq., Glasgow; G. Gray, Esq., do.; J. Colquhoun, Esq., do.; W. Stewart, Esq., do.; J. Howieson, Esq., Uddingston.

That the following gentlemen be Honorary Directors of the Association in room of those that retire:—Mr. R. Drysdale, Dollar; Mr. A. Williamson, West Calder; Mr. J. Dymock, Bo'ness; Mr. P. B. McKill, Dumfries.

That the following gentlemen be members of Executive in room of those that retire:—*Glasgow*—T. Dick, J. N. McAllister, Dr. M. Cameron, W. Primrose, and N. MacLean. *Country Members*—W. Hart, Kilsyth; J. Nisbet, Edinburgh; John Steel, Edinburgh; and A. Brown, Kerse. (Applause.)

[The full list is held over.]

Captain BROTCHE, in seconding the motion, said he did not know any movement in the world so effective for dealing with the temperance question as that of the Permissive Bill Association. It could include all branches of the movement. Its agents had been hearty in these branches. No doubt this was due to the fact that the Executive gave them every encouragement to exercise their liberty.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. WILLIAMS, J.P., Wishaw, moved the third resolution—"That this meeting is of opinion that the progress of the movement during the past year has been most satisfactory, recognises the signal advantages accruing from the numerous conferences of last season, strongly recommends the Executive to continue the agitation with persistent vigour, and pledges its hearty assistance in promoting large and effective public meetings and conferences throughout the country." He said that if the progress had not been quite satisfactory it had been very encouraging. Though not so much had been done in the House of Commons as they would wish, still something had been done. A Sunday Closing Bill was debated and passed; and several measures bearing forcibly upon the question were submitted. So

far as Scotland was concerned, he thought they were waiting a little too long upon England. Scotland should obtain a local Veto Act for herself, because she could get one much quicker than could England. If they had obtained one for this country it would have been more easy to pass a measure for the sister country. Therefore, it was their duty to do what they could to support and encourage the Executive to persevere in this great work. It was always true that intoxicating liquors were not necessary to health. He was going to say they were not necessary for pleasure, but some members of the Social Science Congress might say he was wrong. But what did Paul say. If intoxicating liquors caused his brother to offend, he would not take them. He did not expect the members of the Congress to come up to the standard of Paul, but it would be well for them and the community that they should take a little more of the views of the great apostle. In the Salvation Army there was not much learning, but so far as temperance was concerned they saw further than the ministers of the Church of England who recommended moderation. The members of the Social Science Congress might laugh at the Salvation Army, but they knew more of the doctrine of abstinence than they. In fact he held there was no hope of any civilised society which did not get rid of intoxicating liquors. How was this to be accomplished? Many had broken their pledges. It was, therefore, necessary that they should be protected by prohibition. A great deal had been said against radical tyrants in connection with this matter. But it was men who bore that name who accomplished the abolition of the Corn Laws and of slavery. (Applause.) Therefore temperance reformers need not be ashamed if they were called "radical tyrants." His wife and he had been talking over the question in what way they could advance the movement, and she said the best way was that he should double his subscription. He agreed to do so. (Loud applause.) He was all the more encouraged to do so because the members of the Executive were very careful of the funds entrusted to their charge. (Applause.)

Mr. JOSEPH MORRIS, of Broxburn, said that he supported the motion because it looked like business.

Rev. ALEXANDER DAVIDSON, Greenock, said that in entering the room he looked round and found that there was only one man who had not changed in appearance since the movement was begun in 1858, and that man was Captain Brotschie. His head was white then, and it was white still. But with all the others the change was marked; they had grown grey in the movement. They had cause, however, to be gratified at the progress of the Permissive Bill agitation. He would conclude with an illustration of what they should do. Three boys were propelling a barrow in Dundee, one drawing and the two others pushing. By and bye the latter began to argue and ceased pushing. The fellow in the trams felt that the draught was getting heavy, and, looking around, he called out, "Stop talking and push." So let the temperance friends push. (Applause.)

Mr. WINNING, Paisley, said that on Saturday he was struck with two phrases. The one occurred in the United Kingdom Alliance News, and was, "Don't be too sanguine, but gird up your loins for serious work." The other was in the *Glasgow Herald*, which said that "the Glasgow Permissive Bill Association are going to have their annual saturnalia of loose talk." He thought if the editor of the *Glasgow Herald* were present he would form a very different opinion. Referring to the wisdom of deputational visits, he said that an agent was wanted in the south, and after a conference one was appointed, all which showed that deputational visitation was not in vain. A shrewd man, who had made a large fortune in business, said that his success was due to the fact that he made it a point to traverse once a year all the ground gone over by his travellers, in order to see that his customers had no complaint to make, or desire to express. This was the principle adopted by the deputations. They saw the friends face to face, and in that way also made the work of the agent all the easier. Referring to the policy of enlisting the sympathy of women, he said that in Paisley a fifth had been added to the municipal con-

stituency by the female franchise. He had no doubt the women would support social reform; but he hoped that special attention would be given to them in the way of securing their support for temperance legislation. (Applause.)

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Provost MACPHERSON, of Grangemouth, moved the fourth resolution as follows:—"That as it is manifest that the convictions of the people of Scotland are so matured upon the appalling evils of the liquor traffic, and on the urgent necessity for its suppression, as to justify Parliament in entrusting the ratepayers with a suppressive veto, this meeting hereby recommends the Executive to take action with the view of inducing the Government and the Scottish Parliamentary representatives to promote the passage of a liquor traffic local veto Act for Scotland, and in view of this calls upon the friends of the movement in the various constituencies to organise their electoral strength, and pledges its hearty co-operation." There was, he said, good reason why the Executive should take this step. Scotland had had a Sunday Closing Act for 25 years, and Ireland partially and Wales wholly had lately obtained a similar blessing, whilst England was longing to enjoy it. It was also manifest that the convictions of the Scottish people were maturing in the way of prohibition. Indeed, he had seen during the last few months more progress than in any period of the thirty years he had been connected with the movement. In Forfar, Perth, Dundee, Paisley, and other towns, tens of thousands had donned the blue ribbon, and he was much gratified to observe at the recent British Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations almost every delegate wore the blue ribbon. The fact was all the more significant that they were all representative men. (Applause.)

Councillor RUSSELL, Perth, in seconding the resolution, said it spoke of the appalling evils of intemperance. They were all convinced of them, and therefore should endeavour to promote the suppression of the liquor traffic. From his experience of publicans, he thought the sooner they were got rid of the better. Last week a man took the blue ribbon who used to imbibe his pint of beer every forenoon. Sometime before, his family had fallen into starvation, and Mr. Russell asked a publican for a subscription for the starving family. The publican said, "Let the man help himself," notwithstanding he had received most of the man's earnings. He (Mr. Russell) could not help thinking that as a class publicans were the most disreputable of traders. (Applause.)

Mr. BLACKWOOD liked the resolution because it proposed to entrust the ratepayers with the veto. Notwithstanding that Mr. Murphy had taken five thousand pledges in Forfar, the magistrates gave the same number of licenses, thus neutralising the efforts of the temperance party. Then in Dundee forty thousand pledges were obtained, but the magistrates granted one more license, the result being that a vast number of these pledges had been broken in these towns, in consequence of the licensed temptations. A man said to a publican at Montrose, he would bring Murphy to him. The publican replied he did not care; he could stand behind his counter doing nothing, because he was confident that in nine months there would be a reaction; and he would send the blue ribbons where he had sent the Good Templars' regalia.

Mr. CONCHAR proposed an amendment embodying the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The resolution would have done five years ago, but such an amendment was necessary. The recent progress of the movement called for such a change. All who joined the Salvation Army prayed to be freed from the temptation of the liquor traffic.

There was no seconder, however.

Mr. RAPER, of Manchester, said he would not be sorry if the meeting had adopted the amendment. The agitation of recent years had been for prohibition, and the only question was how to attain that end most speedily. There was no controversy as to the end; there was a slight difference of opinion as to the most rapid road to reach that end. There were several

routes from Manchester to London; the fare was the same although some were longer than the other, the longest being by the historic town of Oxford; but those who wanted to get to the end soonest took the quickest route. So it was with the various branches of the temperance party. But what he thought they should do was to adopt the shortest route, and keep their flag as high as possible. Therefore, he was in favour of strong demands. He did not think that Mr. Conchar made his suggestion in a spirit hostile to the resolution. He would like that the phrase, "total prohibition," should be used in Scotland, so that the Scotch members should support it. They should ask their members in the City Hall meeting what they proposed to do for Scotland next session; and they would have to tell them they would require to do more than they had done, because it was a perfect scandal before heaven that there should be forty thousand pulpits, with a free press and a free platform, and yet there should be spent the sum of £127,000,000 for liquor annually. He had seen—(applause)—the Parnellites in the House of Commons, and he wished the temperance party had men like them, working so persistently for the end in view. If the Scotch members had some of their perseverance, there was no reason why more should not be done for Scotland. (Applause.) In fact, the Scotch members were too gentlemanly—(laughter)—and too easily set aside. The Lord-Advocate and Lord Rosebery came and persuaded them to give up their just claims. He desired it to be published abroad that there were men placed in their graves who should not now be there, and that if the people had the power they would soon stop this dreadful mortality due to the drink curse. (Applause.) Mr. Raper then concluded by referring to the great progress made in prohibition in several States in America.

Rev. Mr. MACDERMOTT, representative of the Irish Temperance League, said he was instructed by the secretary of the League that day that they were never doing better work in that country than now. They were anxious to obtain the assistance of the Scotch people when the Sunday Bill came up for re-enactment, and they desired that the cities which had been exempt should no longer be so. If this could not be done in Dublin, he did not see why it should not be done in Belfast. The fact of large cities in Ireland being exempted neutralised to a large extent the efforts of temperance reformers.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. JOHN WILSON proposed the fifth resolution:—"That in view of the marked progress attending the agitation, this meeting pledges its best efforts to give stability and expansion to the financial resources of the Association, in order that the Executive may effectually meet the growing national demand for a more extended agitation, and thorough-going electoral and Parliamentary action." The resolution, he said, commended itself to their very serious consideration. It was of the very greatest importance that the resolution should be acted upon, because the Executive could not proceed without the necessary funds. We could not have sent our navy and our soldiers to Egypt unless we had a revenue to fall back upon, so neither could the Executive proceed in their various operations unless they were provided with the sinews of war. The resolution spoke of the marked progress which had been made. When he looked back for twenty or thirty years, he found that the tendency of public opinion in favour of temperance had been marvellous. The reform was allied to every human interest, and where it was not adopted the effect was blighting. There was every reason to be encouraged by the success which had attended the labours of the Scottish Temperance League, the Blue Ribbon Army, and the Evangelistic Associations, in the war of temperance reform. The outcome of it all was that the Churches were more alive to the question, and were making temperance a matter of principle for their members. He trusted that in the course of a few years no pulpit would be occupied by any other man than a total abstainer. (Applause.) But while they looked at the progress, they must also look at the gigantic distance between them

and the goal of their ambition. They could not forget the enormous capital invested in the trade—more indeed than in any other industry. He did not blame those engaged in this diabolical business so much, because they were carrying out laws that the citizens had made; but it was for them to alter these laws and put it out of the power of men to engage in a traffic which honest men should abhor. A practical politician would say it was all very well to abolish the traffic; but where was the revenue to be got to carry on the business of the country. Politicians should be educated and shown that if the drink traffic were abolished there would be such an increase in all other industries, and such a decrease in crime and misery that the necessary revenue would be raised with comparative ease. (Applause.)

Mr. WILLIAM HART, Kilsyth, in seconding the motion, said—It will be quite unnecessary, Mr. Chairman, that I should occupy the time of this meeting, more especially after what has been said, and so well spoken by Mr. Wilson. You will excuse me, however, for briefly expressing my approval of the object this resolution has in view, namely, “the more energetic and effectual development of the finances in view of the political aspect of this great question.” I am sure that none of us who have devoted a large portion of the surplus time of our past lives to the spread of temperance truth, and the reclamation of the poor victims of the traffic, but must be longing for the time when we will be able to strike its death blow in our respective localities, and thereby the more effectually secure the complete and lasting reformation of men and women, with whom we have pled, and for whom we have prayed, that they might be preserved from being again allured by the many whisky shops which continued temptingly to invite, and which have, alas! in so many cases, succeeded in again drawing them back into its power and under its curse. I have no doubt but that like myself you will have witnessed again and again the noble and heroic efforts tremblingly put forth by one and another such victims struggling to overcome the all but irresistible craving, and as you have seen them going into one of these pitfalls, you must have felt that it was absolutely imperative (if we are not to be doomed to perpetual disappointment and grief) that the electors of this country should be educated to vote only for those men who will vote for their having the power put into their hands, of suppressing the sale of this enemy of God and man. If this be so the question naturally arises, and is involved in this resolution, “How best can we set about increasing the financial resources of the Association,” because if increased energy and effort is to be put forth, this will necessarily entail an increased expenditure. Suffer me, then, in a word or two, to state how, in my opinion, this could easily be accomplished. In the first place, I think we ought to ask ourselves whether, conscientiously, we are giving as the Lord has enabled us, whether we are not able to give more for the redemption of our countrymen and women from this worse than Egyptian slavery. And, keeping in view the great ransom price which our blessed Saviour paid down for our redemption, let us strive to be like-minded, and asking the question, Lord, what wilt thou have me to give? we will not be long without an answer; and having ascertained the will of the Lord, let us resolve to do it. This done, the question then arises, what else can we do to still further “secure the stability and expansion of the Association’s funds?” I would suggest a plan which I have often adopted, and often proved successful, and that is to accompany the agent when he comes into my district to collect the subscriptions, and introduce him to one or two gentlemen in the neighbourhood whom I knew were more or less interested in our question. Your presence will serve as a guarantee that the Association is worthy. You are known to the lady or gentleman as a consistent, earnest worker or advocate of the temperance cause, one having the welfare of the town or village at heart, and this is often enough to secure a contribution to the Association in whose interests you are calling. They will give because you called, and they have faith in

your practice. Mr. President, it has given me unfeigned pleasure in speaking to this resolution, not only because I have the consciousness of having in a humble way tested what I have commended, but also because I have an unwavering confidence in the wisdom and speedy success and accomplishment of our grand and Godlike aim, if this Association devotes her powers and influence in persuading the people to vote straight at the polling booths. (Applause.)

Mr. HUNTER, Denny, moved the sixth resolution, which was as follows:—“That this meeting regards with appreciation the issue and distribution of literature so evident during the year, records its continued approval of the *Social Reformer*, awards to the Editor and contributors its warmest thanks, and resolves to co-operate with the Executive in promoting its circulation, as well as of effective temperance and prohibitory literature.” It was of great importance that the community should be educated up to the point of total prohibition. This was done by the excellent literature issued by their Association, and they had circulated it widely and broadcast over the country, enlightening the people and bringing their views in harmony with the views which the Association holds upon this question. (Applause.) An excellent means towards this was the circulation of the *Social Reformer*. He highly approved of that paper, and whenever it appeared off went the cover and he eagerly perused its contents. (Hear, hear.) He had known many who had been largely benefited by the perusal of the *Social Reformer*. He used to bind it in volumes, but latterly he had sent it hither and thither, and much had been thought of it, and much good done by it. (Applause.) He had one fault to find with it, namely, that it only appeared once a month. If they could have it once a week he believed that great benefit would result to the movement by the increased enlightenment which would be thrown upon our question. (Applause.) They were all much indebted to the editor for his trouble, and to those who co-operate with him, and he hoped that that portion of the resolution would be heartily adopted. (Applause.) Then as for the tract and other literature they were all bound to do their best to get these extensively circulated, that the time of their triumph might be hastened. (Applause.)

Mr. SIMPSON, Gornock, in seconding the motion, thought they were gaining power in the land by the circulation of temperance literature. The excellent articles in the *Social Reformer* called for their best thanks.

Mr. JEFFREY, Edinburgh, said that there was no periodical which came into his house that he read with greater zest. He used to lay them aside to get them bound, but he had dropped that practice, and he read them immediately, handing round afterwards.

Mr. DRANSFIELD also thought it would be well if the *Social Reformer* came out once a week. He was satisfied it was one of the best temperance periodicals. (Applause.)

Mr. SEMPLE moved the seventh resolution—“That this meeting records its grateful sense of its indebtedness to those friends by whose able and disinterested advocacy the movement has been so largely assisted during the byepast year, tenders to them its warmest thanks for their welcome aid, and regards with continued and hearty appreciation the efforts of the agents of the Association.” He thought more might be done in the way of helping the agents, such as by getting them up splendid meetings, because nothing chilled an agent so much as to find a small audience awaiting him. Desirable as it was to impress Members of Parliament, it was also desirable that the people should be enlightened upon the temperance question, and this could not be done unless they were spoken to and received temperance literature. He had served some time ago the Irish Temperance League, and had travelled from Port Rush to Cork. During all that time he had only once to enter a hotel, so great was the hospitality which he received. (Laughter and hear.)

Mr. TORRENS said that in his early days he often travelled till three o’clock in the morning, and nobody

asked him whether he required a bed or would take a cup of coffee. It was thus seen that matters, as regards the travelling comforts of their agents, had greatly changed. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JOHN STEWART did not think there was any other organisation which could produce so many disinterested men as those who promoted the temperance question. We talked of our churches and our trades unions. Would any one of them spend two days at a conference, and travel a great distance without fee or reward? He did not know any agents who were so thoroughly up to the mark as the agents of the Association. There were no half measures talked of by them, and they deserved a cordial vote of thanks. Thanks should be also given to the Secretary, who he believed, from true modesty, had not included himself, in the resolution. (Applause.)

Mrs. ROBERTSON simply moved by reading the eighth resolution, which was as follows:—"That this meeting being of opinion that the influence of women is largely exerted in favour of those social agencies working out the progress of mankind, heartily welcomes them into the exercise of the municipal franchise, and confidently relies upon their aid being always available for the promotion of the interests of the Scottish prohibitory movement."

Provost DICK, in seconding the motion, said that they were largely indebted to the ladies in the prohibitory movement. No better illustration could be given than the fact stated by Mr. Williams that his good lady had suggested that the best way to serve the movement was to double his subscription. He had no doubt that a similar suggestion had been offered to Mr. John Wilson with a similar result. Then, in the newest phase of the movement—the blue ribbon—Mrs. Robertson and others had taken an active part. No doubt the ladies, now that they had got the municipal franchise, would exercise it in favour of the temperance cause. Mrs. M'Laren the other day had shown in her excellent manifesto what good women could do in any benevolent cause. (Applause.)

Mr. JAMES M'ADAM, Edinburgh, had always thought that they would never succeed unless they had the Church and the women on their side. Now that they had got both, success could not be far away. At the same time he had heard ladies appeal to the Edinburgh licensing bench in a way that led all to think something would be done, but to his amazement the magistrates afterwards freely granted licenses.

Mr. JOHN M'DERMID, Dollar, held that it was right women should support the temperance cause in as much as they were the principal sufferers from intemperance. Never had they such an opportunity of helping the cause as they had now. For besides exercising their great influence in their own homes, they could now bring it to bear by means of the municipal franchise.

On the motion of Mr. JAMIESON, Ayr, seconded by Mr. KIRK, Paisley, a vote of thanks to the chairman, heartily awarded, concluded the proceedings.

THE TEA PARTY.

At half-past three o'clock a large party of ladies and gentlemen sat down to tea in the City Hall Saloon under the genial presidency of Hugh Macpherson, Esq., Provost of Grangemouth. He was accompanied to the platform by C. H. Meldon, M.P., Rev. J. Kirk, junr., Rev. Mr. M'Dermott, Mrs. Helen Kirk, Miss Grieve, Mrs. Jas. Smith, Bailie Colquhoun, Messrs. J. H. Raper, David Fortune, A. M'Dougall, and R. Mackay. After grace had been said by Rev. Mr. M'Queen, the company entered upon the enjoyment of a most excellent tea, purveyed in admirable style by the eminent restaurateur, Mr. Matthew Waddell, of the Glasgow City Dining Rooms. After tea, the audience, led by Mr. Temple, returned thanks by singing the two first verses of the Hundredth Psalm.

The CHAIRMAN rose amid loud cheers and said:—"I understand this is the 24th anniversary of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. I question if at any previous gathering we have had so much

to cheer and encourage us as the progress made during the past year in the cause we have so much at heart, and which in the interests of our fellowmen we desire to promote. The press, the pulpit, the medical profession, and the people are making rapid advances on the side of temperance, and the *Times* during the past year has been veering round and giving some excellent leading articles.

The prince of preachers recently said when presiding at a Blue Ribbon meeting in the Metropolitan Tabernacle which was densely crowded, that nine-tenths of the poverty of London comes from drunkenness. He did not see any other plan that was at all feasible for the great bulk of the people but to turn the cup upside down and have done with the drink. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Spurgeon is a total abstainer and the other day donned the Ribbon of Blue. (Applause.)

Then again, we have the medical profession of the highest standing and in large numbers testifying that intoxicating drinks are injurious to the system. Just the other day two thousand physicians signed a declaration stating that all spirits were no part of the wholesome food of any man, that the use of these stimulants was a source of misery, sin, crime, wretchedness, shame, and degradation to our country. This exactly bears out what the Prime Minister has said, that the drink traffic is a curse, the evils of which are greater than the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine. (Applause.) He then referred to the magnitude of pauperism, crime, and lunacy, and 70 per cent. of this amount arose solely from drink. Yet in the face of such terrible results to our country, Government will not legislate for the removal of that which is causing such misery, desolation and death in our land. Ladies and gentlemen, if such a dark, black catalogue as this was to arise in connection with some epidemic breaking out, or some wholesale adulteration or poisoning of the people's food or drink, or even rinderpest or murrain amongst our cattle, Parliament would at once be summoned, urgency demanded for dealing with the matter; local authorities would be instructed to use every possible means to remove the cause and stamp out the disease. (Applause.) This very afternoon in almost every city, town, and village in our land, our fellow-creatures are being drugged and poisoned by the devil in solution. In the name of God and for the sake of our common humanity, we demand that Government give the people the power in their own localities to put down if they so wish this terrible of all plagues. (Applause.) Hear what Dr. Chalmers said—"Before God and man, before the Church and the world, I charge intemperance with the murder of innumerable souls. I do, in my conscience, believe, that these intoxicating stimulants have sent into perdition more men and women than found a grave in the Deluge, of which but eight were saved." (Applause.) After referring to the rallying cry of Mr. Herbert Gladstone and to the progress made by the Blue Ribbon mission during the year and its marvellous accessions, he continued—"I met a Glasgow lady yesterday who told me she had just returned from Sheffield, that 11,000 in that town had taken the Blue Ribbon. As the result of a visit paid by Mr. Murphy to the town of Norwich upwards of 10,000 have come over to Christ and temperance.

As I mentioned this forenoon, at the British Conference held in this city in the beginning of this month, there were representative men present from almost every town in Scotland and England, and nearly every one wore the badge of loyalty to the temperance cause. (Applause.) The recent campaign in Egypt has been carried through on temperance lines; the soldiers were instructed to fill their water bottles what with, do you think? Not with rum and spirits but with tea. (Hear, hear.) The result has been a grand and glorious victory won by a General who is a total abstainer—Sir Garnet Wolseley. Just such a man as Sir Garnet we require in Scotland to lead us on to triumph and to victory in fighting against such an enemy. I sincerely trust that when we meet this time next year to celebrate the semi-jubilee of the Association it may also be to celebrate the passing of a local Veto Act for Scotland. (Loud applause.)

Addresses followed from delegates representing the following towns—Mr. Jeffrey, Edinburgh; Mr. W. Paterson, Partick; Mr. Ronald, Gourcock; Mrs. Helen Kirk, British Women's Temperance Association, Scottish Temperance Union; Mr. Kirk, Paisley; Messrs. M'Dougall and Fortune, Scottish Temperance League; Mr. Miller, Greenock; Rev. John Kirk, junr., Edinburgh; J. H. Raper, Esq., United Kingdom Alliance; Mr. J. F. Shorey, New York; Mr. Wyatt, Glasgow. The proceedings were brought to a close by Rev. Mr. M'Queen pronouncing the benediction.

MEETING IN CITY HALL.

THE annual public meeting took place at night in the City Hall. There was a very large attendance. Mr. James Stewart, M.P., presided, and on the platform were Mr. C. H. Meldon, M.P.; Dr. Cameron, M.P.; Rev. W. C. Dougall, Rev. James Paton, B.A.; Rev. S. Harding, Rev. J. M'Dermott, A.M., Belfast; Rev. George Gladstone, Rev. Robert Hall, Rev. J. M'Queen, A.M., Kilmarnock; Rev. George Cron, Belfast; Rev. E. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy; Rev. Mr. Welsh, Glasgow; Rev. Wm. Barras, Glasgow; Rev. John Goold, M.A., Glasgow; Bailie Colquhoun; ex-Bailie Lamberton, J.P.; Bailie Selkirk, J.P.; ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Provost Macpherson, Grangemouth; ex-Provost Dick, ex-Provost Cameron, Pollokshaws; ex-Councillor Bryce, ex-Councillor Wellstood, Edinburgh; Councillor Gray, Councillor Lang, Messrs. J. Y. Simpson, Largs; Jas. Winning, Paisley; T. L. Selkirk, Thomas Barclay, R. M'Callum, Andrew Wallace, W. W. Turnbull, Archibald M'Kinnon; Joseph Morris, Broxburn; Jas. Horn, Lanark; John Hill, Edinburgh; W. Johnstone, Glasgow; John Moncrieff, Perth; John Howieson, Uddingstone; J. Airlie, Glasgow; R. Mackay, Glasgow; R. Storey, Dunbar; Jas. Miller, Shaw; A. Brown, J.P., Kerse; James Hamilton, J.P.; John Wilson, J.P.; Jas. M'Call, J.P., Caitloch; D. Fortune, H. Wallace; Dr. Wilson, Coatbridge; Captain Brochie, Greenock; Major Edmonds, Glasgow; &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with cheers, said—My first duty here to-night is to offer my congratulations to the Executive Committee of your Association for the honour they have done me in asking me to preside on this occasion. (Cheers.) This is not the first time that they have paid me a similar honour, but I was unable on former occasions to accept of it, and when their request that I should preside to-night reached me I felt that I could not allow any engagement to stand in the way, because I could not brook the thought that I might seem, even in any degree, to be lukewarm in my support of that great cause which we have all so much at heart. (Cheers.) I am deeply conscious of my many deficiencies adequately to fill the post which has been assigned to me, rightly to fill this chair. As to being a platform orator I regret to say I can lay no sort of claim, so I must ask you to take me with all my imperfections; but I feel that I shall not without acceptance ask your indulgence, and receive your indulgence, when I tell you that all my life I am able to say I have been a warm advocate of the reform of our licensing laws, and still more when I tell you that I represent a community which was foremost in those days when temperance reform was very young, and which numbers at this time a strong phalanx of earnest workers. (Cheers.) This is the twenty-fourth anniversary meeting of your Association, and I propose to offer you to-night a few words of congratulation on the work which you have already accomplished, and of encouragement in the work which lies before us. If we recollect the state of public opinion twenty years ago upon the question of temperance, and compare it with what it is at the present day, surely we have abundant cause for the liveliest satisfaction. (Cheers.) But what a change has taken place in public opinion and in the state of matters since then. At the general election of 1868 the temperance party first asserted itself as a political organisation, and made candidates feel that they could no longer be trifled with, and that henceforward they were a force

which, at every contested election, would have to be reckoned with at the poll. (Cheers.) Since that time your Association, and other kindred Associations, have flooded the country with literature upon the temperance question; the people have been educated up to a standard which has brought about results of the most satisfactory kind, until at last it came to a climax at the general election of 1880, when the temperance cause returned to the new Parliament a majority of members of Parliament pledged to Local Option. (Cheers.) This was a great victory for the friends of temperance, and to show its completeness I would like to mention that when Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion—(cheers)—for local option was last put in the old Parliament—that was in the month of March, 1880—it was defeated by no less a majority than 114. When, however, the new Parliament met, and Sir Wilfrid again put his motion before Parliament, he was able to carry it by a majority of no less than 26—(cheers)—and when the motion was put in the following session, in 1881, that majority was increased to 42. (Cheers.) It was also a significant fact that out of that 42 no less than 20, I believe, were members of the present Administration. (Cheers.) These are results which I think we may well congratulate ourselves upon and take encouragement, especially from the fact which I have just stated of the great preponderance of members of the Administration who are pledged now to the principle of local option. We have not had much time—Parliament has not had much time—to take up general questions of legislation. You are all aware how much the time and thought of Parliament has required to be expended upon the state of Irish affairs. But nevertheless we are able to point to some satisfactory measures which have been carried in the new Parliament in the interest of temperance. I refer first of all to the Sunday Closing Act which was carried for Ireland in 1878—(cheers)—and last year a similar Act for the Principality of Wales was passed; giving to those countries those great advantages of a quiet and peaceful Sunday which we in Scotland have so long enjoyed. (Cheers.) And although Mr. Stevenson, the member for South Shields—who is, I believe, a citizen of Glasgow—(cheers)—has unsuccessfully brought forward a measure for the closing of public houses in England on Sunday—still I think there are indications that if this next session he re-introduces his bill in the shape of a Permissive Bill, he will be most likely to get over the difficulties which he has hitherto had to encounter. I have been interested to notice that although those who opposed Mr. Stevenson's bill have stated that the social habits of the people of England differ so much from ours that they could not be expected to accept a bill for Sunday closing, the Town Council of Sunderland have disapproved that assertion so far as their case is concerned; for during the last week they carried a proposal to apply to Parliament for power to close all the public houses within their municipality on Sunday, and carried it by no fewer than 35 votes to 2. (Cheers.) Then our present Lord Advocate, Mr. Balfour, you will be glad to know, succeeded last session in carrying an Act by which the sale of intoxicating liquors in passenger steamboats plying on Sunday should be stopped—(cheers)—and so, we trust, an end will be put to those disgraceful scenes which those steamers have been exhibiting for several years. (Cheers.) I would like briefly to refer to the bill which Lord Colin Campbell introduced into the House of Commons for dealing with the Licensing Laws of Scotland. It was a bold and serious attempt to put things right, and there was this, perhaps, to be said in its favour, at least in favour of its moderation, that extreme men on each side of this temperance question—those who were opposed to the present law, and those who wished to see the law remain as it is—seemed equally to assail this bill. I myself think there was much that was good in the bill, and I supported the proposal of one of your members, Mr. Anderson, who wished to see it referred to a select committee; for I believe it was quite possible that it might have come out of that committee in an amended shape, and in such a shape as might have been satisfac-

tory to the mass of the temperance reformers. Lord Colin is not yet an experienced Parliamentary tactician, and in the course of the able speech with which he proposed the motion for the second reading of his bill, he took the heart out of the discussion by declaring his utter hopelessness that the House would accept of his proposal. (Cheers.) However, the result was that the bill was talked out, and Parliament had not the opportunity of declaring its opinion regarding it. I do not know if it is the intention of Lord Colin Campbell to re-introduce his bill. Possibly your Executive Committee might with advantage induce him to amend it in such a way as would make it more satisfactory to the temperance party. But, be that as it may, I hope that your Executive will at least take care that a comprehensive measure of reform is introduced for Scotland during the next session. (Cheers.) It is perfectly plain that public opinion with us on this temperance subject is very much in advance of that of England; and why should Scotland suffer longer the evils which our present system entails upon us simply because England is not yet able to move side by side with us in the matter? (Cheers.) Failing Lord Colin Campbell going into this matter and continuing to take it up, I would counsel your Executive to go straight to the fountainhead, and apply to Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate to take in hand the question on the part of the Government, and to deal with it effectively for Scotland. (Cheers.) I have a strong opinion that with so many members of the present administration committed to our cause, and also with Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate sympathising with it, I do hope that your Executive in such a case would find no difficulty in inducing them to take the measure in hand. We have also hope from this other cause. He here referred to the good prospects in Ireland and the coming discussion on procedure. We shall then, I hope, be able to turn our attention to such matters of legislation as the temperance question. No other national question, in my opinion, can compare in importance with this question of putting right the licensing system. (Cheers.) The evils which it entails are gigantic. It saps at the very foundation of the nation's prosperity in a thousand ways. It is appalling to think that the drink bill of the nation amounts to no less a sum than £136,000,000 annually, and that the revenue derived from the consumption of alcohol yearly amounts to something like £30,000,000 of money. But appalling as these figures are, there is another consideration which is equally appalling—in fact I may say still more so, and which cannot be reckoned by any money value—that is the cost which the nation has to sustain in the crimes, the pauperism, the misery, and death for which the vice of intemperance is directly responsible. These facts require to be kept prominently before the public mind. I cannot think how any thoughtful man who considers these facts can for a moment hesitate as to the side upon which he will throw the weight of his influence. (Cheers.) It seems strange that in this country of ours, which boasts of its enlightened legislation, that we should so long have allowed an evil of this kind to exist in our midst. Our colonies have shown us an example. (Hear, hear.) They have advanced far beyond what we have, and also many of the countries of Europe can show much more effective work than we can in regard to temperance reform. I noticed very recently that Belgium has revised its licensing laws, and I also observe that statesmen in Russia are anxiously inquiring how they may be able to put a stop to the evils which they say exist from this cause. Surely it will be strange if England, which suffers more, perhaps, than any other country, should be behindhand in attempting to strike at the root of all these miseries. Our boasted civilisation must be a sham if we go on as we have been doing. Our reputation for enlightened and progressive reform will be tarnished as long as we allow this system of law to remain upon the statute book, and surely you temperance reformers who have so well carried on the fight, and who have obtained so very important a victory, will not fail to carry forward the legitimate fruits of your victory, and not relax your energies one

iota until we see the people of this country emancipated from the thralldom of drink. (Cheers.)

Rev. Mr. M'DERMOTT, Ulster, moved the first resolution as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in alcoholic liquors fosters numerous social and moral evils, entails excessive burdens on the community, and deteriorates the physical vigour, mental power and moral character of the people, earnestly calls for such an exercise of philanthropy, patriotism, and Christian zeal, as shall result in the abolition of a traffic so disastrous in its consequences to the nation." He said he was not going to say how much social disorder, how much moral evil was due to the presence of the drink traffic in the community. It was seething up all around them, weltering into our literature, filling, he might say, our streets, and if they took any particular portion of this horrible seething mass which lay all around them, and sought to ascertain the cause of it, five out of six men whom they met—abstainers or non-abstainers—will conjecture that drink had something to do with it. (Cheers.) From his special standpoint, looking at this question of intemperance in all its horribleness, there was worst of all—he did not believe that statistics had ever told half the sad story of intemperance—there were many people in each district who kept their sorrow from the public gaze. (Hear, hear.) Could they blame them? Intemperance had struck its fangs into the heart of the community in a hundred ways that were shrouded over, covered over, with most sensitive care. As proving that man's physical condition was in no way injured, but the very reverse, by total abstinence, he remarked that Hanlan, the great American oarsman, attributed much of his success to his being a teetotaler. Even for a successful cricket season total abstinence was almost necessary. How rapidly English wickets fell after luncheon had taken place. (Laughter.) Furthermore, when the honour of England had to be sustained, not on the cricket sward in mimic conflict with Australia, but on the burning sands of Africa in the death grip of war, that commander of whom we were all proud passed on his own authority a prohibitory liquor bill. (He did not think total abstinence on the march moderated in the least degree the dash with which our Highlanders as of yore gathered themselves shoulder to shoulder and flung themselves upon the foe. (Cheers.) It became all in the temperance ranks as philanthropists, as patriots, as Christian men and women to do everything in their power to resist, to diminish, and to overthrow the traffic in drink; that was the practical conclusion of the whole matter. (Applause.) In concluding he said he was there on the part of the Irish Temperance League to offer those present their warmest sympathies and to convey their fraternal greeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. H. MELDON, M.P.—I wish first to express my hearty thanks to your Executive for having given me the opportunity of appearing amongst you and hearing your views on this great question. I wish also to express gratitude to the Scottish friends for the assistance they have given to temperance reformers in all parts of my country. I was also anxious to be amongst those who had caused the Forbes Mackenzie Act to be passed, and to meet those who had successfully worked it. Further, I desired to see what class of people they were who had returned at last general election 46 out of 60 members pledged to the temperance reformation. (Applause.) I was also induced to come because the compliment was paid to me by the United Kingdom Alliance when they asked me and my friend Mr. Raper to appear as their representatives to-night. (Cheers.) I know the name of that association is received in Glasgow as it is throughout the country. It is a proud thing to represent the greatest of political associations—that association which I venture to say has done more for the peace, welfare, and interest of this country than any political association ever did before. When Father Matthew—(cheers)—was on his death bed the news reached him that this association had been formed. He was scarcely able to articulate, but he was able to say, "Thank God, the victory is won." (Applause.) Well, has that association done its work up to the present? You all know the great strides the temperance movement has made through its exertions. I can remember the day when it was an epithet of scorn to be told that you were a total abstainer. You were called a fanatic if you suggested the prohibition of the drink traffic. How are things changed? Look at the election of 1868 when there was returned to Parliament the "whisky ring." We were nearly being beaten. If it was not for this association, do you think we would ever have returned so large a majority of temperance reformers

as we returned at the last general election? Now, the resolution about which I am called to speak needs no words of mine to commend it. A knowledge of the facts there stated is that which has brought us together. We have come here to express the strong opinion that the drink traffic is not only injurious to the best interests of this country, but deteriorates the physical vigour, mental power, and moral character of the people. I have been told that Parliament does this and Parliament does that, but my opinion is that its function is to register the decrees of its constituents when those decrees have been distinctly pronounced. (Cheers.) The strife in this great matter of temperance reform is not over, but the battle is not to be fought in Parliament. (Cheers.) It is to be fought outside, and it is to be fought here, and we are fighting it now at this moment. (Cheers.) We have been told by the Prime Minister that the function of a Government is not to make it easy to do good, but to make it difficult to do what is evil. In their action towards the liquor traffic they have belied their words. (Cheers.) Of course, I speak of every Government we have had, and I say, what did they do to render drunkenness difficult? So far as they were concerned, drunkenness, instead of being made difficult, has been made easy. (Cheers.) Is this the way things ought to be, and, if it is not, how is a different state of affairs to be brought about? It is by each one of us putting our shoulder to the wheel that this state of affairs must be altered. The people have always had their way, and we shall have it in this. (Cheers.) The great issue is between that rich class whose wealth and riches have been taken out of the pockets of the poor man, whose riches have been acquired by means of the misfortunes, the crime, and desperate condition of the great mass of the people. It is with them we have to fight; but I am sorry to say that there is a sleeping partner in this traffic we cannot lose sight of, and that we must deal with the Government, who are so interested in this traffic that they will do nothing to assist the movement so long as a revenue of twenty-nine or thirty millions is drawn every year from this wretched traffic. (Cheers.) It is an argument often used on the other side that you cannot make people sober by Act of Parliament, and if you will allow I will quote a few figures in reply to this argument. I said before that if once the will of the people is expressed neither the Parliament nor Government can refuse to listen to it. This was exemplified in the last Parliament by the passing of the Irish Sunday Closing Bill. The last Parliament was pledged to anything but temperance, and I took the liberty of calling it almost "a whisky ring"—(laughter)—but a Parliament less inclined to take any steps in the way of temperance reform never was brought together. And see what we were able to do in Parliament notwithstanding. The Irish people were so firm and determined about the Sunday Closing Bill that we wrung from a hostile Parliament a measure that has done incalculable service to that country. (Cheers.) Now I mention this for two purposes. In the first place I mean it to be an argument why a great deal more should be done by the present Parliament. (Cheers.) If it was possible to wring such measures from our opponents, what should be done by our friends in the present Parliament, which owes its majority in a great extent to the agitation of temperance reformers. In the next place, I want to refute the argument that you cannot make people sober by Act of Parliament. If you cannot make them sober, you can do a great deal towards it. The Irish Sunday Closing Bill came into operation in Oct., 1878. He quoted the highly favourable statistical evidence of the Government in behalf of the Irish Sunday Closing Bill. Now, I think I have answered the argument that you cannot make people sober by Act of Parliament. I have shown you what we did in Ireland by merely expressing our will and determination to have a Sunday Closing Act. I have shown you how we extorted that Act for Ireland. And if it was done in Ireland, why should it not be done in Scotland and England? We know from the speeches of ministers, and from the speeches of the present Prime Minister, that it was in consequence of the determined attitude of temperance reformers in Ireland that the Bill was passed at all. When that was done with a hostile Government, I say deliberately it is our own fault if we don't get what we want on this matter of temperance reform. As I have quoted a few figures, perhaps you will allow me to go a little further and quote some others. You have heard—I think it was from the chairman—that the Russian Government were taking up the question of temperance reform to a certain extent, because Russia needed it badly. We have been told that Russia is one of the most drunken countries on the face of the globe. That has caused me to look into the matter, and by a very able paper written to one of the recent reviews, I find that Russia is not to be compared in

point of drunkenness with this country. He then quoted from the *Nineteenth Century* magazine figures about temperance reform in Russia. May I ask your attention for two or three minutes to a few cases where what you advocate has been tried? Has it been successful? I was looking recently into a few statistics, and I notice that a place called Toxteth Park is divided into three districts. In the first there are 25,000 inhabitants, and they have the privilege of 100 public houses, and we find the number of paupers—I do not mean poor people, but absolutely paupers—at 1,000. In the next division there are 45,000 inhabitants, the number of public houses is still 100, and the number of paupers, 600. The third division has a population of 50,000, but I am glad to say there is not a public house in the locality, and we find only 45 paupers out of the entire population of 50,000. (Cheers.) So far as Liverpool is concerned, I have seen it stated that wherever public houses do not exist there is a rush of people to that place, and in it you will find the most crowded population, and the most respectable people, while where public houses do exist you find the respectable people much fewer, and you find people trying to get out of that district if they can. In the north of Ireland there is a small town where the proprietors have fortunately retained complete control of all the land, and the sight of a policeman in the district is almost unknown, there is no such thing as a gaol, and pauperism is simply *nil*. (Cheers.) Well, when we find that wherever total prohibition has been tried it has been successful; that wherever repressive legislation has been tried it has been successful; that the Forbes Mackenzie Act in Scotland has worked splendidly; and when we find the tide setting in now in favour of temperance reform, and drunkenness really what it ought to be, a detested and detestable thing, why should Government not foster our efforts and allow us what we want—total prohibition? (Cheers.) I will just conclude with one observation—namely, that we cannot of ourselves shut the doors of the public house. Legislation and the assistance of Parliament and Government are required, and we can do much by personal example. But no matter how much we labour in this direction and build up the temperance reform, we will never be right until all temptation is kept out of the way of the reformed drunkard and the sober man. We must build up and pull down. We must collar the drink traffic and all interests connected with it, and show Parliament our determination never to rest satisfied until prohibition becomes the law of the land. Then, and not till then, will temperance reformers have their wish and be contented. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said—I have been requested to state to the meeting that a telegram has been received from Mr. Arthur Pease, M.P., chairman of the North of England Temperance League Council, sitting to-day, conveying their hearty congratulations and deep sympathy with us in our glorious work of redeeming our country from the curse of drink. I think a reply should go from this meeting thanking the Conference for their sympathy. (Cheers.) The following reply was sent off at once:—"Annual Public Meeting cordially reciprocate your kind congratulations, and pledges itself to unabated exertions for securing a speedy triumph of our principles."

DR. CAMERON, M.P.—The resolution which I have been asked to propose is as follows:—"That this meeting rejoices in every effort calculated to mitigate the prevalent evils of intemperance, declares its conviction that no legislation will be satisfactory to the people of Scotland which does not provide them with the power of protection against the operations of the liquor traffic, and pledges itself to earnest and determined efforts to secure for the Scottish ratepayers legal power to prevent public-houses being forced upon them against their will." The resolution begins by declaring that this meeting rejoices in every effort calculated to mitigate the prevalent evils of intemperance. Happily the persistent efforts of the advocates of temperance have been rewarded by such an amount of success as leaves us something to rejoice at. Thanks to their reiteration of the fact from a thousand platforms, it has at length been brought home to the more intelligent intellects of the community that alcohol, in whatever form, is not a food but a drug; that less nutriment is contained in a barrel of beer, a gallon of whisky, or a dozen of wine, than is to be found in a loaf of bread, or a pound of meat. (Cheers.) The statistics of our life assurance companies have proved—and the proof has been repeated till at length a dim perception of it has penetrated widely through the nation—that so far is the

moderate consumption of alcoholic stimulants from promoting health and conducing to long life that the death rate even among moderate drinkers is much higher than it is among those who abstain altogether. Practical experiments have repeatedly shown—and the fact of the demonstration is being gradually realised throughout the country—that men called on to submit to extraordinary exertions, whether under extreme cold, as in Arctic exploration, in temperate latitudes like our own, or in the torrid climates of the south, can perform more work with less fatigue if altogether deprived of alcohol than if allowed to use it. (Cheers.) Finally it has dawned upon the world that a huge proportion of the madness, crime, disease, and poverty which afflict mankind is due to the use of this strong drink, from which no single tangible advantage is derived. All this is realised far more generally nowadays than was the case ten or twenty years ago, and the effort to disseminate such knowledge is an effort eminently calculated to promote the cause of temperance, and an effort at the success of which this meeting has great cause to rejoice. In legislation, too, all parties are now agreed in admitting the necessity of doing all that can be done to promote temperance. They are, it is true, by no means in accord as to how that can best be achieved; but we have cause to rejoice that a decided majority of the present Parliament take our view of the subject, and believe that what is wanted can be best accomplished by the enactment of Local Option. (Cheers.) Meanwhile, something substantial, if not all we could desire, has been accomplished in the way of actual legislation. It has been carried by fits and starts, without any definite guiding principle, but it has been in the right direction. I remember a story of a northern farmer wending his way homeward from a market, where he had been betrayed into rather more conviviality than was good for him. Making very slow progress along the road, lurching about from one side to the other, he was met by a neighbour who asked him if he was going home. The farmer looked up with great gravity, balanced himself carefully, and answered "Whiles." (Laughter.) And so with our temperance legislation. If it has not been very comprehensive and continuous, we have at least progressed in the right direction—"whiles." (Cheers.) Within the last few years we have seen Sunday closing enacted for Ireland and Wales, we have seen burghal communities in Scotland entrusted with a veto power on new licenses; we have seen the granting of table-beer licenses taken out of the hands of a Government Department and placed in those of the local authorities, with the result in our own city that this whole class of licenses, the favourite cover under which shebeens plied their trade, has been swept out of existence at a single stroke of the pen. (Cheers.) And lastly, we have had an end put to that fertile source of drunkenness, the sale of drink on board our Sunday excursion steamers. (Cheers.) All this affords us substantial ground for encouragement and rejoicing. But if anyone imagines that we have done more than deal with the fringe of the subject let him read the charges of our judges, the statements of our clergymen, doctors, magistrates, poor-law administrators, and lunacy commissioners, and he will see that with one voice they still cry out that our national drunkenness is even now the cause of three-fourths of our national crime, lunacy, pauperism, and disease. If you are inclined to consider this an exaggeration, I refer you to our national drink bill, which shows that every six years a sum exceeding the entire amount of the National Debt is wasted on drink. More money is spent by our population on drink each year than is spent on bread, milk, tea, and coffee combined. As much money each year goes in drink as is spent on house rent and clothing. As much is wasted on drink as would pay all the rents of all the land and houses in the kingdom. If you are still inclined to doubt the extent of the liquor traffic, look at the state of things in our own midst—refer to the pages of the Glasgow Directory, and learn for yourselves that in this very city five times as many names are set down as wine and spirit merchants as are to be found in the list of bakers,

and that while the number of fleshers falls short by a score of three hundred members, that of the wine and spirit trade includes between twelve and thirteen hundred. Now, how is this immense business regulated? How are the relations between this immense trade, which so enormously surpasses the humble purveyors of food and clothing in wealth and numbers—how are the relations between it and the community regulated? On a principle which, if it were now to be adopted for the first time, would be scouted as unconstitutional and despotic in the extreme—a principle which was intelligible enough when found in combination with a system of government by close corporations and an unreformed Parliament, but which, now that these institutions have for half a century given way to better things, is exactly half-a-century behind the age. (Hear, hear.) The law of the country forbids the common sale of liquors, and allows only such persons to sell them as shall have received a special license for that purpose. The speaker here reviewed the previous and present state of the licensing law, which justified the taking of power to grant licenses out of the hands of the Justices. The facts I have cited and the growth of public opinion, on the other hand, clearly show that the settlement of the basis on which our liquor traffic is to be carried on is one of such urgency that it will not brook delay. (Hear, hear.) Accordingly Sir Wilfrid Lawson, as a practical man, has proposed a simple expedient by which, without disturbing our existing laws or introducing any novel principle, the essentials of local control can be engrafted on the existing licensing law. What he proposes is simply that the existing law forbidding the common sale of intoxicating liquors should remain as it is, that the machinery for granting licenses should remain as it is, but that when the ratepayers in any locality object to the action of the authorities in thrusting licenses upon them they should be provided with the means of formally intimating their dissent, and that such intimation as to their own requirements by the ratepayers themselves should be held as decisive in preventing the authorities from granting licenses. (Cheers.) There is no reason why the veto-power thus proposed should not be restrictive as well as absolute; there is no reason why it should not be allowed to take shape in the direction of decreeing the early closing of public-houses in any locality as well as in the diminution or extinction of licenses. There is nothing new in principle in what we ask. The landlord of a district is already given the most ample powers to protect his property and his surroundings against the caprices of the licensing authorities. He can in feuing his ground prohibit the opening of licensed houses within it for all time; or on purchasing an estate he may at the first Licensing Sessions put an end to every license held by a tenant-at-will upon his property. What we ask for the ratepayers is simply the same powers of self-protection for their homes and their surroundings which the law has all along placed in the hands of the landowner. (Cheers.) The resolution which I am about to move specially points to the feelings of the people of Scotland upon the subject. It does so with good reason, for the people of Scotland have enjoyed and enjoy greater powers of self-government than are known south of the Tweed, where in the great Metropolis itself the introduction of municipal government as practised among us is yet a thing to come. Self-reliant and trained in the management of their own affairs, the people of Scotland in the selection of their representatives in Parliament have given voice to their dissatisfaction with the existing state of things, and have returned a large majority pledged to support the adoption of the system of Local Option to which I will ask this meeting to pledge itself. (Cheers.) And if the people of Scotland have felt strongly and at the polling-booth have expressed themselves strongly upon this most momentous question, Heaven knows, and every one who loves Scotland must admit, it has not been without grave cause. (Cheers.)

Rev. GEO. GLADSTONE, in seconding the resolution, said—Possibly it was from ministerial habit that I felt disposed to look at this resolution under three heads. Happily the heads of discourse supplied in the resolution before us are such as to commend themselves to all who have brains to think and hearts to feel. Whilst, therefore, having no sermon to preach, I yet avail myself of a minister's privilege and ask you to declare—(1) Your gratification in every effort calculated to mitigate the prevalent evils of intemperance. (2) Your conviction that no legislation will be satisfactory to the

people of Scotland which does not provide them with the power of protection against the operations of the liquor traffic. And (3) To pledge yourselves to earnest and determined efforts to secure for the Scottish ratepayers legal power to prevent public-houses being forced upon them against their will. (Cheers.) Relative to the first of these heads, I venture to remark that there is not a little in view of which we may justly be glad. Our cause speeds on its way as by leaps and bounds, and we should verily be guilty if we did not note the progress made, and take to ourselves encouragement, and above all give thanks to the God of all blessing and victory. The jubilee of teetotalism was celebrated but the other day, and during these thirty years what wonders have been wrought. The reform, like many others, was cradled amidst misunderstanding and misrepresentation. All honour to those who in the early days—though few in number, and for the most part lowly in station—saw the truth and followed it whithersoever it led, and who set themselves resolutely and prayerfully to fight evil appetite and evil custom, and evil moneyed interest. They were heroic men. (Cheers.) They have for the most part passed away, but their work abides. At every side we see the yellow grain springing from the seed they sowed in tears and faith, and as the ripe grain falls to our sickle, and as we bind it into sheaves and return with it rejoicing, there enters into our joy a large element of gratitude for the noble deeds of the men of former days. (Cheers.) Notwithstanding the false prophets of those days the cause triumphs all along the line. He referred to medical progress, to the altered tone of the press, and to the determined efforts of the traffickers to withstand our invincible advance. (Cheers.) Above all there was the altered attitude of the Church. The Church had been slow to wake, but it was waking now, and a roused Church of Christ boded ill to the liquor traffic. (Loud cheers.) Referring to the progress within the ranks of temperance, in the Temperance League, the old societies, and to the forty and odd thousands of Good Templars in Scotland he was honoured to represent—(cheers)—he eulogised the marvellous progress of the Blue Ribbon Movement. The “bit of blue” means much. Rightly employed it is, and to a greater extent yet he hoped it would become, like some of the smaller forces in nature that yet effect the mightiest results. It is indeed nothing in itself, but worn in witness bearing for Christ it is a badge of glory and the earnest of a crown. (Cheers.) Then there was the Salvation Army. (Loud cheers.) He knew little of their tactics, and might not altogether agree with them, but this he knew, that they are winning men from the public-house and sin to sit at the feet of the Son of God, and if any say, as some have said, they do it by fiddling, his answer was, in God’s name fiddle away, if only the people may be saved. Wherein they and others do good we rejoice, yea and will rejoice. (Loud cheers.) These, sir, and other movements that I may not stay to name, are signs of progress. They represent forces that are calculated to mitigate, and that as a matter of fact do mitigate the evils of intemperance. We summon them and their results before us to-night, and as we look upon earnest thought stirred, upon blighted hopes restored, upon wasted lives reclaimed, upon darkened homes made bright, upon wives and children made glad, upon public-houses forsaken, and the church frequented by many, we declare our joy. We look on the advance that is being made from day to day, on the forces that gather themselves on the side of temperance, on the triumphs that are being achieved, and with brightening, glistening eyes, and throbbing, swelling hearts we thank God and take courage.

“The long night dies; the welcome gray of dawn we see,
Speed up the heavens thy perfect day, God of the free.”

(Great cheering.) (2) This resolution asks you to declare it to be your conviction that no legislation will be satisfactory to the people of Scotland which does not provide them with the powers of protection against

the operations of the liquor traffic. In the presence of respected M.P.’s, there must needs be care as to what is said of the House of Commons. But even the M.P.’s present will allow us to say that we could be better pleased with the national Parliament than we are. We seek, and we believe we shall get from it, vastly more effective service in relation to the drink traffic. We are glad indeed that what has been lately done has been on the right side. Let me, solely in temperance interests, refer to our Premier and the Sunday Closing Act for Wales. When the Bill proposed by Mr. Roberts was being hotly opposed and threatened by Mr. Warton and a few like minded, Mr. Gladstone spoke to Mr. Roberts, and this was what he said, “Persevere with your Bill, Mr. Roberts.” And so encouraged Mr. Roberts did persevere, and the result is a quiet Sunday throughout Wales. All honour to our Premier who thus spoke, and who otherwise helped to secure so great a boon. (Cheers.) I hope he will say something to the same effect to Dr. Cameron, or Lord Colin Campbell, or some other member who may bring in a thorough prohibitory Bill for Scotland. But sir, whilst we are grateful for the endorsement of the principle of local option, for the passing of the Wales Sunday Closing Act, for the continuance of the Irish Act, and for the Scottish measure prohibiting the sale of liquor on board Sunday steamers, we desiderate yet more. Gratitude has been cynically defined as “a lively expectation of favours to come,” and that is pretty much the kind of gratitude we have for the House of Commons. Sometimes M.P.’s who have taken part in passing helpful measures, have spoken as if we should be satisfied at least for a time. On such a point it is well there should be no mistake, and all therefore had better understand that we shall never be satisfied till the whole drink traffic is swept away. Pass an Act closing the public-house, say at 8 p.m., and we shall take it, but we shall not be satisfied. Pass an Act restricting the public-houses to one for every 1000 of the population, and we shall take it, but we shall not be satisfied. These are but skirmishings. The Tel-el-Kebir against which our assault is mainly directed is the common sale of strong drink. Yes, sir, and God helping us we shall carry that stronghold of evil as surely as our brave troops gallantly assaulted and captured at the bayonet’s point Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt the week before last. (Loud cheers.) Till then we are set for war—for war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt, that our land may be free. The evils of drinking may be palliated by measures that come short of the abolition of the entire drink traffic. But we are not prepared to endure even palliated evils. Of two evils it is sometimes said, “Choose the least.” A wiser way is to choose neither. And that is our attitude relative to the evils of the liquor traffic. We are set against them either as severe or modified. Such evils should not be tolerated. But endured they must be if the traffic is tolerated, and hence we claim as a right the power of self-protection. We demand in the name of justice, in the name of our right to be freed from the wrongs and burdens under which we now unrighteously suffer, in the name of a wronged humanity and an outraged Christianity, power not simply to limit or modify, but to destroy and bury without hope of resurrection the entire evil liquor traffic. (Loud cheering.) I add but a word on the third point—our pledge to earnest and determined efforts to secure for the Scottish ratepayers legal power to prevent public-houses being forced upon them against their will. It is well to note the obvious reasonableness of our demand. We do not ask that this question shall be determined by teetotalers. Sometimes temperance men are spoken of as if they thought that the power to close public-houses should be delegated to them exclusively. All we ask is that the power should be conferred on the ratepayers—on those who have to pay at present to maintain the drink system and its results. We are frequently told that the public-houses are for the good of the public. But if so, surely the public may be empowered to say that they will not have them. Shall we be satisfied with less than this? We cannot. And hence the practical point of this resolution, the pledge to earnest and de-

terminated efforts. Such efforts are needed, and needed too at our hands. The victory is coming, but it will be hastened or delayed according as we quit us like men, or cringe as cowards. Every lofty consideration calls us to pass through renewed conflict to assured victory. When the soldiers of Frederick the Great returned home flushed with triumphs, they were stayed at the gates of the city, whilst a herald demanded, "By what right do you enter here?" In response they waved the banners they had carried in the face of the enemy and shouted the names of the battlefields on which they had fought and conquered for their king and country. And then the gates were flung wide and they marched in to be welcomed by their sovereign. And so it is for us nobly to fill our place in the battle, that we may gladly share in the victory. Oh, this is not a matter of demonstrating, of applauding, or of being applauded. It is a matter of saving the lost, and preserving the yet unfallen, of brightening human lives, and lightening human woes, of destroying the chief hindrance of the gospel of Christ. It is work that an angel might envy. Look at it, see its importance and its nobleness, its need and glory, and afresh give yourselves to it. Heed not the difficulties, care not for those that oppose. The call is to each of us. It is for each of us in Christ's name and in Christ's spirit to give himself to the work, and as we step on and up to say—

"I will go forth 'mong men, not mailed in scorn,
But in the armour of a pure intent,
Great duties are before me, and great songs,
And, whether crowned or crownless when I fall
It matters not, so that God's work be done."

Great cheering.)

Mr. RAPER said that the resolution had been moved by their own representative, and seconded by one of their distinguished ministers. What did they think of that resolution? Was it not that it should be carried out by Dr. Cameron and the Chairman. (Cheers.) He believed that if there had been a division upon Lord Colin Campbell's bill, short as it was, there would have been a large majority of Scotch members in its favour. Certainly they would not have dared to come home again if they had voted against any temperance measure. (Cheers.) If Dr. Cameron were strong enough, and as well as he had seen him—for he had been worn down a little by his bills in Parliament—he should ask him to accept the responsibility of a measure until the Government relieved him of it, as they did last session. The credit of the passing of the Passenger Vessels Licensing (Scotland) Bill was given to the Lord Advocate, but Dr. Cameron was the man to whom all credit was due. (Cheers.) Mr. Raper concluded by advising the friends in Scotland to go on until they had got a prohibitory enactment on the statute book, and then they would be the praise of the earth. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. BROWN, J.P., Kerse, then rose to move—"That this meeting views with hearty satisfaction the substantial progress of the movement in Scotland in favour of entrusting the ratepayers with a veto on the liquor traffic, records its deep conviction that future progress, especially in Parliament, will largely depend upon efficient electoral organization, approves of the efforts of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and renews its determination to aid the Association in accomplishing the work for which it was organized." This resolution requires little to commend it to your favour. (Hear, hear.) It consists of four parts. We are asked, first of all, to view with satisfaction the substantial progress of the movement in Scotland. That there has been great progress, no one with eyes to see and ears to hear can doubt. I know a section of the community who has been watching the movement as closely as any of us—a class who, I suppose, has not sent many representatives here this evening—I mean the licensed victuallers. (A laugh.) They have no doubt about our progress. (Applause.) If proofs were needed, I might instance two. First, we are acting on the knowledge, that if we are to be successful in storming the fort of Mr. Drink, we cannot afford to be divided, we must march in solid phalanx to the attack. The other is a stronger proof of

our progress. The licensed victuallers are no longer sneering and laughing at our proposal, but are contesting every inch of our advance with energy and determination. When we are banded together with like energy and determination, the days of the traffic in Scotland will certainly be numbered. (Cheers.) Then, as to effectual electoral organisation. We deprecate the question being made one of party politics. We have yet to learn that strong drink respects the person or politics of any man. No. Be he Liberal or Conservative, the man who drains the cup must abide the curse, and his friends must share the shame. Then let Whig and Tory both unite to wage against our common enemy an unsparing and implacable warfare. (Cheers.) We are asked to signify our approval of the efforts of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. We are here from every part of the country to testify to our high approval of their efforts, and to wish the Association and the Executive God speed in their noble enterprise. (Cheers.) We are asked to renew our determination to secure power to the people. Let it not be said that we show our sympathy in mere words, but let us do so by our means and energies, for, depend upon it, the hotter the war the sooner peace. Sir Garnet Wolseley—(cheers)—wired home the other day, "The war in Egypt is over!" When shall we be able to telegraph the world over, that our fight is done, that the monstrous evil lies in its grave, never to see a resurrection? Whenever Scotland makes up her mind that the liquor traffic must go. God hasten the day! (Cheers.)

JAMES HAMILTON, Esq., J.P., seconded the resolution. All the resolutions were carried by acclamation.

Mr. JOHN WILSON said—The duty I have to discharge will commend itself to you all. We have heard very admirable addresses this evening, and to the several speakers we owe our warmest thanks. (Applause.) The town of Greenock has been long famed for good and noble men, and our worthy chairman, who has succeeded to be the member for that illustrious town, I know will not tarnish it by what he will do. Greenock gave us the great James Watt—(applause)—a household name in the civilised world; wherever the power of the steam engine is felt the gratitude of the people will rise up to the name of Watt. (Applause.) Next we have one of the first members and first organisers of a temperance society in Scotland, the predecessor of our worthy chairman, the late Mr. Dunlop, the member for Greenock—(applause)—and we have in the present Provost of Greenock one of the most earnest temperance reformers that this country has at the present day. (Applause.) To crown all, we have in the President of this Association—the Scottish Permissive Bill Association—a worthy man who is no less than a Greenock man—(Applause)—and Lord Colin Campbell's Bill was drafted by a Greenock lawyer I hope that our worthy chairman will take advantage of the fact and avail himself of the services of that worthy lawyer, and bring in a bill for Scotland. (Applause.) If we had a Scottish Parliament the local option measure would have been ere this on the statute book of Scotland. I hope the education of this evening to the four members of Parliament, and our esteemed Dr. Cameron, whom we all admire—(applause)—and our worthy chairman, will not be lost. (Applause.) I now come to the practical part of my speech, and that is to thank the speakers who have come representing the sister Isle, and those who have come here representing what is south of the Tweed, for the trouble they have taken in speaking to us on this great question. I am sure I speak the sentiments of all in this great meeting when I say that those who have so worthily addressed us deserve in the name of Scotland our best thanks. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN thanked the meeting on behalf of the speakers for the hearty vote, and the proceedings concluded by Rev. E. J. Boon pronouncing the benediction.

QUITE TRUE.—"Why printers drink is what staggers us," says a contemporary. What printers drink is what staggers them!

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

OCTOBER, 1882.

* * * Our ordinary space and a supplement of eight pages having been almost entirely absorbed by the report of the annual meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, we are constrained to leave over our "Literary Matter," "Summaries," "Intelligence," "Bookshelf," &c., &c. We hope in next issue to deal fully with all these matters.

Still the traffic moves on. The consumption of liquor in the United Kingdom is stated on the by no means weak authority of Rev. Dr. Burns of London, to be 1,026,409,180 gallons of which 70,857,197 gallons are alcohol. The cost of this enormous quantity is £115,376,315, which is equal to £13,170 a day, or £219 10s. an hour, or £3 13s. each moment of time. All we can do at present is scarcely making an impression upon this dreadful and deplorable traffic. Let us labour the more earnestly for a suppressive veto, and quench it altogether. It has lived long enough by the law, let it perish by the law.

We are informed that public-houses are diminishing in value, scarcely any realizing for goodwill the fabulous prices of the last ten years. The improved habits of the people together with the imminent changes in the law looming in the distance, which nothing the trade can do will avert, are rousing the apprehensions of capitalists that as a profitable speculation public-house property is below par. At this consummation every one who sincerely loves God and his fellow-men will rejoice. We do because the overthrow of the public belief in the virtue of liquor is certain to make resistance to the veto we seek a half-hearted matter to the drinker. When his customer not only falls away from him, but actually takes sides against him, it is time for the over-powered publican to lower his flag and sue for terms.

Another blow to the liquor traffic has been struck. This time passenger steamboats plying between Scotch ports on Sundays are the victims of a beneficent prohibitory law. Drink-selling and drinking became so scandalous in "Sunday breakers" on the Friths of Forth and Clyde that good people, grieved beyond endurance, resolved that it should cease. Dr. Cameron, M.P., took up the matter and pressed it on until Government discerning the maturity of public opinion for a change took up the matter. Dr. Cameron was relieved of the duty but not of the honour by the Lord Advocate in the Commons and Lord Roseberry in the Lords pressing the bill into law, and by the Royal assent our sovereign has put an effectual prohibition on Sunday steamer's liquor bars.

The municipal elections will be memorable this year. The sterner sex will be reinforced by the gentler sex if they mean progress, if they mean stagnation, or what is even worse, retrogression, they will find the women such a drag that their chariots like Pharaoh's will drive heavily. We perceive that there will be a singular struggle in Greenock this year. The new improvement Act necessitates a new election of the council, as on the 1st of November the present council will be dissolved. Not less than five-and-twenty seats may be contested. Our temperance friends are acting with vigilance and promptitude, and we have no doubt of their success in putting in a majority of

the council. We expect that they may do more. We hope to be able to point out at the proper time that the men most capable of administering the affairs of the burgh of Greenock have ranged themselves on the side of the temperance and female electors. It would be to their honour that they sat in the council in possession of the confidence and the support of sober men and God-fearing women, rather than of publicans and their infatuated and alas! too often their embroiled customers. The temperance flag of Greenock has never yet trailed in the dust. Let it be next month borne triumphantly far above all others.

Now that the winter has overtaken us let us push on the agitation indoors as vigorously as has been done out of doors. Many committees think that holding many meetings is overdoing it, and they quietly decline speakers offered to them on the ground that they are getting up a soiree about six weeks hence, or that they have had a speaker about a month ago. Let them take a lesson from the Blue Ribbon movement and increase the number of their meetings and re-double their efforts to gather an audience. The efforts of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are directed to the rapid and solid progress of the agitation, and friends when offered an advocate or agent of that institution should never say nay, but ask him to come for three nights, or a week, or some such term. This is the way to sow seed, not in grains but in showers. Providence we are told is on the side of the strongest battalions: the recruiting sergeants recruit for the army every day. Let all our friends then resolve to hold meetings on behalf of the people having a veto on the liquor trade, and the country enlightened by our advocacy will intelligently compel the Government to entrust them with the veto power they desire.

One comes occasionally upon "an amusin' cuss" with a temperance remedy in his brain, and laughs not with him but at him. We have "a cuss" saying License the drinker: then another says, Brand the uncontrollable tippler: another, Let the publican poison the husband, but give his widow and orphan children the power to sue him at law for damages. And thusly these fellows "fool" around. The "amusin' cuss" we have before us is Mr. G. Baden Powell, M.A., who figured with a paper at the Social Science Congress last month. Mr. Baden Powell divides his paper into three heads, and they are heavy, we had almost said leaden heads, as we believe they will sink his paper. One of his cardinal principles is that temperance comes from within. That may be, but intemperance or intoxication comes from without, and once it is in, the education, the growth of manliness, etc., which he lauds is arrested till the fit of intoxication is over. The evil is not altogether in the heart, and he has only half studied the question when he affirms it. It is in the stomach and in the brain, and the work which alcohol at once proceeds to do is to subvert those high qualities upon which Mr. Baden Powell depends for the growth and extension of temperance. Then his remedies are as follows:—1st, heavy taxation on the drink, which means that Government should fleece the wife and family more; 2nd, heavy punishment for adulteration, which means that he wants pure alcohol, under which the drinker dies faster than by any other means; and 3rd, heavy punishment for the drinker, which means impunity to the drugging publican. He is an amusin' cuss. We want something to stay the temptation. He would increase the cost, intensify the power of the poison, and then punish the victim. Where is the waste-paper basket? There!

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER IV.—A RAY OF LIGHT.

Down the road from Barossa to the manse one evening in early spring strode Walter Gillespie in a strange state of mind. He had just had a strong interview with his father regarding Laura Tennant. To relate what passed would not aid the purpose of this brief history, suffice to say that the mill-owner gave his son two alternatives, renouncing Laura or disinheritance. And Walter, after the hot-blooded manner of youth, had flung the alternatives back in his father's teeth, and walked out of the house. Mr. Gillespie, cool and sarcastic, had smiled at the young man's impetuosity, and had no doubt of what the issue would be. That any man should give up a princely heritage like Barossa for a woman was not within the limits of Mr. Gillespie's comprehension. He had lived to see what stuff his one son was made of. Walter found Laura by a happy chance alone in the drawing-room, and took her in his arms without ceremony.

"Walter, what is it?" she asked, quick to surmise something was wrong.

"It must be told, my darling," he said in his impetuous boyish way. "I have had a frightful row with my father about you. He says I must choose between you and him, and I of course have chosen you. I'm off to catch the eight train for Glasgow, to get the night mail for London, where I mean to work for my wife."

Little wonder so many startling announcements took Laura's breath away.

"You will be true to me, Laura?" he said, lifting her face, and looking into it with long earnest gaze.

"I hardly comprehend, Walter," faltered Laura. "You must not let me part your father and you. You can't give up so much for me, it would not be right. I am quite willing to give you up, Walter, dearly as I love you."

"Oh, indeed, much obliged!" said Walter, in much humility. "But, my darling, you are pledged to me, therefore have no say in the matter. Can you trust me to make a home for you, Laura?"

"Trust you!" Laura looked up into the true manly face with eyes which almost smiled.

"That's right. Now, where's your father? I should like a word with him."

"He is in the town, you will meet him likely if you are going. I cannot realise it yet."

"You will to-morrow morning when you miss my nod as I go down to the mill," he said, teasingly. "Well, good bye, my darling. I am a poor man now, these hands are my sum and substance, Laura, and I can't afford any time for love-making."

A few minutes later Walter was hurrying up to Strathglide, and Laura sat down by the window to try and realise what all this meant. Presently Arthur lounged into the room, and threw himself on the couch.

"Was that Gillespie? Desperate hurry, surely," he said.

"Yes," answered Laura, and her eyes filled when she looked upon him. How he was changed! These four months idle dissipation at home had told upon him. His handsome face was bleared and discoloured, the eyes which had first won Lizzie Hislop's heart were dim and blood-shot, and the masses of dark hair hung loosely over the brow on which vice had set her mark. He was the brother whose future she had been wont to picture to herself with fond sisterly pride, which had long since died and left shame and loathing in its place.

He was a constant companion of Doctor Hislop, and the two were oftener in Sutherland's Half-Way-House

than anywhere else. That of course hurt the doctor's practice, but of that more anon. Arthur had no money, but Tom was generous enough to share his ample means with him, and did it, though Mr. Tennant had remonstrated with him on the subject. Suddenly Arthur buried his face in the cushions, and said, in smothered tones, "Laura, Laura, I wish I was dead!"

The girl rose and crept to his side, laying her head close beside him, never shrinking, though she felt the odour of the thing she hated in his breath.

"Dear Arthur!" At that moment all the old sisterly love filled her heart, chasing all other thoughts away.

"Go away," he said fiercely, shaking her off and sitting up suddenly. "Why don't you curse me instead of talking to me like that, you make me feel a thousand times more keenly what a devil I am; and can I help myself? I tell you, Laura, I have tried with the whole strength I have to fight the craving which possesses me, and I have failed. Do you suppose I don't know I am drinking myself to death," he said, with a strange low laugh. "I feel it, and I can't help myself, Laura; I think I am going mad."

"Arthur, Arthur!" She pressed her hands to her temples and tottered to a seat. "Is there no hope? can't you conquer it? I have heard of people who did."

"Not when they are as bad as I am," he said gloomily. "It is the curse of my birth, Laura. Why did my mother ever marry?"

No answer.

"We are a nice pair, mother and son," he said bitterly, rising and pacing restlessly up and down the floor. "The world would be well rid of us both. Laura, do you hate me?"

No need to ask that with her arms about his neck and her head on his breast, "Oh Arthur, Arthur!"

"Don't speak to me like that I tell you," he said hoarsely. "Do you know that I am going along to that place to get drunk again to-night. I must do it, though I know the misery it is to you all. I can't help myself."

"Oh Arthur, don't go, don't go," cried Laura, crying to him. "Not to-night, Arthur."

He broke from her, and the next moment was gone. Not daring to give way to the agony of her heart, she hurried upstairs to her mother's room.

Mrs. Tennant was never in the drawing-room now, she was not able to leave her own room. She was lying on the sofa. Looking at her, Laura knew that she had been taking liquor; where it had been got was a mystery.

She shut the door and came in.

"Is that you?" enquired Mrs. Tennant, looking up vacantly. "Is Arthur in?"

"No, mama."

"Has he been drinking to-day again?"

"I don't know, mama," was the low reply.

"Can nobody keep it from him?" she asked generously. "It is a dreadful thing to hear of one's own son drinking himself into the grave without a helping hand being offered to save him. I wish God would raise me from my sick-bed to—"

"Oh mama, hush," interrupted Laura, in a low shocked voice. "You forget what you are saying. Let me arrange your pillows and try to go to sleep. Mrs. Tennant burst into a fit of maudlin tears and reproaches. Knowing she was best left alone thus, Laura hurried downstairs to the kitchen. Jean was there washing tea-cups. "Jean, mama has got it somewhere to-night. Where can it come from."

"I'll tell ye, Miss Laura," said the faithful soul sorrowfully. "An hour ago Tom cam in and telt me he saw Sutherland's laddie climbin' up the yew tree i' the corner o' the kirkyard; ye ken its branches brush the mistress's window. That's hoo she's gotten'd. The Lord forgie Andrew Sutherland."

"It's no use us trying to keep it from her when that

happens, Jean," said Laura hopelessly. "When mama goes to sleep I shall be obliged to search the room for it. Don't tell papa."

Half an hour later Mrs. Tennant fell into a heavy sleep, and Laura began her search. She turned out the wardrobe and the press, and felt beneath the mattress of the bed. There she found a bottle almost empty. She put it in her pocket, and was about to leave the room, when something peculiar about the cushions of the rocking-chair caught her eye. She passed her hand over it and felt something hard, but there was no opening where a bottle could have been inserted. Turning it to the window she saw that at one side the binding had evidently been removed and replaced again. Taking the scissors from the toilet drawer she ripped up the seam, and found two bottles hidden among the stuffing. She took them downstairs to Jean, who indignantly emptied their contents in the backyard and broke the bottles into a thousand pieces.

Between nine and ten, having seen the little ones safely to bed, Laura sat down by the drawing-room window with a book. But already the spring twilight was deepening, and the shadows from the yew trees lay dark upon the page; she let it drop from her hands, and leaning her arm on the sill, allowed her thoughts for a moment to flee to Walter. When the timepiece chimed the half hour after nine, a quick step trod the path outside, and she heard Arthur's voice humming a scrap of the tune she had been playing early in the evening. He pushed open the drawing-room door, and seeing her alone came in. She looked up anxiously, and saw an undefinable change in his face. His eye was clear and met her glance steadily, and there was an expression almost of happiness on his face. He dropped on one knee at her side, and looked up at her with a smile on his lips.

"Where have you been, Arthur?" she asked with some anxiety. "I am thankful to see you in so early."

"You will be better pleased when I tell you what I have been doing, Laura," he said gravely. "I am going to turn over a new leaf. When I went out three hours ago, on my way to Strathglide, I met Mr. Lindsay. He had come up from Claybridge purposely to see me. He made me turn and we walked up and down the Barossa Road for an hour. I can't tell you half he said, Laura, but the long and the short of it is that he offered and I accepted a seat in his office at a hundred a year to begin with."

"Oh, Arthur, how good of him."

"Yes, and I have you to thank for that as for many another thing; he told me it was for your sake he gave me a chance to begin a new life. I am to stay in his house and come home if I please on Saturday."

"But, Arthur, what can you know of the work in a lawyer's office. Surely the salary he offers is more than your service is worth."

"I should say it is; but he would not hear a word against it; but I mean to show him that I can be grateful when I like. I'll work for the money, never fear."

Laura drew a sigh of relief, and let her head fall on her brother's shoulder. There was a long silence.

"Laura!"

"Yes, Arthur."

"After Lindsay left me I went straight to Lizzie."

Laura started and raised her head. "I told her what passed between us, and asked her to give me another chance."

"Well?" asked Laura, with intense anxiety.

"She said that if I came to her six months hence with the promises of my amendment fulfilled she would put my ring on her finger again. Oh, Laura, with her and you to love me and help me to conquer I ought to conquer."

"With God's help also, dear Arthur, you *can* conquer."

Again there was a long silence. And the trembling

moonbeams stole into the quiet room, and rested on the girl's sweet face shining with a happiness that had been long absent from it. Arthur's face was hidden, but when he rose his sister saw that it was pale with intense emotion, and in it also shone something of the noble hopes and aspirations that had characterised his boyhood. May God give you strength, dear Arthur, to keep these vows in the spirit and in the letter to your dying day!

VARIETIES.

The cup that cheers, but does not inebriate—the butter-cup.

Can it be said that a man who is very much intoxicated is dejected because he's more'nfull?

QUERY.—What insect does the blacksmith manufacture? He makes the *fire fly*.

There is no spirits sold nearer the Siberian mines than twelve miles. If there were no drink to be got in Great Britain, Ireland, and the isles around, nearer than twelve miles, our country would lick creation in wealth, health, and happiness.

"I don't believe in these secret societies," said one Brooklyn lady to another. "That's very singular," replied the other; "your husband is a Forester, a Knight of Pythias, and a Knight of Honour, and you will have at least 1000 dols. when he dies." "But what good does all that do to me," was the tearful response, "when he never dies?" And the poor soul burst into tears!

THE HARVEST.—There is something exceedingly irritating in the fact that a great harvest raised in infinite care and pains, instead of adding to the national wealth and bringing rich returns, is poured in the shape of liquid fire down the throats of the nation that produced it, and instead of leaving them wiser and happier tends to impoverish them by vicious and debilitating indulgence.—*American Paper*.

The Licensing Act in New South Wales appears to be working most beneficially. The arrests for drunkenness in the first two months of its operation show a decrease in Sydney of 568 when compared with the two corresponding months of the previous year. On the Sundays of February and March, 1881, the arrests for drunkenness were 361, during the same period this year they fell to 72. A Sydney paper says:—"There is no use in saying people cannot be made sober by Acts of Parliament after this! If the Licensing Act has kept people from getting drunk by depriving them of facilities for getting drink, is not the community being made sober by Act of Parliament? It is just as well to say that people are not made honest by Act of Parliament, when the whole world knows that but for our laws our lives and properties would not be safe for a moment."

AULD LANG SYNE.—In Saddle Monastery, Cantyre, there is a tombstone bearing the figure of a warrior. It is said to be that of Mackay, to whom Robert the Bruce assigned the lands of Ugdale and Arneile in Cantyre, for giving him shelter when a fugitive. Bruce had wandered to Mackay's farm-house, where he was entertaining some friends, and at first declined the hospitality, but Mackay compelled him to accept it, saying, "I am king in my ain house." The next morning after breakfast Mackay took Bruce to the top of the mountain of Beinn-an-tuire to show him the western coast, whither Bruce wished to go. Bruce then disclosed himself, and said that he would give Mackay what he wished when he had regained his throne. Mackay asked for the two farms of Ugdale and Arneile; and they separated at the spot now marked by a stone called *crois mhic caidh*, or the Cross of Mackay. After the battle of Bannockburn, Mackay went to Edinburgh, where the king gave him the title-deeds of the two farms, and when Mackay declined the goblet of wine that he offered him, Bruce in his turn said, "You must drink it, for I am now king in my ain house."—*Chambers's Journal*.

THE
Social Reformer.

NOVEMBER, 1882.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER V.—A WOMAN'S LOVE.

Mr. Gillespie, senior, was an astonished man. Walter had taken him at his word, and departed, penniless, to seek his fortune in London, rather than give up the girl he loved. Casting his memory back, Mr. Gillespie could not recall any period in his life when *he* would have made such a fool of himself. He bided his time, thinking that when the headstrong boy had tasted the husks, he would come back penitent to seek the fatted calf again. Walter had not sent a line or a sign to his father, in which he erred. Time slipped away; spring lengthened into summer days; June roses bloomed and faded too; and the old man lived his solitary life in the grand house, eating his heart out for his boy. But he was too proud a man to show it, or depart from the letter of his word.

On a Saturday afternoon Laura Tennant, returning from her weekly shopping in Strathglide, encountered Mr. Gillespie on his horse. She was hurrying past with down-bent head, when to her amazement he drew rein, and she was obliged to stand. His critical eye took her in keenly from top to toe. She was an ordinary-looking girl enough, but there was something wonderfully sweet and loveable about her.

"What a fine afternoon, Miss Tennant."

"Yes, sir," said Laura, regaining her self-possession, and meeting his gaze with eyes which never faltered.

"I suppose *you* will hear sometimes from my son," he said, in his coldest tones.

"Yes, sir."

"What is he doing, and where is he?" he asked.

Laura guessed what an effort the question cost him, and guessed what lay beneath the grim exterior.

"He is quite well, sir," said Laura quietly. "In London, staying with his uncle, Mr. Hunter, and learning his business. Has he not written to you?"

"Of course not," said Mr. Gillespie. "He has chosen his way. It lies apart from mine. I was only curious to see how he fared after making such a fool of himself."

Laura Tennant drew herself up.

"I wish to tell you, Mr. Gillespie, that I had no hand in this. I offered him his freedom, nay, pressed it upon him. He has given up too much for me, but he would not accept it."

Having thus justified herself, Laura wished him good afternoon, and passed on. Mr. Gillespie smiled drily, and gave his horse the rein. For the present he was satisfied. But he felt no small indignation against his brother-in-law for aiding and abetting Walter's wilfulness. Matthew Hunter was a rich and childless man, so Walter was not likely to taste the husks after all.

The summer sped without bringing any material change to our friends in Strathglide. Arthur Tennant was still doing well in Claybridge, and had proved himself worthy of the confidence Mr. Lindsay reposed in him. But for the wife and mother of the house of Tennant, the Manse would have been a happy

home. There was no amendment for her—no lifting of the burden of grief and shame from the hearts of her husband and family.

Charlie was in Glasgow attending College. *He* was a son of whom any man might have been proud. A splendid intellect, combined with an iron resolution to make the best and noblest use of it, made the lad's University course, even from its commencement, a perfect success. He was the idol of his father's heart, and of Laura's. In after years it was their boast that he had never given them one moment's anxiety, or even the shadow of a heartache during the years he spent away from home. But it was an awful pain to the boy's loving, sensitive heart that his mother could not be proud over his success, that there was no mother's warm, tender kiss and proud thankful words to greet him when he brought his laurels home. She was incapable of understanding even the simplest matter now; it would have been better for her, for them all, if she had been laid in her grave in the earlier years of her married life, before the curse of her race had conquered her.

But I am digressing. As I have said, Arthur Tennant was doing well in Claybridge, and at Christmas he came to Strathglide on a special mission. On Christmas Eve Lizzie Hislop was alone in the house. Tom was at a dinner party up the country somewhere, and would not be home till late. Between seven and eight she was sitting at the fire, dreaming over a piece of sewing. She was thinking of Arthur, and wondering when he would come to redeem her promise. She had not seen him for a month.

As if in answer to her thought, there came a familiar tap at the door, and in a minute the maid ushered in Arthur.

She rose from her chair, and her sewing dropped from her hands.

Arthur shut the door and faced her, and her eyes fell beneath his gaze. It was full of such passionate love, that she could not meet it. She held out her hand to him, but he did not offer to take it.

"I have come, Lizzie, as I promised. Will you listen to me for a minute?"

"Yes, Arthur."

She did not resume her seat, but the small, slight figure leaned a little against the chair, and her grave, beautiful eyes dwelt steadily on his face.

"If ever man fought a fierce battle and won, Lizzie, I am that man," he said in low, earnest tones. "And but for you, I believe I could not have held out as I have done. Lindsay has behaved to me as if I had been his own son, and helped me against myself. For the first week or two, Lizzie, I thought I must go mad or die. I tell you that the very memory of the agony it was to me to fight the craving within me makes me shudder, but it soon passed off, and for six months I have never felt the least inclination to touch the thing I once loved better than anything else on earth. Yesterday Lindsay offered me a share in the business; so, Lizzie, I can offer you a home worthy of you now. My darling, will you give yourself to me some day soon, and let me show you by a life of devotion to you how I love and bless you for what you have done for me? You will not send me away, my darling, now?"

The girl lifted her hand to her head with a sudden

quick gesture, and there was a brief moment's silence. Whatever may have been her thoughts in that moment, they were never uttered. She went to him, and gave him both her hands; in that action she gave herself to him also, wholly and entirely, as such women do.

He drew her to his heart in a passionate embrace, and his words of love fell upon her ear and heart like sweetest melody. How happy these two were that night, and what visions of the future filled their hearts only happy love can know.

Oh that so many of our sweetest dreams should have such sad fulfilment!

Four months later, in the first blush of the summer time, they were married. It was to be a very quiet affair, and they were to go away for a week together to the Western Highlands to taste there something of the bliss which dwelt in Eden. The coming responsibility was not without its effect upon Arthur. Everybody spoke well of him now as a sedate, well-behaved young man, evidently resolved, by the uprightness of his life, to atone for the past. It was little wonder, I think, if, as the time drew near, Lizzie grew graver and quieter, and more thoughtful than ever. For oh, my friends, remember that by marriage a woman makes or mars her life. It is the irrevocable step which secures her happiness or misery on earth.

The night before the wedding the bride-elect had many visitors. Miss Cameron was the last to leave, and then Laura ran up for a few minutes for the last time.

Lizzie received her with a smile, and then conveyed her up to her room to see the simple preparations for the morrow. There was to be no fuss, no gay dresses, or wreaths of orange blossoms. Miss Hislop's wedding dress was the dainty, soft, grey cashmere she was to travel in. Laura examined it without remark, and then, as she turned to leave the room, she caught Lizzie in her arms and kissed her for the first time in her life.

"Don't, Laura; you'll make a baby of me," cried Lizzie, hiding her face a moment on her friend's shoulder; "and remember I'll need all my fortitude to-morrow."

Tom Hislop was not sorely troubled over his sister's marriage. He supposed he would miss her a little, but after all one woman could mind the house as well as another. So he reasoned; and Lizzie had a way of making him feel uncomfortable sometimes, though she never said much. Certainly there would be more freedom for him when she was gone.

Ah but, Tom, that is exactly what should be denied you and others like you!

He was lounging on the dining-room sofa, pipe in mouth, when his sister came in from parting with Laura at the gate.

"Well, Liz," he called out in his off-hand way. "Come here, old woman, and tell me how you feel about to-morrow. Do you think you'll make a scene in church?"

She came to him, and dropped on the floor at his side. Her face was grave and serious, so was her voice when she spoke.

"Put away your pipe, Tom; I want to speak to you."

"I'm in for it," said Tom mentally, and he put his pipe in his pocket, and turned an attentive face to his sister.

"Have I done my duty to you, Tom?" she asked half wistfully. "Have I been to you what a good sister ought to be to an only brother?"

"Of course you have," he said, letting his hand fall in careless caressingness on her head. "You've been a jewel. If you treat your husband half so well, he'll be spoiled in no time."

"Tom, do you care anything for me?" she asked in the same wistful tone, "or are you glad I'm going away?"

"Care for you! Of course I do," he said, but neither the tone nor the words conveyed what his listener's heart was hungering for. "I don't know what I'll do without you. I suppose the house will go to ruin."

She sighed and rose to her feet. "One thing I want to say to you, Tom. I have one request to make. You will not refuse it when to-morrow is my wedding-day."

"No; go on," he said; but there was a ring of uneasiness in his tone.

"I want you to promise me this, Tom," she said, laying her hand in his to enforce her words. "That after I am away from Strathglide you will give up these drinking habits which have grown so upon you of late. Give me your word of honour, Tom, that after to-morrow you will be an abstainer."

It was her last appeal. Would it succeed?

"That's a good deal to expect of a fellow all at once," he said moodily. "I can't promise, but I'll try. I'll begin gradually."

"It won't do, Tom," answered Lizzie decidedly. "It must be altogether, or not at all. And after all check is removed, what will the end be?"

Tom found the discussion unpleasant, and left the room.

It was close on ten o'clock, and it had been a fatiguing day for Lizzie Hislop. She lowered the gas in the dining-room, and went slowly up to her own room. Passing the study door on her way up, she heard her brother moving within, and wished him good night. But he did not open the door, nor answer her words. When she reached her own room, she locked the door, and throwing open the casement, knelt down beside it.

It was a still, sultry evening, and the air was heavy with the breath of flowers. Above the trees of Barossa the new moon had risen, and a soft light crept in and touched the girl's head, bowed in weariness on the sill. Her heart was filled with a strange commingling of hopes and fears, of happiness and sorrow, and above all a great loneliness, which brought a mist before her eyes. She raised her head after a time, and looked to the summer sky, shining with its myriad stars. Something of the peace and beauty there soothed her spirit, and brought with it a sense of restful happiness, and from her heart and lips went up one fervent prayer that her mother's God would be with her through life, and guide and sustain her in all its changes. Then she closed her window and went to bed.

(To be Continued.)

THE WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE—III.

It is unfortunately the case that many among us look upon wealth as a means not of doing good or of culture and refinement but as the means whereby they may to the utmost extent gratify their lower natures. We see people by some happy stroke of fortune lifted almost instantaneously to the level of affluence, and a glance shows them decking their homes, their tables, and themselves with all the material splendours, and indulging in all the costliest dainties and raiment which their newly acquired wealth has enabled them to procure. With them the art of life is to out-distance their neighbours in the magnificence of their residence, in the rarity and richness of their entertainments, and in the adornment of their persons. This ostentation is what is seen by the world, but its failure to satisfy is carefully concealed. Then the moments for the full parade of this display are so few, and are beset with such uncertainties, and often followed by such misfortune, as to suggest, alas, too often, that life in this sense, like the apples of Sodom, turns, alas, to ashes. The unthinking, credulous community, however, cherish this as their high ideal of life, and if they cannot have such gaudy splendour, try what they can to pamper their appetites and their persons with things that are not merely at variance with their position, but quite unfitted in themselves to impart true enjoyment.

Some of our readers have done us the honour of trying our bills of fare, and have satisfied themselves by one trial only that our dietary tables are a failure. They ask us, with some triumph, to try for ourselves, and we will learn by the sad feeling of starvation which will accompany our endeavour, what they felt

when they attempted to profit by our lessons. No! they are satisfied that such new-fangled plans are not the thing for them, and that it has not been left to us to discover that the good old way of feeding by rule of thumb is wrong.

We cannot agree with them. Our attempt to convince them that the community indulges too grossly in feeding, both as respects quality and quantity of food, may have been in vain, but we will not admit that one instance is enough to determine the matter. There must be some time given in which a comparison may be instituted between the previous and present feeding before the judgment is in a position to decide. Years and years of the feeding now so common cannot be properly contrasted by a scheme of feeding which has been tried only once. Were our critics in earnest to be impartial, they would first of all take stock of one month's present mode of living, and that done, for another month enter upon the course we urged upon them. If before they did so they had themselves weighed, and then weighed themselves during the continuance of the experiment, they would possess an easy and conclusive means of ascertaining its scientific value. We believe that they might suffer a slight loss of weight in the early stages of the experiment, but only for a short time, and if they attended diligently to the result they would find that it was a relief to the system to have been able to cast off some of the grosser accumulations by which its working was encumbered.

It is just five years ago on the 5th of this present month that Dr. Nichols, of "Food of Health," "Sanitary Soap," "Portable Bath," and "Fairy Pillow" fame, resolved on an experiment to determine not only "How to Live on Sixpence a-day," but upon how little a human being could live. If we remember rightly he is a man six feet high and twelve stones weight. He is an early riser, at five we believe; has breakfast at nine, and dinner more. Not a strict vegetarian at all times, but rarely touching animal food, fish excepted. He feeds on bread, grains, milk, butter, cheese, fruits, vegetables, sometimes an egg, and sometimes fish. He takes no stimulants, no tea, no coffee, no chocolate, no cocoa, no alcohol nor tobacco in any form. Now during the first week he took things much as they came, living as he usually did on two diets a day, and his food weighed in dry weight, *i.e.*, exclusive of its water, three pounds nine and a-half ounces, or eight and a-half ounces a-day, the cost amounting to 3s. 1½d., or 5½d. per day. The second week's rations were bread, milk, and fruit, "The Food of Health" serving as bread and porridge. He considered this week more the quality than the cost. Well, he consumed three pounds fourteen ounces and a-half of dry food, costing 3s. 1½d., or nearly nine ounces a-day, costing about 5½d. a-day. He weighed himself at the end of the second week at the Charing Cross district station; and his weight was exactly what it was a month before at Scarbro', 12 stones 2 lbs., or 170 lbs. weight. The third week he resolved to go in for economy, but it was only the last five days of that week on which he was able to do that. In the first two days he lived as before, the amount being nine ounces and six ounces of food respectively, the cost 3½d. each day. The diet for the third week weighed three pounds two ounces, and cost 1s. 9d., an average of 7½ ounces at a cost of 3d. a-day. Weighed again at Charing Cross on his way home from giving a lecture, he was just as before 170 lbs. in weight. At the end of this week he sums up the experiment in something like these words. He was in better health than when he began, his weight was undiminished, his labour power had increased, and he had lived on less than one quarter of the food which physiologists had declared to be necessary. During the fourth week he resolved to go in for a vegetarian diet, excluding milk, butter, cheese, eggs and vegetables, living simply on bread and fruit. The first day his food weighed six ounces, the second four ounces, the third four and a-half ounces, the cost 1½d. a-day. The amount for this week of food consumed was three pounds eight and a-half ounces, or eight ounces a-day, at a cost of 1s. 2½d. a-week, or a fraction over 2d. a-day. His weight was 168 lbs., or a

loss of two pounds, with better health, and great capacity for labour, followed by less fatigue. I cannot expect room in the *Social Reformer* for his twenty-eight days' dietary, but I will give that for the 11th, 18th, and 25th November, and 2nd December, these being the last days of each week. I might have just as easily given any other dates. Those I give will show, what I have pleaded for all along in these papers, that it is possible to improve the quality while decreasing the quantity of our food, with incomparable advantage to the health and the labour power of our constitution and the true enjoyment of our existence.

November 11th.—Breakfast—oatmeal, milk, apple; two and a-half ounces; 2d. Dinner—baked potato, cauliflower, bread, fruit pudding; three and a-half ounces; 3d. Total weight, six ounces; cost, 5d.

November 18th.—Bread, milk, and fruit only; seven ounces; cost, 4½d.

November 25th.—Breakfast—wheat porridge and milk; four ounces; cost, 1d. Dinner—potato, cabbage, and pudding; three ounces; cost, 1½d. For the day, seven ounces; cost, 2½d.

December 2nd.—Breakfast—oatmeal and fruit; four ounces; cost, 2d. Dinner—bread, bean soup, and fruit; four and a-half ounces; cost, 1½d. Total, eight and a-half ounces; cost, 2d.

And farther, we present Dr. Nichols' summary of the whole matter;—

The total solid or dry weight of food	
for four weeks,	14 lbs. 6 ozs.
The cost for four weeks,	9s. 8½d.
Average weight per week,	3 lbs. 9½ ozs.
Average weight per day,	8½ ozs.
Average cost per week,	2s. 5d.
Average cost per day,	4½d.

No one can get rid of the conclusion of this experience by sirugs and sneers. The only way of exhausting its force is by entering upon a similar course of diet with an honest intention to get at the truth just as Dr. Nichols did. What should we think of the Doctor just having lived the last week of his experiment and then declared the thing impossible? We should have thought him far from wise, nay, should most likely laughed at him. Instead of that he not only tried it for a month, but resolved, as the consequence of his satisfaction with it, to continue it under more careful observation and experiment. This is the true way of determining a matter of such importance to the constitution as the quantity and quality of our food, and when those objecting to our first and second dietary tables have gone and done likewise we shall very seriously, and as bound by truth, reconsider our opinions.

We will in our future papers look at this subject of improved diet as brought about by the constraints of poverty, pauperism, and crime, a condition of life in which the will of the feeder has little or nothing to do.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

THE NATURE OF THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

By PROFESSOR G. E. FOSTER.

It is a local option prohibitory measure and can be applied to any city or county upon the majority vote of the electors. As such it possesses many advantages.

1.—It is "government by the people and for the people." A county or city to a large extent administers its own affairs and bears its own expenses. Nothing touches its interests so closely as the traffic in liquors within its borders. This traffic burdens it with pauperism, taxes it for crime, degrades it by dissipation, curses it with idleness and vice, and disturbs, to a greater or less extent, every department of its industry and activity. With regard to such a potent factor it is but fair that the county or city should have the right to either condemn or approve it. If the people think that licensed bars should not be allowed in their midst, and that their families should not be exposed to these ruinous influences, who shall say that, as the ones most nearly interested, they should be deprived of the

right of saying so? And on what principle of popular government can it be contended that a small minority of sellers financially interested in the profits of their sale, shall be allowed to force their traffic on a majority whose homes and best interests are exposed to constant risk? The Canadian Legislature recognised the right of a community to protect itself and embodied it in this Act. The principle in itself is sound. It asks nothing more than that the wishes of the majority of legal voters, as expressed at the ballot box, shall be respected, and so is free from all charge of fanaticism.

II.—*It is non-partisan.*

It takes the whole question out of the range of party politics. The issue is simply "prohibition," or "license," free from any complications of men or measures. In no other way can so pure and fair an expression of opinion be gained from the electorate. Any one who has watched the course of temperance legislation in the United States knows that its greatest bane has been the partyism that has been mingled with it, either in its enactment or its enforcement. The Canada Temperance Act has happily avoided this rock of peril, and in its inception as well as its methods of working is as fully removed from the distractions of party as it possibly can be.

III.—*It carries with it a majority sentiment.*

It has the advantage of thorough discussion before the electorate. It is canvassed in all its bearings. The public mind is awakened and the matter is thoroughly considered. A conclusion thus reached and made authoritative at the poll stands the best chance for full and effective enforcement. Those who vote for it will not be likely to permit its violation. The law goes into effect as an expression of the best, and newest, and strongest thought upon the question in the county or city where it is to be worked.

IV.—*It meets the question of revenue in the easiest possible manner.*

A general prohibitory law would oblige the Finance Minister of the Dominion to make good an immediate yearly deficit of from £800,000 to £1,000,000 sterling. This would to very many minds be an almost insuperable difficulty, and would certainly decrease the chances of obtaining such a law. But in this, the revenue gradually diminishes as constituency after constituency stops the sale and decreases the consumption of alcoholic liquors, and thus gradually adapts itself to the changed conditions. Increased thrift and saving result in increased consumption of dutiable goods, and increased accumulation of wealth and resources. This gradual process, extended over a series of years, will be found to solve the problem of revenue, without detriment to the government, and with incalculable improvement to the country.

V.—*It best meets the objection as to manufacturing interests.*

A total prohibitory law would render the breweries and distilleries useless, and throw large investments of funds back upon the hands of their owners, and the cry of "vested interests" would at once be raised. The present mode of procedure does not directly interfere with these. It gives the people of the municipality a right to say, not whether the product of the brewery and distillery shall be consumed, but whether it shall be sold or not in their limits; and so merely constrains the manufacturer to find other markets, and to measure his production by the volume of demand. It leaves to him the outside market, and gradually diminishes the home demand. And surely if a community comes to the conclusion that it is best for it not to trade in the wares of the manufacturer, it ought to have the right to say so, and the manufacturer must take his products where he can find unrestricted sale. In this way the property of the brewer and distiller is not rendered useless to him at once—it is only made a little less profitable to him each year—and when it becomes profitless he can change it for some other as business men have to do the world over. No prohibition act could deal more gently with the makers of liquors.

VI.—*It is reasonable with the dealers themselves.*

An opportunity is given them in each community to demonstrate the necessity and usefulness of their

occupation, and if they can succeed in proving this to the satisfaction of the electorate they are secured in their traffic. But, if they fail to do this, the arbitration of the people, after a full discussion, ought surely to be allowed. Even then the sellers are given full time to unload their stocks and prepare for the change. In no case can the Act go into operation in less than five months after its adoption, and generally it is a full year or more. No licenses are revoked or annulled. The dealers get all they have paid for under terms of their licenses, and are simply advertised by the community that when their present licenses expire they will not be renewed, and that no further contracts will be made. It deals wholly with the public sale for beverage purposes—does not forbid or interfere with the rights of individuals to use liquors.

VII.—*It deals fairly with the community.*

It does not deny the sale of alcohol for necessary purposes—for medicine, for mechanical or chemical purposes, or for sacramental use. No disease shall go without alcohol for a remedy if the physicians deem it requisite. No art or part of the world's work shall be hampered by being deprived of it. If Christian churches wish to use alcoholic wine at the communion they can readily obtain it. It goes into no person's home and dictates to him what he shall use upon his table. It allows him to buy and use what liquor he wants, and as he wants it. It simply says to him:—"Sir, the public sale of drink in the dram shop is fraught with vast evil to our community, and is full of temptation to drunkenness and crime. If you wish to use liquor you may do so; but in deference to the best interests of the community we ask you to be kind enough to put up with the inconvenience of buying it somewhere outside of our community. And surely no reasonable man can object to that, when he considers, on the other hand, the ruin of many which must inevitably result, if he is successful in his demand for having public sale in the community, and thus retaining the temptation."

VIII.—*It is a constant means of education.*

A general prohibitory law would be settled by one campaign, or given without a popular vote by the Legislature. This takes up county by county, city by city, and so keeps the subject constantly before the country. In this continual agitation the best and newest thoughts come into play, fresh decisions of intelligent electorates give voice to the popular feeling, and apathy becomes impossible. As a means of education and interest, the Act is a double blessing.

"NEBRASKA NOTES" AND PROHIBITION
IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of the Aberdeen Daily Free Press.

SIR,—It is a curious circumstance in connection with the temperance movement that there are some men in favour of temperance, but who are firmly opposed to prohibitory laws. Such seems to be the attitude of your correspondent who hails from the other side of the Atlantic. He is wishful to support something which he calls "personal temperance," but wields his pen to uphold the continuance of the legalised liquor traffic. He does not seem to have read the letters of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, written from St. Johnsbury, the Workman's Paradise in Vermont, nor to be acquainted with the reports of the Canadian Commissioners, who were sent to Maine to inquire into the working of the Maine Liquor Law. Those are testimonies from disinterested authorities, which cannot fail to carry conviction to all unbiassed minds as to the blessings derived from prohibition. Your correspondent, although living in one of the States, and writing upon the question of prohibition, appears to be utterly unaware of their existence. It is too much to expect that men can be furnished with every item of information, but surely when one writes upon a subject involving the prosperity and happiness of millions, it may be reasonably hoped that he would give some attention to the flood of evidence which is opposed to what he says. We do not require, however, to go

across the Atlantic to attest the success of prohibition. We see its success at home. It is of no use for a writer three thousand miles away to tell us of the failure of prohibition unless he wants us to take a quiet laugh at the absurdity of his statements. The common sale of drink is legally prohibited in 150 parishes in Scotland, with 100,000 inhabitants. It is also stopped in a number of interesting villages and in several populous islands round our coasts. Few drinkers complain of this state of things; many of them are glad at heart that they are rid of the places which have injured them. Those who cry out are proprietary monopolists, and others who want to make profit from the traffic in drink.

The other day an Irish Landlord wrote a letter to Mr. Gladstone, stating that where there was least rent paid in Ireland most whisky was drunk; and he urged the illustrious statesman to add to his brilliant catalogue of public services by enacting a prohibitory liquor law to save the country from the burdens entailed upon it by the liquor traffic. This landlord sits in a community of 4500 people in the north of Ireland, free from crime, and where we are told there are no paupers, no policemen, and no publicans. What would James C. Scorgie say about prohibition "not moving the shadow on the dial forward one degree" in this case? If he could be got to open his eyes, he would see that it had moved forward round *all* the dial, and had accomplished what was wanted. I have beside me a cutting from the *Free Press* containing a speech of the Duke of Argyle on prohibition when opening waterworks recently for some of the beautiful rows of houses on the shores of the Clyde. The Duke said "he had been so anxious for the amenity of the burgh, so anxious for the comfort and convenience and quiet of the neighbourhood, that he made it a stipulation, as many others did, that there should be no public-house or whisky shop erected on that shore." Glasgow merchants and gentlemen from different parts of the country, who want to lead a quiet, useful, and happy life, regard it as a privilege to live there beyond the reach of the whisky shop. They know that prohibition will free them from witnessing those scenes which unhappily those communities are subjected to where men are physically and mentally deranged by the public house. As common-sense, practical business men, they have looked into the matter for themselves, and conscious of the security which the shield of prohibition will afford them, they sit content amidst their blooming bowers, and doubtless would smile at the simplicity of this anti-prohibitionist from beyond the sea.—I am, &c.,

Aberdeen.

W. BLACKWOOD.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

ON TRACT CIRCULATION.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I am very highly pleased with the very excellent series of leaflets issued by your association. They are attractive, both in matter and get-up; and besides they are so very cheap, that I think temperance friends all over the country should circulate them by thousands. No better way could be devised for promulgating the important and prominent truths of our glorious movement: and I hold that unless temperance men, whether in an associated capacity, or as individuals, endeavour to spread these truths as opportunity offers, they are not worthy of the great cause they profess to favour. I would suggest, that as there are twelve kinds of these leaflets, a quantity of one of them should be circulated every month throughout the year in the various districts of Scotland. Local societies could have, for a little extra cost, their local announcements printed on the back of them month by month. By such a means societies would not only be accom-

plishing in a measure the object for which they exist—spreading the truths of the temperance reformation—but I am sure they would largely add to their friends and adherents in their various districts. A temperance society must not only exist, it must also *work*, and work wisely and well if the end of its labours is to be attained. For £100 a million of these pithy and pregnant leaflets could be scattered over Scotland, and who could doubt the beneficent effect of such an enterprise. If every one did their duty we would not stop even at a million. Hoping I will not have written this letter in vain—I am, etc.,

GOAL.

DIET AND DRINK.

SIR,—I am sure it will surprise and will be helpful to not a few of your readers to know that the cause of the "crave" for intoxicating liquors is often really due not so much to the weakness of our moral nature as to the unhealthy condition of the body. Doctors who study this special phase of the great question—how to keep our people sober—agree that the terrible "crave" arises from the bowels getting into a slow, sluggish state, that is, the alimentary canal loses the contractile activity so necessary for the passage of the food, and so the "stomach" cries for something strong and irritating sufficient to excite it into action. This little known fact is strongly supported in the following testimony from Dr. Jackson, Danville, New York, who says, after twenty-seven years careful study of the question:—"I have made extensive inquiries (my opportunities having been unusually large) and I never found a man who was in the habit of becoming intoxicated who did not own that he was more or less a glutton, nor have I ever heard of a man who was a drunkard who was careful in his dietetic habits. All historical facts confirm this view. Wherever men drank they feasted gluttonously. There have been under my care not less than a hundred habitual drunkards, some of them with such a strong continued desire that if they could get liquor they would keep drunk all the time, others having periodic turns of drunkenness. Every one of these persons was so far gone as to have lost self-respect, character, and position, and many of them fine estates. In only two instances have I failed to give back good health and sobriety where these individuals have been under my personal management and direction; and of all the agencies that have been brought to bear upon them, save the psychological, none have proved so effective as those of diet and bathing." Drink does not master the will in a day, and if cases personally known to us are but watched, it will soon be found that what we have advanced is clearly borne out as to the very close and intimate connection between diet and drink.

It is vexing to see so many faces bearing on them the melancholy depressed look of the dyspeptic, when with some knowledge of "The human furnace and its fuel," all might enjoy a fair appetite and a good digestion, and so be assisted materially to preserve amid the troubles of life a bright and cheerful countenance.

As the "Scottish Food Reform Society" thus strikes a strong blow at the root of intemperance, we will be glad to assist any Temperance Society by supplying free interesting lectures, essays, and tracts on the subject of diet, digestion, wheat meal bread, &c.—Yours, &c.,

WM. BUCHANAN, Hon. Secy.

10 Carrington, Street, W.,
7th October, 1882.

NEED OF PROMPT ACTION.

To the Editor of the *Social Reformer*.

"Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See the front of battle lower;
See around fell drinkdom's power;
Chains and slavery."

DEAR SIR,—Yes! the battle is at hand in which the temperance cause must do their best to overthrow the thralldom of the drink traffic. The foe is strong, and strongly posted. His entrenchments are well made,

and stoutly defended. He is not, however, invincible. He has many supporters, and many who are ready to fight in behalf of the cause. But "right is might," and greater and more powerful are the forces on the side of justice and truth than all that can be arrayed against them. True, there may be reverses, but time and God on the side of right there can be no fear of what shall be the ultimate result of this great and important struggle.

When the present Government came into power it was promised that, as soon as it could be reached, the liquor question should receive the attention of the Ministry. In 1880, a resolution in favour of local option was carried by a majority of 26, and in the following year the resolution was reaffirmed with the further point that the Government ought to deal with the question as soon as it could, with a majority of 42. Circumstances have hitherto prevented Governmental action, but there are grounds for believing that next session of Parliament will be called on to deal with the license laws in some form or other. A short time ago, a Blue Book was issued with reports from most of our colonies embodying the mode in which this question has been dealt with in these. It is said that reports have been got from various States of the American Union, with accounts of the nature of the legislation in force there, and the results of that legislation. It is also stated that correspondence has been going on with men of mark acquainted with the subject at home. Everything, in fact, seems to indicate that the hour of battle approaches and will soon be upon us. In these circumstances it is of prime importance that our forces be all ready, and our preparations all made, to make a bold, determined, and successful attack on the great ramparts of the fort of liquorism. We know we shall meet with a sturdy and determined resistance, and that the fortress will not be surrendered until every means of defending it has proved unavailing. Every effort must therefore be put forth on the part of the friends of temperance and morality to storm the fort and plant the flag of prohibition on the ramparts, and secure for the people the means of freedom and self-defence.

But, why this cry for action? Have we not had a good majority in the House on two several occasions, and the last a largely-increased majority. Yes, we have had two victories, substantial ones too, but from these very victories it is to be feared that some degree of injury to the cause may follow. The resolution was in favour of local option, but this term is not confined to one point; does not refer to only one mode of dealing with the question. It has been interpreted in various ways. Some who voted for local option have expressed their opinion that it means that when a license is applied for, the majority of the residents living in the neighbourhood may oppose the granting of the license, and it shall not be granted against their wishes: but no provision is made for refusal of renewals on the same grounds. Others have said that they understand by local option that the licensing power shall be put into the hands of Town Councils and County Courts to be elected somehow, but the mode has not yet been made known, on the ground that the Board is one elected by the people. Others, again, define local option as meaning that the licensing shall be put into the hands of a board elected for the special purpose by the ratepayers of burghs and counties or parishes, with all the powers of the present licensing boards. Others, besides supporting a locally-elected board for the special object, would give them the power of dealing with the whole subject, introducing the Gothenburg system or any other plan they may deem most suitable for settling the question for their own particular locality. Various persons who agree to local option would only support that on the plea of granting compensation to the parties deprived of license through local veto. Sir Wilfrid Lawson goes in for, and will be satisfied with nothing less than local veto, pure and simple; and this, what temperance men generally demand, is the smallest measure they can recognise as a present settlement of the question. Now, suppose the members who voted for local option, who interpret it in the various ways we have indicated, decline to

support the local veto clauses, if introduced by the Government, or if not embodied in the draft Bill when proposed as an amendment upon the Bill, there is some fear that the majority may be converted into a minority. This is all the more likely to be the case if the Government do not embody this principle in their Bill, as a score of the supporters of the resolution are members of the Government, and they can scarcely be expected to vote against the Government Bill. In these circumstances the question arises—What is to be done? If the battle comes on and the end be not gained, but only some patching and tinkering of the present system, there is reason to fear that not only will there be disappointment, but that a feeling of despondency will result which may throw the matter back for years. Men may then say, "It is of no use fighting any longer," or "Let us see how the new system will work." The matter lies, not so much in the hands of the Government, or even of the House of Commons, as it lies in the hands of the people. To the people, therefore, the appeal must be made, and the sooner this is done, and the more generally it is made, the more reasonable expectation may be entertained of success. Members are squeezable.

The first thing to be done is to hold large and influential meetings all over the country, in every town and parish if possible, at which the principle aimed at shall be fully and carefully expounded and enforced. At these meetings resolutions should be passed affirming the principle of local veto. These resolutions should be sent to every member in the country whether county or burgh members, to the Premier and the Home-Secretary, to the minister for Scotland and the Lord-Advocate, all of whom should be earnestly pressed to support the plan indicated in the resolutions. This should be followed by a full and complete canvass of the burgh or parish. Petitions should everywhere be got, praying for local veto, not local option as that is ambiguous. Canvassers should each carry three sheets—one to be signed by electors only, the second by heads of houses not electors, and the third by as many as possible of the inhabitants not in these other lists above 16 years of age, male and female; in every case the address to be added to the name, else it is of no use. When this has been fully done the whole of the first sheets should be placed together; next, the second sheets; and after these, the third sheets. The number of signatures under each head should be counted, and when the petition is ready it should be sent to the member for the place, and a note sent to all the members connected with the county requesting their support to the prayer of the petition, and informing them of the number of signatures in each class.

Should it turn out that a majority of the electors sign the petition, it must have a potent influence on the member, who, if wavering in his opinions, will very likely be thereby induced to support the demand of the people. If hostile, it may at least induce him to abstain from voting against, if he cannot see his way to vote for, the local veto. Those who are lukewarm may be rendered more decided. Members who see this expression of feeling will see in it that opposition to, or neglect of, the expressed wishes of their constituents, may place their seats in jeopardy when a new election comes round. At least it will tend materially to open the eyes of members to the public opinion on the matter, and help them to vote aright when the question comes before them in the House.

There can be no doubt that this is a very important matter, and must have a potent influence on the success of the great warfare. It is of prime importance that the views of the people should be clearly and fully set forth in view of the Legislature. The common remark is that it is only a few fanatical abstainers who wish to force every one to be as they are, whereas, it is well known that thousands who are not in this category are as anxious to see local veto in force as are the abstainers themselves; yea, even a large number of men who are the victims of King Alcohol.

Great care must be taken to make the demand of the people unambiguous. The term local option is so; therefore we urge that the term local veto, or local

prohibition, or some expression that cannot be misunderstood, be everywhere and always used, in every resolution and petition. If this plan be fully and energetically carried out, there are good hopes that success will crown the efforts of the friends of temperance in their efforts to secure for the people the power of protecting themselves against the deadliest foe of the country. A word is enough to the wise.

Glasgow, 18th Oct., 1882.

VIGIL.

ON THE WING.

The Home Secretary has expressed his opinion that the temperance question must before long occupy the attention of Parliament.—A safe opinion, Sir William.

We are glad to observe among the list of subjects which form the attractive syllabus of the present winter's course of health lectures organised by the Glasgow Young Men's Christian Association, that "Alcohol and its influence on body and mind," is to be treated by our friend Dr. Neil Carmichael.

Mr. Spurgeon the other day told a meeting of ragged school teachers that society was improving since the days of cock-fighting and bear-baiting and hard drinking, and most of it was owing to Sunday and ragged schools. The publican's trade, he said, was declining, and the end would come as sure as death.

At the Annual Conference of the English Anti-Tobacco Society, held in Manchester last month, resolutions were passed strongly condemning tobacco smoking, calling the attention of Christian people especially to its evils, and urging Blue Ribbon and other temperance organizations to offer the additional safeguard of a pledge against tobacco.

England is evidently in earnest about Sunday closing, and means to have it, even if it be by the more tedious method of piecemeal. Following Cornwall's example, Somerset has set about agitating for a Closing Act for itself. We wonder what county in England will earn the odious notoriety of being the last to fling aside the galling chains that bind it to a liquor Sunday!

We merely quote the following paragraph from the *Morning Advertiser* in order to say how utterly we discredit the opinion it contains—"There cannot be a more wholesome or strengthening meal than the English workman's beef and beer. . . . They have produced the most powerful populace in the world." We hardly think the writer is aware of the existence of the hardy Scotch peasant and his oatmeal diet.

What is known as "The Brewer's Exhibition," was held last month at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and for anything that we know to the contrary, passed off quite satisfactorily. It probably had only one defect, and that was its incompleteness. The various items of plant and machinery were certainly there, all interesting and ingenious no doubt; but the evidences of the terrible havoc which the brewer's business is inflicting in the homes of the people was nowhere visible. A brewer's exhibition to be complete must lay bare the social misery and domestic wretchedness, the individual ruin and national degradation which directly and unceasingly spring from his blighting traffic.

The French used to call us a nation of mere shopkeepers. That dreadful stigma, however, seems in a fair way of being completely removed. The martial spirit is abroad, and has even taken hold of the organizers of recent moral and religious movements. The tendency just now is to multiply movements, and to form them on the model of the army. Hence we have the Salvation Army, the Blue, Green, and Orange Armies; and now the Mizpah Band—a reformed drunkard's society, formed by Mr. Moody when recently in Glasgow—has gone in for military drill and marching. Is there not a danger of playing at soldiers and omitting the weightier matters of the campaign?

A writer in *Truth* lately ventilated his cure for the curse of drunkenness in the following terms:—"A country is sober or the reverse in proportion to the

strength of the liquor in general use. In the wine-drinking districts of France there is hardly any drunkenness; whereas in French towns where, unfortunately, the people are acquiring the habit of drinking heady spirits, drunkenness is gradually becoming more frequent. So again in Germany, wherever, as in Bavaria, German beer is the prevailing beverage, there is no drunkenness, for the very plain reason that German beer increases the flow of animal spirits, but cannot, no matter how much is consumed, produce intoxication. With these facts as our guide, it is clear that if gin palaces were suppressed, and if German beer were to become the national beverage, we should put an end to drunkenness." This is not truth but quackery—nothing but quackery.

J. W. M.

POETRY.

SONNET—IN THE BAY.

DARK is the woodland, and beneath I see
The lighted windows of the quiet town,
The stars with their benignant light shine down
On town and woodland—magic scenery
It seems. The brilliant light of lamps and stars
Mingling together. On the sea so vast
The lamps and stars have their reflection cast,
The light and darkness strive in fitful wars.
Along the placid bay the sea lies deep
In quiet rest, the ocean is asleep,
And the still town that nestles on the shore,
Bathed in the splendour of the moonlight glow,
Seems like a host of spectres couching low
Beside the ocean's vastness evermore.

ANDREW M. LANG.

MARK IV. 35-41.

HE walked upon the shore
With his disciples at the eventide,
And unto them he said, "Let us pass o'er
Unto the other side."

And as they sailed, behold!
A storm arose. The wind a roaring made,
The seething waves in fury round them rolled,
And they were sore afraid.

"Master, arise and save,"
They cry aloud, for he was fast asleep,
"Dost thou not care if we should find a grave
Within the angry deep?"

To aid them he drew near,
Saying, "Ye winds and waters, Peace! Be still!
O ye of little faith! Why didst thou fear
To trust my power and will?"

And lo! the storm was stayed,
And they were filled with wonderment and awe,
"What man is this? One who is thus obeyed
Before we never saw!"

O weary, struggling soul!
Upon life's ocean tossed with doubt and fear,
What matter that the billows round thee roll,
If *Christ* be near!

If he is at the helm,
And in the hollow of his hand doth hold
The angry waves—they cannot overwhelm
When by his power controlled.

Perchance it seems to thee
As though the Master slept, and thou alone
Art left to battle with thy misery,
With many a tear and moan.

Thy faith he needs must prove,
Trust all to him and wait his gracious will,
Thou'rt not forgot, for he afflicts in love,
And whispers, "Peace! Be still!"

Thou'lt reach "the other side,"
Where the fierce waves of trouble all will cease,
The voyage o'er, thy barque shall safely glide
Into the port of peace!

POLA.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

NOVEMBER, 1882.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION'S NEW
YEAR TRACT.

THIS tract bears the significant title of "Turn the Battle to the Gate," and is written by J. L. Selkirk, J.P. It is illustrated by the same artist who has so skilfully illustrated those of previous years. The tract may be had at 10s. per 1000, or 1s. per 100—carriage not paid. Societies may have their name and the night and hour of their meeting printed upon it at an extra charge of 1s. 6d. on orders of not less than 500. On orders of 2000 and upward there will be no charge for heading. If more than 40 words are wanted in heading, will be charged by special agreement. The price post free will be 1s. 5d. per 100. Orders should be sent in without delay as the tract is certain to be in great demand.

The movement for entrusting the people with a veto over the drink traffic marches along. The *Lancet*, which not so many years ago was one of our sturdiest opponents, is now boldly suggesting that the principle of local option should be applied to grocers' licenses; and points out that in Burnley the householders were invited to give expression to their opinion on this particular issue. It is a pity we have not a census of the town, but we now know that 7,776 of its inhabitants went against having any licensed grocers in the town; 508 was all that could be mustered in favour of them, and 387 did not care whether they were licensed or not. Now, what is the use of a licensed grocer? Well, the answer of experience is that their use is to pollute households and corrupt and seduce women into habits of intemperance. We wonder if there is much drinking among the women of Burnley. It looks as if there were when the drug grocers are condemned so sweepingly. The *Lancet* is ready to halt, and won't go to suggest that all traffic should be ostracised. We will be glad if the licensed grocers are cleared out by a veto exercised by the ratepayers. We will suppose they have been swept out of existence. We may ask what then? Why, a most effective blow has been struck at female intemperance, but not at

the intemperance of the town. Men can still frequent the taverns, and children can still go to the "public" for their parents' dinner and supper beer. Women too may transfer their custom to the "Dragon," so that the publicans would have a greater monopoly of drink supply. Indeed, we should not wonder if among the large number who gave their vote against the licensed grocers many a publican would have been found. The supply would not be stopped, its mode would be only changed, and hence we do not sympathise so fully as we desire to do with the *Lancet*, because its policy is limitation not suppression, and because we have no faith in anything effective being done short of the legal destruction of the whole liquor system. Still we hail this suggestion of the *Lancet* as indicative of what we are fast marching onwards to—the abolition of the licensing system in the interests of our country's order, improvement, and progress.

The Bishop of Peterborough has been again hit. At least we think so from the outcry he has made. Not long ago his grace favoured us with his views on freedom and sobriety, and the freedom was without law, and the sobriety without discrimination; but the epigram served the enemies of temperance with a text, and the health of the Bishop became the standing toast in many a tavern parlour. He has joined the colossal Church of England Temperance Society, where temperance means at once moderate drinking and abstinence. In that society the abstemious drinker of liquor must have hard lines for his self-control, while indulging in a glass is evil spoken of. His moderation entitles him to no approval, and his want of the grace of abstinence renders him liable to unsparing censure. The Bishop feels this keenly, and vigorously protests against his being viewed as one of those one or two glass of wine a-day men who are the beacons that lure the drink-stricken to their destruction. But he has no case, for if the liquor is fit for the holy bishop it cannot be wrong for the layman; if the bishop can take it or want it, why not his flock? And if some of the flock in their eagerness to follow their spiritual shepherd cannot stop within the limits of safety, it is no defence for him to say that he can carry his glass without discredit to his constitution or disgrace to his cloth. He is there to allure his flock to heaven and show the way, and if an obstacle to heavenly progress is planted in their way in the shape of seductive liquors—an obstacle having the good Bishop's approval, he is like the pharisee, laying on the pilgrims he has in charge burdens too grievous to be borne, and won't at the same time touch them with his fingers. Moderate drinkers are decidedly those who more than any one cause their brethren to offend. They could not get a class to minister to their drink appetites with profit were it not that a large number of them develop into full-blown drunkards; and publicans and the press also plead for the continuance of the deplorable traffic in strong drink,

not to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the drunkard but the less clamant demands of the moderate drinker. The moderate drinker is a false beacon to the drunkard, and a reason for the existence of the liquor traffic. Is this a position for any Christian, not to speak of his grace of Peterborough, to hold? Nay verily, and we would not for a hundred Sees of Peterborough be in the skin of the Bishop when the Judge of all the earth lays righteousness to the line and judgment to the plummet.

Last month Pollokshaws, a Burgh of Barony, was called to elect a Council, including Bailie and Provost. Great interest was taken in the election. The temperance party took a conspicuous position in the labours involved, and were rewarded with a signal triumph. The publican party were smitten hip and thigh, and the Council Chamber that has known them too long knows their presence no more. The Provost, Dr. Ritchie, is an abstainer, and the majority of his Council are abstainers. It has been a great victory, for in the memory of that antediluvian "the oldest inhabitant," the publican has been constantly at the Council Board. It is said that the Provost is the first total abstainer who has occupied the civic chair. If this be true, all the more glory to the temperance hosts. They are praiseworthy, but Sanquhar has a Council of Provost, Bailies, and Councillors, all abstainers; let Pollokshaws and every other burgh, whether of Police, of Barony, or Regality, or of Parliament, make it their solemn duty to sweep their Councils, their Parochial Boards and their churches of the publican, the distiller, and the brewer, so that it may be impossible to find a vestige of them in any post of honour with which the burghers of Scotland have to do.

Just as we go to press Parliament goes to work. The beginning of this adjourned session was marked by a passage of oratory between the Rupert of the Fourth Party, Lord "Random" Churchill, and the Prime Minister. We admire the courage of the noble lord, but were we permitted to give him advice it would certainly be to let fall his shafts on a more vulnerable crest than that of the old wood-cutter. We envied those that were present at the little mill, for the noble lord certainly met more than his match. We want these procedure rules passed, and our sympathies are therefore with the Government. We want them passed so that the question of a veto for Scotland may have that grave attention and treatment which its importance demands, and if we are fortunate in our venture at this time we shall we hope be freed from the pestilent obstruction to business which has so discredited the House of Commons, and so greatly retarded the redress of grievances which have become intolerable. We hope long before our next issue that the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association may be in a position to communicate to its supporters the news that a member has undertaken to bring in a bill

vesting the prohibition of the liquor traffic in a majority of the ratepayers. May we hope that the receipt of the communication finds them ready to afford such a measure a vigorous support.

Edinburgh is again in the throes of a Parliamentary election. By the retiral of Mr. James Cowan a contest is quite unexpectedly brought on. Notwithstanding that this vacancy might have been easily foreseen, no preparations for it were made by any party, if we except the temperance party. They, however, were on the alert, and it says much in their favour that they have maintained that thorough independence which more than anything else will procure them the respect of all political parties. Their unity at the present crisis is remarkable, and a credit to the leaders of the various sections of the temperance movement in the city. Conscious of their power to influence the election, they met on Saturday, the 21st ult., and after exhaustively deliberating on the prospects of the contest came to the resolution that a question in the following terms should be put to all gentlemen appearing as candidates for the suffrages of the electors:—"In the event of a measure being introduced into Parliament conferring upon a majority of the ratepayers of Scotland the unconditional legal power to prohibit the liquor traffic in their several localities, will you, by your vote and influence, support the same?" And they appointed the Rev. Dr. Adamson, ex-Bailie Lewis, Councillor M'Lauchlan, Messrs. Ramsay, Nisbet, M'Lagan, and Miller, with Mr. Waterston as secretary, as a standing committee to watch events. The deputation have their work before them. They have seen Mr. Renton, whose answers were not quite satisfactory; Mr. M'Laren was frank and straightforward, and would most likely have had their recommendation to the electors but for the fact that the number of candidates entering the field or desiring to be invited as candidates is increasing daily. Mr. Waddy, one of the present Parliamentary members for Sheffield; Mr. John Morley, the distinguished journalist; Mr. S. Buxton; Mr. Duncan M'Laren, formerly M.P. for the city; Sir U. K. Shuttleworth, and others, have all expressed their willingness to place their services at the disposal of the electors. In any event we are confident the seat is safe for an advanced temperance reformer. The committee representing the interests of the temperance electors are too experienced and too vigilant, besides having too formidable support from the leading citizens, to allow of the election of one who is not prepared to support the passage of a bill entrusting the ratepayers with a suppressive veto over the traffic that injuriously affects them. Our regret is that we are constrained to go to press before the issue of the writ, the selection of a candidate, or what we would have rejoiced in, before joining in the congratulations which will be offered to the temperance party on the triumphant issue of their labours.

Our quizzical contemporary "*Quiz*" strayed on the wrong tack the other day when it took up cudgels in defence of the Glasgow billiard room keepers. Here is its plea—these people are poor, the trade is poor, and their hope at best is for a poor living. Shut the doors at eleven at night and you ruin them; and close the only available place of resort after that hour. Now we cannot allow such a plea to pass without some question. These billiard rooms are the resort of gamblers incipient and full blown. They harbour the idler, the devil's easiest prey, and the sharper, the devil's best decoy. They offer at first a pleasing excitement, and seemingly invite to a game of skill, but emulation and avarice join their forces, and the frequenters, almost always, become ensnared. The pleasure becomes a passion, the passion uncontrollable. Liquor adds its fatal fire to the excitement, and night is longed for that the passion may be gratified. The once promising youth becomes careless at business, heartless at home. Masters have to find fault, mothers and wives have to endure all the agonies of late hours and the dread of deepening dissipation. There are numbers expiating in misery at home or on foreign strands the follies of the billiard saloons, and the evil has become so marked and so intolerable that the attention of the authorities has been called to the matter. They have resolved that the billiard saloon keepers of the city shall be licensed—surely *Quiz* cannot object to a respectable man rather than an adventurer—that the hours of such places shall be from eight a.m. to eleven p.m. It may be all very well for *Quiz* to stand up for the interest of the keepers of these questionable places because he never plays at public billiard tables, and because he is not the victim of the gambler's fever; but the Act is not made for him or such as him. It is made in the interests of the wives, the families, the parents, and relatives of those youths and men extremely susceptible of excitement without that self-directive power so needful to stop short within due limits of its gratification, and while the billiard saloon keeper chooses to earn his crust in a course so questionable, we are glad that the law is to declare that he shall not profit by affording unlimited opportunities to the weak and vicious for the indulgence of the fearful passion for gaming which he without doubt creates and fosters.

Another staunch friend of the temperance cause in Parliament has been obliged to relinquish his seat in Parliament, Mr. James Cowan, the senior Member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh. This gentleman has sat for the Scottish capital since 1874. He unseated Mr. John Miller of Leithen, a tried friend, and on the first division after his entrance into Parliament he reversed Mr. Miller's vote, by giving his own to the enemy. In 1875, however, he changed sides, and since then on every division he has voted steadily with Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Had the House divided during the present year the hon. baronet would have been de-

prived of the pleasure of his support through the illness that has deprived Edinburgh of his valuable services. We have our best wishes for him in his retirement, where away from the excitement and turmoil of a parliamentary life, he will speedily regain in a great measure his usual health and vigour, and enjoy a well earned rest from the anxieties and duties of public life.

It is astonishing to what an extent people are the slaves of habit and custom with regard to the purchase and consumption of strong drink, and how fixed is the idea that such habit and custom are like the Median and Persian law—unalterable. Their conduct in this most important matter is in direct contrast to their conduct in other walks of life. In the latter case, how eagerly do we find the telephone, gas-cooking, and similar marks of improvement, adopted, but when we propose to alter the circumstances of the drinker, so as to afford free play for his better nature, a hundred objections to such a palpable benefit leap from the mind, to arrest the sympathies and chill the first faint indications of co-operation on the part of those to whom we appeal on the drink slave's behalf. Knowledge comes, but truly wisdom lingers. Yet when Sir Garnet Wolseley, by his last order before the attack of Tel-el-Kebir, asked his soldiers to fill their bottles with tea instead of rum, we see how admirable is his wisdom, and we cheerfully attribute a great deal of the success of the storming of that place to the sobriety enjoined upon the British troops. The great lesson is learned for all time, that the might that slumbers in the arm of our gallant soldiers, sailors, and marines, so far from being diminished by abstinence is increased. If a soldier in the tented field is benefited by the want of liquor, how much more those who live at home—the producers and the merchants of the world. They can produce, they do buy and sell better by being really sober, than by a process of "pegging up," blunting their skill, and acumen, and resolution. Once realise this truth, and the habit and custom dies.

Since its recent annual meeting the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has, in consonance with the third resolution then adopted, been prosecuting the agitation with unabated vigour. All connected with it are working hard to indoctrinate the people they have met face to face with the imperative necessity of supporting the demand they have made to Parliament for the redress of the wrongs being inflicted by the liquor traffic on their suffering countrymen and women. The Government of the day is quite well aware that such a demand finds favour in Scotland, but they may resort to the device of asking proof of that, and it will depend upon the proof afforded by the people whether they will see their way or not to grant the reasonable power to protect themselves which the people of Scotland claim. To urge the constituencies to be

ready to meet this demand for national unanimity in favour of a veto, the Executive are making every effort to bring their policy before the country, and rejoice at their progress and success. Mr. Waterston has been giving the blue ribbon mission in Edinburgh his valuable assistance, and besides has been, in conjunction with his directors and the Temperance Electoral Committee, engaged in the contest for the representation of the city of Edinburgh. Mr. Blackwood has been visiting the north-eastern fishing villages, and never in his experience has he met with a heartier reception anywhere than from these simple-minded, God-fearing fisher people. Mr. Bennet has had a vigorous campaign in his district, where for three weeks he has had the invaluable assistance of Mr. John Paton. Mr. Stevenson has been busily engaged during the month, and is preparing for a month's vigorous effort in Glasgow. Numerous calls have been made on members of the Executive, and meetings have been addressed by ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, ex-Provost Dick, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Dr. Cameron, Messrs. M'Callum, Steel, Winning, Mackay, and others. When at length the decisive struggle in Parliament for a Scotch suppressive veto begins the Executive shall have the satisfaction of believing that no means within their compass has been spared to enlighten the country on their principles and policy, and that they may rely with confidence on the support of a community which has ever responded with enthusiasm to their impeachment of the liquor traffic, and greeted their proposal for its suppression with reiterated acclamations.

Mr. John Paton is at present labouring in Scotland, where he will be until 8th December. He will visit New Cumnock, Castle Douglas, Glasgow, Galston, Kilmarnock, Mauchline, Kilbarchan, Maybole, Beith, Dalry, Coatbridge, Kilsyth, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Pollokshaws, and Paisley. In many places he will give a series of lectures; in Paisley he is to be a whole week.

The Duke of Westminster, in one week of the last month, refused to renew the licenses of seven public-houses on his Grace's estates in the neighbourhood of St. George's, Hanover Square, and one public-house in Robert Street, Grosvenor Square, whose lease had expired, was handed over to the incumbent of Hanover Church, to be made into a Club-room, Mission Hall, or some such place, for the benefit of the poor. His Grace's coronet will derive its noblest lustre from such praiseworthy deeds as these.

A BEAM IN THE EYE.

REV. S. HARDING, GLASGOW.

WHAT a lesson the Zulu King taught the deputation from the National Temperance League the other day, who waited upon him to urge him to discourage the use of intoxicating liquors among his people. To the astonishment of the gentlemen forming the

deputation, they were informed that there was an order or proclamation issued by him, that spirits should not be allowed to enter his country, and the proclamation would certainly be renewed on his return. "I think, however," added Cetewayo, "that the right place to shut the door is the side from which the spirits are to come. It is no good shutting the door on my side, for I have no distilleries, and I think the proper way would be for you to tell the Government to assist my placing restrictions upon the introduction of spirituous liquors into my country, because border people may transgress and disregard the law without my knowledge. Really the proper place of restriction is at the boundary of my territory."

The foregoing noble utterance does credit to the head and heart of the African monarch, and contains in it the application of the truth taught by the world's great Reformer, "First cast out the beam of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

What a humiliating spectacle! An untutored savage teaching Christian philanthropists the first principles of all social, political, and spiritual reform. Beginning at home. Physician heal thyself.

The question of suppressing intemperance has forced itself upon all ranks and conditions of society, and in every direction we hear drunkenness denounced as the crying sin of the age.

The Church has become alarmed, and in her anxiety and zeal to arrest this mighty evil, has instituted temperance societies, formed Bands of Hope, Blue Ribbon Unions, hoping thereby to counteract this terrible evil, forgetting that these agencies only deal with the outposts of the enemy, while they leave the strongholds of the liquor traffic untouched.

From many pulpits drunkenness is denounced as a fearful sin, and yet in the same churches the drunkard maker is admitted a member, and in many cases appointed an office-bearer. Public-houses are exhibited as places of immorality, and yet there are churches in our midst erected by the liquor traffickers themselves, from the blood-money wrung out of the victims of the traffic. Total abstinence is enjoined upon the individual, and the heads of families are urged to banish the intoxicating cup from their own table, and yet the Church places upon the Lord's Table "the mocker," as an emblem of the blood of him who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Strange procedure! Amazing inconsistency! While Christians hang down their heads with shame at such an unholy alliance, outsiders sneeringly exclaim, "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye (the Church), and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote (the lesser thing) out of thy brother's eye."

Magistrates must be labouring under a strange delusion, which can only be accounted for by supposing that they have a beam in the eye, or they would see clearly that so long as they grant licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors so long will the people get intoxicated, and the police courts be filled with the victims of intemperance. Fines, imprisonments, extra police, suitable houses and respectable publicans cannot control the traffic, the evil is in the drink, and nothing but its annihilation can cause its terrible consequences to cease. This truth was clearly put to the magistrates not long since by a tramp who had been arrested for disorderly conduct, combined with assault and battery, while under the influence of drink. On his way to the cell, he shouted, "You have arrested the wrong fellow; when I'm sober, my heart is good, when I'm drunk, I'm full of the devil, arrest drink and let me go free." He was right, and unless our

magistrates are purblind, or interested in the traffic, they would see that the only way to cure drunkenness as far as they are concerned, is to remove the temptations to drink out of the way of the people. Philanthropists to a very large extent are expending their energies and means in healing the wounds of suffering humanity, instead of enquiring into the cause or seeking their removal. Unless for a beam in the eye they would see clearly that the prolific source of poverty, crime, and depravity which exists is drink and that it is only wasting time to improve a miasma, the only radical cure being its removal. Members of Parliament who are loud in their denunciation of the liquor traffic, and yet vote in opposition to temperance reformers, surely cannot see the anomalous position in which they stand. Unless there was a beam in the eye of one of the greatest living statesmen, he never would have uttered the following, "The evils of the liquor traffic are far greater than the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine," and when the time came in Parliament for the passing of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution, giving the people power to prohibit the liquor traffic in their own localities, he gave his vote against them. Citizens of every shade of politics would discover, if the beam was taken out of their eye that they have been labouring under a strong infatuation by putting party before principles, and measures before men, the welfare of a class before the welfare of the entire community. That party only deserves well of its country which is actuated by the principles of righteousness, truth, justice, the welfare of the people, and the honour and glory of God. Temperance men would also benefit largely by undergoing the operation of having the beam extracted from their eyes, they would then see clearly that a portion of the community, with vested interests, are not likely to be influenced by moral suasion, and that nothing less than the legislative enactment of a law by which the people, who have to bear the burdens and pay the taxes occasioned by the liquor traffic shall have the power to veto that traffic when a majority so desire and determine, will finally root out that system of iniquity.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.

THE Twenty-ninth Annual Meetings of this great political organization were held in Manchester last month, and were eminently successful. The first of the series was a breakfast. The guests filled the great area of the Free Trade Hall. At this meeting the only utterances are the grace before meat and the audible appointment of a committee to arrange business for the Council meeting. We were glad to see that ex-Bailie Torrens' name was the first submitted to the meeting. The Council assembled in the Friends' Meeting House at ten o'clock, by which hour there was a large and enthusiastic gathering of friends from all parts of England, Ireland, and Wales, besides a number from Scotland. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., accompanied by members of the Council Committee, influential friends, members of Executive, and the officials of the Alliance, entered amid a vigorous and protracted outburst of enthusiasm. Sir Wilfrid looked remarkably well, and Mr. Barker, the Secretary, who had been constrained by overwork to go abroad in search of health, was there, apparently quite recovered from his illness. After an interval for silent prayer, the Chairman rose amid loud cheers to address the Council, and did so in a speech marked by all the excellencies which characterize his public addresses. He gave an admirable summary of the situation. While we were humiliated at having accomplished so little, yet we had made progress notwithstanding the formidable obstacles

with which we have had to contend. The movement was now respectable—medical men are ranging themselves on our side. The great organizations—Blue Ribbon Associations, Salvation Armies, and good men of all sorts had this cardinal point in their creed—down with the liquor traffic. Judges are more emphatically condemning the traffic. Everybody seems to rejoice that the expenditure on drink is lessening so much. The publicans are frightened out of their wits. Wales has got her Sunday Closing Bill—Cornwall will get it—all these measures are in our direction. Lancashire is ready, Yorkshire is ready, and Cumberland, where I come from, is I think ready. You see when Parliament give Local Option for Sunday they are just granting us what we wish. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I just give you these things to encourage you. Then I look forward also with some hope to what we are going to do next session. You know we are to get Parliament into working order, going to clean our boilers, and oil our machinery, and set everything right. In view of the future then, your main duty is to make your voice heard above all the other demands for reform, so that the Government shall attend to our question, and that without delay.—(Loud cheers.)—The annual report was as usual an able and comprehensive report. In it there are many important references to Scotland, first to Lord Colin Campbell's Licensing Amendment Bill which it characterizes as undoubtedly a very suggestive attempt to deal with the evils of the licensing system of Scotland in the interests of temperance and social progress; and the Alliance took "the attitude of watchful and sympathetic observation," believing that the bill was simply a pilot balloon; second, to the Sunday Steamers Bars Closure Law, now happily in operation; third, to the Haddington Burghs bye-election; to the fortieth Conference of the Evangelical Union, where recognition is made of the importance of imparting a sound Temperance education to the young; and to admit none to membership of the Union unless they are abstainers; and to the Grangemouth appeal case. The following paragraph is under the general operations of the Alliance, and speaks for itself—

The movement in Scotland under the direction of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association continues to exhibit solid and satisfactory progress. During the year a vigorous agitation has been maintained by public demonstrations, which have met with an increasing amount of public sympathy and favour. Conferences, followed by public meetings, have been a conspicuous feature of the work of the year. They have been uniformly successful, and have shown that the temperance party are unanimous upon the imperative necessity for special liquor legislation for Scotland, and also that any action in Parliament having this for its object may depend upon a wide-spread and hearty public support. The various ecclesiastical bodies in Scotland are becoming more decided in their approval of legislative action against the licensing system. The Free Church Assembly and United Presbyterian Synod have petitioned in favour of Local Option legislation for Scotland. During the year the executive organised a deputation to the Earl of Rosebery, and presented a statement on the position of the movement in the country and in Parliament, which evidently impressed his lordship, who agreed to lay the subject before the Government. In furtherance of this object another deputation had a very satisfactory interview with the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor-General for Scotland in London. The movement in Scotland is in a most hopeful condition.

The financial statement showed an income of £12,946 10s. 10d. from subscriptions, £3,874 7s. for *Alliance News*, and £511 8s. 10d. miscellaneous, being a total of £19,034 19s. 2d., leaving a balance of £1,556 16s. 1d. to carry over. The reports were adopted on the motion of Rev. Dr. M'Fadyen in a speech of great power, followed by an excellent one by Councillor Altham, Burnley. Bailie Torrens in moving the election of office-bearers said—It was very pleasant for him to look upon the scene of that morning. He could look a considerable way back on this movement, when there was no such organization in existence. He

remembered very well the early stages of the movement, when they had something to contend for. Now it was quite an easy matter. They had only to say they were teetotalers, and nobody objected to their being so. (Applause.) The day was when a teetotaler was a fool. He remembered very well about 45 years ago, at the early stages of the movement, when a company of gents was standing in the square, and as he passed, "That poor fellow," said one of them "has a slate off." (Much laughter.) Notwithstanding all the cruel things that were said about Sir Wilfrid Lawson, did anybody ever think he had a slate off? (Laughter.) It was very different days now. The working men of the country were beginning to see and feel the value of this great movement, and when the working men discovered that it was for their benefit they would exercise a power which no Government in the country would be able to resist. He did not exactly approve of some of the measures which had been suggested, such as licensing boards. He could not see anything in that. He had been too long a borough magistrate in a licensing court not to know what licensing boards would do. (Hear, hear.) Let the whole thing be handed over to the people. (Loud cheers.) Let them neither have borough magistrates nor licensing boards to do anything with regard to licenses. He did not exactly understand the mode of action in England regarding licensing courts; but he could tell them that one of the years that he was a senior magistrate they refused renewals and new applications to the number of thirty. Then there was an appeal to the justices, who, good gentlemen, came from all parts of the country, and knew no more about the city of Glasgow than if they had never been in it, and did not understand the evils that followed from the conducting of this business, and who granted the thirty licenses over the heads of the magistrates. (Shame.) This had been done away with to a great extent. Dr. Cameron's was a good bill, which provided that where magistrates refused a new applicant it was final, and there was no appeal against it; but if they refused a renewal they could still appeal from it. Dr. Cameron got another bill passed, that intoxicating liquors could not now be sold on those steamboats that plied for hire on the river on Sabbath day. The Lord Advocate gained the credit of this bill, but Sir Wilfrid Lawson would know as well as any man that it was Dr. Cameron's bill. They were moving on, but move on they must. (Hear, hear.) He could not see for the life of him how any reasonable man could reject their Local Option proposition. It was as simple as simplicity could make anything. If they did not want the public-house why did they put it there? If they did want it, the public-house would be there. If he was a publican he would like very much to be put under this regulation; he should be the most free man in the neighbourhood when he got his license, because the population had said, "you ought to have a place for the consumption of liquor;" he would be perfectly independent because it was the appointment of the people, and not the appointment of any single justice or individual. Therefore, give them Local Option, and see how it would work. The Sabbath in Scotland was a very different thing from what it used to be a good many years ago, and he attributed that very much to the closing of public-houses on the Sabbath day. He was glad to see such a revival as the Blue Ribbon and Salvation Armies. To every one we said, "Come along, boys, and do what you possibly can." (Cheers and laughter.) When men began to enjoy the pleasures brought about by the abandonment of drink, they would be the first to remove those places altogether and not bring themselves again into this infernal temptation. (Cheers.) All those different associations were contributing to the grand work by which Great Britain, not merely England, was to be cleared of this terrible curse, and the condition of the people to be ameliorated, and every good object and desire promoted, and if this were successfully done, they would not be able in a short time to know themselves. (Cheers.)

The liveliest possible discussion at an Alliance meeting within our remembrance was that on the speech of

Mr. Alex. Balfour, Liverpool, who wanted licensing boards to control the traffic while fully believing in the sweeping power of prohibition. His speech was followed by Rev. Mr. Lundie, whose experience of the licensing bench only led him to perfect its functions somewhat, giving it functions of regulation, diminution, and extinction. He expressly wished licensing boards, as if we only centred our demand on total prohibition he feared they would have to wait a long time. Both speeches were out of harmony with the sentiments of the Council. The Chairman called upon Mr. Raper to speak, and he did so with effect, his vigorous advocacy of the demand for veto powers being vested in the rate-payers met with loud approbation. Mr. Kempster of London, followed in one of the most trenchant denunciations of a lesser policy we ever heard, and was cheered again and again. Mayor Whittaker following in the same elevated strain, and fairly prostrated the licensing board proposal. Excellent speeches from Mr. Pope, Mr. Thomkinson (in proposing the Council's memorial to the Prime Minister), Dr. F. R. Lees, and other gentlemen kept the audience in the most pleasurable excitement till at four o'clock a hearty vote of thanks to the president, accompanied by three cheers, brought the protracted proceedings to a close.

The evening meeting was an exceedingly gratifying demonstration in every respect. Long before the proceedings began the spacious hall was crowded, about four thousand paying for their seats. As the noble Chairman and speakers filed on to the platform the outburst of cheers and waving of hats made up a most striking scene. The chairman made a most excellent speech, and then Sir Wilfrid spoke. His address deserves a first place among all those that he has delivered, and their name is legion. The audience fairly gave themselves up to the power of the speaker, and bestowed unstinted applause upon him. The speaking was worthy of the occasion, but the speech of the Rev. Dr. Wyllie, Coleraine, next after that of Sir Wilfrid's, was the one which met with the greatest favour. It was a grand speech: less could not with any show of justice be said. There was an overflow meeting which ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., was invited to attend. The worthy magistrate was, as soon as he appeared, invited to the chair, which Mr. Watson, of Rochdale, had to vacate, and did its duties with dignity and wisdom. The speakers at this meeting included Rev. Thomas Hullon, Messrs. J. H. Raper, H. Hibbert, Robert Mackay, Glasgow, and James Whyte. In winding up the proceedings the Chairman met with an enthusiastic reception, which was continued on Mr. Bingham submitting a motion awarding him a vote of thanks.

At the Baptist Union autumnal meeting at Liverpool last month, the Rev. W. Stott, London, seconded by Rev. Mr. Anderson, Liverpool, moved "that grocers' licenses for selling intoxicating liquors are adverse to temperance in our land." The motion was first discussed and then adopted.

DENNY.—A public meeting was held in the Odd-fellows Hall, on Thursday, 19th ult., in connection with the Gospel Temperance Union. Councillor Hunter presided, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the hall was filled. Mr. J. H. Waterston delivered a very stirring address and there was a choir in attendance which discoursed excellent music. At the close a considerable number signed the pledge and donned the blue ribbon.—*Daily Review*.

THE BLUE RIBBON IN KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Mr. A. Bennet, the agent for the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Temperance Union, delivered a lecture on temperance, and described the rise and progress of the Blue Ribbon movement, in the Mackenzie Hall, here, on Thursday evening, 5th ult. Councillor Rogerson occupied the chair. There was a fair attendance at the lecture, and Mr. M'Ewan, Kirkcudbright, has consented to receive the names of intending abstainers.—*Dumfries and Galloway Standard*.—[Mr. A. Bennet is the southern district agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.—*Ed. S. R.*]

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.—On Sabbath evening last, 1st ult., under the auspices of the "Pride of the Forth" Good Templar lodge, Mr. William Blackwood, Aberdeen (late of Alloa), delivered a temperance sermon in the New Church, Greenfield Place. There was a large attendance, and Mr. Blackwood with his usual fervour and eloquence handled the Temperance question in a way that is seldom equalled in Alloa.—*Alloa Advertiser.*

TEMPERANCE IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.—Under commission of Mr. Joseph Malins of Birmingham, Mr. L. Balle, G.W.C.T., of the Flourishing Grand Lodge of Norway, has just visited Denmark, organised additional subordinate Lodges and established for them a Grand Lodge of Denmark. This was done at Copenhagen on August 28th, and Mr. W. H. Selmer of Copenhagen was elected G.W.C.T. Mr. Balle was very ably assisted by Captain Reynolds, S.D., Norway. The Rev. E. Garland, of Manchester, has also been visiting the Good Templars of Sweden. He finds 22 Lodges working in the capital—Stockholm—with a membership of 11,000 under a Grand Lodge of Sweden, instituted by Mr. Malins about two years ago.

MILNGAVIE TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—The second fortnightly meeting for the season of the above society was held in the West End Hall on the evening of Thursday, 12th inst. Mr. John Adams in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Rev. William Young, honorary president, and also by Mr. John Sinclair, who became a member of the society when it was first instituted in the spring of 1830 and has ever since remained devotedly attached to its principles. A few words were also spoken by Miss Mitchell, who joined the society about the same time and is still well known as one of the most active temperance workers in the district. The attendance and the interest exhibited afford the hope that good work will be done in the district during the winter.

American Medical Association adopted the following resolutions:—1st, "Resolved, that in view of the alarming prevalence and ill effects of intemperance with which none are so familiar as the medical profession, and which has called forth from eminent British physicians the voice of warning to the people of Great Britain concerning the use of alcoholic beverages, we, the undersigned, members of the medical profession of the United States, unite in the declaration that we believe alcohol should be classed with other powerful drugs, that when prescribed medicinally it should be done with conscientious caution and a sense of great responsibility. 2nd, Resolved, that we are of the opinion that the use of alcoholic liquors, as a beverage, is productive of a large amount of physical and mental disease; that it entails diseased appetites and enfeebled constitutions upon offspring, and that it is the cause of a large percentage of the crime and pauperism of our cities and country."—*Our Union.*

EDINBURGH—THE MURPHY MEETINGS.—Mr. Murphy has now been in this city for three weeks and during that time has been in various halls. From the commencement of his meetings all have been crowded and sometimes two meetings in one night. He has had the able support of our leading men—Rev. Principal Cairns, Rev. Principal Rainy, Revs. Dr. Adamson, Kay, and Wilson, Ex-Bailie Lewis, Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Cunningham, &c., besides a number of our warm friends as well as members of the Executive, and Mr. Waterston, the district superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, have rendered great assistance at the meetings. The proceedings have evoked great enthusiasm. Mrs. Richards, Mr. Murphy's daughter, and a beautiful singer, has been of great assistance and is a general favourite. Mr. Murphy, the central figure in this upheaval, in his speaking is simplicity itself. He is of a very lovable disposition and has a wonderful power over his audiences. On several occasions he has come boldly out on prohibition, and intimated that his great desire is to create public sentiment in favour of the ratepayers having the power to prohibit the liquor traffic, and the night previous to the meeting of the temperance party

to declare their attitude to all candidates for the representation of the city; he referred to the Parliamentary contest and urged all to unite in aiding us to get the right man returned. The local advocates of the temperance question in the city have also come out at his meetings nobly on the prohibition question, and the mission has been, in consequence of its prohibitory aspect, a great success. Certainly there never has been greater in the permissive prohibitory movement here than on this occasion. During the three weeks now gone, 7,000 have signed the pledge and over 13,000 have donned the blue ribbon. The hand of the Lord seems really in the work, and he is signally blessing the city not merely in advancing the great temperance and prohibitory movement but above and beyond that is making it the means of salvation to many souls.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 16th July to 14th October, 1882, inclusive. During that period 323 meetings were held, 143 being deputational, and 180 ordinary. At these meetings 483 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Paisley, Alloa, Tillycultry, Hamilton, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Port-Glasgow, Greenock, Saltcoats, Stevenston, Ardrossan, Strathaven, Stonehouse, Coatbridge, Motherwell, Larkhall, Carlisle, Lanark, Biggar, Pollokshaws, Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Addiewell, West Calder, Beith, Gateside, and Partick, and addressed 73 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Gordon, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, Peebles, Edinburgh, Forres, Nairn, Elgin, Lossiemouth, Inverness, Fort-William, Largo, Portobello, Nenthorn, Penicuik, Dalkeith, Tranent, Avonbridge, Bo'ness, Culter, Kettle, Pitlossie, Falkland, Ceres, West Calder, Glasgow, Addiewell, Dunbar, Leslie, and Leith, and addressed 71 meetings.

Mr. Andrew Bennet has visited Langholm, Dumfries, Eaglesfield, Ruthwell, Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Saltcoats, Galston, Greenock, Dalbeattie, Strathaven, Coatbridge, Motherwell, Larkhall, Carlisle, Lanark, Biggar, Newton-Stewart, Maxwellton, Sanquhar, Holywood, Castle-Douglas, and Kirkcudbright, and addressed 62 meetings.

Mr. William Blackwood has visited Forres, Macduff, Nairn, Elgin, Lossiemouth, Inverness, Fort-William, Ellon, Aberdeen, Keith, Huntly, Fraserburgh, Grantown, Dufftown, Aberlour, Buckie, Cullen, Gourdon, Tillycultry, Glasgow, and Alloa, and addressed 55 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Paisley, Glasgow, Alloa, Pollokshaws, New Cumnock, Saltcoats, Greenock, Galston, Ardrossan, Kilbarchan, Hamilton, Stonehouse, Coatbridge, Bonhill, Airdrie, and Aitkenhead, and addressed 39 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Old Cumnock, Kilmarnock, Stevenston, Denny, Glasgow, Greenock, Kilwinning, Pollokshaws, Lochgoilhead, Dumfries, Broxburn, and Peebles, and addressed 20 meetings.

Bailie Selkirk, J.P., has visited Lochgoilhead, Glasgow, Alexandria, and Greenock, and addressed 17 meetings.

Mr. William Kesson has visited Glasgow, Paisley, Pollokshaws, Bonhill, Greenock, Kilbarchan, Kilwinning, Hamilton, and Govan, and addressed 17 meetings.

Rev. S. Harding has visited Paisley, Glasgow, Saltcoats, Dalry, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, Bonhill, and Airdrie, and addressed 14 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has addressed 9 meetings in Dumfries, Maxwellton, Castle-Douglas, and Dalbeattie.

Mr. James Winning has addressed 6 meetings in Dalry, Paisley, Mearns, Glasgow, and Lochgoilhead.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 5 meetings in Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, Peebles, and Edinburgh.

Rev. J. Strachan has addressed 4 meetings in Dumfries.

Ex-Provost Dick has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow.

Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 3 meetings in Lochgoilhead, Glasgow, and Falkirk.

Mr. J. H. Raper has addressed 3 meetings in Greenock, and Glasgow.

Captain Brochie has addressed 3 meetings in Greenock, Glasgow, and Falkirk.

Rev. Dr. Adamson has addressed 2 meetings in Elgin, and Glasgow.

Rev. John M'Queen has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Rev. J. M'Dermott has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Rev. A. Davidson has addressed 2 meetings in Greenock, and Glasgow.

A. Brown, Esq., J.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

John Wilson, Esq., J.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

James Hamilton, J.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Dr. M. Cameron has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow, and Kilsyth.

Mr. D. Ramsay has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh, and Dalkeith.

Mr. R. Risk has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Miss Johnston has addressed a meeting in Maxwellton.

Mrs. Robertson has addressed a meeting in Glasgow.

Mrs. Helen Kirk has addressed a meeting in Glasgow.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—C. H. Meldon, Esq. Q.C., M.P., Glasgow; Dr. Cameron, M.P., Glasgow; Rev. Dr. Hutton, Paisley; W. Harrison, Edinburgh; R. Primrose, Glasgow; O. Dryer, Sanquhar; P. Thomson, Greenock; J. Kirk, jun., Glasgow; James Paton, Glasgow; G. Gladstone, Glasgow; E. J. Boon, Glasgow; J. D. Grant, West Calder; D. Taylor, West Calder; P. M'Laren, West Calder; M. Dickson, Leith; J. Dickson, Leith; and J. P. Clark, Leith; Provost Macpherson, Glasgow; Ex-Bailie Lewis, J. P., Dumfries; Councillors Lang, Greenock, and Russell, Perth; J. Williams, Esq., J.P., Glasgow; Messrs. John Steel, Dalkeith; T. Barclay, Glasgow; R. M'Callum, Glasgow; J. C. M'Donald, Saltcoats; J. Butters, Edinburgh; M. Edwards, Aberdeen; H. Hobekirk, Glasgow; A. Williamson, West Calder; James Paul, Elgin; M'Pherson, Elgin; J. Carson, Maxwellton; J. Miller, Glasgow; J. Morris, Glasgow; J. Conchar, Glasgow; W. Hart, Glasgow; W. W. Hunter, Glasgow; R. Simpson, Glasgow; R. Semple, Glasgow; J. Stewart, Glasgow; Jas. M'Adam, Glasgow; J. M'Dermid, Glasgow; J. Jamieson, Glasgow; J. Jeffrey, Glasgow; R. Miller, Glasgow; H. Wyatt, Glasgow; J. Ronald, Glasgow; D. Fortune, Glasgow; A. M'Dougall, Glasgow; J. Stark, Dumfries; J. Copeland, Glasgow; J. Hume, Dumfries; C. Thomson, Dumfries; W. May, Maxwellton, and H. Chalmers, Glasgow.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Crusade. Devoted to the Promotion of the great Temperance Reform. July and August, 1882. Offices, New Bridge Street, Ludgate Circus, London, E.E. One penny monthly. This magazine is worthy of a foremost place among our monthly temperance journals. Well printed, liberally filled with freshly gathered matter, abreast of the latest discoveries in alcohols and their results, it will be found worthy of the patronage of the thoughtful temperance reformer, to whom it will, after the perusal of a few numbers, become indispensable. We always welcome it with pleasure.

My Neighbours' Windows. By Emilie Searchfield. London: T. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. This very handsome volume contains five stories whom pensiveness has clearly marked for her own. They all point a moral very often neglected in these days. The

first warns us against waiting till mother dies for marital bliss—the second against false lovers and consequent marriages with other mates that we do not really love—the third against slackness in wooing and the flimsy romantic in love—the fourth against insincerity in sisters where the lover loves the one sister and is loved by the other, and submitting to a woman's indecision—and the fifth that all our love may come to nought, even when deserved, but that that need be no calamity. It is a great treat to see as you read how all these ideas are gradually wrought out. If one is sad here he may learn that others are equally sad through love, and embrace the consolation—if one is happy here, he can as in a mirror contrast one's felicity with that of those characters Emilie Searchfield brings before the reader, and rejoice. To our mind the love of a lifetime is the best of the whole, but we cordially recommend this new fruit of the author's experienced and elegant writing to all who prefer a story to the elaborated three volume novel.

The present position of the Communion Wine Question.—By John Hope. Edinburgh: British League Office. Bearing this title we have three distinct tracts under one cover, all however dealing with the communion wine question. The first of these gives a resume of progress and present state of the question, suggests special communion services as a remedy for the persistent refusal of supplying unfermented wine at the communion, supplies a summary of the latest Assembly decisions upon the question, and gives suggestions for the future. The second tract deals with the "Heredity of alcohol" and gives in full Dr. Norman Kerr's paper on that subject which was read at the International Congress for the study of alcoholism held in August, 1880, at Brussels. The third tract treats of how best to preserve the peace of the church on the unfermented wine question, which it illustrates by lengthy reference to the debate in the U.P. Presbytery of Glasgow on the Kent Road case. Taken as a whole, the publication before us is remarkable for clearness of statement, fullness of detail, and fervour of utterance. Those, who, like ourselves, fully sympathise with this important, and, we shall add, triumphing movement, will find in Mr. Hope's tracts excellent suggestions as to the best means for securing the ultimate triumph of their opinions in the various churches of our land; and those who at present occupy the unfortunate position of being opposed or indifferent to the movement will find in those pages abundant argument why they should alter their present attitude towards it.

Curious Notions, etc.—Belfast: Allan and Johnston. Probably a more appropriate title for this readable little work, would have been "Anti-humbug notions;" for certainly anti-humbug is the prominent characteristic of every paragraph it contains. The writer is possessed of considerable humour, good sense, and forcible expression. These notions jotted down at odd times are throughout unmerciful attacks and scornful delineations of drinking, smoking, gluttony, workman's strikes and laziness, luxurious living, extravagant dressing, and other manifestations of human depravity. Here is how our author writes of the general disjointedness of things:—"Let us now set about doing something—putting wrongs to right; let us get rid of unnecessary curses, sweeping them away as dirt; let us act like reasonable beings; let us practise more common-sense and honesty in all our industries and trade; let competent men be put forward to guide public opinion and the State, and our clouds will vanish, our prospects brighten, and our sunshine will be interrupted by fewer spots." This is his view of the Bible wine question:—"It has never yet been proved by any philosopher, theologian, or divine that it was intoxicating liquor, or fermented wine, which was used at the institution of the Lord's Supper, and it is simply unreasonable, ignorant, and blasphemous to teach that it was." We don't know if this is history or not, but it is worth quoting as another sample of our author's notions—"An unfortunate mosquito out West bit a Good Tippler, and died soon after of *delirium tremens.*"

We are glad to observe that in Messrs. Ward and Lock's "Epochs and Episodes of History" a number of which lies before us, the Temperance movement finds a fitting place. This we regard not only as an indication of the enlightened editorship of that highly interesting work, but also as a deserved compliment to a movement which De Quincey, nearly forty years ago, termed "the most remarkable instance of a combined movement in Society." The writer, in the necessarily limited space assigned to him, has produced a pretty accurate and certainly an interesting account of not only the ancient "watermarks" of the movement, but also of its modern ramification and operations.

The now familiar scarlet and gilt binding of the *Onward Reciter* peeping through the papers on our table reminds us that we must say a good word about that useful little publication. This is the eleventh volume, lying before us, and it is pleasing to learn, what indeed from the varied and excellent nature of the contents we might have readily expected, that it has been even more successful than any of its predecessors. It must be found very useful to conductors of young folk's meetings of whatever sort, as it contains a great many original readings and dialogues. We are glad at the *Reciter's* success in the past and we heartily wish it a continuance of that success in the future.

Speaking of the *Reciter* reminds us of *Onward* itself, with its beautiful pictures, its interesting stories, and its instructive little articles. This periodical, devoted more particularly to the Band of Hope movement, has improved by leaps and bounds until now it is as delightful a little magazine as one could wish. Our sympathies are always with its promoters.

But we have another favourite magazine, which comes to us month by month, and finds a hearty welcome, we mean *The Temperance Worker*. Volume ten, which we have just received, presents a treasure house of rich and varied material which cannot fail to be of immense assistance especially to budding temperance advocates, who have generally but little time to prepare for the work they have possibly ardently undertaken.

We are reminded of the silent yet all too rapid flight of the year by the arrival of the *People's Almanack* for 1883. This almanack is issued by the Religious Tract Society, and like all the publications of that excellent society, it is very acceptable. Its contents embrace motto texts for each day of the coming year, many useful receipts and hints, suitable for the household, interesting anecdotes and an abundance of superior illustrations. We have little doubt but that the solid worth of its contents will secure for it a very large circulation.

The Mountain Stream: a record of the Temperance Movement in the Scottish Highlands. The Highland Temperance League, Oban. This is an interim report of the League: and it is not so much a record of work in the Highlands as it is of work among Highlanders, for Aberdeen, Perth, and London are certainly not in the Highlands, and these centres have been wrought by the League. There is a blemish in the report, namely, when it is affirmed "that the work of the League is a gospel mission: the pledge is a gospel temperance pledge; the lecturers place the gospel first and temperance follows: this is the backbone of the success which by God's blessing has attended the work of the League." Now these statements are an answer to some persons who doubt the gospel teaching of the League or they imply an undue subservience to the prevailing sentiments of the hour. The League should be generous, it can afford to be so. All kindred Temperance Associations in Scotland are fighting the common enemy on gospel lines just as the League is doing. They plead with the drinkers that they should cease to do evil—to expel the demon that has dominated their lives too long, and they point them to the cross as the place whence to receive that grace which will be the source of their effective resistance to the seductions of intemperance. It would have been graceful in the League to have acknowledged this and not by implication of its own superiority in this matter con-

demned all other associations. Having said this we have much gratification in noting the work done by the League. Financially it is getting out of debt, having secured £182 in London, Liverpool, and Manchester, the committee have reduced the debt existing at the end of the year from £94 to £26, and see their way to extinguish it altogether. By the efforts of their agents, Messrs. Ross and Robertson, 991 have joined during the first seven months of the present year. They have held 297 meetings, 40 of them in Gaelic, formed 23 local branches of the League, and enlisted the sympathy of 87 Highlanders in London and Liverpool, while 3,515 have signed the pledge. At this rate of progress it may be anticipated that the Highlands of Scotland will soon be all adherents of temperance. Well, whether or not the anticipation is realised the League deserves praise, and has our best God speed in its noble work.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. W. CLARK, ABERDEEN.—It is but yesterday that in our pages we noted the departure of this staunch friend of the movement to the distant shores of Africa, whither he was bound in search of health, and now, alas, we have to record his decease, which occurred at Aberdeen, from apoplexy, on the 4th September at the early age of 56 years. Mr. Clark in early life "whistled at the plough," but by earnest study he soon rose above his lowly birth and iron fortune. He left the furrows of the soil to educate himself to upcast the furrows of the human mind, enabling them to receive the seeds of wisdom and the dew of grace and so be fruitful as Kedar and Sharon. He at one time aimed at the ministry and studied under Rev. Professor Morison, D.D., for some time. He accepted a temporary engagement in the Broad Street Academy, Aberdeen, but he remained there for many years until, indeed, he was compelled to relinquish through ill-health the most congenial work he ever had. After being with the railway company and superintending the work of Mr. Marshall for years, he finally became the manager of the Clayhills, latterly the Rosemount Provision Works. Of his personal character we cannot speak too highly. He was a man of exalted worth, full of the milk of human kindness, his whole being pervaded by active virtue. He exerted a powerful influence over young people and delighted in his young men's Bible class. With kindred spirits he was in his element, and having maintained his studious habits throughout life he was as formidable in controversy as he was instructive, expressive, and valued by those privileged to listen to the outpourings of his highly-cultured mind. He sympathised with the progressive movements of the day, but wisely preferred those of education and temperance to all others. He lived to see the question of education far advanced into the region of a final settlement and that of temperance on the borders of a decisive triumph. His labours in behalf of temperance were legion. He had bottomed that question. He vigorously remonstrated against the use of teetotalism as a synonym for temperance and we found ourselves in hearty accord with his arguments. He early saw the true relation between temperance and prohibition, and unsparingly exposed the growing fallacy that made his less intelligent and weaker colleagues stumble at restriction. It was better that there should be 200 thieves in the country than 2,000, but until thieves were extirpated property was unsafe; so it is better that we have 6,000 public-houses in Scotland than double the number as at present, but we shall never see the triumph of the temperance reformation until the people are entrusted with a power of veto sufficient to sweep all of them away. As a preacher, lecturer, and public speaker his services were ever in demand, and the news of his untimely decease will grieve many who have owned in their altered life the power of his appeal to the wicked to forsake his way and the unrighteous his thoughts and turn to the Lord. His funeral was largely attended by mourning friends and his remains consigned to their kindred dust with every mark of sorrowful regard and regret.

THE
Social Reformer.

DECEMBER, 1882.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

By ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER VI.—REPENTANCE.

Before Lizzie came back from her honeymoon, Tom Hislop had conveniently forgotten his half-made promise to his sister, and visited Andrew Sutherland's oftener than ever. What liquor he consumed in the house nobody guessed.

Doctor Hislop's popularity was waning in Strathglide. You would not care about calling into your house a medical man who was often the worse of liquor, neither did the people in Strathglide, and it was whispered that now his sister was married, he would go to the dogs as fast as possible.

Late in the autumn an incident occurred, which destroyed faith in him almost entirely.

A child of Andrew Sutherland's, a delicate thing, barely a year old, was suffering from a low fever.

He called in Doctor Hislop, much against his wife's will, but it would not pay the landlord of the Half-Way House to offend one of his best customers.

One evening the doctor was standing in the bar of the Half-Way House chatting to the landlord, and leisurely sipping his brandy, when Mrs. Sutherland looked in and asked him to come and see the child, it seemed to be worse. He went up, felt the child's pulse, looked at his tongue and departed, saying he would send down the boy with some medicine, and look in in the morning. The medicine came in due time, and was administered according to the directions written on the phial. Before seven o'clock the next morning a messenger was sent in hot haste for the doctor, they feared the child was dying. Before he reached the house their fears were realised, the child died apparently in great pain. Doctor Hislop was astounded, though he did not say so. He strode to the mantel, took the phial in his hand, and examined the contents. Mrs. Sutherland was busy at the bed, but she was watching him closely, and she saw his face change to a livid hue, and his lips compress tightly, as if under the influence of some strong feeling; and so he was. He had prepared the medicine when his brain was in a muddled state, when he was no more fit to touch such dangerous things than his own stable boy. He had given the child a dose sufficient to kill a strong man. He left the house hurriedly, only saying in a brief confused way, that the fever had taken an unexpected turn, but he would not have thought the result would have been so rapidly fatal. He had to say something, you know. What would you have said in the like circumstances?

From that hour that woman hated him, and she did his reputation irreparable injury in the place. The report got abroad that he had poisoned Sutherland's baby when he was drunk, and people began to think it wiser to send to Claybridge for medical advice. So things were not looking very bright for Tom Hislop, and his prospects were the only dark spots in his sister's sky. Of her happiness I cannot write, because my words are so weak. That little home in Claybridge

was all that a home ought to be, all that a home is when there is a woman like Lizzie in it. One evening about a month after the death of Sutherland's baby, Doctor Hislop was coming home from a long ride across the country. He chose a near cut across the fields, a dangerous thing to do on a dark night, especially with a timid restless horse. He was riding slowly with the reins lying loosely on the saddle, and his hat drawn over his brows. The path was narrow and uneven; a hedge skirted one side, and on the other was a deep ditch; one false step and he would be thrown. As he turned his horse's head round a sudden curve the animal's foot slipped on the wet ground and he slid into the ditch with his rider beneath him. There was no human aid nearer than the town, nearly two miles off; but the fall rendered the poor young man unconscious. The animal managed to extricate himself, and set off home at a leisurely pace. Save for a scratch or two on the knees he was unhurt. Some farm labourers lounging home after spending an hour in Sutherland's tavern, met the animal and guessed what had happened. They procured a lantern and set off to try and trace by the horse's hoofs which way he had come. It was not a difficult matter, for a heavy shower had obliterated all marks of the day's traffic from the dusty road. In half an hour they found the injured man still insensible. When they lifted him he uttered a groan and partially opened his eyes, but almost immediately relapsed into unconsciousness. They carried him home, and a conveyance was despatched to Claybridge for his sister and a doctor. For days Tom Hislop lay in that darkened room, with Lizzie watching by his bedside for the first spark of returning consciousness. The stupor was succeeded by a brain fever, beneath which he almost succumbed. But he had an iron constitution to help him in the struggle, and at length, in the grey dawn of a chill November morning, he opened his eyes and looked straight into Lizzie's, and she knew that he was saved. A poor thin shadow of his former self he was, as a man must be who has been face to face with death; but time and care would remedy that. He seldom spoke even to his sister, though she never left him. He would lie for hours looking through the window at the bare tree tops and the grey sky above them; she sometimes wondered what were his thoughts. Towards the close of the last day of November Lizzie was sitting on a low chair at the hearth in the sick room sewing, and thinking of her husband. The very thought of him brought a smile to her lips, so sweet and tender that it beautified her whole face. These six months of married life had been to Arthur Tennant's wife months of unalloyed happiness. The firelight danced and played about her feet, and fell too with a subdued glow on her brother's white face, lying on the pillow looking still at the trees and the sky. By and bye he turned his gaze to his sister's face, and contemplated it for a long time in silence. At length he spoke.

"Lizzie."

She was by his side in a moment.

"I've been near death's door this turn, haven't I?"

"Yes, Tom."

She spoke gravely, as befitted the subject.

"If I had died as I was, Lizzie, where do you suppose I would have been now?"

She shivered slightly and answered nothing.

"When a fellow has to lie here day after day, Liz," he said, half dreamily, "he gets thinking about things which used to be far enough from his mind." "If I live," he added, with great earnestness, "it will be to show you that these days have done me good. From this day, Liz, the old life is done away with and a new and a better one begun. I have been a poor brother to you, my dear," he said, caressing her head with his poor weak fingers. "But you will forgive me, I know, won't you, and help me on?"

She knelt down by him and drew his head to her breast, and cried over him as a mother might have done over her child. She was years older than he in thought and feeling, and the words she spoke to him there showed that she felt it strongly at that moment.

There was a long silence then, yet there did not seem to be any need of words.

"What I mean to do is this, Lizzie," went on Tom with great humility. "When I am strong again, I'll seek my fortune across the seas. I think I could do better away from this place."

It flashed through Lizzie's mind that it would be the manlier course to show the strength of his resolution, and the earnestness of his repentance, to build the new life on the old site, and practise it among those who had known him at the worst. But she did not say so. She shrank from casting even a fleeting shadow on this hour of real repentance and new formed resolutions for a nobler future. Her prayers that night were all for Tom. It seemed to her heart that the shadows were all fleeing away, that God had lightened the burdens and given the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. It was only the calm before the storm, a green oasis in life's desert, a golden time of peace before the great tumult.

Why is it, I wonder, that such as Lizzie Tennant are chosen to go through the deepest waters of affliction. Perhaps because the heavenliness within sustains them where weaker ones would fail. And after all, it is through much tribulation on earth that the brightness of our eternal crown is gained above.

CHAPTER VII.—LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

The year was three weeks old before Tom Hislop set foot out of doors. Lizzie had gone home to Claybridge a week before Christmas, happier in heart about her brother than she had ever been in her life; but only time would test his new-born resolutions.

It soon became known in Strathglide that he intended giving up his practice in the place, and seeking his fortune elsewhere. Towards the close of February these rumours received confirmation, for a new medical man took up his abode in Strathview, and Dr. Hislop went to Claybridge to his sister's house, to await the advent of more genial weather to take the long sea voyage which lay between him and his new home. Queensland was the place he had fixed upon.

When the good people of Strathglide actually found that Doctor Hislop was really going from their midst, they became loud in their expressions of regret. All his faults were forgotten, and they spoke of him only as he had been in the earlier part of his life among them, so he found the last weeks of his stay in Scotland pleasanter than he had anticipated. Several of his more ardent admirers, anxious to give tangible expressions of their opinions, got up a testimonial, and asked him to a complimentary supper to receive it.

It was to be held in the Eagle Hotel in Claybridge on the night of the 23rd of March. By this time it was fixed that he should sail for Queensland in the second week of April.

An invitation to the supper was of course sent to his brother-in-law, Arthur Tennant, but Arthur did not care to accept. He was not afraid of himself now, but it was the wiser plan to avoid all temptations like poison. And at those complimentary suppers, my friends, you know how many toasts are to be drunk, and how freely the wine cup is circulated round the table.

After tea on the afternoon of the 23rd, Arthur Ten-

nant and his wife were together in the dining-room of their house in Claybridge. It was not exactly in Claybridge, for it was a pretty cottage, standing in a roomy garden at the outskirts of the town. Lizzie was sitting in the window sewing, and all her womanly hopes and tears followed every stitch of the wonderful little garments; a new experience was at hand for her. Arthur was leaning up against the mantel talking of Tom. Lizzie glanced at him now and then, thinking he was a husband of whom any woman might have been proud. And so he was; for in those happy months, all the old manly beauty had come back to his face, and the peace of an upright life shone upon it.

"Tom still thinks you are going to the supper, Arthur," said his wife, by and by.

"I have scarcely spoken to him about it," answered Arthur. "It seems odd to refuse, but don't you think it better for me to stay at home?"

"Yes, Arthur, I do think so."

She spoke very quietly, but there was earnest conviction in her voice.

"Then of course I will," he said. "Besides, I could not leave you so long alone, it would not be right."

She smiled a little, in a pleased happy way, though she spoke nothing of her thoughts.

Arthur looked at her for a moment, at the brown head and the sweet face bent over her work, and the busy fingers plying the needles, till something made him go to her and throw an arm round her.

"Liz," he said, raising her face in both his hands, and looking into it with long loving gaze. "Have you never regretted having married me?"

"Regretted! Oh, Arthur!"

She leaned her face on his hand, and he felt a tear upon it; it was a question he need not have asked.

"To-day when I was coming home, my wife," he said fondly, "I wondered why God had been so good to me in giving me yourself and your love. Your heart is mine, isn't it, Lizzie?"

She lifted her face to his, blushing like a school girl, her eyes brimming with the love she could not utter. Just then they heard Tom's steps in the lobby, and the stolen moment was over. He came into the room in his noisy blustering way, bringing with him a whiff of the keen March air from without.

"Well, Arthur," he said, flinging himself on the sofa, "You'll be going up to the Eagle with me to-night to see this great ceremonial?"

"No, Tom, I think not."

Tom sat up in amazement. "In the name of wonder, why not?"

"I have several reasons," said Arthur briefly; "and they won't miss me."

Tom's face clouded.

"You don't really mean it, Arthur," he said, pettishly. "What on earth am I to say when they ask me where you are. Come, Liz, use your influence, or are you keeping him at home?"

"Arthur is not anxious to go, Tom," she answered quietly. "He will never be missed."

"Well, if he won't come I'll be absent too. Where's the use of going if one's own kith and kin set their faces against it?" cried Tom, with the air of an ill-used school boy. "It's too bad of you, Arthur, you might go to oblige me if for nothing else, and it's the last thing of the kind you'll be asked to do for me. Come, think better of it; your absence won't look well."

He lounged out of the room as he spoke, and the husband and wife were left again alone.

"Well, Lizzie, I didn't think he would have taken my absence so much to heart," said Arthur. "Hadn't I better go for an hour to please him, as he says it will be the last time?"

"Do you want to go, Arthur?"

"I should like it well enough," he answered. "And you know I need not touch anything. They all know I am a rigid abstainer, and besides, I have no fear now. What's the use of my self-control if I can't stand temptation for an hour?"

She sighed, and the shadow of a great fear gathered in her eyes. Plainly Arthur's heart was set on going,

and he seemed to have no fear for himself. Perhaps she was foolish, but—

"If you would like to go, Arthur," she said slowly, "do so; but oh! is it wise? Do you think there is no danger?"

"Oh, no danger at all," he said lightly, and he drew himself up in the pride of his assurance. "Well, I'll tell Tom I'll go with him for an hour. It will please him, and poor fellow he is going far enough away, it may be the last time I may have the opportunity."

So the matter was settled, and Lizzie said no more. She was not one of those women who say much, as you know, but her heart was full. At half past seven the two left the house. While Tom was putting on his overcoat in the lobby, Arthur went into the dining-room for a word with Lizzie.

She went close to him, clinging to him with strange earnestness, and her eyes were full of an unspoken dread.

"Oh, Arthur," she said, low and hurriedly, "remember. Take care, don't be tempted. Perhaps I am foolish, but I can't forget."

He drew her within his sheltering arms, his heart touched with remorse.

"Don't fear, my darling," he said. "Good God! do you think I could so far forget myself and you. Don't fret, I shall be home before ten, and we shall have a quiet chat before Tom comes."

She hid her face a moment, his words had no power to dispel her dread.

Tom was calling him in the lobby, and Arthur stooped to his wife and kissed her compassionately.

"My darling, I wish I wasn't going for your sake. Don't fret, Lizzie, I won't be long away."

She smiled, and drawing herself from his embrace, she went to the lobby and touched her brother's arm.

"Tom," she said, in a low voice, "take care of Arthur to-night; remember he is all I have after you are gone."

Then she went back to her lonely hearth and listened to their footsteps till they died away in the stillness. She had taken up her sewing again, but it fell from her listless fingers; she folded it up and took a book from the table, but she read without comprehending a word. She opened the piano then, and ran her fingers over the keys, but such a wild unrest possessed her that she struck only broken chords.

Finally she threw herself on the sofa, and drawing the tiger skin over her tried to sleep; it was the quickest way to pass the time.

She fell into a light slumber, and when she awoke the clock hands pointed to eleven, and Arthur had not come home. She sprang up and touched the bell.

"I came in to set the supper, ma'am, at half-past nine," said the servant, when she appeared. "But you were sleeping so well that I was frightened to disturb you. Shall I bring the tray now?"

"Yes, Mary."

The girl brought the tray and left it on the table. Her mistress poured out a cup of chocolate and drank it feverishly, but ate nothing.

"You may go to bed now, Mary," she said, when she had finished. "You must be tired, I have had a rest, and can easily wait for the gentlemen."

"Very well, ma'am," replied the girl, nothing loth.

So in a few minutes Lizzie was the only watch in the quiet house, and she sat shivering before the blazing fire, her heart breaking with fear. The minutes sped. It was close on midnight when she heard the garden gate swing upon its hinges. It was followed by footsteps on the gravelled path, and she rose to her feet, pressing her hand to her heart to still its wild throbbing. She heard the outer door flung open, and in a moment Arthur burst into the room. Oh my God! to look at him there, at the change those hours had wrought, might have made the strongest shudder. His hat was gone, and his black locks matted with the rain and dishevelled with the night wind. His face was pale, and his teeth clenched. And his blood-shot eyes were rolling in a drunken frenzy—the demon had entered in once more and conquered.

Lizzie Tennant's heart died within her at that mo-

ment, and she stood as if turned to stone. He turned his flaming eyes on her face, and spoke in hoarse, fierce tones.

"Is there anything in the house, whisky, brandy, anything? get me it quick."

Then a wild cry broke from her lips, but he did not seem to hear it.

"You got some when you were ill," he went on. "Where is it, get me it quick, or I'll do you harm?"

He tore open the sideboard doors, and began rummaging for it. She knew there was a bottle of spirits scarcely touched in one of the recesses. She sprang to him, trying to keep him back.

"Rise, Arthur, there is none; don't touch it."

She wretched her arms about him, trying to draw him from it. But his greedy eyes had caught sight of it, and he would not be kept from it. He tried to shake her off, but she managed to close the doors, and set herself against it. The fury of a demon raged in his breast and he raised his hand, yes, against the woman he loved ten thousand times better than himself. It fell upon her breast with a cruel stroke, she reeled from him and fell heavily to the ground.

Outside the night wind moaned drearily over the wreck of human happiness the evil thing had wrought, and the rain fell with a mournful dripping on the leaves.

In the chill March dawn, after hours of desperate agony, a son was born to Arthur Tennant, but it was dead. As the skilled physician had surmised, there was no hope of the mother's life. She died, with none but strange faces round her bed, but of that and of all else she was utterly unconscious. In the room below her husband was sleeping off the effects of the night's carouse with the empty bottles broken on the floor beside him.

In the window sat Tom Hislop heart-sick with remorse and pain, dreading his awakening. When the morning came, and they told Arthur Tennant what the dawn had brought, he was like a madman in his agony.

But on that hour I have neither the heart nor the power to dwell. Let me pass on.

(To be Continued.)

PRIVATE VICES PUBLIC BENEFITS.

An Old Story with an older and still existing parallel.

IN the month of July, 1723, the Grand Jury of Middlesex "presented as injurious to morality" a book entitled, "The Fable of the Bees, or Private Vices Public Benefits, with an Essay on Charity and Charity Schools, and a search into the nature of Society." The Grand Jury complained "that books and pamphlets are published almost every week, which affirm fate, deny a Divine Providence, and recommend luxury, avarice, pride, and all kinds of vices, as being necessary to the public welfare." The "Fable" was also severely animadverted upon in "A letter to the Right Honourable Lord C.," printed in *The London Journal* for 27th July, 1723. The author vindicated himself from the aspersions contained in this letter and the presentment of the Grand Jury, in an article published in *The London Journal* for the 10th August following. These denunciations were followed by several printed exposures of the "dreadful tendency" of the "Fable." One of these was written by Dr. Fiddes, an eminent metaphysical divine of the period; a second by John Denny, whose performance was entitled "Vice and Luxury Public Mischief"; a third by William Law, author of the "Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life," whose work, entitled "Remarks on the Fable of the Bees," has been pronounced by a writer in the last published volume of the new edition of the "Britannica" to be "a gem." It is to be found in the second volume of his collected works, published in 1762, and has been reprinted a few years ago under the editorial supervision of the late Professor Maurice. The "Fable" was also reviewed in Bluet's "Enquiry whether the general practice of virtue tends to the wealth or poverty, bene-

fit or disadvantage of a people. In which the pleas offered by the author of the 'Fable of the Bees' for the usefulness of vice and roguery are considered, with some thoughts concerning a toleration of public stews." The last clause of this title refers to another work by the author of the "Fable," "recommending," to quote the statement of a writer in the *English Cyclopædia*, "the public licensing of stews, the matter and manner of which are, certainly, exceptionable, though it must, at the same time, be stated that Mandeville earnestly, and with seeming sincerity, recommends his plan as a means of diminishing immorality, and that he endeavoured, so far as lay in his power, by fixing a high price, and in other ways, to prevent the work from having a general circulation." Mandeville's plan and Mandeville's motives are similar in all essential respects to the plan and the motives adopted and avowed by the advocates of the licensing system, which has been proved to be the organising centre and sustaining energy of stews, and every other social abomination. They also profess to have the interests of morality at heart, they seek to diminish drunkenness and its attendant evils, and endeavour, so far as lies in their power, by fixing a high price on the article, to prevent it from having a general circulation, forgetting all the time that, as license sanctions what is licensed, it is a most paradoxical way to denounce the whole of a vice by first sanctioning a part of it. Verily, the advocates of license are not in a position to cast even a pebble at Mandeville. The day will assuredly come when posterity will look back with as much horror upon the law's licensing intoxicants, as we look upon the licensed toleration of brothels. Let us now resume our sketch of the literary conflict concerning the "Fable." Two Scotch professors (Hutcheson of Glasgow, and Campbell of St. Andrews) also joined in the fray, and the final assault was delivered so late as 1732, by the famous George Berkeley, bishop of Cloyne, who devoted the second dialogue of his "Alciphion" to the demonstration of the thesis that private vices can never become public benefits. The author of the work assailed replied in a letter to Dion, occasioned by his book called "Alciphion."

The writer of the book which created all this uproar and keen controversial war was a Dutch doctor, named Bernard Mandeville, born at Dort, about the year 1670, who came to London within the first decade of the next century. Having little or no practice in his profession, he lived partly by his pen, and partly from a pension bestowed on him by some Dutch merchants. Sir John Hawkins records that "he was said to be coarse and overbearing in his manners where he durst be so, yet a great flatterer of some vulgar Dutch merchants, who allowed him a pension." He seems to have had the art of ingratiating himself with the upper ten; for it is related that he was patronised by the first Earl of Macclesfield, "at whose table he was a frequent guest." In 1709 he published his first work "on a coarse subject, written in a coarse style," which it is no part of our vocation to name. Another of his productions is, however, both *per se*, and, as lying in our line, more worthy of mention. The consumption of gin was then something enormous, and was causing proportionate mischief. The moralist who affirmed private vices to be public benefits was prepared to show the reasonableness of this consumption, and to demonstrate that the nation could not prosper without it. Mandeville defended the distillers in a series of articles printed in *The London Journal*. Sir John Hawkins states that "he sometimes employed his talents for hire, and, in particular, wrote letters in *The London Journal* in favour of spirituous liquors, for which he was paid by the distillers." These letters were also censured by the Middlesex Grand Jury. In 1714, appeared "The Grumbling Hive, or Rogues turned Honest"—a poem comprised in about four hundred octo-syllable lines. This work was afterwards published as "The Fable of the Bees," with the addition of prose dissertations and notes in 1723, and again, 1728, with additional supplementary matter, in two volumes. Mandeville died in January, 1733, the year after his reply to Berkeley.

Mandeville inculcates through the medium of his

fable of the grumbling hive that national prosperity depends on the prevailing operation of luxury and fraud. He endows his bees with dispositions and powers similar to those of men. He portrays how they try to overreach each other in their various avocations, and explains how the riches amassed by means of these sins lead, on the principle that "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good," to the advantage of others, who, in their turn, practise the same tricks upon the wealthy. He then lays down that this wealth, which, according to him, cannot be got without fraud, is the only criterion of a nation's greatness. Wealth, being now generally diffused among the bees of this imaginary hive, they all become jealous of this universal swindling, and resolve to put a stop to it, and to act honestly with each other for the future, a resolution which is soon followed by the ruin of their community. In the "Enquiry into the Origin of Moral Distinctions," appended to "The Fable of the Bees," virtue and vice, moral approbation and disapprobation, are alleged to have been implanted in the minds of their subjects by their respective governments, with the view of preserving their own authority, and conserving society. The writer in the *English Cyclopædia* already quoted, remarks, "Incredible as it seems that such a proposition as this should be seriously put forth, it is yet more so that it should come from one whose professed object was, however strange the way in which he set about it, to promote good morals, for there is nothing in Mandeville's writings to warrant the belief that he sought to encourage vice." There is a modicum of truth in this paradoxical proposition. Our ingenious theorist is seldom, if ever, absolutely wrong, and Mandeville, at least, is not one of the exceptions to this rule. The atom of truth lying concealed in the mud of the Dutch doctor's paradox in this, that law is a creator and a regulator of ethical sentiment. A principle protected by its sanction becomes, for that very reason, recommended to the notice and obtains the assent of the numerous and unreflecting class who accept authority for reason. A questionable doctrine may thus, by a large number, be regarded as a dictate of the moral faculty, or, if not exactly that, as something which, though not inculcated by, is not opposed to it. Legislation is the leading agent in the formation of this image of morals. Custom, and, to a still greater degree, legislation supporting and sanctioning custom, are able to create and to sustain an overwhelming amount of what *passes for moral sentiment*. But though, when properly directed, they can assuredly strengthen, neither of these agencies can call into being a single axiom or lay the foundation of a single law pertaining to morality. Morality does not derive its sanction from law, but law derives its sanction from morality. Falsehood, theft, and murder are not wrong because law forbids them, but they are forbidden by law because they are wrong. The commentary of Archbishop Whately on the proverb that honesty is the best policy, brings out this distinction clearly. The man, he contends, who is honest merely because it is the best policy, is honest on a dishonest principle. He is not honest on a moral principle. To be so a man must be actuated by the conviction that it is right to be honest. Moral agency is founded on the moral agent's conviction that it is his duty to act or not to act. No human institution can create this idea of duty. Legislation cannot establish morality—it can only establish positive precepts, and institute forms which regulate the conduct of moral agents. Keeping in view, then, the rule that human law is, at its best, not morality, but a system of positive commands and precise forms directing the actions and guiding the conduct of moral agents, we can at once tell where the one begins and the other ends. The law that finds its binding sanction with the morally disposed, in the idea of duty, is to be regarded as a forensic expression of moral duty, but the law which the morally-disposed obey, simply because it is the law of the land, cannot be viewed as the statement of, though it may not be opposed to, any ethical principle. The truth that law is not morals but a system of precepts and positive injunctions affecting morals, imposes on us the duty of testing all human institutions by the rule of equity, and confers on us the

right to demand that what is clearly opposed to rectitude should cease to exist.

It may surprise many to be informed that at one time it had been openly maintained that "private vices are public benefits," that "moral virtues are the political offspring which flattery beget upon pride," and that "evil, as well moral as natural, is the sole basis, the life and support of all trades and employments without exception, that there we must look for the true origin of all arts and sciences, and that the moment evil ceases the society must be spoiled, if not dissolved." Mandeville's contemporaries, though much less squeamish than the present generation, with all its shortcomings happens to be, were shocked at the iniquity of his principles and scandalised by the extravagance of his conclusions. The historical and biographical literature of the last century, down to its close, is constantly presenting incidental proofs that this feeling of abhorrence was both deep-seated and lasting. Mark how Stephen Jones denounces the "Fable" in the third edition of his "New Biographical Dictionary," printed in 1799. "The dreadful tendency of this work seems to arise principally from the author's description of human nature, which is everywhere represented as low and vicious; for nothing contributes more to extinguish virtue in the breast of man than degrading and odious pictures of the species."

One should not, however, be too hard on poor Mandeville, for a closer inspection discloses the fact that his system is the outcome of sentiments that had been universally practised in, and as universally upheld by society long before he was born. The world had for ages exerted itself to produce "degrading and odious pictures of the species." It had, on the specious plea of promoting the good of the State, fostered impurity, gambling, and intemperance. It had licensed brothels, set up lotteries, and established the public house. It had done all this on the tacit assumption of the principle boldly proclaimed by Mandeville, that "private vices are public benefits." Society itself is, therefore, clearly responsible for laying the foundation of Mandeville's system. It only left two things for him to do, and these were (1) to proclaim the doctrine that had been secretly practised, and (2) to generalise it—to apply it to every man and to every undertaking. Extravagant and reprehensible as the system is, we are, nevertheless, disposed to contend that, on the principles laid down by modern restrictionists, it is logically unassailable. No one can have a right to select one vice as a subject for State regulation and regard another as a matter for State prohibition. The reason for this different treatment must be sought for in the plea that the regulated vice leads, when regulated, to the advantage of the State, for, if it does not, it is not a subject for regulation. This plea is identical with the exploded doctrine of Mandeville that "private vices are public benefits." The politician who, lamenting the evils of the intemperance which is the fruit of the licensed system, yet defends it on the ground that the excise duties extorted from it cannot be replaced, advances this reprehensible view and lays himself open to the inference that in his eyes, the adjustment of the income to the expenditure of the State is of greater moment than the physical well-being, and the moral improvement of the people.

M. GASS.

THE WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE—IV.

We believe that we have shaken the belief of a great many of our readers in what has been styled a generous diet, but what may be with more precision called an excessive style of feeding. We eat to live if we eat rightly, but, alas! too many live to eat. The firmament, the sea, the forest, and the field are all ransacked for the most luxurious messes to the Epicurean palate, without one brief thought about the unfortunate stomach, which after all should be the chief concern of the eater. If there be unveiled rebellion in that region, a draught of wine or a piece of ice is thrown down to reduce the temperature or silence complaints, and after much eruption, eructation, and fermentation the mess is

cleared away, merely to make room for a farther supply—not of needful matter, to form flesh, promote growth, and maintain heat—but to please the pampered palate let the adaptation of the food to the wants of the system be as it may. It would be well for many who are dying daily, poisoned by the superabundant food they swallow, which in its excess is poisonous, that they were sent as the spaniel was to some shrewd knave who, by a course of rigorous fasting rigidly enforced on them, would bring back their system to that delightful condition when oatmeal, pease stuffs, grains, and fruits are welcomed as ambrosial food, and milk and water hailed as the nectar of the gods.

It is sad to have to think that while the affluent have more than enough there are thousands among the sons of toil who can barely get along in the matter of living at all. They must have a house to shelter them, food to sustain and strengthen them, and clothes to keep them warm and decent. If they have married, and the usual interesting consequences follow, why, the supply of food, clothes, and shelter is multiplied to an extent too often beyond the utmost power of supply the husband and even the wife may possess. In good times he is on the strain to meet daily necessities, and when bad times overtake him he generally finds himself not far from the region of destitution. His whole efforts are then concentrated on finding food for those depending upon him; and if he is learned enough to know the best kind of food, and courageous enough to retrench, it is wonderful how well he can bear the icy pressure of evil times, and how little scathed he is by the privations he has had to endure. We do not for a moment believe that want leaves no trace of its presence on its victims, because many never entirely regain the condition of health they enjoyed before they had to suffer; but we do say that those who have knowledge and tact to trim their sails to the tempest will afterwards come easier round to their usual sailing trim when the storm has spent itself. It is a pity that often the lesson of adversity as regards the quality and amount of food should be so easily forgotten when the sun of prosperity bathes them in its radiance. Were it remembered as it ought to be, the toilers would have enough and to spare, and the hunger which stimulates the appetite and is so easily appeased, would alone be felt by the working classes.

The cotton famine revealed an amount of privation endured by the labouring classes, which is hardly conceivable by any not used to mission work. As their resources failed, and they were driven to a still more inadequate diet, their sufferings became extreme; and the hearts of those above them were stirred to aid them through kitchens, where food rations were issued at merely nominal prices. The sufferings inflicted by famine upon the Irish peasantry were terrible, even when alleviated by the numerous attempts made to supply them with nutritious and inexpensive food. The experiments of Count Rumford, too, went to show that in straitened times the people might easily be fed on good dietary at the cheapest conceivable rates. Mr. Edward Smith, at the instance of the Government, and in consequence of the cotton famine, made an elaborate investigation into the diet of the labouring population. The interesting results were published in 1864, and almost all writers on dietary refer to them as the standard work on the subject. He says: "On the whole, there was the most nutriment, the least sum spent on food, the least variety of food, the greatest economy in the selection, the most breadstuffs and milk, the least sugars, fats, meats, cheese, and tea in Ireland. There was the least amount of nutriment, the greatest variety of foods, the most costly selection of foods, the least quantity of breadstuffs and milk, the greatest quantity of sugars, fats, and meats in England. The average cost per head of this food was—in England, 2s. 11½d.; in Wales, 3s. 5½d.; in Scotland, 3s. 3½d.; and in Ireland, 1s. 9½d per week."

Mr Smith sets down a model daily dietary for a labourer in the country:—2½ pints of skim milk (½d. per pint), 1½ lb. of bread, 1 lb. of vegetables, ¼ lb. of bits of meat or 2 oz. of meat, 2 oz. of bacon, 2 oz. of cheese, 2 oz. of oatmeal, ¼ lb. of flour or its equivalent

in rice or pease, and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of fat. The cost will be 6½d. per day, or 3s. 8d. per week, excluding vegetables, which being grown by him may be here omitted. We will now give the dietary of single women in the season of the Lancashire distress:—Bread, 8 lb.; oatmeal, 1½ lb.; treacle, 1 lb.; bacon, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; skimmed milk, 2 pints; and coffee, 1 oz. The subject of this obtained meat or bacon daily, oatmeal porridge and treacle, or hasty pudding and treacle, and bread and coffee sweetened with treacle. Total weekly cost, 2s. 0½d. We will give another, just because of the comment Mr Smith makes upon it:—Bread, 8 lb.; oatmeal, 2 lb.; peas, 1 pint; sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.; treacle, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; butter, 2 oz.; 4 herrings; bacon, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; liver, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; skimmed milk, 6 pints; coffee, 1 oz.; and vegetables, 2 lb. This, says Mr. Smith, is an excessive dietary, and particularly in nitrogen. Yet its cost was but 2s. 6d. weekly.

Last month we presented the experiment by Dr. Nichol, who was occupied in mental work. We here give the diet of a labourer working in the open air, and alongside of him we place a factory worker who is confined to a mill all day; and even under the pressure of hard times they lived well on the pittance which their food cost. Moreover, they lived sustained and strengthened on this moderate style of feeding. In the last case we give, Mr. Smith tells us the dietary was excessive, and yet it only cost 2s. 6d.

These moderate dietaries of the poor must startle many who are of opinion that large quantities of food are necessary to life. The young lady was not so far in her ignorance from the general ignorance of the mass, who when she heard that the poor had not bread enough to eat suggested cheese cakes. Nor was the young man so very far astray from the general intelligence when *on his getting* an enormous salary he chose short bread and whisky as his cream of the cream of a diet. So many of those who read these papers, and they are largely read, subordinate the quality—the feeding power—to the quantity. They do not see that the poor live on a diet which they could hardly contemplate without a shudder, and manage to live and pull through with their bairns upon a lower in hard times. Why could not all the working classes be induced to restrict themselves to a similar or slightly augmented diet, and have better health and greater savings? Supposing that they were to save two shillings a-week by such a wholesome dietary, the independence that the £5 yearly thereby saved would confer on them after a term of years would be very great. No trade dispute, no commercial failure, no depression of trade, would be a calamity to them while their children would, like themselves, improve in health and strength and wisdom. Even if the money could not be saved for investment, it might be used for other important domestic purposes, for which the amount of such an expenditure was desirable. This readjustment of their earnings would be of the highest importance to their welfare, and its far-reaching consequences transcends conception. With reverential thankfulness they might at the close of life say, "Truly he hath given me all things richly to enjoy."

In our next, and we hope last, paper we will look at the pauper and criminal dietaries, from which many important lessons will arise. ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

MAKE THEM PAY.

AN article worth 1s. 3d. being charged with 10s. of so-called duty presents us with an instance of extortion such as could not be endured in any ordinary trade for a day; yet this is the duty charged on a gallon of alcoholic liquor, the full commercial value of which is 1s. 3d. When other charges make the price of this 1s. 3d. worth as high as 24s. 6d. to the shivering wretch who is parting with his shirt to procure it, the transaction is incredible.

The publican says, "If people will drink, the only way to stop intemperance is to make them pay for the drink." He does not mean that the Excise are to increase their demands upon him, but that he is virtuous in making the poor dupes buy their drinks at the very

highest rate. Oh, yes, say some social reformers, "I agree, make them pay." Is it possible that this extortion can be justified? It is not the drink chiefly that makes the drinker poor, it is rather what he pays for the drink. He is made to pay some £200 for £16 of stuff, and this is sufficient to bring him "down in the world" even if he has a considerable income. Is it not a mistake, and a very serious one, on the part of temperance men, to stand up for this frightful robbery. To me it looks like fortifying the Government against giving us the veto power of legal prohibition regarding the liquor traffic.

You say, "Raise the duty," that is, take a larger sum from the poor wretches of drinkers than that you are now taking. The Government respond. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has a "California" in the liquor business. You ask him and his colleagues to shut up the mines or to allow the people to veto the licenses. It looks somewhat like making a stick to break our own head in trying to make this business so vast a source of revenue.

Is not this Government interest a greater barrier in our way for getting local prohibition than all other interests put together. This system must be broken up by bringing gospel light to shine on the foul and greedy wrong. Some are clamorous for licensing boards; I have not much faith in this. I would rather have every ratepayer served with a voting paper asking the question, "License or no license," and asking him or her to record their answer. I have a time and place named on said paper where it is to be deposited. This, I think, could be done more effectually, with less trouble and expense, than the choosing of a licensing board. It is easier to vote for a principle than for men. Voters could more easily consider the matter free from any undue influence or excitement, and in the midst of their home surroundings could tamely view the sad ravages of the drink curse and its possibilities to them and theirs should it be left in full swing. Voting on this matter is a personal duty which should not be delegated to any man or class of men. We do already almost infinitely too much by proxy. It looks like hastening to get all power concentrated and self-government all but annihilated. It is a good element in this local prohibition movement that it tends to check this evil. Those who believe in the many scheme men will go on confusing the public mind and stupefying the politicians. The battle must be sharp and decisive. The popular veto must be direct and complete. I believe the people of Scotland are waiting for a local prohibitory measure with the veto power; does not their representation in the House of Parliament speak loudly for this? Would the people of Scotland part with the seventh portion of prohibition as given in the Forbes Mackenzie Act? Never! This goes far in speaking loudly for the veto power over the drink curse. Is there any place within the last forty years that has had more temperance legislative truth sown broadcast amongst its people than Scotland has? Surely it is time we were reaping the fruit. Let us go to our rulers as Christians, with an honest common-sense plan, and ask frankly and bluntly the power for the people of Scotland to veto this drink curse. Such a measure is right and reasonable and contains in it the elements of Christian justice and truth, and they must, they will, grant our request.

'Tis coming up the steep of time,
And this old world is growing brighter,
We may not see its dawn sublime,
Yet high hopes make the heart throb lighter.
We may be sleeping in the ground
When it awakes the world in wonder,
But we have felt it gathering round,
And heard its voice of living thunder.

C—J.—P—.

ROUGH ON THE EDITOR.—A contemporary editor had his hat stolen the other day, and the penitent thief brought it back next day begging to be forgiven. You can't think what a lot of queer things I've had running through my head since I wore your hat.

PUBLIC PRESS.

AMERICA.—The political party that to-day takes sides with whisky and beer is inviting its early destruction. The political party that will make and administer laws against the rum curse so as to dry up the tears from the faces of innocent children and broken-hearted wives is the only party that has an assured future. Ere long the parties confronting each other in the United States will be the whisky and no-whisky parties. To this consummation all things are drifting.—*Southern Templar*, Atlanta, Georgia.

UNITED STATES.—The prohibition of the liquor traffic in the United States is of vastly greater importance to the people, even in a secular point of view, than any other issue claiming their attention, but when considered in its moral aspect, prominent among which is the criminality of the government, both state and national involved in the license system, it seems almost incredible that there should be found among Christians and moral citizens a single one willing that the iniquitous business should be longer tolerated by law.—*Star of Hope*.

MISSISSIPPI.—The following resolutions were adopted at the Marshall County Prohibition Convention, and as we would like to see Scotland doing likewise, we present them to our readers.

“Resolved, That we appeal to our wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, to give to the cause of prohibition their individual, united, and hearty support, and especially by precept and example to discountenance the use of all kinds of liquors, whether malt, vinous, or spirituous, in their domestic circle, and on social and festive occasions. Resolved, That the State of Maine, as the pioneer of the great cause of State Prohibition, is entitled to the profoundest thanks of every Christian philanthropist and patriot, and the States of Kansas and Iowa in following the example of Maine and engrafting upon their organic law—their constitution—the principle of prohibition, has done much to encourage and cheer the friends of prohibition and total abstinence the world over.

What Hugh Stowell Brown says:—To sum up—I was nearly three months on the American Continent. I travelled northward as far as Montreal, southward as far as Richmond, eastward as far as St John, New Brunswick, westward as far as Salt Lake City. I visited many of the chief centres of population; I stayed sometimes with friends, sometimes at hotels; I went about the streets days and nights; I witnessed several scenes of strong political excitement; I saw thousands of people out on their holiday excursions; and I met five men and not one woman in a state of intoxication, and with hardly a score of people whose dress and general appearance indicated intemperate habits. If an American, who has had equal opportunities of seeing our people in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, can bear similar testimony I should be most thankful to hear it; but I greatly fear that such testimony is more than I can expect.—*Comparisons are odious*.

A MODERN BARDOLPH.—“Mrs. Cooley was tellin’ my old woman that some of them fellers rubbed Cooley’s nose the other night with *phosphorous* while he was asleep down at the tavern: and when he went home it ‘peared’ ’s if he had a locomotive headlight in front of him.” “A very extraordinary proceeding, judge.” “Well, sir, when he got into the hall it was dark, an’ he ketched a sight o’ that nose in the looking-glass on the hat rack, an’ he thought Mrs. Cooley had left the gas burnin’. Then he tried to turn it off, an’ after fumblin’ around among the umbrellars an’ hat pegs for a while for the stop-cock he concluded the light must come down from a candle, an’ he nearly busted his lungs tryin’ to blow it out. Then he grabbed his hat, an’ tried to jam her down over that candle; an’ when he couldn’t he got mad, picked up an umbrella, and hit a whack at it, which broke the lookin’ glass all to flinders; an’ there was Mrs. Cooley a-watchin’ that old lunatic all the time, an’ afraid to

tell him it was his own nose. . . This yer rum drinkin’ is a fearful thing any way you take it.”—*Max Adeler*.

“ . . . You know I jined the Temperance Society a couple o’ months ago, not because I was much afear’d o’ gettin’ drunk aften, but just to please the old woman. You know how women are—kinder insane on the subject of drinkin’. Well, my cow had a way o’ jumpin’ the fence, an’ I couldn’t do nothin’ to stop her. She was the ornariest critter that way that I ever saw. So at last I got a blind-board an’ hung it on her horns. That stopped her. But you know she used to come jam up agin the fence, an’ stand here for hours; an’ one day one o’ them vagabone advertisin’ agents came along—one o’ them fellers that daubs signs all over the face of natur’—and as soon as he sees that blind-board he went for it.” “A patent-medicine man, I suppose?” “No; he was advertisin’ some kind o’ stomach bitters; an’ he painted on that board the followin’:—‘Take Brown’s Bitters for your stomach’s sake; they make the best cocktails.’” “The Temperance Society didn’t like that of course?” “No, sir! The secretary happen’d to see it, and he brought out the board of directors; and the first thing I knowed, they hauld me up and wanted to expel me for circulatin’ around cow’s information respectin’ bitters an’ cocktails.” “That was very unjust!” “Well, sir, I had the hardest time to make them fellers understand that I was innocent, an’ to get ‘em to let up on me. But they did. Then I turned the blind-board over; and now the first man I ketch placin’ any revolutionary sentiments on the frontispiece of that cow, why, down goes his house. I’ll knock the stuffin’ out o’ him, now mind me!”—*Max Adeler*.

SING TO THE SEA.

SING to the sea, thou joyous young maiden,

Sing of the lover that’s coming to thee;

Sing of the tears that flow’d at thy parting,

Sing of the meeting that gladsome shall be;

Sing of the bridal-wreath, sing of the altar,

Sing of the day when a wife thou shalt be;

Sing of a life-path all sunshine and flowers;

Sing of a sky that no cloudlet shall see.

Sing to the sea, the beautiful sea,

That never grows weary of singing to thee.

Sing to the sea, young wife, in love’s morning,

Sing while thy little ones climb on thy knee—

Softly they’ll murmur a prayer by the billows,

A hymn to the angels that watch by the sea.

See no pale phantom-ship glide o’er the waters

To bring thee dark tidings of death and the grave;

Hear love’s sweet voice in each low mellow murmur,

And see love’s bright smile in each crystal-eyed wave.

Sing to the sea, the beautiful sea,

That never grows weary of singing to thee.

Sing to the sea, thou lonely and widowed one,

Sing of thy heart’s love that sleeps ‘neath the wave.

Tell the light fairies that glide o’er the waters

To scatter sweet flowers o’er his bright coral grave.

Sing of the day when the sea yields its dead,

When thou shalt be clasp’d to thy loving one’s heart—

Safe in affection that knoweth no waning,

Join’d in love’s bands that not death e’en can part.

Sing to the sea, the beautiful sea,

That never grows weary of singing to thee.

Sing to the sea, thou mother whose darling

Roameth an exile from home and from thee;

Dream that he sends thee affection’s soft message,

Borne on the zephyrs that sigh o’er the sea.

Oh! who could believe that a monarch so beauteous

Dark visions of death in his bosom could hold—

With a form so majestic, an eye of such crystal,

And garments all crimson and purple and gold.

Ne’er let the angel of hope from thy bosom,

Whate’er be thy anguish uncherished depart.

Hope trusted, rewardeth the one who confideth,

By bringing bright joys to the poor broken heart.

Sing to the sea, the beautiful sea,

That never grows weary of singing to thee.

MARY GRANT.

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1883.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

DECEMBER, 1882.

* * * We have been obliged to leave over a number of interesting items, but we will endeavour to overtake them next issue.

Mr. John Paton has been fully engaged all the past month. He has been at Sanquhar, New Cumnock, Glasgow, Galston, Kilmarnock, Mauchline, Kilbarchan, Irvine, Maybole, Prestwick, Beith, Castle Douglas (return visit), Dalry, Coatbridge, Pollokshaws, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Bonhill, and Ayr.

The Temperance Hundred in Perth have taken a step which required some courage, but one which we believe will be followed by no regrets. Mr. Treasurer Bridges, one of the vice-presidents of the hundred, had up till the recent municipal election the reputation of being one of the staunchest temperance reformers in the fair city. He addressed meetings; he took an active part in temperance effort; he wrote papers and sent contributions to the press advocating the principles he espoused. No man in short had greater reason to be grateful to total abstinence than he; no man seemed to be animated by a sincerer desire to show his gratitude to it on all occasions. The temperance electors in the city were not slow to reward his faithfulness, for they elected him to the Town Council, the treasurership of which he holds by their efforts in his behalf. He did run well—what has hindered him? The desire to stand well with the liquor section of the council. There is a public-house at the shore which brings in the insignificant amount of £38 to the coffers of the Corporation by the facilities it offers to sailors and shore labourers to fritter away their hard-earned pay in drams, morning, noon and night. That public house differs in no degree from the thirteen thousand public-houses that are the bane and stain of Scotland, and against which Treasurer Bridges fulminated whenever he had the chance. Councillor Russel resolved to move the Council to refuse to continue its license after Whitsunday next, and moved accordingly. To the surprise and just indignation of the temperance party, Treasurer Bridges, the man their former efforts raised, went over to the

enemy, on the plea that if there had been a change of tenancy he might have voted otherwise. But if the present proprietor dies the law allows his heirs to follow him in the baneful trade, and Mr. Bridges simply meant by his voice and vote to perpetuate that social snare. He also pleads that it was better to keep this place than close it up or give it to Mr. Fenton who might build upon it, and in the new premises have a public-house. Mr. Fenton can make any conditions in his offer he may please, but the Corporation can accept or reject them, and they could have easily refused the offer of Mr. Fenton clogged by such a hateful condition. Alas, however, the motion was lost; and another attempt against the shore snare will have to be made. The Temperance Hundred could not alter the vote, but they could show their sense of Councillor Bridges' treasonable conduct, and they did so in a way which will have a salutary effect far beyond the city of Perth. They decided that he no longer be one of the vice-presidents of the Perth Temperance Hundred. We are truly sorry that Mr. Bridges should have put himself into this very humiliating position at a moment when, by a manful adherence to his party, he might have added lustre to his office in the Council. But even he must admit that no party can tamely suffer such conduct as that of which he has been guilty. If they did it would be easy to show that they were equally unworthy of their position as he has proved to be. He might have easily conciliated them by a manly explanation and by withdrawing his contumelious speech in Council. He has chosen his present attitude, and it is neither dignified nor just. We are glad that the Temperance Hundred have taken up an attitude which every true temperance reformer must heartily approve. We are certain that their fellow-citizens will respect them all the better that they have shown so worthily that they truly respect themselves.

Before this issue of the *Social Reformer* is in the hands of our readers, we have been given to understand that the annual report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will be in the hands of all the subscribers to the Association. We welcome this annual report with exceeding pleasure. Having already carefully perused the report in the pages of this magazine we turn with considerable interest to the list of subscribers. We see at a glance that there is a decrease of a few societies in connection with the Association—well, so much the worse for the societies. It is not creditable to them to see an Association which is so vigorously and resolutely striving to secure power to the ratepayers to veto their own greatest enemy—for few can realize how many societies are blighted by the public-house—and yet withhold the very small sum which would secure a place to them on its subscription list, and effective speakers to their platform several times a year, not by gift or offer,

but by right. Having thus dismissed the one fly in the great big pot of ointment we turn with much satisfaction to the membership list, which is the true test of the public favour the Association has obtained. We note that it is supported by—1st, the usual subsidy from the United Kingdom Alliance; 2nd, by 6,261 subscribers and 127 societies. The income from subscriptions alone is £1955 17s. 3d., equal to £162 19s. 9½d. a month, £5 7s. 6d. per day. In the previous year the monthly income was equal to £154 10s. 6d., there is therefore an increase of £8 9s. 3½d. per month, and an increased income of 5s. 11d. per day. This is substantial financial progress which must be gratifying to the Executive and all staunch friends of the Association: one to be truly thankful for. We hope in the interests of the cause that its friends everywhere will realize their duty and privilege to get their friends to connect themselves with the Association, so that the power and influence it already wields may be deeply and widely extended, and the voting power of the opponents of the drink system so augmented, that the drink supporters may feel themselves unable to cope successfully therewith.

Those friends who believe more in efforts by temperance reformers to draw the drinker from the drink than in those having for their object taking the drink from the man, may do much worse than ponder a sentence or two from the interesting statement submitted at the first meeting this winter of the London Lambeth Bath Temperance Society, by the founder of these meetings twenty years ago—Rev. G. M. Murphy. He said that during the past twenty winters two-and-a-quarter millions had attended these excellently conducted meetings, some twenty-four thousand had signed the pledge of total abstinence, and the same band, excepting those who had gone to their reward, had all along aided the good work. This institution may be equalled, but is certainly not surpassed by any other London temperance association. It yearly brings twelve hundred persons forward to the pledge table to take the pledge, and we have reason to believe that those so pledged have in the main firmly adhered to their pledge. Yet it has been doing this for twenty years, and God granting length of life to him we may find Rev. G. M. Murphy twenty years hence stating that not twenty-four thousand but sixty thousand have taken the pledge. Now supposing that twenty years ago prohibition had seized the whole traffic in Lambeth and the south of London and strangled it right off, what might have been the fate of thousands in that part of London? Why there would have been a populace so long under the educative power of law as to be born, reared and matured without any liquor temptations at all. Lives, valuable precious lives, already wasted and mouldering in unhonoured and nameless graves would have been saved; thousands would have had their fathers,

their mothers, their sisters and brothers to-day only for the ravaging power of the drink system. Wealth, education, morality, religion, would have been abundant. Instead of this consummation so devoutly to be wished, we have only these glorious twelve hundred abstainers added every year to the abstainers' ranks in Lambeth, and a multitude whom no man can number still outside the temperance fold. We rejoice that the philanthropist is coming to see more and more clearly that much, very much, indeed we may fearlessly assert the most of his great good holy work is undone by the liquor power. We rejoice that experience is impressively reading him this important lesson, and we look forward hopefully to an early future, when all who earnestly desire the rescue of their fellows from the bondage of intemperance will unite with the prohibitionists in securing from Government the power to all ratepayers which will enable them to directly veto that great source of intemperance, the liquor traffic.

We have pleasure in submitting the following figures respecting arrests for drunkenness in Ireland. They are gleaned from approved returns. Through the operation of the Sunday Closing Act the arrests in Leicester province decreased from 36,945 in 1877 to 24,151 in 1881, decrease 12,794. In Munster province in 1877 there were 29,775 arrests, in 1881, 19,287, decrease 10,488. In Ulster province there were in 1877, 34,284 arrests, in 1881, 26,166, decrease 8,118; in the province of Connaught in 1877 there were 9,899 arrests, while in 1881 there were 8,969, decrease 930. In the whole of Ireland in 1877 there were 110,903 arrests, but in 1881 only 78,573, showing a decrease of 32,330. That shows well for a one day prohibition. Sabbath prohibition is less effective than all week prohibition, because people have time to go from home and also means to spend, so that they can get liquor abroad if legally denied at their own doors. They can store up on Saturday for Sabbath indulgence, so that they can greatly abridge the severity of Sabbath prohibition. Then there are five cities whose traffic is not similarly interfered with. Yet with all these drawbacks the power of prohibition for one day is bringing innumerable blessings to Ireland. Once she had the power of closing and never opening her public houses, we shall find her growing in her love of industry, providence, and peace.

All who wish well to our gallant tars and to those who go down to the great waters either on business or pleasure, will rejoice to hear that the Cunard Steamship Company have resolved that the grog ration of the sailors in that grand fleet is to be stopped and its place to be supplied by coffee. We do not know the reason for this vigorous but beneficial suppression. The crews in this famous line are models of the highest discipline, and it cannot be that this suppression follows on

some outburst of drinking with subsequent danger to one or other of the magnificent fleet. We rather incline to the belief that the benefits to masters and owners of vessels in ceasing to issue a grog ration to the crews in their employment are becoming so well recognized, and that the late revelations of the advantage of abstinence in the fearful strain of conflict in the field are so evident and so heralded abroad that no really sensible shipowners desirous of the highest efficiency in their fleet can overlook them. We are glad that Mr. John Burns has taken such a noble stand in a matter so vital to the interest, the comfort, the effectiveness of his crews, and we trust that all shipowners may follow his example. When once it is found that on ocean, battlefield, and in all cases of the wear and tear of human life, strong drinks are mischievous in their nature, we will find employers of labour combining with the prohibitionists to secure a law which will protect the worker from becoming a total wreck through drink.

From a letter in our correspondence column our readers will observe that we have unwittingly been giving currency to a false report in crediting Sanquhar with an abstaining Council. We are sorry for it. Our correspondent writes as if we were doing injury to the truth. He should rather feel that it is no credit to the temperance reformers in Sanquhar or any other burgh in Scotland to have non-abstainers in the Town Council, the Poor Law Board, the School Board, the Session, or any other public office whatever. The men who drink are not brain-whole enough to manage their own affairs let alone those of other people. We believe that the time is coming when it will look so very foolish, not to say wicked, to soak one's brains with beer or inflame them with spirituous liquors, that the mere fact of a man having the reputation of doing so will be enough to disqualify him from having any office in Society, or Church or State. The community will feel as employers are feeling, that it is not wise to commit their important interests into the hands of such.

We are gratified at being able to present to our readers an article on the condition of Ohio. When we first heard that temperance had suffered a reverse in that American state we were apprehensive of evil coming to the good cause that had so signally triumphed in Maine, Kansas, and Iowa. Still, we looked for fuller information and it has come. It is not temperance that has failed but the trimmers, the politicians, the partizans. Temperance has triumphed by showing the political parties in America that without the temperance vote they can not and will not win. Like the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association the prohibitionists of Ohio have subordinated their party to their principles, and we rejoice to know with good effect already on the party managers. The party that wishes to succeed without prohibitionists or with

the publicans ought in the first instance to be made to feel how little it can do without their support, and in the second instance, that the publicans so far from being a help are a milestone about its neck to sink it in the dismal swamp of opposition. Republicanism with the rum power can never be an advantage to Ohio—never. And now that it sees that the prohibitionists are no longer to be trifled with, it will likely do as it has done in Maine, go in for temperance, and be like Maine republicans at the top of the poll. The temperance man who votes for his party and the publican is inviting failure to every effort for the good of his country.

Making an analysis of the annual report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association we find that the sum subscribed by its 6,261 subscribers averages a fraction under 5s. 2d. each. There are 4 subscribers who give £20 and upwards, 10 from £10 to £20 each, 23 from £5 to £10 each, 62 from £2 to £5 each, 260 from £1 to £2 each, 285 from 10s. to £1 each, 816 from 5s. to 10s. each, 2,173 from 2s. 6d. to 5s. each, 2,628 from 1s. to 2s. 6d. being a total of 6,261 subscribers contributing to the funds of the Association. We note also that 778 have paid 5s. each, 2,037 2s. 6d., and 1,706 1s. These three classes number 4,521. 127 societies subscribed the sum of £80 4s. In previous years we have expressed the hope that our friends might make an effort to rise from the lower to the higher class of subscribers. There are many of its warm friends whom God has blessed with much wealth since they joined the Association. It is surely not too much to ask them to encourage its funds by giving to them a more liberal share of their increase. Many, we are gratified to note, do not fail to remember the wants of the movement, and have from time to time increased their contributions. We believe that they are not in any way the poorer but rather richer in the best sense, that namely of good works. Many, because the Association is not a benevolent association subordinate its claims to that of those charitable institutions which seek to ameliorate the condition of the sick and the destitute. But such societies are begotten by the liquor traffic in almost every case, and with the suppression of the drink system they will disappear. Again, people tell us that their nearest duty is to give to the church. We don't wish to diminish the usefulness of the church by the attainment of our object. When there are no public-houses, no sale of alcoholic liquors, no consumption of them, how will it stand with the churches of our land? Why, a little consideration will show that they will then flourish, they will then make progress, they will then fill. Vital godliness will then prevail; the agencies of the church will then become equal to the task of largely subduing the sinful tendencies of the age. The treasury of the Lord's house will not then be so bare, nor will there be on foot as at present so many doubtful schemes to maintain the finances of the Sanctuary. The triumph of this Association will

not be gained at the expense of any good society, while its triumphs will render all the agencies for curbing intemperance unnecessary, and God's poor will no longer pine with hunger nor shiver with cold. We believe that if people could realise the condition of our country freed from the liquor traffic that those would give who never gave before, and those who now give would give the more. We heartily rejoice at the issue of this report, and we trust that the Association may have an amount of support such as will justify it in putting forth increased efforts through increased agencies and thus bringing nearer the day when it will be powerful enough to constrain a Parliament to grant the people the veto power it is so ardently labouring to secure for them.

THE LESSON OF OHIO.

THE distillers, brewers, and liquor-sellers of Ohio are jubilant. They have won, in alliance with the Democratic party, what they account a great victory. They have telegraphed their rejoicing to their organised liquor allies of New York, exhorting them to "go and do likewise." That temporarily they are masters of the situation in Ohio there is no doubt. But in this they have won nothing new. In legislation concerning the liquor-traffic and in the practical politics of that State they have been for a long time a controlling factor. Their "great victory" will enable them to hold out a little longer against the rising tide of adverse public opinion, but in the end will also hasten their own destruction.

To the Republicans of Ohio and of other States there is a lesson involved in the result of the recent election too important to be overlooked or neglected. It is that the party which would henceforth hold its own and insure its supremacy over the allied liquor forces cannot afford to pursue a temporizing policy. The Republican leaders of Ohio, such as Governor Foster and Senator Sherman, while endorsing Sunday closing, which prohibitionists also heartily concur in, took pains, especially in the cities, to let it be known that they were not in favour of prohibition. They thus alienated the Germans and other beer and whisky constituents while they forfeited the confidence and lost the co-operation of the uncompromising opponents of the liquor-traffic.

It is announced as a significant feature of the election returns that, large as was the increase of the Democratic vote from the liquor alliance with that party, the prohibition gain was relatively larger still. To Governor Foster and his Republican associates, who have attempted the difficult feat of carrying beer on one shoulder and water on the other, the late election is a severe defeat, and deservedly so. It is a defeat over which the friends of temperance in Ohio or elsewhere need not grieve. It had apparently become a necessity to clear the way for something better. Sunday closing was good as far as it went, but it included one day only of the seven. The effort in and out of the legislature for liquor taxation was worse than futile—in effect a revival of the license system under another name. It ought not to succeed, and it is cause for rejoicing that it will probably now be abandoned. With the ominous precedents of Kansas and Iowa, where, by constitutional proviso, the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating beverages is rendered unlawful, the liquor-makers and vendors are aroused as never before, and will henceforth spare no man who favours any sort of restrictive legislation, whether it be Sunday

closing or high-license taxation. Hence their bitter and victorious fight against Foster, Sherman, & Co. in Ohio, as intense as if the latter had championed instead absolute prohibition.

It is to be hoped that now a vigorous and united movement on the part of all opponents of the liquor-traffic in Ohio will be inaugurated, and at no distant day consummated, to so amend the constitution of the State as not only to prohibit liquor-license as at present, but to prohibit, without room for equivocation or doubt, the liquor-traffic itself. Such a movement, non-partisan in character, but earnest and aggressive, will put the liquor forces on the defensive, with their opponents in an attitude very different from that of the recent campaign. Right dealing with the liquor-traffic is the only possible way by which the Republicans of Ohio can hope again to win popular confidence to a degree sufficient to enable them to resume the control of the affairs of the State. To this end the temporising, double-faced managers must be put aside and better and wiser leaders brought to the front. But the weakness is not all with the leaders. The whole people must be appealed to, enlightened, and quickened until every citizen, every voter especially, shall have a clear and positive conviction on the subject of alcohol and against its use in any form as a beverage. With such a condition achieved victory for the right would be in no sense doubtful, either as to securing prohibition, constitutional and statutory, or as to its subsequent enforcement.

There is no royal road for the opponents of the liquor-traffic. It is a mighty force with which they have to contend. It is, on the whole, no cause for regret that the liquor alliance in Ohio has at this time demonstrated so signally its power. It should teach temperance people of all kinds, not alone in Ohio but throughout our country, that only through self-sacrificing work will it suffice to win a complete and an abiding victory over the drink-enemy. In this work the press is a most potent agency, and literature, even beyond the living voice, is a most effective agent to prepare and rightly educate the masses for the pending conflict. "Agitation of thought is the beginning of wisdom" is especially true in connection with the temperance reform. Induce the people to read and think, and it will no longer be possible for "blind leaders," as in the Ohio campaign, to lead blind followers to degradation and defeat.—*National Temperance Advocate*, New York.

INTELLIGENCE.

MR. FRANCIS MURPHY'S MISSION, GLASGOW.

THIS celebrated missionary after most interesting and successful labours in the east and north of Scotland, became desirous of making Glasgow the scene of his labours. Negotiations between him and the Evangelistic Association were entered into, but they failed in securing mutual co-operation, with the most painful consequences to the temperance cause in Glasgow. On the 6th ult. Mr. Murphy met a number of friends interested in his mission and others in the Christian Institute, but little ultimately came of it, for not one dozen of the two hundred clergymen in the city ever came near to aid him. On the 12th he began his meetings in the Trades' Hall, Glassford Street. The place was crowded to suffocation, and had the friends of the lapsed masses done their duty a series of meetings gigantic in their proportions might have been begun, whose influence would have drawn the lowest strata of humanity in the city with an abiding influence such as would have gladdened the hearts of all whose heart's desire and prayers to God are that the lost sheep of the kingdom might yet be gathered into

the fold. Rev. Dr. Somerville presided, and addresses were delivered by Mr. Murphy, John Wilson, Esq., J.P., ex-Bailie Torrens, and other gentlemen. The proceedings were enthusiastic in the extreme. To in some degree soothe the disappointment of the large crowds outside the hall, which would have filled it many times over, a meeting was held outside the platform being the balcony of the hall. Mr. Murphy, Rev. W. C. M'Dougall, Messrs. R. MacKay, Stevenson, and Freer carried it on notwithstanding the cold. The large audience, after hearing the founder of the blue ribbon movement twice, dispersed. During the week the meetings continued to be held with marked success. Mr. Murphy being supported chiefly by the Good Templar and Permissive Bill organizations. Thursday was a great night. The meeting was addressed by Mr. R. Dransfield, Bailie Selkirk and ex-Bailie Torrens, with their usual thoroughgoing advocacy and impressive eloquence. On Sabbath the 19th the meetings were transferred to the Gospel Free Church in Charlotte Street. The church was crowded, and an overflow meeting was also held in Trinity Free Church adjoining. Mr. Murphy, jun., just come from St. Helens, along with Mr. Riley, a lawyer there, addressed the meetings. During the week the meetings were fairly attended, great numbers being attracted by the excellent singing, the numerous and varied speeches, and the genial and indefinable magnetism of Mr. Murphy. Mrs. Richards was unfortunately laid aside by illness, but a well-trained choir largely contributed to the success of the meetings. It was with much regret that we heard of Mr. Murphy's resolution to close his mission in Glasgow. The work done was in the circumstances highly creditable, but he had too many calls to labour outside the city to remain battling with the unchristian indifference to his labours so manifest within it. He has often publicly acknowledged his obligations to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for the valuable services he received from those connected with it. John Wilson, Esq., J.P., ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, Messrs. MacKay, Stevenson, Dransfield, and Black have all taken an effective part in the proceedings, and Mr. Stevenson has devoted much time and labour to the mission. The Good Templars also have given Mr. Murphy much assistance in his arrangements. Several ministers in the city—Rev. Dr. Wallace, Rev. Dr. Ferguson, Revs. W. C. M'Dougall, J. A. Johnstone, J. Glendinning, J. Cumming, G. Stewart, M. Pinkerton, Harding, Gladstone and others have from time to time aided him, but the painful fact remains that the ministers and evangelists of the city as a rule have stayed away. Of the results of the mission under these untoward circumstances we cannot speak too highly. The number of pledges taken were 1,600, and the number of blue ribbons donned nearly 3,000. This speaks well for the vigour of the mission, and some time hence we may hope to see Mr. Murphy returning to this scene of his labours to continue his mission which he has been obliged unfortunately for the large number of drinkers and drunkards amongst us to relinquish.

IRISH DRINKING.—The Irish people are growing increasingly temperate by law. This desirable condition is owing to the operation of the Sunday Closing Act. The Irish drink bill was in 1877 £12,169,915, in 1881 it stood at £10,305,473 a decrease of £1,864,442 sterling. This decrease applies to the whole of the "Green Isle." Sligo and Galway excepted; there unhappily there was a slight increase.

The Edinburgh Pleasance Society held its nineteenth annual meeting on the 22nd. The report was A1. It showed that meetings had been held every week throughout the year, that 500 pledges had been taken, tracts had been scattered around, and a good balance was to carry over to next year. Messrs. Waterston, Lossock, and A. G. Murray, addressed the meeting. The votes of thanks to all concerned were most cordial.

EDINBURGH BAND OF HOPE UNION.—We are glad to observe the substantial progress of this Union. Formed less than seven years ago it has already 113 affili-

ated Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies, having a membership of between 11,000 and 12,000. This is a wonderful success. Its vigour is increasing. Not only does it supply a speaker monthly to all societies connected with it, but is prepared to supply all requisites—declaration papers, attendance cards, hymn books, publications, medals, &c. It affiliates societies for the ridiculously small fee of half a crown. Its programme for the winter means vigorous effort. It has a large number of district demonstrations in view, as well as the issue of a quarterly magazine. It asks from those societies in union with it a Christmas and free-will offering, and if those making this appeal on the behalf of the directors make an effective representation to the young people amongst whom they labour, a pile of bank cheques, postal and money orders should gladden the eyes of the treasurer on the morning of Christmas and the New Year day.

REV. DAVID MACRAE IN PERTH.—Referring to the agitation for local option and prohibition, Rev. David Macrae said it was not a war against the publicans. The best friends of the publicans were those who wished them clear of a bad business—a business which tended to make good men bad and bad men worse. It was not a war against public-houses. They wanted houses that would supply better than whisky shops, because free from their dangers, the need for places of refreshment and resort. This war, on its legislative side, was simply against the traffic in intoxicating drink. Some people argued that the public had no right to interfere with the liberty of those who wanted to buy a glass of whisky. But the public had a right to interfere with any trade that was doing public injury. The public have rights as well as the man who wants to buy a glass of whisky. And these rights were recognised. The law which prohibits gambling-houses and houses of ill-fame interferes with the liberty of people who would like to open or frequent such places. But society endorses that interference as wise and needful. The law against obscene prints is another law that recognises the right of the people to protect themselves from the demoralisation that results from the selling and buying of such things. The Education Act of 1870 with its compulsory clause is an Act that recognises the right of the public to interfere with the liberty of people who would take advantage of that liberty to bring up their children in ignorance, to the cruel injury of the children, and the danger of society. Many, however, who admit that this principle applies equally to the liquor traffic are fond of saying that in this case it will not work—that you cannot make people sober by Act of Parliament. It might as well be said that you cannot make people honest by Act of Parliament; yet it is found a help to make stealing illegal, and to attach a severe penalty to its commission. It might also be said that people cannot be made pure by Act of Parliament, yet by making the sale of immoral publications and obscene prints illegal it is recognised that the cause of purity and public morality is very decidedly assisted. The removal of facilities and temptations to drink always diminishes drinking and drunkenness, and the evils flowing therefrom. The closing of our public-houses at eleven at night during the week and all day on Sunday had proved this abundantly in Scotland, and was proving it in Ireland. The same position was established still more conclusively by the experience of places like Saltaire (London), where no public-houses were allowed at all. He (Mr Macrae) had travelled over great districts in America where prohibitory law, backed by the convictions of the people, had wiped out the whole drink traffic and all its evils with it. Even in Boston—a city twice the size of Edinburgh—he had gone from end to end of it, and not a single dramshop was anywhere to be seen. So enormous were the evils brought upon the public by the traffic in drink, and so vast the public benefits resulting from its prohibition, that the great State of Kansas, not content with a prohibitory law, had now imbedded prohibition in the constitution of the State, and other States were moving in the same direction. The movement was slowly but steadily advancing in our own country, and was bound to advance with the

spread of intelligence and the recognition of the rights of the people.—*On the Liquor Traffic, by Rev. D. Macrae, Dundee.*

The municipal elections in Scotland this year continue to evidence the earnest endeavour of our friends to uphold the dignity of the Town Council by returning as often as possible temperance men. In Edinburgh only two wards were contested; of the 15 retiring 10 were against and 5 in favour of the views of temperance reformers; 9 were elected favourable and 6 unfavourable, the gain to temperance being 4 seats. We regret to have to write the defeat of Mr. David Graig, who gallantly but unsuccessfully contested St. Leonards' Ward. He would have been an honour to the Town Council. On the other hand, Bailie M'Intosh, in Leith, secured for his party a gallant victory, and in Musselburgh, Treasurer M'Kinlay has attained to the honours of the magistracy. In Grangemouth we regret the loss of Mr. Leishman, whose return was successfully opposed by Mr. H. Burrell. It has been the custom in this burgh at the municipal elections for the ballot boxes to be taken on the close of the poll from the town hall to a hotel where the returning officer, presiding officer, and other officials dined, and the boxes were then reconveyed to the town hall and the counting gone on with. The returning officer, Provost Macpherson, as might have been expected, instructed that the boxes be conveyed to the burgh chambers where all concerned enjoyed a most excellent repast, without any intoxicating liquors. This is one of those sterling local reforms which deserves the highest praise, and we cannot sufficiently admire the wisdom and courage of the worthy Provost in bringing about so praiseworthy a change in the election procedure of the burgh over which he so worthily presides. We hope that other returning officers will go and do likewise. It needs no new Act of Parliament but merely the authority of this high office, the exercise of which can confer such a substantial benefit on the community, and presents so cogent an argument in favour of public dinners uncontaminated by alcoholic liquors. In Glasgow we deplore the defeat of Ex-Bailie Lamberton, a worthy supporter of temperance reform. His opponent is an abstainer. Mr. Malcolm Campbell was elected, Bailie Ure and Bailie Richmond returned. All manifest a hearty sympathy with temperance aims. At Rutherglen we have the pleasure of stating that Bailie Dick fills the Provost's chair, and has the honour of being the first abstainer that ever was elected Provost of the ancient burgh. We regret that Provost Campbell, of Greenock, was not re-elected to the Provostship. We fear that our friends are in a minority meantime in the Council but we rejoice to find that once more Mr. John Lang has been elected to the Council, and that Mr. Thomas M'Intyre is now a councillor. In Rothesay our old and faithful friend John M'Kinlay has been invested with the chain and is now a Bailie. Mr. P. B. Ferguson we are glad to see has been elected to the Council here. In Perth we regret that Councillor Campbell should have relinquished his seat at the Council, but trust soon to see him at the Council board again. Our friends in Perth are to be congratulated on the growth of their municipal representation, they are within two or three members of having a majority in the Council. In Campbeltown the temperance party have been victorious and rejoice that Messrs. R. Mackay and W. G. C. Paul are now members of its Council. This slight notice will afford our readers some idea of the state of feeling on temperance current in the Scottish municipal elections, which must be admitted is full of joyful satisfaction. Being the first time that females have been responsible voters, we are glad to find that on the whole our elections show so well as regards temperance reform, and we should look forward with confident hope to the results of their voting on future occasions.

EDINBURGH.—On the 7th ult., ex-Bailie Lewis delivered the first of a course of lectures, arranged for by the Edinburgh Temperance Society. His subject was "Temperance legislation, an essential element in the political programme of Reform." He treated his subject with all his accustomed vigour. We give his

reference to the question of compensation. By the recent election—in Edinburgh—the voice of the temperance electors of Edinburgh has been formally pronounced upon the subject of compensation so prominently raised by the Licensing Bill of Lord Colin Campbell in the last session of Parliament. The proposal to tax the ratepayers for fifty years to compensate licence-holders and their landlords has, we feel proud to say, been unanimously rejected; and the claims of compensation have also been repudiated by the unanimous resolution of a large and influential public meeting of temperance electors. When the terms of the certificate of licence-holders is considered, and the fact that the traffic contributes not to the benefit but to the injury of the commonwealth, the resolution of the Edinburgh temperance reformers will surprise no one. The proposal to grant compensation is not only unfair and unreasonable, but the amount required would be so enormous as to impose a burden upon the nation altogether insupportable. It is desirable that the advocates of compensation should look this fact fairly in the face. We learn from the *Daily Review* that recently in London five taverns were exposed for sale at the upset price of £347,000, and that the owners would not dispose of them for less. The amount required, even upon the principle indicated in Lord Colin Campbell's bill, to compensate 175,000 liquor-sellers and their landlords in the United Kingdom would require at least £350,000,000 sterling, being nearly half the amount of the national debt. This, be it observed, does not include the claims of malsters, brewers, and distillers, which, if recognised in any degree, would require an amount of money altogether fabulous. Keeping in view that the annual national expenditure of the United Kingdom amounts to upwards of £83,000,000 sterling—being nearly £2 10s per head for every man, woman, and child in the community—it will appear manifest that the taxpayers are in all conscience sufficiently burdened. This, be it understood, is altogether irrespective of local taxation, which in Edinburgh alone annually amounts to upwards of £100,000. Moreover, the claim for compensation, in so far as Scotland is concerned, is altogether without a precedent. In so far as it applies to the landlords of licensed premises the supreme courts in Scotland have unanimously declared that there is no claim. Neal Dow, in speaking on this subject, says:—"I have not been able to see what claim to compensation disestablished publicans can possibly have in law, equity, or common sense—near or remote. In some of our States we have prohibition pure and simple. The liquor traffic is forbidden over a region of country many times larger than Great Britain, and there has never been even a suggestion that the trade suppressed had a claim to compensation." (Cheers.) The *Times*, writing upon this subject, put it thus:—"Publicans' profits represent misspent money. The publicans desire to keep their trade, but do they really believe that their claims can be permanently sustained? They have everything against them except the vicious propensities of nature. . . . To put the case in half-a-dozen words, the profits in which the liquor-sellers now claim a vested interest are realised to a vast extent at the cost of popular degradation, vice, and misery; and the question is simply whether the Legislature of a country is not justified in placing with due consideration the welfare of the people above the gains of a trade." (Cheers.) A few years ago the Queen of Madagascar, grieved and indignant at the havoc wrought among her people by drink, prohibited its sale. Shortly after the edict had gone forth a deputation of French rum sellers waited upon Her Majesty, and urged their claims for compensation. The Queen patiently heard all they had to say, and then addressed them thus.—"Go home and summon together those who sent you here. Go and consult among yourselves, consider the wrongs which you have done my people; and after you have compensated them for the injury and ruin inflicted upon them, come back to me, and we will then talk of compensation." (Cheers.) We commend the utterances of these testimonies to the consideration of all who differ from us on this question of

liquor traffic compensation. (Loud cheers.) A vote of thanks was cordially awarded to the speaker for his admirable lecture, and another to the president of the society—Mr. R. Cameron—who ably presided.

Vote right. This is just the time to vote as you may, provided you pray for the overthrow of the liquor traffic.

EDINBURGH ELECTION.—The contest for the representation of the city of Edinburgh in Parliament has terminated in the election of Samuel D. Waddy, Esq., Q.C., M.P., as the junior member for the city. The vacancy was created by the retirement of Mr. James Cowan through continued ill-health. He was a steady supporter of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his Permissive Bill and Local Option resolution. On his acceptance of the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, Mr. James Hall Renton, Mr. D. M'Laren, and Mr. S. D. Waddy took the field; a great many other names of eminence were spoken of, but their owners did not appear. The temperance party were found thoroughly united in the determination to have a good man. They met and adopted the following question by acclamation:—"In the event of a measure being introduced into Parliament conferring upon a majority of the rate-payers of Scotland the unconditional legal power to prohibit the liquor traffic in their several localities, will you by your vote and influence support the same?" They at the same time appointed the following gentlemen as a standing committee to wait upon all candidates immediately they appeared and put this question to them:—Rev. Dr. Adamson, ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P., Councillor M'Lauchlin, Messrs. Ramsay, Nisbet, M'Lagan, and Miller, Mr. J. H. Waterston acting as secretary. Mr. M'Laren and Mr. Renton answered the question heartily in the affirmative, as also did Mr. Waddy, although he objected to the word "unconditional." "He had voted in the House of Commons," he said, "in support of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill, and he was prepared to do so still." The committee had to report that the candidates' attitude to the question was so much alike that practically it did not matter by whom their views were represented. The temperance reformers then agreed to leave the question of supporting the candidates to the temperance electors themselves. Ultimately the contest lay solely between Messrs. Renton and Waddy, and at the close of the poll it was found that Mr. Waddy was elected by a majority of 737 votes. This practically leaves the representation of Scotland as it was. The result confers great credit on the friends in Edinburgh. By their union, their harmony, their independence, intelligence, and energy they have secured an able representative of their views, and made it more manifest to all aspirants for Parliamentary honours that on the threshold of all Parliamentary contests they will have to reckon with the temperance party. Looking back on the last twenty-four bye-elections in Scotland, the temperance party have reason for much congratulation. Eighteen of these have resulted in the election of candidates favourable to their views; four in the return of candidates undecided; and in the return of two only—Mr. Gladstone for Midlothian, and Sir John Hay for the Wigtown Burghs—who vote against the resolution of the House of Commons affirming the justice and reasonableness of leaving the communities free to suppress the liquor traffic.—*Alliance News.*

MR. MURPHY IN EDINBURGH.—On Saturday, the 25th inst., Mr. Murphy held his farewell meeting in Edinburgh. The proceedings were exceedingly successful. Mr. Coutts stated that 14,088 had taken the pledge, and that the work was to be carried on. Addresses were delivered by Professor Kirk, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Revs. J. Robertson and A. Inglis, and Mr. John Laing. Mr. Murphy said he was sorry that his visit to Edinburgh was come to a close. He had enjoyed great kindness at the hands of all concerned. He begged to return his thanks to the committee and the two secretaries (Messrs. Brown and Coutts) for all their attention, and he could say honestly that they had never had together a jarring word. (Applause.) To the choir he was also much indebted. The ministers

of the city had also stood nobly by him, and he could not too heartily return his heartfelt thanks to the many ladies and gentlemen who had been workers throughout the hall. He expressed his deep debt of gratitude to Mr. J. H. Waterston, who had acted as his private secretary. He had conducted his correspondence and attended to his book, which contained a record of the gospel temperance work. He felt bound to thank him publicly for his great kindness, courtesy, and forbearance, and expressed the hope that he might long be spared to prosecute, as he had done, the good work. (Applause.) He said the press had been very kind to him, and especially the *Daily Review*, for which he asked three cheers, a request which met with a cordial response. At the close, on the motion of the Rev. James Robertson, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Murphy, which was given by the entire audience standing and waving their handkerchiefs. As Mr. Murphy left the building a large crowd heartily cheered him. The result of these meetings is that 16,000 pledges and 22,000 blue ribbons have been accepted. At a meeting held after this meeting it was resolved to continue the work, and Messrs. W. Brown, J. H. Waterston, and J. Darling were appointed a committee to arrange meetings. We are glad to observe that meetings are being held in Canongate, Westport, and Blackfriars. About 500 persons are pledging at these meetings weekly.

THE MITCHELL MONUMENT.—Just twelve months ago we informed our readers that an inscription in memory of Mrs Mitchell, the wife of the late Mr James Mitchell, who died in 1862, had been placed on the monument to his memory, which stands in the Southern Necropolis, Glasgow. We incidentally stated that the stone of the monument was wasting, and that unless it was seen to at once it would suffer injury. We asked surviving friends of Mr Mitchell to contribute a trifle each to pay for the preservation of the monument; but we feel ashamed to record that not one has paid the slightest attention to our appeal for help. The work has been done, however; and we have been requested to lay a statement of the Mitchell Monument Fund before our readers. We had hopes that the Treasurer would have had funds to have tidied up the grass around the hallowed resting-place of this noble labourer, but he has not enough, and the work is suspended.

CHARGE.		DISCHARGE.	
Bal. in Bank, ..	£2 1 0	By inscription, ..	£0 8 6
Interest, ..	0 7 1	Renovation, ..	1 16 0
		Bal. in N.S.S. Bank,	0 2 10
	£2 8 1		£2 8 1

ROBT. MACKAY, Treasurer.

The monument is now preserved for many years to come; and if the ground around was duly attended to, the resting-place of our lamented friend would be pleasant to look upon.

THE SILVER STAR BRIGADE.—This is one of those little organisations framed for the young which are doing a noble work in moulding and disciplining the "coming race." That their Brigade is worthy of our good wishes and our prayers will, we think, appear to all who read the "five points" of the Silver Star Brigade. (1) I promise, by God's help, to strive to be good and useful, and to try to spread happiness around men. (2) I will try to help others, especially the weak, the poor, the sick, and the sorrowful. (3) I will abstain from all intoxicating liquors, from tobacco, swearing, bad words, and gambling. (4) I will be kind to animals, and try to save them from cruelty. (5) I will strive to be loving, pure, and true in thought, word, and deed.

The *Chicago Tribune* says "It can scarcely be a crime to drink so long as the church continues the use of wine at the Communion Table."

"Why are you late, Miss?" She hung her head and said, "We got a baby at our house this morning." "Don't let it happen again," said he, fiercely. "No, sir," said she and took her seat. If he had seen the titter on the big scholars' faces, he would have gone mad.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

SANQUHAR TOWN COUNCIL.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I see in your issue for November in your remarks about Pollokshaws Town Council you mention that *Sanquhar has Provost, Bailies, and Councillors all abstainers*. Now as this has appeared in different papers in Scotland, I take this opportunity to give it an unqualified denial, for, I am sorry to say, such is not the case. Herewith I give a list of the Council and their position in regard to temperance. Hoping you will give this the same publicity as you have given to the report in the November number of your magazine, I am yours respectfully,

THE W.C.T. OF THE SANQUHAR LODGE I.O.G.T.

[We find from the Worthy Chief's list of the Council that the Provost, the Treasurer, and two Councillors are abstainers; the two Bailies, the Dean, and two of the Councillors are non-abstainers. Our friend Jack Falstaff used to say, "Lord, how the world is given to lying."—*Ed. S.R.*]

SIR,—Hanlan's testimony as to the benefits of abstinence from intoxicating liquors and tobacco is all the more valuable from the fact that he is not only the son of a tavern-keeper, but is also himself a licensed vendor of strong drink. Trickett, also, is a tavern-keeper, and a personal abstainer. It is rather surprising, after the testimony of Mr Gladstone and Sir Stafford Northcote, that raising the revenue from a sober people would not present difficulties either of them could not readily overcome, to find Mr M'Iver, M.P., raising the revenue bogey again. Our present Canadian Minister of Finance, Sir Leonard Dilly, has repeatedly declared his readiness to devise sources of revenue if the liquor traffic should be prohibited. The fact is, no more wasteful source of revenue than the liquor traffic could well be found.—Yours faithfully,

G. H. HALE.

FOOD REFORM.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I read the articles of "Robin Goodfellow" on diet with considerable interest. I believe that his position is sound, but I await the appearance of all his articles before I come to a conclusion. I write to state that I was a guest at the recent Food Reform Society Dinner in the city of Glasgow. The Rev. Professor Kirk was one of the speakers. He spoke of the delusion under which people rested regarding the quantity and quality of their food. We need some principle to guide us regarding the quantity of food we require. The supply of food is unlimited, but the power to assimilate it is limited. In eating and drinking we too often pass into a state the reverse of beneficial. He illustrated his position here by the use of food in illness. In this condition the power of digestion is entirely suspended, and he himself lay in bed with fever for eight days without taking any food, and made a more rapid cure just because he had not food in his system to fight against. But I pause meantime.—Yours,

ASTRON.

GOOD AND BAD.

ONE day little Robert's father saw him playing with some boys who were rude and unmannerly. He had observed for sometime a change for the worse in his son, and now he knew the cause. He was very sorry, but he said nothing to Robert at the time.

In the evening he brought from the garden six beautiful rosy-cheeked apples, put them on a plate, and presented them to Robert.

He was much pleased at his father's kindness, and thanked him.

"You must lay them aside for a few days, that they may become mellow," said the father; and Robert cheerfully placed the plate with the apples in his mother's storeroom.

Just as he was putting them aside, his father laid on his plate a seventh apple, which was quite rotten, and desired him to allow it to remain there.

"But, father," said Robert, "the rotten apple will spoil all the others."

"Do you think so? Why should not the fresh apples rather make the rotten one fresh?" said his father. And with these words he shut the door of the room.

Some days afterwards he asked his son to open the storeroom door and take out the apples. But what a sight presented itself! the six apples which had been so round and rosy-cheeked were now quite rotten, and spread a bad smell through the room.

"O papa!" cried he, "did I not tell you that the rotten apple would spoil the good ones? yet you did not listen to me."

"My boy," said his father, "have I not told you often that the company of bad children will make you bad? yet you do not listen to me. See in the condition of the apples that which will happen to you if you keep company with bad boys."

Robert did not forget the lesson. When any of his former doubtful play-fellows asked him to join in their sports, he thought of the rotten apples, and kept himself apart from them.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

THE WORKS OF DR. F. R. LEES.—We understand that Dr. F. R. Lees is willing to issue a collected edition of his works in ten volumes, provided that he receives orders enough to justify him going on with their publication. The first volume is to be the famous "Text Book on Temperance." If sufficient encouragement is given the volumes will be published quarterly, at half-a-crown each to subscribers only. Those who send in orders for six copies of any volume are entitled to a seventh copy gratis. We surely do not need to urge our friends to subscribe to the issue of works which embody such a wealth of research, learning, argument, and criticism. In no other way can they obtain such a valuable library of temperance literature. We do most earnestly commend this proposal to the prompt and liberal consideration of all our readers. They should send in their names and addresses at once, to Dr. F. R. Lees, Meanwood, Leeds.

The Son of Temperance. London: Daniel & Smithers, 120 Newington Butts; published at 337 Strand. One penny monthly. This organ has nearly run out its first volume. It is an admirable exponent of the division whose interests it was instituted to promote. Its conductors display a deep insight into all that concerns the advantages of the Society of the Sons of Temperance. We learn from the annual report the interesting record of the starting of the magazine. 4,000 was ordered of No. 1, but the cry was for more. The second, owing to an admirable paper on the valuation of the London division, reached 8,000. In the first half year of its existence the circulation has attained to 27,500 copies, a very gratifying proof of the necessity of such an organ to the division, and of the satisfactory way in which that felt necessity has been met. In a spirit of quiet sarcasm the editor places his own complaints against those of some candid critic. Here are his complaints, (a) many divisions don't advertize, (b) four-fifths of the members don't buy the paper, (c) half the grand scribes do not report grand division meetings, (d) half the grand divisions do not see that coffee taverns, reading rooms and libraries are freely supplied with the maga-

zine, (e) subordinate divisions do not report festivals, and special efforts, and (f) some of the brethren who do report wait till the very last moment, or even prefer to see their news two months old. He is getting on excellently notwithstanding. We trust that he will show a splendid result next year. He has our best wishes.

The Two Mothers.—By Rev. Alex. M'Leod, D.D. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League. This is a very fine series of stories and told with delightful simplicity. As a prize book for the lower Sabbath school forms, or for Band of Hope children it is just the one to buy. It is a wonderful penny's worth.

The Adviser for 1882. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League. Price 1s. Enclosed in charming covers, with an elegant coloured plate of a lovely girl under the mistletoe the *Adviser* presents itself to our admiring gaze. Containing well selected as well as original matter, lavishly illustrated in the best style by skilled artists, with music and words, and spirited, sparkling poetry for the young, we may just say of the *Adviser* that "age cannot wither, nor custom stale the infinite variety" to be found in this, the most delightful children's magazine.

Drink and Strong Drink: a series of readings.—By Dr. W. B. Richardson. London and Glasgow: William Collins, Sons & Co. One shilling. This is a jewel of a temperance book. It has all the precision of science, and all the charm of rhetoric. We believe a more delightful introduction to the grand principles of the great temperance reformation is not to be found in the English language. The parents that ingrain the lessons of this most excellent text book into the minds of their children are awakening in their little hearts and intellects an un fading interest in the temperance cause. We hope to hear of its reaching an enormous circulation: anything less would be short of its deserts.

In the *Western Temperance Herald* for November there is an exceedingly interesting article from the pen of the Rev. J. S. Balmer, of Blackpool. Mr. Balmer voluntarily adopted the pledge of abstinence in Carlisle, wrought by day, and advocated abstinence from strong drink by night. He was at length invited to labour for temperance, and was engaged by the Ayrshire Temperance Union as their first agent. After labouring some time with great success in various portions of the temperance field, he entered the ministry in 1861, in which he has since laboured for the Master. He feels no difficulty in advocating temperance, while fulfilling his ministerial duties, nor in clearing the table of the Lord of polluting alcoholic liquors; and he has a glowing steadfast confidence that the day of the triumph of the temperance reformation is at hand. Our friends in Ayrshire will be glad to hear that their old and highly esteemed agent Mr. Balmer is so nobly fulfilling the promise of his early years.

West Thorpe.—By Alice O'Hanlon. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League. Cloth 2s, paper covers 1s. A very powerfully written story is West Thorpe. Down into the loathsome abyss sink not a few of its characters—rich, educated, agreeable, pleasing, and loveable: up rise some who once on the brink of perdition through drink abstain from it with determination and do more than regain the position they forfeited, though, alas, they feel that it would have been better, far better that they had never fallen, since they never can forget. The story is laid chiefly among the "well to do": the very slight episode of Day and White being all that has to do with the working man. Your rector, manufacturer, your business firm, and your heir to wealth and idleness show clearly the lesson that among "our betters" the drink demon reaps as fruitful harvests as among the "sons of toil." Miss Hanlon has drawn with a firm hand a skilful plot, and a few good characters in language eminently clear and forcible, and produced a tale which all will read with interest and feeling, and not a few with eyes suffused with tears.

Thirty-first Annual Report of the Cartsdyeke Working Men's Total Abstinence Society. Greenock: Temp-

erance Hall, 6 Cartsburn Street. Secretary, R. Smith, 42 St. Lawrence Street. The committee present an admirable report, condensed yet substantial. They inform us that 190 members have been enrolled during the year, and the heavy balance of £18 14s 2d to carry over. They had arranged for 43 lectures, etc., and held 12 in the House of Refuge. The mission work of the society is highly successful. There is a Sabbath school, a Sabbath evening meeting, and two meetings weekly, while tracts are systematically delivered, and after all the sum of £6 0s 6½d remains in the Treasurer's hands. Free tea is among the means used to reach the poor, and, besides, more than twenty families have been helped with food, fuel, and clothing, and they add significantly, "But had our instructions extended only to abstainers, or been limited to religious persuasions, our report of relief would have been *nil*, and your charitable fund untouched." Ah, "Godliness is profitable"! The conclusion of the tract is worthy of quotation. We wish the committee great success in their praiseworthy labours.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE REV. DR. BRUCE.—We deeply regret to have the melancholy duty of recording the decease of this revered minister at Bridge of Allan, on Wednesday, 15th ult., aged seventy-one years, forty-five of which he had spent in the ministry of the Master. He was truly a worthy man, beloved of his people, and an excellent preacher, with no small share of the vision and faculty divine, two of his hymns finding a place in the U.P. Hymnal. He had a strong sympathy with the temperance reformation, especially in its prohibitory aspect, and had his health permitted would have rendered personal assistance in its advocacy. He was interred, with the greatest show of mournful respect, in the Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh, in which city he had been the minister, and lately the senior minister, of Infirmary Street U.P. Church.

THE LATE MR. ADAM DRYDEN, EDINBURGH.—It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Adam Dryden, who died at his residence, Craigie Terrace, Edinburgh, on 20th ult. Mr. Dryden belonged to one of the Border Counties, and settled in Edinburgh upwards of twenty years ago. He belonged to that school of quiet thinkers who naturally penetrate beneath the mere surface of those currents which agitate society, and who are slow to commit themselves to any movement until its principles and objects are clearly apprehended. Hence, when he associated himself with any public question he was ever warm and loyal in his attachment to the cause which he had espoused. While of a retiring, unobtrusive nature, he possessed in no small degree the qualities of an earnest and aggressive social, political, and temperance reformer. From an early period in the prohibitory agitation against the drink traffic, there were few who more clearly understood all the bearings of the question, and was more consistent and liberal in its support. He was a respected Vice-President of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for many years. Although never prominent on public platforms, his influence, and unflinching testimony in the cause of temperance, and kindred subjects will be much missed. As a successful business man, and a Christian gentleman he was honoured and respected by all who knew him, and much sympathy is felt for his widow and family. His funeral took place on Thursday the 23rd ult., in Newington Cemetery, which was largely attended, there being present a number of distinguished citizens, including the Rev. Principal Cairns, Rev. Mr. Riach, Mr. Duncan M'Laren, late Member for the City, Dr. Menzies, and many others who are well known in the cause of social and temperance reform. Councillor Lossock, Peebles, and Mr. J. H. Waterston represented the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the melancholy occasion.—L.

THE
Social Reformer.

JANUARY, 1883.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER VIII.—THE MISSION IN PIPER'S ALLEY.

I cannot linger over the days which followed—over the desolation of that ruined house; over the mourning at the manse, where Lizzie had been loved as a dear daughter of the house.

Three days later she was buried with her baby at her breast in the churchyard at Strathglide. Arthur followed her to the grave, and these few days had changed him from the vigour of splendid manhood to the feeble appearance of age. He stood beside the open grave and listened to the faltering words of his father's prayer without a muscle of his set face moving. Some among them said it was a shame to see how indifferent he was, but others knew that the fires of Gehenna burned under that calm exterior. That day he disappeared without a word of warning or farewell to kith or kin. It was only known that he took train at Claybridge for Glasgow, thither it was useless to follow him.

In the second week of April Tom Hislop sailed for Queensland, and all trace of the Hislops departed from Strathglide.

But it would be long before they were forgotten in the place.

During all this time, Andrew Sutherland's business had been steadily increasing. Ay, the Half Way House, like others of its kind, was eminently a paying concern. There is no risk you see in the sale of liquor, the longer it is kept the more valuable it becomes, and then look at the profit the retailers take! And the shameful adulteration alcoholic drinks are subjected to goes a long way towards increasing these profits; it is a very dishonourable thing, I doubt not, but can you expect to find a spirit of honour among those who traffic in the ruin and wreck of their fellow-men, body and soul? Strong language, my friends, but no stronger than the subject warrants. This evil is not one which can be dealt with gently, or spoken of in light condemnation. The day has long gone for such measures.

Strange to say, Walter Gillespie and his father were still apart. Neither would give in, for in spite of his amiability Walter had an iron will of his own. He was doing well in London, and was his uncle's right hand. Possibly, if he had not been doing so well, he would have sacrificed his pride ere this. In the autumn following Lizzie's death, Laura accepted an invitation from Mrs. Hunter, and went to London to spend a few weeks. Walter had not seen her for nearly two years. Letters passed regularly, but what are letters compared to the real and living presence of our dear ones? These were weeks of unalloyed happiness for both. The Hunter's abode at Richmond was a beautiful home of the wife's choosing. A sweet, frank, loveable woman was Matthew Hunter's wife, although there was a gravity about her which the loss of three lovely children had left behind. Her childless heart had warmed to Walter, and she was ready, you may be sure, to accord a true welcome to his promised wife. Seeing her, she ceased

to wonder at what she had secretly thought Walter's folly. London was a great revelation to the country girl, and the Hunters were good entertainers. Nothing worth seeing was left unseen. "I have to attend a social meeting of our mission to-night, Laura," said Mr. Hunter one evening at the dinner table; "Have you any curiosity to see one of the saddest and yet most interesting sights in all London?"

"I should like it," answered Laura. "What kind of a mission is it?"

"It is among the lowest and most degraded class in the East end," answered Mr. Hunter. "We have a service once a week, and a tea meeting occasionally. There is a Dorcas Society too, upheld by the ladies interested in the work; my wife is its principal. It is uphill work, she will tell you, but we have just enough success to encourage us to go on."

"It is a noble work," said Laura, warmly.

"It is," assented Mrs. Hunter. Before I was married, Laura, I would have crossed to the other side of the street to evade one of these poor creatures who are my friends now. My husband taught me that they have souls and feelings just as we have, and he has imbued me with some of his enthusiasm."

"She is invaluable in the worst cases, my dear," smiled Mr. Hunter, "A woman can do so much more than a man sometimes. They all love her. You will see evidence of it to-night. You will accompany us, Walter."

"Yes, uncle."

"All right. It is time we were off, the meeting begins at seven, it is past five now. Will you cut some flowers for the tables, ladies?"

The city clocks were chiming seven when the party drove through the city.

"You have five minutes walk through the slums before you reach the place, Laura," said Mrs. Hunter, when the carriage stopped in one of the poorest quarters of the mighty city. "We can't take the horses down; it wouldn't be safe."

Laura nodded, and they turned down a narrow squalid lane, literally swarming with people. Children of all ages and sizes sprawled in the gutters, in company with the lean and hungry curs which are ever plentiful in the quarters of the poor. Even in this place Laura was amazed to see the number of gin-shops on either side. Every few yards there was a flaming sign and a wide doorway giving a tempting glimpse of the interior. Depend upon it, my friends, these rum-sellers know the frailty of human nature. Do you suppose they don't know that the poorest of their customers love creature comforts if they can but procure them? Coming from these foul, cheerless, squalid dens called homes, though God knows the name is but a mockery, do you wonder that a man enters a gin palace with a sense of pleasure? They look so comfortable inside, with their glancing gas-lights, polished counter, and glittering glass and pewter, if you will believe it these things have often as much to do with a man spending his time there as the mere drink.

Make your homes more attractive, and strip off the gilt, and glitter, and light, from your taverns, and there will be a great step gained in the right direction.

At Richmond on that fair June evening, it had seemed

a very pleasure to be alive. Every breath of the summer wind was laden with the perfume of a thousand blossoms, every tree and hedge was clothed with the green freshness of the glorious summer time, but here, lo, what a change! The hot stifling air was reeking with foul fumes and poisonous breaths, the narrow strip of sky above the towering roof-trees was obscured by the mists and vapours of the city: no wonder that Laura Tennant drew her skirts closely about her as she carefully picked her way in the centre of the lane, and asked compassionately, "How on earth do these wretched creatures live?" They don't live, my friends, they drag out a wretched existence in which there is not a ray of hope or light. Look at their faces if you should chance to find yourself in some of these vile places. There is not a spark of intelligence beyond a low cunning in their faces. You may look in vain for one trace of noble manhood or womanhood among them.

The meeting-place in Piper's Alley was a brick structure, plain and substantially built. The interior fitted up with strong wooden benches, and tables of the same description. These were set out for tea. There was an abundance of plain solid food, such as the majority of the poor souls never tasted except within these walls. The hall was packed, and as our friends made their way through the centre to the platform, a kind of cheer was raised. Laura and Walter were provided with seats near the front, and from thence watched the proceedings with intense interest.

There might be three or four hundred on the benches of all ages and sexes, each one a more pitiful-looking object than his neighbour.

Bent, feeble, old men and aged crones, scarcely able to sustain their tottering weight, strong, villanous-looking fellows of the type which fills our gaols and penitentiaries, fierce, repulsive women from whom all grace of womanhood had long since fled, girls in their teens with faces already seared by the hand of vice, and little children, God help them, who, reared in a nursery of crime, never knew the guileless innocence of childhood; these were the people on whom Laura Tennant looked in pitiful amazement. There were several ladies busy at the tables, pouring out tea, and cutting huge slices of bread. Mrs. Hunter went from one bench to another, offering a flower here and a kind word, or perhaps only a smile there, and Laura saw in that the evidence Mr. Hunter had promised her. Yes, Edith Hunter had a hold upon these hearts.

A choir of young ladies and gentlemen sang hymns during the progress of the meal; many paused to listen, and Laura fancied she saw tears in some eyes as the sweet strains of Jesus' redeeming love rang through the hall.

"Well, my dear," said Matthew Hunter, finding himself for a moment near Laura, "what do you think of our meeting?"

"I can't express my feelings, sir," said Laura. "It seems to me something awful to think of the life these people must lead to cause them to look like that. See, Walter, what would you say that was there at the end of the bench next the wall?"

Walter turned his head and looked in the direction indicated. On the extreme edge of the bench was a figure small and stunted, habited in one ragged shirt and a man's old coat. Destitute of linen the creature's breast and neck was visible through the rents and fissures of the garment. Set upon a bony neck was a head with a shock of matted black hair which hung wildly over the low narrow forehead; a pair of small black eyes gleamed from beneath the shaggy brows, and the lower part of the face was coarse and heavy. And stamped upon that face was a look of dogged misery, enough to make a heart bleed.

"That is Shuffling Ben, as he is called among them," explained Matthew Hunter. "His mother is a hopeless drunkard, and the boy, he is a boy, cousin, though I grant you might be puzzled to guess it, picks up a living anywhere. Steals enough one day perhaps to last him the next, and starves the rest of the week. He has never been in jail yet, he is as sharp as a fox, they can't get at him; he never comes here unless positively starving."

Laura shuddered.

At that moment she saw Mrs. Hunter go up to the lad and lay her hand on his shoulder. They were near enough to catch his words.

"Well Ben, my boy," she said, and her voice was as soft and tender as if she had been speaking to one of her own little ones; "I am glad to see you here to-night. Have you had a good tea?"

Ben replied by a kind of jerk, but his face preserved its stolidity.

"I have missed you for a few weeks, what has come over you?"

"Dunno."

"Could not you manage to bring your mother with you next time, Ben; do try?"

Ben raised his head and looked at her with a look of matchless cunning and amusement in his eyes. "Bring 'er here, oh my, wot a lark it ud be."

"We're going to have some nice music and a word or two from Mr. Hunter now, Ben," she said not noticing his last remark, "you'll stay."

"Ef you want me to," said Ben, his face relapsing into its hapless stolidity, "I'll bide."

"Of course I want you, Ben, or do you think I should have come here to ask you," and with a smile Mrs. Hunter left him and came to the platform.

Mr. Hunter stood up and raised his hand for silence, you would have wondered to see how his sign was obeyed. You could have heard a pin drop. I need not write down what he said to these people, because to you it would sound very poor and weak; simple words mean much in their utterance, but they lose their force when they are written. He did not speak above ten minutes, and what he said came straight from his heart, and was simple enough to be understood by the youngest among them. It was only the story he had told in that place scores of times before, the record of that holy, loving, unselfish life of the Saviour who lived on earth in order that the poorest, vilest wretches might have life eternal. To some in that hall that life was a joyful reality, and the Saviour a near and precious friend, but the majority of them had heard the story before, and listened to it now as the inevitable winding up of the tea meeting; they could not get the one without the other. I question if the half of them listened to the speaker's words, yet all kept quiet. Then a hymn was given out, simple words set to a simple tune made familiar by repetition.

Mr. Hunter requested the audience to join, which they did with a will. And oh, what a chorus it was! Words fail me to describe it. There was no harmony in it, and yet the tears ran like rain down Laura Tennant's cheeks as she listened.

Ten minutes afterwards the hall was cleared, and only the workers remained on the platform.

"Well, Laura," said Mrs. Hunter, speaking for the first time, "Do you think you could undertake work like this? Do you see sufficient to interest you?"

"Interest," repeated Laura, "I think it would be a life-work to reform one of them. I never saw such a collection in my life. If you had described them to me I would never have believed that the world held so many wrecks of humanity. What do you think of it, Walter?"

"I don't know," replied Walter briefly, and from his manner Laura guessed how deeply he was moved.

"They were wonderfully orderly to-night," said Matthew Hunter. "One night I had to send Edith home, there was something like a free fight in the hall."

"And it's cause?" asked Laura.

"Drink," replied Matthew Hunter briefly. "Without it there would be a faint hope of reclaiming these masses; with it the thing is an impossibility. They are demons when the drink is in them."

"If their reclamation is an impossibility, uncle," said Walter impulsively, "why continue the work? Is it not so much waste of time and labour?"

"If one of these immortal souls can be brought safely home, it is worth it, my boy," said the elder man with kindling face. "And, thank God, it has been our glorious privilege to see the restoration of more than one!"

THE WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE—V.

THE "coming race," if they are to progress at all in proportion to their means and opportunities, must be able to live so as to have life in society as it is in say our prisons, with a mortality never exceeding eleven per thousand, instead of the mean of double that mortality as at present. We cannot see why there should be such a reckless eagerness to take all out of life we can if it were known that we can only live up to a certain measure, which we may maintain but cannot increase, and can certainly decrease by our wanton extravagance. They will require to be better up in the economy of life than we, their forefathers and foremothers. If they can realise that life is more than meat, they will endeavour to proportion their food to the healthy wants of their system. If their system can assimilate three diets, then three diets will not be waste of food for them; while if two diets are all that their system demands, three diets must be excess. Excess to them as to us is the loss of that food which is in excess of their requirements and loss of assimilative power, which means the premature failure of their system to extract from the food supplies presented to it enough and no more for the healthy wants of their organism. These losses simply mean early decay of the vital powers, which is untimely death. The enjoyment of the gourmand is purchased at a fearful cost, when the purchase money is the abridgment of life with all its elevated pleasures. By the side of the pampered appetite may alas too often be found the enfeebled will, the sluggish intellect, the prostrate reason: the system is inverted, the lower nature becomes of supreme importance to the man, and disorder and slavery ensue. The loss of means through bad feeding is greatly to be deplored; but the loss of satisfaction derived by the mind from literature, from art, from science, and from travel, is a loss which is irreparable. Every one, therefore, has a deep interest in a proper bill of fare. The mere fact that we must eat is not enough, we must learn to eat with a proper regard both for the quantity and quality of our food. When we have fully realised what is meant in this propriety, we shall eat more like rational beings and less, we would say never, with a view to the mere animal enjoyments of the table.

A distinction with regard to food is often overlooked—the distinction as to the requirements of the system in idleness and activity. We find the idler indulging in an amount of food utterly out of proportion to his quiescent existence, and being languid, indolent, and apathetic in consequence. His system is burdened with food which it cannot absorb, and, without the active exertion which would enable it to use it to some purpose, sinks under the strain to which the system is subjected, and plethora very soon makes its appearance with its deplorable results of functional and structural disorder. On "active service" persons fully intelligent on their relation to food would increase their rations in exact proportion to their increased expenditure of force, and save for natural fatigue, which induces natural repose so agreeable and so recuperative, they would not be sensible of increased exertion. If it is said that a great portion of our time would be taken up by the attention demanded by such niceties respecting our food, we answer we should after a while fall as surely into the right mode as we have now fallen into the wrong mode. That power of adaptation by which we so easily disentangle the perplexities of our life would not desert us here, and we should soon be as sensitive to any deviation from the right path of life in our diet as we are of any aberration from good conduct by our conscience.

Another distinction should be made between the food of the sedentary and the active. The sedentary too often neglect or forego exercise; and if there is little waste through little muscular exertion or exercise the system should not be clogged by food. If the fire has no strong draught, it should not be overlaid with coals. In this case it burns too low to be either useful or cheerful: so the constitution of the sedentary suffers when a low activity is conjoined with diet more fitted for strenuous exertion than for sedentary occupation.

Still another distinction requires notice, that between people working indoors and out of doors. The exposure to cold is productive of increased demands on the system, of which the indoor worker knows nothing. The indoor worker may work vigorously—the air he breathes be far less pure than that out of doors—he may be warmer, and hence less heat-forming food may be wanted. The evils of diminished oxygen and unnatural warmth, if aggravated by gross feeding, will speak trumpet-tongued to him of his folly, and a lasting breakdown of the outraged system may be threatened or result.

We see then that if ever there was a necessity for applying the sententious aphorism of the Greek sage, "Know thyself," it is to the food we eat and enjoy. Here is a sphere of enquiry upon which our utmost mental energy may be exerted greatly to our advantage, and to the increased enjoyment of existence. The knowledge of our physical frame, and its relation to air, food, and water, is worthy of a diligent pursuit; and no man who has ever realised the great truths, that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof," and that "we are fearfully and wonderfully made," and the relation which God has established between these truths, will ever grudge at giving time to what he should and what he should not eat.

In continuation of our observations on various dietaries, we now take up the dietary of our workhouses. We have before us the "rules and regulations for the management of poorhouses, prepared and sanctioned by the Board of Supervision for the Relief of the Poor," dated 1877. We have felt a great interest in our examination of this brief manual of the treatment of the poor. In the first place, the rules are not absolute, for any deviation from them may be permitted by the Board provided that cogent reasons are adduced for it. The relief afforded to the poor is now looked upon as a legal obligation binding upon every ratepayer. Formerly the poorhouses of our country were looked upon as huge almshouses, where the truly poor—the aged, infirm, friendless—destitute, and unable to support themselves were maintained; and these had much freedom, had even a little levee occasionally, and received presents. The feelings of the poor with respect to poorhouse relief are sadly altered, that proud independence which scorned the stigma of pauperism has well nigh disappeared, and men and women talk loudly of their legal title to relief. Hence the discipline of the poorhouse has altered greatly to the discomfort of the really necessitous poor, because the other class must be made to feel that such discipline must be more irksome than labour would be, and they are they for whom work, confinement, and discipline have to be provided. The governor, matron, and medical officer have a most anxious time of it in carrying out the rules of the Board, modified by the local board, so as to administer them properly, without offence to the house committee, and without giving occasion to the pauper of the doubtful class to air his grievances before the sheriff.

Only the other day, however, a man who, through paralysis, had been obliged to accept parochial relief called on the Inspector of the Poor at Rutherglen to inform him that, through his wife, he had got a little money, and would no longer require relief. And the first use he made of the little "windfa'" was to pay up to the last farthing the amount he had received as relief. A house factor in Glasgow some years ago repaid to a country parochial board the sum which his parents had received as relief. It is to be regretted that such instances of real manly independence should be so rare.

Bearing these points in mind, let us look at the dietary provided for our paupers in our poorhouses. This dietary comes under the immediate cognisance of the visiting committee, who once a week at least "should satisfy themselves as to the quantity and quality of the provisions issued to the inmates;" and they must give an answer in writing to the 9th query in the house committee's book, which is, "Is the established dietary duly observed, and are the hours of meals regularly adhered to?" and also query 11th, which is as follows: "Is any complaint made by any of the inmates against any official, or in respect of the

provisions?" The house governor is to receive all provisions, with which he is to compare the bill of delivery, to see that they are in terms of contract; and he is to issue them to the matron or other as directed by the rules, and also to see that they are properly applied. Moreover, he is to keep a daily diet book and a sick diet book; and our opinion is, that if these books be kept according to the rules, the dietary of the poor-houses cannot differ much from the wishes of the Board of Supervision. It is carefully provided that he or another says grace at every meal! The matron who, in his absence, performs his duties is also called upon to make diet roll of the inmates, to receive the articles from the governor for the day's consumption, to see that the food is properly cooked and properly served to the healthy inmates, and also to such as are sick. The medical officer is to give all necessary directions about the diet of the sick, the insane, and the children. He is to report any defect in the dietary of the house. Then the rules determine that the healthy inmates should eat their meals in the dining hall, and in no other place. The punishment of the disorderly inmate is to include withholding his milk or butter milk or such other portion of his diet for a period not longer than three days, unless with the medical officer's sanction. The refractory pauper is in like manner to be punished. Insubordinates are not to have their diet altered if under twelve, or pregnant, or giving suck, unless the medical officer believes that no harm will follow such deprivation.

We can now look into the dietary of our poor with greater interest after all these formidable precautions about its nature, service, and regularity are taken into account. There are seven classes—A, the aged inmate who is not working; B (a), adults who are not aged and do not work, (b) children between 8 and 15 years; C, adults working; D, infirm; E, children from 5 to 8 years; F, children of from 2 to 5 years; and G, infants not 2 years of age. It will be seen that we are interested chiefly in classes A, B, and C. To each of these classes three meals a day are allowed:—

Class A. Breakfast—Meal, 3 oz.; milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint. Dinner—Bread, 6 oz.; broth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint. Supper—Meal, 3 oz.; milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint.

Class B. Breakfast—Meal, 4 oz.; milk, $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint. Dinner—Bread, 8 oz.; broth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint. Supper—Meal, 4 oz.; milk, $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint.

Class C. Breakfast—Meal, 4 oz.; milk, $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint. Dinner—Bread, 8 oz.; broth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint; boiled meat, 4 oz. Supper—Meal, 4 oz.; milk, $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint.

Such is the dietary of the aged healthy, the non-working adult, and boy, and the working pauper. It bears out the distinction between the inactive and the active eater, the difference being 2 ozs. bread added in the case of the adult, and of 4 oz. meat, 2 ozs. meal, 2 ozs. bread, and $\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint of milk a day in the case of the working inmate. We are told that "no article of diet which is not of good quality and in a wholesome state should be issued, prepared for, or given to any inmate." The meal may be Scotch or Indian meal, or a mixture of the two; the milk butter milk, or new or skimmed milk. The bread the same as is eaten by the labouring poor outside the house; the broth made with 2 ozs. of boneless meat, 2 ozs. barley, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. pease, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. carrots, turnips, or other vegetables, and salt for each ration of $1\frac{1}{2}$ imp. pint. This, however, would be a monotonous diet were it continued from day to day, but it is happily varied. Three times a week instead of the broth the inmates may get pea soup, the ration being made with 2 ozs. of whole or split peas, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. of peasflour, 1 oz. vegetables, and salt and pepper. Once a week 3 ozs. of skim-milk cheese may be substituted for the broth alone, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. for broth and meat together. Yet, again, classes A and B may have, not more than twice a week, instead of broth 8 ozs. whitefish; and class C 12 ozs. whitefish instead of their broth and meat. Once more, class A may have, not more than twice a week, instead of the broth and bread $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. boiled potatoes with $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint of skimmed milk; and classes B and C 2 lbs. boiled potatoes with $\frac{2}{3}$ imp. pint of skimmed milk; and class C can have instead of bread, broth, and meat 3 lbs. boiled potatoes and 1 imp.

pint of skimmed milk. And, as if this option was not enough, the medical officer has a large discretion when the scarcity of any article, the season of the year, &c., may justify a farther change. We also observe that article VI. of the appendix is devoted to the "diet of inmates." In this circular we are told that it is in the power, and it is the duty, of the medical officer to order solid meat to be given daily, or at stated intervals, in addition to broth, or to order any other deviation from the prescribed diet in the case of any inmate whose state of health renders such deviation necessary. Then it is not intended that solid meat should be in the broth given to any inmate only the 4 ozs. issued to class C; but here the medical officer can increase or diminish the ration as he may see fit. And we have the following impressive words: "Poorhouse authorities should bear in mind that while their first duty in the matter unquestionably is to endeavour to maintain as far as possible the health of the inmates, it is also highly important that no unnecessary expenditure should be incurred, and that the diet of the healthy inmates should not be raised above that of the labouring population of the country."

Now, a glance is sufficient to show that the dietary of the inmates of our poorhouses is superior in many respects to the dietary of the working classes. It is of superior quality, which theirs too often is not; it is in general better cooked, a quality in which theirs is too often sadly deficient, and it is varied: changes in their dietary occurring far too seldom. It is graduated to the state of health of the individual, which we cannot say of many of the working men's food supply, the can of boiled tea and the slice of ham and white bread we often see them taking to their labour bears witness to this. When pay night comes there is with such too often quite a "burst," and on the first two or three days of the week "cookie shines" take place, with the unfortunate result that by the end of the week the table is supplied upon credit, or if credit is not to be had, then resource is had to the pawn shop. Even in the matter of quantity we are not sure but that the poorhouse dietary has the advantage over that of many of our labouring classes. In that case, however, we want a change for the better rather than to point to extravagance in the dietary of the pauper. We feel sure, however, that every heart will go out in sympathy to the struggling household who, notwithstanding all the father can do—what with want of work, change of masters, and other painful vicissitudes—he is unable to place on his table a diet equal to that served out to the pauper every day.

We think, however, that the pauper is a good witness in establishing our case, that on the whole our working men spend on foods a larger percentage than their income warrants or their system demands. If there were any serious reduction below the poorhouse standard in the paupers' diet, or any serious deviation taking place through mismanagement, we are certain that the Board of Supervision would not tolerate it; and if it did, the pressure of public opinion would make it even do justice to the poorhouse inmates under its care; and even these inmates have a right to the interference of the law. Indeed, we find that the first petition presented to the Board of Supervision was from a male inmate, complaining that his weekly pocket money was unreasonably small! On the whole, we believe that the paupers in the poorhouses are well treated as to diet, that their dietary is adopted to preserve them in health notwithstanding the depressing circumstances of their lot, and that the amount of their food is worthy of the attention of every working man desirous of food reform.

We will next look at our prison dietary, from which we hope to derive as much support as from the poorhouse dietary which has passed under our consideration.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

"Ah! compositor, my watch has lost half an hour—I never knew it to do such a thing all the seven years I've carried it. I wonder what the dickens ails it?" Printer's devil—"Oh, it's served an apprenticeship, you know, and it's now out of it's time."

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

THERE are not many persons but have at one period or other of their lives given utterance to the homely expression at the head of our paper.

The curious would like to be put into possession of the particulars which prompted such a desire to turn over a new leaf.

The utterances in most cases are the outcome of a struggle within. It may be the individual has become involved in financial difficulties by living beyond his income, and upon consideration of his position there seems only one hope for the future, and that is to turn over a new leaf and live within his income. Or a consciousness of wrong-doing has wrung out from that guilty soul a resolution "To cease to do evil and learn to do well." Or a sight of the guilt and misery around him has so overwhelmed that man of God, and so aroused him to feel his personal responsibility, that his turning over a new leaf means his entire consecration to the service of the Master; and his life work shall be to rescue the perishing around him.

From whatever cause, or in whatever direction, a desire for improvement and reformation comes, there is abundant cause for thankfulness.

There is so much that is stereotyped, perfunctionary and conservative, in the ways and doings of the generality of mankind that it affords ground for hope when the ordinary routine is broken, and the man wakes up from his mechanical existence and throws his whole energy into the work, either for himself, his fellow, his country, or his Saviour.

Men's lives and works are like tradesmen's books—imperfect. (We are offering no apology for imperfection, but only stating a fact.)

There is not a trader in this great city whose books do not reveal mistakes made, losses sustained, errors committed, and unwise speculations ventured upon. And in many cases when the time for stock-taking comes, either from choice or necessity, very great and important changes have to be made in the conduct of the business for the future, nothing more or less than "Turning over a new leaf in the management."

That man has yet to be born who will be able to lay his hand upon his heart and look up to God and say, "I have never made a mistake, I have never lost an opportunity of doing good to my fellowmen, I have never erred in judgment, I have never ventured upon an undertaking in my own strength and failed. There is no necessity for improvement in my case, I am perfect."

Ordinary mortals, the best of them as well as the worst, when viewing their own doings in the light of eternity, and the claims of society and their Saviour, confess themselves to be but "unprofitable servants." In turning over a new leaf at the beginning of the year 1883, as temperance reformers, let us copy from the right subject, the perfect example, the model teacher—"the man Christ Jesus."

His school is open to all, and his invitation is "Learn of me."

No mistakes will be made if we follow his example, no failures if we take hold on his strength, no imperfections if we say "not my will but thy will be done." His was a life of self-denial, self-sacrifice, consuming zeal, consecrated labour, and unparalleled success. "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work," was the outcome of his noble mission on earth. His biography is written in one brief sentence, "Who went about doing good."

The most dangerous theological teaching of the present day is that which ignores human agency in removing evil, and throws the entire responsibility

of the regeneration of mankind upon the Lord himself.

"We are labourers together with God" is the teaching of the New Testament. "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard" is the command of the Master. "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" is the inquiry of the Lord himself.

The great desideratum in connection with all our philanthropic and Christian societies is workmen—labourers. There are plenty of lookers on ever ready to suggest their own peculiar method for carrying on the work. Their peculiar *forte* is to direct the work of others. They see and deplore the ruin caused by the liquor traffic, but never lift their voice or give any material assistance towards saving the fallen or restoring order and beauty where desolation and degradation prevails.

If the fallen are to be saved, we must work for that object. If the young are to be secured from the seductive power of the traffic, we must not waste our time in raising a breakwater to afford shelter to the poor wrecks of humanity left.

"Dry up the source from whence it flows,
Destroy the fountain-head,
Then dire intemperance, with its woes,
Shall no more our land o'erspread."

To do this effectually, every temperance man and woman must be at their post, and do their duty.

Work is the order of the day. None are excused. No person can delegate his work to another. The man of low station must do his duty as well as the man who occupies a more exalted position in society. The responsibility is the same in each case.

Work with energy. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. Throw your whole being into the work. To attain an eminence in science, to become renowned in literature, to win laurels on the battlefield, all the powers of body and mind are concentrated. The aspirants work, study, and fight with all their might. Ours is a nobler work, a higher aim, a more glorious warfare. We are working for eternity. Our aim is to save precious souls, our battle is against the liquor traffic, and our sworn resolve is its overthrow.

Do you work promptly? "The night cometh when no man can work." Our opportunities for working will have soon passed away. We shall soon be in the grave. There is no work to be done there for suffering humanity. No wisdom there to devise schemes for the amelioration of human woe. No knowledge there to apply our plans so as to benefit our fellowmen.

The work of destruction is going on. From the moment the clock announces the arrival of the New Year until its close the traffickers have arranged (having the law on their side) to carry on their work.

Let every reader of this paper resolve to turn over a new leaf, and commence working in real earnest for the overthrow of the liquor traffic; and with united action and God's blessing we shall yet "Turn the battle to the gate."

THE ROAD TO HEAVEN.—Some years since, on a Sunday afternoon, a Wesleyan local preacher inquired of a pitman, standing at a roadside corner, the way to a certain square. The man had evidently been indulging a little at the public-house, and was disposed to cultivate a conversation: for instead of directing the inquirer, he replied, "Aa warrant thoo's gan to preach thar?" The modest answer was, "I am going to try," to which Geordie thus responded, "Thoo's a bonny man to show the folks the way to heaven, an' dissent knaa the road to ——— Square!"

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1883.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

JANUARY, 1883.

* * * We have been obliged to leave over several interesting papers, among them being "Science and Scripture and Alcohol;" also poetry, reviews, &c. We hope to find more room next month.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL
OUR READERS
AND
MANY RETURNS.

NEW YEAR'S TRACT, 1883.

With this number of the *Social Reformer* we present as a Supplement, a copy of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association's New Year Tract for 1883, entitled, "Turn the Battle to the Gate." It is written by Bailie Selkirk, J.P., Glasgow. Friends should send in their orders for copies to the offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, without delay. The price is 10s. per thousand, exclusive of carriage; 1s. per hundred, or 1s. 5d. per hundred post free. They might provide themselves with a liberal supply, and gift copies to the mission districts around them, or for enclosure in their letters to friends near or far away.

SHALL WE LOWER OUR FLAG?

THIS question is forced upon our attention in view of proposals put forward by temperance reformers for "improving" the licensing system. We do not hesitate to say that, however well meant they are, they ought to have no support from temperance reformers, as they are a distinct lowering of the temperance flag on the part of those whose first duty ought ever to be to maintain it unflinchingly in the face of every temptation to the contrary.

What have the leaders of the temperance movement got to do with any tinkering of the licensing system? They know and teach that intoxicating drinks are in their nature hurtful and wasteful, and

that total abstinence from them is the only wise and safe course to follow. If, as a result of such advocacy, many are induced to curtail their drinking, though they do not entirely abstain, it is always matter for congratulation. But they never dream of advocating anything else than entire abstinence. They have a clear and intelligible principle to maintain, and however unwilling the community are to adopt the principle in its entirety; and however disposed to prefer some less sweeping alternative, their attitude on the matter never alters one iota. But all this is changed when the legislative aspect of the question comes to be considered. No doubt it is maintained as a principle that it is the right and duty of the State to prohibit the entire liquor traffic, and that the people should be empowered to suppress all sale of intoxicating liquor within their respective districts. But, on the temporizing and unsatisfactory plea that the country is not yet ready for such a measure, and that Parliament won't grant it, leaders of the temperance movement come forward and unblushingly invite their constituents and the country generally to join with them in asking Parliament to change the licensing authority, and otherwise reform and improve the present system. This we unhesitatingly pronounce to be a lowering of the true temperance flag, indicative of, we do not say an absolute want of faith in principle, but of an unworthy impatience of the success of the agitation on the only solid, safe, and defensible lines. It is, moreover, misleading to a serious degree, inasmuch as it not only suggests that fresh terms may consistently and advantageously be made with the traffickers under which their business may continue to be conducted, but that, on certain concessions being granted, further agitation by temperance reformers will, for at least some time to come, be suspended.

It seems to us that these leaders have allowed their zeal for something "practical" being done by Parliament, to outrun their sense of what is due to the fundamental principles of the temperance reformation to which they undoubtedly are attached. They seem to forget the lessons taught by the history of other great movements that it is shortsighted policy to deviate one hair's breadth from a position that is impregnable, and that must sooner or later be conceded in its entirety; and that compromises, dictated as they usually are from motives of expediency, invariably suggest false issues, weaken popular agitation, and postpone the final settlement of the cause. Let it be remembered that in every national movement there are always those who, failing to realize its essential and radical importance, make compromise in some form their ultimate goal. And there are many such in this crusade. We appreciate their standpoint and acknowledge their influence, and we consider that with them alone should be left the work and the responsibility of all minor proposals. And the reason is that difficulties and anomalies will be found inseparable from these in any form.

Of course it will be urged that the entire suppression of the liquor traffic, either by an imperial enactment or by the vote of the ratepayers, is quite Utopian so long as the consumption of intoxicating liquors is so general and so great. It may be so, and yet it may be none the less the duty of temperance reformers to advocate prohibition. That a community is not prepared to accept an Act upon a great and vital principle can never be a reason for remaining silent in regard to it, but is the strongest possible reason for proclaiming it. If a certain condition of things is wrong, the truth must be spoken whether it is received or not. It may be quite true, as many temperance reformers firmly believe, that the liquor traffic will never be entirely prohibited, except by degrees, restriction following restriction in gradual sequence, but surely that can never be pled as a reason for conducting the movement on other than strictly logical, intelligible, and defensible lines. It is our profound conviction that even restrictive measures will be more easily and rapidly passed when the advocacy is thorough-going than when it is not so. Besides, temperance reformers in standing by their principles while concessions are being made will preserve their independence and consistency, and are free to continue the agitation with unabated energy. We feel constrained very earnestly to appeal to all true-hearted temperance reformers to stand firmly by their principles, and refuse to be drawn away by any specious license reform schemes which, however well-meant, are unworthy the advocacy of the leaders of the temperance movement, and should be left to those who, in promoting them, admit that they aim at nothing more than raising the character of the traffic by limiting it to persons who will conduct the business in a respectable way, during reasonable hours, and to the advantage of the community!

It is good to stand out and have a look at a matter in which you are interested. The liquor traffickers of Illinois put in a claim for being true temperance men. This is what they say, "The Liquor-Dealers' and Manufacturers' State Protective Association of Illinois is now acknowledged to be the most systematic and efficient organization of the kind in the United States, but its great mission is yet to be performed; the great battles are still to be fought! To be successful in the future we must convince the good people of the State that we are the friends and not the foes of true temperance; that we are not engaged in waging war against society, against law and order and public morals, but that on the contrary we are in favour of a proper system of licensing, and such a method of regulating the traffic that its abuses will be abolished, while the respectable trade is fully protected." When publicans talk of regulating the liquor traffic, they are not very far from being on the same lines upon which so many temperance reformers delight to travel. These publicans would like to see a

proper system of licensing, and good people toiling till their health fails, keeping their liquor business in order, devoting themselves to abolishing the abuses of the traffic! How the publicans would cheer on such reformers who are trying to make their trade so respectable that scandal would not dare to name it! Whenever we see a temperance reformer eager to have the trade regulated by a Board or such like authority, we will always think how proud the publicans of Illinois would be of him, and wish that he was over there.

We observe that the Wigan election has terminated in the return of the Hon. A. Egerton, who has promised to support local option on the lines laid down by the Church of England Temperance Society, and also for the Sunday closing of public-houses, on condition that clubs be closed by the same law, and in the rejection of Mr. Wren, who promised to support Sir Wilfrid Lawson in his temperance legislation. The return of Mr. Egerton is considered a clear gain to temperance reformers, but unfortunately this conclusion does not arise from comparing Mr. Wren with Mr. Egerton, but Mr. Egerton with Mr. Powell, unseated on petition, and also with Lord Lindsay (now Earl of Crawford.) We cannot endorse the statement. Mr. Egerton is, as regards the true issue, a broken reed. The fact is that he and Mr. Wren are, on this question, in different camps. The Church of England does not contemplate prohibitory legislation—does not at present believe the traffic can be prohibited. The election of Mr. Egerton may assist in securing a better regulation of the liquor traffic, but he will not take the fangs from the social serpent, nor the sting from the social adder. People will continue to be enthralled by the drink system, and the usual inevitable calamitous consequences will follow as surely as the setting does the rising sun. Mr. Wren, on the other hand, wished to enable the people to legally withstand the aggressions of the liquor traffic—a very different matter indeed. We may like to see, we would gladly see, the virulence of the liquor traffic reduced; but we have always held that as the traffic cannot be regulated nor controlled satisfactorily, it is idle to return men to Parliament pledged to support restrictions. England has failed as yet to give a majority for prohibition, and she never will, though she should return all her four hundred and ninety-four representatives, with views in harmony with those of Mr. Egerton. We in Scotland have, by painful experience, attained to clearer views on this matter. We have found that merely local option candidates are bogus supporters, as they "keep the promise to the ear but break it to the hope." We rejoice to see the electors of Scotland resolute on giving their support only to those candidates who will undertake, without equivocation or without reservation, to veto the drink system. And they will require in the future to take care that those representing them in Parliament do their duty

by voting for the suppressive veto. Then, but not till then, the return of candidates will be a clear gain to the movement.

Our readers will observe from our news columns that Mr. Noel, M.P. for the Dumfries burghs had to meet with about fifty of the electors of Dumfries at about midday, and that it was only when he declared his intention to vote for the suppressive veto that their visit was in their eyes satisfactory. All our friends should improve the passing moment by arranging interviews with their parliamentary representatives while they are moving in and out amongst them. Two minutes' talk with an honourable member is worth more than a largely signed memorial and any amount of letters without meeting him face to face. We trust that the fifty-nine Scotch members will not be allowed to go to their duties in the House without feeling that the hearts of those they represent are set upon being vested with a direct veto over the traffic that menaces their dearest interests. This is the work of the electors during the recess, and of far more importance to the interests of their country than any other work that could be conceived, named, or done.

At the Glasgow School Board meeting last month the painful fact was admitted that there were, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Board, from four to five thousand school children that ought to be, and yet are not at school. It appears, on the other hand, that many children complete their education when twelve years of age that they may go to labour, and they cannot get till thirteen. The Board every fortnight have defaulting parents brought before them, and by this means know of the misconduct, misery, and sorrow, existing in the city. Of these defaulters from all parts of the city some are as greatly interested as the Board itself, others manifest hardened indifference. The misconduct referred to arises largely from intemperance of parents, and only the reclamation of these can insure the welfare of their children. The Rev. Dr. Ferguson thought that "looking to the great number of children kept from school through the drunkenness of their parents the Board should petition Parliament for the passing of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's permissive bill. He observed that Town Councils had done so, and he did not see why the School Board of Glasgow should not do it, especially seeing that they were brought more immediately into contact with this national vice." This very wise idea will not be lost sight of, it was by far the most practical suggestion made at the meeting. There were proposals to give free education and to cheapen education. Well, we must heartily wish that the struggling widow should have her children educated free; but if her husband has been cut off through his intemperance, is it not time to put an end to widowhood hereafter from such a cause?

and when men are prevented from entering on a baneful career we believe that they will have great a desire that their boys and girls should be educationally equipped for a favourable position in life as the Board itself. All honours then to Ferguson for suggesting to the Board a way so for getting out of the Board's diffilthy cause intemperance. When the time arrives, and it is approaching, the School Board of Glasgow will hope, as willingly petition Government for a suppressive veto over the traffic as it recently petitioned magistrates to refuse licenses for the sale of liquor in the immediate neighbourhood of schools.

Last month we had the pleasure of noting Mr. John Burns of the Cunard Steamship Co. intimating the resolution of that Co. to replace grog ration issued to the crews of its ships by a ration of coffee on and after the 1st of the month. An interesting speech delivered by him in Glasgow, a portion of which appeared in our columns, Mr. Burns informs us that the Cunard line, Inman, Anchor, State, and White Star, have already replaced the grog ration of coffee, and now the Cunard line has the noble list. There appears to be no objection in the matter, the appetite being subordinated to the interests of the crew. Mr. Burns has no qualms on the subject, as the grog was bad, a sufficient justification for its disuse—and that disuse was effected by the Cunard Steamship Co. was wheeling into the line of human improvement. More to be said in favour of the magnificent City owned by Messrs. George Smith & Co., Glasgow. That fleet is sailed on strictly temperate principles and this laudable course has the stamp of two years' success upon it. In stating the terms of passage to Calcutta, Messrs. Smith informs the public that the sum "includes every requisite except wines and liquors." Again they inform us that "the rate of passage money does not include wine or spirits, and passengers will please observe that none can be had on board." Passengers particularly requested to take charge of their own wines, and on no account to offer any officers' crew." When from time to time we read of appalling accounts of voyages aboard ocean-going ships where bars are open night and day, and the indiscriminate sale of liquors without reservation without reserve is as a matter of course followed by the most disgraceful scenes and misconduct, we turn with deep pleasure to the state discipline which obtains on board the City Line steamships. We regard the course taken by the owners of the Indian Line as eminently wise for all concerned, and we hope that, as it has answered so well on board this magnificent fleet it has only to be adopted by every ship-owning firm in the British Empire.

We should submit with great joy to a instruction which would place all on shore the same sober conditions as prevail on board the Liners.

ance at the record of meetings in the *Alliance* of 16th ultimo, and a perusal of "Progress of Work" in this issue of our magazine, should we think, to any one how effectively the connected with the Scottish permissive movement, under the conduct of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association continues to be carried on. The Association making the most strenuous exertions in view of a severe Parliamentary struggle, and is satisfied that when the time comes that the country is found prepared to give an effective support to the demand of the ratepayers of Scotland, to be in- with a veto which will abolish all traffic in licating liquors in their respective localities. They t the dilemma of the publicans. If the trade od, let it be free; if bad, let it be abolished; he horn of the dilemma they prefer is abolition.

is not to their thinking a distillery, a brewery, place of sale which deserves exemption from general doom, which the whole traffic deserves, they make no provision for sparing any portion. believe that there are no men in the world who change the complexion of the liquor traffic for etter, hence they go for a measure to veto the rather than for men to control and perpetuate d in doing so they bring to remembrance a old political recollection of "measures not They are bound to win, for we believe that are on the lines on which alone success is ble.

governor St. John of Kansas, whose gallant s in connection with the adoption of the con- tional amendment in that State endeared his and himself to every staunch prohibitionist, for a "third time" as Governor of the State. re sorry to state that he has been defeated by votes. The causes of this defeat are, first, the ion in the States to "third terms;" next, the uous and unscrupulous efforts of the whisky who see large sums of money to Kansas State cure his defeat; then there was the disgust the Republican party, with its proposal to late and tax the drink traffic. But Governor ohn has neither been dishonoured nor whipped, what is a higher moment still, the cause of pro- ion is no rendered the less sacred. The people ansas are not tired of prohibition. A temporary se should dishearten no one. It has not dis- tened Governor St. John, who still declares that ibition will win in Kansas, as it will win any- re. Professor Stearns of Topeka writes: "Of thing all friends of prohibition may rest assured, result is not a defeat of prohibition." Again: eel safe in calmly pledging that liberty-loving

industrious Kansas will not only keep prohibition in her constitution, but persist in her efforts to stop illegal sales, even to a successful issue." So much for Governor St. John. We must glance at the Kansas State prison for a moment. Prohibition be- gan in Kansas on December 22, 1880. Since then there has been a gradual decrease. On that date there were 725. On October 16th the number was 671. Of these, 20 are boarders from New Mexico; leaving 651, or a reduction of 74, or at the rate of 40 yearly. While the State population has increased by 50,000, we have this great reduction; and without the prohibition the number would have been 808 in- stead of 651. This is the way to test whether Kan- sas is benefitting by prohibition or not; and this is quite enough to console those who, with Governor St. John, have suffered a reverse; nay, more, this is sufficient to encourage them to strive persistently, undauntedly, until the liquor saloon, the prison, the penitentiary, and the poorhouse have disappeared from Kansas, and prohibition has become a glory to the State.

Heaven help the drinker! A fellow in America, with an ingenuity which has a close affinity with the bottomless pit, has discovered a way of produc- ing whisky which enables the slave of intemperance to carry a solid piece in his vest pocket, which, on being put into water, dissolves and becomes whisky, exhilarating but scentless! Only think of the claims which coopers, bottlemakers, and earthen- ware manufacturers will prefer against that solid whisky maker. It is dreadful to think of. Poor fellow; he should pause before he patents his dis- covery. But that is not all; the drinker is men- aced by the brewer. The old ways of producing beer are voted obsolete; new ideas are waking up in the brewer's mind, and he is seeking to fabricate his wares in more profitable and seductive forms, for he is not to stand by the good old malt! "The new Beer Act has conferred on him the liberty of using other articles than barley malt, and this liberty is largely exercised by the brewers, as we are told those behind the scenes well know. It has been the custom of Germany and America for years past to use rice and maize, and capital beer they can brew from them. We are informed that there are many ways of treating these meals "to prepare" them for the mash tun; "for neither of these substances can be added to the malt without undergoing certain preparatory treatment. A process of gelatinisation has been met with most favour by the trade, and is largely now in use. Chemicals are often used with the cereals to prepare them for treatment with what is called a converter; and yet another plan is adopted—the rice or maize is "popped." The question of brewing with rice or maize is only yet in its infancy"! We should think that we have heard for the last time on the brewers' side of the house about "robbing a poor man of his beer." The brewers are doing that for us themselves. "The

juice of malt," "prime October," and all the rest of the cherished names conferred on beers are fast disappearing, and we shall have the poison from rice and maize to disorder the brains and destroy the constitution of the unhappy drinker. We are getting quite accustomed to spirituous blends; we must now accustom ourselves to fermented liquor blends! The ingenuity which contrives, and the gullibility which consumes, these abominable decoctions are playing havoc with our race and rendering it a prey to physical disease, mental hallucination, and moral declension, which is inviting that retribution that will overwhelm drinker and abstainer in national disaster, if both have no longer wisdom enough left to combine for the overthrow of all traffic in strong drink by the emphatic ballot of the ratepayers.

A very significant paragraph in the Queen's Speech at the close of the session has been exercising the pens of the press of the country. Here is the passage, "After a succession of unfavourable seasons in the greater portion of the United Kingdom the produce of the land has during the present year been for the most part abundant, and trade is moderately active. The growth of the revenue is however sensibly retarded by a cause which must itself be contemplated with satisfaction, I refer to the diminution in the receipts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer from the duties on intoxicating liquors." These are most singular words to come from our Queen. They show that an average harvest and a moderately good trade has not increased the revenue, and that the failure of the most abundant source of our national income is a cause for satisfaction to her. Certainly this is not complimentary to the revenue from the Excise, for the reference is couched in very different words indeed from what she would have used if we derived a greater income from our harvest, and our trade and commerce. If we were a sober people and had no drink tax, we should have had an income of which we should have felt proud. We, however, derive a large portion of our income from intemperance, and we are becoming more temperate every day, spending less on these useless and harmful liquors, which in turn yield less to the National Treasury. But the money thus saved does not get lost. It enters other channels, and will by and by yield enough for all national needs. Sir Stafford Northcote's wise words are worthy of remembrance at this moment. He said, "Under what circumstances could it be expected that the consumption of spirits in this country would fall off to such an extent as seriously to injure the revenue? Either from the general failure of the consuming power of the people—want of ability, their will being the same—or from some great change in the habits of the people inducing them to abandon the use of such enormous quantities of liquors. If from the first, it would tell equally on all the sources of revenue. If from the other—a material and considerable change in their habits, and from increasing

habits of temperance and abstinence—I venture to say that the amount of wealth such a change would bring to the nation would utterly throw into the shade the amount of revenue that is now derived from the spirit duty: and we should see with satisfaction the diminution of revenue from such a cause." The revenue has diminished only to the extent of what may be called a hair's breadth and yet our Sovereign lady is expressing satisfaction. May she soon have to tell us in one of her speeches to her faithful Commons that the national revenue is not now raised from the misery and destruction of her people, and how glad, how joyful she feels at being permitted to see it. The *Times* told us some years ago that "the revenue would never suffer from the enrichment and elevation of the people," and here we find our Sovereign prepared to meet and welcome that fall of the revenue from intoxicants, which will bring the people of this country to contemplate the possibility of the abolition of such a questionable source of income, and lead them to see beyond its removal a stage of civilization where virtue and sobriety scatter plenty o'er a smiling land, and reads its history in the nation's eyes; and the satisfaction is the more intense that it is indicative of that flow of the national temperance and prohibitory sentiment which will one day consummate all our struggles for the suppression of the liquor traffic by vesting a power of veto in the ratepayers.

INTELLIGENCE.

The Countess of Ellesmere wears the blue ribbon.

The capital employed in America in making beer alone is £30,600,000.

In Illinois there are 267 license and 260 no-license towns. She is marching along.

Coffee taverns have on an average returned dividends varying from 2 per cent. to 20 per cent., averaging 8½ per cent.

There are 800,000 whisky slaves in the United States. When that number increases to a million and a half, America will go in for a new slavery war.

A singular fact in connection with the Liverpool bye-election was the entire absence of drunkenness, no committee meetings being held in a public-house on either side.

A very excellent leader appeared in the *Christian News* of the 16th ult., in which we think we discern the force and fervour of one of the most popular and successful prohibitory advocates in the north.

The Leek Board of Guardians were drawing up an advertisement at £20 a year, and rations and £3 in lieu of beer. A lively discussion on this matter was entered upon, resulting in a motion by Mr. Shufflebothe, that no alcoholic liquors whatever be allowed in the house, as the guardians knew quite well that alcohol is not food.

It is a significant fact, remarks a contemporary, that 7 hospitals, out of 37 in the colony, have spent little or nothing on stimulant drinks; and four out of these—Arrowtown, Charleston, Cromwell, and Reefton—show a total credit of £847 to the good. Four out of seven other hospitals—Auckland, Greymouth, Nelson, and Hokitika—which have spent the largest amount in intoxicating liquors, have, on the other hand, a total deficit of £3000. Westland Hospital disbursed £150 for drink during the year.—*Dunedin Morning Herald*, New Zealand.

ABSTAINERS AND INSURANCE.—Since Dr. Richardson became a director of the Briton Life Association (Limited) abstainers are offered an immediate benefit by the reduction of 10 per cent. from the annual premium on all insurances, effected under, of course, equitable restrictions, for once an abstainer does not mean always an abstainer.

EDINBURGH.—We are glad to learn that Bailie Clark has been elected to the magistracy in room of Bailie Colston; and Mr. R. Miller, C.E., has, on requisition, been elected to fill the vacancy in Newington Ward, caused by the resignation of Bailie Colston. By these changes the attitude of the Council to the temperance movement is improved.

A NOVEL CENSUS.—On the 26th November the Temperance Council, Kilburn, took a public-house and public-worship census of Kilburn. There are thirty-five places of worship, at which that evening 5591 persons attended. There are twenty-five public-houses, and on the same evening they were frequented by 5570. Majority in favour of the church, 21.

DUNFERMLINE.—We are glad to learn that representatives of the Total Abstinence Society, The British Women's Temperance Association, and the Blue Ribbon Army met in conference—Rev. James Foote in the chair—to work together in getting up meetings, and, in short, reorganising the temperance and prohibitory movement in the town. They have our hearty wishes, for stagnation in effort is death to the cause and despair to the drinker.

Mr. A. B. Trench, High Street, Guildford, succeeded to a grocer's business of 34 years standing, and publicly announced that "strongly sympathising with the temperance movement, he does not intend to continue the sale of any British or foreign wines, and trusts that this sacrifice will be no detriment to the business." This is a manly resolve on the part of Mr. Trench, and we hope that he will be able soon to say, that he has been greatly successful in consequence.

AUCHINCLOCH—TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Mr. Andrew Bennet, Dumfries, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, gave a lecture on "The Temperance Movement—Sensible, Scientific, and Scriptural," in the Free Church School, on Monday last, 11th ult. The address was greatly appreciated, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Bennet on the motion of Mr. M'Lean, teacher. Mr. Joseph Heughan occupied the chair.—*Dumfries and Galloway Standard.*

THE BLUE RIBBON MOVEMENT.—Mr. R. T. Booth states that experience has demonstrated that eighty per cent. of those who take the Blue Ribbon pledge keep it. The *Blue Ribbon Gazette* says the temperance movement is making gigantic progress in the Church of England. In twenty dioceses there are over 220,000 in the temperance associations connected with the Church, with upwards of 3000 abstaining clergy, including 5 bishops and 7 of the Queen's chaplains. The Wesleyan Methodists have 800 abstaining ministers; the Congregationalists, 730; the Baptists, 520; the Established Church of Scotland, 200; the Free Church, 300; and the United Presbyterians, 220.

GLASGOW ABSTAINERS' UNION—PRESENTATION TO MR. AIRLIE.—At a social meeting held in the Cockburn Hotel, Bath Street, on Thursday evening, 14th ult., Mr. Airlie, the valued secretary of the Union, was presented with a handsome dining-room timepiece with marble and bronze vases *en suite*, subscribed for by the directors in token of their appreciation of his zeal and ability in promoting the interests of the Union during the past 25 years. Mr. Lindsay, the president, made the presentation in name of the directors, and in doing so passed a high eulogium on Mr. Airlie for his devotion and marked ability in conducting the various agencies of the Union. [A tribute most deservedly merited—*Ed. S. R.*]

A TEMPERANCE NUT.—*Colonies and India* draws attention to the Kola nut of West Africa, which promises to rival coffee and cocoa. Mr. Thos. Christy, F.L.S.,

who has had the nut analysed, says it contains caffeine in greater proportions than the best coffee, also the same active principles as cocoa, with less fatty matter. It is extensively used in Africa, where it is said to "support the strength, allay inordinate appetite, assuage thirst, and promote digestion, and to render those using it capable of prolonged fatigue." In Jamaica it is used as a cure for drunkenness, and a single nut made into a paste, with water or spirit, removes all trace of intoxication in half an hour. It is stated that the craving for drink, which is a strong incentive to drunkenness, may be subdued by the use of this valuable stimulant and tonic, as after chewing kola great disinclination is felt to all forms of alcohol.

TEETOTAL PROVOSTS IN SCOTLAND.—The following provosts in Scotland are abstainers: Provost Donaldson, Alva; Provost Strachan, Burntisland; Provost Watson, Cellerdyke; Provost Moncur, Dundee; Provost Duncan, Dunoon; Provost Helme, Dalbeattie; Provost Reid, Forfar; Provost Macpherson, Grange-mouth; Provost Tait, Inverkeithing; Provost Johnstone, Lochmaben; Provost Morris, Largs; Provost M'Ewen, Newton-Stewart; Provost Clark, Paisley; Provost Ritchie, M.D., Pollokshaws; Provost Dick, Rutherglen; Provost M'Queen, Sanquhar; Provost Wyllie, Stewarton; Provost Anderson, Wishaw. We hope that our friends knowing of any other provosts who abstain from alcoholic liquors will kindly send us their names. There are many provosts who although not abstainers yet warmly support the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

THORNHILL ABSTAINERS' UNION AND BLUE RIBBON ARMY.—A lecture, under the auspices of this society, was delivered in the Infant Schoolroom, on the evening of 4th ult. by Mr. A. Bennet, temperance agent for the southern counties, who took for his subject, "Blue Ribbonism." The society having lately adopted the badge, the lecture was of course specially appreciated. On the evening of the 6th ult., the society's annual tea soiree was held in the Freemason's Hall—Rev. R. D. Mitchell, president, in the chair—when addresses were given by the following gentlemen—Mr. A. Bennet, Rev. Mr. Tooley, Dumfries; Rev. Mr. Dickie, Sanquhar; Rev. Mr. Wishart, Thornhill. On the evening of the 11th ult., Mr. Waterston, temperance agent from Edinburgh, delivered an excellent lecture in the Freemasons' Hall, when, owing to the severe weather, there was a small attendance.—*Dumfries and Galloway Standard.*

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. W. RUSSEL, DUBLIN.—On Saturday, the 25th November, a very pleasant gathering took place in Russel's Hotel, 102 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, to mark the occasion of Mr. Russel's resignation as the paid secretary of the Irish Association for the prevention of intemperance, and his assumption of the office of hon. secretary of the Association. While he is now no longer paid for his services he intends to work as hard as ever for the cause. Mr. Pim, J.P., who presided, paid a merited eulogium on Mr. Russel, which all who know the man and his labour can most heartily subscribe to. He had raised the temperance cause in Ireland to a position of commanding national importance, and, with the exception of Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Belfast had very materially helped to secure for Ireland the blessings of Sunday closing. Mr. Pim read an address, and presented a magnificent library of books to Mr. Russel containing 300 volumes, embracing the works of Tyndall, Huxley, Darwin, Lubbock, Emerson, Froude, Lecky, Smiles, Helps, Mill, Buckle, Spencer, Morley, M'Carthy, &c. A number of friends—one of them Miss Edmundson—added the expression of their opinion of Mr. Russel's worth, who, in a well-conceived address, concluded by stating that "he by no means took his hand from the plough: on the contrary, he would continue to work even harder in the future, if that were possible, than he had done in the past." We believe him, and heartily congratulate him on the reception of this splendid tribute to his great services in the temperance cause.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. H. WATERSTON, EDINBURGH.—The Blue Ribbon Association of West Calder have presented this well-known labourer in the Scottish prohibitory movement with a splendid copy of Bagster's Bible, similar to that used by Mr. D. L. Moody, and a full copy of Sankey's hymns. The Bible bore the following inscription: "Presented to J. H. Waterston, Esq., from the members of the West Calder Gospel Temperance Association as a small expression of their esteem and regard. Nov. 7th, 1882." These were presented by Mr. Terris, who said that they were given to Mr. Waterston as tokens of esteem for the gratuitous and invaluable services he had rendered to the Association. His addresses had in a great measure led to the existence and success of the Association. Mr. Waterston, in his reply, said that the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which he had the honour to represent, were most willing to aid in every possible way the adoption of personal abstinence for the individual, and prohibition by the will of the people for the country. Addresses were delivered by Rev. D. Wardrop and Mr. Weir, missionary, both of whom testified to Mr. Waterston's ability and tact. At the close of the interesting proceedings, Mr. Drummond presented Mr. Williamson, Addiewell, chairman of the Association, with a handsome copy of Sankey's hymns and also an ink stand as a token of their appreciation of his services on behalf of the movement.

SABBATH EVENINGS IN GLASGOW.—The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association finding that a very general desire existed for Bible Temperance Meetings on Sabbath evenings, was prepared to hold a series if arrangements could be made for them. Ex-Bailie Pinkerton, pastor of the gospel church in which Mr. Murphy carried on his meetings, was equally desirous to place his church at the disposal of any association. The Association accordingly availed themselves of Mr. Pinkerton's generous offer of his church and choir. On the 3rd ult. the first of these meetings took place, with a most encouraging attendance. Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., presided, conducting the opening services. Rev. W. D. Glendinning, Rev. G. L. Walker, and John Wilson, Esq., J.P., delivered addresses excellently suited to the occasion. On the 10th, Bailie Selkirk, J.P., presided, and the speakers included Rev. John Hanson, A.M., and Rev. Robert Wallace. The addresses of all three were highly appreciated by a very good attendance. On the 17th ex-Provost Dick occupied the chair, and the Rev. John Murray, Rev. Dr. F. Ferguson, and ex-Bailie Torrens addressed the deeply-sympathetic audience. We understand that the meeting of the 24th will be under the presidency of John Wilson, Esq., J.P., and that the speakers will be Rev. James Brown, Rev. W. Arnot, and Mr. R. Mackay; and that ex-Bailie Pinkerton will occupy the chair on the last meeting of the series. A number of pledges have been taken, and blue ribbons in large numbers given away. It would be only fair to the choir to state that their services with regard to the praise have greatly contributed to the pleasure of these meetings.

DUNDEE.—On Tuesday, 19th ult., meetings of the Gospel Temperance and Blue Ribbon Union and the Dundee Temperance Society were held. At the first, over which Provost Moncur presided, Mr. J. H. Martin submitted a report, detailing the steps taken for the amalgamation of the Union with the Society. The report was heartily adopted. The mutual pledge reads as follows: "I, the undersigned, do promise, God helping me, that I will abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages; that I will, by all honourable means, encourage others to abstain; and that I will discourage all the causes and practices of intemperance." Resolutions approving of the amalgamation were passed at both meetings; and we join in the hope that the union of both societies will be a blessing to Dundee.

COMMUNION WINE.—A meeting was held in Edinburgh in March last to celebrate the Communion on temperance principles. On the 17th ult. another meeting was convened of members of the three leading denominations to celebrate the Communion. It was

held in Queen Street Hall, and was presided over by Dr. Young, Portobello. About 250 persons attended, among whom were Dr. Lowe, Edinburgh, medical missionary; Rev. D. Pirret, Glasgow; Rev. Mr. Caie, Forfar; Rev. William Innes, Skene, and others. Addresses bearing on this important phase of the movement were delivered by the chairman and the above-named gentlemen, on the manifest and admitted evils of the liquor traffic, and on the necessity of rousing the Church to help in putting away from the country this great sin of drinking and drink-selling, and banishing from the table of the Lord the intoxicating cup. On Monday, 19th ult., a large audience filled the hall; and after engaging in devotional exercises, partook of the Communion in unfermented wine.

DUMFRIES, DEPUTATION TO MR. NOEL, M.P.—Taking advantage of the visit of Mr. Noel to the constituency during the third week of December, the temperance electors in Dumfries waited upon the hon. member in the Commercial Hotel on Friday, 15th ult. Although the hour was unsuitable for most of the electors—1.30 P.M.—the deputation numbered fifty. Mr. Bennet, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, who arranged for the interview, introduced the deputation. Dr. McCulloch first spoke on behalf of the deputation, and set forth the main arguments in favour of the ratepayers having the power to prohibit the entire traffic in their respective localities, alluded to the probability of special legislation for Scotland, and set forth very fully the objection against providing compensation to publicans or others who might be affected by legislation of the kind proposed. Rev. G. W. Tooley also spoke on behalf of the deputation and temperance electors in the constituency. He dwelt upon the subject as a matter of absolute right on the part of the ratepayers to suppress the traffic, as they were burdened with its results in the shape of increased taxation, deterioration of property, and other things which pressed heavily upon them. Mr. Noel, after thanking the deputation for the frank and courteous way in which they expressed their views, said, he would be equally frank with them. He could not go all the length they had gone, but his sympathy and convictions were largely with them. He did not intend to enter into the question of compensation. He, however, was in favour, and had always voted for, the ratepayers having full control of the traffic, and power to prohibit it entirely if they were so disposed. He thought the temperance reformers should not insist on having a law which made it imperative either to vote down all licenses or none at all, but a measure that would admit of having either a certain number or the whole as the people may determine. In answer to Mr. Waterston, Mr. Noel said he would do his utmost to secure for the people of Scotland the power to prohibit the entire traffic in any legislation that might be introduced into Parliament. Mr. T. C. Farries, in name of the deputation, thanked Mr. Noel for the courteous way he had received them, and his decided answer to their views.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS—SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL ASSOCIATION.—Delegates from this Association addressed a meeting in the Macmillan Free Church on Wednesday evening, 13th ult. The Rev. George Laurie presided, and after praise and prayer, said he would simply introduce the gentlemen who had come from a distance to address them on the claims of 'Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic.' He had first to introduce Mr. R. Mackay, the Secretary to the Permissive Bill Association. Mr. Mackay addressed the meeting at considerable length. He wished the meeting to approve of prohibition, and to say what they wished in their own locality. Their great idea was to suppress the source of temptation, and declare they would endeavour to secure a law to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors. He said that wherever facility was given for their sale crime had increased, and that Albert the Good, Lord Palmerston, and other noblemen, had taken up the idea, had abolished them on their estates, and had found crime decrease. The abolition of public-houses had the same effect on crime as uprooting on a farm, by keeping it clear of weeds. An increase of public-

houses always increased the number of drunkards. Justices of the Peace were the men who granted the licenses, and their object apparently was to get men of good character to sell drink, whether it was 'speil the wa', or from Bladnoch distillery. No matter where it was got, if the poison got into the body, it as surely affected the brain. The speaker then gave some statistics of the numbers who had been brought before the Police Courts, and mentioned several illustrations showing that property, health, and morals were injured by the open sale of drink. The chairman next introduced Mr. Bennet, agent in the south of Scotland for the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. He dwelt at length on moral influence *versus* legislative interference. He touched on the drink demon, and then on the system which continued its perpetration, and reflected briefly on the Government of the country receiving so much from the licensed public-houses. (Applause.) The next speaker was Mr. Waterston, Edinburgh, who was received with applause. He did not like to call himself a temperance reformer, but he had been much obliged to the public press for calling him so. He then gave a stirring address, taking as his text, 'Drink, or John Barleycorn,' and gave a description of what he had seen in Edinburgh and elsewhere from the effects of the poison. He urged upon those present to do their utmost to secure local option in the matter of the sale of liquor, so as to prevent the opening of public-houses in districts where they were not required, and thus keep weak brethren out of the way of temptation. The chairman then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Waterston, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Bennet, for their excellent addresses. For himself he was in favour of local option, and thought the people should have the power of saying whether they wished public-houses to exist in their midst or not. He also intimated that if there was any present who wished to take the 'Blue Ribbon,' it would be given them at the close of the meeting. At their two previous temperance meetings, 94 had taken the pledge—60 the first night and 34 the second night. He regretted the small attendance that evening, which probably arose from the unpopular nature of the subject, and the hard frost outside. Mr. Waterston having acknowledged the vote of thanks, the meeting broke up.

GLASGOW SEAMAN'S FRIEND'S SOCIETY.—On the 11th ult., a conversazione of this Society was held in the Queen's Rooms, Mr. John Burns, chairman of the Cunard Line, occupying the chair. In the course of a most interesting address, the chairman said—"The chief-constable of a great city told him that from his experience—and that experience was a long one—there were two classes of criminals in the city. The one was a class who sought out vice for themselves—whether it was drink or other vices—and were determined to have it. That was the incorrigible class, or the class most difficult to deal with. But, said he, the greater class was the class who would not naturally go into vice but for vice—especially drink—being brought to their very doors. If these men, said he, had not the vice brought to them, not the inducement and the encouragement to drink and indulge in other species of vice, they would not go into it of their own free will. Now, so it was with the sailors of all our ports. His belief was this, that when they took from them the inducements to vice, and especially the drink, they would find that the sailors themselves would reciprocate their efforts, and do what they could to meet the best wishes of the society." After referring to the absolute necessity of providing suitable amusements and literature for the seamen, who, in the absence of these, might seek out baneful pleasures for themselves, he continued: "There was one other point which he wished to touch upon, and he was sure he would have the sympathy, not only of that meeting but of all right-minded men, whether they took the more ultra view of teetotalism, or the more moderate view of temperance, and that was the question of providing drink for men on board ship. He wished Mr. Allan had been there to hear what he had now to state, and that was that the Cunard Company, of which he (Mr. Burns) was chairman, had adopted,

since the 1st of this month, what Messrs. Geo. Smith & Sons, the Allan Line, the White Star Line, the Inman Line, and the Anchor and State Lines on the Atlantic had already done—namely, the principle of giving no grog or beverages of that description on board their ships, and in substitution thereof giving coffee unlimited in quantity. He thought that the next best to the imitating of a good thing was to follow a good example. So, from the 1st December last, on board the Cunard fleet no grog had been served out to the men, and none would be in the future, but as much coffee as they could drink. When he told them that last year they engaged and discharged 40,000 men, it would be seen that in great maritime enterprises vast influence could be exercised if leaders would only do that which was right between man and man. What had been the effect of the change? Mr. Ismay, of the White Star Line, and Mr. Inman, of the Inman Line, had told him, and he knew from his own experience that there had not only been no complaint on the part of the men, but they were well satisfied with the change. There were men—old-fashioned sailors—who thought that they still should have their grog, but the generality of the men were pleased at the removal of the temptation. One of the strong motives which he thought should dictate to them, in making a move of this kind, was the fact that on board those large steamers on the Atlantic there were a number of young men, who came into the service, who had not been accustomed to have spirits served out to them, and by the old-fashioned principle this grog was served out whether they liked it or not, and if they did not like it, some old salt said, "I'll take it for you." (Laughter.) In any circumstances, the principle was bad; and he was glad to think as we grow older in this world things were vastly improving, not only among the sailors but all classes of the community."

OUR PULPIT.

THE DOOM OF THE BEAST.

The Rev. M. E. Cady preached at the Michigan Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church upon Prohibition, taking as his text—"And he shook the beast into the fire."—Acts xxvii., 5.

He had taken this passage, not as a text for exposition, but as a motto, an expression of our determination to shake the beast that was ravaging our homes, consuming our children, and desolating our society, into the everlasting fire.

After showing that legal measures alone were potent to check the rum-seller in his fiendish work, showing that his business was to get customers, regardless of what sex they were, from what home they came, or what name they bore, and that they added all other enormities to those of the robber and outlaw—the speaker said:—

If some mighty angel should reach down, this Sabbath evening, and draw aside the screen so as that all could see the terrible interiors of this vast array of saloons, many a wife would gasp and faint, and many a mother would shriek with horror at the sights revealed. And if the years should bring no abatement of this curse, which he trusted to God they would, many groups of children to-day untainted would be in the circle of vice, and many a heart now indifferent would be alive to the terrors of the traffic. The saloon keeper had the best of the battle with the fathers of these children, for he had the municipal government, represented by the Mayor of our city, on his side. The forces of the law were in his pay, its manipulation at his dictation.

A question of great moral significance was striding to the front—the question of the domination and tyranny of the rum power in our land. It was the whisky traffic, arrayed against law, and school, and church. On one or the other side of this conflict

every man must sooner or later take his stand. It was not to be dallied with, but must be settled effectually and forever. It was not a breeze created by fanatics, that would expend itself in raising a cloud of dust. The question had come to stay until it was answered. It was the paramount and commanding issue for him and all to settle. He asked his hearers, Where are you going to stand? How are you going to vote? Are you going to vote as you pray, as your Bible teaches, as your conscience dictates; or are you going to cringe beneath the party lash, and repudiate principle?

There were times when a protest was as good as a victory; when the defeat of an honest few is the "Buiker Hill" of a revolution. He would vote a prohibition ticket or none. The speaker continued—"In remembering that we have been Republicans or Democrats, do not let us forget that we are men, and that we are not fighting the battles of yesterday, but the battles of to-day; that our faces are not set towards the old years, but the new. And whatever have been our differences, let us now unite our hands around our altars and hearthstones, to defend them against this merciless and blood-thirsty foe. It was fearful odds when Horatius stood at the head of the bridge, facing the Tuscan army, but his stand saved Rome, and Rome slew the invaders. It was fearful odds when Arnold Winkelreid rushed against the Austrian spears, and gathered them in his bosom. He died, but in dying he gave freedom to Switzerland. So the little company that will stand at the polls this year for purity and sobriety, is matched against great odds, but its courage and its God, and nought else, will save Chicago." The speaker closed with the impressive words, "He could see a reason for Hell. Oh that its gates might be opened wide, and that this present generation might rise as one man and lay hold of this reptile, and, bearing him to the mouth of the pit, shake the beast into the fire."

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 15th October to 16th December, 1882, inclusive:—

During that period 309 meetings were held, 81 being deputation, and 228 ordinary.

At these meetings 384 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. Andrew Bennet has visited Moffat, Sanquhar, New Cumnock, Kirkpatrick, Dumfries, Holywood, Moniaive, Glasgow, Milngavie, Govan, Kirkcaldy, Roslin, Penicuik, Tranent, Lathones, Dalkeith, Boness, Avonbridge, Linlithgow, Thornhill, Closeburn, Auchencairn, Castle Douglas, and Dalbeattie, and addressed 57 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Falkirk, Bathgate, Denny, West Linton, Grangemouth, Edinburgh, Leith, West Calder, Greenock, Portobello, Markinch, Largo, Largoward, Linlithgow, Pathhead, Tranent, Cockenzie, Prestonpans, Dumfries, Thornhill, Castle Douglas, and Dalbeattie, and addressed 50 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Braehead, Forth, Glasgow, Perth, Gourrock, Greenock, Whiteinch, Parkhead, Dairsie, Dura Den, Ceres, Strathmiglo, Falkland, Addiewell, Dunfermline, Motherwell, and Pollokshaws, and addressed 47 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has visited Maxwelltown, Moffat, Sanquhar, New Cumnock, Glasgow, Galston, Kilmarnock, Mauchline, Kilbarchan, Irvine, Maybole, Prestwick, Beith, Castle Douglas, Dalry, Coatbridge, Kilsyth, Alexandria, Pollokshaws, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Ayr, and Paisley, and addressed 41 meetings.

Mr. William Blackwood has visited Lonmay, St.

Combs, Inverallochy, Broadsea, Roseheart, Inverurie, Inch, Huntly, New Leeds, Aberdeen, Laurencekirk, Marykirk, Port Gordon, Port Essie, Peterhead, Buckhaven, Fyvie, Aberchirder, Buxburn, Fettercairn, Woodside, Pitullie, Rothies, and New Deer, and addressed 36 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Irvine, Glasgow, Carlisle, Wishaw, Grangemouth, Kilsyth, Govan, Bonhill, and Hamilton, and addressed 24 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Withington, Manchester, Grangemouth, Coatbridge, Glasgow, Dumbarton, Cambuslang, Peebles, Govan, Pollokshields, Castle Douglas, and Aitkenhead, and addressed 22 meetings.

Baillie Selkirk, J.P., has addressed 18 meetings in Glasgow, Wishaw, and Grangemouth.

Mr. William Kesson has addressed 10 meetings in Glasgow, Govan, and Milngavie.

Ex-Baillie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 9 meetings in Warrington, Manchester, Grangemouth, Kilsyth, and Glasgow.

Rev. S. Harding has addressed 6 meetings in Govan, Glasgow, Cambuslang, and Coatbridge.

Ex-Baillie Lewis, J.P., has addressed 4 meetings in Falkirk and Edinburgh.

Rev. W. C. M'Dougall has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow and Helensburgh.

Dr. M. Cameron has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow and Wishaw.

Rev. W. D. Glendinning has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Rev. J. Strachan has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries.

Rev. G. W. Tooley has addressed 2 meetings in Dumfries.

Andrew Brown, Esq., J.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Grangemouth.

Captain Hatfield has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 2 meetings in Clarkston and West Calder.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh and Peebles.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Rev. Drs. Brown, Falkirk; Wardrop, West Calder; Ferguson, Glasgow; and Adamson, Edinburgh; Revs. G. L. Carstairs, Glasgow; F. Ferguson, Glasgow; C. A. M'Kenzie, Govan; R. M. Gibson, Govan; J. M'Queen, Hamilton; J. M. Kinloch, West Linton; W. Cochrane, Edinburgh; G. L. Walker, Glasgow; J. Hanson, A.M., Glasgow; and R. Wallace, Glasgow; T. Hope, Esq., J.P., Grangemouth; John Wilson, Esq., J.P., Glasgow; Councillors M'Lachlan, Edinburgh; and Miller, Glasgow; Dr. Smith, Govan; Messrs. James Winning, Withington; A. M'Dougall, Glasgow; A. Murdoch, Hamilton; G. Tait, Edinburgh; J. Sutherland, Edinburgh; D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; J. Nisbet, Edinburgh; J. Hyslop, Grangemouth; James M'Call, Moniaive; R. Proudfoot, Moniaive; H. Chalmers, Glasgow; Weir, West Calder; J. Armstrong, Portobello; W. Briggs, Govan; J. Pringle, Linlithgow; J. C. M'Lean, Dumfries; W. Haining, Dumfries; and T. C. Farries, Dumfries.

PUBLIC PRESS.

The Illinois liquor-dealers wail because in Iowa "for years the Goddess of Liberty will be there wounded and ruthlessly trampled upon by a lot of fanatical fools and cunning zealots." Well, the dear old goddess has been dragged around by Gambrinus for years, tied to a cider keg, smoked in saloons, soured with brewery slops, and had her head butted time and again; and we imagine she will be glad of a change of treatment, and that she won't object to having her "wounds" cleaned with soap and water. She needs a rest and a new dress and cap, and her hair crumped.—*Ex.*

WOMEN'S INFLUENCE.—Governments need nothing so much as the humanizing tendency of woman's influence. Between her and the exercise of this influence there stands one insuperable impediment—the use of intoxicating drink. Everything that dehumanizes, everything that brutalizes, is at war with her, and must forever remain so. No wonder women hate the liquor traffic; it is the incentive to every effort that antagonizes her and degrades her for her true position, socially and politically. Destroy this foe, and its victims must awake to a comprehension of the moral worth and intelligence of women, whom at present, in their ignorance and brutality, men maltreat and despise.—*Exchange*.

THE DRUNKARD.—"A drunkard is the most selfish being in the universe. He has no sense of modesty, shame, or disgrace; he has no sense of duty or sympathy of affection with his father or mother, his brother or sister, his friend or neighbour, his wife or children; no reverence for his God; no sense of futurity in this world or the other—all is swallowed up in the mad selfish joy of the moment. Is it not humiliating that Mahomedans and Hindoos would put to shame the whole Christian world by their superior examples of temperance? Is it not degrading to Englishmen and Americans that they are so infinitely exceeded by the French in this cardinal virtue? And is it not mortifying beyond all expression that we Americans should exceed all other eight millions of people on the globe, as I verily believe we do, in this degrading, beastly vice of intemperance?"—*John Adams*, late President United States, America.

ON THE WING.

It appears that French wines, so much relied upon for their dietetic and curative qualities, are often vilely adulterated with such useful substances as red lead, lime, alum, logwood, and arsenic. We suppose, however, it does not very much matter what we are poisoned with, if we are poisoned—and wine drinkers are poisoned.

A vote has been taken in the various municipalities throughout Victoria, excluding Melbourne and Geelong, upon the question whether the number of public houses should be increased, with the result that 38,017 have voted against increase, and only 10,537 in favour of it. Taking the cities only, the vote was 5,404 against, and 882 for increase.

From almost all the Wesleyan pulpits over the country attention was specially called to the subject of temperance on Sabbath, the 10th ult. It is to be deeply regretted that this vitally important subject finds so little favour or utterance in so many of the pulpits of our own country. Posterity will greatly wonder at this, and so would we if we were not blinded by pernicious custom.

The *Globe* is very hopeful of the success of the English Sunday Closing Movement, as will be seen from the following cutting:—"Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, has each its Sunday Closing Act, and now England is to have hers. It is to be done by the introduction next session of forty bills, each dealing with a separate district. One can hardly see if Cornwall obtains its Act what argument can be used against the Devonshire Bill, for instance, becoming law. Sir Wilfrid Lawson may live to see his theories realized, and, like Mr. Gladstone, to behold his own monument in brass."

OUR BOOK SHELF.

We are glad to see that another edition of Mr. F. Sherlock's "More than Conquerors" has been called for.

A new weekly named the *Gospel Temperance Advocate and Blue Ribbon Banner* has been issued in Glasgow. Its source is the *Temperance Newspaper*

published by Messrs. Cassel, Petter & Galpin under the editorship of Rev. F. Wagstaff, the well-known temperance journalist. The local editor is the Rev. Alexander Andrew, Glasgow. We hope that the venture will prove a great success.

Nearly Lost, but Dearly Won. By Rev. T. P. Wilson. Manchester: *Onward* Offices, 18 Mount Street. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. Price two shillings. We have before us a very handsome edition of this highly popular tale, which has now run through so many editions. Itself a most excellent story, it is presented in all the splendour of book-binding and get-up in a form certain to attract all who are desirous of placing in the hands of their young friends a volume certain to deepen their love of fine art.

The Bird Angel. By Miss M. A. Paul. Manchester: *Onward* offices. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. Price two shillings. This is one of Miss Paul's most delightful stories. We are delighted to miss "the villain of the piece," which ever haunts story books. We have the youthful cousins, the benevolent wife of a banker, Granny Whiddon, and the youthful Arnold; the trials of deserted orphanhood; the vicissitudes of commerce, and love, of course. Right triumphs, and all goes as merry as a marriage bell. In substance, in up-get, in appearance, this is one of the handsomest of the *Onward* series.

Uncle Ben's Little Stories for Little Folks. By the Rev. Joseph Johnson. London: S. W. Partridge & Co. Price half a crown. A peep at the attractive contents of this elegantly got-up volume will, we fancy, be sufficiently tempting to ensure for it a large sale, and a closer inspection only increases our admiration. The stories have all that fascination, beauty, and point which cannot fail to make them extremely popular with the children; and there is quite an abundance of beautiful pictures scattered throughout their well-printed pages. We can confidently predict for this volume a hearty reception from many besides our little folks.

Onward for 1882. London: S. W. Partridge & Co. This is the yearly volume of our favourite Band of Hope magazine, and a really beautiful and interesting volume it is. Looking over it it is in itself a pleasure, and we are charmed with the wealth of its contents and the beauty of its numerous illustrations. It is a thorough-going upholder of prohibitory principles, and we like it all the more on that account. Amongst its contents are to be found a great many interesting articles on various topics—quite a flood of poetry, several interesting stories, and twelve pieces of music. We heartily commend this beautiful volume to the attention of our many readers who may be contemplating a present to their "young folks."

Popular Tracts for the People. London: Church of England Temperance Publishing Depot. We have received a copy of three of these tracts. They treat of various aspects of the liquor question, and are brief and pithy appeals to personal abstinence. No. 1 treats of "The Physical Dangers of Strong Drink," and is from the pen of Dr. Norman Kerr. No. 2 is written by the same gentleman, and is entitled "Strong Drink not Food." These two tracts together give a brief but able summary of the negative and positive evils of alcohol, from a medical standpoint. No. 3 is in the form of a letter to bricklayers and others, by the Rev. Canon Ellison, and is entitled, "The Drink did it." It aims to show that drink is one of those evil spirits that lead mankind captive at their will, and whose head is Satan. The writer emphasizes two things as needful to preserve a man from its ravages—(a), union with the Holy Spirit of God in the inner life, and (b), giving up the drink.

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

POETRY.

PSALM XXIII.

- 1 THE Lord my Shepherd is, therefore
My wants He'll satisfy.
- 2 He leads me by the waters calm,
Unfailing in supply ;
And in the pastures, fair and green,
He causeth me to lie.
- 3 To quietude and peace again
He doth restore my soul,
Clothing me, for His dear name's sake,
In garments clean and whole ;
And, walking in His righteous paths,
He doth my ways control.
- 4 Yea, though unto the vale of Death
My faltering steps be led,
I need not fear for any ill,
He is with me where I tread ;
And by His rod and staff I am
For ever comforted.
- 5 A table furnished before
Mine en'mies He didst cast ;
And with the oil of gladness He
My head anointed hast :
So that my cup with gratitude
And joy o'erfloweth fast.
- 6 Then surely, while my life doth last,
God's goodness and His love
Shall follow me my journey through,
Where'er my footsteps rove,
Until the Lord calls me to dwell
Within His house above.

POLA.

THE WONDERLAND.

Beyond this world so fair and grand,
There lies a glorious wonderland,
White its gleaming towers arise,
Proud and glorious to the eyes.

As the youth goes journeying on,
Searching for that land unknown,
Suddenly its towers appear,
Bright and radiant, tall and clear.

Scenes not dull or commonplace,
Bright with a celestial grace,
Forms that have a brighter glow
Than poor weary mortals know.

Valleys gleaming in the light,
Streams that gush in sunshine bright,
Songs whose melody so blest
Soothe into a quiet rest.

Then the youth in rapture wild,
Laughs to see such glory piled
In such majesty serene,
And he sees what none have seen.

Roams he all about the land,
Everything is wild and grand,
All the glory he surveys,
Gazes he with eager gaze.

But as still he gazes on
Straight that vision bright is gone,
And the same dull world again
Travels he in toil and pain.

Still the recollection fair
Comes and fills him with despair
But no more his feet will stand,
In that glorious wonderland.

ANDREW M. LANG.

VARIETIES.

"Joe, child, here is a powder for you ; just snap it up, will you." "Mother, I aint a gun."

A little boy had been sent to dry a towel before a nursery fire. "Mamma, is it done when it is brown?" he inquired.

I often hear affectionate husbands call their wives "My duck." I wonder if this ain't a sly allusion to their long bills.

A Spanish proverb says :—"The man who on his wedding-day starts as a lieutenant in the family will never get promoted."

A charming young lady who attends evening church service regularly is called the "vesper belle" by the distracted youth of the parish.

Barry Cornwall and Charles Lamb were once making up a dinner party, and refused to include a mutual friend, as "he would cast a damper on a funeral."

"Are putatshon," says Josh Billings, "once broken, may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep their eyes on that spot where the krack was."

HER RESOLUTION.—Spriggs' wife woke him up at three o'clock in the morning to say that she had decided, on the whole, to have a dark green suit and a green velvet bonnet this winter.

POSTPONING THE EVIL DAY.—"Mrs. Henry," said John to his wife the other morning, "if you give me a Christmas present this year, please arrange it so that the bill won't come in till the next month. It's just as well to keep up the illusion for a short time."

BROTHERLY ADVICE.—Fred (just returned from a long journey to his brother who has got married)—"I say, Jack, what in the world did you marry that frightfully ugly woman for?" Jack—"I did not look at her exterior, it was for her inward beauty that I married her." Fred—"For goodness sake, Jack, turn her inside out."

A heart-rending accident to a poor printer was lately reported. He came home drunk, told his wife he would kick her to death, and while making the first rush preparatory to scattering her brains lost his balance, fell down stairs and broke his neck. Some of the most innocent recreations are often bought with the greatest danger to life and limb. *Requiescat in pace.* The widow piously says amen to that.

Some years ago a Glasgow minister was called in to see a man who was very ill. After finishing his visit, as he was leaving the house, he said to the man's wife, "My good woman, do you not go to any church at all?" "Oh yes, sir! we gang to the Barony Kirk." "Then why in the world did you send for me? Why didn't you send for Dr. Macleod?" "Na, na, sir, deed no; we wadna risk him. Do ye no ken it's a dangerous case o' typhus?"

FOND OF A JOKE.—Few people enjoyed a joke better than Bishop Morley. On one occasion, his footman happening to be out of the way, he ordered the coachman to fetch some water from the well. Jehu objected on the ground that his business was to drive, not to run errands. "Well, then," retorted the Bishop, "bring out the coach-and-four, set the pitcher inside, and drive to the well." A service he was obliged to repeat several times, to the great amusement of the villagers.

OVERCOME BY FEMALE ATTRACTIONS.—An unfortunate landlord lately advertised for a barmaid. I call the landlord unfortunate advisedly, because by 10 o'clock of the morning on which the advertisement appeared he had been interviewed by no fewer than fifty-three ladies of surpassing loveliness and exquisite taste in dress. The agglomeration of female perfection was too much for the advertiser, who, finding at 11 o'clock that there were still twenty young ladies waiting to see him, got out of the house by the back doors, and went visiting at other hotels whilst he deputed the work of choosing a barmaid to a friend quite insensible to female attractions.

THE
Social Reformer.

FEBRUARY, 1883.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

By ANNIE S. SWAN,

Author of "Shadows Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER IX.—A DARK DEATH-BED.

Walter Gillespie and Laura Tennant were to be married in the second week of February. The day before the wedding Walter came to Claybridge, and took rooms at the Eagle. In the evening he walked over to the manse of Strathglide. The bride's preparations were all made, and there was only one shadow on her sky—the thought of the lonely old father up at Barossa. Mr. Tennant greeted the young man warmly, and retained him a moment in the study. "Your father is aware of what takes place to-morrow, Walter," he said interrogatively.

"Yes, sir; I wrote to him nearly a month ago," answered Walter frankly, "asking his forgiveness for my hasty words and for my too long silence, and informing him of to-morrow's event. It was unanswered, and I wrote again last week, and my letter was returned unopened."

"I do not know whether I am wise in giving my daughter to you in the circumstances," said the minister doubtfully.

"Pardon me, sir," said Walter with a sunny smile. "Like Jacob I have laboured for her, and have honourably won my wife. Surely the labourer is worthy of his hire."

An answering smile stole to the minister's lips, and he had no words wherewith to confute such an argument.

Walter then sought his way to the drawing-room where Laura awaited him. No need to tell what their meeting was, nor how glad and hopeful was their talk of the future.

"We cannot expect Mr. Gillespie, I suppose, to-morrow," said Laura by and by.

"No," answered Walter briefly.

"Walter, I am going to ask something from you," she said half wistfully. "You will not refuse?"

"What is mine is thine, sweetheart," said Walter lightly.

"I want you to take me up to Barossa."

Walter started.

"When?"

"Now," answered Laura. "I am off for my hat."

In five minutes she was back, dressed for her walk.

Walter, in a bewildered manner, followed her out into the lobby, and put on his overcoat.

"And what are you going to do when you are at Barossa?" he asked when they were walking up the quiet road to the lodge gates.

"You will see," she answered. "I could not be happy, Walter, to-morrow, unless I tried to reconcile you to your father. I am not afraid of him."

Walter was silent. But for his promise to Laura, he would have turned back at the very door. It is a powerful thing this pride, my friends, and is a stumbling block in the way of a great deal of happiness.

The servant who admitted them stared in genuine amazement. In fact, he was too much amazed to speak. "The master is in the library, Mr. Walter," he said, the old familiar name slipping out quite glibly.

"All right, James," said Walter, with his sunny smile; "you needn't mind, I know the way."

Although Laura had been so brave outside, she trembled from head to foot when Walter laid his hand upon the door. He opened it very softly, and both stood a moment on the threshold. The great room was dimly lighted, and seemed full of gloomy shadows. At the table sat the master with his face buried on his folded arms. Asleep, was he? or only dreaming of by-gone days?

Suddenly Laura went swiftly across the room, and knelt down by him clasping her hands on his knee. Mr. Gillespie flung up his head and looked at her and at the figure beyond with dumbfounded eyes.

"Oh, sir," faltered the girl's sweet voice, and the earnest eyes uplifted to his face were wet with tears. "Won't you forgive us, Walter and me, and say a kind word; forgive us, and give us a blessing? To-morrow I am to be Walter's wife, and I could not rest till I saw you and begged you to forgive me for having unwillingly parted you so long."

"To-morrow," repeated Mr. Gillespie dreamily. "Ay, yes, to-morrow, so he said in his letter, but I didn't answer it. I wanted to, but pride wouldn't let me."

"Walter is here, sir. Come in, Walter," said Laura. "Oh sir, don't look so sternly at us. We have done no wrong. We only love each other dearly. I will be a good daughter to you if you will let me."

"I have only to repeat what my letter said, father," said Walter's manly tones. "I have done wrong in waiting so long to say it. Forgive me, and, as Laura says, give us your blessing for to-morrow. It will not be complete without it."

A strange tremor ran over Mr. Gillespie's stern face, and there seemed to be a mist in his eyes.

He put one arm about the slender figure by his side, and drew it very close to him, and bent his grey head down till it touched the golden one. Two words only he spoke but they were sufficient—"My daughter."

Then he extended his other hand, and it met Walter's in a grip of iron.

There was nothing said.

Deep emotion is not noisy. I think the most exquisite moments in all our lives are silent ones. What say you?

So, greatly to the surprise of gossipy Strathglide, Mr. Gillespie was present at his son's wedding, and kissed the bride as if she had been his own child. It sufficed the busybodies for weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gillespie went to spend their honeymoon in a pleasant chateau on the banks of that Swiss Lake, inseparably associated with the names of Bonnivard, Rousseau, Madame de Stael, and a score of others as illustrious. But I question if these two young people ever gave a thought to the famous dead who have made the place immortal; to them it was a blissful Eden, holding as of yore one man and woman all in all to each other.

For a few months before Laura's marriage Mrs. Tennant had been confined in a temperance home in the vicinity of Glasgow. It was the last resource, and one which, for many reasons, Mr. Tennant shrank from applying. But her outbreaks had become so frequent

and terrible that, for his children's sake, he was compelled to remove her from the manse. Drink could not be kept from her. Those happily exempt from all contact with intemperate people would be dumbfounded by the ingenuity and cunning they display in finding ways and means to procure drink. Mrs. Tennant bribed message-boys, packmen, and even tramps. No means were beneath her, nothing too degrading for her to do, to satisfy the fearful craving which possessed her. All self-respect had long ago been sacrificed.

One evening a few days after the wedding Lottie was sitting in the drawing-room, sewing busily. Poor Lottie! At fourteen, the entire care of her father's house was laid upon her shoulders. The mad-cap was sobered now, and she had registered a mental vow to follow in her dear sister's steps, and fill, as far as lay in her power, the blank her absence must make in the home. Spring was drawing on apace. Though February was still young, green buds and tiny blades were peeping out, encouraged by the gentle air and the genial sun. A yellow sunset gilded the western sky, and a golden light lay on the old-fashioned garden, and creeping in at the window touched Lottie's dark head with a tenderness all its own. A pair of swallows home hunting in the churchyard twittered on the yew-boughs till Lottie raised her head with a smile to watch them.

"See, Daisy, there's the swallows—lovely white-breasted things," she said, "Lay down your book and come and see them."

"There's a beggar coming down the road, Lot," said Daisy, pointing to a figure a few yards out beyond the gate. "She hasn't a bonnet nor anything; oh, she's coming in here."

The garden gate creaked, and Lottie flung up her head, and the ruddy colour died from lip and cheek leaving them pale as ashes.

The woman coming slowly up the path nodded to them, and smiled a maudlin smile. Her dress, a fine dark cashmere, was rent in many places, and soaked and sodden with the rain. Her shawl, also soiled and discoloured, was pulled negligently round her, one corner being drawn over her head in lieu of a bonnet.

"Lot, it's mamma!" screamed Daisy, and clung to her sister's skirts trembling from head to foot.

"Stay here, Daisy darling," said Lottie with desperate calmness. "Just till I get papa. I won't stay a minute."

She put the child from her and fled to the study. Her father and Charles were there enjoying one of the long talks in which both delighted. It was Friday night and Charlie was freed from College till Monday.

"Papa," gasped Lottie, "mamma's at the door. I am afraid to open it."

Both sprang to their feet and ran to the door. Ay, there she stood upon the step, poor wreck of womanhood as she was, polluting the stillness of the evening air with the odour of the vile thing which had been her ruin.

"I'm home," she said with a triumphant grin. "They were very clever but they couldn't keep me in. No, I was too smart for them. Can't I come into my own house, Mr. Tennant," she broke off fiercely, and brushing past them forced her way into the drawing-room. With a scream of horror Daisy rushed out of the room, and fled to the kitchen to faithful Jean.

Why should I linger here? It is not so pleasant a theme that I should greatly care to expatiate upon it. God help us that it should have its parallel in so many homes throughout our land.

By and by, with Jean's assistance, they got her to bed, and then the "horrors" came on her. To speak correctly, she was attacked by *delirium tremens*. Mr. Tennant and Charlie had to watch by her, sometimes they had to call Jean to help them to keep her in bed.

"There's another!" she screamed once, fixing her glaring eyes on a particular corner of the room. "The room is full of them. Take them away! Shut out their eyes, they are burning into my very soul. Keep their fearful hands off me! Oh! my God, there is Arthur!"

So deep was the conviction with which she spoke,

that involuntarily they glanced round almost expecting to see him there.

"He is coming to help them to tear me to pieces," she raved. "He says I taught him to drink; I, who loved him so I would have died for him. Don't let him come, Charlie!" she said, wistfully turning her eyes to her husband's drawn face. "You used to love me, won't you shut them out? If you knew how they burn me you would. Look," she said in a fearful whisper, "There he is again. Arthur! Arthur!" Scream after scream broke from her lips, and in the drawing-room below Lottie held Daisy closely in her arms trying to allay the terror which was no greater than her own. She was only a child yet, scarcely able to bear such things.

By and by the doctor came. She had fallen into a light uneasy sleep. He made a brief examination and shook his head.

"Another such paroxysm, sir," he said in his grave, candid way, "will snap the thread. Her heart is frightfully weak. In this case we are powerless."

The minister bowed his head; he had no word to say.

The doctor's surmise was correct. Ere daybreak she was seized with another paroxysm, during which the frail, overtaxed heart ceased to beat. So she died. Do you wonder that it should overwhelm the minister.

"Oh, dear Charlie!" he groaned giving way utterly. "What a death! Not a moment given for repentance. What hope have we for her future? This is harder to bear than all the rest. Let your mother's death-bed be a lesson to you my son, and avoid the evil thing as you would a deadly poison."

Charlie went close to the bowed figure, and laid his strong young arm about the drooping shoulders, his face shining with the earnestness of a noble purpose.

"Not only that, father, but before God I swear to do what one man can to sweep this awful evil from our land."

That vow would be fulfilled in the spirit and in the letter in days to come.

SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE OF ALCOHOL.

I.

God is one, and truth is one. Truth must be one, because all truth comes from God who is infinite in knowledge, wisdom, and purity. Truth comes to us through two channels from the one God. One of these is the works of nature, the other the Word of God or Revelation. The means whereby we reach truth from the former is observation, experiment, and experience. The means for reaching truth from revelation is study, the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and experience. Since both of these revelations come from the same God who is truth, and who cannot contradict himself or deceive, there must be the most perfect harmony between the two. No discrepancy can by any possibility exist between the two, and if there appears to be any it must proceed from some mistake as to the meaning of one or other, or it may be of both. If the popular interpretation of the Word is at variance with the facts of science properly understood, then we require to find some mode of harmonizing the two without doing violence to either the one or the other. Before however that we admit the teaching of science, we must have the most clear and unmistakable evidence that such is truth. Each of these divine revelations has its own peculiar sphere. The teachings of the works of nature refer to man's position as a creature like any other animal—to his body and its requirements, and to the arts and sciences wherewith he deals. The teachings of the Bible have reference to man's position as connected with God, and as a responsible being. It deals with morality, and the spiritual concerns of the soul. The former concerns the present life, the latter deals with matters which more concern the world to come. It is only in the incidental teachings of the Word, or where these deal with matters which also affect the present life, and the affairs of man as a social being, that we find the two records dealing with the same subjects, and where consequently we may expect to find the one confirming or explaining

the other, and where, therefore, we can find harmony. To this harmony on the question of strong drink or alcoholic liquors we purpose calling attention, being persuaded that where this comes clearly out, we shall find there one of the strongest arguments for abstinence and prohibition.

Whatever is declared to be duty, by its form, is admitted by all. But many who will at once admit the obligation of a "Thou shalt," or "Thou shalt not" are not so ready to allow that a duty may be found expressed under the form of a simple statement of truth. But this is very common in scripture, and it is universal so far as the laws of nature are concerned. In nature we have no commands, but we have facts, and as these are discovered they become, or ought to become, rules of action. It has been discovered to be a law of nature that bodies when unsupported fall to the ground. Hence we derive a rule for our conduct, we come to the wise conclusion that if we would avoid the consequences of a fall we must secure a firm footing. We learn from the study of the action of certain agents upon the human organism that certain substances taken into the system so act upon certain organs as to injure or to destroy their power of acting, and thus produce disorder or death as the case may be. This affords us the lesson that such substances are to be carefully avoided, else we must pay the penalty either by suffering disorder in the bodily system, or by losing life altogether. If we are wise we will give good heed to these warnings derived from the teachings of nature. These are learned by experience and from experiment. These lessons so learned are as much the commands of God as if they had been revealed to us in the form of "Thou shalt," or "Thou shalt not." There is, however, a marked and very material difference between the commands revealed in the Bible for our guidance in morality, and the injunctions implied in the laws of nature for the management of those matters which concern the body simply as such, and not as it is the instrument of the soul. In the case of the moral law there is room for, and the promise of, forgiveness when true repentance follows the commission of sin. In the case of natural law there is neither promise of nor room for repentance, but every violation of this code of natural law is followed inevitably, and with absolute certainty, by its natural punishment. There cannot be, and there never is, any pardon here. The greatest sinner, who has longest rebelled against his God, and who has been guilty of every kind of iniquity and sin, and who has been the most hardened in his course of opposition to God and his law, if he lay down the weapons of his rebellion, and in true penitence comes and casts himself upon the mercy of God in Christ, all his sins are forgiven, the penalty is remitted in full, and he is received into full favour and love of God. God forgives freely and fully all moral guilt, and not one single sin is counted against the repentant sinner. He has absolute and complete forgiveness, is restored fully to favour, is made partaker of all the happiness and bliss of which he is capable. But it is not so with regard to the violation of the laws of nature. Here God never forgives, here there is no pardon, here the full penalty is ever exacted and must be paid to the utmost. Let us clearly understand this distinction. Here is a man who in the course of his life has become one of the vilest and most degraded of men, a sinner of the deepest dye. In his course of sin he has not only broken the moral law, but he has gone into a life of dissipation, he has broken the laws of nature, and now he begins to suffer the effects. In the midst of his sufferings he is brought to see how he stands in relation to his God. His eyes are opened, his heart is affected, his conscience is awakened, and in his trouble he is brought to feel his need of a Saviour, and is made willing to receive the great gift of eternal life. He humbles himself under the sense of guilt, he casts himself down at the feet of Christ, and in true repentance cries out "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." He is not cast off, his cry is heard, his sin is forgiven, he feels that he has been pardoned, and with joyful heart and grateful spirit he cries out "Abba, father." Now he rejoices in the light of God's countenance; now

he sings of grace and love; now he sees God as reconciled, and all his mountains of sin washed away in the fountain opened for sin. He has now no fear of meeting with God, he rather longs to go to enjoy his presence and to be happy for ever. But what about this body of his? His sin against the natural law has laid it under disease and on the road to dissolution. Has his repentance cured the body as it has renewed the soul? Nay. The penalty of the broken natural law must be paid, paid to the last farthing. Not one jot or tittle of this law will be allowed to be unavenged. The body is doomed to pay the penalty of death; the soul has escaped and is free. Offences against the moral law have all been blotted out; those against the natural laws have, and must have their full penalty. These laws are the revelation of the will of God to man in reference to the things of this life, just as surely and as certainly as the moral laws are His revelation of His will in regard to the matters of the soul and its interests. And it is as much our duty to give obedience to the one set of laws as it is to give attention to the other. And it is our interest to do this. For if we violate the laws of nature we are sure to have to pay the penalty of all disobedience to those of nature. We may violate the laws of grace and we may have forgiveness, and we must have the most solemn obligations on us to obey these. It is therefore a very notable point that wherever the one revelation comes into contact with that of the other we find, or at least we ought to find, the most perfect harmony. This harmony really exists and if any appearance of discrepancy comes into view it must be owing to some misunderstanding of one or other, or it may be of both the records.

What has all this to do with the question of total abstinence or of prohibition? Let us see.

There are certain truths, or what are believed to be truths, drawn from the study of nature or physical science, and there are certain truths which we believe, or at least many believe, to be revealed in the Word of God in reference to drink. These are believed to be in harmony with each other on these points, and consequently these are believed to be the basis on which may be founded a plea of duty. That duty is total abstinence from all intoxicants as beverages.

I. It has been deduced from the study of physics that *alcohol is a poison*. Alcohol is the active ingredient in all such beverages as wine, beer, cider, perry, gin, rum, brandy, and whisky. The proportion or percentage of alcohol in these varies very much, but it is found in them all, and it is on account of its presence that they are drunk. That alcohol, the active element in these liquors, is a poison is generally admitted by all the ablest and most learned men of the medical profession. There is no writer on Toxicology who does not class alcohol among the poisons. Orfila, Christison, and a whole crowd of writers so class it. But the question arises with some, What is a poison? Our answer is, A poison is some substance which taken into the system so acts upon one or more organs as to disorder, derange, or destroy their functions, and so produces disease or it may be death. It is "a substance, which, brought into contact with the skin, mucous surfaces, nerves, blood cells, or other organs of man, disturbs their normal state, by virtue of some special inherent quality." A poison does not necessarily in every dose kill, or even when that takes place does it do so suddenly. Some poisons act comparatively slowly, others very speedily. Some produce disease and disorder which run on to fatal results, while others act almost instantaneously by suddenly stopping the action of some vital part. Now, science, or the study of the laws of physical nature, has declared as the result of experiment, of experience, and of careful investigation, that alcohol ranks among the most potent and virulent of poisons. This fact is popularly recognised as a truth beyond question by the very name given to such liquors as contain this ingredient. They are commonly known as intoxicating liquors or intoxicants. This word comes from the root *toxicum*, poison. Intoxicating, therefore, just means poisoning, and when we say of a man that he is intoxicated we just assert that he is under the influence of a poison. This is so generally admitted

that it is useless to quote authorities on the point to any extent, although it would be easy to multiply such quotations. We shall content ourselves with one or two as samples. Dr. Wilson writes, "All these diversified proofs have pointed unchallengeably to the conclusion that alcohol is the most widely and intensely destructive of poisons. In large and concentrated doses there are few which are more promptly and inevitably fatal." Dr. Michel Levy in "Hygiene" writes thus, "The influence of alcohol upon the nervous system, and particularly upon the brain, is manifest by a progressive and consistent series of symptoms, which, in different degrees of intensity, are reproduced in all individuals. These constitute a true poisoning, and this morbid state is exhibited under three phases, (1) sur-excitation, (2) perturbation, (3) abolition of the cerebro-spinal functions." But we have given enough. Where there is really among men of science no diversity of opinion, nature, the science of physics, gives the verdict that "alcohol is a poison."

Let us now see what is the verdict of scripture, if it gives any information on the subject. We must not look for the same precision of scientific description that we find in books of science, for the Bible does not teach science, only now and then statements are made which bear upon these and such like questions. We may find the matter referred to in a passing way as an illustration, or as a concrete statement, but not in the abstract form. In the Old Testament two words are used which have been translated poison or venom. The first of these is *chemah*, or *khamah*. The literal meaning of the word seems to be *inflaming heat* such as is produced by the action of many poisons, and hence the *poison* itself. It is used to symbolize *rage, fury, anger*. The word *poison* occurs in eight passages in the English Bible. In five of these the word in the Hebrew is *khamah*.

Deut. xxxii. 24. With the poison (*khamah*) of serpents.

Job vi. 4. The poison (*khamah*) whereof drinketh up my spirit.

Psalms lxxviii. Their poison (*khamah*) is like the poison (*khamah*) of serpents.

Psalms cxl. 5. Adder's poison (*khamah*) is under their lips.

The word *rosh* is also used in a similar sense. The word seems to refer primarily to some bitter and poisonous vegetable such as poppy.

Job xx. 16. He shall suck the poison (*rosh*) of asps.

Psalms lxix. 22. They gave me gall (*rosh*) for my meat.

Jer. viii. 14. Given us water of gall (*rosh*) to drink.

These are the two words used to indicate poison in the Hebrew and it is worthy of note that the *rosh* which occurs several times as the name of some plant always seems to indicate a poisonous action. It has been translated *hemlock*, and is coupled with wormwood. Both of these terms are employed in describing the action of alcoholic wine. In Deut. xxxii. 33. "For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall (*rosh*), their clusters are bitter." 34. "Their wine is the poison (*khamah*) of dragons, and the cruel venom (*rosh*) of asps." Thus it is seen that both the words translated poison are employed here to characterize wine, alcoholized wine. For it can never be said of pure fresh grape juice that it is like poison, as it is one of the most nutritive substances we can get. But when the process of fermentation has taken place, all the elements which rendered the juice a valuable food have disappeared, and in their place we have an agent which is here described as resembling the serpent's poison. But this is not the only passage that gives a hint as to the nature of alcohol. Habakkuk ii. 15 has these words, "Woe to him that giveth his neighbour drink; that putteth thy bottle (*khamah* = poison) to him, etc." And Hosea vii. 5 writes, "They made him sick with bottles (*khamah* = poison) of wine." Jeremiah xxv. 15, has "Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand," the wine producing fury (*khamah*). And in Isaiah li. 17, "Thou hast drunk...the cup of his fury (*khamah*)." These latter passages indicate tropically the effects

produced by alcoholic wine, and they are of such a nature as to leave no doubt as to the physical properties of the substance. Clearly and unmistakably the divine record indicates that this agent is of a poisonous character, and thus the teachings so given are in perfect accord with those derived from physical science, and we may, therefore, pretty certainly draw the conclusion that we have got at truth, since from two separate and independent sources we have the same lessons taught, and that in no doubtful or ambiguous form. Alcohol then is a poison, declared to be so by divine revelation in the Word, and in the works of God.

What then are we to learn from this fact?

If alcohol be a poisonous substance then all those beverages of which it forms an important element must be poisonous in their effects upon the users thereof. This effect is admitted in the very use of the term intoxicated.

If alcohol be a poison then it cannot be a proper substance to be used as a food. All food must nourish the body, but if it contains an element whose action is irritating or disturbing to the functions of the various organs it cannot be a proper food. No substance usually employed as a food has this property. Fruits, vegetables, flesh do not disturb or disorder the functions of the organs of the body. If they did they would at once be rejected as such and others employed in their place. If alcohol is to be reckoned, as some would like to do, as a food, it forms a solitary exception to the general rule. Neither can it be regarded, and for the same reason, as a good drink. Water, the natural drink, is entirely neutral in its action; it does not inflame or disturb normal action in any organ.

The laws of physical science demand that we regulate our diet by their guidance, that we use only such articles of food and drink as are consistent in their operation and effects upon the various organs of the body, with the enjoyment of comfort and health. This is also required as a duty by the moral law, that of the sixth commandment in particular. Poisonous substances do injury to the frame, and consequently we are called upon by natural as well as by moral law to avoid them. Alcohol is such a substance, and hence we come to the conclusion, founded alike on the laws of our physical frame, and on the moral law as revealed in the Word of God, that it is our duty to avoid and abstain from the ordinary use of all such beverages as contain this poisonous ingredient. The two records are at one in this matter, and, since it is our duty to obey both of them, the duty is imperative, is binding upon all men as organized creatures, and as subjects of the King of kings.

GLASGOW COOKERY EXHIBIT.

THE directors of the Abstainers' Union, in holding their second cookery exhibit during the new year holidays, took a very wise step indeed, and added one of the most interesting, important, and practical of exhibits to the many attractions of the season. Theirs was a great advance upon the previous one in every way. The place was more spacious, attractive, and more accessible. It was besides more influential and much more successful as regards the cookery and setting out. The place was the Crown Halls, Sauchiehall Street, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. There was a platform at the north end on which stood a grand piano, which gave out music at intervals during the day, yet leaving room for the chairman and the various speakers. On the west side there was a most interesting exhibition of gas heating and cooking apparatus from the Argyll Works of Mr. Matthew Waddell. A hot plate belonging to this gentleman was employed for the making of bannocks and pastry during the entire day. Adjoining was the soups, &c., kept warm with gas. Still farther on we had vegetarian cookery. Then on the south there was an excellent little collection of bottles, each lot showing the constituents of $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of wine, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of porter, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of steak, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of pease meal, and so on. One phial gave the water, another the starch, the next the fatty matter, and the next the salts. This group

attracted many visitors. On the east side we had a refreshment stall, where Mr. Waddell had provided very excellent tea, coffee, and bread of various kinds, cooked on the premises. There was also some fruit. The entrance was on this side, beyond which we saw fardels and scones made of oatmeal, flour, maize, &c. Immediately in front of the platform space was reserved for the audience at the lectures. The rest of the floor space available was taken up with the display of the Bread Reform Society and with the working women's competition of a week's dinners, vegetarian and mixed. A glance at the whole was sufficient to impress the visitor with a high opinion of the competition. Looking to the walls we observed a large number of tabular diagrams showing the constituents of food in figures, and it seemed to us to go to show the marked superiority of a fruit and farinaceous diet over an animal and even a mixed diet. A very large number of persons patronized the exhibit throughout the day, but we should have liked to have seen more of those for whose particular benefit and advantage all the trouble was taken. At twelve o'clock noon the exhibition was opened, and two very interesting contests took place. The first was setting tables in presence of the judges, who included a number of ladies whose kindly sympathies and efforts the directors had the good fortune to enlist. The competition was very keen, and some considerable difficulty was felt by the judges in coming to a decision. The other was an essay in cooking in presence of the judges. This was a very spirited affair. Eliza M'Kenzie was first, Mrs. Ewan second, and Minnie Barlow third. At the advertised time Mr. Lindsay, chairman of the Union, accompanied by Professor M'Kendrick and Mr. William Smith, ascended the platform, where the learned professor proceeded to deliver a lecture on food. He was listened to with deep interest, for a most admirable lecture was delivered. He showed very cogently that a proper dietary should contain those articles found in the living body itself, and that these different substances should be prepared in proper proportions. This was illustrated by a reference to an excellent diagram. He stated that from 23 to 24 oz. of solid substances was a daily supply. We cannot always be weighing our foods, but we can always approximate, preparing them as properly as we can. Food can only be nutritious when it can be properly cooked and perfectly absorbed. With our food there should be a certain amount of relish or sapidity; this would stimulate the system and make the work of absorption easier. During its delivery he laid great stress upon the advantage of porridge and milk, and expressed deep regret that many of the working classes had excused their neglect of it because they could not get milk of good quality cheap, could they do so they would continue to use porridge. He also declared his conviction that through mothers giving infants, no doubt with kind intentions, a bit of what they were taking themselves, *i. e.*, starchy and fatty foods beyond the infants' power of digestion, many serious and often fatal diseases occurred. The lecture was received with loud applause. M. Connal, Esq., chairman of the School Board of Glasgow, in moving a vote of thanks to the learned professor, indicated a warm interest in good cookery, for the want of which he thought the working classes were greatly to be pitied. At eight o'clock the lecturer was Rev. Dr. Robertson, of St. Andrews Established Church, and chairman of the Glasgow School of Cookery. Introductory to his address he paid a high compliment to the Abstainers' Union and to Mr. Airlie, its indefatigable secretary. The Union sought the removal of temptations to drinking, but they did not rest there. They sought to institute counteractives to the public house temptations, and their concerts had for the last twenty years done a great deal of good in elevating the tastes of the people, and in spreading abroad a love for musical improvement. They had now gone a step farther, and were trying to make a man's fireside better and happier. Towards this consummation nothing could in his opinion contribute so much as good cookery. They evidently were trying to get the man to feed well and so keep him from intemperance. When a man's sys-

tem is so depressed by excessive labour that it craves for some stimulant, nothing would so meet this craving as a man's being able to partake of thoroughly well cooked food. (Applause.) A great many men have been drawn into the cheery parlour of the public house by the slatternly and untidy condition of their homes. He knew how hard it was for a wife with a large family to get through her household work. But if it is considered how enormous is the gain of having a home of an attractive character, they would put forth a strong effort to make their homes as bright and attractive as they could. A very large amount of money was wasted in sheer ignorance of the value and preparation of food. The secret was to buy at the right time. The pass-book should be discarded and food bought with ready money. He would make bold to say that by acting upon this principle there would be a saving at the end of the year equivalent to a large rise on the wages of a working man. This was the custom in his young days. People then "hained" their money at the beginning of winter and secured large supplies of food. This led to a great amount of frugality in every department. The speaker concluded with a few excellent hints on the respective value of butter, eggs, and fish, as contrasted with sheep's heads and a haggis, and by wishing the Union much success. The chairman at nine o'clock proceeded to distribute the prizes. This was a very interesting feature of the day. He said that a great many parties had entered into competition, but it was impossible that all of them could succeed. It was better, however, to have competed and lost than not to have competed at all. (Applause.) Perhaps those who had competed and lost will, on seeing how near they have been to a prize, try again and win. (Applause.) He then gave out the prizes, the audience cheering the winners as they marched to and from the platform. Many of them were youthful, a large number single women. A Mrs. Smith, of Oxford Street, seemed extremely fortunate, she having three first, three second, and one third prize. Votes of thanks were awarded on the motion of Mr. Lindsay, to Mr. Airlie, who is to be complimented very much on the success attending the arrangements, and to Miss Gordon. Mr. Airlie in replying acknowledged the services of Misses Gibbs and Baillie—the lady judges—the lecturers, Mr. M. Waddell, all of whom were heartily applauded, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded this very excellent exhibition.

HEATHER.

'Tis hard tae dee sae far fae hame
 Frae love an' friens' an' a' thegither,
 Without the soun' o' ae kent voice,
 Or ae glimpse o' my native heather.
 Oh! had I ne'er for love of gold;
 Been o'er the ocean forced to roam,
 I ne'er had known a broken heart,
 Earth had no friends save love and home.
 They've brought me flowers I cannot name,
 Frae foreign climes o' cloudless ether,
 Though fair their hue and sweet their smell,
 They're no tae me like purple heather.
 An' when I'm dead, 'twill no be lang,
 I'm weary heart and brain thegither,
 Just row me in my tartan plaid;
 And on my breast a sprig o' heather.

Aberdeen.

MARY GRANT.

HOW HE GOT SHOT.—A little girl said to her mamma, "Mamma, have you heard of the man that got shot?" "No, child, how did he get shot?" asked mamma. "Oh," said young precocious, "he bought 'em."

DONALD WAS A JACOBITE.—"Donald," said the Duke, "will you drink my health?" Donald eagerly "O ay, O ay." "Now, Donald, let us pledge the King." "Fat King?" "Oh King George." "Weel, weel," with an expressive shrug, "Gif that be the King that's to be understood Tonal's no dry."

THE FUNDS.

* * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1883.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER
FEBRUARY, 1883.

We hope next month to indicate the leading features of our new volume, which commences with the April issue.

In consequence of the crowded state of our news columns, we are compelled to leave over the concluding article on "Workman's Bill of Fare," "Book-shelf," and other interesting matter; but we will endeavour to find room for all these next month.

Next to the Premier's, the utterances of Lord Hartington will be most carefully considered by the country. His lordship has, of all the Liberal Cabinet ministers, shown an ability and patriotism of the highest order. When his party was in opposition, it was admirably led by him. When the time came for Mr. Gladstone to resume the leadership, his lordship fell back to the post of lieutenant without a murmur; and although the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Bright, for one reason or another, left the Cabinet, the Marquis of Hartington, while having equally good reason to theirs, stood loyally by his chief, so that when addressing his constituents recently, he spoke with the authority of an eminent member of the Government. He made a lengthy reference to the drink question, which might be summed up shortly. He believed it was perfectly possible for the present Parliament to deal with the licensing laws. In his opinion the movement with that object had made considerable progress. Two things with regard to the traffic had occurred—first, the great diminution in the revenue from the traffic, through the increasing temperate habits of the people. It might have been at this time 34 millions, stg.; it was only 28½ millions; there was an actual decrease of 3½ millions. Now, this reduction might be treated in two ways. People could go on abstaining without any assistance from legislation whatever; yet this ardent desire to give up drinking should strengthen their demand for legislation. His lordship's view is wise. If law is the expression of virtue, surely it should support virtue; if a nation is desirous to abandon intemperance, the law should not be found arrayed against its desire; if it is bent on sobriety, it should no

longer be allowed to struggle against temptations to intemperance than the Government is able to remove the bad law and establish legislation which will render it easier for its subjects to show a steadfast fidelity to sobriety than to fall into habits of inebriety. We heartily welcome the Marquis's opinions, and augur much from them when the consideration of the licensing laws engages the close attention of the Cabinet. His lordship went on to refer to the great Darwen decision in favour of the contention of temperance reformers that the meaning of the law was that licenses were only granted for one year. He seemed to look upon that decision with favour, and thought it might bring the licensed victuallers to terms. He had never, he said, voted for local option, but he was not disposed to deny the need for farther legislation, and that in the direction of popular control. This might be afforded in connection with the County Government Bill, or by the magistrates, who might have their hands strengthened in the exercise of what would no doubt be an unpopular duty by the expression in some shape or other of a popular opinion in their district that a reduction of licenses was required. The noble Marquis said the question was not in his department, but emphatically ended by stating that this was quite a possible question, and if possible it was desirable that this Parliament should deal with it before it ceases to exist. The audience heartily cheered their noble representative, and we should have vigorously joined them, for his lordship has advanced rapidly to the position he holds. If his words point to anything, they point to regulation, but he is quite open to consideration, and if a Board, subordinate to the veto of the ratepayers, was appointed the licensing authority, no doubt it should have his lordship's support. For our own part, we want the veto without the Board, and we believe all true hearts, while glad that legislation on the liquor traffic is so imminent, will strive to be entrusted with the veto rather than be cursed with a Board.

The National Trade Guardian—the Scotch publicans' organ—has a Commissioner who writes up sensational copy for his paper. This is how he writes about the Central Police Court at Glasgow:—"Hogarth could conceive of nothing which exceeded in brutality and degradation the effects of whisky and gin as exhibited in some of the slums of our great cities; Cruickshank, the prince of caricaturists, pictorially sketched the career of the Bacchanalian from the cradle to the grave, but it is questionable if it were in the power of either of these masters of the art of chalcography to depict in the wildest sweep of their imagination anything to surpass many of the scenes which are daily witnessed in the Central Police Court." After painting the surroundings of the Court, "where burglar, incendiary, garrotter, and assassin meet face to face," he points to the "narrow courts which strike off the Trongate, inhabited mainly by shebeeners, and the

initiated in the mysteries of this infernal traffic can point you out any night" shebeen watchers and peripatetic shebeeners. It is from such quarters that the majority of the cases at the "Central" are taken for adjudication. In what more scathing terms could a Temperance reformer speak or write of the "Central" than the Publicans' Commissioner? He exhausts denunciation, and if he were just somewhat more truthful he might take the part of a Temperance advocate any day. "The Central" is a dreadful place because, according to him, it is thronged with the victims of the illegal traffic in strong drinks. Supposing that it is so, where is the illegal traffic supplied? From the legal supply of course, where else? Rarely do we hear of smuggling, still more rarely of "secret still" production. The shebeener must get his supply, and from whom? From his more wholesome brother in the eye of the law, who frowns on shebeeners as he does upon grocers, but deals with both for all that. Reduce your respectable publican by the suppressive veto to the ranks of the shebeener and both would disappear, and the Commissioner of the *National Trade Guardian* would then be able to serve the public in a less questionable capacity than in trying to whitewash the liquor trade, and only succeeding in putting the saddle on the wrong horse.

Although from the nature of the Association we represent we feel ourselves precluded from discussing political questions outside of temperance and social reform, we are deeply interested in the methods by which political reformers attempt to gain their ends. At a meeting at Old Meldrum recently, addressed by General Sir Alexander Gordon, M.P., Mr. Hay, Little Ythsie, said, "electors should record their votes only for men who were 'sound' on the land question and will do all in their power to bring it under the notice of Government." Now whether this Association in its electoral efforts at the election of General Gordon have been the tutors of Mr. Hay, or whether that gentleman went to the school of Dame Experience and was taught, we are glad to see him advocating a principle which, when supported and enforced by us, was held to be fanatical and dangerous in the extreme. Highly satisfactory as exclusive voting has proved through our friends' application of it at all general and bye elections, we expect that it will be still more successful in the future when once our parliamentary struggle begins for special veto powers over the liquor traffic to the ratepayers of Scotland. The parliamentary candidate who is unable to discern the signs of the times on our great question is hopelessly incompetent for the post to which he aspires.

At the last moment Dr. Andrew Clarke stepped in and put his veto on the visit of the Premier to Midlothian. The disappointment to the admirers of Mr. Gladstone all over Scotland was great, and it says much for his hold on their affections that they

so readily acquiesced in the event. Our friends were resolved to approach Mr. Gladstone by deputation, but were told, as every other interest had been, that he could not grant an interview to them. They then resolved to hold a meeting in their respective districts and invited the valuable assistance of Mr. Waterston, the district superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for Edinburgh and the east. Meetings were held in Currie, West Calder and Dalkeith, at which resolutions expressive of great sympathy with the honourable representative, Mr. Gladstone, were adopted, as was also a resolution calling upon the Government to introduce, at the earliest moment, a bill enabling the ratepayers to veto all liquor traffic in their localities. These resolutions were duly forwarded. We rejoice to know that the Midlothian meetings are not abandoned but only postponed, and look forward to Mr. Gladstone finding time to meet with our tried friends in his constituency.

It is devoutly to be wished that the newspaper press saw as clearly as the *Times* did last month the present terrible condition of the Swiss Cantons through free trade in drink. Its correspondent reports that there is absolute freedom of trade in drink with the usual appalling consequences, and the *Times* is horrified to think that the Swiss are far more drunken than the people of the United Kingdom. It perceives that this arises from the fact that we have some legal checks on the drinking system and the Swiss have none. Without hesitation the *Times* jumps into our boat—offers to abate this state of matters by our remedies. "Rude and rough an agency as restrictive legislation may be thought, the liquor traffic once established has hitherto yielded to no other." "If the Swiss people is to be preserved from imminent ruin the legislature must pass a new licensing law, or restore the right of local option to the Cantons." "Any Canton which preferred to leave dissoluteness unchecked might figure as it pleased as the drunken Helot of the confederation. Each is large enough to govern itself in these matters and is accustomed to the task. No fear need be felt in Swiss Cantons that a majority would trample on the reasonable likings of a minority. The change would simply invest the several divisions of the Swiss people with the right to protect themselves and their weaker citizens from riot and temptation, and fasten upon those who might not choose to use it the responsibility for their own misery and disorder." The *Times* has had given to it an account of evil done abroad and it delivers an opinion which exactly tallies with the views of the most eminent temperance reformers, and propounds a remedy almost running on all fours with theirs. And how sensible is the opinion. A nation keeps a liquor shop to nearly every thirty families: every tenement contains a drinking place: you have drunkenness and crime, poverty and impending national ruin. This arises not from greater ube-

lief, from larger numbers forsaking the king's highway, but from an erroneous interpretation of the constitution and entire abrogation of the legal checks on the sale of liquors. The *Times* believes, no doubt as firmly as the most sainted Christian among us that evangelistic agencies, however excellent, so far as they go, cannot subdue the liquor traffic, and it wisely declares that rough and ready as restriction is, the liquor traffic yields to no other; and it does not hesitate to state that the power of local option should be restored to the Cantons, that they thus protect themselves and their weaker citizens from riot and temptation. We rejoice at this decisive opinion from the *Times*, and hope at no distant day to have it exerting its powerful and continuous influence in favour of a protective, not merely restrictive, local option for the United Kingdom, and especially for that part of it called Scotland.

We shall never, we believe, forget the feeling that possessed us on the day when Alexandria was to be bombarded by the British fleet. Our allies, the French, had coolly steamed away: the Powers of Europe had left us to be the arbiter of the fate of Egypt. We had metal enough wherewith to destroy every fort in the doomed city, but military traditions did not speak hopefully of the result of a contest between fleets and forts to the fleet. As we scanned the faces of those among whom we moved we saw hope and fear mingling in every countenance, and an attention so strained that it seemed as if all were listening to catch the echo of the gun which first opened fire on the foe. The friends of temperance are, with regard to the ensuing session of Parliament, in the same state of strained suspense, with, unfortunately, this difference, that they are not all of one mind as those were who manned our ships on the memorable day in June. Many of them think that change is reform; they seem as if what they wanted was simply a change in the Licensing Authority, and not a permanent settlement of the liquor difficulty. A licensing board with its controlling, its leases, its staff, its borrowing powers, and its consequent perpetuation of the evil in a new and perhaps slightly improved form, seems to be the ambition which inspires and moves them to action. While they will certainly justify those responsible for legislation on the liquor traffic, in offering a concession and not a settlement, the people that trusts them would find, when too late, that it has been led by blind guides, and has fallen into the ditch of compromise. Then, if we may put any faith in rumours and forecasts on the session, Government interference with the liquor traffic is to take the form of a County Government Bill with licensing powers. This will mean for the burghs of Scotland the *statu quo*; for the burghers elect a Board to manage all their affairs, and a portion of them as magistrates do presently administer the licensing laws. These magistrates have clearly shown that under the most advanced system of

liquor legislation their control of that system has been a painful and conspicuous failure. To impose a similar system of control on our Scottish counties is an insult to the common sense of those who reside in them which we hope will be very properly resented. The liquor traffic cannot be controlled either by a licensing board of the best of men or by any law that can be conceived short of prohibition. But these licensing proposals might be embodied in law were it not that there is in Scotland a dominant party of prohibitionists averse to licensing on any grounds, who are pressing the Government for a just settlement of the people's demand for self-protection from the appalling evils of the liquor traffic. They do not believe in new machinery for licensing, controlling, regulating, not to speak of maintaining the liquor traffic. All they desire is the simple machinery of a poll to enable them to register their opinion as to whether the traffic should continue to injure them and those near and dear to them or not, with the certainty that that registration shall be legally binding on them and their neighbours. That is their simple issue, and we believe that Scottish Parliamentary representatives are of opinion that no other legislation on the licensing system will afford permanent satisfaction to the Scottish people. We even indulge the hope that some of these honourable gentlemen will be found prepared to afford an opportunity to the people of Scotland of indicating their preference for such a simple means of dealing with the liquor traffic, and that under their leadership the social and moral reformers of Scotland will be found, in the immediate future, rallying for a decisive Parliamentary conflict with the great drink interest. But to be able to inflict irretrievable defeat upon that interest entrenched in an iniquitous law, their forces must be united as their opponents are. We hope all our friends are looking forward to such an eventuality as this. We believe we can answer for the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Its Executive are maintaining a vigilant attitude and resolved to avail themselves of every opportunity that may present itself in Parliament, to offer needful assistance and advice to all determined to combine to secure from the legislature a suppressive local veto over all liquor licenses whatever. They have no fears as to the ultimate issue of all the efforts put forth by Scotland to purge herself of the fearful evils of intemperance, if her people be deaf to those who are aiming at merely temporary successes. Let her moral and social reformers work earnestly and unitedly for the suppressive veto, and whether victory now or in the remoter future crowns their labours—as crown these she will—they will have for ever freed their country from the calamities and contaminations of the drink traffic of Scotland.

It is not so long ago since the *Licensed Victualler Guardian* gave it out as an article of its belief that those who drank "earned their money like horses

and spent it like asses." Last month we showed that this might be truer now than when the *Guardian* expressed it, seeing that the grand old national beverage, Beer, was yielding to the inroads of maize and rice which, since the repeal of the malt duty, were the favourite materials of beer and stout manufacture. Additional proof is afforded by the revelations of the American Consul at Rochelle, France. He has exposed the horrors attending Wine production, and the *Times* is giving currency to his reports. He declares that the juice of the grape is the least used in the production of wine, which is artificial. Besides it is adulterated with logwood, molasses, tartaric, acetic, or tannic acids, lime, alum, bitter almonds, leaves of the cherry, laurel, syrup of fecula, juniper berries, fresh rye bread, litharge, Brazil and Campeachy wood, beet juice, fuchsine, aniline salts, arsenic, elder berries, cochineal, &c. *The Wine Trade Review* tries hard to disparage the Consul's report by imputing immense skill and unwearied energy to the analysts of this country, but where the latter give certificates in favour of alcohol and characterise intoxicating liquors as wholesome, genuine and so on, we may be excused from expecting from them meantime a verdict in accordance with the evidence or the facts. It is hard to give 36s. a dozen for stuff when it is the artificial preparation the Consul describes, and it is in the deepest sense wicked to cheat poor invalids by administering such deleterious liquors as cordials intended to make them better, but which alas must have quite a contrary effect. But even in this business on the part of the wine growers and dealers there is a lower depth still. The Consul we have quoted affords us an insight into what he calls the falsification of Brandies. Brandy is only brandy now in name, so completely have the processes of deceit in its production been matured during the past three years. The greater portion is now prepared from alcohol of grain, potatoes and beet. Even the brandy merchants are unable to detect the genuine from the false, so clever have the wine growers, who are all distillers, become in the manipulation of the alcohols and the accompanying drugs, and they deliberately make a brandy of any required year or quality! The increasing importation of German potato and beet alcohols into the Charente ports is an additional proof that the less brandy that is consumed the better for the health and intellect of consumers." The Consul goes on in forcible terms to speak of the awful consequences of using such liquids—He says: "Apart from the unsatisfactory purchase of a brandy which is not a brandy, drinkers should seriously consider what are the properties of the liquid they are so complacently imbibing. It is simply an active poison, imported alcohol which is known to the trade as "*trios-six*", being of 90 deg. strength, and sold at a little less than two shillings and sixpence a gallon. Its characteristic effect is to produce an intoxication in which the patient is specially inclined to rage and physical violence, while insanity of an obstinate and almost

hopeless form is the inevitable consequence of a prolonged use of it. It is said that the great increase of violent and brutal crimes in France may be traced to the drinking of this brandy and absinthe. Not only in France but in other countries, and even in the United States, these liquors are producing a condition of alcoholism of the worst kind, far beyond the ordinary drunkenness arising from unadulterated intoxicants." Our opponent *The Wine Trade Review* may with some show of reason evade the point of the Consul's remark as to the adulteration of wine, and as loudly assert as we might that it is a shame, in fact criminal, to make alcoholic wine worse by the horrible admixture named in his letter and still have room left to declare that good merchants can serve their customers with sound alcoholic wines. He can, however, have no serious excuse for the deliberate swindling alleged against the wine growers in the Charente districts of "La Belle France." They manipulate beet juice and potato alcohols into a liquor called by them cognac or brandy, which they call of some favourite year's vintage, and they do so, so skilfully as to cheat the importers and thus prey upon those who have the misfortune to possess an acquired or hereditary desire for brandy. When the terrible nature of this alcohol is taken into consideration no language can be too strong with which to characterise the wickedness of their conduct. We trust that the fact of such damaging exposures of beer and wine and brandy will not be forgotten by our friends, but will rather stimulate them in their efforts to suppress a traffic which has now become so eminently mischievous and destructive to mankind.

The death of the Earl of Wemyss, and the consequent elevation of Lord Elcho to the peerage, has created a vacancy in the representation of East Lothian. We are exceedingly gratified that the House of Commons that has known his Lordship so long will know him no more. His enforced departure to another place is another sore discouragement to the drink trade, but a great gain to the prohibitory movement. The contest for the seat so far is exceedingly severe, and has produced a deal of bad feeling in the county. The Tory and publican candidate is the present Lord Elcho, who is no friend to temperance although he loudly asserts so. The Liberal and prohibitory candidate is Mr. Finlay, a member of the English bar. Lord Elcho in his address ignores the liquor traffic. Mr. Finlay refers to it in the following terms:—"The cause of temperance will be promoted by me by every means in my power, and I am in favour of such a reform in the licensing laws as will place the regulation and control of licenses in the hands of bodies properly representing the inhabitants." Lord Elcho when asked what views he held offered no hope of his supporting the suppressive veto; Mr. Finlay, on the other hand, has shown a marked growth on that matter, for his views are gliding rapidly into harmony with those aiming at the suppression of the liquor traffic by the ratepayers. Mr. Waterston is engrossed by the contest, and is sanguine that if Mr. Finlay is returned a Scotch veto bill will have his hearty support. We hope, therefore, that the election will turn decisively in Mr. Finlay's favour.

A cynical lady, rather inclined to flirt, says most men are like a cold, very easily caught, but very hard to get rid of.

INTELLIGENCE.

LOCAL OPTION DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting was held on the 15th ult., in the Assembly Hall, in favour of local option. The hall was filled in every part, and for the accommodation of those who could not gain admission, St. John's Established Church, Victoria Street, had been secured. In the Assembly Hall, while the audience were assembling, the choir of the Blind Asylum, under the leadership of Mr. J. Campbell Grant, sung a number of sacred pieces, and another choir, led by Mr. William Brown, of the gospel temperance movement, rendered a number of hymns. The singing of both choirs was much appreciated. The chair was taken by Mr. S. D. Waddy, M.P., and among those present were Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P.; Principal Rainy, Professors Calderwood and Blaikie, Provost Pringle, Leith; Sheriff Guthrie Smith, Rev. Dr. Kay, Rev. Dr. Adamson, ex-Bailie Lewis, J. Dick Peddie, M.P.; Sir George Campbell, M.P.; Dr. Moir, Rev. Mr. Lawrie, Tulliallan; Mr. James Sime, Craigmount; Mr. James Balfour, W.S.; Councillors Tait, Ritchie, Walcot, and Turnbull; ex-Bailie Torrens, Glasgow; Colonel Davidson, Captain Mackenzie, Mr. Charles Scott, advocate; Mr. Wm. Martin, and Rev. Dr. Moir Porteous, &c.

The proceedings having been opened with prayer, offered by Professor Blaikie,

Mr. J. H. WATERSTON intimated a number of apologies for absence.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud applause, said he had so many opportunities very lately of making known his views upon the great question of temperance, and upon the particular branch the question of local option, that it became almost unnecessary for him to express his views and opinions upon the subject. He supposed that there could be no doubt that not only the overwhelming majority, but the whole of them present, had the strongest possible opinions in regard to the desirability of spreading temperance and temperance views through the whole of the country. (Loud applause.) The aspect they had to take to-night, to a great extent at all events, limited itself, as he understood it, to the question of local option. Although it was impossible to consider the one question of local option and keep temperance entirely on the one side, yet local option alone appeared to be the object of the resolutions which had brought them there. Now, that was not a moral question alone; it was a political question, and as it was a political question that was mainly why he was there interested in it and concerned in it. In the first place, if they were to consider it fairly, logically, and politically, they must consider it in all its changes—increasing, maintaining, diminishing, abolishing. (Applause.) Now, whatever might be the result of local option, that was a matter which mainly called for political action. The question was, Was the principle they advocated right? Never mind where it would lead them; he was never afraid of following out a right principle. (Applause.) They were there to say this was a matter demanding political action, and that no Government could legislate contrary to the public feeling, sentiment, or demand. When they came to this question of political economy they could not say they were wrong, for they could not forget that they had already taken this very traffic—this liquor or licensing traffic—into their own hands. They had already dealt with it on exceptional principles; and, therefore, it was too late to say that they were warring against the principles of political economy. It was too late to say they must relegate this to the ordinary traffic of trades. Let the people say they demanded these shops; that was all they asked, then supply them, but not until. (Applause.) What he was complaining of was this, that they should give to anybody—any man, or any set of men—the power to supply them before they demanded it, and to compel them to have places whilst they did not demand them. (Applause.) That was just the line which he wanted

to take; that was just the line which he was bound to take, and which, if they took it, was impossible for them to be beaten upon. He held they were entitled as an act of principle and justice to this local option. The question came to be simply this, ought the people or ought they not to have the power to deal with this great question of the liquor traffic with regard to licensed houses? Did they want it? (Cries of "Yes.") That was the answer. (Loud applause and laughter.) Having got the power, Mr. Waddy concluded by pointing out the great principle they had to consider whether a particular neighbourhood required public-houses or not? (Applause.) The result, he hoped, would be the suppression of the drink traffic, and when they had brought about that conclusion he considered it would go a long way, indeed, to promote the peace and prosperity of the nation, the happiness of man, and the glory of God. (Loud applause.)

Rev. JOHN CAMPBELL, Buccleuch Parish Church, moved—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in alcoholic liquors entails excessive burdens on the community, and deteriorates the mental power and moral character of the people, and while rejoicing in every effort calculated to mitigate the prevalent evils of intemperance, earnestly calls for such exercises of philanthropic patriotism and Christian zeal as shall result in the removal of a traffic disastrous in its consequences to the nation." Having remarked that if the chairman happened to be one of the citizens of Edinburgh and had their taxes to pay, he would know something about the burdens to the community, Mr. Campbell proceeded to contend that nothing short of the removal of the drink traffic would be the logical end of the present agitation. (Applause.) They were not in this matter trying an experiment. They had begun the movement already, and they must either acknowledge that they were altogether wrong in this matter or they must move on. (Applause.)

EX-BAILIE TORRENS seconded the motion. He was, he said, a little in doubt when the Chairman said that this was purely a political question. He thought it was a moral question as well as a political. (Cheers.) He did not care a snuff about the politics. (Laughter.) The thing was simplicity itself. They had only to bring common sense to bear on the whole question; and he did not know any logic that was worth consideration if it was not common sense. (Cheers.) Local option had been variously defined, but he was persuaded in his mind that, if the Scottish nation were canvassed to-morrow, the local option in a very large number of districts in Scotland would be total prohibition. (Cheers.)

Sir WILFRID LAWSON, who was received with loud cheers, supported the resolution. He appeared at rather an awkward period, because this was the week to which Edinburgh and all the country had looked forward for a long while; and he knew how disappointed they were that the Prime Minister was unfortunately, by indisposition, prevented from coming to Mid-Lothian. (Cheers.) He was sure he expressed the opinion of this meeting, and of the public, when he said that they hoped the Prime Minister's health would soon be re-established. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) They had hoped that the Prime Minister would have been here to tell them what he thought about public events and public policy; they could reverse the process, and tell the Premier what they thought of public policy. And he was sure there was no man who more than Mr. Gladstone would freely confess that that was a duty quite as important as the other. He (Sir Wilfrid) was sure there was no question in the whole range of politics so important as the one which had drawn together this immense meeting. (Cheers.) He was very happy to think that the importance of this question was now more largely recognised than ever it had been in this country. He was happy to say that at last they had had a downright temperance sentence put into the Speech from the Throne. (Cheers.) Of course, the Queen there spoke as expressing the opinions of her Ministers; but they knew that the Queen did take an interest in this herself, for she had long been the patroness of the Church of England Temperance So-

ciety. (Cheers.) He believed it was the only instance they could find where a Sovereign of this country gave her sanction to any political association; because every association which had for its object the altering of the laws of the land was more or less a political association. When he heard the sentence to which he had alluded read in the speech as he sat in the House of Lords, a member behind him gave him a great punch in the back—(laughter)—and when he was walking back to the House of Commons the members kept talking at him, and saying, "Why, Lawson, that was put in for you." (Laughter.) What he heard was this—"The growth of the revenue, however, was sensibly retarded by a cause which must in itself be contemplated with satisfaction. I refer to the diminution in the receipts of the Exchequer from the duties on intoxicating liquors." (Cheers.) It was a very remarkable thing to put into a Queen's Speech—rejoicing that a certain trade had been depressed. Was ever such a thing heard before? (Laughter.) Supposing she had said, "I am happy to say that the cotton trade has been in a very depressed condition for the last six months," why, the Radical members from all the great towns would have made a noise which would have turned the Government out. (Laughter.) Or, "I rejoice to tell you that the landed interest and the farmers have suffered dreadfully." (Laughter.) He did not think the Throne itself would have been worth half a year's purchase—the great landlords would have made a revolution. But every one seemed quite pleased to hear that the poor publicans had been making less money than ever they had done before. (Cheers.) Did not that show them what strides they were making in this matter? Why, it was only in 1874 that those estimable gentlemen, the publicans, were supreme. They returned a House of Commons of their own. (Laughter.) How are the mighty fallen! (Cheers and laughter.) Was there one there who did not feel sure that the temperance reformers were now marching on the Queen's highway to victory. (Cheers.) But, after all, the diminution to which he had alluded was very small. He saw, indeed, that the sentence in the Queen's Speech, to which he had referred, had been explained away in a letter in the publicans' organ, the *Morning Advertiser*, in this way, that the people had not been drinking less, but that the publicans had been adulterating the liquor. (Laughter.) The newspapers were bringing this matter more distinctly and clearly before the public than ever they did before, and he thanked the *Scotsman* for doing good service in telling the truth about the matter. He did not care a straw what a newspaper wrote, so long as it gave them facts. Sir Wilfrid went on to refer, amid cheers, to the fact that under an Act passed last session for doing away with "off" licenses in England, the Judges had declared authoritatively that a publican had no interest whatever in his license at the expiration of the time for which he was licensed—namely, one year; and remarked that they did not propose to rob any of them of their property, but when at the end of the year the publican came to get his license renewed, let the people say whether it was to be granted or not. (Cheers.) Their demand was the very essence of simplicity. On that subject he had read a speech the other day by the present Lord Elcho, who, they knew, was aspiring to a seat in the House of Commons. (Hisses.) Well, they had nothing to do with his politics—(laughter)—only with his views on local option. He was heckled on this the other day, and Lord Elcho said he would do everything he could to forward the views of Rev. Mr. Jones (that was the questioner on the temperance question, so long as he did not wish him to interfere with the liberty of the subject. But (said Sir Wilfrid) they did not want to interfere with the liberty of the subject; they wanted to interfere with the licence of the subject—(laughter)—which was a different thing. Lord Elcho went on to say that he could not go with Sir Wilfrid Lawson to allow the people in any place to vote upon the licences, because he said, "Look here, you might have a parish or district where half the men were rich"—and Lord Elcho described a rich man who filled his cellars with

beer, rum, and whisky. (Laughter.) That was his idea of happiness and riches. (Renewed laughter.) The other half of the parish might be poor, and would it be right, Lord Elcho asked, to allow the rich men to outvote the poor men to prevent their getting a glass of whisky toddy—(laughter)—and when Lord Elcho referred to that, the *Scotsman*—he (Sir Wilfrid) always quoted the *Scotsman*—(laughter)—said it was received with uproarious cheers. Well, now, he was going to make a proposition to his lordship, and if he accepted it, they would perhaps agree better than he thought. Lord Elcho did not want rich men to vote; well, let him bring in a bill to disfranchise the rich men—(laughter)—say, that nobody should vote for having public-houses in the district who had £100 a year. He (Sir Wilfrid) would get on much better than they did now. (Cheers.) The public-houses would be soon swept away. It was only the rich people—very few else—who wished to keep up this drinking system. If Lord Elcho would vote for a measure of that kind, local option men might make up their minds to support him, for he was not far from the kingdom. (Laughter.) He thought from what Lord Elcho had said in a subsequent speech that if ever his lordship got to the House of Commons—"No, no," and "Yes, yes"—he thought he would be a little improvement on his excellent father, upon whom, as they knew, the mantle of Mr. Wheelhouse fell when that gentleman left the House of Commons. (Laughter.) In the latter part of his speech, Sir Wilfrid pointed out that the principle of Local Option was already established in reference to other matters, and expressed pleasure that Edinburgh had elected Mr. Waddy, who had been a tried friend of the movement when it was not so popular as it was now, and referred to the progress which the question had made as shown by the votes in the House of Commons. On the last division they had, he reminded them that forty-one Scotch Liberals voted in his favour, and only one against him. That one was a Scotch member, but he was not a Scotchman. He had a shrewd suspicion that there were a good many of his constituents there; and it would hurt them very much to think that, though they could trust him with their interests, he could not trust them with such a little power as to say whether they would have public-houses in their neighbourhoods or not. (Slight hissing.) He further expressed regret at the uncertain sound given by Lord Derby the other day on this question, and asked if this greatest of reforms was to stand over until it suited the convenience of insincere honourable gentlemen and indifferent noble lords? (Hisses and cheers.) In conclusion, Sir Wilfrid said everything was in their favour, both in Parliament and out of it. For a time they had managed to stop people killing one another in Ireland, and for a time we had stopped ourselves from killing people in Egypt. Besides the House of Commons had put its house in order. They had set to work, and they intended to do business in a business-like way. And what business could they do better than an attack upon the great drink interest. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, speaking in Scotland the other day, said about drink, "it was for the Legislature now to do its part." He (Sir Wilfrid) was of the same opinion, that the temperance reformers had the first claim upon Parliament and the Government. There was no question that was so much supported out of doors as their question; and he wanted to ask this—Was the Government going to teach this horrible lesson, that everything shall be conceded to violence, to agitation, and to outrage, and that nothing shall be conceded to the people when they demanded it in an orderly and constitutional manner? (Loud applause.)

The motion, having been put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation.

Rev. Dr. ADAMSON moved—"That this meeting is convinced that, owing to the advanced public sentiment on liquor legislation in Scotland, no measure will be satisfactory which does not confer on the ratepayers the entire control of the liquor traffic in their respective localities; and pledges itself to obtain from Parliament at the earliest possible moment the power to prevent

liquor shops being forced on unwilling communities." Wishing to bring matters to a practical conclusion, he would request the chairman and his companion in arms, Mr. Buchanan, and other members of Parliament, to embody this resolution in a bill to be introduced into Parliament for Scotland in the ensuing session. In his opinion if that were done the moral, religious, and educational part not only of Edinburgh, but of the whole country of Scotland would be found behind them, brave men and whole hearts, who would not go back from the charge until they had carried the question. The time for talk was over, and they must now have action. Scotland, he held, was governed by Churches, and there was not a Presbytery, Synod, or Assembly that had not in one form or other petitioned Parliament or expressed their mind on local option. (Applause.)

Sheriff GUTHRIE SMITH, in seconding the resolution, pointed out that the Court of Queen's Bench had recently decided that the magistrates had the power of taking away a man's license for no other reason than that his premises were no longer wanted in his locality. He believed both country and town magistrates would be quite disposed to surrender their existing authority and hand it over to the community. As to the objection with regard to the multiplication of the number of local boards, he had faith that his fellow-citizens would not neglect a duty which would so deeply affect the national prosperity as the promotion of national sobriety. No law ever effected its object which was in advance of the popular sentiment; and it was by reforming the licensing laws, acting more rigidly in the reduction of the number of public-houses, that they hoped to bring into play that general consensus of opinion by which the extinction of public-houses would be effected.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Rev. JAMES ROBERTSON, Bread Street United Presbyterian Church, moved—"That copies of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and the Scotch members of Parliament; and that it be remitted to the committee who arranged for this meeting to take such steps as they think necessary to press the claims of this movement upon the Government and others interested." Referring to what he called young Lord Elcho's lisping about the rights of working men, as if these would be invaded by temperance legislation, the rev. gentleman said they were just seeking to bring about those very rights to working men, so that no influence of a few monied men should be able to establish drunkenness. (Cheers.)

Mr. CHARLES SCOTT, advocate, seconded the motion, remarking that he believed with one slight exception it would be as great a pleasure for those named in the last resolution to receive the resolutions as it was for the meeting to send them.

Principal RAINY moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, this being seconded by Provost ANDERSON, St. Andrews, who corroborated Sheriff Smith's statement as to the feeling of the magistrates in this matter. He said one of the most painful positions he occupied was the bench of the Licensing Court, and he would be delighted when the power was taken out of his hands altogether.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN (who had returned after addressing the overflow meeting, reported below, his place in the chair being taken in the interval by Mr. Buchanan, M.P.), in replying to the compliment, said he was delighted to think that his first appearance as member for Edinburgh before an Edinburgh audience was on behalf of a cause so good as this. It would greatly strengthen his hands in anything he might say or do on behalf of local option in the House of Commons to have the memory green in his heart of such a meeting.

The hon. gentleman on leaving the meeting to catch the night train for Newcastle, was cheered by the assemblage.

On the motion of Provost MACPHERSON, Grange-

mouth, seconded by the Rev. Dr. KAY, a vote of thanks was given to the Committee of Arrangements.

The Rev. Mr. MEREDITH then pronounced the benediction, and the meeting terminated.

OVERFLOW MEETING IN ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH.

St. John's Established Church, Victoria Street, had been secured for the emergency which occurred, that of an overcrowded meeting in the Assembly Hall, and the overflow began to occupy the church soon after seven o'clock, by which time the area of the church and gallery were well occupied. A choir of ladies and gentlemen sang with much appreciation a variety of sacred and temperance melodies, a solo by a lady being loudly applauded. Miss Burton, Mr. Buchanan, M.P., and Mr. Waterston were recognised and cordially received; the Rev. Mr. Jones, Tranent, Bailie Selkirk and Mr. R. Mackay, Glasgow, being also present. Mr. Buchanan took the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Jones opened the meeting with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with cheers, said one of the most pleasant duties the member for a constituency had to perform was to take the chair at such a meeting as this. If this temperance movement went on in succeeding years with the strides it had been going on in the past years, they might require three instead of two meetings, and give another argument for Edinburgh having a third member to preside. (Laughter and applause.) The temperance cause had made greater strides the last few years than it had ever done before. They found evidence of it in the Queen's Speech and in the taxation returns. At last it turned out that the work they had been engaged in was beginning to tell actually upon the consumption of drink in the country. (Applause.) He did not wonder at the advance of the temperance cause, or that those who had borne the heat of the battle should be much elated with the success of their efforts. They could all join with them and sympathise with them, now that they were marching forward to greater triumphs which were doubtless in store for them. Yet it would not do to shut their eyes and think there was nothing more to be done. It was not far from this meeting place where the veil was drawn aside to see that drink and drunkenness was still as powerful and debasing as ever it was. That very morning, in the newspapers, they would have seen the account of a most interesting paper read at the Workmen's Institute by his friend, Miss Burton. (Applause.) They had there a most graphic account by one who had devoted herself to actual intercourse with those who were the greatest slaves of drink in the city. He could not help looking at this subject from a legislative point of view. He should like to point out to them and to all the ardent supporters of this cause, that the present Parliament is growing old. It had been more favourable to the temperance cause than any other—(applause)—but, notwithstanding that, it had not done very much. They had affirmed twice by large majorities what was known as the local option resolution, a very excellent thing, but it was as yet nothing more than what had been described by another statesman as "a pious opinion." He hoped they should get something out of the present Parliament. He did not wish to counsel them to repose solely upon the Government. He thought they ought, but he did not think that there was very much prospect of the Government immediately taking up this question; but if they in Scotland could present any proposition that the Government would look at and say they would not oppose, then they might be very sure it would be carried through Parliament, because he thought he might say this on behalf of the Liberal Scotch members, that there would be no downright opposition from them as long as they were sure the Government would not oppose such a bill, and if it received the support of the temperance reformers throughout the country. (Applause.)

Mr. WATERSTON moved the first resolution in regard to the evils of the liquor traffic, and pointed to the fact that insurance companies looked now upon the life of a teetotaler as twelve years longer than those who were

not. They would not insure the lives of drunkards. Referring to the police, prison, and parochial assessments, he maintained that if they had to pay the piper they should have the power to say who the piper was to be, where he was to stand, and what he had to play. (Laughter and applause.)

Baillie SELKIRK, J.P., Glasgow, who was well received, seconded, and advised moral suasion to the individual, but, in dealing with any evil, they must see they were applying suitable remedies, and these could only be obtained by legislation. If two tradesmen were to meet on business, he had no wish and no right to interfere unless their business affected him, and then he had a right to interfere. Now, the publican and his customers could not meet and do business long without involving ruin in the consequences of their transactions. (Applause.) The legislation that he wanted was not licensing or restrictive or regulative, it was suppressive. (Applause.) He would vest the power of excluding the liquor traffic in the ratepayers, and thus honour their judgment and ability. The suppression of the liquor traffic would inaugurate an era of happiness and prosperity unparalleled in the history of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. WADDY, M.P., who had entered the hall and taken the chair vacated by Mr Buchanan, M.P., put the resolution to the meeting. On a show of hands, he declared that there was only one against it. "Among the faithful, faithless only he." (Laughter.) As far as his (Mr. Waddy's) experience went that night, Edinburgh wanted one public-house for one man. (Laughter.) He thought it according to the commonest principle of political economy that they should have this local option legislation; and if the working classes were ever to be what they hoped to make them, this must be obtained for the whole country, and put an end to drunkenness. (Applause.)

The Rev. JOHN CAMPBELL moved the second resolution, that no measure would be satisfactory that did not confer upon the ratepayers the entire control of the liquor traffic.

Miss BURTON, who was received with applause, seconded the resolution. She referred to her experiences among the lower classes in the city debased by drunkenness, and to the fact of their earning wages that might keep them and their families comfortably. These people were thrown upon their bounty; workmen with no better wages were taxed to support them, and therefore it was they claimed a right to interfere and object to public-houses. (Applause.) She knew of one man spending £10 in a drinking bout, and she told of having gone to see another paid his wages, and she escorted him home to give them to his wife. But one could not escort every weak man home to save his wages from the public-house. (Laughter and applause.) It was said that the rich man had his wine cellar and sideboard. Quite true: but he kept them very strictly under lock and key. (Laughter.) The liquors sold by the publican were left open for every passer-by. (Applause.) Mr Waddy had said that he believed if the women had their will the traffic would soon cease. Unfortunately wives and daughters went to the public-house, but she believed that if women had some voice in the Legislature it would be a great help to the temperance cause. (Applause.)

Sir WILFRID LAWSON having entered, amidst loud cheering, briefly supported the resolution, and pointing to the Sunday Closing Bills of Ireland and Wales, said he did not see why Scotland should not take the lead with a measure of local option. He would support it, and go on agitating till they got it for the whole country. (Applause.)

The resolution was adopted, and the meeting agreed to their being sent to the Premier, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and the Scotch members. A vote of thanks to Mr. Buchanan, on the motion of Mr. R. Mackay, for presiding terminated the proceedings shortly after ten o'clock.

Sir Walter Scott in giving a cardriver a shilling when the fare was only sixpence said "Remember you owe me sixpence." "May your honour live till I pay you."

THE PARLIAMENTARY RECESS.

James Stewart, Esq., M.P., speaking at Greenock on 26th December, on the measures affecting Scotland passed last session, said, "Among the measures passed was the Passengers Vessels Licensing Bill, which he hoped would put an end to the brutal and disgraceful scenes which have been witnessed too often on board of some of the river steamboats." (Cheers.)

The Lord Advocate, addressing his constituents at Alloa on 28th December, said, "There was the bill which was directed to put down a great evil—the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday on board passenger steamers on the rivers and estuaries of Scotland. (Cheers.) They had all heard of the scandalous scenes which used to occur, chiefly on the Clyde, on that day. It was almost a national disgrace that such a state of things should go on unchecked, and accordingly a bill was introduced and carried, providing that the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue should have power to endorse upon the license of river steamers a prohibition against trading on the Sunday. (Cheers.) Some people put the question why a bill was not framed in the form of an absolute and unequivocal prohibition of all selling of drink upon any steamer either leaving or arriving at Scotland on Sunday. There was a very plain and practical reason which led them to adopt the form of bill they did. There were many steamers, sea-going and otherwise, which left and arrived at Scotland on that day, and there were others—not excursion steamers but traders—going long voyages, like those running between Leith and Orkneys, which by accident might be obliged to put in, or from some other cause might have come within the scope of an absolute prohibition, while they did not at all fall within the range of the mischief which was intended to be put down. (Hear, hear.) And accordingly he hoped and believed that by another summer, the fair estuaries and firths which surround our coasts, would not be disgraced, as he was sorry to say they had been in the past, in this matter. (Cheers.)

On the 30th December his lordship, addressing his constituents at Alva, said with regard to the temperance question, Undoubtedly the action of those who were moving in the direction of introducing habits of greater temperance, was already producing fruit, and that in the most marked and unmistakable way—he meant prosaic but very conclusive evidence of the public acts. After quoting figures given by Mr. Gladstone, showing that the revenue had decreased from 51 per cent. in 1874-5 to 46½ per cent. in 1881-2, he continued with reference to the question of farther legislation on the matter. They knew that on at least two occasions there had been, in general terms, a very emphatic affirmation by the present Parliament of the principle known by the name of local option, but they must keep in view the fact that under the general resolution there existed a very great difference of opinion as to the precise methods of giving effect to what was involved in it. He ventured to say that it would be very desirable if those who had been taking an active part in temperance affairs, would endeavour to come to perhaps a more practical agreement than at present existed among many of them, as to the particular measure which they would desire or expect Parliament to pass, because they had seen that when particular measures, the general principles of which had been adopted, were attempted to be put into the form of a bill, very wide differences at once appeared. He thought that the form in which the measure should be introduced by those interested in that matter, should be expressed and made the subject of consideration and discussion, because at present there was rather a prevalent feeling in many quarters—in Parliament and elsewhere—that if any bill which was likely to secure an amount of support which would probably make it become law were introduced, it would not meet with the approval, but probably with the opposition, of those who took a more decided or advanced view on that subject. They very well knew that in this world, but particularly in the legislative world, what was to be considered was, in the first instance, what is practicable.

Captain Maxwell Heron, M.P., addressed a meeting of his constituents at Dalbeattie, on the 18th ult. He referred to the temperance question as follows:—He hoped that we would soon have a County Roads Bill, under which the government of counties would be entrusted to representative bodies. Such a bill would afford a very good opportunity for embodying in it a new principle of licensing. He knew there were a great many gentlemen in Dalbeattie very much interested in the temperance movement, and he was bound to say that he sympathised very much with their views. He considered it most unfortunate that so much suffering and so much loss should be occasioned in this country by the excessive use of intoxicating drink. (Cheers.) We had reason to congratulate ourselves that the revenue derived from excisable liquors had very much fallen off this last year. (Cheers.) After alluding to intemperance and its fruits, lunacy and poverty, he said there was no doubt that legislation upon the subject was called for. Therefore, when this County Government Bill came before the House of Commons there would be, he hoped, a provision dealing with the licensing laws, and embodying the principle of local option. (Cheers.) That principle had been affirmed by the House of Commons on several occasions, and they must legislate upon it. (Cheers.)—*Dumfries and Galloway Standard.*

Messrs. P. B. McKill and A. Bennet, of Dumfries, addressed the Band of Hope soiree at Kirkmahoe, on Thursday, 18th ult., the Rev W. Anderson presiding.

Rev. Dr. Adamson and Rev. John Pirie, and Messrs. J. Darling and G. A. Barclay, addressed the annual soiree of the Roslin Total Abstinence Society, on Monday, 22nd ult.

An American writer states as the result of inquiry into the point, that all the Baptist, Methodist, and Congregational churches in Chicago use unfermented wine in the Lord's supper.

It is not often we find ourselves in the same boat with the publicans, but, like us, they are exposing the swindling practices of those who are selling alcoholic liquors under temperance names.

The Paisley Magistrates have made public intimation that they intend to instruct their police to report public-houses whence drunk men issue, with a view to convict such publicans of a violation of their certificate.

A SAD STATEMENT.—Dr. Danford Thomas remarked at an inquest on a woman who died from drinking, that, judging from the number of cases that came before him, the evil of secret drinking among women was on the increase.

Greenock has become notorious for the number of her shebeens. Well, there would be no shebeens if the publicans were allowed to sell all night; and there would be no drinking if the publican and the shebeener could sell neither night nor day.

Professor Coates, the Glasgow phrenologist, is giving at present a course of lectures on health and character, every Friday night in his Rooms, Royalty Buildings, 62 Sauchiehall Street. Temperance—to use an American phrase is one of the planks in his platform of principles.

Mr. W. Blackwood, the northern superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, has an excellent letter in the *Aberdeen Daily Free Press* on the remarks made by the Earl of Aberdeen on local option at a meeting of the Junior Liberal Association, held in Aberdeen last month.

From a Parliamentary return issued on 5th ult., it appears that the total number of electors on the registers of the counties of England and Wales in 1881 was 932,643; of Scotland 98,448; and of Ireland 168,207; the total number of county electors in the United Kingdom thus being 1,199,298.

Mr. Andrew Glendinning of the Apple Tree Vegetarian Restaurant, 24 London Wall, who along with Mr. T. I. White was the first to start a Juvenile Temperance Society in Glasgow, held his annual soiree of employees last month. Mr. Glendinning was long and favourably known in the West of Scotland, and many friends in Port-Glasgow will be glad to hear so favourably of their old friend.

A FILTER.—A cheap and simple filter may be made by taking a large common flower pot, thoroughly soaking it in clean water first, and then filling it up in the following way:—Plug the hole at the bottom with a piece of sponge, not too tightly; put on this a layer of animal charcoal, then a layer of clean sand, and on the top a layer of coarse clean gravel. It will require careful looking after, and that it will be always a clean and a good filter.

The price of porter is to be raised by the Messrs. Guinness, the Dublin brewers. The trade in Belfast believing that they had no reason for charging 4s. 6d. on a barrel of their porter, when the increase of hops was not 3d. or certainly not 6d. a barrel, resolved to charge their porter 2½d., while selling Belfast porter at the old price of 2d. These publicans are of opinion that porter is food, and if the price is raised, there will be a famine in Belfast!

ARBROATH—GOSPEL TEMPERANCE UNION.—This union held its annual business meeting on Tuesday, 2nd ult. The attendance numbered nearly 700. There are 6,529 abstainers on the roll. The income is £132 15s. 4d., the balance to carry forward £2 7s. 2d. After a number of congratulatory speeches a new committee of forty was elected, Mr. William Briggs being chairman, and Rev. D. Galbraith, secretary. [The number on the Roll makes just 30 per cent. of the population; it outnumbers all the inhabited houses in the burgh, and is double the parliamentary and municipal constituency.—Ed. S.R.]

A DRACONIAN LAW AGAINST DRINK.—The Danes are conducting a vigorous war against drunkenness in their capital, Copenhagen. The number of public-houses is to be reduced from 1350 to 300. No showily-dressed girl is to be allowed to stand behind a drinking bar to fascinate youth of the other sex. Landlords are forbidden to serve out drink to any person under 18 years of age, male or female, or to any one already under the influence of drink. A drunken person is to be conveyed to his own dwelling in a cab or covered carriage at the expense of the landlord in whose house he took the last glass.

EAST LOTHIAN ELECTION.—This electoral contest promises to be of the keenest character, and there can be no question which of the two candidates, Mr. Finlay or Lord Elcho, is most deserving of support. The former is hand-and-glove with the local optionists and extreme teetotal fanatics, pledged to do their bidding and aid the schemes of injustice and oppression which these parties promulgate, the end and aim of which is simply the abolition of the spirit trade of the kingdom. On the other hand, Lord Elcho is opposed to any such destruction of the property and vested interests of the trade, and will, like his father before him, assist in preserving these rights which the trade have for centuries possessed. The issue before the electors on this particular point is therefore plain and unmistakable; and we trust that a unanimous vote on the polling by our friends, in favour of Lord Elcho, will be equally so.—*National Liquor Trades Guardian.*

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.—A temperance demonstration was held in the Institute Hall on New Year's night under the auspices of the Grangemouth Branch of the Blue Ribbon Army. The hall was completely filled—the gathering, perhaps, being the largest that has been ever seen in Grangemouth on such an occasion. The decorations in the way of evergreens, flags, &c., in which the hall was robed, were finely executed, and really reflected great credit on those who had carried them out. Hugh Macpherson, Esq., Chief Magistrate, was in the chair, and after a fine tea, provided by Mr. M'Hardie, had been disposed of, the

Chairman addressed the meeting on the evils resulting from the drinking customs of the liquor traffic, and on the great progress made by the temperance cause during the year, and in connection especially with the Gospel Temperance movement. After noticing, as one of the most cheering signs of progress, the disuse of intoxicating liquors in the leading lines of ocean steamers, Mr. Macpherson concluded by expressing his earnest hope that the practical outcome of their meeting that night would be a decided advance in the temperance cause in Grangemouth. Addresses in connection with temperance were subsequently delivered by Rev. Mr. Cumming, Grangemouth; Mr. Paul, Falkirk; Mr. George Davies, merchant, Edinburgh; and Mr. D. Melvin, evangelist. During the evening Miss Cowan, Miss Wright, and Captain Reid sang solos, and Miss Yeats tastefully presided at the harmonium. The soiree was brought to a close with the usual votes of thanks.—*Falkirk Herald*.

A CLERGYMAN ON DRINK AT ELECTIONS.—Speaking at a temperance meeting held in Stirling on Monday evening, the Rev. John M'Queen, M.A., of Free St. Andrew's, Kilmarnock, after comparing the condition of a "slave of strong drink" with that of the African when in slavery, went on to say that if you wished the approval of such a one you must appeal, not to his reason, not to his heart, not to his conscience, but to his love of strong drink. Was it not a terrible thing, he asked, that in our municipal and parliamentary elections success so much depends on the use of strong drink. It was not the arguments a man could bring forward, it was not the record he could show, it was not the promises he could give, but oftentimes the number of public houses he could open that would make him succeed. He who would win Scotchmen to his will must not appeal, as he had said, to their reason, heart, or conscience, nor to their love of country, but to their eager craving for drink. Drink settled all controversy, drink won the day.—*Daily Review*.

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The annual business meeting of the directors of the Highland Temperance League was held at Oban yesterday—Mr. Allan of Aros, president, in the chair. The report for the year 1882 was highly satisfactory. The income for the year was £676, and the expenditure £680, which includes £110 of an old debt. During the year the lecturers gave the blue ribbon to 8,948 persons. The actual members of the League numbers, with affiliated societies, 7,500. The League employs three regular lecturers working both in Gaelic and English throughout the Highlands. The annual meeting of the members of the League was fixed to take place at Inverness, on Wednesday August, 1st.—*Daily Review*.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY—GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—A conference and public meeting at the instance of this branch took place on the 22nd December, just as we went to press with our January issue. The conference occupied three hours, and but for the length of the time consumed in opening up the subject a greater interchange of sentiment would have taken place. The first was devoted to woman's work, and Rev. Mr. Wilson gave an admirable address. The second hour was occupied with the Church's duty to the temperance movement. The subject was treated very mildly indeed by Rev. Dr. Elder Cumming and Mr. Maughan. Mr. R. Mackay gave it as his opinion that the Church should, in the spirit of the report of the Venerable Assembly of 1849, take up the matter as they did their missions, and send deputations to all churches; that ministers should frown down drinking at baptisms, marriages, funerals, and ordination dinners, introduce unfermented wine at the Communion—(hear and hisses)—increase the stringency of their sessional discipline for drunkenness, as those offending if checked in an early stage would be easier enlisted into ranks of the abstainers. He believed that such a course of action on the part of the Church would accelerate the progress of the cause and hasten the time when the Church would effectually combine its forces against the drink system. (Applause.) The third hour was devoted to the considera-

tion of parochial organisations. The proceedings were most encouraging; and a Woman's Temperance Association, it is expected, will be formed immediately.—In the evening a fairly-attended public meeting was held like the conference in the Christian Institute, and was addressed by, amongst others, Dr. Campbell, M.P., Mr. Dalrymple, M.P., Mr. Cochran-Patrick, M.P., Mr. J. N. Cutherbertson, Rev. Dr. Lang, &c. The resolutions were more strongly drawn than the speeches in their support. Mr. J. N. Cutherbertson gave the only decided expression of conviction in favour of a direct veto on the liquor traffic. We will have much more decided advocacy of suppression for the liquor traffic before the Church takes hold of her flocks in the west. At present the pew is more advanced than the pulpit.

MOFFAT.—A meeting of the Blue Ribbon Army was held in the Baths Assembly Hall on Tuesday, 16th ult. Mr. Kennedy, president of the Society, occupied the chair, and briefly introduced Mr. Bennett, Dumfries, and Mr. Chick, of the Scottish Temperance League, who addressed the meeting. In the course of his remarks Mr. Bennett said the cause had, all over the country, made greater progress during the past eighteen months than in any similar period since the commencement of the temperance reform agitation, and that many men of position were now joining the cause. He reminded them of the fact of the revenue derived from alcoholic drinks having decreased to such a large extent during the past year that the subject had been noticed in the Queen's Speech at the close of the last session of Parliament. With reference to the cry that is now being raised in certain quarters, What is to become of the revenue if temperance goes on increasing? he would remind them that the larger portion of crime and pauperism is caused by drink, and therefore if the cause is lessened so will the effects, and less taxes will be required. A large portion of the revenue of the country was derived from intoxicating drinks, but this was not the only source of revenue; and stamps, income-tax, and the post-office had all been yielding more revenue of late years than ever they had done before. A number of the Terminable Annuities would terminate in 1885, and Mr. Gladstone had promised not to renew them, so that there seemed to be no fear of raising the revenue if total abstinence were much more common than it was at present. The termination of these annuities would be the saving of six millions per annum. In another ten years he thought the drink traffic would be reduced by more than one half. Many towns were now prepared to vote for the total abolition of the traffic. Mr. Chick afterwards addressed the meeting, but not in such hopeful terms as Mr. Bennett. The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.—*Moffat Times* (abridged.)

TRYING TO GET OUT OF A DIFFICULTY.—A man who was being examined for a school teacher in Maine, after stumbling through some simple arithmetical problem, was asked where Boston is. He answered, "I know all about it, probably as well as you do; have heard of the place several times, but can't, somehow or other, seem to locate it." With a view to helping him out, the committeeman said, "It is the capital of some State, is it not?" "Yes, I believe it is." "What State?" "Well, I know, probably, as well as you do, what State Boston is the capital of, but you see I haven't got the flow of language to express it."

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. R. DARROCH, GLASGOW.—It is with no ordinary regret that we learned that this staunch prohibitionist has departed this life. He died on the 16th ult, aged 58 years. Mr. Darroch was as true as steel, and as ardent as the most ardent for the abolition of the drink system, and we are sincerely sorry to think that we shall see his face and hear his voice no more.

THE LATE DR. ALEXANDER MUNRO, SOUTH DEVON.—One of the best beloved of men is lost to humanity

and the world in the person of this widely known philanthropist. Dr. Munro died at South Devon on Old New Year's Day, at the ripe old age of 73 years. He felt so well, that he remarked he saw no reason why he should not live to be an hundred and then die of euthanasia; but the cord snapped suddenly, the bowl was broken in an instant, and the good old man passed peacefully behind the veil. His life was devoted to healing the body and the soul. At Blackhills he soothed the pains and averted the sorrows of his little flock. At Aberdeen he entered more prominently into the practice of hydropathy, and his institution at Lochhead became famous. He went to Forres, and the place at Aberdeen gave way to the well-known hydropathic establishment at Clunyhill, Forres, and the famed establishment at Strathearn, Crieff. At the Waverley, Melrose, he was stationed for some time, and went again to Clunyhill, then he was at an establishment in South Devon, where his decease has taken place. Dr. Munro has more than any man popularised hydropathy in Scotland, and his professional advice on this subject and on health have endeared him to thousands to whom his services have proved a blessing. He has seen many water cure establishments erected, but still he was reaching out to secure some means for a cheaper system than such costly resorts which are quite beyond the reach of the suffering poor. As a temperance reformer few excelled him; he gave the movement his assistance in its early days, and by his clear and lucid treatment of the subject in its personal, social, and political bearings, he hastened its progress and contributed greatly to draw the attention of those among whom he moved to its advantages and expectations. He has for long been a vice-president of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and gave it his liberal support and his service many times during the course of his long and useful life.

THE LATE MRS. J. J. COOPER, CORWEN, MERIONETH, WALES.—We were truly sorry to hear of the death of this estimable lady, who died on the 23rd Dec. While in Scotland she devoted herself to the advancement of the temperance cause, and was ready to spend and be spent in its behalf. Her husband, Rev. J. J. Cooper, a devoted advocate of the cause, found in her a true yoke-fellow, and we deeply sympathize with him in his sorrow, for the loss of one so earnest in a work that lay so near to his heart. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was under deep obligation to her many times for her valued co-operation and her kindness at all times to its representatives.

THE LATE MR. WM. HOPE, CARSTAIRS.—Through the death of Mr. William Hope the temperance reformation has lost a steadfast friend. For the past twenty years it has had his assistance and his prayers. He took an abiding interest in its affairs, and being a man of excellent Christian character he recommended it by his example and life to all around him. He suffered from that fell disease bronchitis, to which he eventually succumbed. His death before he had reached his 50th year will be a loss to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, to whom from the first he was warmly attached, and also to the district around Carstairs where he has long resided, and by the people of which he is deeply regretted.

THE LATE MRS. JOHNSTONE, PERTH.—A warm and attached friend of the temperance reformation has passed away in the person of Mrs. Johnstone of Perth. Like her bereaved husband, she was always ready to aid the cause in every possible way. She was one of the women who understood and appreciated the efforts of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Recognising the necessity for a popular vote, she hailed the political temperance movement as the precursor of the doom of the liquor traffic. Personal abstinence was practised by her as a matter of right and duty; her sympathies, however, did not rest here, for she pressed its claims with great earnestness upon others. While doing this she ever felt that as long as the system of license was sanctioned, and upheld by the State, national sobriety could not be attained. Mrs. Johnstone's political doctrine was that with the

removal of the drink traffic, other valuable reforms would be speedily secured. Well could she meet an opponent of the Permissive Bill and shatter his arguments with her plain common sense. Vulgar songs in connection with temperance meetings roused her indignation, and we have seen her reproofs sometimes not taken in the best way, but she never failed to show that only healthy music and sound teaching could be of value to the temperance movement. Prohibition would be hastened if her mantle would fall on the temperance women of Scotland.

THE LATE ROBERT HAY, ESQ., PERTH.—Death has removed from our midst one of the most sterling of temperance reformers in the person of Mr. Hay. He died at the ripe age of 75 years. About a year ago he was prostrated by a paralytic seizure and never rallied, death relieving him from his sufferings on the 26th Dec. last. When twenty years ago we first met him, he had no saucy doubts and fears about the result of the efforts then being made in behalf of the temperance and prohibitory movement. With the light now shed on the question, and with all the progress made by it, there are few in our day who are more sanguine of success than Mr. Hay was then, and continued to be until the advance of age abated his interests in public affairs. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association deeply sympathise with his family in their bereavement.

THE LATE MR. JOHN MELROSE, EDINBURGH.—This much respected citizen died at his residence, Churchhill, on the 10th ult. at the age of 68. He has left a widow to mourn her heavy loss. Mr. Melrose, through not being robust, seldom took part in public life, but he did much good in a generous unobtrusive manner. He believed in the dissemination of religious and pure literature and supported the colporteur system unstintedly. He strongly sympathised with the temperance movement in its prohibitory aspect, and in him moral and religious movements have lost a friend.

THE LATE MR. JAMES WILKINSON, GLASGOW.—On the 18th December this highly esteemed temperance reformer passed away. He had long been in failing health, and was but 60 years of age at his decease. Mr. Wilkinson was one of the most popular advocates of temperance in the city up till a few years ago, when he was constrained by his waning energy to give up his genial labours in the good work. In Spruel's Court, in Bedford Street, at the meetings of the Commercial T. A. Society, meeting in Stockwell Street, he was always a prominent favourite. He was for a long time connected with the Abstainers' Union, over whose directorate he presided with ability and discretion. For some time he was a member of the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which had his generous support. Latterly he withdrew from the Executive, and even from the membership of the Association, on the ground of its policy to vote for no man, be his politics what they may, who would not vote for the Permissive Bill. The Executive, though they regretted this step on his part, felt that it must have cost him much to take it, and respected him for his consistency. In common with numbers they deeply regret his comparatively early death.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS BLAIR, HOPRIGG MAINS, TRANENT.—It is with no ordinary regret that we have to record the death of this genuine temperance reformer, who died on the 10th ult., after having reached the allotted span of human life, 70 years. He was the last of three brothers and a sister who were unwearied in their efforts to advance the interests of temperance and prohibition. In Arbroath, Couisland, or Tranent his ear was open at all times to the records and claims of temperance, and he readily entered into any effort having for its object its promotion. He was of opinion that the people ought to be entrusted with power to exclude the liquor traffic, and heartily supported the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, whose representative, Mr. J. P. Lossock, attended, and with the sorrowing relatives of the deceased paid the last offices of humanity to his remains.

THE

Social Reformer.

MARCH, 1883.

AN ENEMY IN THE MOUTH:

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN,

Author of "Shadowed Lives," "Thankful Rest," "Fruits," &c.

CHAPTER X.—WRECKED.

THE city clocks were chiming the hour of eight.

The night was one of January's dreariest mood. A drizzling shower of sleet fell from leaden skies, and whirled in the bitter northern blast. Few who had the shelter of a home, and no urgent call to be abroad, felt inclined to leave their hearths.

But there were hundreds on the streets of the great city, hundreds of these unhappy creatures, whom we speak of pitifully as the homeless.

As the last stroke of the hour pealed from a hundred bells, there came slowly across Waterloo Bridge, the slouched and drooping figure of a man, clad in garments almost torn to rags, and soaked and sodden with the rain.

He walked listlessly with his hands thrust into his pockets, and his hat drawn so far over his brows that his face could not be seen.

When half way over he paused, and leaning against the parapet looked down into the flowing tide beneath. The light from the lamp beside him, cast its pale flickering light upon his bowed head, and a faint reflection shone on the breast of the river, just a light sufficient to show the blackness and the swiftness of its current.

"O God, that I were beneath it," he muttered to himself. "The struggle would be but momentary, but I dare not, I dare not."

He turned his face towards the light a moment, and pushed his hat from his brows. It would have been impossible to tell whether the face was old or young, it was so strangely haggard and drawn, and so pitifully marked by the hand of vice. He looked about him, and there was not a living creature near, and for one brief moment the impulse was strong upon him to clear the bridge, and seek peace beneath the tide. His hand was on the parapet, but instead he laid his head hurriedly down on the cold wet stone, and muttered in hoarse and broken tones,

"Lizzie, Lizzie!"

The utterance of that name, to whomsoever it belonged, seemed to bring with it a flood of memory, making the wanderer oblivious of time, place, everything, till a heavy hand fell upon his shoulder, and the light of a policeman's lantern was flashed full upon him.

"Move on," said the owner of the lantern gruffly, and the wanderer turned sullenly from him, and resumed his slouching walk across the bridge.

He wandered on and on, through countless lanes and byeways, until he found himself in Piper's Alley. At the far end he saw the windows of the mission hall brightly lit, and moved by an impulse to seek at least half an hour's rest and shelter, he went on till he reached the door.

It was a social night, but tea was over, and the audience were singing a hymn. He slipped in unobserved, and crouching in the darkest corner, leaned his arms on his knees, and hid his face.

The hymn finished, a gentleman rose to speak, and at the first word, the wanderer flung up his head as if he had been shot, and fixed his eyes upon the platform.

The speaker was a bent old man, with white hair, and a noble saint-like face, close beside him was a younger man, with frank blue eyes and sunny hair, and close beside him again was a young lady, with a sweet lovable face, so like the speaker's, that it was easy to divine the relationship between them.

There were others beside them, but at these three only the wanderer gazed for the space of a second, then stifling the groan of agony breaking from his lips he rose and fled the place. Out into the night like a hunted thing, a mighty storm of memory, of passionate longings, of deep and unquenchable human affection, convulsing the heart beneath his tattered coat. On, and on, and on, through the city's mazes and the winter storm, anywhere, to escape from that place and the faces there.

And while at the close of the meeting, Mr. Tennant prayed for all homeless and wandering, with a passionate, yearning tenderness, born of the fear that a son of his own might be one of them, that son was crouching in the shelter of a corner archway, miles from Piper's Alley, covering his haggard face with his hands, to keep back the tears, every one of which was wrung from a broken heart.

In a dainty *bijou* of a house at Richmond, scarcely a stone's throw from the more pretentious abode of the head of the firm, dwelt Walter Gillespie and his wife.

There Laura's father was ever an honoured and welcome guest. He came to London to spend with them the first Christmas of their married life, and though January was wearing to its close he lingered with them, loth to leave a home where all was peace and sunniest happiness. Walter took an active part now in Mr. Hunter's philanthropic labours, and was one of the most zealous and useful members of that faithful band, who did what they could to relieve and assist, as well as to benefit, their poorer brothers and sisters.

Mr. Tennant had accompanied them several times to the mission in Piper's Alley; his heart and sympathies went with every good work. On the last night in January, another social meeting was held, at which all our friends were present. Before tea was over there came into the hall the familiar figure of Shuffling Ben. They had missed him for a week or two, and Edith smiled to him from the platform, and nodded to him to come to the tables. But Ben stood near the door, watching till Walter Gillespie caught sight of him, then he made his way to where that gentleman was, and touched his arm.

"Well, Ben, my lad, have you turned up again?" said Walter, cheerily. "Sit down and have some tea."

"No, sir, I want to see you partickler for a minit, Will ye come outside?"

Walter looked at the odd figure curiously, wondering if the lad meant to play a trick on him. But there was eager sincerity for once in the depths of the cunning black eyes.

"I've something to show you, sir, I expect will bring ye with me fast enough. Come."

He darted from the hall, and Walter followed him out to the lobby. There Ben stood, holding something tightly clasped in both his hands.

"There's a poor chap took bad in Grinder's Court, sir," said Ben. "He's been there a good spell but he's goin' to die now, so he says, and my! he looks like it. I've known him a good bit, and cadged vittles for him since he's been bad, though he won't eat 'em. He says to me terday, 'Ben, do you know the mission in Piper's Alley?' 'Yes, Bill, I do.' He told me to call 'im Bill, sir, and he says, 'Go there as fast's you can, an' give this to Mister Gillespie if he's there.' I didn't know as he knows the mission, or you, sir, an' this is what I was to give you, sir, an' I was to bring you along of me to see 'im if you'd come."

Ben paused breathless, and offered something rolled in paper into Walter's hands. He tore off the paper, and found within a tiny morocco case with a silver clasp. He touched the spring, and in the dim light of the lobby lamp he saw within the picture of a grave sweet woman's face with wondrous eyes, and a sad drooping mouth. The face of a woman he had known and loved almost as a sister.

He looked at it for a brief moment only, and then thrusting it into his vest pocket turned to Ben.

"Shew me the way to Grinder's Court as quick as you can." Ben was off like shot.

With some difficulty Walter managed to keep the strange uncouth figure in sight, and after threading what seemed to be an endless maze of lanes, Ben waited for him under a dingy lamp at the entrance to a narrow archway.

"This is it, sir, up this stair; keep close after me, 'cos its awful dark."

It was dark, sure enough, and Walter stumbled more than once on the broken stairway, though Ben's nimble feet escaped without a slip. He pushed open what seemed to be a door somewhere, and Walter caught the gleam of a candle, which guided him to the spot.

"I've brought the gentleman, Bill," he heard his guide say. "He came right away."

He heard a muttering sound from the interior, and the next minute he stood upon the threshold and saw the room and its occupant. On a straw pallet in one corner of a perfectly bare apartment was the figure of a man in a half sitting posture. He was worn and wasted to the last degree, and his eyes, far sunken in his pallid, haggard face, gleamed with a fierce unnatural brilliancy.

For a moment Walter stood, looking at him, unable to utter a word. Could that be Arthur Tennant, Oh, never; but the doubt was dispelled, for the sick man turned his head, with a smile more awful to see than the wildest burst of tears, and said,

"Walter, don't you know Arthur Tennant?"

Then Walter came to the side of the rude bed, and kneeling down there, his quiet feelings overpowering him, he cried like a woman,

"I am dying, Walter, or I would not have sent for you," Arthur said after a while. "Look up and listen to what I have to tell you. It won't take me long. After, after Lizzie died," he said, shuddering still at the memory of that awful night, "there was no rest for me on earth night or day. I killed her, you know, though nobody said it. That blow I gave her in my madness killed her as surely as if I had shot her through the heart. I went away to Glasgow and stayed there a while trying to keep sober, for her sake too, but Walter, there was a devil within me urging me to drink and forget all. I fought against it for a time, and then fell. From that day I have gone down, and down, and down, till you see me here one of the veriest wretches in all London. I scraped up enough to bring me here. I was safest far away from you all, and since then I have lived I don't know how. Every copper I could make was spent on drink, and when I couldn't get it I would have bartered my soul for drink. I have been so hungry, Walter, I have eaten the refuse of the street, which a dog would not have touched. I would have put an end to myself long ago, but whenever I went near the river I saw

her face in the water, and her eyes beseeching me not to do that sin to my soul's burden. O Walter, I have cursed the day I was born, and sin though it was, I have cursed my Maker for letting me live to become what I am. Walter, is my father in London yet?"

The fierce eagerness with which the words were spoken startled Walter, his previous words had been so weak and faint.

"Could he come here to see me before I die. I should like to see him again, and we will not meet in another world. There is no place there for such as I."

"Though your sins be as scarlet," whispered Walter, as he rose to go, "God forgives till seventy times seven. He knows, Arthur, I would willingly give twenty years of my life if I could save your life for repentance, but I see it is too late."

"Yes, yes, I am thankful," muttered Arthur. "Better to die, but too late, too late."

"Nay," corrected Walter again. "Even at the eleventh hour you may lay hold of Christ. O Arthur, believe it."

Arthur shook his head.

"Are you married to Laura?" he asked suddenly.

"Yes, Laura is my wife."

"And you are happy. I see from your face how you love her. Laura was a good girl; but go, go and fetch my father. I am going fast."

Before an hour had gone Walter returned and the old man with him. On the way he had broken the news to him, but till now he had spoken no word. At the door of that wretched chamber Walter paused and the old man entered alone. It was better so. Leaving faithful Ben to keep watch at the closed door, Walter crept softly downstairs and hurried back to Laura.

The meeting was over, and they awaited his coming anxiously.

"Your father will come by and by, Laura. He is with a dying man who wished to see a clergyman. I must take you home now, and come back for him."

They drove home with the Hunters, and Walter did his best to join in the conversation with his usual cheerfulness. But when he reached his own home, and Laura paused in the hall to remove her outer wraps, he turned and caught her in a close embrace.

"You believe, my darling wife, that I would keep everything from you that would pain you?" he whispered, bending his face to her.

"Yes, Walter, I know you would."

"Then when your father comes home don't question him about where he has been. Laura, will you promise me?"

She looked at him wonderingly, yet her eyes full of perfect trust.

"Yes, Walter, I promise."

Not till years after, when time had blunted the edge of her sorrow about Arthur, did Laura know how and when he died.

They buried him in a corner of an obscure London graveyard, and left him in a nameless grave. It had been his wish, and perhaps such a resting place best befitted one who had made such shipwreck of his life. It had opened with as fair a promise as any man could wish, and its close was one of the saddest I have ever known.

It is a bitter grief to lay a loved one in the grave, even in the sure and certain hope that we shall meet again, by and by; but oh, my friends, I pray that you may be spared the agony of looking in the dead face of one near and dear to you, not knowing whither the spirit has fled. We can but humbly pray

"That of the living whole,
No life may fail beyond the grave."

Walter Gillespie and his wife abide in London still, for the great shipbuilding concern of Hunter & Co. has passed into his hands. Life in the great city possessed so strong a charm for him, and afforded such wide scope for his young energy, that he preferred it rather than Strathgilde. His father, hale and hearty, good for business for many years, in all probability forbore

to press him. But there is a little Walter growing up, and for him his grandfather is building up a princely heritage. And in the summertime when Walter's children come to Barossa to visit grandpa, the old house is a pleasant thing to see. It rings with childish feet and childish voices from morning till night. Nothing they do is wrong in grandpa's eyes, and he will turn sometimes and say to the fair and gentle lady whom they call "mamma,"

"It does me good, my daughter, it does me good."

Always, "my daughter," and to Laura the words are very precious. The manse is now a happy home, but sadly thinned. Lottie is married, and Tom has gone to New York to manage there a branch of the mercantile office to which he belongs. Frank is a student at Glasgow, Daisy is a golden-haired girl, her father's housekeeper and earthly stay.

Charlie is a city minister, one of those for whom we have reason to thank God every day. The good resulting from his labours is incalculable. The day will declare it. Need I say, he is one of the pillars of the temperance cause?

In Queensland Tom Hislop lives a useful, honourable life, and has attained a high place in his profession.

He has never married. Many wonder at his unflinching, increasing labour to further the cause of temperance. He never prescribes drink as a medicine, but speaks and writes against it continually.

We, who know his past, who remember a grave beneath the yew trees in the churchyard of Strathglide, do not wonder. Out of the bitterness of his experience Tom Hislop has learned his lesson. Now, I have done.

Some who read this may think it gloomy, and exaggerated. I have taken my threads from life, and if the web be dark, I am not to blame. It is *not* exaggerated.

Look around you.

In the broad light of day such things are happening everywhere. It is *not* exaggeration.

It is truth.

SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE OF ALCOHOL.

II.

II. We note another point of harmony—both the Records declare in unmistakable terms that *alcohol is a narcotic and consequently a seductive, ensnaring agent*. It is narcotic—that is, it acts as a depressant upon the nervous system—it tends to produce insensibility and sleepiness. This effect of alcohol is well known and generally recognized. Why is that man lying in the cold and the wet there? He is drunk and is unconscious alike of both the cold and the wet. He knows not where he is nor what he does. He has been thoroughly narcotized by the action of the alcohol in the drink he has consumed. Alcohol is not alone in this power. Opium also has this effect as is well known, and hence the Chinese use it largely as we do alcoholic liquor, and for the same reason. Chloroform and sulphuric ether act on the frame as narcotics, and so do many other substances. Accordingly writers such as Christison and others all place the substance alcohol among the narcotic poisons—while at the same time it produces inflammatory action. It is therefore called a double poison narcotic and acrid or narcotico-acrid. One characteristic feature of all narcotics is that they create an appetite for themselves by the use thereof. This appetite or craving comes as a consequence of the use of the narcotic. For instance, the man who for a time uses opium finds that he cannot give up the use thereof without a struggle; there has been created in his system a craving for the agent and this is not easily satisfied. The same thing is true of the person who uses tobacco. There is gradually formed a craving for the weed, and this craving becomes stronger as the use is more protracted. Such is the action of alcohol. It is a narcotic, and as such, creates an appetite and craving for itself. This sometimes becomes exceedingly strong, so much is this the case that in order to satisfy the craving man is prepared to sacrifice everything usually held dear, even life itself and

the prospects and hopes of eternal happiness. This craving becomes a veritable tyrant and one of the most exacting. This quality or property of narcotics is general and common to them all. And this forms one of the best reasons for the plan of abstinence, because by that plan alone can anyone escape the seductive influence of the narcotic. This seductive power is extraordinary in its influence. It can lead men to sacrifice everything at the shrine of appetite. Men will undergo any suffering, will perform any action however mean or degrading, will give up health, wealth, life, and eternal happiness for the gratification of this morbid craving. This feature of alcoholic wine is to be found in the sacred record. Solomon in describing the drunkard (Prov. xxxi. 35) gives us this as one characteristic, "They have beaten me, and I felt it not;" "When shall I awake, I will seek it yet again." Here we have first the narcotic effect. Though beaten and wounded there is no feeling—all is unfelt as if it had not been. And secondly we have the seductive power. Though he has suffered, though he has been bitten, though he has been sorely grieved and suffered woe and sorrow, yet he goes back to his tormentor, he seeks again the agent at whose hands he has suffered. "I will seek it yet again." Truly this marks the seductive power of drink. Notwithstanding all the ill drink has done him, in spite of all that he has endured, he will still go back and seek again the cup which so sadly injures him. The appetite created demands the repetition of the dose, and demands it in the most uncompromising manner. Science and Revelation on this point are in perfect harmony, and both alike teach the danger of meddling with narcotics as these are very seductive and produce danger to the users. Common sense, therefore, and reason, the interpreters of natural law, tell us to abstain, and the command of God as given in the scripture reiterates the counsel. It says through the pen of the wisest of men, Look not on the wine, and experience and common sense tell us that no other or simpler plan is open to us. Abstain from wine and every alcoholic beverage, for if you do not there will be a drink crave created which may become uncontrollable. This is the natural tendency of all narcotics, and this seductive power is very insidious, it grows stronger but arouses no suspicion and excites no feeling of danger. Solomon saw the risk and raised the warning signal of danger. Temperance men are only repeating in other form and with more iteration the same old cry—Danger ahead! Halt while yet it is time.

III. Another point which deserves notice is that alcohol is a *brain poison*. Most poisons have a local action—one acts upon one organ and another upon another; alcohol acts on the nerves and nerve centres. The great centre of nerve power is the brain, and here its power is most felt. As the brain is the instrument through which the soul works upon and directs the motions and actions of the body, anything that disturbs, inflames, or benumbs the brain does fearful injury. Experience and scientific investigation have shown that alcohol so acts upon the brain as to pervert the judgment, produce forgetfulness and negligence of duty, weakness of will, induce rashness in action, render the man fit for the commission of crime, loosen the tongue, and rouse all the merely animal passions and lusts. "One of the first effects of alcohol upon the nervous system . . . is shown in loss of memory. . . . It is followed by loss of volitional power. . . . All the higher faculties of mind and will are powerless."—Dr. B. W. Richardson *On Alcohol*. Abundance of medical evidence might be quoted proving this point, but it is so very well known and so easily seen by anyone who will use his eyes that it is not deemed necessary to do so. Instances of neglect of duty, rashness and carelessness are, alas, too common as our shipping news and our railway management too often show. The results are frequently such as to call very special attention to the point. Often we find ships lost or trains wrecked through such rashness or carelessness induced by drink. And who can tell the blunders made by medical men, by merchants, and business men of all kinds through this cause? These things are of daily occurrence and are generally known and admitted. Experience tells

us this, and science explains the reason. The alcohol acts as a brain poison and destroys or benumbs those faculties which are required for the due performance of duty.

Scripture tells us the same story in its own way. It tells us that priests and prophets have erred through strong drink, and have gone out of the way. It tells of Nadab and Abihu struck down in consequence of carelessness and forgetfulness caused by drink. In Proverbs we read that it is not for princes to drink wine and strong drink, lest they pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Here we have the clearest indication of the important truth that the use of alcohol has the effect of disturbing the mental faculties and rendering men forgetful and careless in the performance of duty. The story of Lot's sad fall, too, leads us to see the danger to morality of all such indulgence. In this case we have one of the saints of his time led into grievous sin on two separate occasions through the agency of strong drink. This experience proclaims in tones of clear and unmistakable character the danger of tampering with a drink so decidedly dangerous to the moral and mental qualities of the man. In the case of the Israelites as a nation, we find the prophet Isaiah condemning them for their drinking habits and tracing a large proportion of the sins which led to the captivity to this source. "Wine is a mocker," is the dictum of Solomon, and he was well able to judge both from personal experience and from observation. The inference from these facts and from the statements of Solomon clearly is as expressed by himself in the twenty-first chapter of his Proverbs. Look not, that is, desire not, the wine when it is red, when it giveth its colour in the cup . . . at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. Avoid it, pass it by, and pass away.

IV. Another point which appears in scripture and is testified to by modern science is that, for hard work or great exertion, for good health or long life, in short for bodily vigour, alcohol is not in any degree required. These points have been sufficiently proved by modern experience and science has confirmed that experience as the natural result of the course adopted. Dr. Beddoes, half a century ago, put the question to the most severe scientific test—by employing two sets of men as nearly alike in everything as he could get them. He put the one set on abstinence regimen and allowed the other to use in moderation, under his superintendence, alcoholics. After a prolonged trial the tables were turned—the abstinence division began to use the alcohol and the alcohol-using company became the abstaining one and the result was the same—the abstainers were the victors by a good deal in both cases. The matter of good health and long life has also been determined by the experience of insurance and benefit societies. From the results of the experience of these we find that abstainers have much better health and longer life than those who use alcoholics even in what is commonly regarded as moderation. The matter has recently received a good deal of attention, and Dr. B. W. Richardson, an eminent physician and a high authority, declares that one-third of all the deaths of the country are due directly or indirectly to drink. All experience confirms the general truth, and science comes in and explains the reason. The reason is, that alcohol taken into the system being a poison produces disorder, and when regularly indulged in produces disease and renders the system less able to resist the attacks of active disease.

Scripture in its own peculiar manner teaches us the same truths. It never states them in the abstract, but gives us what ought to prove quite as instructive—examples. Israel went through all the hardships of the wilderness journey fed on manna and water. When God would raise up a man supereminent for strength, he was to be a Nazarite or so far as wine was concerned a life abstainer—as was also his mother—a hint to us that the effects of drink are transmitted to our children. When witnesses of sterling firmness of moral courage were required by divine authority, sons of the prophets were collected and educated and these were under the Nazarite vow. Samuel, the greatest of all the judges

of Israel, was an abstainer—as were Daniel and his three brethren. The Rechabites were a temperance society, and they had the special honour of having the blessing of God and his approval conveyed to them by Jeremiah, and a gracious promise affixed to the blessing. The Nazarites were described in the figurative language of the prophet as purer than snow, whiter than milk, more ruddy in body than rubies, and their polishing as sapphire. Nothing can be clearer than the teaching of Scripture on this point. It clearly shows that health, vigour, and long life are not only compatible with, but are promoted by abstinence from all alcoholic liquor. Here we have another point of coincidence between the teaching of science on the one hand and the teaching of the record of the divine will on the other. Both alike teach the same truth, and both of them proclaim in language that is as easily understood as language can be,—Abstain from all that can intoxicate, for it shortens life, and renders more liable to disease, it weakens for work and renders less fit for exertion.

Such are a few of the more prominent points in which the testimony of science corroborates and confirms the testimony of revelation, and in which there is a perfect harmony between the lessons taught by both alike. The very fact that the two agree indicates that we have reached the truth in reading both when we interpret them as we do. What then is the great lesson taught by both in reference to wine and strong drink? Clearly and unmistakably this—Abstain from it, avoid it as ye would your most deadly and treacherous enemy. It is a tricky spirit, it leads men imperceptibly on from one step to another on the way to ruin, and all the while like the vampire lulls him to sleep so that he has no suspicion of his danger till he finds himself the bond-slave of the destroyer, it may be, too late to vindicate and regain his freedom from the fetters that bind him. Solomon is clear and emphatic in his counsel on this point. He would have all not to look even upon the wine, lest the look lead to the desire for it and the indulgence in it. Temperance men re-echo the sentiment and press it upon those whom they come into contact with, and organize associations for the purpose of promoting the practice of abstinence as a duty incumbent upon all. They use substantially the same arguments that Solomon used, and they have scarcely any new ones to offer. He, as they, found their appeal upon the nature and effects of alcohol, and these are arguments sufficient for the purpose.

But if it is, as we think has been shown, the duty of the individual to abstain from alcohol, it is clear that it must be wrong on the part of anyone, whether a person or the State, to place temptations in the way of the people and thereby induce them to do what duty forbids them to do. What would be said were the State to tempt by any means the subjects to gamble and bet and at the same time punish severely those who did so? Yet this substantially is the course of action followed in reference to drink. The State grants licenses to make and sell to all these liquors, and that too in no stinted measure, and when men have drunk freely and by physical necessity have become drunk the State steps in and punishes them for the effects of its own actions. The only course open to the State consistent with its own best interests and the welfare and happiness of the subjects is to prohibit all traffic in such dangerous and destructive beverages. Drunkenness as a national sin and shame can never be banished from the land by any measures of restriction or regulation, by any curtailment of the number of licenses or shortening of hours, or by any regulations of any kind short of absolute prohibition. The words of Alderman Wise, solicitor for the Licensed Victuallers Association, in his evidence before a Parliamentary Committee, are striking. He said, "If you were to abolish the traffic, as they have done in Maine, you might have a sober population; but if you restrict it I do not think you would." He is right. Nothing short of abolition of the traffic will ever make the nation a sober nation. This is and ever ought to be our great aim. It is wise to learn even from an enemy—and here we have a lesson from a source not tainted, as many think abstainers' opinions are, by prejudice. Let us take the

hint and act upon it until we see the Dagon of drink down in the dust and sobriety crowning all our citizens with its golden gifts and great blessings.

WORKING MAN'S BILL OF FARE.—VI.

We will now look at this subject from the retrospective point of view. We have given an amount of evidence sufficient to convince sensible people that the age of improvement could reap a rich harvest from improving the dietary of the common people. We enforced our views by adducing the respective dietaries of the Glasgow Abstainers' Union, the Glasgow Food Reform Society, the great experiment of Dr. Nichols, the famous report of Mr. Edward Smith as Government Commissioner on the food of the people, and lastly the dietary of our Scottish poorhouses. Our object is not to abridge unduly the dietary of the working man but merely to improve its quality and to decrease its quantity to that level where the loss of bodily waste could be repaired within twenty-four hours of its having taken place.

Now what is the actual estimate by competent authorities of the food required by a grown man? The late Dr. Parkes of Netley says that 22 or 23 ounces of dry food is required; this with water in the food will weigh about 42 to 46 ounces of solid food daily. In addition about 40 ounces of water are required. It appears from him that the constituents of a man's food should be first $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 ounces of nitrogenous food; 2 to 3 ounces fatty food, and 14 to 15 ounces of starchy food with some saline substances. Dr. Parkes gives us an interesting illustration—that of a ploughman's dietary. "In some parts of Scotland the farm labourers, who work very hard and are fine strong men, still live on oatmeal and milk, and a ploughman's allowance is daily 2½ lbs. oatmeal and one pint of milk. Taking the cost of oatmeal at 2d per lb. and of milk at 2d a pint, the daily cost would be 7d. In one of my experiments on diet I kept a strong soldier, thirty years of age and weighing 10½ stone and doing hard work, on oatmeal and milk alone and found that he was kept in perfect health, and at a constant weight by 1½ lbs. oatmeal and 2 pints of milk. The cost was 3½d for the meal and 4d for the milk, 7½d a-day or 4s. 4½d a week. The man himself was very sorry to return to his soldier's rations of bread, butter, meat and potatoes." We often forget that so vast a number of our fellow-beings over the face of the earth live as simply and as well. Dr. Parkes says again: "Formerly throughout the north of England and Scotland, there were successive generations of some of the finest men in the world who lived on oatmeal and milk, and literally men would live out their lifetime without taking anything more except it may be occasionally fruits and green vegetables. On the opposite side of the globe we find the splendid races of northern India living on barley, millet, wheat, and rice as their staple nitrogenous food; or in southern India we have millions of healthy men living on beans, and peas and rice. In Africa the negro often attains a gigantic size on his millet and other vegetable foods. The Roman gladiator trained on barley, and the Roman soldier in campaigns when meat could not be got carried corn which he ground in hand mills and then boiled in water and made a strong vegetable soup, something like the old English fermenty. On this food he marched and conquered as no other race has done." Our Scottish ploughman whose case is cited is living on the lines of the hardiest races that have ever lived. The South Kensington Museum's handbook on foods affords us very interesting information on a day's ration. The average daily diet for an adult should according to it contain in 100 parts, water, 81.5; flesh formers, 3.9; starch, sugar, &c., 10.6; fat, 3.0; salt, 0.7; phosphates, potash, &c., 0.3, equal to 100. Or to put it in another way, he should consume 5 lb. 8 ounces 320 grains of water; 4 ounces 110 grains flesh formers; 11 ounces 178 grains starch, sugar, &c.; 3 ounces 337 grains fat; 325 grains common salt and 170 grains of other salts, showing a total daily ration of 6 lbs. 13 ounces, 128 grains. Of this amount 1 lb. 4 ounces 245 grains is actual dry food

substance, the remainder being water of which there are 5½ lbs. Now, looking at our ration again, we should have 18 ounces bread, 1 ounce butter, 4 ounces milk, 2 ounces bacon, 8 ounces potatoes, 6 ounces cabbage, 3½ ounces cheese, 1 ounce sugar, ¾ ounce salt, and 66½ ounces water. This gives us 1 lb. 5¼ ounces or 21¼ ounces dry food and the rest water. The dry food amount is slightly less than that proposed by Dr. Parkes and markedly confirms his estimate. Yet our careful readers will observe it is nearly three times more than what Dr. Nichols consumed in his famous experiment, and it is nearly double what he thinks needful for the daily sustenance of an adult. How greatly less it is however than the workman dietary of to-day, and how more happy, wise, and wealthy would he be if he made an endeavour to conform to a diet far less than he is at present accustomed to, and yet sufficiently ample for all his needs.

The handbook enables us to contrast the dietary of a workman with moderate exercise with that of a hard working artisan. The moderately exercised workman requires 4 ounces 94 grains of albuminoids, 1 ounce 174 grains of fats, 11 ounces 302 grains starch, and 312 grains salts—total, 18 ounces nearly: the hard working artisan requires 5 ounces 35 grains of albuminoids, 2 ounces 400 grains fat, 22 ounces 96 grains starch, and 408 grains of salt—total, 30 ounces nearly. The soldier in the Dutch service finds an immense difference in his peace and war dietary. In war he has what gives him great energy, in peace what never brings him up to a fighting condition! The difference between the pauper at rest and the working man at work is also great, and should teach a valuable lesson to all of us that when we are idle we should reduce our food to the level of the peace establishment, so that we may cut short our loss and at the same time conserve the powers of our system for future efforts.

I had a hope that I should have been able to show from our prison dietaries that a man may be kept in prison at work with moderate exercise, plenty sleep and regular hours, on a very spare diet. My hope is not fulfilled, for I have been unable to reconcile the dietary of our prisons with any estimate of food I have seen. I see that the prisoner is allowed 8 ounces oatmeal for breakfast. Now I live well on 1 ounce oatmeal for breakfast, and I am not able to conceive where the prisoner can "stow away" 8 ounces of oatmeal made into porridge and eaten with ¾ pint of milk. But I may be able to find it out and other things by research.

Well, Mr. Editor, I stop here. I have found a great amount of pleasure from my researches so far. I have above all convinced myself that an abstemious and carefully regulated diet is the best thing for my fellow working men and myself. If they would bestow proper attention to their dietary, buy their food wholesale and induce their good wives to cook it properly; if they would always be sensitive to the feeling of satiety for their stomach's sake, and eat enough and no more; if they would recognise the necessity and importance of giving their stomach the same equal amount of rest as they take to themselves; if they would increase their diet when they work hard or when they feel cold, and decrease it when they are idle, they would keep themselves in true relation with their systems and their food supplies, have better health, more content, larger savings, longer life and almost no disease. They would in a sentence use the world as not abusing it, seeing that the passion of it passeth away.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

LADIES' RING LAWS.—With the fair sex, the "laws of the ring" are:—A plain or chased gold ring on the little finger of the right hand implies "not engaged," or, in plainer words, "ready for proposals, sealed or otherwise." When engaged, the ring passes to the first finger of the left hand. When married, the third finger receives it. If the fair one proposes to defy all siege to her heart, she places the rings on her first and fourth finger, one on each, like two charms to keep away the tempter. It is somewhat singular that this disposition of rings is rare.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1883.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

MARCH, 1883.

The Executive have now a large and varied stock of publications on sale at the offices of the Association. These include some of the best standard works on the temperance reformation. The early and esteemed orders of members and friends are respectfully solicited.

* * We have been again obliged to leave over "Bookshelf," "Correspondence," "Varieties," &c. We will, we hope, find a place for them all in the first issue of our new volume.

An index and title page to the volume now closed will appear next month.

SOLD OUT.

We have had several times the pleasure of being within a dozen or thereby *Social Reformers* of being "sold out." We are entirely "sold out" of the January number, so that our friends desirous of keeping sets will require to wait on their booksellers at once.

We would be very glad were we able to inform our readers that we were "sold out" with double the number we issue at present, and we believe that if they were desirous that their friends should have the same pleasure as they themselves have had in reading our magazine, we would have the pleasure of doubling our circulation in a month or two, and even then of getting "sold out."

Are we cherishing a delusive expectation by entertaining the hope that our friends will henceforth make an effort to largely increase the circulation of

THEIR OWN MAGAZINE?

SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S URGENCY
RESOLUTION.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON has given notice that on an early day he would "call attention to the urgency of the demand for legislation, giving effect to the local option resolution already passed by the House, and move a resolution." We are sorry that we

cannot inform our readers of the date in this issue, but so soon as it is fixed we believe that their vigorous support and that of the country to the resolution will be earnestly requested by the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and that they will, as eagerly as ever, cordially and heartily co-operate with the Association in increasing the Scotch majority in its favour.

We learn that the amount of paper used for the British Census of 1881 amounted to 57 tons 13 cwts., comprising 7,500,000 householders' schedules. How we should like to see the temperance hosts set about distributing 57 tons 13 cwts. of paper, on which there might be seen the pithiest arguments, and the most heart searching appeals in favour of the Local Option Veto (Scotland) Bill. If the Scottish people who value prohibition, and sincerely desire to see it legally established, were to flood the House of Commons to this extent for the coming session they would be relieved of the liquor traffic and its burdens for ever.

Casting our eyes over the excellently conducted *British Temperance Advocate*, we find that an admirable practice obtains in England with regard to the meetings addressed by the ordinary lecturers of the British Temperance League. There are five agents in its employment. Mr. Gregson is engaged up to nearly May next, and this is how. He is to be five days in one place, six days in another, the next five days in another, and the whole of March he will work away in London. In April he is appointed seven days in Sheffield, five days in Kendal, and so on. Of his brother advocates the same has to be said. Now looking to the superior lecturing ability of the prohibitory advocates, their deep and wide knowledge of the temperance question, their platform excellence, we have often wondered at the want of enterprise shown by the Scotch temperance committees with regard to lecturers. The custom is to get up a meeting simply for one night; the advocate wishing to avail himself fully of the time allotted crowds his lecture with facts and arguments, and "crams" his audience as teachers do children in schools. But were our committees to arrange for five days, or say six, a Sabbath and the five following days, and ask the visitor to tell them all that was in his heart, there would be a greatly increased interest in his visit, numerous audiences, and the growth of an enthusiasm which would inspire him with heart-thrilling eloquence, and constrain his hearers to engage with re-doubled vigour in the good work. The cause of prohibition in Scotland would move by leaps and bounds were a similar mode of advocacy favoured on this side the border.

If the subject were not so grave one might be excused from smiling at the result of certain recent enquiries into the mortality from intemperance

smiling at the unexpected results sceptical enquirers meet with. For many years the temperance advocate made the confident assertion that 60,000 persons died directly or indirectly through intemperance. Dr. Norman S. Kerr, sceptical on this matter, resolved to test it, and the effect of his investigations was to prove beyond cavil and contradiction that double that number were sacrificed to the drink Moloch of our dear country. A physician in extensive practice put Dr. Kerr's figures to a crucial test. He said that there are 17,500 medical practitioners in the United Kingdom, and supposing that they had merely on an average six cases in the whole year in which the patient dies indirectly or directly through intemperance, the numbers would be 105,000, which strikingly confirms Dr. Kerr's investigations. Now, we have the Harveian Medical Society of London conducting a searching inquiry into this subject. The 10,000 deaths embraced in the report laid before the Society, showed that alcohol had some causation in 1,402 or 14 per cent. This would be 5,870 deaths in London, 38,971 for England and Wales, or 49,731 for the United Kingdom. Dr. Kerr's estimate was 40,500. This direct result of intemperance may well be called appalling. The 120,000 have passed over the stage of time for 1882, and before this sheet meets the eye of all our readers 20,000 victims, cut off this year already, will be before God's judgment seat. It is time this liquor traffic was destroyed.

The Scottish publicans' organ is careful to inform us that "Mr. Gladstone's health is affording indications that the supreme controlling power which he exercises over that heterogeneous mass called the 'Liberal Party,' is soon to terminate, in which case the disunited sects will sever, and an election will see the return of the Conservative party to power. The license trade will vote 'Tory' to a man in self-defence, and the present monopoly of seats in Scotland by local option legislators will be shattered." Smallest favours thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged, *Mr. Guardian*. We shall be yet better prepared for the next general election than for the last one. But we hope that the Liberal Government, in harmony with their promises and the twice affirmed resolution of the House of Commons, may, by a vigorous attempt to grant the people power to be rid of this irrepressible liquor question, completely frustrate the knavish tricks of a class who would bind the Government by their votes to maintain a traffic which is disastrous to every interest of their country but their own. May we hope that the Conservative party will be patriotic enough to decline a further unholy alliance with the beer interest after their painful experience at the last general election, and that our Liberal friends will be able to answer the drink interest according to its presumption and wickedness. For our part, no man, whatever his politics, will get our vote who will not vote for our veto.

One more judgment adverse to the temperance movement has been registered in the Court of Session. We do not remember an instance where the senators of the college of justice decided otherwise. The Act says the publican shall not supply boys and girls under sixteen with liquor. The court rules that the publicans can sell to boys and girls much under that age any quantity of liquor if their parent or parents know. Policemen can enter a public house and purchase liquor, so can abandoned women; and now Lord Young delivers judgment to the effect that any one if invited by a lodger in a hotel can sit with the lodger and drink after the hotel keeper has been constrained by law to close his doors. We need not advert to the *Rothsay* and *Grangemouth* cases, there is little fear of them being forgotten, they show too great a blot on the law to readily be so. Can the people really respect a law which lawyers interpret always in the sinister interests of the publican? We know that they cannot; it would show more than human nature in them if they did. But if we were asked to point to a proof bearing on the evil nature of the law, we should not hesitate to direct the enquirer's attention to the judgment of Lord Young, and not to it only, but to all those judgments which, by rendering the law of less and less effect, in effect encourage the publican interest and sanction evils which the law was expressly enacted to remove.

With this issue the seventeenth volume is brought to a close; and with a larger circulation than the magazine has yet enjoyed. It has been noticed with increased appreciation by the public press, and numerous kindly references to it are to be found in the correspondence of the Association it represents. The Editor has been exceedingly gratified by the success of the year. This is due to the invaluable assistance he has received from many able and esteemed contributors. The principles and policy of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have been upheld, and none can charge the *Social Reformer* with an uncertain sound upon either the one or the other. The principle is that Government has no right whatever to sanction the liquor traffic, and the policy, that communities should be invested with the power by a majority to effectually remove such a source of corruption and burdens from such communities. As in the past the Editor hopes that its special duty in expounding this principle and this policy will be most efficiently discharged. Subordinate to this aim he has enlisted the pen of fiction, humour, poetry, and social reform, but only as conducive to making the magazine more acceptable at the fireside. This course he means to pursue. He might easily have presented his arrangements for the new volume, showing an array of well known names and some new candidates for his readers' favour; but he thinks otherwise. He wishes to remain free to avail himself, as far as possible, of every opportunity, of every view, of

every writer, by which the usefulness of the magazine may be promoted and sustained. He believes that this course will in the end be more appreciated by his readers than any merely cut-and-dried arrangement. While he is to devote himself to making their magazine worthy in every sense of the Scottish prohibitory movement, what are his readers and the friends of the Association to do? He ventures to think that it is time that they in a greater degree should try to realize their responsibility and set about strengthening his hands and encouraging his heart by a really energetic effort to increase the circulation of their own magazine. Their wealthy neighbour or the moral and social reformers of their neighbourhood may never have seen the *Social Reformer*. Whose fault may that be? If theirs, let them see to it at once. Their friends at a distance may be lukewarm on the suppression of the traffic. Why? Because they have never recommended the literature of the movement to their earnest consideration. Let us not, however, look back, nor indulge in censure. For the future we shall cherish the hope that its readers and friends will take a still greater interest in the *Social Reformer*, until we are able to announce that its circulation exceeds that of most temperance papers. In that case who will gain? Why, the agitation. Can we offer a stronger motive to induce them to increase that circulation? We cannot.

Once more the Legislature of our country has met, and once more permission has been asked on the first day of the session for a shower of bills dealing with the liquor traffic in various ways. Speculation is already rife as to the fate of these. We are no prophet, so will content ourselves in wishing each and all of them the happy fate those having them in charge desire. Our interest centres in the forthcoming proposals of the Government, in the urgency resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and in special liquor legislation for Scotland. Whatever may be the nature of County Government, we believe that it will supersede our Quarter Sessions; and if the Government honestly interpret (and we have no reason for anticipating that they will do otherwise) the promise by the Prime Minister, they will embody the prohibitive veto in their forthcoming measure. In his speech on Waterloo day, 1881, Mr. Gladstone declared that the Government had resolved to legislate on the liquor traffic, and that in their legislative proposals they would take as an essential the motion of his right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Lawson). If they do so, they may confidently rely on the energetic support of the social and moral reformers of the empire. We look forward with a hopeful confidence to the appearance of their measure. Then we have the urgency resolution of our leader. He claims the immediate fulfilment of that promise, and in preference to re-introducing his own bill meantime wishes the House to constrain the Government to deal with the liquor

traffic agreeably to the resolution twice affirmed by the House. He is fully warranted, we think, in drawing attention to the fact that the Government has as yet done nothing to embody that principle in legislation. Every one cognizant of the facts will heartily support Sir Wilfrid in his course of inducing the Government to delay no longer to invest the people with legal power to protect themselves against the operations of the drink interest. We feel a special interest, however, in what the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association may succeed in getting brought before Parliament for Scotland. The Association is clear and distinct on its demand. They aim to secure for the rate-payers of Scotland a direct veto by which they will be enabled to effectively grapple with the evils of the liquor traffic that concern them. The traffic in alcoholic liquors should be totally prohibited. All temperance reformers are agreed upon this. Their veto will give the ratepayers power to do that within their respective boundaries. The traffic should be immediately removed, the very moment the people may be found willing to do so. The veto being on the statute book, any delay in applying would be with the people themselves. The more the simplicity and directness of the veto is looked at, the more its fairness to both traffic and people is seen. Besides, it is in conflict with no proposal dealing with the evil; the remedy desired by the Association is in conflict with no Licensing Board scheme, but is the true complement to them all. If Scottish moral and social reformers, notwithstanding that we have already licensing boards in Scotland, will aim to improve the licensing system by means which include new licensing boards, notwithstanding the dire experience of the signal failure of those which already exist, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will not oppose these efforts, but will bend their energies to obtain legal power to abolish the liquor traffic as the only permanent settlement of the difficulty. Their proposal is the only one at present before the country having a permanent settlement in view. What result may follow their efforts to induce hon. members to prepare and introduce such a bill we are not yet in a position to say, but we believe that the Association is looking forward to an early appeal to the Scottish constituencies for vigorous support to a measure for Scotland having their hearty approval. They are confident the people of Scotland are with them, and will rally around and justify their conduct in making an energetic struggle to secure from the Imperial Parliament the power to every burgh, parish, and district to effectually purge their area of the traffic in alcoholic liquors if they be so disposed. It may be thought that the Scottish people are not united on this just and reasonable proposal because of some diverse proposals which are being talked about; but such proposals have not the widespread and hearty approval of the community. Once a bill embodying the direct veto comes before the people,

lesser proposals will be subordinated to their just, righteous and consistent demand for a legal veto by which the liquor traffic may be overthrown.

In our news columns our readers may have read an extract from an address by the Rev. James Scott of the Evangelistic Association. The rev. gentleman's remarks deserve the earnest attention of all engaged in temperance work. Mr. Scott refers to the Mizpah Band formed by Mr. D. L. Moody, which is being trained so as to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. But they are never safe—they have embraced Jesus Christ as offered in the gospel, but they are only his when they retain their temperance faith and practice. Even as their Master refused to leap from the temple's pinnacle, as it would be perverting the grace of God, so the disciples of the Master must not enter into temptation and then expect God's grace to avert the consequences of their folly and wickedness. Rightly Mr. Scott urges abstinence at the start of the Christian life, but he recommends it all through, for no man can recommence indulgence in alcoholic liquor and stand. In effect, he says, in the region of temperance the grace of God is never found. What is the logical consequence of such doctrine? Why that such a temptation being no way conducive to the strength of the Christian character, and at the same time preventible, the law should be invoked to uproot it as a system of public corruption which solicits men and women to a course of evil too often beyond their strength to resist or refrain from.

INTELLIGENCE.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, M.P., AT FALKIRK.

ON Wednesday, 7th ult., a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the United Kingdom Alliance and Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The hall was filled to overflowing, many being unable to obtain admission. Among the gentlemen on the platform were—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; T. Livingstone Learmonth, Esq., J.P., of Parkhall, who presided; Hugh Macpherson, Esq., Chief Magistrate, Grangemouth; Andrew Brown, Esq., J.P., Kerse; Rev. Dr. Ogilvie, Rev. Messrs. Burns, Linlithgow; Wade, Aitchison, Mair, Anderson, Falkirk; and Cumming, Grangemouth; Mr. W. W. Hunter, Denny; Mr. J. Scroggie, evangelist; ex-Bailie Gentleman, Councillor Young, Falkirk; Messrs. W. Donaldson, J. Johnston, S. M'Waters, H. Walker, of Falkirk; Messrs. D. A. M'Laren, W. J. Cupples, and M. Gavin, of Grangemouth; Mr. J. Dymock, of Bo'ness; ex-Bailie Dougal, Councillors Hutton, M'Alpine, of Linlithgow; Rev. Messrs. M'Millan and Crombie, Avonbridge; Mr. Agnew, Stenhousemuir; Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; P. B. Mitchell, Bo'ness, and many others. During the time the audience was assembling, a large choir, under the leadership of Mr. Law, sang several appropriate hymns. On entering the hall Sir Wilfrid Lawson was loudly cheered, the audience rising to their feet and waving their hats.

Mr. J. H. WATERSTON, Edinburgh, intimated that numerous apologies had been received.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said he owed the privilege of presiding over them that evening to the unavoidable absence of their tried friend and re-

spected townsman, Mr. James Wilson of Bantaskine. He was sorry he was not with them that evening. At the same time he might say that, as they were aware, he took a deep interest in temperance not only in Stirlingshire, but in other parts of the kingdom as well. (Applause.) There were some who believed that they would attain their object as temperance reformers by putting down those houses in which intoxicating drink was sold—(hear, hear)—and others objected to that course because it would interfere with the liberty of the subject. Those people appeared to have great fears for the liberty of the subject, but he might say that while he would yield to no one in preserving the liberty of the subject, he did not agree with these people, and could not see why a small minority should place a public-house in a locality in opposition to the wishes of a large majority. (Cheers.) In order to bring out what he meant he would refer to a case that had happened recently in the town of Grangemouth. That town had prospered greatly in recent years, and they had built an entirely new suburb. There were some people who desired to place a public-house in that suburb. He had learned that there were 350 rate-payers in that part of Grangemouth, and of these 253 signed a memorial against the public-house, 32 were at sea, 48 abstained from expressing their opinion, and there were only 17 in favour of the public-house. Now, he did not think that it was preserving the liberty of the subject when 17 people forced 253 to submit to a public-house when they did not desire it. (Applause.) If those who were so afraid of the liberty of the subject being endangered approved of this, he had nothing further to say to them. (Applause.)

Rev. D. BURNS, Linlithgow, moved the first resolution, as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in alcoholic liquors entails excessive burdens on the community, and deteriorates the physical vigour, mental power, and moral character of the people; and, while rejoicing in every effort calculated to mitigate the prevalent evils of intemperance, earnestly calls for such an exercise of philanthropic patriotism and Christian zeal as shall result in the removal of a traffic so disastrous in its consequences to the nation." In moving the resolution, Mr. Burns said, in this land of theirs, seldom would they hear of destitute homes and children without bread if it were not for drunkenness. All those brutal scenes of domestic strife, all those mad brawls among friends that they read of every morning, would be unknown if temperance prevailed. Crime, pauperism, and insanity, in so far as they were due to the drink traffic, would disappear. He concluded by insisting on the necessity of promoting the temperance movement as the remedy for these evils. Mr. J. M. Scroggie, evangelist, in seconding the resolution, appealed to all present to assist in the work of banishing the evil from the country. The chairman then called on Sir Wilfrid Lawson to support the resolution.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, said—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this meeting is much larger than I expected to find in a town of the size of Falkirk. (Loud applause.) I am very glad to see this large meeting, because it shows the interest you are taking in this very large question. There was a time, about a generation ago, when the question of slavery in the United States was called "the irrepressible question of politics," and we are not exaggerating when we say that now in England the drink question is the irrepressible question of the day. (Applause.) It is an irrepressible question, and perhaps some of you would say that I am the irrepressible agitator of the question. (Laughter and applause.) I don't know that I can do better than agitate this question, because I am only humbly following the footsteps of much better, wiser, and benevolent men who have gone before me. You know it is a common thing in the House of Commons, where they are not so intelligent as you are here—(laughter and cheers)—when anybody gets up to denounce intemperance, for some wise man to say, "Mr. Speaker, there is intemperance in other things besides drink." But if you think we are speaking too strongly, and

making too much of this question, let me give you the words of one who, I believe, is more respected at this moment throughout England, Scotland, and even I believe in Ireland, than any public man of our day—the words of the Prime Minister himself. (Loud cheers.) I heard him say in the House of Commons that “the drinking of this country was bringing upon it the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine,” and I am here to-night to say that in all the meetings I have attended I never heard any one bringing a stronger indictment against drink than was brought on that occasion by the Prime Minister. (Cheers.) I have said that we have been attacking it for fifty years. You have had old temperance societies, which did not exactly take hold of the people, although they tried to get people to abstain from spirits and not take a great deal of beer. (Laughter.) They tried what is called moderation, which is a thing every one has his own definition of. One of the best definitions ever I heard was in the House of Commons by Major O’Gorman—(laughter and cheers)—a celebrated Irish member. He said “Moderation was just as much as a man could walk away with.” (Much laughter.) These old temperance societies were very good for the day in which they lived—the day of small things, but if we succeed we must go the whole “hog”—(laughter)—and the best thing you can do is to give up drinking altogether; and if the people of this country had followed that advice, we would not have been here to-night, and Mr. Gladstone would not have brought the indictment he did. Then you have had the Good Templars doing a great deal of good, but I think the most influential development of the temperance movement in our day is the grand Blue Ribbon Army. (Loud applause.) I daresay there are some good soldiers of the Blue Ribbon Army here to-night, although the place is not sufficiently well lighted for me to see their colours. (Laughter.) I know some who carry the blue ribbon in the pocket. (Renewed laughter.) The *Licensed Victuallers’ Guardian* said:—“It is useless to scoff at the folly of the Blue Ribbonites. It is futile to rail against the tyranny of the teetotallers, &c. The time for all this is past, and, except as minor operations in a great scheme, wholly inefficacious. It is now necessary to look matters fairly in the face, and to recognise the fact that—at all events for a time—it is fashionable to be, or to pretend to be, a teetotaller, and that it is a fashion which not only permeates every class of society, but that the Blue Ribbon Army is gaining popularity every day everywhere, and is, indeed, an institution which, in point of members and respectability, is foolish, no doubt, but formidable.” If that is not encouraging from the mouth of an enemy, I don’t know what is encouraging, and you foolish and formidable people may take courage and go on with your battle. (Applause.) Judge Mack said in Carlisle some time ago, “The crimes that are committed are not committed so much by drunken men, but by men who are drinking and not recognised to be drunk.” You never heard of a teetotaller being up for these crimes. I remember one of my friends disputing this. I said, “Did you ever hear of a teetotaller being up before the Magistrates?” “Yes,” he said. “What was it for?” I asked. “For being drunk and disorderly,” he said. (Great laughter.) You have heard a great deal about corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections. I believe that it is drink that causes most of the corruption, and were the public-houses shut up there would be very little use of the Corrupt Practices Bill. (Applause.) Argumentative men may say that they believe in free trade. Why we have tried free trade over and over again. In England they gave us free trade in beer—you were too shrewd to allow it to be tried upon you in Scotland. But they tried it in England, and what was the result? Sydney Smith said:—“The Beer Act has begun to work; everybody who is not singing is sprawling; the sovereign people are in a beastly state.” (Laughter.) Then free trade in drink has been tried in Switzerland. The people there said that drink ought to be sold, according to the constitution of the country, as freely as any other article. All restrictions were taken away, and for the last eight

years they have had free trade in Switzerland. And what is the result? What did the correspondent of the *Times* say about a month ago in writing home? He said:—“The country is going rapidly to ruin. It will soon be in a state of universal bankruptcy. Everybody is at their wits’ end, and now they talk about the traffic in drink, and the only way will be to give the cantons option, and allow them to get rid of the drink.” So you see when the *Times* newspaper has come round to cry for local option for Switzerland, it won’t be very long till it turns round and unites in favour of the local option which Sir Wilfrid Lawson wants for Scotland, England, and Ireland. (Loud cheers.) I can fancy an argumentative man saying, “I don’t like permissive legislation. I like it to be imperial.” Quite right, I would go in for a Maine law to-morrow for the whole kingdom if I could carry it. (Cheers.) There is the rub—(laughter and cheers)—and I think it is always better to work on in a practical way with the means you have at hand. And your present system is permissive. There is no Imperial enactment that there shall be public-houses here or there, or that there shall not be such houses here or there. The whole thing is left to certain people. We have magistrates in England—I think you call them bailies here. I believe they are the same sort of creature. (Laughter.) The Bailies, who grant licenses, are appointed by the Town Council, and the Town Council is appointed by the ratepayers. You see that, although somewhat circuitously, you have a licensing board in Scotland already. These people select or elect the publicans. I am not going to find fault with Bailies, publicans, or anybody else. They are all doing their best—bad is their best—(laughter and cheers)—but they are doing their best. I don’t suppose any of them wish to promote drunkenness; I am sure the Bailies don’t; and I am sure the publicans don’t want drunkenness either. If they could sell as much drink without drunkenness they would be very happy. (Laughter and cheers.) Oh, yes, they have a good deal to say for themselves. I saw the other day, they said, “These local optionists are getting so strong we must have lectures to counteract them.” I understand they are organising a scheme to get lecturers to show the benefits of drink. (Laughter.) I am always happy to help the publicans—(laughter)—and I would suggest that when they go round lecturing they should take illustrations with them. (Laughter and cheers.) I see you all understand that. You know we had an illustration in the gallery a little time ago. (Laughter.) All I have to say is I wish the publicans all success in their lecturing tour. They are trying to put down drunkenness, as we are—only they take the wrong way to do it—(cheers)—and if they don’t convince the people, then they ought not to be allowed to set up their shops and carry on their businesses in the places where the people do not want them. (Cheers.) That is the whole of my policy—if I may call it so without egotism—the whole of my policy for which I have been abused up hill and down dale for the last twenty years or so. Let each district have the choice of whether they will have public houses in the district or whether they will not. That is local option. (Cheers.) Now, how does it work? My friend, Mr. Caine, the member for Scarborough, was going through a small town in Wales, and he saw a procession and a band of music, with flags, and a gentleman being carried on the shoulders of the people. When he asked what it meant, he was told, “That is the pig man.” Then he saw another band of music and procession, and another man hoisted shoulder high, and he was told that was “the anti pig man.” (Laughter.) He found on further inquiry that the people had a bye-law empowering them to vote on the question whether pigs should be allowed to be kept in pig-styes near the streets—(laughter)—and he believed the anti-pig men carried the day, and the pigs had to be removed. The people there had local option—local option as to pigs. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, if it be right, just, and constitutional for the ratepayers in Wales to have local option as to pigs, is it not right, just, and constitutional that the men of Falkirk should have local option as to

publicans? (Cheers.) You have the option sometimes not exercised by the people, but by individuals. You have heard of individuals who have done away with public houses where they have existed, and where the people have been thankful to them for having done so. And you have heard of the noble struggle which has been made by Lord Zetland and Mr. Brown, who have tried to get rid of the public houses in Grangemouth. (Cheers.) They are doing their best to relieve the town of an injury. They do not succeed so well as I could wish; and perhaps some of you may say it is rather hard that Lord Zetland should take away these privileges from the people by his single voice. Well, I should be glad if he did it, because I believe he is doing good; but I would much rather, and I believe Mr. Brown would much rather, that the people of Grangemouth themselves had the right to say whether the public houses should be amongst them. (Cheers.) I am not wanting to compel you to do anything. Those people who like to have public houses have only to hold their tongues and not vote against them, and the magistrates would go on as before. "Let him that is filthy be filthy still." (Laughter and cheers.) You may like to have what the Liverpool newspaper advertisements call "a good drinking neighbourhood." That means a very busy neighbourhood, full of people bustling about, great activity, a great many policemen, tax-gatherers, pawnbrokers, and jailers, and the hangman. That is "a good drinking neighbourhood" which a good many people like; and if you like it, then it would remain so. All I say is that if there be people who want "a good sober neighbourhood" instead of "a good drinking neighbourhood," it is only right and just that they should have an opportunity of saying so and getting rid of the cause of the evils to which I have referred. (Cheers.) Some people may say "It is all very well to try to get rid of public houses; but the people won't do it." Well, then, under local option they will be no worse than now. (Cheers.) Nobody is a prophet. Nobody can tell what the people would do. (Cheers.) I believe that if they had this power, and if all the ministers of the gospel brought home to them the responsibility of this power, you would find great results where you expected the very least. (Cheers.) But there are other people who go for much more. They say, "We must have power to the people to regulate the traffic, to decide who will have the licenses, and who will not have them, and which houses will be licensed, and how many hours they will be open, and when they will be shut." All these people go a great deal further than me. I am not an extreme man. (Laughter.) Far from it. I am one of the most moderate slow-going chaps you can conceive of. (Laughter.) What is called a good and safe man I am. (Cheers.) My plan is simple. No great man likes simple things. The clever men in the House of Commons don't like a simple scheme. There is no scope for their ingenuity and argument. They are like Naaman the Syrian, who, when he was told to go and wash in the Jordan, said, "What, go and wash in a dirty little stream?—I will have nothing to do with it." He wanted some large and comprehensive measure. (Laughter and cheers.) All I want is the simple power to the people to clear out the drink shops, if they wish to do so. (Cheers.) People suppose that the Alliance goes in for a kind of new licensing scheme. No. It simply wants to give the people the power, when public opinion is ripe for it, to get rid of the whole nuisance once for all. I saw it stated in a Scotch newspaper writing about East Lothian, where some little misfortune happened to somebody or other—(laughter)—that one of the candidates had promised not to vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill. Now I have no bill. I am not clever enough for bills. (Laughter.) I used to have a bill, but clever men said it was not right, so I have dropped the bill, and I have now only the principle of the bill, and when the principle is carried you shall carry the bill. The local option resolution was passed on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo in 1880, and it simply declares that "this House is of opinion that the legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested, namely,

the inhabitants themselves, who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of local option." That resolution is clear enough; yet in the House of Commons it was argued that it meant this, and it might mean that, and ought to mean some other thing, and might be twisted to mean something else. (Laughter.) I was perfectly delighted to hear such an exercise of human ingenuity as those speeches displayed. But I explained that the resolution means what it says, that the people should have "power to restrain the issue or renewal of licences"—that is, of stopping altogether the trade. (Cheers.) I daresay it means a great many other things, because a great many statesmen said it did so, but it means this one thing, and that is the one thing I ask you to stick to. As the auctioneer said, "We will ask no more, and we will take no less." (Cheers.) But don't suppose that we are dogmatic—we will take no less, but as much more as they will give us. (Laughter.) We will take all these grand schemes about Licensing Boards, but we must have the popular veto. (Cheers.) That is our pound of flesh. That we ask in justice, and that we mean to have. (Cheers.) This is a favourable time. We have got the House of Commons into working order, we have greased the wheels, oiled the springs, and set the old coach on its legs again. (Laughter and cheers.) I think we had better work. The newspapers talk of the programme of the coming session when they have nothing else to write about, and they say there is bankruptcy reform. Let us stop the cause of these bankruptcies. (Cheers.) There is local government—a good thing, but first give us power to govern the drink traffic. (Cheers.) The corporation of London is to be reformed—a good thing to get aldermen to eat less and work more—(laughter)—and govern better—still there are only three millions in London, and there are thirty-five millions of people who would be benefited by local option. (Cheers.) Then there is to be a great measure for the prevention of floods. The prevention of floods of drink would do far more good than the prevention of floods of water. (Cheers.) Legislators will defer dealing with this question as long as they can. Statesmen are only tide-waiters. They sit on the bank till the tide runs strong enough, and then they launch their bark; and they would rather sit still than if they could. (Laughter.) Why so? Because there is a great vested interest at the back of the drink trade. Louis Napoleon said that "a vested interest is organised—the nation is unorganised." We come here to try and organise the nation against a vested interest, and I don't think I come to a place where the soil is likely to be barren, because Scotland has already done nobly in this great struggle. (Cheers.) The Scotch members went into the lobby with me for local option in the majority of 8 to 1 who went in for the publican. (Cheers.) I said, "Well done, Scotland." (Cheers.) But I say now, since Scotland has done so well, don't let it slacken its efforts now, and the day cannot be long distant when the people of this country will gain for themselves the possession of a weapon with which they will be able, if they are so minded, to overthrow the drink trade, which is the greatest obstacle still remaining to the success of that temperance reformation which years ago Mr. Cobden declared lay at the foundation of every social and political reform. (Sir Wilfrid Lawson resumed his seat amidst loud and prolonged cheers.) The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Mr. ANDREW BROWN, Kerse, moved the second resolution as follows:—"That this meeting is convinced that, owing to the advanced public sentiment on liquor legislation in Scotland, no measure will be satisfactory which does not confer on the ratepayers the entire control of the liquor traffic in their respective localities; and pledges itself to obtain from Parliament, at the earliest possible moment, the power to prevent liquor shops being forced on unwilling communities." In supporting the resolution, Mr. Brown referred to the great change which had taken place in the public mind on the question of temperance, maintained that the advocates of temperance would continue determined in the prosecution of their great work, and expressed his

confidence that the day was not far distant when they would hurl the drink traffic from the land. (Cheers.) Mr. W. W. Hunter, Denny, in seconding the resolution, said that the gigantic legalised foe of the drink traffic barred their path in every way—its temptations being too strong for many to be able to resist. He called upon the meeting to unite in support of the great movement on behalf of which they were met that evening. Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh, supported the resolution in a vigorous and lively speech, in which he contended that the whole tax-paying community were injured by the existence of the drink traffic, and were therefore entitled to have a voice in deciding the question whether it ought to be continued in their midst. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Provost MACPHERSON, Grangemouth, proposed the third resolution as follows:—"That copies of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and the Scotch Members of Parliament; and that it be remitted to the Committee who arranged for this meeting, to take such steps as they think necessary to press the claims of this movement upon the Government and others interested." Councillor Young, Falkirk, seconded the resolution, remarking that he appeared there to show his sympathy with the temperance movement, and he was sure they had heard that night what would do them all good, whether or not they were teetotalers. (Applause.) The Rev. Mr. Wade moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was acknowledged by Sir Wilfrid Lawson. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought to a close the proceedings of perhaps the largest and most enthusiastic meeting that has ever been held in Falkirk in connection with the temperance movement.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—No. 1.

NOTICES OF MOTION: PROHIBITION OF THE PAYMENT OF WAGES IN PUBLIC-HOUSES: SUNDAY CLOSING FOR ISLE OF WIGHT: SIR W. LAWSON AND THE HOME SECRETARY: LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION: DISTILLERS AND THE EXCISE.

The fourth session of the present Parliament was opened without ceremonial on Thursday, 15th ult. As last year, there was no mention of the liquor question in the address, but, as has been the case for these many years, a number of notices of resolutions and of bills relative to the liquor question were given on the first day of the session. Amongst these were the following:—The Attorney-General intimated his intention to bring in a bill for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at Parliamentary elections (cheers); Mr. Fry, to-morrow, to bring in a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sundays in the county of Durham (oh, oh, and laughter); Mr. Fry, to-morrow, to move in committee of the whole House for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the granting of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors; Mr. Carbutt, to-morrow, to bring in a bill for the closing of public-houses on Sunday in the county of Monmouth (oh, oh, and laughter); Mr. O. Sullivan to bring in a bill to prevent spirits leaving bond in less than a month; Sir Joseph Pease to bring in a bill dealing with the question of Sunday closing for England and Wales (oh and cheers); Mr. Meldon to bring in a bill to shorten the hours during which public-houses in Ireland are open on Saturday (oh and cheers); Mr. Stevenson to introduce a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday (oh and cheers); and Mr. Richardson to bring in a bill to renew and amend the Irish Sunday Closing Act.

February 16th.—In the House of Lords, Earl Stanhope presented a bill to prohibit the payment of wages in public-houses. The noble Earl observed that the bill was precisely similar to that which passed their Lordships' House last year.

February 19th.—In the House of Commons, Sir W. Harcourt, in answer to Sir R. Cross, stated that Mr. Evelyn Ashley, in introducing a Sunday Closing Bill for the Isle of Wight, had done so as member for that constituency, and not as a member of the Government. The Government, however, did not object to piecemeal legislation on the subject. It was a question, no doubt, of areas, but the Government had always held it was essentially one on which localities ought to judge for themselves.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government proposed to take for giving effect to the resolution which had been

adopted and reaffirmed by this House, to the effect that the inhabitants of localities should be empowered to restrain the issue or renewal of licenses in their respective districts?

Sir W. Harcourt—I think my hon. friend, the member for Carlisle, wants to know a little too much a little too soon. The only answer I can give him on this subject is, that when the Government bring forward measures with reference to local government, they propose to deal with the question of licensing as a question of local government.

Sir W. Lawson—Does the right hon. gentleman refer to the bill for London, or to a bill for the country in general?

Sir W. Harcourt—It is rather premature to refer to the bill for London; but I have said generally that the bill for London is part of the proposals which the Government have to make on the subject of local government, and all I can tell him is, that the Government do regard this question of licensing essentially as a question of local government.

February 20th.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice that on the earliest possible day he would call attention to the urgent demand for legislation, giving effect to the local option resolution already passed by this House, and move a resolution. (Cheers.)

Mr. Courteney, in reply to Mr. Meldon, said a distiller was allowed to give his workmen a dram once or twice a day without restriction as to the age of the person supplied, or as to the quality. The excise authorities had no knowledge as to the amount so consumed, as it was included in the waste. In the case of beer no such privilege was granted, as beer was not locked up during the process of manufacture. The Board of Inland Revenue would withdraw this privilege were it not for fear that a worse evil might arise from the workmen tampering with the spirits.

THE DISASTROUS RESULTS OF SOBRIETY.

DEAR SIR,—I don't know if you have read a pretentious paper by Mr. A. J. Wilson under the above heading. If you have, you must have been amazed that any man of his pretensions should venture to publish such a paper. He makes a hit at the Premier for venturing to insert the well-known paragraph on the decrease of revenue from drink in the Queen's Speech. He then proceeds to point out that we derive 30 millions of revenue from that source, and to tell at length what it does for us. But he says if the decrease continues for a length of time, and comes to a total of five millions, where is the Chancellor of the Exchequer to get it? He proceeds to notice a variety of sources only to declare that increase from these is impossible, except it may be a trifle from Income-tax. He declares that the drinker, and specially the hard drinker, must be a patriot of the most deserving kind. His throat and stomach are sacrificed, as well as his purse for his country's good. If he closes his mouth, where is to be found the means of paying the interest of the National debt, or how are the Army and Navy to be provided for? No doubt a sudden and immediate cessation of the £30,000,000 would cause no little inconvenience, but that is not to be looked for. If time is allowed there should be no difficulty in making good the deficit. The nation spends 130 millions in the price of the drink, and losses as much more. Now if the drink traffic were stopped this would be saved, and if so there could surely be no difficulty in getting 30 millions for the Exchequer. But I am not purposing to deal with this at present, but to look at a part of the subject which Mr. Wilson never hints at, and which, so far as his paper shows, he does not think worthy of notice. Is it not possible to get our revenue at too high a price? What have we to pay for these millions of revenue? Let us reflect on this point.

1. We get these millions at the price of tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens being pauperised every year. We have about one million paupers constantly among us, at a very heavy cost, and three-fourths of these are drink produced. But Government ought to prevent this as far as possible.

2. We have as another part of the price of these 30 millions, a heavy list of criminals—fully 400,000 such are drink made every year. This also involves heavy loss—loss from the harm done to property, loss of

wealth in supporting police, in maintaining the means of trying the criminals and in punishing them, besides various other consequent losses—Government ought to minimise these, not to encourage them.

3. These millions cost us a large number of lunatics every year, for a large proportion of these are the result of drinking.

4. These millions are got at an annual cost of tens of thousands of our daughters, who are by drink ruined for time and eternity, and made a curse and disgrace to our land. We have at least 200,000 fallen women—and most of these are made such by drink, and they cost the nation in money alone not less than 15 millions a year, besides myriads of broken hearts of parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives.

5. The millions are the price of an enormous amount of sickness and suffering and consequent loss. One-third of the sickness of the nation is said to be due directly or indirectly to the use of intoxicants. Some of our ablest medical men place the estimate at that proportion, and all the available evidence bears out their testimony. What this causes the nation to lose annually it is impossible to tell, but the sum must be very large.

6. These millions are got at the cost of blood and life. It has been estimated that the deaths caused by drink are at least 120,000, the direct or indirect fruit of the drinking habits of society. Dr. B. W. Richardson rates this loss at one-third of the total deaths or 230,000. Assuming, however, that the loss is 120,000, what does it mean? It means that the nation to get its revenue sacrifices these lives yearly or sells them at £250 each! After this talk of slavery, speak of the cruelties of the tribes of Central Africa. What are these compared with a nation professing Christianity annually sacrificing 120,000 of its subjects to death in order that it may derive a revenue from their vices which lead to their deaths.

Such are the most serious items of the price paid for these 30 millions. And I ask you in all seriousness if we are not paying too dear for our money. If it is from the destruction and demoralisation of the people that the revenue comes, it is got at too great a price. We commend the remarks of the Malagasy Ambassadors to the Alliance deputation to our readers' consideration, and we ask if our rulers might not learn a lesson of government from these sable politicians. I think, sir, you would do well to expound this subject to your readers. It would not be difficult to see a means of meeting the demands of the Exchequer. I might venture to say something on this point, but space will not allow. Meanwhile I am, yours, &c.

SCRUTATOR.

The General Post Office has a total abstinence society with a membership 300 strong.

It has been ascertained that only six per cent. of the converts of the Blue Ribbon Mission at Richmond have fallen from their pledge.

We are glad to see that Mr. J. H. Raper has been elected one of the Directors of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Providential Institution.

Professor Calderwood, of Edinburgh, became an abstainer during the first year of his attendance at the university, and he had adhered to his pledge ever since.

There is little difference between 1881 and 1882 in the number of drinkers in the army who were fined for drunkenness. They number 23,000 odds in both years.

The *Canada Casket* reprints the whole of the new tract written by Bailie Selkirk, J.P., in its issue of January, 18th, but it forgets to acknowledge its authorship.

Lord Elcho, now Earl of Wemyss, is desirous of resigning the post of president of the Liberty and Property Defence League in favour of some one having a seat in the House of Commons.

We were glad to see that Mr. William Blackwood, the northern District Superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, has had his admirable lecture, on the "Land and the People," fully reported in the *Montrose Review* last month. The *Alloa Advertiser*, which cherishes a high appreciation of him, gives considerable space to a report of the same truly excellent lecture.

In the year ending 31st March last there were 193,213 licenses in England, 25,181 in Scotland, and 24,785 in Ireland—being 243,179 from which the Inland Revenue derived a revenue of £1,871,968.

A veteran printer erected a plain tomb stone for himself, on which might have been seen after his death:—"L. H. R——, printer. A worn and battered form gone to be recast more beautiful and perfect."

Mr. Andrew Bennet, District Superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, delivered a very edifying lecture before the Corsock Mutual Improvement Society on "Practical hints to practical men."

"It is humbug for an officer to lecture men about drinking, advising them against the use of spirits, and then go to his tent to be merry over a bottle of sherry." So says Lord Wolseley, but the gallant General joins a club to get wine at wholesale prices! He nobly sees his error, and unhesitatingly withdraws.

The Irish Temperance League intends to hold its annual meetings on Thursday, 19th, Friday, 20th, and Saturday, 21st April next. A great feature of the forthcoming anniversary will be a Blue Ribbon Mission. The Mission is to be continued from the 8th to the 22nd April.

The men who wield the shears:—

"The pen indeed is mighty, but the men
Who wield the shining shears with skill and taste,
And then so carefully apply the paste,
Are cognisant of things beyond the ken
Of those who only use the pungent pen."

In answer to Rev. John Whyte, Moyness, Sir G. M'Pherson Grant, M.P., at Nairn, said he had voted for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution, and would cordially support any bill the Government brought in giving the people of the district a more direct vote in the matter of licensing.

An idiotic proposal floating in Chicago is to increase the police force to five hundred men, and compel the saloons to support them. 100 dollars from each saloon keeper would be sufficient. If they were to abolish the saloon, they would prevent many a policeman from losing his character through public-house corruption.

Professor Coates' health and character lectures are still continued at his rooms, 62 Sanchiehall Street, each week. Tuesday evening, at 8 P.M., admission free by ticket. But at the Friday night lectures a small charge will be made for admission to prevent overcrowding. The course will be to men only—on Chastity, Temperance, and Social Purity.

A good Methodist once went to a blue ribbon mission meeting and signed the pledge. He then turned to the audience and said:—"This is not a rash step. I have a grocer's license, and it has long troubled me. I thank my friends for their past orders, but I can serve them no longer with drink." Rev. G. W. M'Ree believes the grocer slept soundly that same night.

Mr. Clarke Aspinall, coroner for Liverpool, said that it was now a twelve month since he came to the conclusion that it was doubtful if logic or argument ever would convince a chronic drinker, and of the opinion that precept was a grand thing, but example a much more effectual thing. He resolved to give up alcohol absolutely and entirely, so that whereas before he said to working and other folks, "Do as I say," so now he could say to them, "Do as I do."

Mr. Cameron of Lochiel, M.P. for Inverness-shire, will probably retire from the House of Commons at the dissolution, although the most desperate efforts have been made to induce him to reconsider his decision, as the Tories of Inverness-shire are well aware that they cannot hope to obtain so strong a candidate in his place. The Mackintosh is understood to be "the coming man" of his party. The seat will, of course, be contested by the Liberals, and with every prospect of success.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON AT LEICESTER.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson addressed a large meeting at Leicester, and said that having had three Irish sessions it was time Parliament turned its attention to England, Scotland, and Wales. They had given the legislative machine a complete overhauling, and expected to run an express train. One measure should be levelled against the drinking customs of the country. The law at present was against temperance, and it was necessary that it should be amended. This Parliament was returned to legislate on the drink question, and the Government should deal with it by giving power to the people to vote licenses.

Some time ago a discussion took place in these columns between the Rev. Mr. M'Kenzie and our staunch contributor Robin Goodfellow. We remember that the latter asserted that every civilized nation on the face of the earth had abandoned free trade in drink. It might have been said that Switzerland was an exception, but not fairly. For the deplorable free trade there is the result of a judgment which cannot be said to be in harmony with equity. Free trading is an article in the Swiss constitution, yet on the assumption that even free trading must be in harmony with just trading, the various authorities "fenced off" the liquor traffic with great stringency. For example, it was decreed that no public-house in excess of the supposed needs of the population could be permitted, and publicans had to give security for the proper conduct of their houses; they had to be men of good character, women not being allowed to keep such places: public-houses nearly everywhere could not be placed near churches, schools, orphanages, poorhouses, or like institutions. The tenure of licenses was limited; no drink could be sold to young persons, nor were these allowed to frequent public-houses, which closed at night and nearly all Sundays. This was the condition of the liquor traffic in Switzerland previous to 1874. Switzerland was neither better nor worse than the nations of Europe cursed so mightily as they are by the operations of the liquor traffic. In that year the 31st article of the constitution was interpreted to mean that every citizen had a right to trade, and unfortunately the sellers of alcoholic beverages were held to come under the class thus declared lawful free traders. The number of public-houses rose from 17,807 in 1870, to 21,738 in 1880. The population increased by 6 per cent. in that time, the public-houses by 22 per cent., or nearly fourfold. This gives 1 to every 130 inhabitants, or 1 to every 26 families, and there are more public-houses than all other shops together. The usual fruits have followed—there is a marked increase of drunkenness and crime, 40 to 60 per cent. of the crimes in Bâle can be traced to drink. Economically, the evil is of fearful magnitude. The amount spent equals £10 per head of the population, and a bottle of brandy only costs 8d.; to spend £10, therefore, the drinkers would require to consume 300 bottles of brandy each, or one for nearly every working day. Now we have here free trade in drink on a pretty large scale, and just as everywhere the Swiss nation as a whole is finding that the drunkenness of the Cantons are in proportion to the facilities for procuring intoxicating liquors; that as the public-houses increase the drunkenness, crime, and poverty, of the people increase; that the traffic will not surrender finally to appeals or to the gospel, but only to the law, and they are crying loudly for its interference.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE BLUE RIBBON ARMY.—The usual weekly meeting of the Govan (east end) section of the above army was held in the Portland Hall on Tuesday evening, 13th ult. Mr. Gibson presided, and Mr. Robert Mackay of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association delivered an address, in which he endeavoured to prove that temperance, *i.e.*, total abstinence, was one of the manifest fruits of the gospel. The lecture was characterised by great fervency of spirit and clearness of delivery, and was listened to attentively by those who were privileged to hear it.—*Govan Press.*

THE SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—This Company is proposed to be incorporated for the purpose of carrying on all descriptions of life and accident assurance, endowment and annuity business, and such other incidental business as is usually carried on in connection therewith or analogous thereto. The prospectus states that "the special feature of this company will be the insurance of lives of total abstainers at reduced premiums. Experience has now clearly demonstrated that the lives of total abstainers, as a class, are better than those of non-abstainers." "It is thought that the time has now arrived when the fact of total abstainers enjoying greater longevity should be fully and fairly acknowledged, and that this can best be done by accepting the insurance of such lives at premiums so reduced as to fairly meet the risk involved." We understand the share list is filling up and will close on an early date.

The Rev. James Scott, of the Evangelistic Association, Glasgow, speaking last month at Greenock on the work of the Association said—The permanency of the work may be seen in another way. At Mr. Moody's suggestion, working men who had been given to drink, but had abandoned its use on accepting Christ, were formed into what was called the "Mizpah Band." Fully 800 were thus united. They are being well watched over, and it is found that only about six per cent. have lapsed; and we have still good hope of not a few of those who, for the time being, have gone back. Further, some of the very best workers we have were once slaves to strong drink. I believe I am within the mark in saying that we have in the ranks of our earnest steady gospel workers hundreds who were at one time heavy drinkers. Having all through my remarks magnified the keeping power of Christ, I should, perhaps, as a caution, say that I do not believe this power will avail for the reclaimed drunkard if he ceases to abstain. In his case abstinence is the test of faith, and it would be nothing short of mockery for such an one to trifle with drink, and then ask the Lord to keep him. Even when a man testifies that the desire for drink is entirely gone, we still warn him that this is only true so long as he continues to abstain. Believing this, we not only urge abstinence at the start of the Christian life, but we recommend it as a Christian duty all through, and urge those who have taken the pledge to press it on others. For we know that much of their own safety will be found in their efforts to save others. This is not matter of theory. In all my experience I never knew a reclaimed man who ventured to taste strong drink and did not fall thereby. (Applause.)

DEPUTATION OF "SOCIAL AND MORAL REFORMERS" TO DR. CAMERON, M.P.—On Monday, 12th ult., this gentleman met, by appointment, a number of "moral and social reformers" in the Christian Institute, Glasgow. Their purpose was to arrange with the honourable member for the early introduction into the House of Commons of a bill giving effect to local option by means of local representative boards. The circular was signed principally by members and supporters of the Scottish Temperance League. Sir William Collins, Knt., presided, and there was a good attendance. The chairman read the circular convening the meeting: held all present committed to licensing boards; deprecated licensing functions being conferred on county boards; preferred special boards; viewed a local veto as opposed to the genius and policy of our legislation, and claimed local boards as the more workable scheme of carrying out local option; held that the direct veto was just the Permissive Bill back again; and was of opinion that that veto would not effect a reduction in the number of licenses. He closed by a question: "He could imagine the mind of the constituency favourable to reducing the number of public-houses by one half, but could this be done by a plebiscite?" The Rev. J. A. Johnston, Springburn, moved a resolution, asking Dr. Cameron to introduce into Parliament a bill on the lines of the circular (boards superseding licensing courts would have full power to refuse all new applications and transfers and renewals of licenses). The rev. gentleman's remarks were just an echo of those of Sir William Collins. Ex-Provost Campbell, Greenock, believed that if licenses were dealt with by local boards they would be better managed than at present. Dr. Cameron, M.P., in his reply, approved of licensing boards as a material step in the right direction. He supported Mr. Cowen's and Mr. J. F. Harrison's licensing boards bills, placing his name on the back of the latter one. He objected to the object of the meeting, as being for arranging with him rather than having as its object to submit reasons for his undertaking the introduction of such a bill, as he never in any way pledged himself on a subject. He knew the merits of such a proposal thoroughly well, and had committed himself to it more than once, for the simple reason that, as a temperance reformer himself, he had always gone to the fullest extent, and for everything short of the fullest extent which would ameliorate the present deplorable state of things. Magistrates had no final power—the final power of decision lying with Quarter Sessions. Now, if local boards such as they desired were instituted, they must face the contingency of a possible increase of licenses. If they, however, had all the powers of the present boards together, with the power of Quarter Sessions, their licensing boards would constitute an immense improvement on the present system. (Applause.) But, after all is said, the fact of the matter is he liked, when introducing bills, to introduce those he thought that he should be able to carry. He thought it desirable to know whether there was any consensus or divergence of opinion, and to seek that information from headquarters. He requested the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill

and Temperance Association to give him their views frankly, simply for his guidance as a politician in this matter. He read part of the resolution they had sent. It was as follows: "That the Executive is of opinion that the time has fully come when the moral and social reformers of Scotland, setting aside as in their nature insufficient and unsatisfactory all merely restrictive schemes such as licensing boards, should unite in a national effort to secure a direct and full ratepayers' veto on the liquor traffic, as the only adequate and permanent solution of the question of temperance reform." He fully understood the view of the question adopted by the Association. His name had been on the back of Sir W. Lawson's Permissive Bill; and he had been on too many platforms not to know thoroughly well the position he takes up—a position which is perfectly logical and intelligible. He thought there was no use blinking the fact—any effective measure would meet with the most vigorous and energetic opposition at the hands of publicans and their friends. But opposition from within their own camp was a much more serious matter, and greatly compromises the chance of success. For though a private member might be unable to carry it, yet he might advance it so far as to get the Government to take the subject up—provided the whole temperance party were unanimous concerning it. Government would only be too glad if they saw disunion to refuse to put aside other measures and deal with theirs. He should not like to pledge himself to undertake the charge of a bill which might cause unfriendliness between different sections of the temperance cause. He understood the Permissive Bill Association were going to bring in a measure, and he had consented to put his name on the back of it. Whatever happened he should continue to do his best, as he had always hitherto done, to promote the cause of temperance in Scotland whenever and in whatever way it seemed to him it could be most effectively assisted forward. (Applause.) Sir W. Collins thought the Permissive Bill Association were fully committed to support a local boards bill. Rev. Mr. Johnston thought their Permissive Bill friends were misrepresenting their views. Their bill would do all that the Permissive Bill would do and more. (Applause.) On the motion of Mr. A. Allan, the following committee were appointed:—Sir W. Collins, Rev. J. A. Johnston, ex-Provost Campbell, ex-Bailie Lamberton, Mr. Wm. Borland, Mr. A. Cross, and ex-Bailie Buchanan—to confer with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Dr. Cameron encouraged the audience by stating that if unanimity were secured he was willing to take charge of the bill. A vote of thanks to Sir W. Collins for presiding terminated the interview.

PUBLIC PRESS.

WHISKY PROFITS.—The profit on the sale of whisky by retail is enormous. There are in a barrel of whisky 31 gallons. At retail there are 64 drinks in a gallon, and 1,984 drinks in a barrel. Cost per gallon, say, 10s. 5d. This makes the cost of 31 gallons £16 2s. 11d., and 1,984 drinks at 2½d. per drink are £41 6s. 8d. Deduct the cost, £16 2s. 11d., and it leaves of profit for one barrel of whisky, £25 3s. 9d. If a saloon keeper can sell four barrels a month he receives £100 19s. 2d., and for the year, £1211 10s. Take out for expenses £312 10s. and it leaves a nett profit of £899. For a barrel of ale of 31 gallons the cost is about £1 13s. 4d. In a gallon the drinks will average 18; at 2½d. a drink this is 3s. 9d. a gallon, or £5 16s. 3d. a barrel. Deduct the cost of beer, £1 13s. 4d., and it leaves of profit £4 2s. 11d. a barrel, or on the 11,000,000 of barrels, at 2½d. a glass for beer and ale, £57,291,666 13s. 4d. The cost to the people of the United States for distilled and fermented liquors must be some £166,666,666 13s. 4d. a year. This is an enormous sum for drink! And not a dollar of this vast expenditure adds anything to the physical, mental, or moral well-being of our family, but creates misery and evil beyond the power of any pen to describe or any imagination to conceive.—*The Prohibitionist*.

PUTTING THE CUP TO THE NEIGHBOUR'S LIPS.—Where is all the religion—teachings of the Bible—the Christianity that allows professing Christians to see drunkenness going on unmolested by law? Where are the millions of Christian voters—who annually vote for Congressmen and legislators—that cast never a vote to prohibit the curse of drunkenness? If all the

Christians and sober men who annually vote for political principles would also vote for temperance and against liquor traffic, we should see drunkenness as rare as arson and stealing; we should soon see intemperance as much an outcast by public opinion, as gambling and robbery now are; soon the sale of liquor would be as effectually prohibited as are lottery tickets. *What say you Christian voters?—Anvil.*

THE LOVE OF DRINK.—When this vice has taken fast hold of a man, farewell industry, farewell emulation, farewell attention to things worthy of attention, farewell love of virtuous society, farewell decency of manners, and farewell to even an attention to person; every thing is sunk by this predominant and brutal appetite. In how many instances do we see men who have begun life with the brightest prospects before them, and who have closed it without one ray of comfort and consolation! Young men with good fortunes, good talents, good tempers, good hearts, and sound constitutions, only by being drawn into the vortex of the drunkard, have become by degrees the most loathsome and despicable of mankind. In the house of the drunkard there is no happiness for any one. All is uncertainty and anxiety. He is not the same man for one day at a time. No one knows anything of his outgoings or his incomings. When he will rise, or when he will lie down to rest, is wholly a matter of chance. That which he swallows for what he calls pleasure, brings pain, as surely as the night brings the morning. Poverty and misery are in the train.—*Ec.*

Local option has not only been elevated to a place among practical politics, but the Home Secretary intimates that it is to take front rank. Answering Sir Wilfrid Lawson in the House of Commons recently, who inquired when and how Government meant to deal with this question, Sir William Harcourt, after suggesting that the hon. member for Carlisle would never die for want of information if it could be got for the asking, intimated that "Government proposed to deal with the question of licensing as a matter of local government when they brought forward their measure on that subject."—*N. B. Daily Mail*.

I hear that one of the provisions which will be contained in the bill for the municipal reform of the metropolis will give powers to the ratepayers to exercise the principle of local option in the matter of public-house licensing. This is, of course, a proposal which will at once create a formidable array of new opponents to the reforming zeal of the Home Secretary, but no doubt local option in the metropolis would afford a splendid opportunity for testing the merits of a novel principle in licensing legislation.—*Glasgow Herald*, 16th Feb.

Now as to the interpretation of the accepted principle of local option, it seems to us a clear case of misdirection to assume that the institution of licensing boards is in any way a fulfilment of that principle; any intermediate authority placed between the direct expression of the ratepayers, and the intended result of that expression is in opposition to the terms and spirit of local option. If the time ever comes that the community will be called upon to vote in the election of a licensing board, in giving that vote, that community will have parted with all control over the purpose they intended to carry, and they will then find that local option, so far as licensing boards are concerned, is a local delusion and a snare. A thousand times wiser, to take the simpler and more logical course of putting the whole traffic on one level; and, by a comprehensive measure, invest the people with the privilege of suppressing the whole "trade," so that no member of the fraternity could urge the plea that he had been invidiously dealt with. To those who have hitherto led the crusade against the public-house we would say, don't allow yourselves to be shunted by timorous counsel on to any line of action that does not lead clear on to the entire suppression of the traffic. Don't let us swerve in our loyalty to our recognised chief, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and depend upon it our victory is nearer than we apprehend.—*The Temperance Register for Perth and Perthshire*.

HOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WAS EDUCATED.—At a blue ribbon meeting held recently in Poole, Mr. W. Shepherd Allen, M.P., said he would give them the story of his own conversion on the temperance question. Seventeen years ago, when he first entered Parliament, he thought, like many others, that the evils caused by drink were much exaggerated. He thought that teetotalers and Alliance men, and all such, were, to use a mild term, fanatics. But when he entered Parliament the United Kingdom

Alliance sent him their publications, their agents interviewed him, and led him to think on the subject. He thought, as they said such and such things about the drink, it was his duty, as a Member of Parliament, to see for himself if those evils really existed. His next step was to visit a large number of gin palaces and public houses in the worst part of London, Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns, just to see if the evils caused by drink were as great as he was told they were, and after visiting some 400 or 500 of these places he was thoroughly convinced that the evils of the drink traffic had not been exaggerated, and that it was impossible to exaggerate them. Having learnt his lesson he was then educated up to the point of voting for Sunday closing and for local option. But his education was not complete, for he was not a total abstainer. He was a very moderate drinker, and even in his most drinking days he took no more than a glass of wine in a week. How was it he became a total abstainer? He was a married man and had a family, and he soon found out that children were very observant. When he took a glass of wine his children wanted some as well, and he felt that would not do. He felt that he must not teach them by his example to raise the intoxicating cup to their lips, when he knew it was causing such terrible misery to tens of thousands of his countrymen. Therefore, he became a total abstainer. He still, however, had it in his house and gave it to his friends, but his wife said they must banish it altogether from the house. The next thing was that he heard of the blue ribbon movement, and it struck him that it was one of the grandest movements of modern times. He put on the blue ribbon, his wife, his eldest boy and girl following his example, but as yet they could not persuade the second boy to don it. He was one of those lads who thought for themselves, but depend upon it if he ever did put it on he would keep it on. Out of eight servants in his house six wore the blue ribbon, and he thought they were now about the correct thing so far as the drink question was concerned. The evils of the liquor traffic could not be overstated. He went to the police-courts of England, and of those who were accused he found the bulk were through drink. He went to the gaols of England and asked what brought two-thirds of the inmates there—drink. He went to the workhouses and inquired what brought the crowds of paupers there. He found that in two cases out of three drink was the cause, either directly or indirectly. He went to the wretched homes of England where he found half-starved wives and children, the very picture of want, wretchedness, and misery. Again he asked the cause and he found it was the drink. Before he came into that room he was thinking of the number of men he had known who had fallen by drink. They included clergymen, ministers of the gospel, barristers, lawyers, doctors, bankers, merchants, tradesmen, as well as poor hard working labouring men—all cut down in their manhood's prime and in the flower of their strength, having lost their strength and their lives, and worse than all, having lost heaven. And if such a terrible evil was rampant in the land, what should they do as Englishmen, as Christians, as men who believed in the great day of final accounts, that the Master would render to all according to their works? Should they by example teach men to believe that this was a good and a blessed thing, or should they teach them to believe that it was an evil and a curse. The influence of women in this matter could not be exaggerated. He believed if the ladies in that room would band themselves together in the cause of temperance they might revolutionise the town. Therefore he earnestly exhorted every woman present to take up this temperance cause; and let each man and woman do what they could by their example and in every other way to sweep away this awful curse from the land. O! let them live worthy of their manhood and worthy of their Christianity, so that when the great Master should come they might expect to hear him say, "Well, done."—*The Temperance Record*.

It just takes three to keep a secret properly, but two of the three must be dead.

If the way to heaven be narrow, it is not long; and if the gate be strait, it opens to endless life.

"Vil you dake sumding?" said a German teetotaler to a friend at a tavern door. "I don't care if I do," was the reply. "Vell den let us dake a walk!"

AND DIDN'T SHE!—A lady once said to Turner, when he was painting, "Why do you put such extravagant colours into your pictures? I never see anything like them in nature." "Don't you wish you did, madam?" rejoined he.

POETRY.

A SUMMER BIRD.

SHE was a lady from the town,
And he a simple country lad;
But on his suit she did not frown,
And, ah, poor soul! his heart was glad.

She came when summer birds were singing
Herself a bird, ah, none so fair!
All light and joy and music bringing
Into the sober country air.

He saw her first, one rosy morn
Beside a sweet brier, sore distressed,
For, oh, a keen and cruel thorn
Deep in her tender palm was pressed.

With skilful hand the thorn he drew,
And bound the wound with kerchief fast,
Ah, simple lad! he little knew
The thorn into his soul had passed!

For when into her heavenly eyes,
With tears suffused, he shyly glanced,
His thought flew upward to the skies,
With sudden, rapturous hope entranced.

But she—oh cruel lady—smiled
As o'er him flamed the sudden joy;
For many a heart had she beguiled,
To spura it, like a broken toy.

Now, day by day, through meadows fair,
And o'er the hill-sides, verdure-clad,
They idly roamed, a happy pair,
For she was kind and he was glad.

But swift the blissful hours flew by;
The summer ripened to decay;
The chill autumnal days drew nigh;
The birds sang low their parting lay;

And she—oh, bird of beauty rare:
Sang sweetly, too, her parting song;
And on the sober country air
The tender music lingered long.

Then, in the deepening twilight gray,
His tale of love again he told;
With mocking smile she turned away,
And left him 'mid the shadows cold.

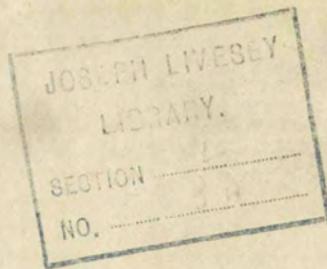
Ah, summer songsters come and go,
And years fade slowly into years,
But still at twilight, sweet and low,
Her tender parting song he hears.

—*Harper's Weekly*.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. ARCHIBALD WALKER, PORT-GLASGOW.—We have the, to us truly sorrowful, duty of placing the name of this worthy temperance reformer on the list of departed friends. He died on the 29th January, having passed by one year the term allotted by the Psalmist to human life. He was a public-spirited man; and a number of his friends wished to see him in the Town Council, but they failed in their patriotic intention. He was a leal-hearted abstainer and prohibitionist; and often at the Quay-head he was to be found supporting the advocates of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, who at all times he was eagerly pleased to assist. His life was one of vicissitudes common to staunch reformers who live ahead of their time, and political imprisonment was one of these, but he lived respected and died lamented by a wide circle of true friends.

5



THE

SOCIAL REFORMER:

THE ORGAN OF

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL

AND

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Volume XVI.

GLASGOW:

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

112 BATH STREET.

1882.



COPIAL BILBOURNE

[A large rectangular area of the page is covered by a semi-transparent white overlay, obscuring any text or images underneath.]



Page 20

THE SCOTTISH JOURNAL OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY

INDEX.

	PAGE		PAGE
Temperance and Social Reform :—		Ladies' Agitation, The,	
A Book to be avoided,	33	Licenses for Railway Carriages,	43
Action of Alcohol upon Health,	87	Licensing Difficulty in Campbelton, The,	149, 167
Dr. Richardson's Historic Landmarks,	161	Liquor Traffic's Contribution to the Revenue,	167
Exceptional Traffic, The,	18	Local Government Board and Small-pox Mor- tality in London,	93
How to Conduct a Band of Hope,	17, 53	Lord Rosebery and the Greenock Friends,	166
Is Alcohol Food?	126	Mr. Caine's Licensing Board Proposal,	60
Liquor Prohibition and Female Suffrage,	180	Mr. John Paton in Scotland,	148, 165
Obstructionists,	1	Mr. Muntz and his Chemical Discovery,	10
Partnership in Iniquity,	129	Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., on Drink and Responsi- bility,	77
Political Aspect of the Temperance Reformation,	69	New Licensing Bill for Scotland, The,	200
Robert Burns and the Wine Cup,	71	New Year's Tract,	132, 148
Side Issues,	180	Notorious Edinburgh Drunk, A,	9
Social Aspect of the Temperance Question, The,	4	Parliamentary Outlook, The,	8
Temperance Teaching from the John Street Murder,	178	Prince Consort and the London Ballast-heavers, Probabilities of a General Election, The,	202 185
The Miracle of Cana,	55	Professor Ramsay's Criticism,	25
The Permissive Bill—Arguments for and against, The Permissive Bill—Essay,	177 157	Publican's Trade Marks,	59
The Representation of Scotland from a Local Option Point of View,	147	Public-house Census,	201
The Relation of the Church to the Temperance Question,	193	Representation of Edinburgh,	94
Yet another Warning,	127	Revised New Testament in relation to Temper- ance,	42
Literary Articles :—		Reviving Trade,	168
About Health,	96	Rev. Newman Hall and Moral Suasion,	201
A Night with the Salvation Army,	194	Sanguhar Town Council,	78
A Plea for the Little Ones,	125	Sarnia Publicans and the Scott Act,	41
Common Sense, Common Facts, and Common Honesty,	127	Scotch Vote in the House of Commons,	59
England and the English,	35	Scotsman on Sir W. Lawson, The,	133
The Opium Traffic,	196	Scott Act in its Latest Struggle, The,	24
Leading Articles and Summaries :—		Scottish Permissive Bill Association and the Debate and Division on the Resolution,	58
Alliance Deputation,	164	Sir W. Lawson's New Resolution,	40
Annual Meetings,	92, 94, 122	Summer Work,	27, 77
Annual Report, The,	165	<i>The National Trades Guardian</i> ,	148
Birmingham Town Council and the Traffic,	9	United Kingdom Provident Institution,	59
Blue-Ribbon Movement in Scotland, The,	184	United Manifesto, The,	186
Charity Organization of Relief Society and Drunks, The,	167	Voice of Grangemouth, The,	151
Chemist's Testimonial, A,	25	Work of the Association, The,	165
Church Offerings and Drink Expenditure,	151	Our Book-Shelf :—	
Claims of the Association for Support, The, Conferences,	77 134	Annual Report Bonhill Total Abstinence Society,	99
Convention of Royal Burghs and Local Option, Cottier's Bill, The,	25 93	A Word for the Pledge,	99
Debate in the Commons, The,	59	Consumption and other Chest Diseases,	100
Deputation to Lord Rosebery,	149	Danger Signals,	155
Drink Mortality,	148	Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society—Annual Report,	175
Dr. M'Culloch's Tract,	41, 76	Good Cookery,	155
Drunkenness in Railway Carriages and on board Ships,	132	Health—How to Obtain and how to Preserve it,	100
Drunken Savage's Testimony against Drink, A, Earl of Zetland and the Grangemouth Publicans, Eccentricities of Philanthropy, The,	24 8 8	Health Reform Colonist,	208
Editor's New Year Greeting,	164	More than Conquerors,	175
Education and Temperance,	95	National Temperance League Annual for 1881,	139
Electoral Registration,	78	Penicuik Total Abstinence Society's Register,	15
Ex-Governor Dingley on the State of Maine, Female Voters,	24 184	Poor Law Reform,	16
Finances of the Association, The,	27, 133	Report of Aberdeen Temperance Society,	155
Generous Donation, A,	184	Report of Women's Temperance Prayer Union, Scottish Congregational Society's Occasional Papers,	176 15
Government and the Land League Publicans, Home Rulers and Early Closing in Ireland, The, "How Scotch Whisky is made,"	78 58 166	Silver and Gold,	175
Inconsistencies of the Legislature,	76	Stones from the Brook,	176
Intemperance in relation to Suicide,	58	The Watch's First Owner,	72
Intemperance in Switzerland,	150	The Passion of the Drunkard for Strong Drink, 130, The Smoker's Guide,	139 155
Knighthood to Ex-Lord Provost Collins,	93	The Drink Problem and its Solution,	156
		The Economic Influence of the Drinking Cust- oms of Society upon the Nation's Well- being,	155
		Various,	99, 139, 155, 175
		William Morley Punshon, Preacher and Orator	100

	PAGE		PAGE
Correspondence:—		Dumfries—Local Option Demonstration,	190
A Canadian Repulse,	37	Edinburgh Band of Hope Union,	14
A Week in Edinburgh,	73	Edinburgh Election,	98
Canadian Churches, The,	56	Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society to the Citizens of Edinburgh, The,	136
Deputation to Lord Rosebery, The,	147	Elgin—Mr. Paton's Lecture,	136
Do Public-houses condition Drunkenness?	11	Fifth General Union for Prayer for the Entire Removal of the Traffic in Intoxicating Liquors and Opium,	68
Finances of the Association, The,	38	Glasgow—Sermon by Rev. R. S. Lynd,	174
Great Meeting in Edinburgh,	163	Good Trade,	206
Movement in the North, The,	38, 88	Grangemouth—Temperance Demonstration,	48, 190
Nation's Drink Bill for 1880, The,	20	Great Temperance Demonstration in Edinburgh,	168
Notes from Canada,	74, 163	Great Temperance Movement at Forfar,	175
Professor Ramsay's Explanation,	56	Greenock—New Year Soiree,	189
Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Asso- ciation, The,	145	Hawick—Local Option Conference,	206
State Protection and High Duties on Liquor,	19	Highland Temperance League,	82
Temperance Ribbon Mission, The,	145	Increase of Drunkenness,	206
The Editor to his Contributors,	11	Interview with Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P.,	136
Unfermented Wine Vigilance Committee, The,	74	Irvine,	173
Public Press:—		Irvine—Temperance Crusade,	78
Alcohol Deadens Sensibility of Feeling,	191	Jedburgh—Local Option Conference,	206
An Ancient Temperance Pledge,	90	J. H. Waterston,	174
Cause and the Cure, The,	50	Killearn,	68
Church of England Temperance Society,	57	Kelso—Local Option Conference,	206
Communion Wine Question,	91	Licenses for Railway Carriages,	49
Cry of the Captive, The,	192	Linlithgow—Local Option Meeting,	189
Deputation to Lord Rosebery,	138	Lord Rosebery on Local Option,	152
Force of Example, The,	192	Midlothian and Local Option,	39
Fundamental Principles,	7	Mr. Blackwood in Lerwick,	32
Governor Talbot's Message—Vetoing and License Law,	90	Mr. Gladstone and the Licensing Question,	205
How to Succeed,	137	Office-bearers Scottish Permissive Bill and Tem- perance Association for 1881-82,	138
Illustration from the "Fair Maid of Perth,"	57	On the Wing,	144
It Doesn't Pay,	90	Paisley Temperance Jubilee,	191
Jeannie Deans,	90	Parishes without Public-houses,	124
Missing Sawmill, The,	56	Parliamentary Session, 13, 29, 43, 62, 79, 96, 123, 204	204
Mr. Burton on the Permissive Bill,	143	Peebles—Local Option Meeting,	188
North-west Canada,	137	Port-Glasgow—Local Option Meeting,	189
Recreation,	23	Pollokshaws,	31
Stornoway ripe for Local Option,	57	Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Waterston,	31
Sustaining the Temperance Press,	7	Presentation to Sir Wm. and Lady Collins,	153
Temperance Mission at Arbroath,	199	Price of Whisky,	174
Temperate by Law,	7	Progress of the Work, 51, 75, 91, 137, 154, 209	209
The Times on Mr. Hoyle's Letter,	22	Public-houses in Nazareth,	82
Three Requisites for Successful Legislation,	90	The Rechabites,	32, 82
Under the Influence of Liquor,	199	Ratepayers of Dumfries and the Licensing Ques- tion,	32
Various,	7, 137	Renfrew—Local Option Meeting,	173
What Barley is,	199	St. Andrews—Local Option Meeting,	207
Which is Healthier—the Drinker or Abstainer?	192	Subjection of Women,	32
Tales, Sketches, &c.:—		Temperance Conference in Dundee,	47
Bitter Reaping,	2	Temperance Meetings in Perth,	187
Fruits,	130, 159, 141, 182, 197	The Elgin Burghs Election,	80
How to enjoy Holidays,	21	Then and Now,	173
Little Charlie,	36	The Newest Legal Duty,	174
The Watch's First Owner,	72, 88	The Scott Act marching along,	174
What Mr. Gray took,	56	Tory and Liberal Abstaining Clergymen,	189
Poetry:—		Twenty-third Annual Meetings,	101
A Humble Grave,	183	Unfermented Wine,	206
Ambition,	100	United Kingdom Alliance, The,	135
Books,	131	Various,	152, 172, 188, 205
December,	147	Wines, Scriptural and Ecclesiastical,	153
Sing, my Birdie,	7	Obituary:—	
The Hawthorn Spray,	91	Badger, The late Mrs., Haddington,	140
The Old Clock,	176	Blair, ,, Mr. R., Lasswade,	16
The Rivulet,	199	Buchanan, ,, Mr. John, Dumbuck,	176
"The Wife Owre Eye,"	39	Howat, ,, Mr. Edward, Newport,	140
Intelligence:—		Johnston, ,, Mr. John, Dumfries,	50
Aberdeen—Conference on Local Option,	173	M'Donald, ,, Mr. John, Aberdeen,	121
Accident Insurance and Temperance,	153	Shanks, ,, Mr. Wm., Bridge of Weir,	32
A Convict's Opinion,	174	Slater, ,, Mr. John, Lerwick,	140
An Unappropriated Heritage,	82	Smith, ,, Mr. Duncan, Glasgow,	208
A Sober Burgh,	188	Thomson, ,, Rev. Alex., Peebles,	16
A Temperance Fifty,	206	Mitchell Memorial, The,	84
Barrhead—Bazaar,	163	Varieties:—	
Barrhead—Conference and Public Meeting,	173	8, 10, 16, 27, 32, 36, 39, 50, 55, 75, 100, 121, 143, 147, 156, 163, 176	
Berwick Election,	135	Alcohol Alphabetically considered,	57
Circular to Scotch Representatives,	68	British Tar, The, Past and Present,	50
County Government Bill,	188	Fair Answer,	57
Demonstration at Portobello,	189	License at Bar of God,	61
Drovers,	68	Servant Question, The,	39
Drunkenness in Dundee,	206		
Dumbarton Local Parliament,	28		

THE
Social Reformer.

APRIL, 1881.

OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

BY REV. S. HARDING, PAISLEY.

WE are not about to refer in this paper to the organized obstruction which has lately prevailed in the British Parliament, nor to the tactics pursued by the party which has earned for itself an unenviable notoriety in opposing the Government measures for Ireland. Their indomitable perseverance, love of country, and self-abnegation, has for the time being given them a name among their countrymen.

Unfortunately obstructionists are not confined to the party referred to, but they are found in connection with the various societies, and organizations, of the present day. They are a slippery, crotchety, critical, crooked, dissatisfied party, that breed distrust, create dissension, and cause obstruction wherever they go.

The temperance party has been hampered, and its progress retarded by these persons. We are not referring to the liquor traffickers. It is their duty to oppose, and obstruct, in every possible way those who are seeking the overthrow of their traffic. We might as reasonably expect Satan to have sympathy with holiness, as for the liquor traffickers to have any sympathy with the work of temperance reformers. The interests of the traffickers and abstainers are directly opposed to each other. It is not with these that we have to deal now. There are obstructionists more powerful for evil, because found in our own ranks, wearing our uniform, and having their names on our roll. They are most difficult to manage. They bend and twist, ascend and descend, some of them are attired in a reversible coat that can be worn in all kinds of weather, and meet the varied circumstances of social and political life. Their consciences are very accommodating. Instead of being seared "as with a hot iron" they are very susceptible and possess a wonderful elasticity, so as to become "all things to all men." They are divided into several classes, each performing its own work in obstructing the temperance movement. We do not mean to insinuate that this is done designedly, but the tactics adopted practically interfere with the onward progress of our movement. Let us for a moment listen to the

TALKERS. Speech-making is a wonderful faculty. On great occasions, such as conferences, conversations, and annual meetings, what a display of talent in this department. If one could credit these brethren, their whole being is surcharged with a message of love, and sympathy, to their fellow-men, and that henceforth their entire being will be consecrated to the great work of driving intemperance from the land. Alas! their sympathies are in many instances like "the morning cloud and early dew." In the days of conflict and toil, they leave others to fight the enemy and bear the burden and

heat of the day, while they quietly attend to their own business, and take care of *number one*. Their indifference has a damaging effect upon those who look up to them as examples of self-denial, and earnestness, but are bitterly disappointed when they discover inactivity and selfishness; they cannot come to any other conclusion save that their connection with the movement amounts to little more than talk.

TRIMMERS. These form a very select party. They belong to the secret service department of the movement. They have graduated at the school of the town-clerk at Ephesus, and their policy is based upon the maxim, "Do nothing rashly." They have not an unkind word to say against those in the trade, and are very much offended when they hear others doing so. They profess great zeal in the temperance cause, but when the time comes for decisive action they hesitate, become time-servers, lower the standard, compromise the movement, and are prepared to receive any instalment offered, instead of the entire removal of the drink curse. Just imagine Wilberforce, in the Anti-Slavery agitation, and Cobden and Bright in the Free Trade struggle adopting such tactics as theirs. These had one object before them, the abolition of Slavery and the Corn Laws. There could be no half-measures. No instalments. No compromise. They persisted in their agitation, and slavery received its death blow, and free trade in the people's food became the law of the land. Surely after half-a-century the time has fully come for temperance men to demand a suspension of "the standing orders," and bring in the "cloture," so that these trimming obstructionists may be shunted out of the way.

TRIFLERS.—These form a numerous party, having many admirers and a numerous following. They issue an attractive programme, the object of which is to popularize the temperance movement. The most attractive portion of the programme is comic singing, clog dancing, and negro comedy.

Our fathers fought the drink curse with facts and arguments drawn from every-day life, and produced illustrations ("living epistles") of the beneficial results of total abstinence. In those days reclaimed drunkards occasionally related their experience at the meetings, and many a coat sleeve, and apron, testified to the power of the truth as it was raised to wipe away the tear, while a higher assembly was interested in the meetings, and saw cause for rejoicing over sinners repenting.

There was singing also in those days. It was full of sympathy and compassion for the perishing.

The poor drunkard was thus described:—

"A nation's curse, a slave to sin,
Despised without, reproached within;
Then help us, Lord, in thy great name
The sinful drunkard to reclaim."

There was a spell thrown over the people who attended the meetings, and in many instances the results justified the singing—

“The Ethiop’s white, the lion’s tamed,
The wretched drunkard is reclaimed.”

Alongside the pioneers of the movement, who did exploits in the Master’s service, those triflers are only as “reeds shaken with the wind.” The sooner they are blown out of the way by a temperance hurricane the better for the movement.

GRUMBLERS.—Grumbling is an inexpensive habit, and can be indulged in for a considerable time without affecting the purse. Neither does it require a large amount of intelligence to become a member of the grumbling fraternity. This party exists in our ranks for no other purpose than fault-finding, and taking exception to certain phases of our movement, because they are not in keeping with their peculiar ideas. They believe themselves infallible. Were they intrusted with power every organization would be a grand success. Had they been consulted no mistakes would have been committed, no embarrassment taken place, no failures have been recorded. We could tolerate such persons were it not, that when the tug of war comes, and every man is expected to do his duty, these hydropathists appear with their wet sheet to damp the movement for aggressive action against the enemy. Happy would it be for the cause, if an emigration scheme could be devised for the shipment of the entire party to some distant island, where they would have full scope for their grumbling proclivities.

DOUBTERS.—This party always look at the dark side of the picture, as they gaze upon the fearful ravages of intemperance and behold the stronghold of liquorism, they are overwhelmed with fear and unbelief, and reiterate the old cry, “We be not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we. And we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants, and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” What a humiliating sight—what a cowardly confession. Not more so than is often presented in connection with our movement. When the entire overthrow of the liquor traffic is proposed, and legal measures be adopted, these doubting ones rush in among the people and say the thing is Utopian, and impossible. Those who talk about the impossibility of overthrowing the liquor traffic, are doing their very best to prevent its overthrow by their unbelief. It is a lack of faith in God, and in the power of the truth, that makes men speak of impossibility in connection with the temperance movement.

“Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,
And looks to that alone,
Laughs at impossibilities,
And cries it shall be done.”

Unless these doubting rush-lights of the movement cast away their uncertain illumination, “urgency” must be demanded, and an extinguisher invented that will put the *quietus* on them for the future.

TRAITORS.—If we accept the definition of a traitor as “one who violates his allegiance or trust, and betrays his country or cause,” we shall have little, or no difficulty in pointing out that such are, unfortunately, to be found in the temperance ranks. If our principles are paramount, and the issues at stake be far above and beyond any question of the day, then we are bound by our connection with the movement to be loyal to those principles at all times, and under all circumstances, or, why belong to the cause at all? The old proverb, “Actions

speaking louder than words,” has often been verified in the case of temperance men—who, during election times have not only forgotten their principles and deserted the cause, but for political purposes have actually worked side by side with the traffickers themselves. If a soldier of Her Majesty was taken red-handed, in company with the enemy he would be summarily dealt with, and there would be no hesitation in calling him by his right name, **TRAITOR!** And we hope the time is not far distant, when such as desert our flag and collude with the enemy will be designated by the same inglorious name, and either “bring forth fruits meet for repentance,” or be ignominiously drummed out of the regiment.

BITTER REAPING.

MANY years ago there stood within an old-fashioned garden on the banks of the Thames at Richmond, a cottage, occupied by a widow lady named Blake. She had come there with her only child, a boy ten years of age, and even the curious failed to discover who she was and whence she came. She was unmistakably a lady, and had evidently passed through much trouble, for her hair was prematurely grey and her brow marked with the lines of care. They lived in strict seclusion, and the boy received his education from the vicar, who with his wife were the only visitors admitted to the cottage. When Tom Blake left his boyhood behind, and stood on the threshold of manhood, the good vicar procured for him a clerk’s situation in the firm of Ballantyne & Co., German merchants, Eastgate Street, City. It was gratefully accepted, for the widow’s means were slender, and in due time the young man repaired to London to enter on his new life. He was to reside there, coming home only at stated intervals. In these days travelling even a short distance was not so easy a matter as a long journey is now. Tom Blake was a clever, energetic, young man, but he lacked the steady principles and unwavering decision so needful in the battle of life.

“A jolly good fellow,” his friends called him, and the words were characteristic of him to whom they were applied.

On a certain summer morning the postboy left a letter at the cottage. It was addressed to Mrs. Blake in a formal business hand, and the envelope bore the monogram of the head of her son’s firm. She was just sitting down to breakfast when it came, and she broke the seal with some anxiety, hoping for good news yet fearing all was not right. This was the letter:—

Eastgate Street,
City, June ... 18...

Dear Madam,—It is my painful duty to inform you that your son has grievously disappointed our expectations. The energy and attention with which he applied himself to business on first entering our house has given place to unpardonable idleness and carelessness. On several occasions he has occasioned us great inconvenience and annoyance, but in consideration for you we have hitherto refrained from complaint, where in ordinary circumstances we should have dispensed with his services at once. For your sake we are willing to give him another chance. But we think it incumbent upon us to inform you that he has formed a circle of acquaintances, and contracted habits which will surely pave the road to ruin. No later than yesterday morning he came into our office in a state of intoxication.

Perhaps a word from you might benefit him.

Believe me, yours truly,

JAMES BALLANTYNE,

Mrs. Blake rose from the breakfast table and went to the window. It was open, and the summer sunbeams played on the half-blown buds on the rose trees. She did not cry, she had come through the tribulation which dries up all tears, but her lips grew very white and quivered pitifully.

"It has come at last," she half whispered, "the curse of the Blakes has passed from father to son once more. God help my poor boy, and, O God, sustain me!"

The breakfast stood long untouched upon the table, till the widow removed the things with hurried hands, and then began to make preparations for a journey. She was going to London by the mid-day boat.

The steamer left punctually at the hour, carrying but a handful of passengers. In the heat of summer tide the cool shades of Richmond were infinitely preferable to the noise and din of the city.

When Tom Blake came home to his lodgings at five o'clock that night, he found his mother waiting for him, and for the first time in his life wished himself many miles from her presence. His greeting was constrained, for he easily surmised what had brought her.

She scanned his face (so like her own) with keen and loving eyes, and as she looked a great shadow filled them.

"What's up, mother?" Tom asked at length, flushing beneath her steady gaze. "Are you ill?"

"I have come in consequence of a letter I received from Mr. Ballantyne this morning," she said. Oh my boy, my heart will break!"

Conscience-stricken he turned to the window, and stood drumming his fingers on the pane. "They needn't have gone worrying you," he said at last. "I haven't done anything worth making a row about."

"It has gone far indeed before Mr. Ballantyne would write such a letter," was the sad reply, "and I am afraid he has not told me the worst."

"One must see life some time or other," said the young man impatiently. "I'm no worse than my neighbours, not half so bad as some of them."

An old excuse that, my friends, which has found utterance millions of times since the world began.

There was a short silence. "Tom," said the widow suddenly, "I'm coming to live in London."

"To live in London," re-echoed the young man blankly, "It would kill you in a week; I have often heard you say so."

"Not so surely nor so cruelly as bearing suspense at home," replied she, "I ought to have come at first, but I thought I could trust you."

The implied reproach stung him to the quick, and it was well that she did not see the look that darkened his fine face.

In something less than a month the quiet nest at Richmond was given up, and Mrs. Blake came to a small dingy house in a quiet by-street in London. For a few weeks thereafter Tom's conduct was exemplary. Mr. Ballantyne expressed his satisfaction at the change for the better, and the anxious mother's heart began to be at rest. But by-and-by the restraint wore off, and the tempter once more asserted his sway over the young man's weak and yielding mind. Habits long formed are not easily broken off. His boon companions, friends he called them, were clamorous for his company at the club-room, the theatre, and the bar of the public house. They missed the gay speech, witty repartee, and merry jesting ways, which made him so popular. So night after night he was absent, and the lonely mother lived again the misery she had endured during the last ten years of her husband's life. The son was but too surely following in his father's footsteps.

Her small annuity was sufficient only for her own simple needs, and Tom's earnings were spent to the last farthing on himself, ay, more, he sank deep in debt without the shadow of a hope that he could ever extricate himself.

One morning in the early spring he happened to be left alone in Mr. Ballantyne's private room. Both the principals were absent, and Tom was supposed to be busy with some work his clever head was best able to master. In reality he was leaning his arms on the table, scanning with gloomy eyes an open letter before him. It was a gentle reminder from a creditor that he owed the sum of forty pounds, and requesting immediate payment, or . . . Tom did not turn the sheet, knowing too well what followed. "I must get him shut up somehow," he muttered in a savage undertone. "Life's not worth having at the price. No end of bother for ever at a fellow's heels."

He crushed up the letter in his hand, mentally wishing it was its author, and began to pace restlessly up and down the floor. It did not occur to him that he was stealing his employers' time. Suddenly a cashbox arrested his eye, and he stopped short before it. It was locked, but the key had been left carelessly on the lid. No suspicion of Blake's honesty had ever crossed the minds of Ballantyne & Co. Tom looked at it for a second or two, and then resumed his walk till again he found himself in front of it.

A wild thought flashed through his brain, but he put it resolutely from him, and drawing his neglected work towards him, began to write for dear life. But his restless eyes wandered again and again to the unconscious box, and finally he threw down his pen, fitted the key in the lock, and raised the lid. It was a great temptation. There was enough, ay more than enough, to satisfy all his claims, and it might not be missed. Ballantyne & Co. were sometimes careless with loose money, sometimes, but not often. He fingered the banknotes lovingly, some of them were clean and crisp, others limp and discoloured. He let the lid drop, then raised it and looked again. Ah, Tom! Tom! you did not know what lifelong misery that second look was to cost you! He took in his hand two notes, each for twenty pounds, slipped them into his vest pocket, locked the box, and replaced the key, and went back to make up the arrears of his work.

For a week he heard nothing and grew light of heart. But one morning the heads of the firm were together in the private room, and this is what passed. Mr. Ballantyne was examining the cashbox, and checking from a slip of paper the number of each note. It was not a usual thing for him to do, but unfortunately for young Blake, every note in the box had been carefully numbered. "There are two notes missing, Gresham," said Mr. Ballantyne, addressing his partner. "Do you know anything of them?" No, Mr. Gresham knew nothing of them, he had not looked into the cashbox for a few days. There followed, of course, a diligent search and a questioning of the clerks all round. Suspicion fell not on Tom, but on one of the senior clerks whom the firm had reason to distrust. That individual smiled when he saw the principal's dubious looks, and requested a few minutes' private conversation. It was granted, and he related what he had seen through a small side window that morning Tom Blake occupied the private room alone. He had held his peace then, and bided his time.

Mr. Ballantyne was shocked, surprised, and grieved, for he had a strong liking for Tom Blake, and determined to obtain more proof before bringing an accusation against him. His informant had not

been idle, he found out what Tom had done with the money. Mr. Ballantyne went to the individual in question, compared numbers with the notes Tom had given and found them to be the same.

So that night when Tom was sitting with his mother in her little parlour, she, poor soul, rejoicing at having her boy beside her for an evening, a knock came to the door, and before Tom could turn his head a heavy hand was laid upon his shoulder, and a rough voice said, "You are my prisoner."—The charge was found proven, and the sentence nine months' imprisonment. At the time of which I write our prisons were not what they are to-day. There was neither distinction nor classification of the prisoners. Old hardened offenders were allowed to mix freely with those who were confined for merely nominal offences. The system was one of the worst on record, and so the gaols and bridewells became the veriest hotbeds and nurseries of crime, and many who had entered scarcely tainted by vice, left old in the ways of wickedness. Fortunately, Tom Blake escaped the contagion. He held himself utterly aloof from them, doing the task allotted to him in silence. His mother was allowed to see him sometimes. Ah, dear friends, I cannot try to tell you what these meetings were like, no pen on earth can adequately describe a tithe of a mother's love. The hot and sultry summer sped, autumn waned and died, and the day before Christmas Tom was set free. The prison gates closed upon a miserable man, broken down in health and spirits; these nine months had done what twenty years of ordinary life could not have done at all. His mother waited for him, more loving, more tender than before. The whole world might point the finger of scorn at him, she was his mother still. They went home together, not to the London house, nor to Richmond, but to a little village on the Cornish coast, where they and their story were unknown. Mrs. Blake was ailing, but no complaint passed her lips and he did not see it. He roamed about the wild shore in the bleak wintry weather, seeming to find some strange companionship in the winds and the roar of the sea as it spent its strength against the cliffs. Mrs. Blake thought long and earnestly, praying ever for guidance from above, and then she spoke. He must go abroad, she said, to Australia, where he could begin life anew, free from the old influences, and where the blot upon his name would never be known. She would remain behind, she was old and frail, she said smiling sadly, and should but hamper his movements. She remained firm, and he went alone. On a wild and boisterous March evening they stood together on the deck of an outward-bound vessel. The bell rang for the strangers to depart. She put her arms about him and kissed him for the last time, knowing that on earth they should meet no more.

The struggling moonbeams crept out that night upon the sea, and touched the bowed head of the exile, as if trying to lighten the bitterness of death within his soul. The moonbeams rested too, on a poor white head, bowed in prayer, in a lonely cottage home, and God heard and sent comfort.

There is in Melbourne at the present time a large and influential mercantile firm, known as Blake & Co. Blake is a very old man now, and his connection with the house merely nominal. He is married but is childless. But the wealth which has accumulated in his coffers is consecrated to the Lord's work, and bears a rich harvest. The old man has a peculiar interest in young men, and has done many a one in calculable good.

Once only, soon after his marriage, Tom Blake and his wife visited Europe. They went first to the rude churchyard of the wild seacoast village, where

a heart sorely rent and riven by the world's tempests finds a peaceful resting place at last.

They cut a square of daisied turf from the little mound, and carried it back to their beautiful Australian home. It is Tom Blake's only relic of his mother. One day the old man hopes to meet her where all sorrows are unknown.

Gorebridge,

A. S. S.

THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

Read before the monthly meeting of the Dumfries Abstinents' Union by REV. G. W. TOOLEY.

ONE of the most famous books ten years ago was Buckle's History of Civilisation in Europe. It went upon the supposition that man, like oak trees, or vegetable marrows, or turnips, was a creature of law, and went upwards and downwards according to the position he was placed in. Put a tribe on the hill-sides of Switzerland, and they became a hardy, liberty-loving, honest, and single-hearted race. They would not tolerate a monarchical government, and despotism would not be borne without a fierce battle that would last till the despot was driven away. The oxygenised air, the hard conditions of their physical life, made them what they were in bodily and spiritual nature. The inaccessible nature of their country made them politically free. Put another tribe, originally of the same stock, on the wide plains of Hindostan, where no mountain ranges intervene, where tropical heat constantly prevails, where the food of life grows easily and abundantly; and you will find them in course of time what the Hindoos are, an enervated, if not slavish race, a people ready to the hand of any despotic genius, and open to the worse than political tyranny, the most fearful form of religious and priestly rule.

By a number of carefully compiled statistics, Mr. Buckle tried to prove his point that the human race is what it is, in every clime and land, by the action of outside circumstances, political laws, religious habits, and social customs.

It is on this assumption that the science of our day is going. Its error lies in its partiality and oneness. It is true as far as it goes. But even the clear-sighted Professor Huxley begins to admit that man's free-will and spontaneity of action in all ages must be taken for something. While I firmly maintain man's free-will or spontaneity, or originality of action, I fully admit the other side of human progress, its influence of circumstances. To a very large extent, we are what our environment makes us. Had I been born in Zululand some forty years ago, I might have turned out a Cetewayo instead of a Baptist minister in Dumfries. Had you been born in the Arctic zone, you might have been to-day a short, stuffy Esquimaux, dining with gusto upon your 6 lbs. of grease and fat, and worshipping a fetish instead of a supreme God who fills all things. The science of our day is more and more proving that the way of man's advance lies in improved conditions and more perfect surroundings. Remove temptations to vice; drill and instruct the human mind by wise laws; clear out of your cities all close alleys and courts; educate the whole people; and you remove from human nature that which kept it down. It will then spring upward to the Infinite, as the balloon shoots into the awful firmament above it when every cord that bound it to earth is severed.

Our position is that the social state of a people in any age is the index of the truth and perfection of the surroundings which its Government has placed around it, and likewise of the ability and free action of its nobler spirits conquering their surroundings or the customary ideas of their age, by their keen intellect, spontaneous action, and daring will.

It is not easy to give an accurate picture of the social condition of the British Isles as affected by the drinking customs of our time. It is so apparent that alcohol is operating as a fearful weight upon the nation that its very apparence makes it difficult to understand

vividly. It would be a grand aid to all social and political reformers—aye, and theological reformers too—if one could transport their opponents for an hour to the vantage ground of the angels, and see their false ideas at work as the angels see them.

“O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
And foolish notion.”

But I propose investigating this subject by a careful study of the statistics of a particular district, the city of London. That will be a very fair gauge by which to measure the rest of the realm.

I. *Alcohol and Family Life.*—And the first thing I would get from these figures is the influence of alcoholic drinking upon the family life.

In 1878 in London there were 35,408 apprehensions for drunkenness. I may safely more than double that number, and say in round figures there were, in a particular year, 1878, 80,000 families in the city of London being foully desecrated by the drinking system. Of course, this is immensely below the mark; but let us see what it means. 80,000 persons out of a population of four and a half millions gives a percentage of 1 in every 55. It means that 1 person in every 55 of the city of London has, through drink, been in or near to a criminal jail. Take these 35,408 persons, and say that a family averages four persons only, and you have one of every 30 families being demoralised and saddened by drunkenness. This is not the effect of moderate drinking, but that one in every 30 families in London at least is being outraged, desecrated by drunken riots, and one of its members periodically in the gaol and police courts. It is in the home that human life is made. It is there that boys and girls are cultured for the citizenship of the nation, and for the duties of parents, husbands, and wives. It is there that the soul's noblest sentiments are either ennobled and expanded or depressed and distorted. Now, think of the future of a people where in one out of every 30 of its schools of future home and national life you have the scene that drunkenness records. The family environment is demoralised to the greatest extent. Boys and girls are born with vitiated blood because born of drunken parents; they are vitiated mentally because their finer susceptibilities are hurt and corrupted every day by those who live in bestial pleasures; they are vitiated morally because there is no more appalling devilry than a home with a habitual raving drunkard at its head. You must picture 35,000 homes at least in that teeming city, with trembling wives, with cowering children, with frenzied scenes. One Saturday night I entered a home where a man was seizing a pot of boiling water on the fire, ready to hurl it at his wife, who was dishevelled and bloody from blows; and underneath a table, screaming in frantic fear, were five children, the oldest not more than ten. And a similar scene to that went on every week. You must multiply that by 35,000, and you get some faint idea of the kind of family life made by the public-house traffic in one city only!

Now, the soul, the inward life, is the real one. The greatest battles go on in that unseen sphere of a man's mind or a woman's heart. I saw the great Tooley Street fire that raged for weeks, and destroyed £30,000,000 of property; I have stood on the great battle-fields of British history, and thought of the amount of life destroyed; I remember the thrilling account of the battle of Gravelotte in the Franco-German war in 1870, when 15,000 men were laid in death's cold gore beneath the cannon and sword blades of ruthless Germany; I have read of 2,000,000 of Hindoos dying with starvation on the plains of Orissa; I have heard of thousands of families widowed, orphaned by one single storm upon the Atlantic; but is there anything so persistent in its warfare, so deadly in its destructive power, so subtle and far-reaching, as this greatest of all invaders—alcohol, entering 35,000 homes in one city, week by week, month by month, year by year, generation by generation, and destroying the fond hopes of 35,000 trusting wives, blasting the highest happiness of 35,000 husbands, and withering

at its very source the promising life of 200,000 children. And that war goes on with its terrible cannonading with as persistent a regularity as the motion of the earth round the sun. The sun rises every day on London's 35,000 drunken homes; the moon looks nightly on 35,000 frenzied madmen; and so it will go on till the nation rises in its strength, puts its hand upon the originating force, and, by stopping that, hushes the tumult and stays the soul and body bloodshed of the most ghastly war this earth has ever seen upon its war-stained bosom.

II. *Drink and Woman.*—Secondly: Looking at these figures, I notice another serious effect upon social life. If the home be the preparatory school of the nation, the woman in the home is the presiding and inspiring genius. Napoleon once said, “Show me the mothers of a nation, and I can tell you what the future of that nation will be.” The glory of the ancient republic of Rome was undoubtedly owing, not to the muscular strength of its men, or to their splendid discipline, but to the soul put into them by the wives and mothers of their homes. When the wives and mothers of Augustan Rome had lost the pride of womanly virtue, the decay of Rome had begun in spite of all its seeming splendour. And the most terrible sign of the drinking traffic is the increase of female drunkenness; and, especially, since the time of grocers' licenses. Now, in 1877, in London, 7,561 out of 15,492 drunken cases, were women—one half; and 7,796 out of 16,877 drunk and disorderly cases—a total of 15,357 females out of 32,269 cases, only 827 below the half. God only knows what this means. Even nations at war are not bad enough to poison each other's streams, even when at the highest devilry of a campaign. And yet in Christian England, in proud and cultured London, in 1877, 15,357 women, nearly all wives and mothers, stood at the docks of its police courts, arraigned there for drunkenness, the synonym for the state lower than beastliness. And these figures are but a modicum of the actual fact. Here you have scenes such as you must go into the vile slums, as I have, on Saturday night, to witness. 15,000 women with babies at the breast drinking gin; 15,000 women, wives and mothers, shrieking obscenity in the open street that would shame the devil; 15,000 women, impregnated, bestialized, demoralized, devilled, giving birth to children, the future fathers and mothers of the English nation!

What is there more beautiful than a woman's nature? Who of us is not softened by the thought of a mother, wife, sister, or lover? To think of a woman's soul, with its fine feelings, its beautiful organisation, its sublime capacities—to think of that being entered by the foulness of alcoholic drunkenness is like thinking of heaven being entered by an army of unclean spirits. And it is not a creation of my fancy; it is there in London, in all England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, a solid, awful fact.

My pen is baffled in its descriptive power by the awful width and depth of the facts. It means badly-kept homes, badly-cooked food, and wasted earnings. Who would think of rearing families amid the darkness and gloom of a coal-pit? We think we are wise because our laws forbid that. Yet the actual fact is that in London there are to-day, 1881, A.D., 15,000 wives and mothers rearing children in places that can only find their parallels in the abodes of Satan's hell. For one of the most lamentable facts of our civilised life is the insensibility of nearly all to what affects the highest, the soul-nature of our people. We can understand arguments that appeal to our bodily senses, but it is awfully hard to get even our purest and loftiest minds, let alone the mass of the population, to see facts as they affect the real being of man, his soul-nature. That which destroys the body is palpable, men say; but, to a clear insight, the most palpable of all facts is the destruction of mind and heart and conscience, and with them of happiness and human progress that such figures as these make clear.

III. *Drink and Children.*—Equally lurid is the aspect when we view it in relation to children. Statistics here as to the after consequences will help us greatly. Chaplains to gaols are unanimous in saying that nine

out of ten prisoners have passed through our Sabbath schools in England. I take that fact in England as a better index to the real state of matters than it would be in Scotland, because scarcely a child in England and Wales but spends some years in the Sunday school, whereas in Scotland that is not so universally true. Now, here we have nine out of ten gaol prisoners once Sabbath school scholars. What has effected the change in these Sunday school children? Let statistics answer. Eight out of these nine scholars have got there through drink. Lord Coleridge and Justice Brett, and nearly all the court judges, are agreed in saying, as the result of their experience, that nine-tenths of the crime that comes before them is through drink. Now, in that vast criminal class that crowd a palatial-looking prison in every county and corporation town, you see the outcome of that drunken home, and that drunken wife-and-mother system we have been investigating. Our criminals are not made in criminal training shops, *after they become men and women*, they are made in the homes where drink reigns as a domestic god. I have known hundreds of cases personally where the Sunday school child has gone straight from the school to the home where twelve hours before there was a Saturday night row between father and mother, and where, on that Sunday afternoon, the father has got out of bed after sleeping off the debauch of Saturday, and is beginning the Sunday tittle to end in the quieter Sunday night drink, and possibly, and generally, preliminary to a Monday's "on the spree," to commence work on Tuesday morning after breakfast. It is in homes like that that our criminal and depraved classes are bred. Their education as gaol-birds or paupers begins at a gin-drinking mother's breast—ay, before, if I dare go into that—and is improved, or worsened, by those home scenes.

Now, a human soul well-developed, morally and mentally, is a beautiful object—it is divine. When you see a lark soaring in the morning air, and carolling as it goes, you have a sense of the rightness and joyousness of things. When, on the other hand, you enter those vast American caves, filled with bats flying about in darkness, totally blind, there creeps over you a feeling of horror. When we find human beings growingly sensitive to moral truth, and advancing in its perfection, we feel all is well. But to know that thousands of our boys and girls are growing up in such a pestiferous atmosphere so reeking with alcoholic fumes that they grow callous to moral distinctions, can jump on prostrate and pregnant women, as I have seen them do, can starve children to feed coursing dogs, can see nothing in the relation of men and women but what the beast sees; a trade which stunts, deforms, dislocates human souls like that, is a terrible social fact. The fault is not in the soul as it comes from God, the fault is in the environment which we—we, as a nation—have surrounded it from its birth to its manhood and the grave. The fault is in the 700 miles long of public houses, licensed to sell drink, with which we have bedizened our streets with garish light, as if with similar lights to those with which Nero lit Rome, when he sewed up the Christians in tarred sacks to light the night darkness of the seven-hilled city.

IV. *Drink and Public Amusements.*—I would also allude to another phase of social life. People will amuse themselves, and rightly so. And here the drink demon reigns supreme as elsewhere. All acquainted with London life will be familiar with its music halls, its penny gaffs, its public house sung songs, and smoke rooms, and its theatres. In the billiard rooms and smoke saloons behold the places where the more respectable young men are being bewitched with the fatal glass. I allude to this in order that I may urge on temperance reformers the mode by which to work. It is that which I have for years urged on churches with but little success so far—to take hold of the world's life, and instead of banning the life, ban the mode in which it is lived. We want public houses, but public houses without alcohol; we want billiard rooms, and smoke rooms, and sing songs, and music halls, and theatres, but all without alcohol. The devil gains the people by mixing the good with the evil. Entire evil is never offered by the subtle tempter to any being.

Smoke rooms where men can meet, chat politics, do business, and enjoy a quiet hour's social converse; billiard rooms, where a harmless game can be played without the excitant of brandy and whisky; and sing songs where our fine old Scotch and English and Irish ballads can be sung without the obscenity and mad foolery brought in by hot toddy and sparkling ale. I have seen as much of that life as most men, and my deep-rooted opinion is that a true reformation requires only the abolition of alcohol. Some years ago I often visited the music halls and theatres of London. Take such a place as the Canterbury, or the Pavillion, or the Metropolitan Music Hall; vast places, splendidly furnished and decorated, and supplied with the best entertainments of their kind that money can procure. Look at these places up to two hours after the performance begins; all is quiet and harmless merriment. But see them from ten o'clock to closing time, when brandy, whisky, and ale have done their work. It is now a vast crowd of drunken, lustful men and women, who leave the hall of drink and music for scenes I will not dare to depict.

The penny gaff of London is a lower place still. Go into these places, crowded mostly with boys and girls, and you will find there juvenile pleasurelings drinking their "four-penny" and "half-and-half," and of both sexes talking language of the foulest description. Another outcome of the drunken social circle. Take what I have seen in such theatres as the old Marylebone, or the Victoria (the latter is now just opened as a temperance music hall), and there in the pit and the gallery I have seen working men, their wives and children, looking at Hamlet badly acted, or admiring the defeat of some villain or a libertine on the stage, and solacing themselves with vigorous drinks from a big gallon stone bottle, full of "fourpenny" ale, or perhaps specially for the occasion "sixpenny." That is how three out of every four persons in the lower masses of London life amuse themselves; and it is about the average of England and Scotland, and Wales.

Drink reformers must do what church ministers and members have not been sagacious enough to do—take hold of the world's life, its amusements and its business, and transfigure it with righteousness, and beauty, and truth, and, if they do, they will see as great a wonder as the apostles did on the mountain top when Jesus was transfigured before them. I have often wished that for one moment all of us should have the seeing power of God, so as to see, not only what actually is, but what *might be*, if certain things were done. Use makes us bear almost anything. It is wondrous what human nature can bear by use. When one reads the history of France for 100 years prior to the Revolution of 1789, one is amazed that the French people bore their grievance so long. We wonder as we read *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that only 20 years ago millions of human beings were enduring that cruel slave life without revolt. As we read Livingstone's account of the slave press gangs of Africa, with their hideous slaughter, our blood curdles in our veins. It is a pity though that we cannot keep these scenes and contrast them with the after times, when they have been swept away in a better state of affairs. Would that for one moment England or Scotland could see herself as she would be—minus one thing, only one thing lacking, alcohol. That one factor in our national affairs works our ruin. The simple mechanism of the telegraph and steam engine has remodelled the world. Columbus never brought a new world so completely to view as did Morse and Stephenson by their practical genius. In 1827 the world started a new career. And as we from our standpoint of eight-day trips to New York, of Atlantic cables, look upon that old life our forefathers led we may well feel wonder-stricken. But what if we can hand down to our children the new world of comparatively purified social life, by the annihilation, not simply abolition of our drinking system. Some day, perhaps, we, or our children, shall see the ruins of county prisons and lunatic asylums, and orphanages, and homes, and as our children ask us what they were we shall reply, "They were built out of the nation's greatest folly; they swarmed at one time with men, women and children; they have sunk into decay since

the Act of Parliament that made it penal to sell alcohol within these realms." Heaven is described to us by negatives, not by positives. There will be no tears there, no death, no disastrous sea, and when we describe the result of this temperance social reform, it means that there will be scarcely any poor houses, lunatic asylums, orphanages, or prisons.

And there is one more thing we must remember. One of the most brilliant discoveries of modern science is the truth of the conservation of energy. There is just as much force in the universe to-day as there was a billion of years ago, not one particle has wasted. It has varied its manifestation, but it has remained the same. Now a nation consists of so many individuals, and of so much collective human force. It expends that energy for so much good or so much evil. Act upon that nation by wise laws and discreet discipline, and you set free its strength to work the more good by subtracting the national energy that otherwise would have worked for evil. Just as 25 voters taken from one party and given to another count 50, so, so much energy taken from national evil and put on to national good, counts double, and, indeed, increases more and more as the ages roll by.

With one more point I close this paper. I look upon the coffee house system as all but a failure considered as a rival to the public house, and mainly through bad management. In all these places in Glasgow, Birmingham, London, and other places, that I have entered, there has been an absence of the convivial element, that is the chief feature of alcoholic public. Teetotal places and dullness as a rule go together. I do not see why it should be so. We must insist on these places being attractive. Harmless singing and abundance of amusements should fill all these places. And still more there should be good coffee, tea, and other drinks and eatables. *Everything should be of the best.* I went into one of the leading places at Glasgow a short time ago, and the coffee I ordered was execrable, and the surroundings dingy and repulsive. It would not have been worse in the vilest shebeen I could have entered. If we are to compete successfully with our great rivals it must be in outdoing them in everything but making men and women drunk. The children of light must be wiser in their methods than the children of darkness.

I would suggest that as temperance reformers we consolidate our scattered forces; that we throw ourselves unitedly upon the town, and by public meetings, still more by individual effort, and by providing counter attractions to the public house, accelerate the cause dear to all of us.

PUBLIC PRESS.

"I no more think of drinking wine than a horse does: the wine on the table is no more for me than for the dog under the table."—*Dr. S. Johnson.*

The fundamental principles of our glorious temperance reformation may be briefly announced under four heads:—1, The liquor traffic is essentially pernicious and immoral; 2, All alcoholic drinks are poisonous and unwholesome; 3, Alcoholic medication is unnecessary, and generally, if not always, injurious; 4, The Bible contains no divine sanction for the use of alcoholic drinks, but much warning and instruction against it.—*Piper.*

TEMPERATE BY LAW.—"You can't make men temperate by law," cried the rum-seller. Well, you can't set broken legs by law; but you pass laws requiring streets and side-walks to be passable without danger, in order that no legs may be broken; and by throwing this protection around her citizens, the State does a better service than she could by erecting an hospital in which to mend broken bones. The prohibitory law makes the streets safe. Whether the State will license or prohibit temptation is the question which has been carried into politics. That question can only be settled at the ballot-box, because laws are made by men elected by votes.—*Exchange.*

A WIFE'S TESTIMONY.—A FACT.—"You cannot tell how happy I am. Our Jack has signed the temperance pledge, and now he comes home sober, and brings me all his brass; sits by the cheerful fire, begins to say his prayers, and talks of serving God and going to heaven. We're like new married folk. Thank God for temperance."

Another thing that teetotalers are slow to learn is the importance of sustaining the Temperance Press. How many of our best periodicals have lingered and died for lack of support! When the *Temperance Worker* was started, nine years ago, many of our friends prognosticated a short career. "I hope you will be able to produce the numbers to make a volume," wrote one worthy friend to us; "but I fear you will have to abandon it before the end of the year." It has not been so bad as that with us, happily; but the eight complete volumes of sound and useful material, for the use of temperance advocates, have not been produced without a heavy outlay of money and labour on the part of both editor and publisher. The results of our labours remain. For years to come, labourers in the grand old cause will find the material supplied in these eight volumes of the *Temperance Worker* invaluable to them in their advocacy, and thus the movement at large will be benefited. All that the editor and publisher have for their reward is the consciousness of having toiled hard and sacrificed much. In this experience we do not stand alone; but how much more might we, and other literary servants of the good cause, have accomplished had we been more liberally supported and encouraged by temperance men.—*The Temperance Worker.*

POETRY.

SING, MY BIRDIE.

Do not droop thy head so sadly,
Foid not thus thy golden wing;
Look up, darling—brightly, gladly
Sing, my bonny birdie, sing.

Through the winter I have tended
E'en the lightest wish of thine.
To my prayer thou still art silent—
Thou'rt ungrateful, birdie mine.

Suddenly the sullen silence
With a sigh my birdie broke;
Turning with a pensive murmur,
Thus to me my birdie spoke:—

"I am but a little captive,
Pining here from day to day;
Unselfish ears would sure have heard
A wail of sorrow in my lay.

"And loving eyes could never fail
My bitter, bitter grief to see;
When other birds flit through the air,
Or gaily glide from tree to tree.

"I've tried to burst my prison bars,
And from thy presence forth to flee;
And never more thy face behold—
A tyrant cruel thou seem'st to me.

"Oh, lady, if thou would'st be kind,
And set thy little captive free;
I'd come and sing my sweetest songs
Of love, and joy, and liberty."

I let him forth, and high he soared,
Against the summer's sky so blue;
I watch'd him with a tearful eye,
And softly sighed "Adieu, adieu."

Now, true unto his word he comes,
And sings his evening hymn to me;
He loves me, and can ne'er forget—
But still he must, he must be free.

Thus learn 'tis better far to grant
A heart's best wish, and keep its love,
Than thwart that wish—creating hate,
And causing life a wreck to prove.

MARY GRANT.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, APRIL, 1881.

* * We have been obliged, notwithstanding that we publish a supplement to the present number, to leave over important matter: "Discussion on State Protection," "Kansas," Reviews, Presentation, &c. Several capital papers are reserved.

REMOVAL OF THE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

WE are desired to announce that the offices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association now at 30 Hope Street, will be removed to 112 Bath Street. The change is rendered necessary by the overcrowded and inconvenient condition of the present premises. Arrangements are being made for an early removal. We hope to announce in our next issue that the Executive have finally taken possession of their new and handsome premises.

Mr. John Paton of Barrhead will be at the disposal of this Association for two months from 16th May. Applications for his services may be sent to Mr. Mackay, secretary, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow, who is instructed to give a preference to those applications desiring him for a series of meetings. Terms and subjects can be learned from the secretary.

Our readers will see from our diary of the parliamentary session that not much has been done or said on prohibition during the present peculiar session. But the very peculiarity of parliamentary proceedings offers a full explanation. Little or nothing outside the Irish and Governmental questions has been done for any question, and of that little prohibition can claim more than an insignificant share. Looking to the future the prospects begin to brighten. The Budget will be submitted on the 4th inst., and on the 8th we will see the introduction of the Land Bill. After the usual Easter holidays Parliament refreshed will no doubt give due consideration to the long-expected measure, and it may be that there yet may be time for laying before the House pretty strong reasons for the immediate fulfilment of the pledge Mr. Gladstone felt constrained to give last session. Meantime we are glad that our friends in the various districts of the country are keeping this question so steadily before their representatives. This is the best way of educating them in the principles and policy of prohibition, and ultimately gaining their sympathies and support. An opportunity will be afforded to many of our friends of meeting with their members during the Easter recess, of which we trust that they will be eager to avail themselves, and use it in the best interests of the suppressive veto on the liquor traffic. They are really responsible for the votes of their representatives on this question, and if they, fully

realizing that responsibility, will wait upon their representatives, they will, we feel assured, neither find the approach difficult nor the interview unsatisfactory. We have a confident hope that the present session will not be altogether barren and unfruitful in temperance legislation.

Many of our readers are no doubt amazed at the eccentricities of philanthropy. So eager are the public to give dinners, teas, trips, and other things to the poor, and even to the apparently poor, that any amount of money may be tapped from the pockets of the benevolent for such merry alleviations. Unfortunately it is not spent as wisely as it is heartily given, much of it finding "waste" channels. Our readers know of these nice little meals, called "Robin" dinners. The Rev. Charles Bullock, London, started them in this admirable way. Collect, said he, money in your own neighbourhood, and have your own local Robin dinners. These now bid fair to become an institution. The Vegetarian Society of Manchester dined 500 "Ragged" Robins in the rooms of the Manchester Young Men's Christian Association, at about 2d. a head, and the fare was pease-soup, wheaten bread, and plum pudding. At Hull, 80 Robins got a capital supper of sweet pottage and substantial slices of wholemeal bread. Cost eleven shillings and sixpence. Three hundred aged people of Exeter got a wasteful Christmas dinner. There were 4 cwts. beef, besides mutton, geese, fowls, plum puddings, and mince pies provided; also, four barrels of beer and 40 bottles of spirits, with tobacco for the men and snuff for the women! Picture out, if possible, the dreadful waste which was permitted. Not to speak of the drink, which was cruel extravagance, as much must have been expended on these 300 aged poor as would have fed besides fully 1,200 Ragged Robins on a reformed diet. We say by all means help the poor, but do it economically. When wasteful ostentation feeds them, it forgets that it revives visions of plenty long since gone, because abused, and it prevents the giver from imparting happiness to a larger number of the truly deserving poor folks who are his near neighbours. The more discriminative as to the guests, and the more economical as to the food, such Lord and Lady Bountifuls are, the more good they will do, and the less temptation to mendicancy will they place in the way of those to whom beggary and vagabondage is less irksome than honest toil.

So the Earl of Zetland has got worsted in the Second Division of the Court of Session in his appeal against the judgment of the Lord Ordinary. He had nothing else really to expect. Every judgment given in the august Court for a length of time past has been adverse to the temperance reformation. There was the East End case, the Stockbridge case, the Rothesay case, not to speak of minor ones, and now there is the Grangemouth Feu Charter case. Their lordships give such an extremely broad inter-

pretation to the various Licensing Acts, or they interpret the issue before them (that of his lordship) upon principles that we fearlessly assert do not obtain in ordinary life. They say that the conditions which his lordship sought to enforce are inconsistent with the rights of property, and repugnant to public policy. Whose rights, my lords? Not his lordship's, nor those of the sober portion of Grangemouth, nor those of the overwhelming number of petitioners. Not the publican's, because his rights and those of his customers are identical with those of Grangemouth. My lords mean that these conditions are inconsistent with the privileges of the publican and his landlord—a judgment that may be legal in the corrupt state of the licensing law, but which certainly is not in harmony with human rights, which are superior to the privileges of a class or the precedents of the law. We have cause for deep thankfulness that although his lordship may accept the ruling of their lordships, the agitation, having for its aim and end the extermination of public facilities for strong drink selling, is rather stimulated than discouraged thereby. Sensible men will learn by this decision how utterly unworthy of a place on the statute book the licensing system is, and they will take a deeper interest, show a profounder sympathy, and give more liberally, in order that their lordships may have better laws dealing with the drink traffic to interpret, and that the people may no longer have their liberties and amenities outraged, and their attempts to free themselves baffled by the liquor traffic.

Birmingham is the premier radical burgh of Great Britain. Education, art, republicanism, in their advanced aspects, all have a firm hold there. An attempt has been long in hand to make it the scene of an experiment in corporation dram selling. Mr. Chamberlain, recently its republican Mayor, and now its junior parliamentary representative, has long cherished the desire to solve the liquor difficulty by transferring the lucrative traffic in strong drink from the publicans, who fatten upon it, to the corporation who would also fatten on it by receiving profits from it transcending those derived from city manure or gas. He aired the scheme in "the House," but received so little support—even Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who voted for it, forcibly exposing its inexpediency, its cruelty, and its incompatibility with a true scheme of temperance reform—that he relinquished his attempts for its promotion. It has, however, revived in Birmingham through the operations of the Artizans' Dwellings Act, in accordance with which the corporation are demolishing property to secure sites for improved workmen's houses. This necessitates the removal of public houses, and instead of granting those publicans whose houses have been removed licenses to degrade new neighbourhoods as has been the practice of the Glasgow Licensing Authorities, the Birmingham Town Council to retain these licenses, resolved to set up a cen-

tral hotel and cafe, which they were to manage as a corporation. The people of Birmingham, we are glad to write, would not stand this. Tempting as was the financial prospects of the undertaking, they declined to embark in a speculation so ruinous to the community. The publicans, seeing their craft in danger, decided on a strenuous opposition, and the authorities, foreseeing that the power thus combined would be invincible, wisely abandoned the scheme. This event is fitted to stimulate temperance reformers to unabated vigour in the work and demand for prohibition. Birmingham has been specially educated on the points of the Gothenburg scheme, have had dangled before their eyes the possibilities of enormous profits, out of which would come the expense of public parks and institutions, and reduced taxation. They saw, however, the degradation of being involved in a business so dangerous and debasing, and they had the wisdom to resist even the trial of a central cafe, which doubtless would have succeeded and have been the herald of corporation drunkeries throughout the land.

We do not hesitate to characterise the opinion that all drunkards are weak, wilfully vicious, and debased, as false. It is not that we can merely point to the proverb that "the drinker is nobody's enemy but his own," but that we have known many drunkards whose character might have stood—except for the one vice that had overmastered them—on a level even higher than those that decried them. There are drunkards who have earned by their frequent appearances before the police courts the unenviable reputation of incorrigibles, yet who when known in their lucid moments were capable of inspiring feelings far different to those of censure and aversion. Even looking to average cases of drunkenness, one is amazed to find how often a frequent panel at police courts is guilty of no other misdemeanour than that of being drunk and incapable or drunk and disorderly. There is, what we have no doubt will be called a public pest, in Edinburgh thirty-one years of age, who has been since she was twenty-two almost always in the hands of the police. During that period of nine years she has been one hundred and thirty-six times before the court, and has been subjected to fine and imprisonment varying from one day to sixty days. We have looked carefully over the list of her convictions, and find that the charges against her are prostitution and drunkenness, the latter varied by incapability and disorderliness—not a case of theft alleged against her. We are not to excuse her wantonness one degree; but knowing how much drink has to do with the ruin of young women, and how often it makes its victims riotous or reel into insensibility, we do ask the question would that poor unfortunate—honest although debased—have been gliding so fearfully and so rapidly to a dreadful death, and a still more dreadful judgment, in a Maine Law parish or state? Here in Christian Britain, with her twenty thousand ministers of the

Gospel, messengers of grace to guilty souls, such a case as that to which we refer is so common that it is not too much to say that there is not a day on which some poor wanton, honest but intemperate, is not breathing her last, without hope and without the last consolations of the dying, because looked upon as reprobate, while all the time she is a victim of a legalised system of drink-selling that is exerting the most malignant influence upon the destinies of this great country. At the bar of God there will be found in her case "extenuating circumstances"—a Christian nation tolerating a Moloch which is devouring the bodies and souls of its people, and the churches will not combine to stand, Eliezer like, between the living and the dead, and stay the dreadful plague.

Hung be the temperance heavens with black; turn day to night, for a Mr. Muntz, a chemist of note, has discovered that this circumambient world is one huge spirit-cellar, and that all creation is saturated with fiery alcohol! We breathe it, we swallow it, we bathe in it. Of what avail our pledge to abstinence when we cannot escape from the surrounding contamination of the "devil in solution"? Oh, where shall we turn or whither shall we fly from the maddening cup when earth and air is but a huge poisoned chalice, which is being continually held to our unwilling lips? How blind we have been! We thought we knew all about the common enemy of man, who is Prince of the Power of the Air, but we never dreamed that he had infected all things with his favourite demon, alcohol, the only demon in a liquid form of which we stood in awe. This discovery has far-reaching consequences. We used to wonder at the sudden eccentricities of our friends. Why wonder longer? They must have been simply airily drunk. When science, through Dr. Richardson, told us that we had a still in our insides, we reverently believed him, and with undeviating regularity increased the saccharine constituents of our diet in order to assist nature in her delightful brew. But alas! we have been wrong. Dr. Richardson's inquiries have not gone far enough, and we have been for years, it seems, needlessly adding to the exhilaration which nature has provided for the children of men. Mourn, ye temperance lecturers, for your occupation's gone—gone with its great emoluments, its fields of ease and its Arcadian joys! A pledge as large as a bill-poster and as strong as a blister will not avail against a liquor that falls gently on us in snow, showers upon us in rain, envelopes us in mist, steals in upon us in our tea, and flows along our alimentary canal in our milk. Let us make a mournful submission to the inevitable; for why, after all, should we play the Roman fool, and die upon our—pen? The publican, reinforced by nature, is a foe to whom it is no demerit to submit. Let us hear no more of that fancy sketch of there being no alcohol in nature; about there having been none in the garden of Eden,

in the rills dashing down the mountain's grassy slopes, or of there being none in the unfathomable ocean. All is but as a tale that is told—as wind in a bladder, which science has pricked with her Ithuriel's spear, and lo it hisses as it disperses into the alcohol-laden atmosphere. Oh Muntz, Muntz! you might have softened the heavy blow! But science has no bowels, no compassion for the temperance lecturer's small wife and large family, but will, without remorse or anything approaching it, see him and his drifting astern with crinolines, the tinder-boxes, the stage-coaches, and the chignons of exploded fashion. Still, before we break up our camp and march to solitudes remote, let us be sure that Mr. Muntz has not found a mare's nest. What has he discovered? Alcohol as one of the primary elements either of gaseous, liquid, or solid matter? Not a bit. He has simply discovered alcohol in rain-water, in the soil, in the air, and in organic matter. Well, there is nothing to startle an intelligent temperance reformer in that; the wonder would be if there were. The fact is, we cannot but expect that, in the cycle of changes going on around us, grains and fruits in their decay should evolve alcohol. The steeped grain left to germinate and then decay will easily produce it; the grape burst on the stalk and exposed to the air will rot, and in its rottenness produce it. Yet this evil can be borne as we endure those exhalations that pass from us to undergo those changes that bring in their train life and health. Because alcohol is found in nature, should it therefore be found in man in such a degree as to degrade him? Does nature take delight in the inebriation of the world? Does she not so diffuse alcohol as to confer on mankind an immunity for its effects? Are we therefore to be startled? No; surely not. Rather are we to be confirmed in our aversion to a substance that savours of the charnel-house of nature. The most extreme discoveries of science will be found on the side of truth, and this one of Mr. Muntz only adds but another to the long roll of warnings to mankind to beware of that insidious potion which steals the heart, makes the reason and the understanding reel, is the shroud of the soul, and amply justifies the most strenuous efforts for the suppression of the artificial production of alcohol for beverage purposes when, *à la* Muntz, nature has it in such profuse abundance.

When a boy was called to account for fishing on Sunday he said, "I know I do, but then before the fish began to bite I always sang one of Moody and Sankey's hymns." He had as good an excuse as many drinkers have who know all about the devil in solution, and yet take it.

THE DRINK SELLER.—(1) Supplies nothing useful; (2) Supplies nothing necessary to health, happiness, or prosperity; (3) Is not a patron or encourager of labour; (4) Supplies no food or stimulus for mental improvement; (5) Adds no moral impulse or spiritual force to the community. Let him step down, then, from the company of honest toilers. He has no place among manufacturers, traders, shop-keepers, mechanics, teachers, or preachers. All of them would do better work if he were not, and each of them meets in him an obstacle to their full success.—*Scott Act Leaflet.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDITOR TO HIS CONTRIBUTORS.

THE Editor has great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of many contributions during the past month, some of them of considerable merit. He will be able, he trusts, to make use of most of them. Those who have favoured him will know that their papers are approved by their receipt of proof for correction.

He hopes that during the currency of the volume, of which the present issue is the first number, he will continue to receive similar literary assistance in the way of articles and correspondence from the friends of the movement and the association.

Correspondents and contributors are requested to be brief, pithy, and sparkling. Long articles are in danger of being laid aside in favour of those that do no more than fill a page of the magazine. The writing should be legible; bad writing means with the printers bad copy. It is more desirable to pay for a good article, clearly written, than have to pay the compositor for setting bad up. Such badly-written articles drift perilously near to the waste-basket. Contributors should always write under a sense of these canons of the Press—"An article is always improved by condensation," and "More articles, however valuable in their subject matter, are rejected through bad caligraphy than through either bad thinking or indifferent style."

DO PUBLIC HOUSES CONDITION DRUNKENNESS?

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I deal only with the English ecclesiastical report as it is quoted by Bailie Lewis himself. He teaches that, if the license laws of Scotland were honestly put into operation we could do a mighty deal to arrest the progress of drunkenness, by merely diminishing the number of public-houses. And to support himself in his demand for arrested drunkenness, through thus administrating the drink trade, he tells us that the English ecclesiastical report affirms that when the facilities for obtaining drink are increased, drunkenness increases also. This is what the Bailie gives of this report to impress his readers that the facilities referred to consist in the number of public-houses; but the Bailie is not warranted in putting this meaning on these words. And my reply is, that if these facilities are drink-shops, drunkenness should have been diminished; but it is not diminished; for since 1848, with the diminution of drink-shops, our drink bill has risen from £72 to £136,000,000 annually. This is not arrested, but increased drunkenness; and it is a palpable untruth, and not a palpable truth, as the Bailie affirms, that drunkenness is conditioned by the number of public-houses. But even if it could be shown that the English ecclesiastical report did support the Bailie's notion about the mere number of public-houses constituting the facilities for obtaining drink, it would still be untrue that drunkenness has diminished with the diminution of public-houses.

Not even the authority of an English ecclesiastical report can set aside the fact that forty years ago, with 290,000 of a population, Glasgow had 3,000 public-houses, and less drunkenness than she now has, with 600,000 of a population, and only 1,800 public-houses, and their back doors all built up, too. This is as obvious as that one and one are two. Yet the Bailie exclaims that in stating it I ungenerously throw discredit on the testimony of 13,000 clergymen. I do nothing of the sort. I neither credit nor discredit them. It is the Bailie that I discredit for unwarrantably inferring from their report that the number of public-houses constitutes drinking facilities.

It is remarkable to see Bailie Lewis hiding behind the representatives of authoritative respectability, whom he has misrepresented, as he himself admits, in order to make it appear that my strictures on his misrepresentations are aimed at them, and not at himself. Who could have believed that the Bailie would have run away and attempted to hide himself in this man-

ner from the consequences of his own inconsiderate words?

In his letter of January the 21st, to justify his assertion that the amount of licensed drink-shops conditions the amount of drunkenness, he represents these 13,000 clergymen as having said so; for he gave what they call facilities as equivalent to drink-shops. In his letters of January 21st he thus makes his drink-shops and the clergymen's facilities to mean one and the same thing. But now, in his letter of February the 18th, he says that these clergymen's facilities do not merely mean the number of public-houses, without regard to the accommodation and tempting power presented by them. What a muddle the Bailie has got into. Who could have concluded that his intellectual right hand could have so lost its cunning as to miss its aim in this way, if it is accommodation and tempting power in public-houses that are the facilities to drinking; and if it has been the case that they increase as the number of public-houses diminish, how should the Bailie exclaim that I forget myself when I say that if the facilities referred to in the clerical report are merely drink-shops, it is untrue that drunkenness has diminished as they have been reduced in number? To say so would certainly be an untruth. The facts that I have given prove it to be untrue. And the Bailie is in a deplorable state as he stands behind his representatives of authoritative respectability, feeling pained that because he is behind them I should not have generously deferred to their authority, and declined to expose his inconsiderate, contradictory statements as to what is their meaning in what they have said.

The Bailie is so confused and contradictory in what he has written that if it is not looked into discriminately he may breed confusion in others. In his letter of January the 21st he says:—"Mr. Paton objects to my having said that the amount of licensed drink-shops to a large extent conditions the amount of drunkenness. This statement, notwithstanding Mr. Paton's denial, is substantially true." In another part of the same letter he continues:—"Mr. Paton may believe that this would in no degree tend to the diminution of drunkenness, but I presume he will get few who know of the aggressive nature of the drink trade to agree with him." But in his letter of February the 18th he writes:—"If there is one fallacy more than another which I have laboured assiduously to expose during the last quarter of a century, it is the notion that the mere reduction of the number of public-houses is any guarantee for the diminution of drinking and drunkenness, if those that remain are allowed to increase their accommodation and tempting powers." On January the 21st he writes that "the number of public-houses conditions drunkenness;" and on February the 18th he declares that this is a fallacy—"that a reduced number of drink-shops is not a guarantee for diminished drinking." The Bailie admits that it is fallacious to expect diminished drunkenness by merely diminishing the number of houses for the sale of drink; but he continues to argue in support of the fallacy, as he did before he made the admission. It is an astonishing performance.

If the Bailie had laid down the principle involved in his statement of February the 18th as the basis of his speech at Edinburgh on December the 11th, he would have saved me the trouble of asking him to explain, and himself the trouble of admitting its soundness, after having controverted it in the manner which has appeared in the *Social Reformer*. But, after all, the Bailie now admits, although with a contradiction that takes the graciousness from the concession, that a diminished number of public-houses is not the conditions of sobriety, if those that are left are not kept from growing large and temptingly attractive.

If it ever had happened that a diminished number of public-houses had been reduced to none, or to the Bailie's infinitesimal number, two, in the process of salutary restriction, or had become less in accommodation and attractive power, temperance reformers might have hope that, by reduction, the conditions of sobriety would become established—not in prohibition, but in the Bailie's salutary, restricted sale of drink. But there

can be no hope that this is ever to take place, for the trade in drink being a monopoly, and the cultivator of the drink craving, while it necessarily falls into the hands of the rich and powerful, it develops the desire for drink, and grows in extent to diffuse attraction; you might as well think to have a small crop of turnips by thinning them, as a limited drink trade by weeding out of it the poor and the powerless that the rich and powerful may have scope to extend operations, and grow more rich and more powerful. It has never taken place, and never can.

The Bailie's letter of February 18th is a remarkable mental manifestation. While he admits that it is a fallacy to expect a diminished number of public-houses as a guarantee for diminished drinking, he still arguingly flounders to show that a few attractive houses facilitate drinking less than a large number limited in accommodation, attraction, and supply. And he exclaims, surely Mr. Paton does not mean to say that two attractive, well-supplied houses would not facilitate drinking less than 500 limited in accommodation and supply. It is obvious that the Bailie, when he wrote this, was off on the wings of imagination, and in his flight had got to the region of the impossible. But when imagination carries a man there to settle a matter reasonably, according to the facts of the case, he loses his head and fails to be practical. I will therefore, if I can, restore the Bailie to the region of the possible, by reminding him that there is not an instance on record in the history of licensing in which restriction has been carried so far as he indicates in his two illustrative houses. While the trade has been maintained to arrest drunkenness, it has increased. And if the Bailie could apply his salutary clauses to the arresting process, he, too, would meet increased drunkenness, for the stuff sold intoxicates, and, as it does so, cultivates the desire for greater intoxication—which is drunkenness on the increase.

Therefore, while the drink trade is in any manner maintained, it cannot take place that there can either be only two houses in any considerable place, or free trade in all places. Wherever the number of houses has been reduced, as in Glasgow, until more drink was sold in the reduced number than in the number that preceded them, the reduced number has fallen to the level on which the rich have the opportunity of taking them up, and making them pay by working them with their money power. In Glasgow the rich have in this way got the trade into their hands, and further reduction is stopped. It is their interest to stop further reduction, and they have the power to secure their interests. This is so evident that I am astonished at the Bailie's imaginary flight all the way to two mythical houses in the region of the impossible. Let the Bailie speak, and work steadily for prohibition and sobriety, and not for the enforcement of salutary provisions in the license laws to arrest drunkenness, and imagination will not carry him out of the way to breed confusion, for clearness, in discussing the temperance question.

The Bailie persists, in the solemn protesting mood, to misrepresent me as looking complacently upon drunken arrests. He can imagine what is impossible, and see what does not exist. I have not written or spoken complacently, approvingly, or disapprovingly of any arrests whatever. I have merely said that if there was no drunkenness except that represented by the arrests of the helplessly drunk, we would be comparatively a sober people. All the world knows that the helplessly drunk are at an incalculable distance from illustrating the extent and consequences of our drunkenness; and until the Bailie really denies this fact there cannot be much solemnity in his solemn protesting. While in this solemn mood he had, it seems, before him the criminal returns for Glasgow, and he has found that during last year 40,772 apprehensions had taken place for assault, drunkenness, etc., and posing in great solemnity he hurls all this crime at my head, as he denounces me for being complacent about it. Now, while I have written, as quoted above, about the helplessly drunk, I have not referred at all to criminals and their arrests, drunk or sober. But while I am not responsible for the criminals of Glasgow, nor

complacently indifferent about them, it is easy to see they have no connection with the merely helplessly drunk. A child could comprehend that criminals in Glasgow or elsewhere, either drunk or sober, can have no connection with the helplessly drunk in Edinburgh, whom the Bailie has arrayed to illustrate the extent to which a large number of drink-shops in one ward as against a small number in another ward conditions drinking and drunkenness. This is the matter to be cleared up; but the Bailie runs away from it, and writes about Glasgow criminals. He is asked if the ward with the least houses and the least arrests is not inhabited by people least liable to be caught helplessly drunk. *This* truthful answer would settle the matter, but on this head he does not utter a word.

There is nothing in this correspondence that seems to interest the Bailie so much as to avoid the matter which occasioned it. He even goes out of his way to lug in ex-Provost Collins, that he may present him as deploring the drunkenness and crime of Glasgow in contrast with the depraved complacency which he insists in attributing to myself in its contemplation. Surely it cannot be fairly supposed that there is a virtuous man in Scotland who does not deplore the whole of its drunkenness and crime. It must, therefore, be worse than meaningless in the Bailie thus ostentatiously to name your honoured ex-Provost for doing no more than is done by everybody. In this respect the ex-Provost is not greater and better than ordinary people, and the Bailie has no advantage in taking him from the multitude to stand up beside him, unless it be that in doing so he may avoid to grapple fairly with the matter in hand.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN PATON.

To the Editor of Social Reformer.

SIR,—There are few things more repugnant to an honourable mind than to find a man who, worsted in discussion, betakes himself to the raising of false issues, and then by misrepresenting his opponent attempts to throw upon him the result of his own delinquency. This is precisely the attitude assumed by Mr. Paton in his last communication—a copy of which you have kindly forwarded me. Instead of dealing with the well attested facts in my former letters he finds it more convenient to state what, in his own polite language, is a "palpable untruth," and then impudently attributes to me the responsibility of having uttered it. Let me prove this grave impeachment.

On referring back to my letter which appeared in your February number, he says, "On January 21 he (the Bailie) writes that the number of public houses conditions drunkenness." I scarcely require to inform your readers that my letter of the 21st contains no such statement, it being a pure invention of your correspondent. The statement I made, and to which Mr. Paton was foolish enough to take exception, was, that "the amount of licensed drink shops to a large extent conditions the amount of drunkenness." It will thus be seen that Mr. Paton has suppressed the words which I have italicised, and having done so he puts his counterfeit sentence in inverted comas, and then charges me with having written it. Your correspondent has thus committed a threefold offence. 1st, He has grossly misrepresented my statement, which he formerly denied, but signally failed to disprove. 2nd, He has sought to mislead your readers in his attempt to convert a proposition so palpable and popular as scarcely to admit of discussion; and 3rd, He has imposed upon himself by evidently believing that his subterfuge would not be detected.

Your correspondent by adopting the policy of suppression, and getting quit of the qualifying terms in my statement, involving the necessary consideration of other conditions, then proceeds to occupy your space with an irrelevant criticism of the spurious statement which he is personally responsible for having coined and put in circulation. Under these circumstances it will not be expected that I should follow him through his inextricable maze of irrelevancy extending over two and a half columns of your journal. I must, however, be allowed to bring him back to the real question under

discussion, viz., Does the number of licensed drink shops to a large extent condition the amount of drunkenness? This I have answered in the affirmative, and have demonstrated its accuracy by the testimony of governors and chaplains of prisons, the heads of constabulary throughout the country, the superintendents of lunatic asylums in Wales, judges, recorders, coroners, and masters of workhouses throughout England and Wales, and by ecclesiastical reports attested by hundreds of Scottish clergymen, and by thousands of clergymen of the Church of England.

Mr. Paton has denied, but signally failed to disprove the proposition in question. It is of no avail that he contrasts the Drink Bill of 1848 with that of 1880. No man knows better than he that, altogether irrespective of the great increase in population, the entire conditions of the respective periods are changed, and that by higher wages and more leisure greater facilities for drinking and drunkenness exist in 1880 than existed in 1848. It is of no avail that he contrasts the number of public houses in Glasgow 40 years ago with those which now exist. Did I not previously call his attention to the fact that public houses although fewer in number than they were 40 years ago, possess now enormously increased accommodation, and are infinitely more powerful in display and attractive influence than at the former period. That all cavil under this head may be set at rest, I may state, that while the total rental of licensed premises in Glasgow in 1858 was £66,205, it is now £191,602. The task Mr. Paton has in hand is not to compare the number of public houses now existing with the facilities for drinking with those which existed several generations ago. It is for him to point to towns or districts in the country where—all things being equal—a smaller number of public houses produce a maximum amount of drunkenness, or where a larger number of public houses produces a minimum amount of drunkenness. Failing to do this let him point us to certain towns or districts in the country where, under the same conditions, public houses have undergone a decided diminution in number, without a diminution in drunkenness as the result. Or, what would be to the same purpose, let him point us to towns and districts where, all things being equal, public houses have been largely increased in number, without their having produced an increase of drunkenness and its concomitant evils. There is only one other way of escape from the awkward dilemma in which by his rashness he has placed himself—that is, by his proving to the satisfaction of your readers that every public-house is *not* a centre of temptation, and that every publican is *not* a centre of influence in producing drunkenness in the circle of his associates. Let me supply your correspondent with an additional illustration of what I mean and which will at the same time contribute another to the number of my unanswered and, I may add, unanswerable facts. In October, 1865, the number of licensed liquor shops in Gothenburg was reduced at one stroke from forty to twenty-three, or nearly by one half. What was the result of this reduction? Not as Mr. Paton would have us believe—no diminution in drunkenness—on the contrary the number of drunken cases proved by the police returns fell within the twelve months from 2,070 to 1,424. This is not all. During the next year there was no further reduction in the number of the liquor shops, and, as was to be expected, there was no diminution in the number of drunken cases worth mentioning. Let it here be noted, that during the latter year there was no change either in the population or in their external conditions, or in the administration of the law. We commend this additional fact to Mr. Paton, in the hope that after he has disposed of those previously given him he will reconcile this Gothenburg experience with that theory, of which, so far as I know he has the honour to be, the sole apostle. I submit that if the licensed liquor shops in Glasgow, or in any town in the kingdom, were to be reduced by one half, and the facilities and temptations to drinking thus lessened, and the accommodation of the remainder not increased, there would be a reduction in the commitments for drunkenness corresponding with the above.

There is one relevant point in Mr. Paton's letter, wherein he tries to argue, and which, were I to fail to notice, he would have just cause of complaint. While now admitting the accuracy of my figures, proving that in those wards where public-houses are most numerous, there is the greatest amount of drunkenness, and *vice versa*, he asks if the wards with few public-houses are not inhabited by an improved class of people. By admitting that they are so, your correspondent evidently does not see that he is proving my position. The comparative absence of public-houses in those wards, by a law as certain as that of gravitation, NECESSITATES the improved condition of the people, just as certainly as the presence of large numbers in other wards necessarily deteriorates those resident therein. Strange that Mr. Paton did not see this!

There are some men who can apprehend a principle so soon as it is stated, but, as we have seen, this is not always so. I believe, however, that in order to get the most obtuse to comprehend the application of any principle we have only to push our illustration to the extreme. Let me try this experiment in the present case. There are at present 1,799 licensed liquor shops in Glasgow. In the event of their number being reduced say to 17, am I not right in assuming that it would then become manifest either to the meanest capacity or the most prejudiced mind, that as a *necessary* and *natural* result there would be a great diminution in drunkenness.

If, in this discussion, the object of Mr. Paton has been to demonstrate his fierce hostility to the reduction in the number of the licensed liquor shops, and to bring discredit on the prohibitory agitation by branding as apologists of the drink trade, and as enemies of prohibition, those who approve of the enforcement of the Forbes Mackenzie and Public Houses Acts, then I must congratulate him on his success. If, on the contrary, his object has been to prove that the number of public houses does not, to a large extent, condition the amount of drunkenness, then I submit that he has signally and miserably failed.—I am, yours etc.,

DAVID LEWIS.

Roselea Villa, Grange, Edinburgh, Mar. 21, 1881.

[This discussion must now cease.—ED. S. R.]

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—III.

Feb. 21.—The Lords had a debate on the opening of museums, &c., on Sunday. The noble Lord (Dunraven) who introduced the bill pleaded for the opening of these places because the poor have wretched homes, because they have nowhere but the public-house to go to. Hence the idea of rest had been now so much associated with drink that holiday and intemperance were synonymous terms. He objected to an Act of Parliament making the public-house the only open place on Sundays. He wanted the poor man to have an alternative. In the petitions he presented were to be found the signatures of many members of Parliament, of many chief magistrates, 93 Church of England clergymen, 173 Nonconformists, and 266 ministers of various denominations. If they could trust a man with a vote, why not trust him going to a museum. He would surely distinguish between it and a dancing saloon. The Earl of Shaftesbury followed. He would support opening these places during the week evenings. He disputed the statement that thousands of British men were desirous of having museums, &c., opened on Sunday, and he had petitions signed by 26,000 in their neighbourhood, praying that they should be closed, and recently 24,000 petitioned against the farther opening of the Kensal Green Museum. At first it was argued that the taverns and public-houses would be emptied as soon as such places were opened. In his opinion, if the galleries and museums were opened, they would not find one single person leave the gin shops for the sake of the pictures, statues, &c. If they opened these places, they would multiply the number of persons who would have to toil on the Sunday—cabmen, tramway-car

men, omnibus men, railwaymen, and others. The amount of additional labour would be frightful, and it would be incurred in the interests of mere pleasure. Then they could not stop at museums; they would be compelled to open aquariums and even the theatre as an acknowledged source of intellectual instruction. Then other more questionable places would demand to follow in the wake of these. Their lordships ought to encourage the feeling of reverence for the Sunday so manifest. The debate was continued by Duke of Somerset, Earl of Rosebery, Earl Granville, and Lord Thurlow in favour of the motion, and by Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Cairns, and Duke of Argyll against it. The result was that the motion was lost by 34 to 41.

Feb. 22.—Sir John Lubbock moved the second reading of the Free Libraries Bill, but, owing to opposition, had to withdraw it.

Feb. 24.—The Earl of Dalhousie's Local Rates (Scotland) Bill was read a first time.

Sir H. D. Wolff postponed the motion on the duties on tobacco.

Feb. 25.—The Lord-Advocate, in reply to Sir G. Balfour, said a bill had been introduced for obtaining an annual report on the Local Taxation of Scotland, similar to that obtained for England and Ireland.

Feb. 28.—Lord Dalhousie moved the second reading of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Bill, to which the Lord-Advocate had referred on the 25th, and the bill was read a second time.

March 1.—The Local Taxation (Scotland) Bill passed through the Lords' Committee.

March 3.—The report of amendment on the Local Taxation Returns (Scotland) Bill was considered in the Lords.

Mr. Baxter gave notice of the following question:—Whether, seeing that the business of the House has been stopped, and the national safety imperilled, Her Majesty's Government intend to propose such measures as will effectually put an end to obstruction, and at the same time vindicate the dignity and restore the legislative powers of Parliament?

March 4.—On the motion of Lord Ramsay, the Local Taxation (Scotland) Bill was read in the House of Lords the third time.

March 7.—Mr. Gladstone, replying to Lord R. Churchill, said the only license the licensed victuallers of Oxford had to pay for the sale of wine was £2 10s. The matter was one between them and the University authorities rather than between them and the State.

March 8.—Replying to Mr. Russell, Mr. Fawcett said that some weeks ago he had cordially consented that a clerk from the Post Office Savings Bank should twice weekly conduct a branch at the brewery of Messrs. Bass & Co., Burton. He would, if other firms made similar proposals, send clerks to them, as far as the resources of the local Post Offices would permit.

—Replying to Mr. Rodwell, Sir H. James said "that eight royal elections commissions were issued on September last. Four of the reports—Canterbury, Boston, Knaresbro', and Sandwick—had been in the hands of the members. He began to be apprehensive that the evidence would not be completed so as to allow him to read the evidence. As to the remaining reports, if they could not be presented in time, they would be placed on the table of the House in manuscript form." No proceedings can be instituted after the expiry of twelve months after the alleged offence; hence the anxiety of hon. members to have a printed copy of the reports.

—Mr. Hardcastle asked the Home Secretary whether there was any truth in the statement which appeared in the *Standard* of that morning? That statement was as follows:—"A correspondent informs us that, by an accident, a printed draft of the Government measure for regulating the trade of the licensed victuallers has got abroad, and the following is a summary outline of the provisions of the bill. It is founded upon the lines recommended in the report of the Lords' Committee on Intemperance. It proposes to regulate public-houses both as to the hours of opening and closing, and the whole subject of the liquor traffic. Its main provisions are absolutely free-trade in licenses,

and that any person of good character may keep a public-house on the condition of paying the stipulated licensing duty, equivalent to so much in the pound on the rateable value of the premises. The bill does not propose to give any compensation to the existing license-holders no matter whatever they have paid for their houses. In regard to the opening and closing of houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, it provides that in London public-houses on week-days are not to be opened until seven o'clock in the morning, and are to be closed at eleven o'clock at night. On Sundays they are to be opened from one to three o'clock, as at present, but simply for sale off the premises. No one is to be allowed to consume drink on the premises, and no spirits are to be sold between the hours of one and three on Sundays; but on Sunday nights the public-houses are to be opened from seven to ten o'clock for sale of intoxicating liquors either off or on the premises. In the provinces the houses are to be opened on week-days from seven to ten o'clock, and on Sundays for a short time only, and then only for the purpose of selling intoxicating liquors for consumption off the premises. It is not expected that the Government will bring in the measure this session."

Sir W. V. Harcourt said—Of late years a great many printed drafts of a great many subjects have by accident got abroad; but I can confidently state that no printed draft of a Government measure for regulating the trade of licensed victuallers has got abroad, and for this reason, that there never has been such a draft, and it never has been printed. (Laughter.)

March 18.—Mr. Trevelyan, in moving the Navy Estimates, said that "the Admiralty had a bill on the table for the abolition of flogging, and they had asked themselves if there were not means by which they could lessen the temptations to drink. (Cheers.)

EDINBURGH BAND OF HOPE UNION.

The annual business meeting of the Edinburgh Band of Hope Union, was held on Monday evening, 7th ult., in Darling's Hotel, Waterloo Place. There was a large and representative attendance of ladies and gentlemen, most of whom are actively engaged in the work of the Union. Mr. John Vallance, president of the Union, occupied the chair, and among others present were the Rev. John Kay, the Rev. Mr. Wylie, Rev. R. B. Blyth, the Rev. Mr. Kilgour, Cockenzie; ex-Bailie Lewis, Messrs. James Darling, R. Somerville, Dalkeith; J. Telfor, George Tait, J. Coutts, W. J. Brander, secretary; S. M'Glashan, treasurer, &c. After tea, the Secretary read the fifth annual report, showing that, from a small beginning five years ago, there were now 96 Bands of Hope with a membership estimated at 10,000. Within the last twelve months 26 new Bands of Hope had been added to the union roll, while 11 had been deleted, giving a net increase of 15. The report went on to give an interesting account of the work done by the union, the visitations of districts by deputations, the musical demonstrations, and so on; and the directors expressed their special thanks to Miss Guthrie and her lady friends for their services as collectors. The Treasurer submitted his report, which showed that the subscriptions amounted to £48 and the total income to £135, but the liabilities exceeded the assets by £4 13s., and he hoped the contributors would keep this in mind when called upon for contributions.

The Rev. Mr. WYLIE moved the adoption of the reports. They were a record that the operations of the union had been carried on during the past year with a large amount of vigour and success. One of the special designs of Bands of Hope was to create a temperance conscience. Not so long ago Christian people did not think it wrong to ask God's blessing on a glass of whisky; but by the enlightening influences of such associations as this that had been largely done away with. He believed they would ultimately get the Permissive Bill, but our legislators had their hands very full at present, so that they would not be able to devote their attention for a time to the liquor question. It was, therefore, all the more necessary for every Christian to endeavour to secure the success of the temperance movement; and if the union and other

temperance associations joined themselves with other Christian workers they were sure of ultimate success. Mr. J. S. Gibb seconded the motion. In Edinburgh there was spent last year a million of money on drink indulgence; and as a nation we spend a million every day of the year on drink and its connections, while the Government derived £33,000,000 annually of revenue from this vice. He urged them to continue forming public opinion on this question, and expressed his belief that Bands of Hope, by beginning with the young, were beginning at the right end. Ex-Bailie Lewis in moving the election of the new directors, said they had a right to expect that much work should be done by the union in the coming year, because they got hold of the children, and had the chance of making the first impression on their youthful mind, and there was much in that. If they had Christian parents, and if they watched the first movements of the infant minds, and inculcated right principles, provident habits, truthfulness, loyalty to duty, and sound principles of morality, and if they were careful to see that these principles were developed along with the natural development of the child, it would be nearly as difficult for these children to abandon these good habits as for those who had grown up in evil habits to leave off their evil habits. As to the political position of the movement they had been told by their honoured Prime Minister that there was no time to deal with this question, because their hands were full of more important matters. He (Mr. Lewis) apprehended that there was no question at the present hour, momentous as these times were, more important than this one of temperance. He was aware of the difficulties the Government had to deal with in Ireland and their foreign wars, and while he would leave them to try to get over these troubles, he maintained that they were entitled to have this great question of liquor reform introduced even in a secondary place into the programme of the Government. Mr. R. Lockhart, the Rev. Messrs. Blyth and Kilgour, and Mr. Henry then addressed the meeting.

The Rev. John Kay said that the most interesting aspect of the temperance question was that in connection with which they had now met—the impressing upon the young the danger connected with strong drink, and endeavouring to instil into them sound principles in reference to that and other social questions that they would afterwards have to deal with as citizens. It was very important this point of educating the young, for they were the hope of the future. He thought, too, the Christian Church was bound to come to the help of a society like this, which would do tenfold more and tenfold better work if the whole Church of Christ in the country were taking up the Band of Hope movement. It was delightful to find that in many congregations in Scotland there was a movement in that direction, and he wished to see it become universal. Clergymen and office-bearers of churches should alike be interested in the temperance education of the young, and then they would be induced to take a deeper interest in rescuing those of maturer years from the temptations of drink. The two ought to go hand in hand, and he knew of many encouraging instances in which the giving of oneself to Band of Hope work had led to a deepened interest in the larger question of temperance in relation to its political and social aspects. The injury done morally and spiritually to the Church of Christ through the drinking habits of the day was a thing that weighed like a heavy load upon the soul of every man who was anxious for the perfecting of the Church. Her beauty was obscured, her power weakened, her ministers, probationers, and office-bearers, in not a few cases, brought low, degraded, and disgraced by the terrible vice. Surely, then, the precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, must rise and gird their loins for the contest, and go forth to battle against the evil that was ruining so many of their fellow-men, in hope and confidence that God would strengthen and enable them to work till the victory was gained.

Messrs. George Wilson, Leith, Jas. Coutts, A. R. Williamson, W. Small, J. Bauchope, George Tait, and others, subsequently addressed the meeting. After the usual votes of thanks the meeting was closed with the benediction.

On the 24th ult., a signally successful Soiree Conference was held in New Waverley Hall, Edinburgh, to advance the interests of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, in the capital and east of Scotland. Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., presided; and addresses were delivered by Rev. Drs. Blackie and Adamson, Revs. J. Kay and Cunningham, Bailie Selkirk, Provost Dick, Messrs. Tait, Winning, Coutts, Steel, and Dr. Bowie, Mrs. Kirk, and Miss Wigham. An efficient choir was in attendance.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

Annual Register, 1880, Penicuik Total Abstinence Society. Corresponding secretary, John H. Howden, Wilson Square, Penicuik. The annual report of this society is one of the best of its kind as regards "get-up." We have list of office-bearers, of committee, of all members in "good standing," and of the books in the society's temperance library. Then we have the abstract of treasurer's accounts which show with balance brought forward an income of £53, 1s. 3½d., and a balance to carry forward to next year of £5, 1s. 10½d. The report itself is the forty-second issued by the society, and it is full of interesting matter. Among the speakers who have lectured under the auspices of the society we find the names of ex-Bailie Lewis, and our eastern district superintendent, Mr. Waterston. We are sorry to find with all the energy of the committee, that the membership has slightly decreased since the issue of last report, and that some of the staunch friends of the movement and locality have passed away. We learn that two separate attempts have been made during the year to inflict a porter and ale license upon the Fieldsend and Shottstown district, but the committee gladly report the non-success of both attempts. We heartily congratulate the society on its position, and they have our heartiest wishes for its welfare and progress.

The Scottish Congregational Society's Occasional Paper, No II. Glasgow: Macnaughton & Sinclair, 93 St. Vincent Street. The committee has rendered a real service to the Congregational body by the publication of this valuable paper by their worthy secretary, Rev. Mr. M'Lean. None could have done the subject more ample justice. The paper is thickly studded with sentences which should be engraved deeply on the hearts of all desirous of seeing the church grappling effectively with the intemperance of our day. We cordially agree with the following sentence—"If Christ's church is unequal to the task of grappling with popular sins then let her retire from the field and confess her failure. But the church is equal to the task if she but carry out the principles of her Divine Leader and do all the work He has committed to her. There is not a single moral precept she should not teach—not a sin she should not have a remedy for—not a wholesome example needed which she is not able to practice." Again, "The churches as churches have not presented the bold and decisive front to this enemy of morality and religion which many of their pastors and members have done. The churches have not been centres of aggression on the intemperance of the country. They have suffered from it, but they have not applied to it the drastic treatment which it deserves and which it should receive at their hands." The whole paper is an eloquent and practical plea in behalf of Congregational churches having as part of their machinery a well equipped, well managed temperance society, and the hints given for the institution of these societies are only four in number, but they are quite sufficient. We incidentally learn that there is not a publican in connection with the Congregational Union, and there does not appear to be more than half a dozen of wine merchants and licensed grocers. About 70 per cent. of the pastors and a large percentage of the members of the churches in the Union are abstainers.

Poor Law Reform.—A new solution, embracing the criminal, the vagrant, and want of employment problems. By D. Low, member of council of the University of St. Andrews, Cupar-Fife. A. Westwood & Son. Price 2d. This is a remarkable production. To many readers its views must savour of the extreme. Its solution of the poor law problem is force. It wishes to remedy the poor law system—a remedy is urgent—as the present means of dealing with the poor is inadequate and unsatisfactory. Mr. Low sees clearly the evil of not discriminating between the unfortunate and the vicious poor, and he insists, and we think properly, on the charities mortifications being sufficient for those who have seen better days, or who never have been endowed with the capacity to earn their own living. The others he would show no mercy to. He would deprive them of their liberty, and, as it were, would break them in as we break in youthful criminals in our training ships and reformatories to abiding habits of industry. If they did acquire a willingness to work, why then, they could claim their emancipation, their surplus earnings, and their discharge. On a relapse they were liable to enforced slavery. We confess we look upon this idea with considerable favour, because it is imposing that training upon the social nomad which the industrious classes have been subjected to with the best results. Society would be a gainer negatively; there would not be the same demands on her charitable resources, and positively in the accession of men at once producers and consumers. Improvidence and idleness being antisocial acts which should be branded as crimes, the classes of the lapsed might be expected to disappear. Mr. Low is no less thoroughgoing in dealing with the victims, through want of employment, of enforced idleness. He would ask Government to establish a labour exchange, using the post-office, telegraph, railways, and such-like, to equalise labour by bringing those willing to work and the work waiting the worker together. He puts his case forcibly when he says—"The great function of government is to protect life, liberty, and property, and what is the difference betwixt falling a prey to the invaders' bullets, bayonets, or bombshells, and succumbing to famine or being enslaved by hopeless penury?" The State might employ such a class, but would require to give a pay graduated to meet the necessities of the worker and his family. He advocates this view on the ground that misery, penury, destitution breed dangerous distempers—such as infidelity, drunkenness, and similar evils. The main proposal which Mr. Low firmly presses on our attention is that of registration. All who are able to maintain themselves, or though able have no work, and all vicious poor are to be registered. The first to show that they can help themselves, the second that they desire employment, and the third that they are the serfs either of an employer or the State until they work themselves into the class of workers who can earn their own and family's living. He instances the registration adopted in the army, navy, civil-service, among chemists, &c. In short, compulsory well-doing would be the rule with all classes, and the State would employ its energies in stamping out its social leprosy. The book demands careful consideration, and offers much food for thought. We heartily approve of his remedies for the vigorous excision from society of the idle and improvident poor. We believe with him that our present charities' income, if properly managed, should be sufficient for all those who through orphanage, disability, senility, require aid. We cannot see our way to give an equal approval to the labour exchange or general registration scheme, as we believe, were society freed from its wasters and its social vermin, the industrious virtuous workers in society might very easily be left "to paddle their own canoe." Mr. Low does not ignore drunkenness and its causes and remedies, but he only speaks of them with a rather "bated breath;" and he thinks they might be antagonised by education, industry, and wealth. We have become the richest people through free trade on the face of the earth, but because government has, on revenue grounds, continued to protect the liquor traffic, the wealth and industry of millions of working men has been to them a positively bitter curse.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. R. BLAIR, LASSWADE.—We are deeply sorry to have to record the decease of this staunch temperance reformer and estimable gentleman on the 21st ult. His departure, through disease of the heart, was sudden. He was 58 years of age. He will be greatly missed. As a public man no one had an equal reputation for sound judgment or business energy. He delighted in forwarding the progress, the prosperity, and the salubrity of the place. He did his best as member of the Parochial Board to alleviate poverty, as one of the School Board he did what he could to advance the education of the rising generation, and on the management of the Water Supply Company no one was more active in his efforts to promote health and banish uncleanness. All these duties, and others which it is not our province to discuss, he discharged with ability and success, and all the better because he was a total abstainer and prohibitionist, steadfast, energetic, and consistent. Of him, in this phase of his busy life, it is on record that his "efforts were unwearied, and from his extensive reading and well-stored memory, his addresses on this subject, abounding as they did in argument, anecdote, and pathos, combined with a gift of natural oratory of extraordinary power, were telling, effective, greatly sought after, and as readily granted." He made a stand with other electors against the Earl of Dalkeith as an enemy of local option, and was unsparing in his efforts to change the representation of Edinburghshire. He has left behind him a reputation for active and unostentatious good as merited as it is rare, and to know the esteem in which he was held one had to witness the tearful tribute paid to his worth when on the 24th ult. he was interred amid a manifestation of sorrow which only rare merit is able to evoke. Mr. Blair held prohibitory opinions tenaciously and intelligently, was a hearty supporter of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association of which he was so long an honorary director. He was a staunch ally when the superintendent of the Association was labouring in his district. He was always ready and willing to appear in Edinburgh at a critical moment, or when a demonstration to promote its objects was found to be necessary. He leaves a widow and family behind him, who have the sincere condolence of all who had seen for themselves our departed friend's signal worth.

THE LATE REV. ALEXANDER THOMSON, PEEBLES.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this most esteemed minister of the gospel on Sunday, the 13th ult. He has been in failing health for some time and passed peacefully away in the 81st year of his age and the 52nd year of his ministry. He was the senior pastor of the West U.P. Church, and was highly respected not merely by his own congregation but by those belonging to other denominations, and by the community generally, for he was always ready and willing to aid any movement which he thought calculated to promote the physical, social, and religious welfare of the town and neighbourhood. We bear our testimony to this, for often has the Revd. gentleman presided over the meetings in Peebles held to promote the objects of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, or taken part in the proceedings. He has obtained a good report and leaves behind him a memory fragrant with good deeds. On the completion of the 40th year of his ministry he was presented with a handsome testimonial eagerly subscribed for by all classes, and on the occasion of his jubilee he was presented with a silver salver and a purse of gold amounting to £264. This sum he handed to the Synod's funds for assisting aged and infirm ministers.

ADMIRATION.—There is a wide difference between admiration and love. The sublime, which is the cause of the former, always dwells on great objects, and terrible; the latter on small ones, and pleasing; we submit to what we admire, but we love what submits to us: in one case we are forced, in the other we are flattered, into compliance.—*Burke.*

THE
Social Reformer.

MAY, 1881.

HOW TO CONDUCT A BAND OF HOPE.

A paper read at a meeting of workers in Aberdeen, January, 1881.

We read in history of many famous bands. In the days of ancient Greece the Macedonian band was held in the highest repute, as it resisted and subdued the repeated attacks of the bravest and most courageous of its country's enemies. The Lycian band also was highly esteemed, no less for its sobriety than its skill in archery. You have heard of the brave band of three hundred Spartans who at the head of the Pass of Thermopylae withstood for three days the best and bravest of the Persian army, and of the no less gallant band of Switzers, who in the rugged Morgarten Pass hurled down great rocks, and then rushing from the heights beat down the Austrian chivalry with pikes and iron-shod clubs. When it was thought that a French force might at any moment be landed on our shores, our noble volunteer bands were enrolled as an army of defence. For many years a terrible foe has enslaved us, under a more galling bondage than Israel ever endured at the hands of Pharaoh, or our own brave ancestors at the hands of English lordlings. That foe is intemperance, and to fight it thousands of our countrymen have banded themselves into abstinence societies, but best and most hopeful sign of all, tens of thousands of children also are enrolled in Bands of Hope to do battle with this giant foe.

The cause which enlists the young cannot fail of success. History has loved to celebrate how Hannibal when a boy was led to the altar and made swear eternal vengeance on the Romans for the cruel wrongs they had inflicted on Carthage, and how in his manhood he crossed the Alps at the head of his legions and crushed the oppressors. The plaudits of the children of Jerusalem as they poured forth the joyous cry "Hosanna to the Son of David," struck dismay into the hearts of the envious Pharisees. When Luther in his darkest hour heard that children were praying for him he took fresh courage, and ever after presented an unwavering front to his enemies. To make a good soldier we must begin with the boy. To rear a genuine British tar he must be rocked to sleep by the murmur of the waves. To excel in a profession, to be proficient in science or skilled in art, one must begin early. Lycurgus, the great Spartan lawgiver, wisely directed his chief efforts to the training of the young, with a view to the future greatness of the state, and hence, whatever we would put into the life of a people must first be put into its youth. Give me, said the great Syracusan, a lever long enough and strong enough, and a fulcrum on which to rest it, and I will move the world. But give me the *children* and I will break the "Devil's chain" of intemperance that enslaves half a million of my fellow subjects; give me the *children* and I will saturate the land with the clear sparkling principles of sobriety; give me

the *children* and I will heave overboard every cask and flask and bottle that would sink the state, so that our noble Britain shall press on to victories of justice, temperance, and truth; give me the *children* and "as arrows are in the hand of a mighty man," with them I will smite the hydra of intemperance that has been so long nourished and caressed in the bosom of my country.

Than innocent children, who have suffered more from the drink fiend? Talk of Moloch—"horrid king!" More children have been immolated on Bacchus' altar than ever burned in his brazen arms, and therefore their right to aid in overthrowing the "system" is indisputable. For His dear sake who said "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," we, like watchful shepherds, will guard the fold that no destroyer shall enter; like trusty guides we will beat the track for them, we will shield them, we will launch them out on the sea of life with safe compass and chart, and by God's grace lay the foundation on which a glorious superstructure will yet be reared and endure forever.

How best to accomplish this is the object of this paper, and when we consider the mighty issues involved, say is it not a work worthy of our best services, and worth making prayerful efforts to carry on and perfect?

In conducting a primary school, or in fact any educational association, three things are essential, viz.:—organization, discipline, and method; and though a Band of Hope differs from a school inasmuch as membership is voluntary, yet to be permanently beneficial the same points must be steadily adhered to.

I. Organization. This has reference to all the mechanical arrangements, appliances, and artifices whereby the business of a society is facilitated and promoted. It includes such subjects as (1) The officers and their duties; (2) Apparatus; (3) Registration; and (4) Routine and programmes.

The officers are—

Superintendent, or conductor, whose duties are similar to those of a Sabbath school superintendent.

A secretary, on whose tact and business capacity very much of the success of a society depends.

Monitors, who should be selected for general intelligence and good behaviour.

A staff of visitors, to keep members steadfast.

A librarian to issue books and keep for sale a supply of temperance literature.

A president, whose social position is such as will secure the moral support of the community.

There are many societies, however, doing splendid work where one or two willing individuals discharge any or all of these offices on account of an insufficient number of ready helpers to form a working staff. Let such take courage—

"In life's earnest battle, they only prevail
Who daily march onwards, and never say fail."

For the encouragement of the ladies, let me say that Band of Hope work is a kind for which they are specially adapted, for who can so win the affections of a child? Who can so sweep its heart strings as woman? There is none of the offices I have mentioned in connection with a Band of Hope that ladies would not adorn, not excepting that even of superintendent.

II. *Apparatus, i.e.*, the requisites for a Band of Hope. A full list would include—

1. Sets of books for Bands of Hope, *e.g.*, minute book, treasurer's book, pledge book, attendance register.

2. A set of rules or a constitution for the general management of the society, also pledge cards, which should clearly express the thing agreed to. For children it is thought that the "short pledge" is best, because it is of such a nature that they can perfectly understand; and as Bands of Hope are meant to be feeders to adult societies, the children will be in a position to understand the obligations of what is known as the "long pledge," when they are of age to pass from the one to the other.

3. Band of Hope melodies, which should be cheap and free from objectionable sentiments of any kind. Poetry linked to music is a powerful aid in cultivating the moral feelings, and instilling ennobling emotions into the mind. "If you wish to impress on the heart of a people some beautiful thought or vital principle, enshrine it in a poem—the charm of poetry will win a place for it in a thousand hearts; if you wish every heart of that thousand to repeat it often, to live upon its thoughts with quiet and unceasing delight, then embalm it in a song."

4. Books of dialogues and recitations. They are to be had in great variety and very cheap, prepared specially for Bands of Hope. Only those children who have overcome the mechanical difficulties of reading, should be asked to take part in this exercise, and only after private preparation. When a passage is well read or recited it has a powerful effect in awakening the feelings, and in inculcating sentiment—important agents in the formation of character.

5. Illustrations or pictures. The love of pictures is universal. Little children never weary of them, and even savages receive delight from them, however simple. Their mission is twofold, first to please, and second to instruct. To exhibit such pictures as "The Bottle," "The Sermon on Malt," "The Gin Trap," "The Gin Juggernaut," "The Gin Shop," or "The Worship of Bacchus," all by Cruickshank, which have been published at a cheap rate in handy form, will exert a great influence for good, and teach the children to love virtue for virtue's sake. The plain and coloured illustrated wall papers, over 100 in number, and costing 1d. each, issued by the publishers of the "British Workman," are by first-class artists, and are invaluable as passive moral trainers. Portraits of the great and good who have by precept and example been eminent abstainers as *e.g.*, Joseph Levesey of Preston, the father of the temperance movement; J. B. Gough; Sir Wilfrid Lawson; John Bright; Father Mathew; Dr. Richardson; David Livingstone; Dr. Guthrie; Sir John Ross; Elihu Burritt; Commodore Goodenough; and Generals Napier, Havelock, Wolesley, and Roberts, &c., would stimulate the children to give similar brave testimonies for the same good cause. Precept is good, pattern is better, but pattern and precept best of all. Illuminated Scripture texts, *e.g.*, "Wine is a mocker," "Thou God seest me," "Watch and pray," "Keep thyself pure," "Hold fast that which is good," &c., or illuminated sayings of the wise and good, as *e.g.*, "Prevention is better than cure," "There are more drowned in the

wine cup than in the sea," "Wine is a turncoat, first a friend, then an enemy, "Drunkenness makes some men fools, some beasts, some devils," &c., will stick to children to their dying day, keep them from the path of vice, and be a strong impulse to goodness and truth.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE EXCEPTIONAL TRAFFIC.

WE live under Free Trade, and have done so for some thirty-four years. Back to old protection is out of the question. Some parties, smarting under such embarrassing or embarrassed circumstances, utter faint whispers in praise of protection; but it won't do. The opinion of the nation, of the people, was fully made up on this point ere the barriers of "protection" were burst, and, once for all, shattered to atoms, and there is no use attempting to reconstruct these atoms again.

"Humpty-Dumpty sat on a wall;
Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall:
Not all the king's horses and all the king's men,
Could set Humpty-Dumpty up again."

This is the inevitable fate of all exploded monopolies. Public opinion is long in making up its mind, but its decision once arrived at, the result is final—there is no appeal. The Corn Laws can no more be re-imposed in Britain than can slavery be re-introduced. The time was when no open and avowed hostility was shown either to slavery or to the Corn Laws. The one had long existed, being a supposed source of wealth, and as such was clung to and defended; but the wise and good had their attention turned to the injustice, oppression, and cruelty of slavery. Through the press and the platform the heart and conscience of the nation were appealed to. Ignorance was displaced, prejudice gave way, and the anti-slavery agitation was crowned with complete success. Soon, thereafter, the attention of the nation was turned towards the iniquitous Corn Laws, whose operation had kept food at famine prices, hampered manufacture, trade, and commerce. Public meetings were held, lectures were delivered, pamphlets were issued, a weekly newspaper was started. Thought produced feeling, and feeling led to action; after a stout and determined struggle the obnoxious and unjust Corn Laws passed away, fell off like a withered leaf before the swelling bud of a new life. The history of these struggles, so stoutly fought and so manfully won, are well fitted to encourage and cheer us in our longer and, in many respects, more difficult struggle against a greater wrong than either slavery or the Corn Laws. Victory awaits us, it beckons us on; that we have not won the day is just this—we have not reached the point where victory stands, but we are journeying thither and reach that point we shall. The General Election of April, 1880, has, both directly and indirectly, given us an immense lift thitherwards. There is not a doubt about it. The long-continued depression of trade is speaking loudly to us, had we ears to hear. Overproduction, as an explanation of continued depression in trade, is a lame, limping, hollow thing which, alongside of the thousands of ill-fed and ill-clad to be met with in our cities, towns, villages, and rural districts, will not hold water. There are plenty of backs to cover, bellies to fill, and houses to furnish; and sufficient funds to purchase were it not for the plundering, thieving fingers of the intoxicating drink traffic. Waterlogged with this vile business, how can the vessel of the State get gallantly along? Every dram-shop is a factory for the manufacture of paupers and criminals. Intoxicating drink in-

toxicates. This is the secret of the mischief. It matters not when, where, nor by whom sold, intoxicating drink intoxicates; and intoxication means poisoning. *Toxicum*, the Latin root from which intoxication comes, means poison the world over. Partial intoxication means partial poisoning; and what wise man or woman would willingly choose to be, or would allow his or her children to be even partially poisoned? Despite greed of pelf, and gratification of appetite, we must get rid of this intoxicating drink curse.

Rosemount.

W. C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

"STATE PROTECTION, AND HIGH DUTIES ON LIQUOR."

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I am quite willing to leave my letter, and "Robin Goodfellow's" criticism to speak for themselves as fair representations of the two remedies proposed. My sole desire is that they should be thoroughly weighed and canvassed. There are only the two courses open to us—Total Suppression or Free Trade, with stringent legislation against intoxication. My objection to the Permissive Bill is that it *does not go far enough*. It removes one public house to benefit another. Whatever may be said of individual parishes having no public house (their sobriety has not been proved out of their favoured localities, or in their homes, and among their children), the sad fact remains that the excise revenue from drink is always increasing, especially with good trade and wages. This points to towns and not to country parishes. How will the proposed measures limit drinking in these? The distance from one ward without publicans to the other where they are permitted cannot be great, and the vultures will gather to the carrion. Make the measure not Permissive but universally Prohibitive, and I withdraw my objections.

Still, I ask, is this complimentary to our religion, our civilization, and the age in which we live? It is humiliating in the extreme. "Free Trade" should not scare us—though drink should run in the gutter, and the swine should swill it. We abhor it with all its effects and belongings; and greater intoxication would only confirm our detestation. I quote Robin Goodfellow's own letter against himself in the words of the publicans' solicitor who repudiates "Free Trade" in their name. "To throw open the trade would be to throw open the floodgates of vice and drunkenness. No publican, no assembly, &c., have asked that the trade be thrown open." Of course not! Their monopoly and their adventitious respectability would be destroyed and gone.

"Free Trade," or Free Licensing have not been tried in conjunction with the stern legislation against drinking with which it must be accompanied. It is unfair to omit all reference to the latter as is generally done, and as "Robin Goodfellow" does also. He leaves Hamlet out of the play. Six months' State labour on the complaint of a wife or child or neighbour will work miracles of reformation. It does so in Australia—within my knowledge. It would also form strong public opinion against the traffic and the indulgence it fosters and lives by. At present, Church and State smile on the traffic, and they both deal gingerly with the poor victims.

With strong faith in our religion, and the sterling sense of our people, let the floodgates be opened—despite the objections of the publicans—those guardians of the public morals—save the mark!—as the surest way to get a measure to stem the sweeping torrents, and wholly forbid the manufacture of alcohol.

I conclude, with reference to the State-connection,

in the words of the Emperor Tan Kiang to Sir Henry Pottinger, in 1842, regarding the opium forced into his country:—"Gain-seeking and corrupt men will for profit, and sensuality, defeat my wishes; but nothing will induce me to derive a revenue from the vice and misery of my people." Though his son and successor is said to have fallen a victim to this terrible drug, the Emperor's position was a noble one compared to that of our State, and its gain (degrading loss?) from the State-control and patronage of drink.

"Free Trade" and Prohibition may both be impracticable. It comes therefore to this, that the only true remedy for drunkenness is not to touch drink—to fortify within. This is a fortress against which neither floodgates nor hostile forces can prevail.

With unbroken ranks we must use all means speedily to deliver our country from the ruin impending through our present criminal indulgence in intoxicants.—I am, &c.

JA. S. MACKENZIE.

Manse of Little Dunkeld.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

SIR,—I appreciate your kindness in affording me an opportunity of replying to the Rev. Mr. M'Kenzie. I am as willing to leave my review of his letter and this rejoinder to his second letter to your readers as he can be. He says there are two courses open to us:—Total suppression or free trade, with stringent legislation against intoxication. I maintain that rightly there is only one—Total suppression. His objection that the Permissive Bill does not go far enough will not stand in the face of the 10th section of that Bill:—From and after the time limited for the commencement of this Act in any burgh or parish, *no license whatever* shall be granted or renewed for the sale of alcoholic liquors within such burgh or parish; and any person selling or disposing of any alcoholic liquor within such burgh or parish shall be dealt with as selling without license, and shall be subject to all the penalties provided for such offence under any Act or Acts of Parliament regulating the sale of alcoholic liquors which may be in force at the time of the adoption of this Act." I leave it to the rev. gentleman to reconcile his statement that the Permissive Bill removes one public house to benefit another with that quotation. The Bill, when law, will be unsparing in its action on every public house, and on every shebeen, and on every vendor of these detestable liquors. If Mr. M'Kenzie still doubts my interpretation of the intention of the Bill, I beg to refer him to the opinion of the liquor traffickers. They evidently labour under no uncertainty in the matter, and I believe unless the energetic temperance reformers of Scotland, like myself, had been convinced the Bill was rigidly suppressive, they would not have so much as lifted a little finger in its behalf. The measure is not intended for wards in towns, but as the text bears will include the burgh, the parish, or the district which adopts it in its enforcement. Make the measure universally prohibitive, he says, and I withdraw my objection. I answer that the adoption of the Permissive Act in any district will be equal to the area of an imperial Act in the same locality, with this advantage, that the adoption of the Permissive Act, being the Act of the people themselves, will be more faithfully enforced, hence the Permissive Bill when passed into law would have the advantage of an imperial law. The reason we seek a Permissive as contrasted with an imperial Act is to back the public opinion of any district against the continuance of the liquor traffic therein by the requisite Executive power. It does seem hard that such a district, anxious to be relieved from the temptation and evil results of the liquor traffic, should have to wait till there was a universally prohibitive sentiment in the country. The rev. gentleman may not know that Greenock has been canvassed on this question, when the result was overwhelmingly in favour of a local prohibitory Act, that it has every conceivable machinery in aid of temperance in operation, and that its parliamentary representatives have voted on every division on the Permissive Bill or local option resolution which has

taken place: now Greenock surely makes out a good case for getting special powers to put away her licensed drunkeries: under a Permissive Act she could immediately take a vote for or against her public house system and act accordingly, but if she had to wait till all Scotland was in the same advanced position as herself, she might have still to mourn for years over thousands of her citizens, yearly slain by drink. We adhere to our demand that the ratepayers have the sole power to decide the continuance or the suppression of the liquor traffic that affects them.

He says free trade should not scare us; well, he does his best to make it too frightful a responsibility to incur. Bad as matters are among us, I for one do so unfeignedly believe that they would be so much worse under free trade that I would resist any relaxation of the law. To bring back the disgusting accompaniments of the traffic, so visible a little more than a century ago, in order to cure drunkenness would be as wicked as it would be vain. The drinker, whether alone or part of a multitude, goes steadily from bad to worse, for satiety never comes to put a stop to the downward course. I adhere to the scope and import of the publicans' testimony that to open the traffic would be to open the flood-gates of vice and drunkenness, and I should never be the one that would make the dread venture to enter upon such a cruel policy that good may come, even were I sure that the reaction would be suppression.

He tells us that free trade or free licensing has not been tried in conjunction with the stern legislation against drinking, with which it must be accompanied. Well, I have given him evidence enough of the free trade, and I request him to afford me information where in Australia free trade with stern legislation operates better than prohibition does in the districts where it is enforced. He has to show that his scheme would render my proposal unnecessary, and show that his plan would dwarf mine by the superior sobriety it would create and sustain. Till he does so, I beg leave to doubt the success anywhere of free trade in drink with heavy penalties on the drink seller,

He says, with a strong faith in our religion, let the flood-gates be opened as the surest way to get a measure to stem the sweeping torrents, and wholly forbid the manufacture. Why not show our faith in our religion by dispensing with law and the policeman altogether as the best means of bringing about a state of society where evil should not be found at all. Abrogate our laws and trust to our religion only, and soon we should find ourselves in the bosom of Old Chaos. The rev. gentleman has stepped beyond the words of truth and soberness in penning this paragraph. I heartily agree with him in his laudations at the wisdom of Tan Kiang, yet cannot allow it to apply to prohibition. Prohibition locally or imperially applied would certainly not conserve the drink revenue, but by abolishing the traffic for ever abolish the revenue from it. Mr. M'Kenzie is replying here to some other one than me.

Curiously enough he shows so little faith in his scheme that he entirely abandons it for pure total abstinence. He declares that free trade and prohibition may be both impracticable. This is treating free trade and prohibition as mere theories. We are unable to agree with him. Free trade has been tried and has so ignominiously failed, that there is not a civilized nation but has abandoned it. Prohibition—State or Imperial and local—has been tried by Supreme Government, ratepayers, and landlords, and a more glorious record of the beneficent results of law as a social leverage for the elevation of humankind nowhere can be pointed out. It is not a theory, it is a great social fact and a great social force. Shall we therefore give it up and persuade men to give up drink while allowing drink-selling to continue? We would be the greatest enemies of total abstinence were we to do so. We hold total abstinence to be the remedy for intemperance, but we cannot secure the successful application of the remedy, simply because of the constant legal supply of liquor producing the disease against which that remedy is directed. To make total abstinence possible, we want

the power to apply prohibition. Hence the earnest striving on the part of temperance men to secure for themselves, their heirs and successors for ever, a Permissive Prohibitory Act suppressing every public-house wherever its powers are adopted. During my short life I have encountered thousands who, steeped in intemperance and its concomitant evils, yet in their lucid moments hied to the temperance hall and took the pledge; their knowledge of its benefits was clear and unshakeable, and they never doubted its efficacy did it only get fair play. Prohibition would make it possible to them and all who like them are the victims of a craving created and fostered by the liquor traffic.

Unless Mr. M'Kenzie can show cases in which free trade, with heavy penalties on the drink-seller, is superior to prohibition, we trust that he will throw in his lot with us and work for abstinence for the individual, and for prohibition as the duty of the State.—
Yours truly,
ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

THE NATION'S DRINK BILL FOR 1880.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—During the last few weeks the mind of the nation has been so engrossed by the Irish question at home, and by wars and tumults abroad, that there has been little chance of obtaining a hearing for other questions, however important. During the last few days there has been somewhat of a lull in the storm, and I venture to take advantage of it to call attention to a subject which is of great interest to a large and growing section of the community. I refer to the expenditure upon intoxicating liquors. The publication of the Excise returns in the early part of the present month enables us to arrive at this expenditure for the year 1880.

Owing to the abolition of the malt tax, and the substitution in lieu thereof of a tax upon beer, the data from which the amount of intoxicating liquors consumed during 1880 is derived is more varied than usual. During the first nine months of the year the amount of beer consumed is derived from the returns of malt and sugar used for brewing; whilst for the last three months—that is, from October 1st to December 31st—it is taken from a return which gives the number of barrels of beer upon which duty was paid.

The quantity of malt used in brewing during the nine months ending September 30, 1880, was 31,787,518 bushels, and of sugar 1,019,466 cwt., which was equal to 4,349,721 bushels of malt; adding the two together, we get a total of 36,137,239 bushels; and taking the Excise standard of two bushels of malt as brewing one barrel of beer, it gives a total of 650,470,302 gallons of beer as brewed from January 1st to September 30th. On the 1st of October the malt duty was abolished, and in place thereof a tax was put upon beer. The returns for the last three months of the year are given in beer, and they show that during that period there were 7,072,741 barrels, or 254,618,676 gallons of beer consumed, or a total for the year of 905,088,978 gallons. The returns for spirits and wine are issued in the same form as formerly.

The following table gives particulars of the quantities used, together with the money expended thereon. To enable a comparison to be made, I append the expenditure for 1879:—

	1880.	1879.	
Beer consumed.	905,088,978 galls. at 1/6	£67,881,673	£73,567,660
British Spirits do.	28,457,480 „ at 20/0	28,457,480	27,936,650
Foreign Spirits do.	8,477,512 „ at 24/0	10,173,014	11,449,021
Wine.	15,852,335 „ at 18/0	14,267,102	13,450,583
Brit. Wines, &c. (est.)	15,000,000 „ at 2/0	1,500,000	1,750,000
		£122,279,275	£128,143,863

Showing a decrease in consumption as compared with 1879 of £5,864,588, or 4.6 per cent.

Twenty years ago, in 1860, the drink bill was £86,897,683. Year by year, with two or three trifling exceptions, it continued to grow, until in 1876 it reached the enormous total of £147,288,760. In 1877 it fell to £142,000,231. In 1878 it rose a little, being £142,188,900; since 1878 it has fallen as the table I have given shows.

If the figures relating to the consumption of beer for the last three months of the year be compared with those for the previous nine months, it will be seen that there is a considerable increase shown. Those, however, who followed the Budget debates during July of last year will see reason to ascribe this increase not wholly to an increased consumption, but partly to the fact that the new method of collecting the duty from beer instead of from the malt, registers more correctly the actual consumption, and that in former years the beer which was brewed and sold was considerably more than the returns of malt indicated.

I have said that prior to October 1st of last year, the tax which is now upon beer was charged upon malt. At that time a drawback was allowed upon all beer which was exported, which drawback was calculated to be equal in amount to the tax paid upon the malt. The amount of drawback allowed was reckoned according to the specific gravity of the beer; and the principle upon which it was taken was, that beer brewed on the basis of two bushels to the barrel would give a liquor of the specific gravity of 55 deg. Upon this basis during the 18 years ending 1879, Mr. Gladstone stated that the brewers had been paid drawback upon exported beer to the amount of £3,125,000.

In reply to a question put to him by Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Gladstone said that the estimated quantity of malt which has been used in beer exported has been 23,027,000 bushels, and the drawback paid upon it had been £3,125,000. Had the standard, instead of being 55 degrees been 60 degrees, as Mr. Watney proposed, the estimated quantity of malt used in beer exported would have been 21,117,000 bushels, and the drawback upon it would have been £2,865,500, or less by about £260,000 than the sum which had been paid to the brewers. Or to put it in other words, the brewers paid £2,865,000 of tax upon malt, and got back in drawback upon beer exported £3,125,000, and thus they pocketed the handsome sum of £260,000 during the years named.

I refer to these facts because, although there can be no doubt that with the improved trade towards the end of last year, the returns showed an increase in the consumption of alcoholic liquors, especially of beer, yet the beer increase was not wholly due to larger consumption, but partly to the more accurate measuring of the manufacture secured by Mr. Gladstone's transfer of the tax from malt to beer; still there is enough to cause the fear that if trade and commerce should fully revive there would be some considerable increase in the intemperance of the nation, unless there be some change in the law so as to reduce the temptations to intemperance which so widely prevail.

WM. HOYLE.

Claremont Bury, April 21, 1881.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

Orillia, March 1, 1881.

SIR,—You perhaps remember that last year Mr. Boulton (who in the Canadian Parliament occupies a similar position, as champion of the trade, to that of Mr. Wheelhouse in the late Imperial House) succeeded in carrying through the House of Commons an amendment to the Scott Act, requiring a majority of all registered voters in any constituency to adopt it. This amendment the Senate refused to ratify. This time Mr. Boulton has failed to get it read a second time in the Lower House, the majority against him being 28. On the 28th of February, a motion, introduced by Mr. Longley, directing the Speaker to issue an order prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within the precincts of the House, was defeated by an amendment directing that the "bar" within the House be closed. The majority for the amendment was 10. It is significant that the motion was not voted down directly. Mr. Boulton took the motion as a personal insult, but this did not seem to trouble the House. Sir Leonard Tilly voted in the minority. Sir Charles Tupper was ill.—Faithfully yours,

W. H. HALE.

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

HOW TO ENJOY HOLIDAYS.

THE first thing about holidays is for those that desire them to emulate the immortal Mrs. Glass, whose recipe for hare soup began with, "first catch your hare," and first secure their holiday. The pleasure of that good time greatly depends on whether it is secured for May, June, July, or August. We have always looked on May for holidays as women look upon it for weddings—with aversion. Nature is not at her best. The fields have not quitted their russet appearance, the leaves but barely clothe the trees, the wind as it sails by makes one feel as if it had not yet parted from its winter's chill. The nights are lengthening, but they are not genial: one is often in doubt whether it is only late spring or if we have already reached early autumn. Altogether May is not the month for the only holidays all the year that the pleasure-seeker can command. Our affections centre on leafy, lovely June, when the fields are green with braird studded with butter-cups and daisies, the field-pea and meadow sweet; the hedge-rows radiant with wild-flowers, and the forest in loveliest verdure clad. The warblers of the grove make it vocal with their song, the haymakers fill the scene with animation, the shepherd shears his fleecy charge, the sun is not too hot, and the day is not too warm. In July and August the temperature exhausts and enervates, so, all things considered, we greatly prefer the merry month of June.

The question of the season for a holiday being decisively settled in favour of June, the question where shall we go, may be expected next to arise. Nay, the question is, are we in training for our holiday? To merely rise from our labours and to rush into the midst of holiday enjoyment is impossible to the most of people, we incline to think of all. Then the kind of holiday of which the pleasure-seeker is capable should earnestly engage his attention. Shall it be placid, soothing, resting? Shall it be active, somewhat boisterous? If he has been toiling and moiling with his mental and muscular faculties on the strain, and hardly able to bear up against fatigue, the country with its fresh air and its peaceful rest is the place for him. There he will find in its remote solitude and not laborious pleasure, rest for nerve and muscle, brain and hand. Plodding along its shady lanes and sunny highways, he will find nature in all her bloom. Her flora and fauna will yield him specimens enough to tax all his powers of arrangement when winter rules again. If he is an angler, its lochs and streams invite his piscatorial efforts. There beneath the umbrageous shade of some wide-spreading denizen of the wood, let time flit unheeded by. How much of restful pleasure can he imbibe who roams by glassy river's side, alternate gazing at the beauties around him, the glories of the sky above him, and the reflected grandeur of nature in the waters beneath him? Then there is the companionship of a book, materials for sketching, or botanical or geological investigation. In such quietude how pleasant passes the time, so pleasant that one no longer wonders at the joys of the golden age. Health returns to the jaded frame, colour to the faded cheek, nerve power to the brain, and vigour to the hand, and the whole tone of the holiday-seeker is raised to the high level of a happy because recreated existence.

If, on the other hand, the strain has been on the mind, while the body has been cribbed, cabined, and confined, while constant mental activity has worn the mind, and want of exercise has lowered the system, the pleasure-seeker feels that an active holiday is the truest medicine for him. But if he has not attempted to train for such a vigorous holiday, he is quite unfit for such a season of relaxation. To go on an active furlough without previous and appropriate drill, is to invite evil consequences instead of beneficial results, just as if a regiment lying in one of our home depots in masterly inactivity was, without preliminary drill, to go on active service. Its first brush with the foe in such a limp condition would simply be courting disaster. Precisely similar would be the experience of

the pleasure-seeker if he left his quiescence and rushed into a condition of volcanic energy. His duty is the use of the dumb-bells, the skipping-rope, or a run of a mile or two on foot after hours, or if he has tried to maintain a healthy state by these means at all times, he has only to increase his muscular exercises a slight degree to be in the best form for the holiday he longs for. It is by the overlooking these preliminaries that so many of our tired-out toilers in the professions fail so often to recuperate through their holiday relaxations.

The question where shall he go is the next to face him. But he must consult his own tastes: he will, however, undoubtedly err if he, as the saying is, goes off at a tangent. He may go off as fancy points, and in following her cover a large space of ground, but he will live to regret it. His holiday has been merely fragmentary, for he has simply exercised his legs and deferred to that will-of-the-wisp his fancy; while all, head, heart, body, cried aloud for recreation, and cried out in vain, hence failure deep and unmistakeable will be the result.

Let our holiday-seeker carefully lay down a route. This is indispensable. He has a great variety of choice. Let us say that he chooses the route from Perth to Braemar, by way of the Spittal of Glenshee. Well, in that grand pedestrian route he will find inexhaustible pleasure. The beautiful and the sublime will arrest his eye and fill his memory with unfading images, the mere recalling of which will be in itself a culture. The varied aspects of nature will add to the joy of his tour, and he will be able to more fully appreciate the grandeur and loveliness of the Deeside Highlands. Or let him take the journey from Stirling to Balloch by Callander and the Trossachs. Leaving Snowdown's height behind him, passing Kildeanford on his left, and Abbey Craig, Sheriffmuir, Bridge-of-Allan, and Dunblane on his right hand, he soon arrives at Doune with its famous though ruined castle. Going ahead he soon reaches Callander, where, after resting, he continues his journey to the far-famed, justly famed Trossachs. On his right is the pass of Lenny and Ben Ledi, on his left the water of the Teith, Coilantogleford, the waters of Vennachar and Auchry and all the beautiful scenery immortalized by Scott. Marching through the Trossachs, one vast mass of foliage, the traveller arrives at the landing stage of the Loch Katrine steamers. Proceeding on board, he sails around Ellen's Isle, glides by the Silver Strand on his right, and Benvenue and the Glasgow Aqueduct on his left; and is soon moored at Stronachlachar. Here he may proceed up the glen or across to Inversnaid. Supposing that he rests, he may next morning resume his journey to Arrochar or Tarbet by Ardlui. In the one case he may traverse Loch Lomond side until he reaches Balloch, whence a train will take him to Stirling, or he may go down Loch Long by steamer to the Clyde. Or leaving Callander he may train it to Lochearnhead, then wend along Lochearn to St. Fillans, Comrie, Creiff, and Perth. Taking the train to Aberfeldy, he walks through Kenmore on to Killin, and on by Dalnally to Oban. He may prefer a pilgrimage to a tour, and he does right in making such a preference. Let us suppose that he arranges to make a pilgrimage to the land of Scott or that of Robert Burns. Suppose the latter; what pleasures await him! How delightful to saunter to Ayr, Mount Oliphant, Tarbolton, Kirkoswald, Irvine, Mossgiel, Mauchline, Ellisland, and Dumfries, "the queen of the south." What a procession of women will flit across his vision. The bonnie sweet sonesie lassie, Nelly Kirkpatrick, that first wakened the love of Burns, Ellison Begbie, Jean Armour, the Bonnie Lass of Ballochmyle, Poesie Nansie, Mary Campbell, Mrs. Riddell, and Mrs. Dunlop: of men, the sainted father, his teacher Murdoch, Gavin Hamilton, Robert Aitken, Holy Willie, Tam Samson, Graham of Fintry, Davie Lapraik, Capt. Matthew Henderson, Tam o' Shanter, and Capt. Grose; there then are the glorious groups—The Jolly Beggars, The Cottars' Saturday Night, The Holy Fair, Death and Dr. Hornbook, The Two Dogs, and Twa Brigs. To saunter on and trace the footprints of Burns' genius is the highest of pleasures: to weep where he swerved,

to laugh where he castigated the vices and follies of his time, and to applaud where his moral insight of nature and mankind was keenest and brightest, is to luxuriate in hero worship. Holidays so spent will leave a lasting impression on the heart and mind for good, and will in the course of years afford an amount of joy which in no other way can be obtained.

It will deepen the joy of anticipation if the holiday-seeker then will make out a tour scheme: if he sketches a map of where he intends to go: if he strictly times himself to daily progress. This pre-attention will avert the disappointment of unfulfilled arrangements, and will contribute undoubtedly to success. Allowance for rainy days and peaceful Sabbaths should be made: and also time, if a journal is kept, to keep it abreast of his wanderings. The holiday so spent will be rich in material for storing the mind and heart, rich in culture, and rich in the more truthful and sounder views which he will entertain regarding the Ayrshire Bard.

One word of advice: let him enter upon no elaborate personal preparations—no wrist-bands or other similar impediments. A stout stick, double-soled shoes, dress for ordinary wear, two shirts, a night and day one; and a pair of socks is sufficient for his kit. Burns' works, note-book, stylograph pen, a few post cards to keep up communications with home; a few visiting cards with full address, and by which, in case of disaster, he may be identified; a piece of stout cord, and a woodcock's feather to dust his shoes ere he passes through the towns and hamlets that lie in the line of his pilgrimage; a few needles, thread, and buttons, and a stout knife which can cut bread or anything, are all most essential to comfort. Daily washing all over, or if that is not possible, washing the feet is indispensable. On putting on socks he should rub them on the inner side with a little soap, and blisters will never appear. Let his food be of the simplest, not forgetting good well-boiled porridge in the morning, which gives vigour to walk for miles; some bread and fruit will suffice for lunch, and a moderate meal at the close of the day will answer all the rightful demands of appetite. Let water be his only drink, and let him avoid alcohol, because it is poison. Temperance in walking, eating, drinking is the very backbone of his pilgrimage—the man who can wander in the footsteps of Burns and be intemperate is insensible to the claims of true manhood. If he lives through his holidays as travellers in other lands are forced to do—as near nature as he can—he will shed her choicest blessings on his expedition.

Such, we believe, is the way to truly enjoy a holiday. One may sometimes lie down tired and footsore from the wanderings of the day, but if he keeps in the spirit of the advice offered to him he will soon come to learn that he is taking the best means to make himself healthy, wise, and happy.

I need not allude to holidays with sweethearts or wives and families. Such a kind of trip is outwith the scope of this paper. If the guidwife, however, is sweet, sensible, and loving, she will make the holidays overflow with pleasure; if she is not, she will be as insensible to my advice as she will have proved insensible to her husband's claim upon her affection and devotion.

PUBLIC PRESS.

THE "TIMES" ON MR. HOYLE'S LETTER.

Godly discipline is not so wholly forgotten in this country but that once a year, in the season of Lent, the British nation is put to open penance for the most notorious of its many sins. This wholesome ceremony is the casting up and publication of the national drink bill. That for the year 1880 is out, and will be found in a letter from our old correspondent Mr. William Hoyle, which we commend to our readers. The total expenditure under all heads of strong drink for the whole population is £122,279,272, which is less by £5,864,588, or 4·6 per cent., than it was in the previous year, 1879. It would be pleasant to believe that this difference is wholly or mainly owing to improved habits

and increased command over appetite. That would be something to say for our elementary public schools, for various recent outbursts of religious zeal, and specially for the meritorious work of the Temperance Association. But the tongue or the pen that would gladly score this success finds itself restrained by a sad misgiving that the ups and downs of our drinking expenditure simply represent the ups and downs of prosperity, employment, and wages. To go back twenty years, in 1860 the drink bill was £86,897,683. After sixteen years, that is in the year 1876, when the general prosperity was such as to establish a rise in wages varying from 10 to 30 per cent., the drink bill reached the enormous figure of £147,288,760, indicating that on the average everybody was drinking considerably more than half as much again as he had been content with in 1860. The climax thus suddenly reached did not sustain itself. The next year showed a drop of more than five millions, the next year a short rest in the descent, and the year 1878 another sudden drop. But we have only to recall the story of our agriculture, our manufactures and trade, and of our Irish difficulties during the last four years to know too well the true account of these figures. All classes have been poor, tenants, labourers, landlords, tradesmen, employers, artisans, and, not least, those supposed to be in the receipt of professional or independent incomes. All have had to stint themselves somewhat in their favourite stimulus or beverage. It has been a prudential, if not enforced, abstinence. One may justly tremble to think of the possible rebound in the event of returning prosperity. We have known people watch the hungry, cadaverous face of the dipsomaniac, restrained by strong oath, or stronger penury, from the satisfaction of his raging and still aggravated thirst. They have watched him to the point when they could say it was only a question of opportunity, and when the relapse would be worse than ever, probably irrecoverable. Suppose an unexpected visitation of unexampled prosperity. How high would the total stand in the last year of the century? If there be any probability one way or the other, it is that the year 1900 will be as much above 1880 as that is above 1860, and that the drink bill will then be £246,000,000.

Mr Hoyle compares the Irish share of this expenditure with that rent which is the grievance of Ireland, and which the world believes to be intolerably oppressive. The rental of agricultural land there he computes at £11,518,392, but as Ireland, in the average of ten years ending 1879, spent £13,823,102 annually in intoxicating liquors, it follows she spent £2,304,710 more in drink than in rent. . . . Many other comparisons might be made equally edifying, or equally mortifying, common to both islands, for Ireland does not spend more than her share in drink; nay, she spends considerably less than her share, and, by comparison with the English and the Scotch, the Irish may be called a remarkably temperate people. For the whole population of these isles the average expenditure in drink is more than £3 a head for every man, woman, and child, and more than £15 for each family. It is vastly more than the public revenue; vastly more than the most inflated and extraordinary expenditure we have had for twenty years. It is more than ten times as much as is spent in relief of the poor, watched by economists with such jealous eyes. . . . Parliament would like to provide parks—that is, fresh air—to the metropolis, but has to plead poverty. How much would even 1 per cent. of the drink bill—that is, half a week's drinking—do in this direction! But there are comparisons that come more home to us. The working man grudges a few pence for the education of his children, and spends often as many shillings in drink. He will not lay by as much as a shilling a week to provide for probable sickness and inevitable old age, but he spends, perhaps, ten times that sum in beer and spirits. But he is not the greatest sinner; far from it. His betters, lay, spiritual, professional, or trading, are generally far worse than he is. The gentleman in the pulpit who delivers weekly diatribes against drunkenness and improvidence, and who counts up a new charge against the poor ploughman every time he sees

him a little overcome or at the public-house, often spends ten times as much, though he really wants it less. It is a very ordinary thing for the wine and beer bills to amount to £50 out of a total expenditure of £500. How much can be done with £50 a year, and how often does a clergyman or his family come to want it most grievously! It will make all the difference between a good and a bad village school. It will maintain six or eight orphans on the economical rural scale. It will keep in repair, warm, and light almost any village church. It will pay the costs of a village room, properly warmed, lighted, and tended. It will keep two promising boys or girls at good middle schools. It will buy a very good library in a few years, and so people the literary desolation which is the worst feature of most parsonages. Last of all, how often will the saving of such a sum prevent the pitiable scandal of a public subscription to find, no longer wine or other delicacy, but bread and decent clothing for the clergyman's family cast on the outer world. . . . With regard to the main question, the national drink bill, and the prevalence of excessive and extravagant drinking, unnecessary if not worse, every Englishman must feel sore and anxious about it. Drinking baffles us, confounds us, shames us, and mocks us at every point. It outwits alike the teacher, the man of business, the patriot, and the legislator. Every other institution flounders in hopeless difficulties; the public-house holds its triumphant course. The administrators of public and private charity are told that alms and obligations go with rates, doles, and pensions to the all-absorbing bar of the public-house. But the worst remains. Not a year passes in either town or village without some unexpected and hideous scandal, the outcome of habitual indulgence, often small and innocent in its origin. Some poor creature, long and deservedly high in the respect, perhaps reverence of the neighbourhood, makes a sudden shipwreck of character. Under the accumulating influence of alcohol, aggravated, perhaps, by other still more powerful, still more treacherous agencies, the honest man turns knave, the respectable man suddenly loses principle and self-respect, the wise man is utterly foolish, the rigidly moral man forgets his mask and his code and takes a plunge into libertinism. It then turns out, what possibly some have suspected, that drink is at the bottom of it, and that some poor wife or other friend has long been doing the best that could be done to check, to cure, and at all events to hide, till the truth would be out. Of course, on such occasions rivals and competitors in the race of life are not to be denied their paltry triumph. It would be much more to the purpose to take the warning, and do something towards staying the huge mischief which, in one way or another, confounds us all, and may, for we cannot be sure, crush and ruin any one of us. —

RECREATION.—It is the want of better mental culture and better opportunity of rational amusement which often leaves a worker to provide a sensation for a holiday in drink. Nature craves a change, and a man without other resources has only to turn up his little finger often enough in his own room or in the public-house, in order presently to find himself provided with fresh influences however disastrous. This is sometimes especially the case where he has been long engaged on monotonous work in perhaps the constant repetition of some process which requires intelligence and skill. His brain thus becomes wearied as well as his hand, and the thirst for change is thus sometimes so fierce and suddenly importunate that it takes the shape of thirst for stimulating drink. It is no doubt very true that drunkenness produces in many an emptiness of mind, lets the man down to a lower level of life, in which he ceases to take interest in objects or pursuits worthy of man, and thus becomes degraded. But we must recollect that the real degradation, the lower state which is associated with an aimless existence or contracted range of pursuits, is in itself a serious promoter of excess in drink. Thus a great hope of extended and liberal education lies not only in the provision of more skill to work, but in the pursuit of intelligent recreation when the work is done.—Rev. Harry Jones, A.M., in *Good Words*.

THE FUNDS.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER
GLASGOW, MAY, 1881.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL ASSOCIATION.

REMOVAL OF OFFICES.

The Executive beg to intimate the removal of the Offices of the Association from 30 Hope Street to commodious and superior premises at

112 BATH STREET.

On and after 6th inst. all letters, newspapers, books, parcels, &c., should be addressed to the Secretary,

R. MACKAY,
112 Bath Street,
Glasgow.

All communications for the Editor of the *Social Reformer* should be addressed to the same place.

Members, friends, and all in sympathy with the objects of the Association, will meet with a cordial welcome on the new premises.

R. MACKAY, *Sec.*

**** Several excellent papers and reviews are in hand, and several literary notices have been crushed out. A notice of the Spring Licensing Courts is held over, as these had not all risen when we had to go to press.

Those friends who have kindly sent in newspapers containing matters of interest to the movement are heartily thanked, and similar favours are requested from friends in all parts of the country. Cutting the paper at the place to which our attention is desired will enhance the value of these highly-appreciated gifts.

On many occasions our readers have had submitted to them ample details of the Canada Permissive Bill—the Scott Act, 1878. Numerous have been the attempts on the parts of the traffic to get it injured. They tried to make it out an unconstitutional measure and ignominiously failed. They have been at it again: this time to load the electorate so that it will not work well. They want it declared that instead of a majority of these

voting there shall be a majority of all registered as voters before it can be adopted in any district! This undisguised attempt to vitiate the Act was defeated by 82 to 54 votes. Another attempt to exempt from its provisions almost the whole class of fermented liquors was also carried, but in the House of Commons it could not be discussed, and now at the end of another session the Act remains intact. Every year will tend to the stability of this famous measure, every year its blessings will be more evident; its educative influence will deepen and widen in the near future, till it will be as easy for the liquor traffic to upset the constitution as to overturn the Scott Act in the old Dominion.

On one of the last days of the last year a Maori Tuhi suffered the last penalty of the law, for the murder of Miss Dobie, Opunake, New Zealand. The unfortunate wretch addressed a letter to His Excellency in the following terms:—"I have heard that I am to be put to death on Wednesday, and I am willing to die on that day; but I have a word to say to you. As I am to die, let spirits die also. Don't leave anything of its kind in the world. Let it be destroyed from the face of this earth, lest it should remain to cause trouble to men. Man would then be answerable for his own troubles. If it was destroyed all would be well. Man would then seek his own troubles. Then it would be well, for there would be no cause for trouble. That is all from Tuhi." To think of this poor drunken savage so clearly and profoundly fathoming the relation of drink to crime—so clearly pointing out the remedy! It is not too much to think, that if some who talk about drink so glibly, were face to face with death, as was the wretched Tuhi, they would give a better deliverance on the question. They would find that death has the faculty of making more than savages speak up, speak out, and speak square.

That tried friend of prohibition, ex-Governor Dingley, shows up the unscrupulous tactics of the drink sellers. They have often said that crime would increase under prohibition, and we believed them. The effect of a prohibitory law was to harmonize the human statute with the divine law against putting one's bottle to his neighbour's lips. Those who had an interest in still doing so, and a courage to brave the law in doing so, could not but expect to incur its penalties and go to prison. But every law properly enforced increases crime in the same sense. Are we, therefore, to be deterred from passing and maintaining laws because their penalties mean the branding of some violaters as criminals? nay, ex-Governor Dingley conclusively shows that in thirteen years, 1867 to 1880, there have been no less than 602 shebeeners in the State prisons and local gaols of the State of Maine. Surely the fact that these criminals have been punished is not to be deplored or made an occasion to work out a repeal of the law? Mr. Dingley shows that in Massachusetts, a license State, there are three times as many

prisoners as in prohibitory Maine. Nay more, that Maine has a less proportion of crime than any other State of the Union. Give the truth fair currency and we'll back it against the world.

One day last month we came upon the following testimonial in a family grocer's window:—"I have carefully analyzed and examined a sample of whisky from the stock of — —, Glasgow, and I find that it is free from adulteration and of excellent quality. It is one of the *best malt whiskies* I have ever examined, and it has been well aged. (Signed) R. R. Tatlock, consulting and analytical chemist, City Analyst's Office, 138 Bath Street, Glasgow." The italics are our analyst's. Now, what does Mr. Tatlock mean? Not that it is good, but that it is not adulterated, and that it is of excellent quality as a whisky, and free, we presume, from fusel oil. It is simply an excellent sample of the product of the fermentation and distillation of malted grain. This and nothing more. He does not dare say it is good for drinking, but he leaves the silly public who drink it to infer that it is an excellent beverage, when they ought to infer that it is a subtle poison. How lame and impotent is his testimonial when placed side by side with the certificate of character that King Solomon unsolicitedly, of course, gave the liquor:—"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its bubble in the cup, when it moveth itself strangely. At last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thy heart shall utter perverse things"! This is a character of strong drink, whether fermented only, like wine, or fermented and distilled, like whisky, penned under the guidance of unerring wisdom. It is penned to induce men to avoid the very sight of wine, and not to induce them, by dubious phraseology, to buy what is injurious to the body and the mind.

On the 5th ult., the Convention of Royal Burghs took place in Edinburgh, for the consideration of an amazing variety of subjects. The irrepressible liquor question was amongst the number. The Convention has a Standing Committee on Local Option, and its report was submitted to the meeting. It is worthy of preservation. It ran as follows:—1. That Town Councils should, in burghs, be the licensing authorities. 2. That power of appeal and the Confirmation Courts should be abolished. 3. That no applications for new licenses should be entertained, if the application is objected to by a majority of the ratepayers within a certain radius of the premises sought to be licensed. 4. That an annual payment, additional to the amount of license paid to Government, should be levied from the owners of the licensed property, and applied to the police and other assessments. 5. Public-houses should be closed earlier than at present. This report furnishes evidence of how deeply and strongly the current of

temperance sentiment is setting in against the liquor traffic. Compared with the mode of administration pursued with regard to the licensing of the liquor traffic twenty years ago, the first three points in the report exhibit a vast improvement, and were we as hopeful on the amendment of that system as some temperance reformers, we would be disposed to congratulate the members of the Convention on their progress. Holding as we do by the right of the people to power enabling them to sweep away the traffic from their doors, we see in the Convention's report another evidence of the inability or indisposition of Boards or Committees or Conventions to deal with the liquor traffic in view of the permanent welfare of the people. The onus that might lie on people should not be in protesting against every license sought for premises beside them, but rather that no license whatever should be entertained unless an accredited petition in its favour from the people the license was likely to affect was presented. With all the emphasis of language we brand No. 4 as an outrage upon communities, involving them, as it proposes, in the crime and degradation of liquor-selling. Ex-Bailie Lewis endeavoured to give a practical turn to the Convention by asking it to petition Her Majesty's Government to give effect to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, adopted by the House of Commons on 18th June last. The discussion on this amendment, which was seconded by the Provost of Greenock, was in accord with its letter and spirit, but the vote was in favour of the report by 53 to 5. The Convention is pledged to a phantom, for neither Boards, whether composed of magistrates, or citizens only, or of Town Councils, will ever settle the drink difficulty. The people, and the people alone, will in the near future assume the responsibility of having or excluding public-houses in their respective localities, and we have no fear whatever but they will act in view of that sacred trust as other communities similarly empowered, have done, and sweep the liquor system for ever away.

Professor Ramsay, of the University of Glasgow, and Mrs. Ramsay, desirous of, as the lady herself finely said, of supplying the wants and brightening the lives of the people of Alyth, instituted a coffee-house there in March last. Viewing these coffee-houses as counteractives to the public-house, as a refuge to the men and youths with ill-kept or unkept houses, and to youths in uncongenial lodgings, we were prepared to rejoice over this addition to the philanthropic agencies of Alyth. But our joy received a check when we found the learned Professor taking advantage of his position and his circumstances to assail the temperance movement in unmeasured terms and with untruthful weapons. After stating that foreign people set up abundant facilities for eating and drinking, for those of them that went abroad, he went on to say—

"In Britain the idea had seemed to be that man was a drinking animal only—principally a spirit-drinking ani-

mal—(laughter and applause)—and that while he might want to drink, he could never want to eat his ordinary food except in his own house. As to the drinking of alcoholic liquors, he wished to say at once that he felt no kind of antagonism whatever to the wine and spirit trade. It was as legitimate a trade as any other in the country. It was founded upon natural wants and natural desires. If it was undoubtedly liable to abuse, he believed that no interest suffered more damage from its abuse than the trade itself. (Applause.) He regarded the total abstinence movement, when preached as a creed of duty, to be as extreme and unnatural as was the evil of excess. (Applause.) Temperance was not abstinence. It consisted in the reasonable and moderate use, within proper limits, of all the good things which God had given us. Indeed, he was not sure the total abstinence cry had not been got up by some insidious publican for the express benefit of the trade, as every unnatural extreme leads necessarily to reaction. (Laughter.) In illustration of this, he might quote what happened on the Clyde last summer, the steamers on which were not remarkable as a rule for the practice of abstinence principles. Last summer a 'temperance' steamer (the *Ivanhoe*) was started. The moment the ship landed anywhere every one rushed to the nearest public-house. At the end of the summer all the publicans on the banks of the Clyde petitioned that the 'temperance' steamer might be continued. (Laughter and applause.) He hoped, then, no one connected with hotels or public-houses would feel any jealousy of the coffee-house.

Now while the Professor compares the manners of nations he should never while doing so make his comparisons unnecessarily odious. It has been the proud boast of the Briton that he more than almost any nationality realized that there was no place like home. With Continental nations the reverse is the case; the Frenchman and German dine, and tea, and drink oftener away from home than in it. The wisest of those engaged in this coffee palace movement would deplore their efforts if they rendered a good home less attractive than before to any of their customers. And with all our sympathy for the coffee palaces throughout the land, we would infinitely prefer a movement that by making our bad homes comfortable would render outward attractions to the working man unnecessary. As it is the working man with a bad home goes out in sheer desperation to find a refuge. The 'public' hitherto was the only alternative that offered, and having of course to spend something for the good of the house, too often contracted the vice of intemperance and became lost to himself and society. We hold in the presence of the liquor traffic that the coffee palace is instituted as a counteractive, as an enemy to public houses, and that if it is not this it is not either a philanthropic or a temperance agency. If it does not educate men into the conviction that the public house can be done without, and stimulate the working man to get rid of public houses, then it is a mockery, delusion, and a snare—a mere philanthropic sham. We deny *in toto* that the liquor traffic is as legitimate a trade as any other in the country: and that it is founded on natural wants and desires. The custom of the people and the legislation of the government cannot legitimize this traffic any more than slave dealing and slave-holding protected by law rendered the slave traffic legitimate, or than a long course of injustice enabled masters to declare that they were right in over-working their hands. The liquor traffic would be legitimate were it to promote the welfare of its cus-

tomers as is the case with other trades whose legitimacy is never questioned, but when the dealer in drink flourishes in proportion as his customers are blighted it is a perversion of language to say that his trade is legitimate. Equally illogical was it to say that it was founded upon natural wants and natural desires. But we need not argue this point with the learned Professor. The whole of the intelligent portion of the medical profession is against him. He regarded the total abstinence movement to be as extreme and unnatural as the evil of excess. Of course to be consistent he must believe this when his definition of temperance is looked at—which is that temperance consists in the reasonable moderate use of all the good things which God hath given us. Now when the truth is that alcohol is not a good thing to drink and that God never gave it to us, his definition is not much credit to him. He says temperance is not abstinence. But his definition simply includes all good things which God has given. If so what then becomes of the bad things which he has not given? Shall we not abstain from them? A Jew looking at the definition would eat corn, wine and oil as the good things of which he was to make a reasonable and moderate use, and he would say that his temperance which included these excluded pork and shell-fish. If Professor Ramsay had only given his reason fair play he might have given us such a definition as this—temperance is the rational use of things beneficial and the entire abandonment of things pernicious, to which all thoughtful Christians could heartily subscribe. Nothing he can say farther need detain us since we have shown that he does not know what temperance means: and we have nothing to fear from such an utterly baseless attack. But we have to prefer a serious charge against him. Affirming that total abstinence is merely a cry got up by the trade itself for its own benefit, and of course that by consequence we total abstainers are in collusion with the liquor traffic, he alludes to the temperance steamer "*Ivanhoe*" as an illustration and perhaps proof of his assertion. "The moment the ship landed anywhere every one rushed to the nearest public house." Again, "At the end of the summer all the publicans on the banks of the Clyde petitioned that the temperance steamer might be continued." Not to point out the absurdity of people voluntarily going on board a temperance boat merely to endure two hours thirst for strong drink when scores of boats with drinking saloons were at their service, we most emphatically deny that the allegation applies to a more than a mere moiety of the passengers of the "*Ivanhoe*," and that moiety was largely made up of publicans who preferred a voyage down the water away from the taste and smell of a whisky bar. The owners of the "*Ivanhoe*," we are in a position to say, never received a petition from the publicans on the banks of the Clyde, so that if Professor Ramsay is imposed upon, it says little for his good sense, and if he makes the assertion recklessly

it says as little for his veracity. A more unwarrantable and baseless attack on a movement which has effected such a beneficial change in society it has not been our lot to meet. It is matter for thankfulness that his ill-judged remarks recoil most heavily on himself.

The summer is now upon us, and the people are moving about. Among other gatherings which attract them are well conducted temperance meetings. These kind of meetings never have in our experience failed. The committee that selects a good site, invites speakers full of their subject and having the art of setting it forth effectively, secures a good choir, appoints a well-known and approved chairman, have their meetings well advertised, will score many successes before the summer on which we have entered is at an end. Were some committees only to look around and see how carefully even a nigger concert is arranged for, and would take the lesson faithfully to heart, showing an enterprising discrimination and tact, they would find hundreds, in some cases thousands, of pledges added to their society roll books. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will gladly co-operate with such committees.

Now that the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has got through a most arduous amount of winter work, we believe that we will be doing it a service by bringing forward its claims upon the liberality of all who are sincerely desirous of legally suppressing the drink traffic. This Association was supported last year by (1st) a subsidy from the United Kingdom Alliance, (2nd) by 5,483 subscribers, (3rd) by 122 societies, and (4th) by a special subscription of £100 sterling received from the late Mr. John Smith, Fairmount, Bothwell. The total sum received amounted (exclusive of balance from last year, sums received from publications and collections) to £1,786 17s. 5d., or at the rate of £148 18s. 1d. per calendar month, or nearly £4 17s. 8d. per day. Looking to the nature and the amount of work done by it, and through it, not forgetting the helpful aid otherwise of its members and friends, nor the gratifying co-operation it received from all sections of the movement, such a daily income is insignificant in the extreme. Not one in view of these figures dare say that the Association received last year the support to which, looking at the results of its efforts, it was fairly entitled.

The subscription list of the Association is also well worth study. Three friends gave subscriptions of £20 and upwards; 7 from £10 to £20; 20 from £5 to £10; 61 from £2 to £5; 215 from £1 to £2; 224 from 10s. to £1; 670 from 5s. to 10s.; 1,820 from 2s. 6d. to 5s.; 2,463 from 1s. to 2s. 6d. We find from the same information supplied to us that 635 subscribers paid 5s.; 1,708, 2s. 6d.; and 1,653, 1s. Thirty per cent. of the subscribers gave one shilling only to the funds, and nearly other thirty-three per cent. subscribed half-a-crown. Of course many of them, having a perfect knowledge of the vigorous energy and success characteristic of the operations of the Association, might say—"Well, if such vigour and efficiency can be maintained for such a trifling sum why pay more?" To such we

would say, "Allow us to amend your remark and say if such a petty sum has done so much let us give more liberally in order to secure progress and success in proportion." No business company we know of but would, in the face of the ratio of the significant results of the agitation, increase its capital greatly and find many willing to invest in a concern that offered the same ratio of returns as this Association has given, not only last year, but all through the years of its existence.

Let any warm friend who remembers the condition of the permissive prohibitory movement in Scotland when this Association was instituted compare the *then* with the *now*, and he will have as little difficulty as we have in coming to the conclusion that the financial support received by the Association hitherto has not been in proportion to its merits, or to the growth and progress of the agitation which it has so persistently led. The Executive, although often appealing to the members and friends, were ready, however, to allow for the feeble response to their call for increased resources on the ground that then the movement was so very much a matter of faith, that many no doubt preferred to give to objects much less worthy, because visible, rather than embark their charity on what might turn out after all a peradventure. But no one can now urge such a reason. The Association has revolutionised the temperance sentiment of Scotland, and the result is that the Permissive Bill movement has in it no equal and no superior. Under such circumstances the Executive would not, we think, ask too much were they to ask that, with returning prosperity, there should be a serious consideration on the part of all members and friends of the movement as to what ought to be the amount of their future support to the funds. Let them assign the first place on their private subscription list to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association and they will neither regret their doing so nor really pinch any other good object they feel disposed to support. It is not the amount for which, on behalf of this Association, we plead, it is the spirit of giving we so earnestly desire. Let every true man and woman sympathising with the efforts of the Association deal faithfully with him or herself, and as they give to God in holy things they will give as cheerfully to the funds of this Association. Each of the 1,653 one shilling subscribers might, in the light of this self-searching consideration, resolve to give two shillings, raise their subscription from one farthing to one halfpenny a week, and in like manner those 1,708 paying 2s. 6d. could resolve prayerfully to give 5s., which, after all, is little more than one penny a week as their contribution to bring about the abolition of the liquor traffic. We feel that we have perhaps asked far too little, but should any friend feel any difficulty as to the amount he or she should devote, let them refer this matter to conscience, and by its dictates let them faithfully abide.

Dr. Emmons met a pantheistical physician at the house of a sick parishioner. Says the pantheist, "Dr. Emmons, how old are you?" "Sixty, sir—and how old are you?" "As old as creation, was the triumphant response." "Then you are of the same age as Adam and Eve." "Certainly, I was in the garden when they were." "I have always heard that there was a third party in the garden with them, but I never knew before that it was you."

INTELLIGENCE.

DUMBARTON LOCAL PARLIAMENT.

On Friday, 25th March, this body met to discuss the second reading of the Local Option Liquor Bill.

The Member for Finsbury (L) began the debate in a speech which showed considerable acquaintance with the temperance question. Dealing with alcoholic drinks, he held there was not more than a pennyworth of food in a gallon of beer, and all the food in a glass of wine could be held on a threepenny piece.

The Member for Stroud (C) held that the real purpose of the Bill was to diminish the powers of the ratepayers in the regulation of the drink traffic. He admitted that the use of drink was hurtful, but the people had Local Option at present, and had only to choose teetotal magistrates to have the traffic extinguished.

The Member for Leeds (L) made by far the most important speech of the evening. He said—The laws which we have at present for the regulation and distribution of drink amongst the people of this country are not perfect laws. They might be improved. As an improvement, sometimes people talk about free trade, but that is almost an exploded idea. After quoting lengthily from Robin Goodfellow's article in March *Social Reformer*, he went on to say—It must be acknowledged that because free trade has failed, and because we cannot allow it to be sold as other commodities, that we have had to resort to the present system of restriction, which some people term a regular monopoly. Our present licensing system cannot be said to be a success. Its object is to control the traffic in intoxicating liquor, and allow the people to have drink without drunkenness, and without public disorder. According to the existing law, drunkenness is illegal. Any person who is found in a public place under the influence of drink is liable to arrest. And more, the publican who supplied him with the drink has subjected himself to a fine of from £10 to £20. Well, what do we find when looking at the statistics of drunkenness? In one town in the north of England (Liverpool) there were, in 1879, 15,705 arrests for drunkenness, and 1166 for other offences while in a state of intoxication. But I need not take one place into account. It is a fact that a year or two ago, in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, there were 350,000 persons dealt with for drunkenness. Can any legislative measure be a more complete failure than our present licensing system when tested by these statistics? We have throughout our land thousands of arrests for drunkenness, and, strange to say, we hear of very few of the parties who are licensed to supply the drink being arrested. It is therefore clear that if such great numbers are arrested for being drunk, the law must have been violated by those who sell it. Seeing, then, the present law has failed to achieve the end for which it was intended, we have thought fit to bring in this bill. The sale of intoxicating liquor, as stated in the preamble, involves Her Majesty's subjects in the terrible calamities of poverty and crime. Why, in the United Kingdom we have 1,300,000 paupers—nine-tenths of this pauperism caused by drink. In 1879, Scotland alone, with a population of 3,000,000, had 97,676 paupers. Drink is the cause of 100,000 of the 140,000 criminals annually in our jails. In 1879 there were 22,675 drunk and incapables in Scotland. Then, it depresses trade and commerce. If the money spent on drink by us as a nation was spent in building houses, in reclaiming and draining waste lands (such as we have in Ireland), or in other useful ways, we could give employment to one million and a half more persons than are at present engaged. It therefore injures our labour market. It injures our trade and commerce by abstracting money out of our country. Were it not for the grain which is destroyed in the manufacture of strong drink we would require little or none of that which is imported, and the money which is sent to foreign countries would therefore be available for home use. By degrading our population to paupers and criminals, it necessarily throws great numbers out of

employment, and thereby greatly diminishes the productive power of our industries, while at the same time very materially increasing our local taxation, it being a well-known fact that in those parishes in the United Kingdom where drink is prohibited the taxes are not more than a fourth of what they are where licensing exists. To show that it endangers the safety and welfare of the community, I have only to state that to drink is ascribed many of our railway collisions, colliery accidents, boiler explosions, cases of personal violence, insanity, murder, and premature death. The object of Local Option is to allow the people to say whether they want public houses placed in their midst or not. The ratepayers are at present trusted with returning a member to Parliament to deal with the affairs of the State. They are trusted to elect the School Board, who have the governing and educating of their children; and in church matters they elect their office-bearers. Surely, then, they ought to have a say as to whether this gigantic evil shall continue or not. At present the magistrates decide the question, but in most cases how can they judge it? They, who keep them from their own door, and say they are needful for the working man. They who sit at their dinner tables, with their port wine and champagne before them, and say, as they fill glass after glass, "Alas, these poor fellows don't know when they have got enough," and further maintain "it would be a pity to rob the poor man of his beer." It is therefore, I think, the working man's question. Let the poor man say whether it shall be taken from him or not. This traffic was created for the public good, and therefore I think the public should be consulted so as to make sure that no injustice is done. The fact which is indisputable, that wherever localities have been freed from the liquor traffic they have been satisfied with this condition, and have benefited by it in every respect, is the strongest reason why, on this local question, the locality should be enabled by Parliament to declare its wishes and act for itself. I am sure that hon. gentlemen on the other side and on the cross benches who agree with me in heart, will feel sad if, at the bidding of party spirit, they go into the lobby to refuse their fellow-countrymen means of protecting themselves (a most interesting discussion, which we summarize, followed). The member for Glasgow was called to order for his abuse of abstainers. He believed Local Option would be evaded. Drink would be easily procured when alcohol was found to be in water. (Laughter.) Cardiff, alive to the evils of drink, believed where the Act would be most required it would be inoperative. Salford held that alcoholic drinks were good and useful—in fact, efficacious in cases of extremity. He argued for compensation, and denounced it for not having provisions to that effect. The leader of the Opposition (Conservative) opposed the second reading. If there be only as much food in wine as will go on to a threepenny piece, and he had a choice, he would take the wine, as it was better to take something than nothing. The bill did not go far enough. Drinking, he believed, was on the decrease, and the more education and other refining influences prevailed there would be less drinking. Reading and Isle of Wight both spoke against the bill. Shrewsbury preferred licensing boards, and Argyll got maudlin over the late assertion about there being alcohol everywhere. On the other hand, Devonport contended that the people should have the right to deal with the drink traffic. The publican was called the poor man's butler. Well, the poor man should have the right to dismiss his butler when he chose. Peebles and Selkirk insisted that the people should have power to veto the liquor traffic. Brecknockshire argued eloquently in favour of the bill. The Prime Minister said it was a delusion to say that the people had Local Option, when the whole land was honeycombed with drink-shops. The great idea of legislation was to make virtue easy and vice difficult, and this could be best done by the removal of these places. It was a misstatement, too, to say that the people had Local Option in the choice of Town Councils, for Magistrates were bound to license. They would not prohibit the traffic in any place. That had been put beyond doubt, too,

by a decision of the Supreme Court, where the Lord President held Lord Zetland could not make even his own property a temperance sphere. He joined issue with the leader of the Opposition in his idea that education was a cure for intemperance, and held that amongst the educated classes there were as many victims to intemperance—according to numbers—as amongst the unlearned. The Chancellor of the Exchequer ably spoke in favour of the bill, and was followed by the Home Secretary. The House divided:—

For the second reading,	66
Against,	45

Majority for second reading, 21

The numbers were received with cheers.

Twenty-two members altogether took part in the debate, and of those who opposed it at least four were closely connected by business or relationship with the drink trade. Hereafter we may give the text and comment upon the bill.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—IV.

March 17.—In reply to a question about the decision of Mr. Prentice with respect to the last municipal election in Liverpool, on which occasion the constitutional association incited voters having a qualification in more than one ward to vote accordingly, the Attorney General for England said that, "as his own judgment had been specifically asked, he had to say that it appeared to him that no elector who had voted in one ward had any right to vote in a second ward; and he would be much surprised if any counsel had given any such opinion." He learned that when the constitutional association issued their circulars, one Liberal did issue a circular of the same tenor. He would not, therefore, ask for a return, nor would he advise legal proceedings to be taken. It appeared to him that the publicity which this matter had attracted would perhaps prevent its recurrence."

March 18.—In moving the second reading of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Bill, the Lord Advocate said that it was necessary to get Parliamentary powers to compel clerks to the Commissioners to furnish local taxation returns. It was particularly desirable that the information called for by this Bill should be obtained. The amount of income from taxation and its expenditure was a material element in the consideration of any measure for the reform of Scotch Country Government.

March 21.—Mr. Harcourt asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Government contemplated more stringent legislation in view of the constant failure of benefit societies; and whether Government would impose greater restrictions on public-house benefit societies. Lord F. Cavendish said it was not intended to alter the Act of 1879 yet. The failure of these societies was not more frequent than was those of other societies. In many places no place of meeting but the public-house was available. It might be interesting to state that the bulk of the societies of one hundred years and upwards met in public-houses.

March 21.—The Local Taxation (Scotland) Bill passed through Committee.

March 22.—The above Bill was read a third time.

March 23.—The Municipal Franchise (Scotland) Bill passed through Committee.

March 24.—In reply to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who wished to know if his attention had been called to a whisky wapenschaw for the benefit of Elgin Town Hall, the Lord Advocate said that, although he had made every enquiry he had failed to ascertain what a whisky wapenschaw is, (loud laughter)—or whether in that kind of competition the prize is given to the producer of the best quality, or to the consumer of the greatest quantity—(laughter). I have, however, asked the Procurator Fiscal to inform the parties that if a lottery is intended they will render themselves liable to a public prosecution—(cheers).

March 24.—On the motion of Dr. Cameron, the Municipal Franchise (Scotland) Bill was read a third time.

March 25.—The above Bill was read in the House of Lords for the first time.

March 29.—Mr. Gladstone, replying to Mr. Biggar, said beer retailers in Ireland were required to take out a beer dealer's license at an additional duty of £3, 6s. 1½d., a requirement not enforced upon similar traders in England. By conferring similar powers on Irish Justices to that enjoyed by English Justices, the anomaly might disappear.

March 30.—Mr. Carbutt, in moving the second reading of the Elections (Closing of Public Houses) Bill said, his object was the purification of elections. He did not know that he would have the support of brewers and distillers, but he believed the better class of publicans would rather be in favour of this Bill than against it. The public-houses in the town of Newport were closed on the occasion of the last election, and the town furnished a marked contrast to former elections, when riots took place and damage was done to person and property. He did not think public-houses should be closed on the days of municipal elections. He exempted railway-bars and, much against his will, the City of London. Mr. Litton generally approved of the Bill. The tendency of modern legislation in the direction of temperance justified the introduction of this Bill. He was not at all sure that the publicans would oppose the Bill, because it might naturally occur to the licensed victuallers that there were risks to be incurred by the sale of intoxicating liquors on the day of polling, and they might consider it would be to their ultimate advantage to give up the right they now possessed of having their public-houses open on the days in question. In order to give them time for further discussion, he moved the adjournment of the debate. He was seconded by Baron De Ferrieres. Mr. Morgan Lloyd objected to the adjournment of the debate if that meant the merely getting rid of it. Mr. Gregory objected to the Bill. The Attorney General said every one would agree on the necessity for this Bill. (Hear hear.) The practice of corrupt treating at elections was an evil and a growing one. The fault rested not only on the person in the trade who supplied the means of treating but on those who provided the money for treating, and on those who encouraged the treating. It would, he thought, be a great evil if they were, while attempting to check the practice of corrupt treating, to proceed in a spirit of hostility to a trade, and inflict punishment on them alone. He did not believe for one moment the supporters of this Bill had such an object, but it could be well understood that if a measure of prohibition, severe in its consequences, and removing, of course, a legitimate trade from a portion of the community, was to be carried into effect, the responsibility of so doing ought to be borne by a majority of this house, and above all, by the opinion of the public in its favour. He believed that a right method of prohibition would meet with considerable support from those persons principally affected by it. When the corrupt practices discussion came on he would say that would be to offer the freest opportunity of voting on the question involved in this Bill. He begged the mover of the motion to agree to the adjournment of the debate. Sir R. Cross also asked the mover to adjourn. There were three sets of persons who would be affected by this Bill, 1st, the publicans. As far as they were concerned all that he would say at the present moment was that, if for the general benefit of the country the closing of public-houses was proved to be necessary, although it might affect the trade, the trade must give way to public opinion. (Hear, hear.) But then it must be proved to their satisfaction that such a step was absolutely necessary. Then there were business people who would think elections a nuisance if they interfered with their business. The Bill would do harm to such a class. Then there were the candidates who certainly needed protection, for, notwithstanding their resolution to have a pure contest, some indiscreet friend invalidated the election. Mr. Dick Peddie, while agreeing that the matter should be discussed on a general bill, thought the opinions of the House should be taken. He believed Scotland would

be found all but unanimous on this matter. (Hear, hear.) He objected to the Bill that it did not close public-houses during the entire day; for often when the election was over people adjourned to public-houses, and riot and disorder too often followed. Mr. Caine, while deprecating a division, said it would be a good thing on the whole for a borough, and a general convenience to the community if public-houses were entirely closed on the polling day. Major Nolan spoke. Sir Wilfrid Lawson said that he should be very glad if the Bill intended to shut up public-houses from one election to the next. (Laughter.) He urged the going to a division. Mr. Warton said a few words, and then Mr. Carbutt withdrew the Bill.

March 30.—Mr. W. H. Fowler moved the second reading of the Municipal Corporation Act 1859 (Amendment) Bills, whose object was to give power for the re-arrangement of wards without incurring the trouble and expense of a private bill. The Government consented to the second reading, when, therefore, it was agreed to.

March 31.—Mr. Morgan Lloyd, in reply to Mr. Caine, replied that the number of court-martial punishments in the army in the year 1870 was 14,750; 4,421 courts-martial were held on cases of drunkenness, the cases on duty being 895. The total amount of drunkenness was more clearly shown by the number of fines imposed. These latter figures gave a proportion of 236 fines to every 1000 soldiers—the total number of men fined being 23,316. This might seem an exceedingly large amount, and no doubt it was very large, but he was happy to say that the figures had been steadily decreasing for the last nine or ten years. (Cheers.) As to how many of other crimes resulted from drunkenness he might say from his own experience it was probably three-fourths of the whole.

March 31.—In committee on the Army Discipline and Regulation (annual) Bill, Mr. Caine moved to insert the following clause after clause 3:—“On and after the commencement of this act, the sale of all intoxicating liquors in canteens and other places of refreshment in garrisons should be prohibited, and the supply of liquors on the march should be discontinued.” Mr. Caine said that he proposed this clause through hearing the Judge Advocate General (Mr. O. Morgan) say “That if on the one hand the British soldier could be powerfully influenced for evil, on the other hand he could be powerfully influenced for good. How was that to be carried out? They would not do it by the lash, but they would do it by raising the character and *morale* of the soldier by removing the temptation to drunkenness which was his greatest curse.” When he heard these words he thought that the War Office fully intended to take some steps for the removal of this temptation, but he found nothing about this in the bill. He therefore proposed this clause as the best means known to him for securing these desirable results, and making some change in the awful and deplorable state of things. The Secretary of War has told us that drunkenness and crime resulting from drunkenness make up nearly the whole crime of the British army. What he wanted to do, if he could get this clause inserted in the Bill, was to prevent that crime—at least what of it arose from drunkenness. Mr. Caine then quoted from Sir Garnet Wolseley's soldier's pocket book, a standard authority in the army. Sir Garnet said—Give your men as little spirits as possible: tea and coffee are more sustaining and are more portable. That giving is good is just an old superstition. It was a well ascertained fact that alcohol reduces temperature; and that medical officers of the Polar expeditions condemn it as preventative against cold. Neither the trappers, lumbermen, nor voyageurs in Hudson Bay company drink spirits, tea being their constant beverage, and none do harder work. No men ever did harder work than was performed by the troops that were employed on the Red River expedition. No spirits was issued to them, they had plenty of tea, and illness was unknown amongst them.” This was the testimony of Sir Garnet in 1868, and in 1880 he said, “that his experience had proved to him that the less liquor there is consumed in any army the more efficient is its condition. With the troops

under his command in South Africa they had very little spirits. Of his own personal escort the majority were total abstainers and they were models of what soldiers on service should be. Having no grog on a campaign eases the transport service very considerably, and removes a temptation to steal which its presence always creates.” Colonel Dennison, Sir Frederick Roberts who said that the absence of crime amongst the total abstainers in the army was almost incredible, and that drink was a great incentive to crime in the army. Lord Napier of Magdala, who said that the aggregate percentage of crime among teetotalers in the army was 0.12, while among the non-abstainers it was forty times as numerous. Lieutenant-General Norman, Lieutenant-General Stavelo, Sir Richard Temple, Colonel Blewett, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Hugh Rose, and a host of medical opinion were quoted by Mr. Caine, all tending to the condemnation of drinking in the army, and lauding the good done by its absence. Mr. Caine could not understand how the House could go against these opinions unless it is, as has happened before, that the leading and active agents of the army count little or nothing as against that other influence which sometimes prevails in that particular branch of the service. The Government admitted the evil, they expressed their intention to do some thing or other but they did not do it. He now gave them an opportunity by their acceptance of his clause to get rid of these cases of drunkenness which they themselves provided. Mr. O. Morgan opposed the clause, because spirits were forbidden on home stations, and if the soldier could not get beer in the canteen he would go for the gin and spirits outside. The drunkenness complained of does not arise in canteens but outside of them. Drunkenness is decreasing. There are 25 per cent. of the British army abstainers. No liquors can be got in canteens before noon, after tattoo, during divine service, or by apparently intoxicated persons. Then the clause could not be conveniently inserted in a Mutiny Bill. Dr. Kinnear believed that if Government would allow soldiers 2d. each per day in lieu of beer 50 per cent. of them would accept it. Captain Maxwell spoke against the clause as having a tendency to drive the soldiers from the canteen to the public-house. He thought that magistrates should diminish the number of public-houses near garrisons and large camps—that was the true method on which to proceed. Colonel Stanley opposed the clause for the same reasons as Captain Maxwell; he did not believe the bounds of sobriety were exceeded in canteens. We would not get better men in the service if such a clause were passed. He would extend the army coffee taverns, and hoped the hon. Member for Scarborough (Mr. Caine) would support these. Colonel Colthurst also opposed the clause. He thought that soldiers who desired spirits in the canteens should be able to get them, their drunkenness sprang from their getting bad liquors outside. Mr. A. M. Sullivan was glad to find that the late and present ministers for war had a sincere desire to assist the soldier in a policy of sobriety. The mover was untenable, or he was right. If the soldier should have good drink in the canteen, why withhold whiskies and brandies. He believed that the soldier first got primed in the canteen and then went outside and got drunk, so that the public-houses only finished the work the canteens had begun. They had gone already in the direction the clause went, let them make up their minds and go farther. Mr. Illingsworth thought that the Committee owed the Hon. Member for Scarborough a debt for bringing the question under the notice of the House. The control of the canteens as at present maintained had done good. This, however, had conclusively shown that if no intoxicants were supplied they would have everything they desired in making the British army the model army of the world. If the publican made the British soldier drunk why not punish him? That is no new doctrine, but the law is never put in force. The clause should have his support. Sir W. Barttelot sneered at the last speaker as seeking to do by Act of Parliament what could be better done otherwise. He thought that the object of this clause was simply to drive the soldier from where he could get good beer to

where he could only get bad liquor. Let them look at the improved state of the army and let well alone. Sir. W. Lawson said, the previous speaker had a strange idea of "well," when he considered in the face of 23,000 cases of drunkenness the army was well! but this Hon. friend was as staunch as ever in standing up for drink and flogging in the army. Let the House look at the matter. Evil, great evil exists and yet nothing has been proposed for its removal. The only one proposing anything was the hon. Member for Scarborough. He did not believe that a stronger case than that of his hon. friend could be made out. Sir Garnet Wolseley had said that intoxicating drinks are bad before, during, and after a march: surely that means that they are bad for them during the whole of their lives. He hoped the House would divide to let them see who were the soldiers' true friends. Major O'Beirne opposed the clause, as recruiting could not go on without drinking. The army was recruited from the lowest classes of society, those who frequented public-houses: if canteens were closed recruiting would come to a stand still. Mr. Labouchere said that Sir Wilfrid Lawson was inconsistent in advocating this clause. He should give the soldiers an option in the matter. Sir Alexander Gordon said that if the House were anxious to teach soldiers the folly of drinking, they should dispense with the liquor bar in the House. He could not support the clause. Mr. W. Fowler would be delighted to see the sale of liquors stopped at the bar of the house. He never used any. The point was, was it good for the soldiers to have an opportunity of buying liquors in the canteens. If it was not they should close them. If a soldier went outside in consequence, were they to be held responsible; but he believed he would not. He should vote for the clause as he saw no reason for selling liquors in the canteens. Mr. Childers opposed the clause as the army was becoming increasingly temperate, so that such a drastic measure as was sought was unnecessary. The clause would not touch the case of the Indian Army as the Mutiny Bill did not deal with it; but he would do all in his power to reduce and discourage the issue of liquors to the soldiers in India. But he would protest against the doctrine that it was wrong to use a glass of beer. After advocating the soundness and harmlessness of good (?) beer, he went on, that he would not be a party to deprive the soldier of a glass of beer. He would discourage drinking, encourage means for securing wholesome cocoa and coffee in barracks. Sir R. Cunliffe also opposed the clause, though his hon. friend knew that he was not out of sympathy with temperance. Mr. Ramsay would vote for the clause if it were modified to prohibiting liquors to soldiers on the march. Mr. Caine replied, and after a protest against the clause by Major Vaughan.

The Committee then divided, and the result was:—

For the clause,	34
Against,	156

Majority against the clause, 122

The five following Scotch Members voted in the minority:—Sir J. T. G. Sinclair, Bart., Dr. Cameron, Messrs. Noel, Peddie, and Williamson. The following voted in the majority:—Sir G. Balfour, Sir Alexander Gordon, Sir H. H. Maxwell, Right Hon. M. G. Duff, Right Hon. John Hay, Hon. Preston Bruce, Hon. A. Elliot, Colonel Alexander, J. B. Balfour, H. Campbell Bannerman, A. Crum, D. Currie, C. Dalrymple, A. O. Ewing, P. M'Lagan, J. M'Laren (Lord Advocate), J. Heron Maxwell, C. S. Parker, R. W. Cochran-Partick, and J. Ramsay.

April 4.—Mr Gladstone submitted his Budget. His references to the liquor were, if not always happy or apt, ample enough. His proposals were as follows:—A duty of 26s. on every 36 gallons of mum, spruce or black beer which before fermentation has a specific gravity of 1215 degrees; exceeding that gravity 30s. 6d., and upon every 36 gallons of any other kind of beer, which before fermentation, has a specific gravity of 1057 degrees, 6s. 6d. and so on in proportion, with the statutory drawback on beer imported or exported, or shipped as ship's stores. All who brew privately, whose rent is above £10 and under £15, must take out

a license costing 9s. Upon every gallon of foreign spirits the duty should be 10s. 4d.; upon every gallon of perfumed spirits 16s. 6d., and so on. Upon every gallon of liqueur or cordials whose strength is untested 14s., and so on; and that the surtax on foreign spirits should be 4d. The penny put on to enable him to repeal the malt duty is to be taken off. It will be seen that his references are far from being so favourable to temperance as were those of Right Hon. Robert Lowe and Sir Stafford Northcote.

Mr Childers proposed an insertion of a clause into the Army and Navy Discipline Bill to enable courts-martial to punish by personal restraint or hard labour rather than by flogging. He said that the present clause proposed to punish the man guilty of drunkenness on the line of march or on active service by other means than flogging. After some discussion utterly devoid of interest the clause was agreed to.

April 8.—The House adjourned to-day for the Easter Holidays and was to assemble on the 25th ult.

The election of the Lord Advocate as a member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh cost him £1181; the attempt of Mr. Jenkins to secure the seat cost that gentleman £981.

A bust and tablet to the memory of George Cruickshank is to be deposited in the crypt of St. Paul's shortly. It is "placed within this sacred fane by her who loved him best, his widowed wife." Oh woman, honour be thine, so abused yet so forgiving.

POLLOKSHAW.—Mr. John M'Dougall delivered a lecture in the Tontine Hall here on the 8th ult. Ex-Provost Cameron presided. In opening the proceedings the chairman said that great injustice was being done to abstainers owing to using communion wine on sacramental occasions. He would suggest provision of a few seats and some unfermented wine for abstainers, and expressed the sorrow he felt that his family should for the first time taste alcoholic liquors at the Lord's Table. Mr. M'Dougall then gave his lecture on the Communion Elements. It was much enjoyed by the audience, who, though not large, was highly appreciative.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. J. H. WATERSTON.—The annual entertainment in connection with No. 16 (Abstainers') Company of the Q.E.R.V.B. took place in the Free New North Hall, Marshall Street, Edinburgh. There was a large attendance. Captain Waterston occupied the chair, and among those present were Captain Bryce, Captain Grant, Captain Dickson, Captain Ivory, Lieutenant Hamilton, Captain Hawley, Firemaster Wilkins, Mr. T. Linton, Procurator-Fiscal; Mr. John Cameron, S.S.C.; Bailie Colston, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Captain Thompson, and Lieutenant Jamieson. Apologies for absence were also received from a number of other gentlemen. After tea, the Chairman said that No. 16 Company was one of the first formed when the Volunteer movement was originated, and, therefore, he pointed out, they had passed their twenty-first year. The number of members in connection with the company last year was 87, of whom only one was non-efficient. As to the financial state of the company in April last, they had £120 to their credit, in addition to a capitation grant of £150, which brought their total revenue up to nearly £300. In the course of the evening Captain Waterston was presented by the members of the company and their friends with a silver tea service, along with an address, which stated that Mr. Waterston's life-long devotion to the Volunteer movement was sufficiently attested by the fact of his being one of the veterans of the force, having joined as a private in 1859, and having, by untiring attention to duty, no less than by amiable personal qualities, raised himself up to his present honourable position in the service. Along with the tea service there was also presented a brooch for Mrs. Waterston. The Rev. Dr. Adamson and Bailie Colston also addressed the meeting, which was enlivened during the evening by the rendering of a number of songs by Mr. James Lumsden, Miss Effie Goodwin, and others.—*Daily Review*,

Every lover of temperance will be glad to see that Her Majesty has appointed her "right trusty and well-beloved cousin, John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen," to be her Commissioner to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The cost of the General Election of 1880 was £1,737,300. Four hundred and eighty Conservative candidates spent £951,000; while four hundred and eighty-eight Liberals was £771,540. This is the acknowledged expenditure, the unacknowledged, finds no record.

THE RECHABITES.—This body is showing a good deal of activity just now. The Dumfries and Kirkcudbright District Tent had its annual meeting in Dalbeattie. The annual report showed a slow but steady progress in the locality. The funeral fund has £208 8s. 9d. of income, and a balance to carry forward of £188 8s. 9d. Four Juvenile Tents have a balance in their favour of £50 13s. It was agreed to propose at the moveable Conference that some of the levy contributed by the Tent be retained for extension purposes in Scotland. A new Tent has been opened in Ayr with prospects of great success. The Glasgow District Tent has held its annual meeting. The proceedings were interesting and successful. The idea of an extension fund to spread a knowledge of this order is of vital importance to its future.

THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN.—One of the inspectors of factories in the Midlands drew attention in a recent report to some features of a saddening character regarding the women "nailers" of these parts—to the gradual hardening to coarseness and grossness of the women to the physical evils, to the unmanliness of the men, in words too strong to be placed here. Suffice it that his opinion was that "Day by day I am convinced that this women's labour is the bane of the place," for whilst the "ought-to-be bread winner is luxuriating in some public-house at his ease, training his whiffet for some future running on beef-steaks and the best of good fare," the wife, and possibly the children, are at work "for any price any crafty knave of a master chooses to offer." When you see the women working, too often the men are at the tap-room or congregating at coursing or sporting matches, or with the pigeons in their little boxes carrying them out into the green lanes. The men are too often loungers at the race course or loiterers at the public-house corner while womanly hands wield the hammer.—*The Graphic*.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.—Mr. W. Blackwood, the northern district agent of the above Association, has, during the past ten days, addressed several public meetings in the Congregational Chapel. The subject of the first lecture was Father Mathew, the moral regenerator of Ireland. He gave a very graphic and interesting sketch of the life and labours of the great reformer. The subject of the second lecture was a survey of the present century reforms. Mr. Blackwood's third lecture was on the Triumphs of Prohibition, in which he showed its beneficent results to those communities where there are no public-houses. The meetings were moderately well attended. He also officiated at both diets of worship in the Congregational Chapel on Sunday last, and at eight o'clock preached an exceedingly able and impressive sermon on "King Josiah as a Reformer." His illustrations were exceedingly happy and telling. The large audience listened attentively. We learn that Mr. Blackwood has received considerable encouragement from the Good Templars and other citizens of Lerwick.—*The Shetland Times* (slightly abridged).

THE RATEPAYERS OF DUMFRIES AND THE LICENSING QUESTION.—A very interesting return, showing the opinion of the ratepayers of Dumfries on the licensing question, has just been obtained through the instrumentality of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Temperance Union. Several weeks ago circulars were issued to the ratepayers of the town, male and female, bringing under their notice the fact that the number of licensed houses in their midst is in something like the proportion of one to 147 of the population, and request-

ing them to express their opinion on this state of matters by filling up an accompanying schedule. The schedule contained three columns. A signature in the first indicated that the person making the return was satisfied with things as they are; in the second, that he would approve of a considerable reduction in the number of public houses as suitable opportunities occur; and in the third, that he desired to see the liquor traffic prohibited. Of 2037 schedules delivered 1374 have been returned, the number of signatures in the various columns being as follows:—Satisfied, 128; in favour of a reduction, 622; in favour of prohibition, 624. Although the number who have failed to make a return (663) may appear large, the promoters of the plebiscite are quite satisfied with the manner in which their request has been responded to, having regard to the apathy which is generally displayed when any subject is submitted even by the municipal authorities to the decision of a popular vote, and to the fact that the number who voted at the last School Board election, after a keen canvass, was only 200 more than have filled up the schedules. The result is the more gratifying as the expression of opinion may be regarded as quite spontaneous. While members of temperance societies undertook the work of collecting the schedules they abstained from any attempt to persuade persons to sign in one column in preference to another, desiring simply to procure authentic information as to the real sentiments of the community. It is known that many who declined for various reasons to sign the schedules are favourable to a considerable change in the licensing laws, and the manner of administering them; but admitting that they might all be classed with those who wish no change, there is still a majority of 455 who are not satisfied with the existing state of matters. The holders of licenses, 85 in number, were excluded from the canvass on the same ground on which the Legislature incapacitates a publican who is a magistrate from sitting in judgment on matters affecting his trade; but supposing these to be added to the number opposed to change, there would still be on the most unfavourable calculation, a majority of 370 "non-contents." A deputation which included the Rev. R. W. Weir, president of the Union, and several other clergymen, attended at the annual licensing court, and laid before the magistrates the result of the plebiscite. As the result of the court, the number of licensed houses was reduced by two.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. WM. SHANKS, BRIDGE OF WEIR.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this well known and highly esteemed gentleman, on the morning of the 2nd ult., at the ripe age of seventy-nine years. His death was, we are sorry to say, accelerated by his having to undergo an operation on the previous Thursday. Mr. Shanks was the founder of the thread industry at Gryff Grove Mills, that thriving concern owing very much to his untiring industry and bold enterprise. He had sympathy with all good works and he not only gave to the prohibitory agitation but was an example to his family, who are liberal supporters of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

TOUCHING INCIDENT.—A touching incident is reported from Chattanooga:—An utter stranger called on a respectable farmer last week, and asked him if his house had not been robbed during the war. The farmer replied that it had. "I," said the stranger, "was one of a marauding party that did it. I took a little silver locket." "That locket," said the farmer, bursting into tears, "had been worn by my dear dead child." "Here it is," replied the stranger, visibly affected; "I am rich; let me make restitution; here are 20 dollars for your little son." He gave the farmer a 50 dollar bill, and received 30 dollars in exchange. He then wrung the farmer's hand warmly and left. The farmer has since dried his tears and loaded his shot-gun. The 50 dollar bill was bad.

THE
Social Reformer.

JUNE, 1881.

A BOOK TO BE AVOIDED.*

THIS is a book to be avoided by all mothers who are desirous of living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world, and by all in true sympathy with the aims of the great temperance reformation. Whatever is worthy of preservation in the book can be easily got from medical works whose authors are in hearty sympathy with efforts being vigorously made to exclude alcohol wholly from society. We can do quite well without the advice which Dr. Ellis has to offer when we cannot take it without danger. There is an inconsistency in the book well fitted either to beget indignation or doubts of skill and intelligence on the part of Dr. Ellis. He begins thus:—"Those who would be blessed with healthy children must themselves be healthy, and living in obedience to the laws of nature and morality. It is certain that the children of individuals in a state of good physical health, and of highly cultivated moral and intellectual power, start from the highest vantage ground of humanity, and inherit tendencies of the best and noblest kind. The converse is equally true, and the children of the debilitated, the drunken, and the debased start their life heavily handicapped with innate tendencies alike to physical ailments and moral depravities." There is not an intelligent enquirer into the nature and foundations of temperance but must applaud these sentiments to the echo, and they would naturally expect that Dr. Ellis has ranged himself with that rapidly growing band of medical worthies who are earnestly striving to exclude alcohol from the pharmacopœia. They could never anticipate that one who makes such a fundamental distinction between the virtuous and the vicious would ever view alcohol with other than feelings of positive diversion. Let us see. At page 16 he says:—"When a woman finds herself pregnant, she should remember that she has a future life depending upon her wisdom or folly, prudence or imprudence. Let her then live simply, rising early, enjoying free ablution, eating good, plain wholesome food; occupying herself cheerfully, getting daily exercise; avoiding stimulants, beyond a glass or two of beer, or two of wine, if used to such; avoiding late hours, balls, excitements, over-fatigue of every kind," &c. The contrast between the first sentence in the extract we give is as great as "yes" from "no"; and the fault which we venture to think may be justly found with the sanction to drinking given is all the more to be deplored when the progress of the drink appetite is considered. We all know that people begin with weak or diluted strong liquors, with beers and grogs; but, as the appetite grows, stronger liquors, at lesser intervals and in larger quantities, succeed. Hence, for many women who have already entered upon a course of drinking, consequent on marriage responsibilities, such an observation as that of Dr. Ellis will appear as a sanction to them continuing their daily indulgence, which they will readily do until an appetite is formed strong enough to hurry them on to what they themselves must admit to be excess. In view of this seductive property of liquors, which must be known to Dr. Ellis, what can we think of his advice? That it is wicked, and calculated to work far more evil

* A Manual of What Every Mother Should Know. By Edward Ellis, M.D., &c., &c. London: J. & A. Churchill, New Burlington Street.

to the readers of his little book than all the good advice it contains can benefit. Our readers may easily divine his relation to the temperance movement, and be at no loss to believe that he is profuse with his advice in favour of intoxicating liquors, and liberal with his cautions against "too much." Vain warning! Fagin the Jew, after rousing the murderous propensities of Bill Sykes till they became uncontrollable, tried to curb the brutal ruffian within such limits as would permit of Nancy being slain, and yet allow both villains to go at large. But Nancy was murdered. It is wicked to give a general advice to drink, knowing well that many people will follow it slavishly. This Dr. Ellis does, as we have seen; and being a member of an honourable profession, trusted in the most momentous junctures of existence, his advice acquires the force of a command which it will be thought suicidal to disobey. We unhesitatingly say that when that advice is to continue drinking, or to begin it, it is pernicious in the extreme, even although it is not always followed by drunkenness. But his sanction in this case is to pregnant women, and it is sheer mockery to expect that their offspring will be healthy, and capable of living in obedience to the higher laws of their being, when their mother is, by her indulgence, injuring her health, as well as that of her unborn child. Men do not expect "grapes of thistles." Allow a woman in such a condition to contaminate herself with these alluring poisons, and you poison and pollute the child to which she is to give birth. On page 21 he speaks of the child being put to the breast when he says—"The sweet pure milk is there in abundance." We solemnly affirm that sweet pure milk from a mother or nurse in the daily habit of taking alcohol in any form is an impossibility; and in penning such a line Dr. Ellis has allowed his fancy to lead captive his judgment, for it has been proved that children have, in taking milk from a mother under the influence of liquor, become heavy, sleepy, narcotized, or, if the dose taken by the parent has been large, have exhibited all the symptoms of alcoholic poisoning. So much for Dr. Ellis's treatment of the mother before and after the birth of the child. Let us glance at his treatment in the nursing stage. He recommends to nurses or to mothers, while suckling—"Generous diet, but an avoidance of rich and well-made dishes, plenty of milk and eggs, good beef and mutton, chicken and fish, a glass of good (?) stout twice a day (no other stimulant), fresh air, cleanliness, and moderate exercise, will generally keep up a fine healthy flow of rich, nourishing milk." He goes the whole length; no hesitancy with him. Most doctors now-a-days with a reputation would pause before allowing liquor so freely. Many of them would shrink from giving it at all to the growing unborn child, or to it as it nestles at the breast. As he is at the beginning, so is he all through and at the close of the nursing stage. On page 43, in a note, he submits a list of things to be excluded from a child's dietary. In that list liquor does not find a place! In the dietary table itself, in the Column headed "Low and Ordinary," we are thankful to find no liquors prescribed; but in that headed "Extra" we find:—"Stimulants: ordinary sound hock or claret, bitter ale, stout: extraordinary; port-wine, brandy, champagne." On page 44 we are told—"At the end of the first year it is time enough to commence more solid and general diet; then beef

and gravy, mashed potato and gravy; and by-and-bye, as the child gets teeth, small pieces of meat cut fine and mixed with potato and gravy; and general diet, which will be indicated on the preceding table." Now, let us see what advice he gives as to the preparation of food. On page 127, No. 27, this is his recipe for arrow-root-wine jelly—"One cup of boiling water, two teaspoonsful of arrow-root and same of white sugar, one dessert spoonful of brandy or three of wine . . . stir all the time, and then add the wine or brandy." We believe that in a household where drink is profusely used drugging children will certainly happen, and when remonstrances are made, these will be met with the *ipse dixit* of such medical men as Dr. Ellis. Can any one wonder whence spring our drunkards when myriads of them, from the very beginning of their existence, are daily being drugged with alcoholic liquors? Before they know their right hand from their left, they have an appetite for alcohol implanted that cannot be bound; and we charge such men as Dr. Ellis with being the great occasion of this dread physical scourge that blights the happiness of countless families, and is fraught with such danger to society. Equally is the book to be avoided when its treatment of "dwining" children is considered. Not staying to do more than point out that such wasting children are generally to be found among families prone to conviviality, we will look for a moment at the way Dr. Ellis deals with them. Speaking of the failure to get a wet nurse, or to get the child to use cow's or condensed milk, he says—"I have found chicken broth, barley water, Russia isinglass, with, say, two teaspoonsful of old brandy distributed in five-drop doses over twenty-four hours, a useful rest to the stomach for days." Not a rest, Doctor, but a sedative of the worst kind. Again:—"An effort must be made to get back to milk. Here white wine whey often comes in well. A tablespoonful of excellent (?) sherry should be added to four or five tablespoonfuls of boiling milk. The brandy, of which children soon sicken, may be replaced in this way." What a startling admission, that children soon sicken of brandy! Yet (bless their little hearts!) Dr. Ellis cannot think of letting them alone. When they won't take fiery brandy, he plies them with doubtful sherry. He is vehement in his denunciation of quack medicines. He reminds us of what Dr. Carpenter said once—"that the alcoholic assumptions of the faculty exhibit the grossest quackery either in or out of the profession." Dr. Smith, in his "Practical Dietary," says that "alcohols are largely used by many persons in the belief that they support the system, and maintain a supply of milk for the infant; but I am convinced that this is a serious error, and is not an infrequent cause of fits and emaciation in the child." Among those many persons who fall into this serious error, we class Dr. Ellis, and we are doing what we can to warn our readers against being drawn into it by him. On page 102 he professes to give a list of "other remedies generally kept in all houses, and of use in emergencies." At the head of this list alcohol is placed. We can say for ourselves that it is not generally kept in our house, but that it is specially excluded, and there have been emergencies there to grapple with too. Yet we are not to affirm that at no time, nor under any circumstances, is alcohol of use, but simply that it is always so unsafe a remedy, and never without a distinctly injurious after-effect, that we are clear on never sanctioning its self-prescription by women in the delicate circumstances under consideration, when they are specially under the domination of habit and feeling. There is, then, the danger of this extraordinary remedy becoming ordinary, and then habitual, till the vitality of the parent, or of the child, is undermined. When we take into account the utmost benefits which can be affirmed of alcohol, the risk outweighs them all, and leaves a heavy balance of evil in favour of the drug. At page 104 we have a list of simple prescriptions—when not otherwise specified, suitable to children about three years old. First we have blood restorers. On page 105 we are told that cod-liver oil (which previously he terms a sheet anchor of medicine in debility, &c.) is a blood restorer.

"Burgundy or claret makes good vehicles for cod-liver oil, or it may be given, sandwich fashion, in a little brandy and water—that is, pouring a little brandy and water at the bottom of the glass, then floating the oil, wetting the side of the glass with brandy and water, and finally, pouring a little rather stronger over the top of the oil will make it slip down tastelessly." In giving milk and suet (an imitation of goat's milk, which is liable to derange the youthful stomach) a little old brandy, or a teaspoonful of "La grande chartreuse," is to be administered as a corrective! Rice-cream has, as one of its ingredients, a wineglassful of Madeira; and rice-water is to be made useful in diarrhoea by dispensing with flavouring, and adding a little cognac. Wine may be added to the infant's chicken soup, and arrow-root jelly has, as an item, one dessert-spoonful of brandy, or three of wine. A nutritious enemata is composed of six ounces of beef, one of cream, half an ounce, or less, of brandy, or an ounce of port-wine. This quantity will make three enemata. Always dosing—heavy, constant dosing. Let any one sit down and calmly consider the progress of the being, from the cell germ to manhood, with such "a guide, philosopher, and friend" as Dr. Ellis ever at his side with one form or another of alcohol ready at hand to administer. Or ever it sees the light of day, it has had to undergo months of drugging through its mother, and afterwards in its nurse's arms. It is being drugged through its milk, drugged in its first food, drugged all through its nursery days; drugged, if healthy, with bitter ale or good sound (?) stout; if ill and wasting, drugged and drugged. Is it any wonder that we have millions among us as steadily trained to drink as others are steadily trained in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord"?—not by a cruel, remorseless villain, but by a licensed physician, in conjunction with an ignorant, credulous, and, we can easily believe, a doting mother. As Wesley said, they are going to hell like sheep that are being drugged with strong drink in this fashion by Dr. Ellis and others like him. Could any one believe that Dr. Ellis penned the opening sentences of his book which we quoted? and also, on page 126, the following:—"Regarding the use of alcoholic stimulants for children, I can only say that in health the less the better, and that even in disease their use is to be guarded, and strictly medicinal. 'Sipping from papa's glass' is a foolish and even dangerous custom, and may lay the foundation of craving for their immoderate use." Why the less the better? Why not advise that none at all is the best? Why speak of the danger of "papa's glass" and yet urge mamma to fill her breasts with these seductive but poisonous liquors? It is cruel to stab the child through its mother, and make that mother the one to deal the blow under the guise of the tenderest affection. Again, he says—"I have often, when an out-patients' physician in crowded London districts, shuddered to hear of the 'drop of brandy' and 'drop of gin' which some unhappy little one had been compelled to swallow 'to do it good.'" Yet here he is, with all the high authority of his profession, deliberately laying down advice which, if followed, will always injure, and not seldom ruin, the mother and child confiding in his skill and care. He seems to us to be, or to have been at one time, closely connected with the great "drink" interest; his knowledge of liquor of all kinds is so extensive, and, we may admit, profound. He recommends, more or less heartily, bitter ale or good sound (?) porter. These are his daily drinks. By-the-bye, we had almost forgot that "he has seen good results from the old-fashioned plan of allowing delicate young persons a glass of rum and milk early in the morning—say at least an hour, but better two hours, before breakfast." Then there are Hungarian, French, Greek, and Australian wines recommended, diluted with water. 'Champagne is the wine for a sick stomach, whether from sea-sickness or what not; it is light, diffusible, easily absorbed, and transitory in its effects'—so is the hurricane, but what about its traces? He has known patients recovering from exhausting illnesses remark that their glass of Burgundy seemed to "give them life." Oh, how anxious he is that the liquors be good, sound, genuine

old, and so forth! What a hatred he has at quackery, and yet he is himself the most prone to the vice he condemns, for he often tells his readers of a good substitute for alcohol, and that the drug might be easily let alone. It is not, you see, indispensable; but the secret of his method is clearly revealed on page 118. Quoting a remark of Dr. King Chambers, that "Laputa never devised anything more preposterous than Liebeg's food for infants," and concurring in it, he adds, "Nevertheless, let those use it who admire it." That sentence affords us the key to his method, which we truly characterise as destitute of intelligence, responsibility, or magnanimity—a heartless method, that panders to the prejudices and ignorance of his patients instead of standing firmly up for a treatment entirely exclusive of so extremely dangerous a drug as alcohol.

While we can heartily rejoice that Dr. Ellis has left this country, our joy is modified by the consideration that he is among our own kith and kin in New Zealand. Better that wild beasts had landed on its shores, for they might have been extirpated. Dr. Ellis will, within the reach of the influence of his book over the world, sow in the frame of myriads the seeds of an appetite that will fill premature graves, or burst out into the appalling forms of crime and misery. We, at least, have attempted to expose the pernicious nature of the book, and we trust that it will, by other pens as well as ours, be branded as a book deservedly to be avoided.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

ENGLAND AND THE ENGLISH.

I PROMISED that I would communicate to the *Social Reformer* the impressions that might be made on my mind as during this time I came in contact with the English people. Every one, I am sure, who has been received by Englishmen at home will readily admit that they are constituted to give a welcome which removes all misgiving as to the heartiness of their hospitable intentions. This has been my experience during fifteen years, the greater part of which I have been across the border; and if any one expressed an adverse opinion in my hearing, I would conclude that he had misconducted himself, and that from himself had come the influence which had kept him from participating of the goodness natural to the English people. Englishmen are not more hospitable than Scotsmen, but they give it with an inviting demonstrativeness which impresses the guest that he is conferring a favour by entering into the enjoyment of all before him and around him. And this attitude is not acting; it is natural, and as it is felt to be so, the entertained are permeated with a sense of freedom and security which make home. I do not know that this pleasing English manner wears longer than our restrained and, to appearance, repellent Scottish manner; very likely it does not. To the Scottish heart Scottish kindness is well known, and fully trusted for its endurance. When it operates in silent stealthiness that it may not be altogether seen, we feel the whole force of its presence like a divine influence; but I think it must be admitted that Englishmen might not be able to say this of Scotsmen until they are as well acquainted with us as we are with each other. A Scotsman, when he is for the first time received in England, must by the manner be made expectant of the immediate realisation of all that is implied in the words, "Peace on earth and good will towards men." Perhaps an Englishman, out of his temperament, offers more than it is in his power to give; and Scotsmen know that their countrymen offer less than they are prepared to give. Englishmen must therefore be unfavourably impressed with Scotsmen when for the first time they meet them at home. We are constituted to win our way in the world, but not to receive a ready entrance into the stranger's heart when he meets us all of a sudden at home, enveloped in our reserve that we may see through and through him without being seen. A Scotsman is a "brither Scot" as well as a Scotsman, and in Scotland more than in England it seems that "blood is thicker than water." The idea of "kith and kin" does not go to make up an Englishman to the extent that it goes to make up a

Scotsman. A Scotsman's feelings do therefore, I think, run more strongly in the groove of family and race than an Englishman's. A Scotsman must become acquainted before he can open up demonstratively and receive strangers as friends.

The above may not be altogether true. I have hurriedly written it as it fell into my pen from experience that may not be well digested; but it is from experience, and let it remain with all that may be accurate or inaccurate about it.

Well, I am with this English people again, as has often been the case. I went in among them at Newcastle-on-Tyne on the 4th April, and now, on the 5th of May, I look forward to Friday the 13th as the entrance into two days' rest at home before I fall into the guidance of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The temperance movement in Newcastle is tenacious of life, and, whether in halls or on the street, it continues to command a hearing. Its best-heard out-door utterances are on the Sandhill on Sundays, after mid-day and in the evening. Meetings at these times on Sunday may be said to be held the year round. Many teetotal heroes have been their chairmen. At present the post is filled by my friend Mr. Veitch. If ever you are in Newcastle on a Sunday, go to the Sandhill mid-day meeting (it is near to the quay), and there you will see Mr. Veitch on a waggon, surrounded by an audience of nearly six hundred; and as you look at him you will conclude that the meeting and the cause it represents are safe in his hands. The gravity that shines out of his intelligent face, made expressive with the force of conviction, must strike you as in harmony with his large symmetrical head, leaning slightly forward over his broad chest, standing erect on limbs which give the physical proportion in harmony with the quiet, strong, clear, convinced manhood of the man. Mr. Veitch works with his hands for his living. I mention this that you may see nothing of flattery in my delineation. Burns says somewhere, "Who would humbly serve the poor." Such is Mr. Veitch, and although I do not refer to his predecessors in office, I can say of them that they were worthy of the cause, and that it grew by their influence. Men of Veitch type are the outcome of the temperance movement, to grow by them. This is the evidence that it is another impetus from the heart of the people to secure to the nation growth and progress for all. On a Sunday a week or two ago over a hundred pledges were taken at this meeting. Newcastle is the centre of a mental force which does not expend itself in industrialism, and the temperance movement is a power in all the towns within the scope of its influence.

It was in these towns that I co-operated with Councillor Swan, the district agent, from the 4th of April to the 25th, and, although our meetings were small, they were acceptable, for they were composed of developed temperance reformers, of men who know to their sorrow that the teetotal movement must perish if the trade in drink is perpetuated in any system of closing and opening. Closing *without opening* can alone secure teetotalism from extinction. Teetotalism is not, to the men we addressed in these towns, the means of accomplishing the temperance reformation. It is merely a limited personal sobriety, practically protesting against the drink traffic. That is all, for the traffic is attracting increased expenditure as far and farther than means allow, and it is followed by all the consequences of an overwhelming drunkenness, which threatens to destroy national vitality. It was a pleasure to speak at many of the meetings in these towns, for the people, to secure general sobriety, national wealth, and national worth, have resolved to have closing without any opening whatever. Sunday closing and Monday opening does not satisfy them. They do not see in that closing and opening aught else than the means of national drunkenness, national waste, and national worthlessness. Of course you know that the Parliamentary representatives for this district are almost to a man with Sir Wilfrid. I could not give better evidence than this of its culture and preparedness.

On April the 25th I arrived at Derby, which is the centre of Mr. Mart's district, to address meetings with

him for a week. They took place at Ripley, Nottingham, Sleaford, Bourne, and Leicester. Ripley is in Derbyshire; Sleaford and Bourne in Lincolnshire. They are small places, and little can be said of them except that they are delightfully rural after the English midland type. We met a few temperance friends in each of them, less or more pronounced for total closing, as they labour to snatch a brand now and again from the great drink conflagration. I expected to find in Nottingham and Leicester that the total closing idea was well and firmly held in a strong political grasp, but if it is so, I failed to observe the symptoms. We had two meetings in Nottingham. The first was in a suburb, and it was good as to numbers and character. The process of getting it up had evidently been well attended to. The Vicar was in the chair, and he expressed thankfulness for the manner in which the resolutions that were carried were supported, as in the facts and arguments he was helped to see the total closing of the traffic in a light more satisfactory than he had seen it before. When I think of this meeting, I am reminded that it is incumbent and safe to put the truth as to every-day closing clearly. The people are ready to receive it and liable to grow by it. The other meeting was got up by the Nottingham Temperance Society, and in the process aught that was seen was ordinary teetotal effort. The attempt was made to recruit it from the street by talking to the people as they passed, but the pre-occupied passed on, and the idle and the indifferent lingered and strolled away. But it turned out a better meeting than I anticipated. It was not held on the ordinary entertainment night. That was in its favour, and it was evident, as it filled up and settled down, that it was not composed of those who are driven about with the craving for entertainment. There might be 80 less or more present, and as they were talked to in sustained attention, they revealed that they were of the thoughtful who stand by the temperance movement as the means of national sobriety. I was pleased to feel that it was so, for while the temperance movement is merely kept up as an entertaining counter-attraction to the drink trade, the trade must drive it before it like wrack by the tide.

The meeting in Leicester was on a Saturday, and mainly composed of those who are attracted, as Saturday comes round, to be entertained in sober circumstances. For the room in which it was held, it was large as such meetings are liable to be.

I am now in the Potteries, with Birmingham as my centre, taking up a fortnight's out-door meetings with Mr. Bingham, who is the district agent, and I am well supported by his efficient arrangements and able personal co-operation. So far as they have gone, they have been good. Crowds have been attracted, and less or more their attention has been sustained. Out-door meetings should be cultivated. I mean by cultivated that they should be well advertised and personally countenanced by leading temperance men—as well countenanced at least as in-door meetings that are felt to be respectable. Respectable meetings don't reach the multitude as out-door meetings do, and out-door meetings should have the countenance and sanction which would attract those prepared to listen. Indeed, it would be better not to have such meetings at all than to hold them, as is too often the case, apart from the sanction which the best effort of the movement alone can give. Divested of this sanction and effort, they are presented to the public as low and despicable. It has often happened that speakers without the least countenance have been ordered to go to the corner of a street and begin, and that a crowd would soon collect. A crowd is wanted, but it must be favourably impressed and ready to listen respectfully; and this is not to be realised at out-door meetings until they are launched with all the authority of our movement.

JOHN PATON.

"What's your business?" asked the counsel. "I am a retailer of wet goods." "What's that?" said the judge. "Liquors, your honour." And yet people are always asking, "What's in a name?"

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

LITTLE CHARLIE.

It was winter, one of the hardest that had been known in Glasgow for years. Work was scarce, food dear, and the weather bitterly cold. Keen easterly winds were prevalent, and chill drizzling rains fell almost continuously from leaden-hued skies. The thousands of wretched and homeless waifs shivered in the lanes and byways of the great city.

The bars of the public-houses in the lower parts of the city were daily crowded with gaunt, hollow-eyed beings, who found the warmth and brilliance there an agreeable contrast to the damp and cold and wretchedness of the streets. Every stray copper found its way there, and was bartered for the poison they imagined kept out the cold, and made them forget for a little that there were such things as misery and want in the world.

In the attic flat of a tall tenement, in one of the many filthy alleys opening off the Gallowgate, there was a little, low-ceiled room, if such it could be called, utterly destitute of the barest necessities of life. The floor was broken in many places, and the plaster had been gradually falling from the walls, until only the bare discoloured stones were left. There was scarcely a whole pane in the small window, and here and there a piece of rag had been stuffed in to keep out the cold. There had been a spark of fire in the grate in the earlier part of the day, but it was now black, and the chill wind swept through the window and played unheeded with the dark hair of a woman, half lying, half sitting on the little flock-bed which was the only article of furniture in that wretched place. Her face was hidden, and she lay quite motionless.

There was something else on the bed—a baby—or rather one of these poor, pitiful little atoms of humanity who are never babies and who know no childhood. Among the class of people of which I write there are no babies. It was a boy, and could not be more than two years old; and there was a worn, aged expression on the tiny face, sad to see on older faces, but, in a young child's, one of the most pitiful sights on earth. The little lips were blue and pinched, but the lashes of the closed eyes lay on the cheeks, and there was a shadow of a smile lingering about the mouth as if the little one were sleeping in a happy dream.

Ah! that happy restful look comes only after death. The child was beyond all the miseries and ills of the life to which it was born. It had gone home. Only one scanty coverlet enveloped the wasted little form, and the mother's dress was a mass of rags. The child had died early in the evening, and since then the mother had not moved. The noise and shouting in the streets fell on unheeding ears. She seemed to be in a kind of stupor.

When the bell from the Tron rang eleven, she moved, and finally rose. A few faint moonbeams had struggled through the flying clouds, and, penetrating the garret, rested on her face, a very young face, and (Oh God! help her) one of the saddest eyes could rest on. There were still the remains of beauty lingering there, but the cruel hands of woe and want had too surely been at work upon it. She passed her hand wearily across her brow, as if trying to remember something, and then tottered across the floor to the window.

They were putting the shutters on the windows of the whisky palaces at the corners, and turning their drunken frequenters by dozens into the streets. A bitter smile wreathed Agnes Grant's lips as she watched them.

"My husband is there spending his last sixpence, and our boy has starved to death," she muttered with intense bitterness. "Oh God, forgive him, for I never can."

Then she turned and flung herself on the floor with an exceeding bitter cry, like Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted. "My poor little Charlie, my angel boy, the last of all my bairns!" she moaned between her sobs; "Come back to me, come back and let us die together."

Ah, well indeed the sleeper was far beyond the sorrow of that agonised cry. Suddenly drying her tears, she rose and slipped from the place, drawing the door behind her. Hurrying down the long staircase like a hunted thing, she went out into the bustle of the street. The moon was hidden again, and the rain was beginning to fall in torrents, while the sharp wind pierced her scanty clothing; but she saw nothing and felt nothing. She was bent upon a purpose. Speeding with fleet step along the Gallowgate and into Argyle Street, she never paused until she reached Jamaica Bridge. There were few passengers; the tramp of the policeman on his beat was the only sound mingling with the wail of the wind. She crouched close to the parapet, and fixed her eyes on the black waters of the Clyde flowing sluggishly on their way. The steady drip, drip of the rain drops as they met the river exercised a soothing influence over the wretched creature kneeling there. "It's black and cold, but it would soon be over, and there's at least rest beneath it," she said to herself; "and I may as well die by drowning as by starvation—they say it's easier." She laughed then a laugh sadder than any tears. "When the clock strikes twelve, I'll do it," she said with a kind of desperate resolution; "God knows I've been driven to it."

She drew her ragged shawl closer round her, and looked far down into the rushing water. Then the present seemed strangely to fade away from her, and in the dark depths she saw faces long ago loved and lost, and read the memories of bygone happy days. Life had been fair to her once, as it is fair to us all sometimes; yet now she was ready to fling it from her, a burden too heavy for her to bear. It was the old story. A young couple had set up in life, happy in the present and careless for the future. They had enjoyed a year or two of prosperity, and then had come a dark time of trial and adversity. They had buried an only and dear child, and sickness had stricken down the husband for many a weary week. When he recovered, he found his situation filled up, and no prospect of finding another. They lived from hand to mouth for a time, and, disheartened by the long struggle, Jim Grant turned for oblivion to the liquor which has brought ruin to so many homes. After that the descent was quick and sure, and now he was scarcely ever sober, and the wife was left to die of a broken heart at home. Another child had been laid to rest scarcely a year ago, and after his death had come promises of amendment, made only to be broken. Agnes Grant was a gentle, loving woman, who, loving much, could forgive much, but the limit of endurance had been reached at last. With the death of her last child, her last spark of interest in life had fled.

She had risen now, and was leaning with her arms on the wet parapet, looking still into the river. "I might give him another chance; this may sober him," she said to herself with a sob. "Poor Jim! he was good to me once, and he loves me yet, if he would only keep from that cursed drink."

Tears were falling from her eyes now, and mingling with heaven's rain-drops. The bell began to ring. One—two—three. She half turned away as undecided.

Four—five—six. She looked again into the water. It was quiet and still, and there was sure rest beneath. At home there was only a drunken husband and a dead baby.

Seven—eight—nine. Her foot was on the stone. The last three strokes were ringing out clear and solemn, but before the echoes died away through the stillness, moved by an uncontrollable impulse, she turned away once more, and sped swiftly through the deserted streets.

Scarcely ten minutes after his wife left the house, Jim Grant staggered up the rickety staircase, and pushed open the door of the place he called home. No light there, no fire, no wife, nothing but the little low bed, and the quiet sleeper lying there. "Ag, I say, where are you?" he queried in a thick, unsteady whisper. "Don't fool me. Strike a light. Ag, where are you?"

No answer.

"Ag!"

No answer.

He staggered over to the bed. There was light enough for him to see that the baby was there alone, and something in the stillness around him partly sobered him. He had no light, but he put out a shaking hand, and laid it on the child's breast. It was still. Then the man fell on his knees with a great sob. He had sunk low, but the heart was not yet quite dead within him. The child was dead, killed by him, and he knew it. And where was its mother! "In the river, I'll be bound," he said to himself in a fearful whisper; "and I've killed her too."

Just then there was a light footfall on the stair, and in another moment his wife was in the room. He felt her presence, but dared not move or lift his head. For the first time in his life he was afraid to look her in the face.

"Jim, is that you?"

She had not spoken so gently to him for years, but he dared not answer. She came to his side, and touched his shoulder. "Speak to me, Jim, I am here," she said; and something in the voice reminded him of the happy days before the curse had fallen upon them.

"Don't touch me; keep back from me," he said hoarsely. "I've killed the boy; I'm a murderer. I might have saved him, and I didn't. Don't look at me."

She came nearer to him, and laid her hand upon his shoulder. "Listen to me, Jim," she said in a low, distinct voice. "I went to the river to drown myself to-night; my heart was broken. But something came to me there—a voice, I think, of the past happy years, bidding me take comfort and come back to you, and give you another chance. Oh Jim, don't say I have come back in vain. Promise me here, by the side of our baby, the last of them all—promise that you will give drink up for good. Let us begin a new life together, husband, and let us bury the past. If you will, no word of reproach shall ever cross my lips. I will be to you as I have been always, and, with God's help, we shall be happy yet. Jim, don't say me nay."

Still kneeling at her feet, he grasped her hands in a grasp of iron. "Agnes, wife, you are an angel," he said brokenly. "Before God I swear no drop of drink shall cross my lips as long as I live. You have saved me!"

That promise, so sacredly made, was sacredly kept, and there came a time when Agnes Grant could say, with a chastened, tranquil heart,

"Ah Jim, surely our little Charlie did not die in vain!"

Gorebridge.

A. S. S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

A CANADIAN REPULSE.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Packet Office, Orillia, April 26.

DEAR SIR,—As I anticipated in the letter you quoted in the *March Reformer*, the efforts of the licensed victuallers to obtain legislative modifications of the restrictions upon their "trade" proved futile. But they have succeeded in preventing the adoption of the Scott Act in two of the Ontario constituencies—the city of Hamilton and the county of Wentworth. The almost superhuman efforts put forth by the traffickers and their friends account for this, and the only cause for surprise is that the county of Hamilton, in the same part of the province, gave a favourable verdict on the law. In the other provinces, our victories much more than counterbalance these reverses; and the effect of the latter is likely to be similar to a defeat or two at the outset of a war upon our nation. It has been said that Great Britain never enters heartily into a contest

until she has sustained a defeat or two. The discussion of the question, and the manner in which public attention has been directed to it, will be of service in future operations, and I look for better organisation among the prohibition party. Faith without works is dead; and temperance people have been too ready to rest content with the assurance that God is on our side, forgetting that he honours his people by permitting and requiring them to be co-workers in this cause.—I am, with confidence, yours faithfully,

G. H. HALE.

To the Editor of Social Reformer.

SIR,—I have recently completed a tour in the far north, and a few words as to what is going on there in connection with our movement may not be without interest to your readers. I may say that the steamers which run between Aberdeen, Orkney, and Shetland are strong and powerful vessels. Passengers have full reliance in the ships and confidence in the captains, and the stewards are a most amiable and obliging class of men, ever ready to assist and succour those voyagers who sicken by the rolling of the steamer. I landed in Lerwick about the end of March, and stayed ten days. During that time I addressed a number of meetings, and met with very gratifying success. I was entertained, while I stayed in Lerwick, under the hospitable roof of the Rev. W. A. Farquhar, who is a reformer on all the lines of progress. The movement is well sustained in Lerwick by two efficient Good Templar Lodges, and I found a number of prohibitionists who are not in connection with the order, but who gave their support to the association which I had the pleasure of representing. Mr Hector Morrison, District Deputy of Shetland, very kindly co-operated with me, and I was much indebted to him for his sympathy and help. I sailed from Lerwick to Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney, with very pleasing reminiscences of my second visit to the former town. Kirkwall is well represented by an intelligent class of temperance reformers. There are two Good Templar Lodges and a Temperance Society, and I am greatly mistaken if the cause languishes in their hands. I found good reason for being cheered at Stromness. The managers of the United Presbyterian Church very generously granted me the use of the Church for my meeting. From interviews that I had with electors, I found they were deeply impressed with the necessity for our political temperance agitation, and that it was every day becoming more apparent that the question of licence must be referred to the decision of the people. Apart from this, the temperance movement will be an interminable agitation. We must be something else than an ambulance corps, carrying off the liquormen's wounded. "Saving the fallen" is a very fine phrase, and those who push them down have no serious objections that we should lift them up again. There should be a downright honest effort to change the law, so as to make prohibition a possible thing. Very much of the talk that we hear is not directed to this end at all. I found the air around Wick and Thurso aglow with the fame of Mr John Lamond. Hundreds in both towns had taken the pledge through his persuasive eloquence. This is a matter for profound thankfulness, and one heartily wishes that the good done might be permanent. I addressed two meetings in each town, and left with very pleasurable feelings. I only regret that the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association is not able to overtake more frequently many of those northern towns. I visit many places where I have no manner of doubt that a popular vote would issue in the suppression of the system of licence. I have sometimes to administer that old rebuke, "O thou of little faith," even to my friends who are temperance agents, because of their want of confidence in the people. It is not the best recommendation to our teaching if we have no reliance on the people whom we teach. You can only know what the people will do by giving them an opportunity to register their convictions by a vote. The best education for the use of a right is in the exercise of the right itself. I addressed meetings in Helms-

dale, Brora, and Golspie. There is a Temperance Association in Helmsdale, ably conducted by the Rev. D. Macrae, and a staff of men "who know what Israel ought to do" with regard to the liquor traffic. I addressed my first open-air meeting for the season in Brora. My meeting in Golspie was small, but this arose in great measure from the shortness of the time that the friends had to make arrangements. I spent a night in the burgh of Tain, and visited the Templar Lodge. The town is beautifully situated on the slope of a hill, on the southern shore of the Dornoch Firth. I found the temperance men here, as they had often been represented to me, old and faithful abstainers, broad and generous in their sympathies, and thoroughly earnest in the movement. Some of them candidly confessed to me that permissive prohibitory principles had seldom been publicly advocated in the burgh. I found, however, one reader of the *Social Reformer* in Tain, an ardent prohibitionist, known and read of all men. I am glad to say that Tain will be represented in our subscription list next year. Besides the Good Templar Lodge there is a Temperance Society in Tain. I learned that the lodge is not so numerous as it once was, but judging from the stamp and quality of the members, the St. Duthus Lodge cannot fail to wield a mighty influence for good in the burgh. I have noticed one thing during my tour that has encouraged me very much, that is that there is a growing conviction in the minds of men that the licensing system is thoroughly corrupt, and nothing but a radical change can be of vital benefit to the temperance movement.—I am, &c.

W. BLACKWOOD.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

SIR,—Your plea in last number of the *Social Reformer* on behalf of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association is not too strong. My opinion is that much more might be advanced on its behalf, calculated to draw out personal sympathy and pecuniary aid not only of abstainers, but of many right thinking and well-disposed citizens. It is sad to think of an association organized and sustained "to assist in procuring the suppression of the liquor traffic by the power of the national will and through the form of a legislative enactment," receiving the sum of £1,765 per annum to accomplish its patriotic and Christ-like purpose, and that, too, in a country where vast sums are yearly expended in feeding the hungry, and in the too frequently unsuccessful attempts to cure the disease, to reform the crime, and to alleviate the poverty and misery directly resulting from the liquor traffic. Society is not only ignorant, but, we fear, inconsiderate, when it continues to lavish so much on palliatives and so little on the prevention of the drink system. Every commercial man affords a lesson to those sympathising with the objects of the Association. When anything abstracts or opposes their business, they will either remove it entirely or attempt to at once bridge it over. Hell's-gate at the mouth of New York harbour is an instance of the one, and the Tay bridge an instance of the other. The liquor traffic cannot be bridged over, but it can be removed. Ship-masters will not sail a leaky ship, strengthening the pumps in a vain attempt to keep her afloat, when they might at once beach her or dock her, and stop the leak. No physician would continue to imperil the lives of a community under his care by curing the plague-stricken, and yet all the time neglecting the source of the plague. Society, when it sees the liquor traffic is scuttling society, and that it is the worst of social plagues, will more fully avail itself of the services of the above energetic Association, that it may stop the leak and remove the plague spot. It has often appeared to me that people would readily believe that the Association is seeking after the distant and doing nothing for the immediate. There could not be a greater error. True, it is seeking legal power enabling the ratepayers to protect themselves from the public houses, but it is also doing much to disseminate sound temperance truth; and temperance societies can testify to the work of the Association in this way. It

has rendered services in Parliamentary and municipal contests, availed itself of pulpits, mission platforms, instructed Foundry Boys' and Band of Hope meetings, never pausing in its efforts at creating an aversion in the public mind to the continuance of the drink system, and in turning multitudes from the beaten road of drunkenness to the paths of sobriety. I would suggest that all the members of the Association not only fall in with the suggestions given last month, but that they would look at the matter thus:—were they told that by bringing greater agencies into the field, the agitation would in proportion be brought more speedily to an end, they would, I believe, give much more liberally. If the income were raised to six-fold its present amount, the Association would in that proportion increase the power of the agitation. Let all wise friends take counsel on this matter; subscribe as much over their present amount as is possible, and ask their friends to subscribe, and the movement would advance by leaps and bounds. S.

POETRY.

"THE WIFIE OWRE-BYE."

They said she was thriftless, a faithless bit body,
For on her puir back there was hardly a duddy;
She was aye toilin' inside and aye trottin' oot,
In the worst o' a' weathers aye wan'rin' aboot,
At the late oors o' nicht fin folk cheapest can buy:
An' the neebers aye ca'd her "The Wifie Owre-bye."

An' sair did they pity the *gweed honest* man,
That cam hame sae straucht wi' his pay in his han',
Fa ne'er fae the kirk on a Sunday was seen:
An' the puir raggit bairnies withoot hose or sheen.
"There's something wrang there," folk wad dimally
cry—
They were sure she was drunken, the wifie owre-bye.

True the drink was at wark, but the wifie got nane—
'Twas the *guid honest* man—but he drank it alane;
It was hardly the thing for an elder, ye see,
Tae be seen at the *public and honest* spree.
But wi' mony a black curse and ill-shaipit name
The puir wifie was ordered tae bring the drink hame;
Then he'd drink himsel' fu' though his bairns wanted
bread,
An' baith them an' their mither gied foodless tae bed;
In a moment o' kindness death steppit in bye,
An' ended the wrangs of the wifie owre-bye.

Fin her slender bit coffin they bore through the snaw,
A' the neeber-wives cried, "Sirs, it's weel she's
awa'!"

The ill-used *honest man* noo nicht get a bit meat,
An' the puir raggit bairns nae wander the street;
An' as true as they said—nae mair raggit and fule,
But tidy an' trim, gied the bairns to the skule;
A stern maiden sister, wi' proud head an' high,
Held the place since weel filled by the wifie owre-bye.

Fin he'd cry for the drink amid anger an' strife,
Sae quately she'd whisper, "Min' ye, I'm no yer
wife!"

If ye try but ae inch o' hame duty tae shirk,
I'll tell oot what ye are, word for word i' the kirk."
Sin' he *daurna* tak' drink, he improved in his dress,
An' at hame there was nae sign o' want or distress;
But the peer outraged wifie lay cauld i' the clay:
Nane wad ken a' she bore till the great Judgment-day.
Fin they mark'd the great change a' the neebers wad
cry—

"Weel for them when she deet, yon wifie owre-bye!"

"Oh! where is God's justice?" we're tempted to cry,
Fin we think on the wrangs o' the wifie owre-bye.
Oh! fu' dinna the green turfs that hap her grey head
Cry oot tae the wail' a' the wrangs o' the dead?
But 'tis sinfu' to question the Maker on High—
He'll avenge a' the wrangs o' the wifie owre-bye.

MARY GRANT.

VARIETIES.

Why is a selfish friend like the letter "p"?—Because though the first in pity, he is the last in help.

A policeman who was kicked down stairs the other day said he felt as if his seat had been contested.

When people are ignorant, reckless, and prone to vicious indulgences, high wages are certainly not a blessing. In such cases, "sweet are the uses of adversity."

School Teacher (reprovingly) "Boys, boys, do you know what day this is?" Street boy, "Hi' fellers, here a cove as don't know what day this is; he must 'ave been on the spree."

SCENE.—A Fashionable Church—Venerable Church warden carrying round the bag for the collection. Frantic scream from a youngster who had a lively recollection of the traitor apostle: "Oh, mamma, mamma, here's Judas coming!"

THE SERVANT QUESTION.—"Followers" have always been a difficulty. We imagine there are faults on both sides. Ladies often show themselves as "unreasonable" as their female domestics. For example, although very solicitous for the settlement of their own daughters in life, they often do not give sufficient opportunities for their maid-servants to find husbands. A girl in service is quite as anxious to get a husband as her young mistresses, and, indeed, it is of much more consequence for her to do so. She sees her youth slipping away from her in a place where no "followers" are allowed, and it is no wonder that she "wants a change." She has a right to have her holidays and her "Sundays out," and it is the mistress's duty not only to grant them, but to make some inquiry as to how she spends them. Many ladies never take the smallest interest in the moral conduct of those to whom they stand, morally if not legally, *in loco parentis*, and who may, perhaps, have no other adviser.

MIDLOTHIAN AND LOCAL OPTION.—The deputation appointed some time ago at a meeting of prohibitory electors in this county were in London last month endeavouring to bring the claims of local option before the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone, the county member. To the request made on behalf of the deputation by Mr. J. H. Waterston, secretary to the meeting, Mr. Gladstone sent a reply regretfully declining, on account of business engagements, to receive the deputation, but promising to give attention to any written communication from them. The deputation, relying on having an interview, had already gone to London. A memorial to the right honourable gentleman was, however, at once drawn up, referring to a memorial presented to him in November, 1879, hailing with satisfaction the evidences of his sympathy with their aims; representing that the opinion in Scotland in favour of local option was fully matured for legislation; and hoping that the injustice perpetrated on the Tyne-castle electors in November 1880, as brought before his notice in January last, would not be repeated. The memorial had the signatures of twenty electors, and was presented at Downing Street to Mr. W. H. and Mr. H. Gladstone, the sons of the Premier, who had been deputed to receive it, and to convey their father's assurance that it would have his best consideration. The deputation also endeavoured while in London to get the question of local option brought before the meeting of Scotch members, convened to discuss the question of local government and taxation, on the 12th ult., and had secured the support of several Scotch members in favour of its consideration at that meeting; but an unexpected turn in the proceedings at that meeting prevented this, so that for the present this matter is in abeyance. Although the deputation has not succeeded at this time, they have certainly not failed, seeing that they have been able to bring the matter of the local suppression of the liquor traffic before the Premier, the Lord Advocate, and a number of the Scotch members.

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, JUNE, 1881.

* * * We are compelled, notwithstanding that we issue a supplement, to leave over our notices of the "Scottish Temperance League," "Glasgow Abstiners' Union," "Book Shelf," "How to conduct a Band of Hope," and much other interesting matter. Our literary contributors will, we hope, kindly possess their souls in patience, and we will overtake arrears by and by.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S NEW RESOLUTION.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, Bart., M.P., has given notice that on the 14th inst. he will move as first order of the day the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this House the resolution passed by this House on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operations of the liquor traffic ought without delay to be embodied by the Government in a bill giving effect to the said resolution."

This resolution requires no words from us to recommend it heartily to our readers. Hitherto the friends of local option in Scotland have been foremost in the energy and determination of their support to Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Now when he presses the Government to redeem a promise which the feeling of Parliament constrained the Premier to make last year, we feel sure that they will redouble their efforts to increase the number of his supporters from Scotland. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association make in our columns a powerful appeal to the friends of the bill throughout the country. To that appeal we refer them. If they act as it suggests, the vote from Scotland will exceed the all but unanimous vote given by its representatives on the 18th June, last year. They cannot do less. We believe that they will do more.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Offices—112 Bath Street, Glasgow, May, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—We are desired by the Executive of this Association to respectfully remind you that Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., intends to move in the House of Commons, on Tuesday, 14th June, a Resolution which is in the following terms:—

"That in the opinion of this House, the Resolution passed by the House on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic, ought, without delay, to be embodied by the Government in a bill giving effect to the said Resolution."

That this step on the part of the Hon. Baronet is necessary is beyond doubt. Since the House adopted the Local Option Resolution not quite a year ago, more than one hundred and twenty millions sterling have been spent on alcoholic liquors, and more than one hundred and twenty thousand lives have been sacrificed. All the other evils which spring from that traffic continue to mark its devastating progress. Legislation for Ireland has reached an advanced stage, so that there is no visible reason for farther delay on the part of the Government to redeem their promise and deal with the liquor traffic on the lines of local option. To favorably impress the Government, an increased vote for Scotland is absolutely necessary. If the friends of a suppressive veto act on the forthcoming division as they have acted on similar occasions, an increased vote from Scotland is assured. With a grateful sense of your hearty co-operation in times past, they have earnestly to request your assistance at this time, in any or all of the following ways—

1st.—By forming one of a deputation to your representative, should he visit his constituency during the Whitsuntide holidays.

2nd.—By promoting Memorials from Church Courts, Temperance organizations, and other public bodies to Mr. Gladstone, the Home Secretary, and the Lord Advocate, and (if he is indifferent or opposed) to your own representative. It is important that these Members of the Government should know that there exists on the part of the community a positive determination to have the power to protect themselves against the operations of the licensing system.

3rd.—By convening District Conferences at which influential citizen Memorials might be adopted. The importance of this course is obvious.

4th.—By personally writing your representative (or representatives). Pointing out in courteous but forcible language the pressing necessity for legislation, and asking him to be in his place on Tuesday, 14th June, to vote with Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

In the opinion of the Executive—and their opinion is shared by every member of the House of Commons—this is by far the most effective way of supporting our champion; and if between this and the date of the division, every member of Parliament, especially those indifferent or opposed, were to hear from the larger portion of the electors they represent, it is believed that they themselves would combine to constrain the Government to redeem their promise in the immediate future.

You may rest assured that the publicans will exert themselves to the utmost to intimidate honourable members in order to diminish the voting on the 14th, and thus furnish the Government with an excuse for the tardy fulfilment of their promise. Their characteristic tactics can only be frustrated by the vigorous action of the friends of the resolution. To be of real service, your assistance must be prompt, and your letter to your representative be despatched by as early a post as possible after the receipt of this circular. Please address him—"House of Commons, London, S.W." As it has been necessary to send a deputation to London on the eve of divisions, one has been appointed to go to London next month. It will be satisfactory to you to know that the prohibitory deputations from Scotland have earned a reputation in the House for their ability, vigilance, and energy. Should you be in London between the 8th and 14th June, you are earnestly requested to join the one now appointed. Its headquarters will be at the Offices of the United Kingdom Alliance, 52 Parliament Street, Westminster, London, S.W. The Secretary, Mr. Mackay, will afford you all needful information. The efforts of the deputation will be strengthened, and their influence over your representative increased if

you will kindly let the secretary know that you have written your member in view of the 14th, and especially if you also let him know the nature of the reply your member has sent to your communication.

They rely upon your vigorous promptitude and co-operation.

We are, dear sir, your obedient servants,

JAMES HAMILTON, J.P., President.
 JAMES TORRENS, J.P., Chairman of Executive.
 THOS. DICK, Vice-Chairman of Executive.
 JAMES L. SELKIRK, J.P., Hon. Secretary.
 ROBERT M'CALLUM, Treasurer.
 ROBERT MACKAY, Secretary.

It has been decided by the Home Office that there are to be additional Circuit Courts in Scotland. Very sorry to hear it. But when we get our Permissive Bill passed into law, there will be three "maiden" courts out of every four. Cases of serious crime, apart from drinking, are rare in Scotland.

"The Temperance Reformation from a Medical Point of View." By James Murray M'Culloch, M.D., Dumfries.—We cordially welcome this talented exposition of our question. Our readers have here a pamphlet of 20 pages dealing with those advanced views advocated by Dr. M'Culloch at a time when few of the medical profession could be found who were not decidedly opposed to them. This pamphlet will meet now with a genial welcome from great numbers of the medical profession. Dr. M'Culloch founds, on the medical point of view, the soundest of all arguments for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are prepared to sell them in quantities of 50 for 3s., 100 for 6s., and so on, carriage unpaid; or at one penny each; six copies for sixpence; twelve copies for one shilling, post free. Orders should be sent in at once to prevent disappointment. Our friends will render valuable service by taking a number of copies for distribution.

Of the numerous developments of publican concussion so manifest in the present day, that of the tribe located in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, is most entitled to be called frantically stupid. These have struck against the Scott Act. Home Secretary Bruce tried to impose certain legal restrictions on the London "cabbies," but they, knowing the vast inertia inherent and acquired in human nature, struck, and effectively threw off the legal yoke. Bakers, menacing the enjoyment which Killing Pace finds in his morning rolls, have before now extorted an extra shilling a week from their distracted employers trembling lest Killing Pace should withdraw his custom. Domestic servants in Dundee struck, hoisted their "flags" as indicative of their determination to be "even with their misses," secured a night out for themselves, and access for eager followers ever so often a-week. These and other strikes have put human nature into *extremes*, and compelled surrender. Can the publicans really expect to do that? Perhaps so with those who have been trained whisky

tasters all through life, but with how many more? Eight and forty hours' abstinence will conquer the drink appetite raging in the bosoms of the most of drink-enthralled people, and it will be one of the sweetest moments of their life when they find themselves surviving the strike of the unscrupulous dram-seller. Fancy a town without gas, and you may have a vivid conception of discomfort, or a city deprived of honest water, and you may realize the worth of the water now that the well is dry, but when you fancy a town with the publicans on strike or suppressed, you can only conceive a sense of intense relief, the reviving hopes of a bright future, and a joy over all, such as emancipation afforded to liberated slaves. 'The meanest wretches that ever trod, the deepest sunk in want and sorrow, would stand erect in self-respect before God's teeming earth,' after the publicans' three-days' strike. We hope that the Sarnia publicans' example may be infectious, and that the prohibitionists there may be watchful and vigilant, urging the tremulous sot to hold on, and the strike will be the making of him. Other strikes may mar the party struck at, but this strike will make him. It will make him sober! What a satisfaction to the tippler to realize total abstinence, with all the permanent blessings of which it is the abundant source! It is having joy, doing well, and being good.

It is one of the most hopeful indications of the near approach of the final and decisive issue of the Permissive Prohibitory agitation that the women in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland, are manifesting so great an interest in and so warm a sympathy with the efforts put forth in its behalf. Every woman who is concerned about the eternal interests of her erring and sinful sisters is forced to the conviction, that until the law puts its iron heel on the neck of the liquor traffic the most of Christian effort to save the fallen will be like water spilt upon the ground. As fast as they can rescue the fallen, a new race arises to be tempted, through our drinking customs and our public houses, to fall, to wallow in the mire of folly and sin, to be rescued again and again, and yet many of them, after all, to fall back finally into the fearful pit, and become embedded in the miry clay. Miss White, the secretary of the Glasgow Prayer Union Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association, whose efforts in connection with intemperance are beyond praise, wrote a letter to the papers, which we gladly reproduce, as it so clearly shows how the victims and those who devote themselves to their rescue realize the countervailing power of the liquor traffic to all moral reform. She says:—

"A deputation of eight ladies were appointed by the Women's Temperance Prayer Union to present a memorial to the Magistrates against granting any new licenses, but the Lord Provost having kindly offered to present the memorial and to support its prayer, they do not appear with the other deputations in the Council Chambers to-day. Recently, when so many Christians in Glasgow were partaking of the bread and wine

in remembrance of the Saviour's dying love, I went into the cells of our great Female Prison to tell them that the love of Christ reached even to them, and that Jesus was both able and willing to save them from their sins. As I climbed the long staircase, passing flat after flat of dreary cells, the wail of the poor little babies, sharing the imprisonment of their drunken mothers, fell sadly on my ears. I saw thirteen prisoners, twelve of whom told me they were there 'for being drunk.' One woman said she had been often there; she felt it a great disgrace the first time, but now she did not mind it—going to prison just hardened them. 'Why do the Magistrates,' she said, 'license so many whisky shops? They're at every corner, and we can't pass them.' I did not attempt to answer her question. It would have puzzled wiser heads than mine to have made her comprehend why our Magistrates and Justices grant nearly 2000 licenses to a trade which crowds our prison cells with hopeless, degraded men and women, to be kept at the public expense. So I said, 'Would you like if every whisky shop in Glasgow were shut up to-morrow?' 'Yes, I would,' she replied, and the other women said the same. 'But,' I said, 'if they were all shut, you would seek out some hole-and-corner place to get the drink.' 'No, we would not,' the woman said; 'we don't care for the drink here; we care for a cup of tea, but it's the temptations of the whisky shops we can't stand.' I left the prison sad at heart. In the name of the women of Glasgow, who are such sufferers from the licensed drink traffic, I ask how long is the present state of things to last. Has Christianity no remedy?"

We answer, without hesitation, that the only remedy that Christianity has, and can effectively apply to the evils of the liquor traffic, is its exclusion from burghs, parishes, and districts, by a majority vote of the rate-payers; we say the only remedy, because it is God's remedy of Prohibition voluntarily applied, and further, we affirm our unwavering belief, which all good Christians yet will share, that the Church will never do the will of her great Head, nor, as the heavenly Jerusalem, appear on earth until that traffic—the enemy of all godliness—is for ever banished from her table.

The revised edition of the New Testament seems to be meeting with much adverse criticism from parties at issue on other points. The one thinks that it is too Conservative; the other too much disposed to change. Neither are pleased. It would have been better that the revisers on many points had shown less timidity and better scholarship. What is generally alleged against them as regards their treatment of the whole text applies with equal force to their treatment of those texts which refer to the temperance question. Generally they have improved the text, and specially many new renderings bring out more fully the harmony of temperance with the New Testament. We were a little startled to find one of the texts referring to our blessed Saviour on the cross. Matthew had it, when offered vinegar, "He received it not." The reviewers changed vinegar to wine, which seemed as if the revision was to be reactionary; but a moment's thought on the subject showed that Mark was right and Matthew in error. Christ refused in his last hours the deceitful support of liquor. And both statements harmonize. He knows that "wine is a mocker." We have, "Neither do men put new

wine into old wineskins, else the skins burst, the wine is spilled, and the skins perish." Again we have, "Woe unto the world because of occasions of stumbling, for it must needs be that occasions come, but woe unto that man through whom the occasion cometh." The Passover passages, in which it is said Christ commemorated his last supper with "the fruit of the vine," are all retained. The miracle at Cana of Galilee is duly recorded, but "well drunk" is replaced by "drunk freely," a better rendering. "Let your moderation be known to all men" has disappeared, and in its stead we have "Let your forbearance be known to all men." "Avoid all appearance of evil" is now "Abstain from every form of evil." "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess," is now "wherein is riot." "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake," reads now "Be no longer a drinker of water," etc. All these are decided gains. The text, "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, etc.," stands now "that the aged men be temperate, grave, sober-minded, etc." "That the aged women may train the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," is now "to be sober-minded, etc." For the time past of your life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles when we walked in . . . excess of wine, revellings, banquettings," is now "wine-bibbings, revellings, carousings." "They think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you," is retained, but on the margin we have, "flood of riot." "The end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore sober," is now "the end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore of sound mind, and be sober unto prayer," "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about," stands "be sober, be watchful, etc." There is great cause for rejoicing even in this hasty survey of those passages over which, for so many years, the champions of temperance have contended so manfully with the sons of night and darkness. The revision, although we do not think it by any means so good as it might have been, or as it will yet be, rejects many loose renderings, replacing them with emendations that lend additional support to the temperance cause. There are yet texts which we expected would have appeared so glaringly in need of revision allowed to stand as they were; but they have lost the support of some of the most famous passages on which the convivialists relied. Dr. Lees, Rev. D. Burns, Dr. Mudge, James M'Nair, and many others who have earnestly contended for a faithful translation, must rejoice to find that their contentions have been so generally allowed to be right. To all the temperance reformers the appearance of this version is fitted to be a stimulus in the good work of bringing about a sober world, and should beget, in their minds, the conviction that farther research and farther light can only result in greater harmony between the conclusions from the works, and those from the word of God; and in their hearts a deeper

and stronger love for that manner of life which is marked by the rational use of things beneficial, and the entire abandonment of things pernicious.

In the small hours of the morning of Saturday, 14th ult., a most mischievous proposal was recommended for Parliamentary sanction. That proposal was one to turn by the mere consent of the Inland Revenue authorities all our railway carriages into liquor bars and drinking boxes. No such proposal giving similar facilities to drunkenness and disorder has been laid before Parliament during the last fifty years. The Beer Bill that so widely opened the floodgates of intemperance did not contemplate the invasion of home by the beer seller, or compel the soberminded to visit the beer vault. The Wine Bill which has, in the other parts of the empire, played havoc with the constitution and character of women did not compel the soberly disposed to consort with them, nor condemn them to have their feelings outraged by the sight of the dreadful excesses which have ruined so many of their fair sisters. This proposal was so artfully conceived that it could have been no longer possible to avoid being a witness, however unwilling, of drinking and drunkenness in every stage, during long or short distance journeys. The operation of the clauses embodied in this proposal practically annul in railways the line of demarcation between the drinker and the abstainer. Its effects upon the life and habits of those that too easily yield to the allurements of strong drink can hardly be measured; that they would be injurious cannot be gainsaid; that they would be often fatal cannot be doubted. We rejoice that a proposal which would have had the tendency to debase many of the travelling public, and outrage the feelings of so many more, has had to be so promptly withdrawn because of the menaces of the temperance and prohibitory reformers, reinforced by the general sentiments of the country. It is satisfactory to find that there is opinion in the country strong enough to resist any reactionary legislation on the drink traffic or drinking customs. Of one thing we are now assured, that the community will not permit of the farther extension of the already too ample legalized facilities to intemperance. But we do not share the feelings of those who think that we have seen the last of this proposal. We know that the mainstay of the national taxation is the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors. We know too that through the enforced sobriety of hard times the revenue from that source has greatly diminished: and we know that there are many who are more anxious that the revenue should advance by leaps and bounds than about the source from which it is derived. There is therefore as many temptations to increase the revenue by tapping the traffic through new methods, hence there is no hope of resting and being thankful so long as the dreadful traffic is felt to be necessary to the prosperity of the country. We certainly would have been better pleased if the Premier had,

in withdrawing his proposal, rather shown his aversion to it than merely thrown it overboard for want of time. He seems to have yielded to the pressure of the public most ungracefully, and bows to the inevitable rather than to the right. We cannot but feel sorry at this, but at the same time we believe that we speak the sentiments of every true friend of his country when we say that let that proposal revive and it will meet from the moral and social reformers of this country the most uncompromising opposition. We are not yet unanimous on putting down liquor selling in this land entirely, but we are unanimous in this, that publicans in the guise of railway shareholders and excise officers shall not transform our railway carriages into liquor bars and drinking boxes.

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—V.

April 25.—Mr. Cowen asked the Home Secretary whether it was true that the owner of a public-house in the neighbourhood of King's Cross, where a Radical Club had advertised lectures to take place, had been threatened with the loss of its license should these lectures continue. The Home Secretary would enquire. He never heard of this before.

26.—Mr. Clark gave notice that that day four weeks he would move that Bills which had passed their second reading but had not become law in one session should the next session be resumed at the stage of committee.

27.—Col. Barne introduced a Bill, which was read a first time, for the better security of the purity of beer. (Laughter.)

28.—Mr. Courtenay, replying to Mr. Coan, said that when the attention of the Government had been called to the alleged traffic in English girls, between this country and the Continent, Mr. Slagg had been deputed to Brussels to watch proceedings and make inquiries, with the result that several prosecutions had taken place and five notorious persons had been imprisoned. One of the principal delinquents had escaped to France, but he was to be tried there, and Mr. Slagg would be present on behalf of this Government at the trial.

29.—Mr. Hugh Mason gave notice that that day four weeks he would move that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications of men, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

—Sir Charles Dilke, in reply to Mr. Pease, said that the views of Sir Thomas Watson on the subject of opium taxation had not been received.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC DEBATE.

—Mr. J. W. Pease moved the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the opium trade, as now carried on between India and China, is opposed alike to Christian and international morality, and is instrumental in effecting the physical and moral degradation of thousands of Chinese, and ought not to be continued in the manner in which it is at present conducted; that, while believing that the careful development of the resources of India, combined with economy in expenditure, would provide for any gradual loss of revenue which the adoption of the policy indicated in the foregoing resolution might entail, nevertheless this House is prepared to give such aid to the Government of India as, in the opinion of this House, may be requisite; that, in the opinion of this House, it is due to the Government of China that the 3rd clause of the 3rd section of the Convention signed by his Excellency Sir Thomas Wade at Chefoo, on September 13, 1876, should be ratified by the Government of Her Majesty without demanding from

the Government of China modifications of its original terms." In doing so, he said he desired, when negotiations were going on between this Government and that of China, to draw attention to this matter, and pointed out the Prime Minister's expressed anxiety about taking steps to withdraw gradually from all connection with the opium traffic. He also pointed to the petitions which during the last four weeks poured in from all parts against the continuance of this traffic. It was only a generation ago that our forefathers had put their hands into their pockets and paid £20,000,000 to slaveholders because they looked on the slave traffic as immoral. Another country, which had not found itself able to take so bold a line on the question of slavery, had at length found itself obliged to face difficulty, which cost it £700,000,000 or £800,000,000 and the loss of thousands of lives. If we were unable to do away with the immoral opium trade, a day of retribution would certainly come. It was said that opium was a very useful drug. So it was, but it could not be long used with impunity, nor could it be sold in this country without a register being kept of each sale. He was surprised at the reasoning of the Postmaster-General, reasoning unworthy of so candid and straightforward a mind. His right hon. friend said he could see no difference between the revenue raised in this country from the drink traffic and that raised in India from opium. The difference lay in this that the consumption of drink was by our fellow-countrymen and that of opium by foreigners. By far the greatest portion of the revenue from drink was paid by those who used it as a harmless luxury. As to the argument that if the trade were stopped smuggling would begin, that was a question for the Chinese Government. Then we were told that if we did not export it, someone else would. This reminded him of the fellow that continued to rob rather than that another should do it, while all the while he pitied his victim. After submitting evidence of the deleterious character of the drug, he pointed out how the Government had suppressed 41 out of 68 opium shops in Burmah; and he had to ask how the traffic, which was so detrimental in Burmah, could be a blessing in China? After narrating the origin of the traffic, he said only last year a treaty was entered upon between America and China. One of the articles of that treaty was that all traffic in opium was forbidden, and also that no American ship could become an opium trader—a fact that showed that the Chinese were sincere in their desire to put an end to the opium traffic. (Hear, hear.) He had to ask the House, once again, why the treaty entered into by Sir Thomas Wade was not ratified, seeing that one of its stipulations was that the Chinese might impose the li-kin duties, which would in effect put an end to the traffic? Yet, after the lapse of five years, that treaty was never ratified. The question was one of revenue, and that alone. It was not a question of acquiring a revenue, but of the manner of acquiring it, and, being acquired at the expense of the debauchery of a nation, must be condemned by all right-minded people. (Hear, hear.) It was not a safe revenue they got from the traffic; it was, indeed, very precarious. The Chinese Government might some morning put an end to this foul trade, and if they did so he felt sure that they would gain the sympathy not only of the English people, but of the Government and people of every civilized country in the world. He believed that the ordinary sources of Indian revenue would be sufficient, if economically managed, for the requirements of the country. (Hear, hear.) He would now move his resolution.

Sir J. Kennaway believed that by a gradual process, in which if they were assisted heartily by the Chinese, the evil could be put an end to. Every consideration of justice, honour, morality, and expediency required them to look this question in the face. They were bound to retrace their steps and reverse their policy, if they were satisfied that it was a wrong policy. In this way he was sure they would relieve the national conscience from a stain which was increasingly felt every year. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Onslow believed that even to attempt the gradual

extinction of the opium traffic would be fatal to the revenues of India. Those who advised such a policy were the same persons who wished to do away with the use of alcoholic liquors, the smoking of tobacco, and vaccination—in one word, the crotchet-mongers of the country, who were impressed with the Exeter Hall ideas of Christian morality. (Hear, hear.) If the Government of India did so, it could not stop there. It would also have to do away with the duty on salt, as it was contrary to Christian morality to tax a necessary of life. If these two sources of revenue were dried up, he could not see where the Government could recoup itself for the loss so as to be able to carry out the great public works which were essential to the civilisation of India. (Hear, hear.) What assurance had they that the Chinese would give up the use of the drug, seeing that the growth of it was on the increase in China itself? In fact, though the Chinese Government publicly protested against it, they secretly encouraged it, and that was a convincing proof that it was not so deleterious as it was alleged to be. He cared very little for the petitions on the subject, as the signatories knew nothing whatever of the subject. Supposing, however, there was the least tinge of immorality in the trade, yet, considering that all the revenue derived from it was devoted to the amelioration of the people of India, they should prefer their advantage to the morality of the Chinese, who did not appear to be physically deteriorated by the use of it for generations past. On the contrary, it enabled them to increase the population. (Laughter.) They were skilled mechanics and strong labourers, and might turn round and say, if you wish to put an end to immorality, begin at home and put down the liquor traffic. (Hear, hear.) He did not say that he was in favour of that crotchet. The revenue of England could not bear the loss of the excise duties, neither could the revenue of India bear the loss of the opium tax, and he only mentioned this to show how far a regard to these crotchets would lead them.

Mr. Laing said that the total suppression of the opium traffic would mean the absolute and entire financial ruin of India. The average net revenue from the opium traffic was six and a half millions a year. The use of opium was voluntary, and the Chinese were not compelled to smoke it any more than the people of Scotland were obliged to drink whisky. The hon. member who brought forward this matter wanted the House to be moral and charitable at the expense of the poor Indian taxpayers.

Dr. Cameron fully admitted that the people of India did not desire the suppression of the opium traffic, because they did not desire the imposition of farther taxation. The product of the tax did not go to relieve Indian population, but had been devoted to the Afghan war. What he complained of was not that opium was introduced into China, but that it was forced upon the Chinese, who, however, manifested so great a repugnance to the trade as to alarm those responsible for the finances of India. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. O'Donnell said that he was satisfied that Indian financiers would soon have to do without the opium revenue; for if the Chinese Government were to declare to-morrow that they would not allow the trade to be forced upon them again, they might do it with the moral certainty that the English people would not enter upon another opium war.

The Marquis of Hartington said that from a revenue point of view the revenue from opium was of immense importance. They were bound to recollect, moreover, the liability of India to famine, and that every famine involved this country in a greatly increased expenditure. Was that expenditure always to take the form of a permanent increase to our debt, or were we in prosperous years to make provision for it? (Hear, hear.) This was a revenue which the people of India might be found in favour of retaining, and though this might not be held to be a conclusive argument in favour of its retention, it could not be safely disregarded. It might be the lot of the House to consider a vote towards the relief of India, and it would be a serious matter to find that, without having at all im-

proved the condition of China, they had damaged the resources of India by relinquishing this trade. If the revenue from opium was an immoral one, no doubt the feeling in this country would be increasingly in favour of some change, and it would be necessary for those who were responsible for the government of India to see whether the revenue could not be derived from other sources. It would, in the first place, be necessary, however, that clear and conclusive proof was given that the revenue was an immoral one, and that the abandonment of the existing system would do any good to China at all. It would be necessary to show, further, that the Chinese desired it, and that their Government was able to suppress the opium traffic which arose in China itself, and that it was only our arrangements that prevented its total abolition in China. Lord Hartington quoted several authorities to show that the use of opium was not only not always deleterious, but that often it had a beneficial effect. The revenue derived from opium was undoubtedly precarious, and the subject was one which from time to time had been brought under the notice of the Government of India. He certainly thought the time had come when the matter ought to be considered, and the present Finance Minister of India was fully alive to the importance of it. It should be recollected, however, that the object of the Government of India had always been to restrict the sale of the drug amongst their own population as much as possible, whereas, if they no longer manufactured it, but left it in the hands of private firms, whose object it was to push their business as much as possible, the evil would necessarily be increased rather than diminished, while, at the same time, the revenue would suffer very seriously. The time had come when, unquestionably, the whole subject was worthy of reconsideration, and some change not only possible, but even desirable.

Alderman Fowler said—The noble Marquis asked how those who wished to see the abolition of the revenue derived in India from opium proposed to make good the consequent loss. That was an argument of which he fully appreciated the force. He felt, however, that the conduct of this country in connection with the opium trade was the greatest blot upon the escutcheon of the English people. By the fault partly of our forefathers and partly by our own fault, our position was this, that it was very difficult for India to do without the opium revenue. The only way to act was to imitate our conduct at the time of the abolition of slavery, and to make a sacrifice for the purpose of getting rid of a national evil. The House had voted millions to get rid of slavery, and would be prepared to make a substantial sacrifice to be rid of any complicity in the evils that resulted from the consumption of opium. In conclusion, he would remind the House that the East India Company had put on record their views in these words:—"If it were possible to put an end to the use of the drug altogether, except for medical purposes, we would gladly do it in compassion to mankind."—(Hear, hear.)

After Sir G. Campbell and Mr. Storer had addressed the House, the motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

—Mr. Gladstone, on the second reading of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, replying to Mr. Storer, could hold out no hope for amending the bill so as to give relief to the labourer who complained that when he brewed only two bushels for harvest, he was subjected to a higher duty or licence than he paid under the malt tax, but suggested that the proper time for raising the question would be when the bill got into committee. The bill was then read a second time.

May 2.—Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Capt. Aylmer, said it would not be more correct to estimate the probable profit from the alteration of the differential tax—if he might so call it—upon spirits at a million rather than £180,000, as he had estimated it in the Budget. He had no hesitation in saying that it would be most grossly incorrect. Capt. Aylmer suggested half a million. Mr. Gladstone—In our opinion, that would be still grossly inaccurate.

WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL.

May 4.—Mr. Roberts moved the second reading of this bill. He said that an earnest and almost universal desire had been manifested for Sunday closing in Wales. Petitions, with 267,000 signatures, had been presented on behalf of the bill, being equal to more than a third of the entire adult population of Wales. Town Councils, Local Boards, School Boards, Boards of Guardians, and religious associations had also petitioned in its favour. In 1879-80 there was a complete canvass of the whole of North Wales, and though 44 parishes were silent, about four-fifths of the whole number of ratepayers in North Wales voted. Out of 78,435 votes, 75,510 were in favour of Sunday closing, 989 were against it, and 1936 neutral, or 76 to 1 were for Sunday closing. These returns have never been seriously challenged. In Wrexham, a town which is supposed to be very much in the interest of the brewers, there voted 1161 for and only 119 against closing. The opinion of the whole body of publicans was strongly in favour of the bill. Out of 1173 who offered an opinion, 792 were favourable, 152 against, and 229 neutral; so that five-sixths of the publicans of Wales are themselves in favour of this measure. All the work of canvassing was carried out with the expenditure of very little money and without the employment of one paid official. Now, what is the opinion of the members for Wales? To that test he could appeal with the greatest confidence. (Cheers.) The Welsh members number 30, and of the 28 who sit on this (the Liberal) side of the House, all, without a single exception, are in favour of the bill. (Cheers.) Of the Conservatives, we have the support of the half of them. (Laughter.) The Government supported the Irish Sunday Closing Bill because the support it received was three to one; the support which this bill receives is twenty-nine to one. (Cheers.) Then let me appeal to the House, and especially to the Government, to help the Welsh members to pass this bill into law during the present session. (Cheers.) Legislation on the subject for England must sooner or later take place, and whenever it does take place, it must be of advantage to the Government to have the experience of the working of this measure in Wales. The passing of the bill will give great satisfaction to the people of Wales. None of them wishing any of the large towns exempted from the operation of the bill, it will secure a much-needed day's rest to the publicans and those whom they employ, and will tend to check drunkenness and promote peace and order on the Sabbath day. He begged to move that the bill be now read a second time. (Cheers.)

Mr. Warton said if the overwhelming feeling of the people of Wales and the publicans of Wales was favourable to Sunday closing—if the Welsh would not drink and the Welsh publicans would not sell—how was it that the public-houses were so prosperous? Why could the publicans not take out six-day licenses? He asked the public-houses to be kept open on Sundays for the sake of those tourists who came to see the beautiful scenery in Wales. They would be cheating the tourists by shutting up the public-houses of Wales. The attempt to legislate separately for a section of the country was a dangerous principle.

Mr. Rathbone referred to the great unanimity manifested on this question in Wales, and said when we had the experience of two other large parts of Her Majesty's dominions—Scotland and Ireland—that legislation in favour of Sunday closing had been eminently successful, and when we see that every argument which led the House to adopt the measures for Scotland and Ireland applies with still greater force and is still more unanswerable in the case of Wales, and that there are fewer difficulties and dangers to encounter, surely we have made out an unassailable case for granting to Wales the boon we now ask for her. (Cheers.) It is not possible to find a single Scotch member, after the long experience they have had of the working of the Forbes Mackenzie Act, voting against this bill. The House knows very well that there is no part of Her Majesty's dominions—I believe there is no part of the world—in which religion has such an abiding and powerful influence over the habits

and life of the people as in Wales. That being so, it is clear that you will have the whole force of the feeling as well as of the opinion of the Welsh people in support of the law. It is impossible, taking all that has been said and done into account, to have a more conclusive case than that which has been made out on behalf of Wales.

Mr. Carbutt spoke in favour of the bill.

Mr. Daly, after a taunt at the Welsh members for voting against Home Rule, said—But if the great preponderance was in favour of Sunday closing, it was a dangerous principle to allow the majority to exercise a tyrannical influence over the minority. It would be better for the publicans wishing the bill to pass to close voluntarily, and of the people who petition to abstain, than to override the wishes of those who only desired a reasonable use of the public-house.

Mr. M. Lloyd supported the bill, and said that tourists would not suffer for a little enforced abstinence. The law was necessary, as one publican could refuse to take out a six-days' license, and thus attempt to secure the whole trade of his district.

Mr. Onslow thought the Welsh were entitled to get credit for their general temperance, but he saw no resemblance between a Welsh and an Irish Sunday Closing Bill. The Irish bill was wanted because of the drunkenness that prevailed, but the Welsh were a sober people. The bill was merely a Sabbatarian one. He believed it lay on the lines of mere sentimental legislation, and if he could get any one to join him he would certainly divide the House against the bill.

Mr. O. Morgan, after maintaining the distinct nationality of Wales, and referred to an hon. member calling the Welsh ignorant, and barbarous as compared with the English, said he would sooner have a sober barbarian than a civilised sot. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he would ask the House not to be influenced in coming to a decision on this subject, by gentlemen who can know nothing of the merits of the case. He would ask them to give the people of Wales a boon which is demanded by nearly the whole of the inhabitants, and which is supported by every Welsh member but one, in the House.

Mr. James said that South Wales, like North Wales, was practically unanimous on this bill. As to the refreshment question, the local railways were not used on Sundays, and the feeling was decidedly against Sunday travelling, so the question need not trouble any hon. member. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. O'Sullivan, in voting against, did so as it was class legislation. It was unfair to close the public houses one day in seven, but if they were to be allowed to open a little, he would not oppose the reading. This was a working man's question and not a publican or a members' question. The interest of hon. members was sentimental and not practical; but as it was wrong that working men should be deprived of the public house on Sunday, he should vote against the bill.

Mr. Blake referred at great length to the benefits which accrued from Sunday closing in Ireland and prohibition in the north-west territory in Canada, and said that the inhabitants in the latter would never repeal the law. He cordially congratulated the members for Wales upon their unanimity on this matter. He was happy to see there was every prospect of the passing of the promoters' bill. Seeing that there was such an amount of unanimity among the Welsh members, and that they were supported by the strong feeling of their constituents, he trusted that the present measure would prove to be only the forerunner of total closing in Wales, and which he hoped for the sake of the morality, happiness, and progress of the people, would soon be the case in the whole of the three kingdoms. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Kinnear lauded the operations of the Sunday Closing Act in Ireland.

Mr. Gladstone remarked that those who spoke against the bill did not represent Wales, and they have said nothing effective against it nor moved its rejection. The closing of public houses is a matter to be decided not by individual preferences. This is a matter in which the opinion of the country has been sufficiently

tested. It has not been in the past the habit of Parliament to look to Welsh opinion or interests as an independent factor in the constitution of this country as has been done with reference to Ireland. Where there is, however, a distinctly Welsh opinion, as in the present case, involving no inconvenience or danger to the Empire, I know no reason why there should not be respectful regard shown to it, and the desire of the Welsh people, when it is perfectly universal, should be kindly entered into by Parliament. (Hear, hear.) This is simply a question of police, and police regulations varied in the different parts of the kingdom. There is in this House an energetic party who propose that the regulation and control of the sale of spirituous liquors should be placed in the hands of the parish or local community; and those who do not go so far as my hon. friend the member for Carlisle, admit that this ought to be done to a considerable extent. This is a question in which, within due limits, local opinion may be safely allowed to have very considerable weight, and if so we may join with that modest claim on the part of Wales; and I think that the House would do well to give kindly attention to the wishes of the people of Wales in this matter. Don't let those who are alarmed in England at the adoption of such a bill be afraid that it will decide one way or another any such proposal for this country, or in any way sensibly influence it. Any proposal made with regard to England will have to be decided according to the public opinion of the country. I give no opinion upon the question with respect to England, and I do not think that hon. members will act wisely if they consider that it will be likely to affect England, because it is quite clear that my hon. friend (Mr. Stevenson) will not propose such a bill as this for England, unless public opinion is with him. But in Wales this question of Sunday closing has reached such maturity as to leave no doubt as to the opinion with regard to it. I cannot conceive any assertion of any kind that can be made safely with regard to Wales if we may not make the assertion that it is the earnest desire of the people of Wales, in the interest of the country, in the interest of the population, and in the interest of the fathers of families in Wales, that this bill should be passed. The Welsh, so far as I have ever had the means of judging, are, upon the whole, and especially as you come among the poor Welsh, a very sober people. You may say that if they are a very sober people, they are the less in need of this bill. Yes, that may be true. But is that a reason why the bill should not be passed? Is there no such thing as the temptation to drunkenness? If the condition of the people with regard to the use of spirituous liquors has been improved up to such a point that the people almost without exception are desirous to set aside this temptation, would it not be a cruel thing on the part of Parliament if we, on the invitation of members who do not represent Wales, and have no title to speak on its behalf, were to refuse to set that temptation aside? I hope that this bill may proceed to its second reading without division. If there were a division, I feel confident it would be accepted by an overwhelming majority of the House, and I further hope that after it has passed the second reading, there will be no disposition on the part of any hon. members who may object to the bill, to seek opportunities of obstructing its progress through the forms of the House in the present state of public business, and that they will honourably and kindly allow it to pass forward to take its place in the Statute Book. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Hussy Vivian said after what had fallen from the Prime Minister, he felt that the Government should give assistance in passing the bill through this session. He hoped in the case of obstruction that they would receive the assistance of the Government.

Mr. P. A. Taylor challenged a division. The object of this bill is to allow a majority to trample on a minority. The tyranny of the individual is to be replaced by the tyranny of the majority. We are now come to a condition of things in which we are told what a man should not eat and what he should not drink, and on what scale he should drink, and I do not

know why we should not allow the majority to decide how he should be clothed. The question is not a local but a national one—a question of individual freedom. I offer my humble protest against this and all similar bills.

Col. Makens said with reference to the appeal just made by the Prime Minister, that if the Conservatives abstained from taking a division on this bill, they were not to be understood as admitting the principle as applied to England. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Shaw admitted the benefits of the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act, but thought philanthropists were overdoing the thing. The remedy for drinking was to be found in other channels. If the philanthropists used their money in endeavouring to raise the moral and social position of the people, they would begin to find their objects realised.

Sir E. Reed said that he was perfectly astonished at the enormous preponderance of public sentiment in favour of this measure. The movement was not simply a religious movement only, but had the warm support of the people as a whole. Not less than 82 per cent. of the people of Cardiff were in favour of the measure, and only about 4 per cent. were found prepared to declare against it. He hoped that the bill would be allowed to pass all its stages without opposition. The House then divided, and there voted:—

For the second reading, ...	163
Against,	17
Majority,	146

The bill was then read a second time.

The following Scotch members voted for the bill,—G. Anderson, G. Armistead, J. B. Balfour, J. C. Bolton, Hon. Preston Bruce, Dr. Cameron, Dr. J. A. Campbell, Major Campbell, J. Cowan, A. O. Ewing, Dr. Farquharson, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Sir A. H. Gordon, A. Grant, Major Hamilton, F. Henderson, W. Holms, C. F. McIntosh, P. M'Lagan, E. Noel, C. S. Parker, R. W. C. Patrick, Right Hon. Lyon Playfair, C. Tennent, G. O. Trevelyan, Dr. Webster, S. Williamson—27.

Not one Scotch representative voted against it.

May 6.—The Earl of Camperdown moved the second reading of the Municipal Franchise (Scotland) Bill in the House of Lords, and it was at once read a second time.

In the House of Commons, Lord F. Cavendish in reply to Mr. Elliot, said that the practice of Excise officials employed in breweries soliciting orders for sacharometers and the like, was distinctly prohibited by their instructions. The Government were not aware of any case having occurred, and an instance, if known, would be visited with severe displeasure.

May 12.—In the House of Lords, the Earl of Camperdown brought up the report of the amendments on the Municipal Franchise (Scotland) Bill, which were agreed to.

May 13.—This bill was read a third time.

May 14.—In the list of resolutions in "Committee of Ways and Means" adopted this day, stands the following,—“Resolved, that there shall be charged and paid upon every license for the sale of intoxicating liquors and tobacco in any carriage used for the conveyance of passengers on any railway, the excise duty of £5.

Mr. Wm. Fowler gave notice to move in going into Committee on the Customs, etc., bill,—“That any system of grant of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors in railway carriages will be injurious to the public.

May 16.—These resolutions duly reported to the House and agreed to, with instructions to the Committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill that they had power to make provisions therein pursuant to the said resolutions.

CONFISCATION AND COMPENSATION.

May 16.—Mr. Gladstone speaking on the Irish Land Bill said—“Before I speak on this bill, the second reading of which we are now considering, I wish to refer to two words which we have often repeated during the course of this debate—the word ‘confiscation,’ and the word ‘compensation.’ They are words

that are in close association together, for I should certainly be very slow to deny that where confiscation can be proved, compensation ought to follow. But I must say that these words are used too frequently and too soon, they are almost stock expressions—(Cheers)—on debate on certain classes of questions. They have been repeatedly again and again been urged and with the greatest confidence where in some cases no proof has been shown, and where in other cases disproof has been abundant. I need not remind them how this charge of confiscation was raised, upon the repeal of the Corn Laws, and how it was raised last year upon the very terrible, but useful measure introduced by my right hon. friend the Home Secretary, with respect to ground game. (Laughter.) It is more to the purpose that I should remind them how freely it was used when the Land Bill was under discussion in 1870. (Hear, hear.) Lord Salisbury described that bill as bribing one class by plundering another. Lord Cairns used much the same language. He said, “You allow me first the option to purchase my property,” and he quoted with praise a statement that there should be no settlement of the Land Question without confiscation. Confiscation was the word applied to leading enactments of the Land Act of 1870. Did the Land Act when it became law confiscate the property of the landlords? (Ministerial cheers.) Did it injure the property of the landlords? (Oh, oh.) We are informed on the contrary on evidence that it improved the property of the landlords. Rents have increased under the operation of the Land Act upon the larger rentals, a longer number of years' purchase has been obtained. (Cheers.) That has been the end of the charge of confiscation against the Land Act. (Cheers).

May 17.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice of his resolution to be moved on Tuesday, June 14th.

Mr Wm. Lawrence gave notice that on Thursday he would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to whom it was intended that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue should grant licenses at £5 per annum to sell wine, beers, and spirits and tobacco in travelling public-house railway cars, and whether such cars could be authorised to supply first, second, and third class passengers with what liquor they might require—(laughter)—and whether the railway companies would be permitted to attach such travelling taverns they might think advisable, whether express, excursionist, or parliamentary, and travelling any distance whether short or long. (Laughter.)

May 19.—Mr. Gladstone stated his intention to reply to the question of Mr. Lawrence in committee.

May 23.—Replying to Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Gladstone withdrew his proposal to license railway carriages for the sale of alcoholic liquors. (Cheers.)

849 petitions with 53,068 signatures were presented to Parliament up to 10th May in favour of the suppression of the opium traffic.

TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE IN DUNDEE.

A SOCIAL conference, under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, for the purpose of considering the position and prospects of the temperance movement, was held on Friday, 29th April, in the large hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, which was well filled. Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow, presided, and amongst those present were Rev. Andw. Inglis, Rev. Thomas Dickson, Rev. D. Macrae, Bailie A. H. Moncur, Mr. Thomas Smith, Mr. C. C. Maxwell, Mr. E. Howat, Mr. W. Philip, ex-Bailie Robertson, Mr. William Scrymgeour (Newport), Mr. Winning (Paisley), Mr. Rutherford (Forfar), Mr. A. Cobb (Montrose), Mr. W. Briggs (Arbroath), Mr. R. Mackay, secretary, and Stevenson, agent of the Association, &c. After a service of tea,

Rev. DAVID MACRAE delivered a stirring temperance address. He said that the question of the present day was, whether was the majority to have public-houses inflicted upon them, with riot, crime, dissipation, and taxes, or was the minority, that insisted upon having public-houses, to be obliged to give up intoxicating

drink, or else to get that drink in a way that would not injure the community. (Applause.) He hoped that the meeting might have a stimulating influence in connection with the movement, and that these friends who were working in the cause might unite themselves and awaken public attention, and keep the people ready for voting when the voting time came. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN afterwards addressed the meeting, and at the outset explained that ex-Bailie Torrens, who was to have presided that night, was unable, through illness, to be present. He then said that from the time the Association was instituted, twenty years since, it had steadily kept in view all through, the principle with which it set out—namely, that strong drink was essentially mischievous to the individual and to the State, and that it was the duty of individuals to abstain from strong drink, and the duty of the State to prohibit the sale of strong drink. (Applause.) The Association had sought to change the customs and the laws in regard to liquor by effecting a change in public opinion in a constitutional way, and the fact that last year 40 Scotch Members voted in favour of and only 5 against Sir Wilfrid's resolutions, as against 10 for his Permissive Bill in 1864, indicated, he thought, the progress of public opinion, especially in Scotland, on the subject. (Applause.) From the progress which had been made they thought it was desirable that a local option measure ought now to be passed for Scotland, although England might take years to come to this point. (Applause.) The difficulty, however, was in getting Members to put their names on the back of such a Bill, but they had to press forward the work all the same. (Applause.) In his speech last session on Sir Wilfrid's resolution, Mr. Gladstone plainly indicated that among other amendments in the licensing system he would introduce clauses giving effect to the principle for which Sir Wilfrid Lawson contended, and it would be for Scotland to express itself that Mr. Gladstone might be induced to give them the utmost possible power in dealing with the liquor traffic. (Applause.) All shades of temperance sentiment should unite as much as possible upon this point, and concentrate their energies to secure the attainment of this great object. (Applause.)

BAILIE MONCOUR said he was sure they were glad to see their friends from Glasgow, and confer with them on the present position and prospects of the Permissive Bill movement. By what he had seen in America he had been made a stronger temperance man than before. He thought that in Scotland they were ready for a veto Act, giving majorities in localities the power to prevent public-houses being opened. (Applause.)

MR. JAMES WINNING, Paisley, gave details of the organization of the Association he represented, its agencies, and the manner in which its operations were carried on. He said they had 5,600 subscribers, 4,080 of whom only subscribed 2s. 6d. and under, and 88 gave £2 and upwards. He made an earnest appeal to the people of Dundee to give greater support to the Association.

Rev. Mr. DICKSON said that, as a Christian minister, he could cast himself with his whole soul into every phase of the temperance movement, be it moral suasion or prohibition. (Great applause.) He hoped the time would soon come when Christian people would not tolerate a minister who was not a total abstainer—(applause)—and that the Christian Church would see to it that she at least must cleanse her skirts of the foul stain of intemperance.

Addresses in support of the Permissive Bill movement were also delivered by ex-Bailie Maxwell, Messrs. W. Scrymgeour, ex-Councillor Rutherford, Forfar, and Mr. W. Briggs, Arbroath. Ex-Bailie Maxwell, in the course of his remarks, stated his experience as a licensing magistrate, and advocated the necessity for some change in the machinery for granting licenses. He thought that an improvement would be to have the Licensing Court elected by the whole community. (Applause.)

During the evening Mr. J. G. Whitelaw rendered several stirring temperance pieces in a telling manner,

and was greatly applauded. The usual votes of thanks were cordially awarded, and the audience dispersed.

GRANGEMOUTH—TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

ON Wednesday, 4th ult., a very large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Young Men's Christian Institute Hall, at which Chief Commissioner Hugh Macpherson presided. There were also present on the platform, Rev. J. H. Paterson, Dumbarton; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow; Rev. Mr. Anderson, Falkirk; Andrew Brown, Esq., Kerse; Rev. G. W. Cumming; Messrs. R. M. Geddes, M. Gavin, D. A. M'Laren, P. Hastie, T. Wallace, G. Gillespie, Grangemouth, and Captain J. H. Waterston. The hall was filled almost to crowding. After singing a hymn, the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Cumming, when Captain Waterston produced letters of apology from a number of gentlemen who were unavoidably absent. The chairman on rising said—Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to see such a large turn-out to-night; at such a time I think it just shows us that there is a deepening interest in the cause of temperance. It affords me great pleasure to preside at such a meeting, more especially one of so wide and representative a character. We have delegates present from seven different organizations, viz., the Old Town Total Abstinence Society, the New Town Total Abstinence Society, the Zetland Lodge of Good Templars, the Anchor Lodge of Good Templars, the British Women's Temperance Association, the Old Town Band of Hope, and the New Town Band of Hope. These have a total membership of something like 875; 515 being adults, and 360 juveniles. The objects and aims of each and all of these different societies are one—the prevention and suppression of the sin of intemperance, and thereby promoting the social and moral well-being of their fellow-men, and the prosperity of the community. The results flowing from the drink traffic are altogether appalling, carrying in their train misery, destitution, crime, and death, draining the pockets of the people, and sucking the life-blood of the nation. At one of the recent meetings of the Social Science Congress, from carefully got up statistics, it was stated that directly and indirectly 121,000 of our fellow creatures die annually from the effects of strong drink. Now, it occurs to me if this were 121,000 horses, sheep, or cattle, the whole country would rise as one man, and demand a special Commission to go into the matter, and if need be that the strongest measures be used in stamping out the disease from the country. Only the other day there was a great outcry of a milk epidemic in the city of Aberdeen. A number of its inhabitants had been laid down through drinking infected milk. Dr. Littlejohn and a Commissioner from Edinburgh went to Aberdeen to make investigations. The milk supply was stopped, and justly so, because it was injuring the people. In the city of Glasgow and the town of Grangemouth, from Loch Katrine and Millhall, the inhabitants get splendid, pure, and wholesome water sent direct from nature's distillery, by a wise and bountiful Creator. But unfortunately a large quantity of this pure *aqua vita* gets mixed and infected with liquid poison, which, when taken into the system lays men and women in the gutter, depriving them of reason, and, under its influence, acting more like fiends than human beings. When such is the case, should the people not have power to demand, just as well as in milk epidemics, that the infected supplies coming from these alcoholic dairies should be stopped when they are the cause of so much misery and crime? (Applause.) Intoxicating drinks, instead of being beneficial are hurtful, and therefore unnecessary. I sincerely trust the practical result of this large meeting will be, that we will unite together, not only as Good Templars and temperance reformers, but as citizens and patriots, to do everything in our power to wipe away our nation's sin, and our nation's reproach, and in so doing we will do much to further the social and moral well-being of our fellowmen. (Applause.) Mr. R. M. Geddes, as a delegate from the British Women's Temperance Asso-

ciation (being the husband of a member, and therefore deputed), moved the first resolution as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in alcoholic liquors is the principal cause of the abounding intemperance of the country with its appalling results, and earnestly calls upon the friends of social improvement, moral reform, and religious progress to unite in a national effort to induce Her Majesty's Government to grant the ratepayers of Scotland a direct and effective *veto* on the operations of a traffic so essentially at variance with the best interests of the nation." He considered, however, that the people themselves ought to have the power to say whether this should or should not be. (Applause.) Mr. A. Brown had very great pleasure in seconding the motion. He was very gratified to see such a large audience, and he hoped he was right in supposing they had come to realise with their wives and families that so long as these nuisances—the public-houses—existed, it was time for them to fight, as long as they had breath, till the last one was done away with. (Applause.) The public houses were practically opposed to the best interests of the community, and if you do not kill them they will kill you. It was time to tell the brewer, the distiller, and the public-house keeper to stop this nefarious traffic. (Applause.) He concluded by expressing his pleasure in seconding the resolution. Rev. Mr. Paterson, Dumbarton, rose to support the resolution, and gave an eloquent address of some length. He expressed his pleasure in being permitted to take part in the demonstration. As a subject of the British crown, as a Christian minister of the everlasting gospel, and as a man with social, moral and religious principles, he had always been proud to identify himself with the cause of temperance. (Applause.) To some it might appear an insignificant boast, but he considered it a boast of some consequence. Was it not something to aid those men who are seeking the liberty of the people against those evils which spring from intemperance, and which oppose the best interests of common humanity? (Loud applause.) The chairman then put the resolution to the meeting, when almost every hand was held up in favour of it, and it was accordingly declared to be unanimously carried. Mr. M. Gavin moved the second resolution as under:—"That this meeting rejoices that the House of Commons, has by its acceptance of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution, resolved to deal effectually with the evils of the licensing system, by an efficient measure of Local Option; urges Her Majesty's Government to give immediate effect to that resolution, and thereby enable the ratepayers of burghs, parishes, or other districts, to prevent public houses being placed or continued in their midst against their will." Mr. D. A. M'Laren seconded in a few words. Bailie Selkirk expressed the pleasure he had, from his deep interest in the subject, in supporting the resolution, and said he should endeavour to do so by referring to some of the arguments which it seemed to him they should submit in support of the movement with which they were identified. They should distinguish between moral suasion and the political aspect of the question. He was prepared on every suitable occasion to advocate moral suasion. He was there to say he was a life teetotaler—(applause)—and he did not think it had disagreed with him. (Laughter.) He said the time was come when the liquor traffic of this country must be called on to restate the reasons for its existence. (Applause.) In this free country they were entitled to discuss this question at open meetings. He would ask why was it that individuals required permission to sell strong drink? They were allowed to open any other kind of a shop for selling milk and butter and such like without being interfered with. The reason was that we get a large revenue from the strong drink traffic. If every one were allowed to sell, they would have no revenue. He would bring no railing accusation against individuals, but against the system of the drink traffic, and he would say that individuals must give way to the public good, where the public demands it. Although they had 400 Acts of Parliament on this subject, had they succeeded in the interests of the public? The prevalence of crimes, murders, and miseries would

answer that. The law regulates the character of the man, and the hours he keeps, but never once deals with the liquor; consequently the law will always fail to the extent that it does not deal with the liquor. It is the duty of every man to push his business as legitimately as he can, and provide for his family, but the law is unable to enforce him to try not to sell too much, or only to certain individuals, and consequently it deserves to be changed. What they asked the law to be changed to, was, that the people should be entitled to object to liquor shops being forced upon them against their will. (Applause.) Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution had been carried last year by a majority of 26, and he considered it the duty of the public to strengthen the hands of the Government to promote the welfare and interest of the community by this resolution. In conclusion, he urged them to work earnestly to win the golden age again. The resolution was unanimously carried by the meeting. Mr. P. Hastie moved that the resolutions adopted be forwarded to the county member, the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the Lord Advocate. Being seconded by Rev. J. Anderson, Falkirk, and supported by Capt. Waterston in a highly appreciated speech, the motion was agreed to. A choir led by Mr. Kerr contributed to the pleasure of the evening. The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.—*Falkirk Express, much abridged.*

LICENSES FOR RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

On Saturday, 14th May in the House of Commons in Committee on Ways and Means, several resolutions were reported upon preliminary to being embodied as clauses in the Customs and Inland Revenue Bills. One was in the following terms:—Resolved—"That there shall be charged and paid upon every license for the sale of intoxicating liquors and tobacco in any carriage used for the conveyance of passengers on any railway the excise duty of £5." In the resolution of which he gave notice, Mr. Gladstone was to move that the Inland Revenue Commissioners were to be the sole licensing authorities: and in another that the license would be for one year and no longer.

Immediately on this notice being given several members of Parliament, notably Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Caine in conjunction with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, offered strenuous opposition to the proposal. The Executives of the United Kingdom Alliance, the Scottish Temperance League, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, the I.O.G.T. (Scotland and America), and a large number of temperance organizations throughout the country with vigorous promptitude framed memorials to the Premier from their respective organizations, and called upon all under their jurisdiction or influence to do likewise. Letters to members of Parliament from their constituents poured in by every post. Meantime honourable members of all sections in the House met over this matter, and it was resolved that a meeting of members of the House should be held early in the week to consider what steps were necessary to compel the withdrawal of such an odious proposal. Happily the state of feeling thus manifested warned the Premier of the danger of submitting these clauses to Parliament, so that on Monday, in reply to Sir John Kennaway, the right hon. gentleman said that "this proposal to allow spirituous liquors to be retailed in Pulman cars was viewed, I believe, by the railway companies who made the application, and the Board of Inland Revenue, as a simple matter of administrative arrangement, and they were not at all prepared to anticipate that it would be regarded as a proposal of a revolutionary character. I would say that the proposal is effectually killed by the menace to which it has been exposed." (Cheers.)

The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are highly gratified by the amount of co-operation received from the friends throughout the country against the proposal. The following memorial was drawn up and despatched by them to the Premier, and a copy of it with a letter was

sent to every Member of Parliament for Scotland, and to the Home Secretary:—

To the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.,
First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the
Exchequer. The Memorial of the Executive of
the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance
Association,

Sheweth—

That your Memorialists have learned with the gravest concern and alarm that you, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, intend to propose the introduction of clauses into the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill which will empower the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to issue licenses to the proprietors of railway carriages for the sale of intoxicating liquors in such carriages.

That your Memorialists believe that the granting of such facilities to intemperance will prove destructive of the comfort and pleasure of railway travelling, seriously impair the efficiency of railway servants, add unnecessarily to the hazard of railway journeys, and lead on the part of passengers themselves to that dissipation which inevitably attends the sale of strong drink away from the immediate and vigilant supervision of the police authorities.

That your Memorialists are convinced that the tendency of public opinion in Scotland, as evidenced by the voting of its parliamentary representatives on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution in June last, is in favour of the suppression of the liquor traffic, and that, therefore, the proposal to license railway carriages as liquor bars is at variance with the sentiments of the Scottish people.

Your Memorialists therefore most earnestly pray you to relinquish your intention of moving the aforesaid clauses, the operation of which would be so antagonistic to the interests of the travelling public and the community at large.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

JAMES TORRENS, J.P., *Chairman of Executive.*
THOS. DICK, *Vice-Chairman of Executive.*
ROBERT M'CALLUM, *Treasurer.*
JAMES L. SELKIRK, J.P., *Hon. Secretary.*
ROBERT MACKAY, *Secretary.*

112 Bath Street, Glasgow, 21st May, 1881.

Two Italians, with a black bear, got drunk at Schnevus. The bear kept sober, and made for the woods. Good for the bear.

"Emma R." asks—"Do you think it right for a girl to sit on a young man's lap, even if she is engaged to him?" And we say—"if it was our girl on our lap, yes; if it was another girl on our lap, yes; but if it was our girl and another fellow's lap, never."

The preacher was talking to the Sunday School on the virtue of a devoted attendance on church. "Is there anything to which the people would throng on Sunday or weekday as they did to Church." "Yeth, thir, a thircus would ketch them every pop if they could get in free as they do into Church." The bitten preacher thought it was time to sing.

THE BRITISH TAR, PAST AND PRESENT.—The Royal Navy has ever been England's pride, and is most surely England's real defence; and the blue jackets that man the iron castles that we call ships of war, are cast in the same mould as those in old days who fought and won our battles. But thank God, although the brave heart is still there, the man is wonderfully changed, the old days of frightful drinking and swearing have passed, and with them the saying, "the worse man the better sailor." Now temperance work, Bible-classes, prayer meetings, and much beside unknown to the outside world, goes on on board our ships of war, while on shore our men crowd to temperance and gospel meetings or group together to sing Sankey's hymns, not only with the voice but "with the understanding also."
—MISS AGNES E. WESTON.

PUBLIC PRESS.

THE CAUSE AND THE CURE.—Everybody has heard of the pills and ointment that cured the mythical Lord Alborough's sore leg (and ham) of forty years' standing! And what leg would not be sore after such a trial? Now the Professor assures us that his "pills and ointment are compounded so as to act harmoniously. No doubt of it, they sell together, they work together—and here is one little truth about the taking of them which saves them from being an "entire sell." "Five pills night and morning. Ointment, well rubbed over the affected parts in gout, lumbago, &c. Abstain from all intoxicating drinks, and the most desperate cases will, with a little perseverance, completely yield to this treatment." A man curious in reasons, however, will be apt to say—Here are three antecedents—"pills, grease, and teetotalism;" how am I to know which did the cure? Well, on the one hand, myriads of temperance men can testify that abstinence alone has cured them of gout, rheumatism, &c. On the other hand, we see that drinking alone produces gout, rheumatism, &c. While, in the third place, we have the confession of the pill-vendor himself that pill and ointment cannot succeed with drink. Who is so dull as not to see the fallacy of ascribing the cure to the physic rather than to the cessation of the disease's cause.—Dr. F. R. Lees.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. JOHN JOHNSTON, DUMFRIES.—We deeply regret to have to intimate the decease of this estimable temperance reformer at Beyrout, Syria, on Good Friday, of fever, aged 49 years. Mr. Johnston was one of the best known and esteemed of the friends of temperance in the south of Scotland, where for many years he has laboured indefatigably on behalf of temperance and prohibition. He was also an unwearied labourer in evangelistic effort, and had a kindly word and a helping hand to every good work. It is, however, with him as a staunch prohibitionist that we have to deal, and few have exceeded him in his devotion to the good cause. We have met him at the annual meetings of the United Kingdom Alliance and the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. He was a vice-president of the Scottish Association for many years; and it was only last June that he generously went up to London to strengthen the deputation that was, previous to the division of the 18th, waiting upon Scotch Parliamentary representatives. His decease is a decided loss to the movement. He was in Palestine fulfilling a long cherished desire of his heart to see "those holy fields over whose acres walked those blessed feet which eighteen hundred years ago were nailed for our advantage to the bitter cross;" and the heart becomes overcharged as the eye runs over the letters of different friends, who all bear testimony to the eager longings with which he lifted up his eyes upon the ineffable traces of the Redeemer. He had crossed from Damascus to Beyrout through the Hermon range, and it is supposed that the intense cold experienced there, after the extreme heat of the Holy Land, had enfeebled his constitution so much that when Syrian fever seized him he succumbed to its attack, and on Good Friday breathed his last. He lies till the resurrection morn in the Protestant churchyard near Beyrout, and it is consoling to know that Christian sympathy and attention mitigated the hardship of dying in a foreign land afar from wife, children, and friends. He leaves a wife and four of a family to mourn his early and sad decease. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association marked their sense of his worth by adopting a resolution of condolence—a copy of which was sent to Mrs. Johnston and family.

PATRICK.—"And Biddy, darlint, they've been telling us there's too many of us in the world. Now, if you and me git the Praste to make us two wan, trath then won't there be wan the less?"

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 1st January to 14th May inclusive. During that period 364 meetings were held, 102 being deputational and 262 ordinary. At these meetings 528 addresses were given.

The following is a summary of each speaker's work :

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Ceres, Avonbridge, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Chirnside, Pathhead, Denny, Millerhill, Galashiels, Dunbar, Linlithgow, Cupar, Hawick, Kelso, Yetholm, Coldstream, Tranent, Leith, Bo'ness, Grangemouth, Blantyre, Addiewell, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dumbarton, Selkirk, Penicuik, Loanhead, Darnick, Strathmiglo, Falkland, Markinch, Gorebridge, Ayton, Dunse, Nenthorn, Roslin, Freuchie, and Kingskettle, and addressed 89 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Kinross, Strathmiglo, Kilmalcolm, Irvine, Glasgow, Skelmorlie, Stonehouse, Blantyre, Lesmahagow, Motherwell, Larkhall, Dumfries, Montrose, Broughty-Ferry, Newport, Dundee, Carnoustie, Cumbernauld, Alva, Troon, Cupar-Angus, Perth, Loches, Tayport, Longforgan, Arbroath, Brechin, Kirriemuir, Paisley, Stirling, and Johnstone, and addressed 85 meetings.

Mr. William Blackwood has visited Stonehaven, Cullen, Aberdeen, Johnshaven, Torry, Montrose, Ferryden, Gourdon, Banchory, Old Meldrum, Inverurie, Rhynie, Lerwick, Scalloway, Kirkwall, Stromness, Thurso, Wick, Helmsdale, Brora, Golspie, Inverness, Tain, Invergordon, Cromarty, Ullapool, and Stornoway, and addressed 68 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Pollokshields, Glasgow, Nackerty, Uddingston, Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Coatbridge, Edinburgh, Ardrossan, Dalry, Beith, Whiteinch, Kilbirnie, Johnstone, and Partick, and addressed 31 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Whiteinch, Glasgow, Paisley, Coatbridge, Nackerty, Partick, Barrhead, Neilston, and Johnstone, and addressed 28 meetings.

Bailie Selkirk has addressed 17 meetings in Glasgow, Pollokshields, Ardrossan, Rutherglen, Kirkintilloch, Edinburgh, and Grangemouth.

Mr. James Winning has addressed 13 meetings in Kilmarnock, Paisley, Irvine, Dalry, Beith, Kilbirnie, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Dundee.

Rev. Dr. Adamson has addressed 8 meetings in Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Edinburgh.

Ex-Bailie Torrens has addressed 8 meetings in Loanhead, Glasgow, Pollokshields, Govan, Rutherglen, Paisley, and Belfast.

Mr. Robert McCallum has addressed 8 meetings in Glasgow, Rutherglen, and Uddingston.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 7 meetings in Edinburgh, and West Calder.

Mr. W. Kesson has addressed 7 meetings in Whiteinch and Glasgow.

Rev. David Tatum has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh.

Rev. J. H. Paterson has addressed 5 meetings in Dumbarton, Linlithgow, Bo'ness, and Grangemouth.

Rev. S. Harding has addressed 5 meetings in Greenock, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Montrose, and Aberdeen.

Rev. H. H. Pereira has addressed 4 meetings in Dumfries, Irvine, Montrose, and Aberdeen.

Mr. J. W. Manning has addressed 4 meetings in Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Kirkcaldy, and Galashiels.

Mr. J. W. Mackay has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. A. Brown (Kerse) has addressed 3 meetings in Bo'ness, and Grangemouth.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 3 meetings in Edinburgh.

Rev. E. J. Boon has addressed 2 meetings in Kirkcaldy and Cupar.

Thos. Hope, Esq., J. P., has addressed 2 meetings in Bo'ness.

Ex-Bailie Lewis has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. A. Bennet has addressed 2 meetings in Ceres and Kirkcaldy.

Mr. J. Coutts, S.S.C., has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh, and West-Calder.

Mr. J. Dymock has address 2 meetings in Linlithgow, and Bo'ness.

Mr. Wm. Dobbie has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Miss Burton has addressed a meeting in Edinburgh.

Miss Simpson has addressed a meeting in Edinburgh.

Miss White has addressed a meeting in Glasgow.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the

proceedings of meetings in the places which follow

their names :—Rev. Professor Blaikie, Edinburgh;

Rev. Dr. Nicolson, Linlithgow; Revs. J. P. Berry,

Ceres; W. Cameron, Edinburgh; James Oliver,

Edinburgh; W. Colledge, Dumbarton; J. Colvin,

Dumbarton; J. Downie, Dumbarton; A. M'Millan,

Kirkcaldy; A. Nisbet, Galashiels; G. W. Tooley,

Dumfries; J. D. M'Kinnon, Dumfries; F. Binns,

Dumfries; J. Strachan, Dumfries; R. S. Macaulay,

Irvine; J. Ross, Montrose; G. Wisely, Montrose;

J. Sutherland, Dunbar; D. Burns, Linlithgow; J.

Rae, Linlithgow; J. Ferguson, Linlithgow; J. For-

far, Glasgow; J. Johnstone, Glasgow; and A. Cameron,

Govan; S. Sleith, Bo'ness; A. F. Steel, Dalry; A.

Bowmont, Beith; J. S. M'Kenzie, Blantyre; W.

Wyllie, Blantyre; J. Kay, Edinburgh; J. C. Cunning-

ham, Edinburgh; W. Smith, Bonhill; J. M'Lean,

Partick; W. Armstrong, Rutherglen; D. M'Rae,

Dundee; J. Dickson, Dundee; A. Inglis, Dundee;

J. W. Cumming, Grangemouth; and J. Anderson,

Grangemouth; Sheriff Dougall, Linlithgow; Ex-Provost

Rogerson, Dumbarton; Ex-Provost Dick, Edinburgh;

Treasurers Messer, Galashiels; and Hutton, Linlith-

gow; Bailies Buchanan, Dumbarton; Speedie, Kirk-

caldy; Burns, Galashiels; Cowan, Galashiels; Lyle,

Montrose; Hutchison, Montrose; Keir, Dunbar;

Waddell, Glasgow; Slight, Nenthorn; and Maxwell,

Dundee; Ex-Bailie Lambertson, Pollokshields; Ex-

Bailie Moneur, Dundee; Councillors Douglas, Dum-

barton; Wishart, Kirkcaldy; M'Alpine, Linlithgow;

and Adamson, Cupar; Ex-Councillor Cooper, Cupar;

Captains Breckenridge, Irvine; and Brotchie, Paisley;

Messrs. D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; J. Watson, Mussel-

burgh; W. Brown, Edinburgh; G. Tait, Edinburgh;

J. Reddie, Edinburgh; J. Hogarth, Kirkcaldy; A.

Beattie, Kirkcaldy; F. Lynn, Galashiels; G. Paulin,

Irvine; W. Millar, Irvine; J. Yuill, Irvine; Findlay,

Irvine; J. Mudie, Montrose; Cobb, Montrose; W. D.

Johnstone, Montrose; J. Mackie, Montrose; W.

Smith, Aberdeen; J. Paterson, Aberdeen; J. T.

Clark, Aberdeen; R. Adams, Aberdeen; A. Ramsay,

Cupar; D. Fyffe, Cupar; D. Nicol, Cupar; H. But-

ters, Cupar; M. M'Leod, Edinburgh; R. Westlands,

Pollokshields; J. M'Lean, Paisley; J. Howison,

Uddingston; A. Mair, Bo'ness; D. Melvin, Bo'ness;

R. Baxter, Bo'ness; J. Hyslop, Bo'ness; D. Brown,

Blantyre; R. Harper, Johnstone; Wm. Martin, Glasgow;

R. Simpson, junr., Glasgow; W. Rutherford, Dundee;

Wm. Briggs, Dundee; W. Scrymgeour, Dundee;

J. Horn, Glasgow; M. Gavin, Grangemouth; D. A.

M'Laren, Grangemouth; P. Hastie, Grangemouth;

G. Hastie, Grangemouth; J. Wallace, Grangemouth;

and J. Gillespie, Grangemouth.

On the 18th June, 1880, the Scotch vote on the

Local Option resolution in the House of Commons was

40 (and 3 pairs) in favour, and 5 votes against. No

Burgh or University Member voted against the measure;

of the 5, 4 were Conservatives, and 1 (Rt. Hon. W. E.

Gladstone, M.P.) was a Liberal.

The number of convictions for being drunk on Sun-

days in England and Wales average 15,800 per annum.

Liverpool and Manchester have unusual prominence.

In Liverpool, with its population of 493,405, there

were 4,721, of which 4,381 were *bona fide* residents.

In Manchester, with a population of 351,189, there

were 3,282 convictions, 3,000 being *bona fide* residents.

Sunday drinking is much more in these towns than

London, Birmingham, or Sheffield. In the latter town

with a population of 239,946, there were but 175

convictions.

HEALTH, STRENGTH, AND ENERGY.

PLEASANT TO THE TASTE.

Freeman's Syrup of Phosphorus is immediate and permanent in its effects, giving new life to the languid and exhausted, and curing Nervous Debility, Heart Disease, Incipient Consumption, Functional Derangement, Stomach and Liver Complaint, Nervous Fancies, Want of Tone, and all the Forms of Ill Health, arising from a morbid condition of the system.

Freeman's Syrup of Phosphorus is the greatest Blood Purifier known, quickly supplying the system with a new, rich, and pure blood, and thereby expelling disease. It thoroughly revitalises the human frame, and builds up a new constitution even in the most enfeebled.

Freeman's Syrup of Phosphorus contains all the mineral elements of nutrition, is a pleasant and efficient substitute for Cod Liver Oil, is easy of digestion, and can be taken by the most delicate patient. A certain remedy for Consumption, Scrofula, Loss of Flesh, Debility, Bronchitis, Asthma—a General Tonic.

Freeman's Syrup of Phosphorus restores the failing functions of life, and imparts strength and energy. The first dose will prove its value, by giving immediate relief, while a little perseverance will accomplish a thorough and lasting cure.

Freeman's Syrup of Phosphorus cures Nervous Exhaustion.

General Weakness,
Shortness of Breath,
Impoverished Blood,
Noises in the Head and Ears,
Impaired Sight and Memory,
Indigestion.
Incapacity for Study or Business.
Dizziness.
Rheumatism, and Pains and Aches,

Nervous Prostration,
Palpitation of the Heart,
Pains in the Back,
Bilious and Liver Complaints,
Weakness of the Chest,
Melancholy,
Trembling of the Hands and Limbs,
Neuralgia,
Want of Energy and Loss of Appetite,

and many other symptoms of a similar nature, which have been known, when neglected, to end in Consumption, Insanity, or early death.

FREEMAN'S SYRUP OF PHOSPHORUS,

Solely prepared by Francis Freeman. L.P.M.D.

This medicine is extensively prescribed by the medical profession for premature decline and early decay of the system, whether arising from worry, anxiety, overwork, grief, excitement, late hours, early indiscretions, or from whatever cause.

A treatise on the use of Phosphorus and its success, by post, Nine Stamps.

HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS. Sold in bottles at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., and 33s. Order it of any Chemist.

Should there be any difficulty in procuring it, the proprietor will, upon receipt of Stamps or Post Office Order for the amount, forward it to any part, packed securely, with directions for use, and will also give any information that may be required to ensure a thorough restoration to health.

To Brain Workers of all Classes Syrup of Phosphorus is invaluable, supplying as it does true Nerve and Brain Food. FREEMAN'S PHOSPHORUS has effected cures after everything else has failed, and in every case where the directions have been followed it has been successful.

Remedy of Extraordinary Potency, and superseding Iron, Sarasparilla, Quinine, Pepsine, and Cod Liver Oil.

FRANCIS FREEMAN, L.P.M.D. Depot—74 Cale Street, Brompton, London, S.W.

LONDON AGENTS—BARCLAY & SONS, Farringdon Street; EDWARDS & SONS, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.; SANGER & Co., Oxford Street, and all the Wholesale Houses.

AGENTS—

EDINBURGH—DUNCAN FLOCKHART.

GLASGOW—W. & R. HATRICK & CO., R. McDONALD, 150 TROINGATE.

THE
Social Reformer.

JULY, 1881.

HOW TO CONDUCT A BAND OF HOPE.

(Continued from page 18).

But without enlarging let me rapidly detail what is still farther needful towards the complete equipment of a Band of Hope. A black board, where diagrams and expositions should be distinctly sketched. Thus we can bring eye-gate as well as ear-gate to our help, and hope by both to win the heart. Good instructive recreation also is supplied by the magic lantern, which could be had on hire, or better still, belong to the Band of Hope Union, for the use of all the societies affiliated therewith. An instrumental band with a set of banners, &c., is very attractive, but expensive; and a library, which may not only be a blessing to the children in keeping them at home and occupying their spare moments, and form a bond of attachment between them and the society, but be a blessing to the home circle, and bring both parents and children into contact with the minds of the best, the wisest, the bravest, and the purest that adorn humanity. Now in the comparative infancy of the Band of Hope movement in the North such appliances as I have just indicated may appear Utopian, but we must remember that education is steadily advancing, and is becoming more skilful and more scientific. Dr. Channing exclaims, "There should be no economy in education; money should never be weighed against the soul of a child; it should be poured out like water for the child's intellectual and moral life." Our Band of Hope movement is second to none, and parsimony in its inception would be moral starvation.

III. *Registration, i.e.,* marking the attendances of every child. Nothing will so conduce to secure regularity and punctuality, and though to the unaccustomed it may seem a troublesome process, yet it is not so when methodically gone about. From the system of registration common to our public schools and in many of our best Sabbath schools, the children will naturally conceive that it is an essential part also of the Band of Hope system. Ladies or senior members could be appointed to visit absentees, which would bring them into friendly relationship with the parents, and report at next meeting, and thus no member would be lost sight of, for one of the chief causes of the success of a society is the careful and individual supervision of its members. A few members, if carefully admitted and well looked after, and trained in temperance principles, will yield good fruit not only in the present generation, but in the next, and the next.

IV. *Time tables and programmes or routines.* It is found from experience that the regularly recurring weekly meeting is best for the Band of Hope—if oftener, the interest cannot be sustained; if at longer intervals, the interest is lost. At whatever interval meetings are held they should be held with positive regularity. Seven o'clock is a good hour, and the

meeting should not continue more than an hour, or an hour and a half, and each alternate week may be devoted to the theory and practice of music. As the same time table will not suit every day school, so Band of Hope conductors will learn by experience what distribution of time is best suited to their own particular circumstances. The following observations, however, will apply to all time tables:—

1. All meetings opened and closed with prayer. We need an Almighty arm to help us, and much Divine wisdom to guide us.

2. Let the superintendent have all the hymns and songs fixed before the meeting.

3. Children should repeat simultaneously the scripture text that forms basis of a short opening address. When the address is long forgotten they will remember the text. "My word shall not return unto me void," &c.

4. No single address should exceed 15 or 20 minutes, unless the speaker be specially gifted, or illustrating by experiments.

5. It is better for the same person to give two short speeches than to make one long one.

6. It is well to give children as much work as possible to do themselves, hence the introduction of recitations, dialogues, &c., in time table.

7. In every time table provision should be made for reviewing or revising the instruction given. To instruct is to cast the ore into the crucible, but to review is to draw out of the children the threads of pure gold.

8. As children tire of monotony it is wise to secure as frequently as possible the aid of friends to give the address.

By programmes or routines is meant the fixed provision made for the systematic instruction of the members, and the order in which the subjects are to be taken. For example, a superintendent, or committee, or union, resolves that in the course of a year the children of the Band of Hope shall receive definite instruction in the following subjects:—*Physiology*—The manufacture of intoxicating drinks—*Lives of eminent abstainers*—The Bible and temperance—The influence of alcohol—*Narcotics*—*Economy*—The effects of intemperance, &c. Would it not be advisable so to distribute the various branches of these or any other subjects over the session as to secure unity and variety, and at the same time provide a well arranged scheme of systematic instruction. Arrangements could be made in towns by which some minister might give a set of addresses on the Bible and temperance, a medical man might be willing to take the physiological series, a Sabbath school or day school teacher another, and the conductor himself the others, and by a well-arranged "Speaker's plan," every Band of Hope in the town and neighbourhood could be benefited.

II. *DISCIPLINE.*—This means not the maintaining

of order merely, but the maintaining of healthy working order. It would be easy for a conductor, by the threat of punishment, or by shaking the rod over the children, to keep such order that you might hear a pin fall, but precious little work, in the way of instruction, would he be able to accomplish. If he managed, however, to keep them actively employed in acquiring knowledge, and at the same time in good order, that would be discipline. Now, though this point is very important, like organization, it is not the most important in Band of Hope, or, in fact, in School work. Order and neatness in a garden are most desirable and commendable, yet fruit is the main thing. But as weeds and disorder may spoil much precious fruit, so want of discipline may hinder much good in a class, therefore, as a means to an end, every superintendent and staff of workers should seek to attain it, both for the sake of progress in learning, and as a valuable moral training. The skilful seaman, by the steady eye, by firmness and calmness, can guide his bark through the stormy sea, and in the same way can the experienced superintendent control the most undisciplined band that falls to his lot.

1st. *The Eye*.—There is great power in the human eye. To a trained dog even, his master's eye is enough. It is the captain's eye upon him that causes the soldier to be steady and brave in the hour of danger; and so the eye of the superintendent, or the nod of his head, or the uplifting of his finger, should control the behaviour of each and all of the children.

2nd. *Firmness* also, combined with *love*, will go a great way in maintaining authority. There is nothing stands so much in the way of efficient discipline as want of firmness; but firmness must be allied to love; love begets love; and if the conductor loves the children, they will love him in return—they will try to please him, and avoid doing anything that would be calculated to give him pain. More wasps are caught by honey than by vinegar, and thus many boys who would not otherwise be governed fall before the power of love, and turn out "jewels," just as the troublesome grain of sand in the oyster produces the valuable pearl.

But 3rd. *A calm and earnest manner* on the part of the superintendent will beget a quiet demeanour on the part of the children. To do as others do is the impulse of childhood's earliest years, and a child's conduct and character depends as much on the character of those he comes in contact with, as any mental or moral quality which he possesses. Calmness and self-control, combined with an earnest enforcement of moral, social, religious, and scientific truth about temperance, will so absorb the attention of the children that peace and order will reign while the good seed is being sown in their hearts.

We come now to the third and most important part of our subject—viz, THE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION.

It is universally acknowledged that, for children, the synthetic, or inductive mode of teaching—by which we ascend from the known to the unknown, from the simple to the complex—is best adapted. As the builder lays stone upon stone till he rears a vast and beautiful structure, so we must give line upon line, precept upon precept, of progressive, systematic instruction, re-iterated again and again, until it be understood and retained. Teaching does no good unless it be comprehended; therefore, not only must it be exceedingly plain, but clothed in simple language, and free from all difficult words and technical terms which have not been previously explained.

Happy illustration will often win a child, and throw a flood of light into the chambers of its mind,

as the throwing back of a shutter in a dark room. To do all this will entail a measure of home preparation on the part of the conductor; but this is indispensable to success to the statesman before he enters the arena of debate, to the lawyer before he can obtain for his client a favourable verdict, to the minister of truth before he enters the pulpit, to the lecturer before he enters the academic hall, to the orator before he mounts the platform, and to the teacher before he meets his scholars. True, there are some minds so logical and comprehensive as to be able to seize a subject at a glance, but with the ordinary run of mortals it is a matter of patient study. But we must grudge no labour however arduous and no study however much a weariness of the flesh, for it is noble to seek the truth and beautiful to find it. The more varied our knowledge is the better fitted will we be for our work. Therefore let us make ourselves conversant not only with every detail of the temperance question, with history, biography, science, statistics, social problems, and the Word of God, but with the youthful mind and the best method of adapting instruction to it. Only in this way can our Bands of Hope be both interesting and instructive—otherwise when the first impulse has passed away they will droop and linger out a spiritless existence. Mere exhortation will soon nauseate—to picture in glowing terms the blessings of sobriety will soon pale on the sight. There must be mental stimulus, else the most important part of the work will be left undone. It is a burning question in connection with our Sabbath Schools, "How to retain our senior scholars," and it may soon come to the front in connection with Band of Hope work. The wise man says, "A threefold cord is not easily broken," so if we fling over them the threefold cord of *truth*, *love*, and *earnestness*, they shall not soon drift away from under our care. Band of Hope conductors will find most valuable helps in preparing their work in such periodicals as *The Band of Hope Chronicle*, and *Temperance Worker*, where amid a miscellaneous collection of temperance matter will be found admirable outline lessons, specially adapted for juvenile instruction. [At this stage the writer gave a specimen lesson on, "Is Alcohol Food?" in illustration of the method laid down, on the principle that "an ounce of practice is worth a bushel of theory;" but as it would unduly extend this paper to give it at present, it may be given separately in some future issue of the *Social Reformer*.]

But dear co-workers, I have wearied you, and must draw to a close. Let me in conclusion re-iterate again that the success of the Band of Hope movement lies, not in the music, nor the recitations, nor the games, nor the pic-nics, but in the sound education of the intellect, the conscience, and the heart as to the true nature of alcohol, and the evil of the whole drink system. At the root of every movement that reforms error and emancipates truth, lies moral principle and sound intelligence. It was this that made Cromwell's Ironsides so terrible to the licentious troops of King Charles I., that made the British soldiers, especially the men with the kilts, so fearful to the intoxicated Russians on the heights of Inkerman, and that made Havelock's saints so dreadful to the Sepoys of Lucknow and Cawnpore. It was this that baffled the most determined efforts of Napoleon on the field of Waterloo, when Europe was delivered from despotism; and peace, security and independence were restored to the world. It was this that burst the shackles of Rome at the glorious era of the Reformation, that struck the chains from every slave in the British dominions, and that is destined to liberate the world from the tyranny of alcoholic drink.

Send forth into the world a youth untaught in the evils of intemperance, and he may drift helplessly on to the reefs of misery, or strand upon the rocks of woe. But educate him in temperance principles, and you put a good blade into his hand wherewith to hew his way to victory.

This century has done much for civilisation, science and art, but, alas, how much of the good has been neutralized by the drinking habits of our country and of the world. During the two decades of it yet to run let us arise and do all we can to wipe out the foul stigma, so that the children of the next century, when tempted to sin may answer as did Jonadab—"Our fathers commanded us saying, ye shall drink no wine, neither you nor your sons for ever."

We have perhaps erred in the past in having taken up our minds too much with the cure, and too little with the prevention of the evil. There are half a million of drunkards in the land tramping on incessantly with hollow tread to premature graves, of whose reclamation the most sanguine sometimes despair, and there are an innumerable multitude of moderate drinkers whose only temperance teaching consists of a sermon or two annually; but there are five millions of children in the country, now in the dew of their youth, who are born abstainers, and they are the nation's hope. The temperance movement seeks to *improve* the present generation, but the Band of Hope seeks to *rescue* the next by sealing up the poisoned fountain, and thus it is the true panacea for drink and is destined to bless the world. All trained in the Band of Hope may not stand true, some will desert the colours, but a vast proportion will remain steadfast, and like the gallant Melville and Coghill, on the banks of the Buffalo, will be ready to die in their defence. Among the boys will be Samsons, temperate, brave, and full of manly courage—Daniels, greatly beloved who will not bow to the image of Bacchus—Davids who, with sling and stone, will smite the giant of intemperance. Among the girls will be Jaels, who will smite to the earth their country's enemy—Deborahs who will awake and free their country from the scathing, degrading, and despicable evil. Each of them will live.

"For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance,
For the future in the distance,
For the good that they can do."

With the Temperance Reformation let us seek to carry the spiritual. God's grace will be our children's truest safeguard, so that though "Temptation sing, they will not turn aside," but touched by God's renewing hand they will never seek inspiration from the wine cup "wherein is excess," but will seek daily to be "filled with the spirit."

THE MIRACLE OF CANA.

THE miracle performed by our Lord at Cana is the most interesting of all the miracles that, from time to time, he performed. It is interesting, not only from the fact that it was the first miracle which he wrought, but also from the fact that it involves a very serious question in morals. The question is, did Jesus sanction the use of intoxicating liquors? Many reply to this question in the affirmative, but as there are very serious points involved in the question before us, a mere assertion is of no consequence; we must have proof. On carefully considering the question, we have come to a negative conclusion on the point, and we lay before the reader for his own inspection our reasons for holding that the wine which was miraculously produced by Jesus at the marriage feast was *not* fermented wine,

I. We must take into account the fact that the Greek word *oinos* is a general term, and includes all kinds of wine, so that unless a particular kind of wine is mentioned, we must judge how it is spoken of, or what effect it had on those who partook of it.

The effects of ordinary wine are so well known to all that they do not require to be explained here. Now as we can draw from the account given in John, the guests had already consumed a quantity of wine, but nothing of a kind approaching to disorder was apparent.

We cannot of course tell how much of the wine made by Jesus was drawn from the water-pots, but it is entirely opposed to the teaching of Christ to suppose that he countenanced a scene of debauchery, as the natural results of intoxication are either irritation or stupefaction.

II. Because all the miracles performed by Christ were for the satisfying of natural, not unnatural appetites; such as the miracle of the loaves and fishes, or for the alleviation of pain and suffering, as the woman with the issue of blood, and others. Now had Christ used his power on this occasion to create what was injurious to health and reason, or, what might result in serious consequences to the recipient either here or hereafter, he would not only have seriously invalidated his own teaching, but have gone direct in the face of his mission to the world.

Taking the above into account the only *logical* conclusion we can come to is, that the wine made by Christ on this occasion was not capable of producing injurious effects, and therefore must have been non-intoxicating.

III. But further. It has been proved by the best medical authorities that alcohol, taken either in large or small quantities, produces a stimulated action of the vital organisms of the body, which in plain language means, that to partake of alcohol, either habitually or casually, is simply to shorten one's life in proportion to the amount of stimulation produced.

If these premises are granted, then the inference is simply this—That those who take alcohol habitually actually commit self-destruction; and that any-one who causes others to fall by alcohol is clearly chargeable with homicide.

IV. As Christ everywhere taught the greatest reverence for life, and constantly inculcated a strict regard to the sixth commandment, we cannot suppose that his works would tend in a contrary direction to his words. Now taking our last argument into account, we finally conclude that as Christ always exerted his power *only* for the good of mankind without the possibility of their suffering thereby, the miracle wrought by Christ on this occasion must have been free from the possibility of any injurious effects. And further, as the effects of alcohol on the human race is one of the great sources of the misery and poverty in the world, the wine which Christ supplied to the marriage guests at Cana cannot have contained alcohol, and so was not fermented wine.

Much more might be said in favour of the above arguments, but we deem them sufficient to prove that Christ did not on this occasion countenance the use of fermented wine. ROBERT F. GARDINER.

HARD WORK IN HOT WEATHER WITHOUT INTOXICATING DRINK.—The Rev. Thomas Snow, Underbarrow Parsonage, Milnthorpe, will be happy to forward to the readers of the *Social Reformer*, on application, a copy of his collection of testimonies, showing that hard work in the fields and foundries in hot weather can best be done without intoxicating drinks.

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

WHAT MR. GREY TOOK.

BY ANNETTE LUGILLE NOBLE.

THERE are a great many gloomier places than an orphan asylum. Such a place seems sometimes like a little heaven to poor abused children. Perhaps it was because Margie Grey had never been abused, or the asylum where she went may not have been the best of its kind; at any rate she never likened it to heaven. Her mother had worked from daylight until dark to keep their own little home neat, and to earn something to buy their food. Two or three times a week a drunken man tumbled into their home and demanded "something to eat and a dollar." He would devour their last crust; but, alas! Mrs. Grey earned her money by cents, and no dollar came forth from a place where no dollars were. At last Mrs. Grey took a terrible cold, then had a fever. She was carried by friends to a church hospital, and Margie was taken out of town to an asylum. She was not an orphan, but for any help, care, or love her father bestowed upon her she might as well have been. A manager of the institution arranged for her stay there throughout the winter. Margie was obedient and amiable; but she was a sensitive, peculiar child. When, in after-years, she became a well-known artist, people understood how passionately she loved colour, grace, and beauty, even as a little child. She used to say she felt in the asylum like "a pin stuck fast in a long paper full of others just like her." Every morning she dressed herself in an ugly cotton dress and a long brown apron, and joined seventy or more little ones, not to be told apart except with close study of noses or eyes. They had the same tasks, the same dull exercises meant for play, but no books or toys of their own. How terribly homesick Margie was, crying herself to sleep every night for weeks! Her work was not meant to be hard—it was to dust the wood-work daily down three pairs of stairs. But the halls were dark and cold; it took her a long time, and she always reached the bottom with a streaked little face, for she had wiped away tears on her dusting-cloth. She imagined her mother would die and she herself live to be an old woman, perhaps ninety years old, but spending all her life in the drab dress, dusting these same dark stairs. Nothing pleasant happened for months; to be sure the lady who brought her there told her one day that her father had taken a "pledge." She reflected that her father was always taking something, and it was probably some unusually bad sort of a drink. She was only eight years old and not very wise about words.

But better days were coming for Margie. One sunny morning in early spring she was called down-stairs by somebody who knew her from the other "pins in the paper," and dressed in a bright new suit of clothes. She was told her mother was well, she was going home, and she had a "new father." She was put on the cars in charge of the conductor and safely delivered to her father. He did indeed seem to have been made over. His coat was whole and clean, his face pale and pleasant. He kissed her over and over, and took her, dancing along the pavement, to a better house in a better street than that she remembered. She feared every moment to rub her eyes and wake up to see eighty small beds with a cropped-haired little girl in each, or something almost as tiresome. No, it was her own mother looking so happy, a flower-pot in the window, and a table all ready for the dinner which smelt so excessively good the moment they opened the door. Such a dinner for a mush-eating little asylum child—soft new rolls, chicken, and the very pudding Margie liked better than ice-cream! After dinner out came a *doll*, big, red-checked, and with it a dress made to come on and off. Now, best of all, the nice home, the "new" father, the plentiful good food, were not for one bright day only but for all the days that followed. Her mother could rest now if she was tired or ill again; her father's wages were excellent. He stayed with them now on evenings. He took them to the seashore

on holidays, and in due course of time Margie understood that "taking the pledge" was a very different thing from "taking a drink," and so were its effects. The drink broke up the home and scattered the family. The pledge made a new home and brought all together again in happiness.—*National Temp. Advocate.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

THE CANADIAN CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

SIR,—At the May meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston the Committee on Temperance, in its report, "strongly deplored the prevalence of drunkenness in the country, and hoped that all would encourage total abstinence. It specially urged that treating in all its forms, and the use of intoxicating liquors at public dinners, etc., should be discouraged." A recommendation which urged that congregational total abstinence societies be formed was struck out. The Synod instructed "its Temperance Committee to watch over all attempts to make such amendments to the Canada Temperance Act as may be calculated to neutralize its efficiency, and by petition, deputation, or otherwise, to use all suitable means to avert the same." Circulars are to be sent to all sessions to fill up and return to the Committee on Temperance; a pastoral letter to be issued on the subject; the sessions are requested to give all diligence to promote temperance, especially among the young. Attention was drawn to the recommendation of last year, "that ministers and church courts should urge upon their people the practice of total abstinence as a matter of Christian expediency under the circumstances under which we are placed, and that every effort should be made to bring about, as soon as possible, the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic." Principal Grant said he had never read the Scott Act—he had more important things to read; but the Synod was not to be deterred from endorsing it even by this fact.—
Yours truly,
G. H. HALE.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY'S EXPLANATION.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

Messina, May 22.

SIR,—I have just seen your issue for May. I am very sorry that an imperfect report of some off-hand remarks which I made at the opening of the Alyth Coffee House should have led you to suppose that I meant to make an attack on the temperance movement in any form, or on the "Ivanhoe." For the purpose in hand, I drew a distinction between temperance and total abstinence; and, purely as a joke, illustrated a paradoxical view of the distinction by reference to an absurd story about the "Ivanhoe," too extravagant to be taken seriously by any of those present. But nothing was further from my intention than to make an attack on temperance reformers. We aim at the same ends, though we may differ as to the best means to attain them. I have very great sympathy with the aims of the promoters of the "Ivanhoe," and I cordially wish her success in her battle with intemperance on the Clyde.—I am, yours obediently,

G. G. RAMSAY.

PUBLIC PRESS.

THE MISSING SAW-MILL.—A few days ago T. G. met an old friend, who was formerly a prosperous young lumberman up north, but whose bad habits of drinking resulted as they often do, though he has since reformed and is trying to do better. "How are you?"

said T. G. "Pretty well, thank you; but I've just been to a doctor to have him look at my throat." "What's the matter?" "Well, the doctor couldn't give me any encouragement. At least he couldn't find what I wanted him to find." "What did you expect him to find?" "I asked him to look down my throat for the saw-mill and farm that had gone down there." "And did he see anything of it?" "No; but he advised me if I ever got another mill, to run it by water."

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—This organization base their bill on the following principles:—(a) The liquor traffic cannot properly be prohibited; (b) It is the duty of the State to regulate and control it; (c) The license to sell—being a monopoly—should be disposed of for its fair value; (d) The sale, being for the accommodation of the people, the people themselves should have a potential voice in defining the limits of the traffic. The Society differs very decidedly from the United Kingdom Alliance. That organization, whose labours cannot be too highly estimated, has as its object the total and immediate legislative suppression of the traffic in all intoxicating liquors, because it believes that it is neither right nor politic for the State to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people. With an equal hatred of intemperance, the object of the Church of England Temperance Society is restriction rather than prohibition.—Explanation of the proposed Licensing Boards Bill of the C.E.T.S., by the Rev. J. Robert O. West.

STORNOWAY RIPE FOR LOCAL OPTION.—The visitor to Stornoway is not merely impressed with the stir and excitement consequent on the herring fishing, but he sees much to gratify his taste and to please his fancy. Some of the modern shops would compare favourably with many elegant shops of the same description in not a few of our provincial towns. The streets are well laid out, and most of the houses are two storeys. There are two Free Churches, a United Presbyterian Church, a Parish Church, and an Ecclesiastical Chapel. Stornoway is a town of merchants. It is the chief centre of supply for the whole island, and the thousands who frequent it during the herring fishing leave behind them a portion of the wealth acquired. Stornoway Castle is an object of imposing grandeur. It is situated at the head of the bay, a short distance from the town. The trees are not high by which it is surrounded, but at this season they are beautifully green, and impart to one side of the bay a picturesque appearance. Perhaps I might be allowed to say a word which would interest your temperance readers, of whom there is no mean contingent in Clackmannanshire. Nearly all the merchants in Stornoway are abstainers, and those who are not are in close sympathy with the temperance movement. The Good Templars are numerically strong and socially powerful. Some think that they can speak nothing but Gaelic. This is a mistake. They are good English speakers, and are equally at home in the Gaelic language. They are great admirers of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and one of them has recently called his house "Brayton House," after Brayton Hall, in Cumberland, the seat of the hon. member for Carlisle. There is also a strong religious feeling in the town. The intoxicating interest is not influential, so that the social and moral reformers feel that by a popular vote like that which Sir Wilfrid Lawson proposes to give to the people, they could easily make the whole traffic in drink go down like rotten trees before a hurricane. Two steamers ply regularly every week between Glasgow and Stornoway. A mail steamer crosses the Minch daily (Tuesdays and Sundays excepted) to bring the mails from Ullapool, from which place they are also despatched to the south. No one can visit the capital of the Long Island without coming away with favourable impressions both of the people and of the place.—WILLIAM BLACKWOOD in *Alloa Advertiser*.

AN ILLUSTRATION FROM "THE FAIR MAID OF

PERTH."—Catherine Glover (the fair maid), speaking to Henry Gow, her valentine, says:—"Fling from thee the accursed weapons, to the fatal and murderous use of which thou art so easily tempted." "You speak to me in vain, Catherine," returned the armourer. "I may indeed turn monk and retire from the world, but while I live in it I must practise my trade; and while I form armour and weapons for others, I cannot withstand the temptation of using them. You would not reproach me as you do if you knew how inseparably the means by which I gain my bread are connected with that war-like spirit which you impute to me as a fault, though it is the consequence of inevitable necessity. While I strengthen the shield or corslet to withstand wounds, must I not have constantly in remembrance the manner and strength with which they may be dealt? and when I forge the sword and temper it for war, is it practicable for me to forget the recollection of its use?" "Then throw from you, my dear Henry," said the enthusiastic girl, "cast from you, I say, the art which is a snare to you. Abjure the fabrication of weapons which can only be useful to abridge human life, already too short for repentance; or to encourage with a feeling of safety those whom fear might otherwise prevent from risking themselves in peril. The art of forming arms, whether offensive or defensive, is alike sinful in one to whose violent and ever vehement disposition the very working upon them proves a sin and a snare. Resign utterly the manufacture of weapons of every description, and deserve the forgiveness of Heaven by renouncing all that can lead to the sin which does so easily beset you." "And what," murmured the armourer, "am I to do for my livelihood when I have given over the art of forging arms, for which Henry of Perth is known from the Tay to the Thames?" "Your art itself," said Catherine, "has innocent and laudable resources. If you renounce the forging of swords and bucklers, there remains to you the task of forging the harmless spade and the honourable as well as useful ploughshare—of those implements which contribute to the support of life or its comfort. Thou canst frame locks and bars to defend the property of the weak against the stout-rieff and oppression of the strong. Men will still resort to thee, and repay thy honest industry." Her argument, however, interfered with her father's views, when he heard her enlarge upon the necessity of his designed son-in-law resigning a trade that brought in more ready income than any at that time practised in Scotland, and more profit to Henry of Perth—good Hal of the Wynd—in particular than to any armourer in the nation. So he ordered her to hold her peace and to go out of his sight.

ALCOHOL ALPHABETICALLY CONSIDERED.—Alcohol Allures from the path of duty; Banishes domestic happiness; Creates unnatural thirst; Deranges the intellect; Fills premature graves; Generates malevolent passions; Hinders the gospel; Inflames vicious desires; Kindles family strife;Laughs at sin; Maddens the brain; Nerves the murderer's arm; Oppresses the poor and needy; Poisons the soul; Quenches the Holy Spirit; Racks the mind with remorse; Scoffs at piety; Torments before the time; Urges to lust and crime; Vitiates the blood; Works mischief everywhere; Yields the most debasing results; Zealous is for the ruin of drinkers.

A FAIR ANSWER TO A FAIR QUESTION.—Several years ago there lived in a parish not 100 miles from the capital of Strathspey a horse-dealer named W. S., who was considered not to be too scrupulous in his assertions when selling his animals. An unsophisticated small Highland farmer, who had reason to feel this to his cost, was one day at a diet of catechising held in the parish alluded to, but to all the questions asked by the catechist, the answers, if any, were far from satisfactory. At last he was asked what kind of man Adam was, when he at once replied, with a characteristic grin, "Weel, so far as I ken, he was na unlike our ain horse-jockey; very few gained by him, but many a one lost by him."

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, JULY, 1881.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE DEBATE AND DIVISION ON THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC RESOLUTION, JUNE 14, 1881.

THE following resolutions have been unanimously adopted by the Executive of the Association, June 21st, 1881:—

I. The Executive desire to record their intense satisfaction at—

(1) The adoption, on the 14th June, *curt.*, of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution by the House of Commons, for the second time in the present Parliament, by the encouraging majority of 42 (the vote being 196 to 154), the majority last session being 26.

(2) The maintenance of the truly splendid Scotch vote—it being the same as that of last year, namely, votes and pairs for 43 against 5.

(3) The cordial and energetic co-operation of the Scottish Temperance League and other organizations; the effective exertions of the Scotch deputation to London; and the hearty and general response of friends throughout the country to the appeal made to communicate with their Parliamentary representatives.

II. The Executive confidently anticipate that, as the result of this re-affirmation by the House of Commons of the principle of local option, the Government will recognise it to be their duty, at the earliest possible moment, to give practical effect to this decision by introducing a bill embodying this principle.

III. The Executive, in view of the probable action of the Government on this matter in the next session of Parliament, would very earnestly call upon all friends of temperance and social reform throughout the country to embrace every opportunity of furthering the movement at this important juncture by public meetings and otherwise, and of keeping the Prime Minister and the Government, as well as their Parliamentary representatives, fully and constantly informed regarding every expression of public opinion and the progress of the agitation generally.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-third annual meetings of this Association—business, social and public—will be held (*D. V.*) on Tuesday, 27th September, 1881.

The Executive trust that the friends of the movement throughout the country will arrange to be present, as business of great importance to the movement will be submitted to them on that day. Particulars will be given in future issues of this magazine.

R. MACKAY, *Secy.*

We confess we cannot quite understand the conduct of the Home-Rulers in Parliament. They profess to be the saviours of their, we will say, bleeding country, and the destroying angels of the landlords. But there are landlords and landlords in Ireland. Towards the lords of broad acres their rancorous hostility is evident, but to the lords of the public-house they seem to be rather on friendly terms. Yet the Land Question, about which we are so solicitous, involves only £11,000,000 sterling, while the drink bill of Ireland is about £13,000,000 sterling yearly. With these facts before them these patriots assisted the enemies of early closing of the public-houses in Ireland to defeat Mr. Meldoun's attempt on behalf of that measure of reform; for we are told that the rejection of his resolution was received with Home-Rule cheers! Little more than three weeks from that time the same party voted on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, which would give the people of Ireland the power to abolish public-house landlordism—to every sensible man's thinking Ireland's worst foe—but again these self-styled friends of Ireland, by a majority, declared their hostility to Sir Wilfrid's resolution. What can we think? Are we not entitled to believe that those that so act believe that with a sober people outrage in Ireland would be impossible?

That indefatigable Clerkenwell chaplain, Mr. Horsley, has thrown a ghastly light on intemperance in relation to suicide. From 300 cases of suicide he draws some inferences that should startle society. He says that the women are the greatest sinners, there being 183 of them to 117 men; that self-murder oftenest happens at twenty-two; 182 were attributable to drink; 145 to simple drunkenness; 27 due to combination with a quarrel or other disturbing cause; but it is never dreamed that every drinker is a suicide; the man who takes poison under medical order may be acting in good faith with himself, the drug may be necessary to counteract some morbid condition of his body; but the man who, for the pleasure it is supposed to give, daily uses alcohol is just as surely shortening his life as if say with a constitution fitted to last him 57 years he died by his own hand at 50. And it is curious to think what might have been the nature of his lot during these years of which he may have deprived himself.

On the worldly side a blameless reputation, a life of business ease, of active goodness, of suitable preparation for that solemn change which is the inevitable lot of man; the seeing around him his children growing daily wise and worthy, his children's children following hard on wisdom's heels. Contrast this with a life of fitful effort, of failure marred by the harvest of vice, of profligacy, of dying under the consciousness that one might have been better, more honoured, more regretted. Surely, here must be the very bitterness of death.

The fortieth report of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Providential Institution is before us, and exhibits truly wonderful success. The Directors completed 2198 policies, assuring the sum of £587,061 sterling. The present capital of the institution is £2,838,081, 5s. 10d. The portion of the report of most interest to our readers is in the comparison of the general section, composed of extremely temperate lives, with the temperate section composed of abstaining lives. There were in the general section 1485 expected claims involving a sum of £311,326; but the actual claims were 1480, involving £322,644 sterling, leaving a very small margin, indeed, between the expectation and reality as regards numbers, there being only a difference of 5 in the claims, while the sum paid exceeded expectation by £21,318. In the temperance section the claims expected were in number 933, in amount £193,748; the actual claims numbered 651, the amount reached £126,122, showing a very great difference in favour of the temperance supporters of the institution, the number being 282 less than the actual claims, the amount £67,606 less than expectation. Nothing could, in our opinion, show more clearly the value of a total abstinence life than the yearly reports of this institution. When we further inform our readers that the reversionary bonus in the temperance section ranges from 41 to 135 per cent., while on the general section it ranges from 26 to 83 per cent., we think we have said enough to induce them to do two things—stand fast by abstinence, and insure in this admirable institution.

It is curious to consider the appropriation of names as "Trade Mark" signboards by publicans. They have desecrated the name of almost every man of eminence, whether warrior, statesman, poet, or other. It seems as if Macbeth had them in view when he said, "our monuments are the maws of kites." Sometimes there is a manifest incongruity between some of these appropriations, as, for instance, when the "Angel," or the "Good Intent," the "Home of Friendship," or the "Jolly Boys," and so on, is used, because the ideas which these set forth are never found in the parlour of "mine host." Men who have been the benefactors of their race, statesmen who have raised their country to a high pitch of civilization: Earl Grey, Wilberforce; warriors who have defended her: Wellington, Nelson, Rod-

ney; poets who in immortal strains sang of national worth and duty: Robert Burns, Walter Scott, Shakespeare, rare Ben Jonson, have all been glaringly conspicuous over portals that lead to vice and profligacy. Sometimes, however, there is a consistency shown in this respect, that, were the people wise, would be a lesson to them for ever. Some houses are called "the Dive," "the Gridiron," "the Vaults," and "the Shades." What so truly suggestive of plunging into a sea of profligacy, of being inflamed by public house liquors, and public house hangers-on, of having all virtues buried up, and at last of being doomed to dwell in the dread domain of an accusing conscience where hope never comes that comes to all. The ancients that have so exhaustively fathomed the here and hereafter of our lives, depict the abode of the departed—named by them the Shades—in colours that impress themselves upon the mind in all the characters of ceaseless despair. Happy, ten thousand times happy, are they that see behind all names in currency by publicans that the way through the public house is the way to the abodes of eternal despair; that leave its unblest pleasures for ever behind them; that dash its vessels with their baneful contents to the thirsty earth; and that labour on, fervently hoping that the day is dawning whose sun will shine upon our land for ever freed from public houses that now tempt and taint humanity.

On the 14th ult. Scotland, in the House of Commons, maintained the splendid vote given by her parliamentary representatives on the 18th June on behalf of the Local Option resolution; but she might have done more. Had the honourable members who voted favourably last year been able to return from their Whitsuntide holidays in time to support Sir Wilfrid, she would have had three-fourths of the Scottish parliamentary representation voting in favour of that resolution. The vote stands to-day almost the same as last year, namely, forty-three votes and pairs in favour, and only five votes against. The difference, we believe, is that there is one vote less and one pair more in favour of the resolution. This is truly remarkable. Last year that number supported Sir Wilfrid on the principle that the ratepayers should have a direct veto on the liquor traffic, this year they have, by an equally large vote, declared that it was expedient that that principle should be embodied in Government legislation. On principle and expediency the vote was almost identical. But had it been possible to have got four hon. members to pair against the resolution, the number for Scotland would have been 47 for, and only 5 against. We wish to know how much nearer unanimity Scotland requires to be before the Government of the day will feel itself justified in granting her ratepayers and householders a direct veto on the issue or continuance of licenses for trafficking in alcoholic liquors. This we can say, that on no other Scottish question can anything like

such a decided expression of opinion be shown; and no other part of the United Kingdom offers an area better fitted for a trial of the Permissive Prohibitory legislation we so ardently desire. We rejoice to think that the present vote of Scottish parliamentary representatives is arresting the attention of Scotch members, and leading them to feel that it is not in the interests of Scotland that a question which receives such parliamentary support should continue to be overshadowed by the other parts of the kingdom, far behind it in the maturity of their convictions on the suppression of the traffic. Our friends have only to maintain and increase their efforts to deepen this feeling, growing in the minds of their representatives, and they may speedily expect to find themselves in the proud position of having constrained the Government into granting them the power of expelling the liquor traffic altogether from Scotland.

It is with sorrow we observe that, founding on the passage of the Local Option resolution in 1880, and on its re-affirmation in 1881, Mr. Caine, M.P., proposes a resolution asking the House of Commons to entrust the administration of the licensing laws "to Boards specially elected by the ratepayers." No doubt, like all Englishmen, Mr. Caine is dissatisfied with the present administration of these laws by irresponsible Justices of the Peace, and has a laudable anxiety to change the system which at present prevails in England. He has no doubt evidence to show that English Justices have, neither with dignity nor credit to themselves, nor advantage to those within their jurisdiction, administered these laws. But can any body of men properly regulate the liquor traffic? We say most distinctly no. For the most part of a century now Scotland has had a stringent licensing system, for the most part under the control of magistrates elected by the ratepayers, and we affirm, without fear of successful contradiction, that their administration has increased rather than appeased the widespread dissatisfaction with the licensing system of Scotland. Many of these licensing magistrates were returned to Town Councils expressly to maintain a most stringent control over the liquor traffic. Many of them were abstainers. And yet it cannot be denied that they have failed to "regulate" the licensing system. We believe that no body of men are to be found capable, while maintaining the licensing system, of so regulating it as to render it tolerable. To-day, because of it, thousands are living in a condition worse than savagery; thousands are dying slowly but surely because of its operation; thousands are, in consequence of it, oscillating between the street, the prison, or the poor-house, and 120,000 miserable beings drop year by year into untimely graves. We cannot, in the face of these painful facts, look to licensing by men elected specially by the ratepayers with any more hopeful anticipations. The liquor traffic cannot be controlled. No body of men amongst us can be found to regulate the action of

the liquor itself, they cannot prevent the drinker from getting liquor to an odious excess, and they cannot hinder the seller of it from selling as much as he can within legal limits, nor from supplying midnight traders with the vilest kinds of alcoholic liquors. Mr. Caine's motion is another of the many schemes brought forward to simply change the licensing authority—but he has evidently no intention of superseding it. In Liverpool he found the present system so unsatisfactory that he may well believe that a board such as he aims at may improve the drink traffic. We need not say that we agree with him, but so regulated it will still have baneful and widespread results. He may seek to prevent men having a large number of public-houses; he may make every publican directly responsible for the conduct of his premises; he may punish for selling to intoxicated persons, and frame other provisions for the regulation of "the trade." His aim is "to clearly define the principles and conditions that are to regulate the trade," and to leave to the ordinary tribunals of justice, as at present, the infliction of penalties incurred by the breaches of the law. We have been careful to look narrowly into all the licensing schemes laid before the country, especially Licensing Board proposals, and suppression never is contemplated by any one of them—they are all purely licensing schemes and utterly alien to the objects of the Scottish prohibitory agitation—the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic by the Votes of the Ratepayers. Genuine Prohibitionists do not want powers of administration, they want the power of suppression, and they want that power invested in the ratepayers or householders of the country. They want to have nothing to do with boards, nothing to do with regulation, nothing to do with penalties for selling; they seek the unconditional surrender and destruction of the drink traffic, and doing so and labouring for this desirable consummation, they can neither give cordial sympathy nor wish God-speed to the resolution of Mr. Caine.

On the 14th ult. the prohibitionists made another substantial advance in the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid Lawson brought forward his resolution affirming the desirability of giving effect to the local option resolution adopted by the House a year ago. While Sir Wilfrid's speech was a most valuable contribution to the discussion, there was an evident disinclination to hear much on the subject, either as regards the evil or the remedy. Hon. members felt that all that was needful had been already said on the subject, and that action, and not discussion, was now required. Considerable anxiety was manifest to hear what the Government had to say, and whom they would put up to say it. Many members were out of sympathy with Sir Wilfrid Lawson for bringing forward his motion, the discussion of which at the present time would at least, they thought, embarrass the Government. Others, again, awed by the magnitude of the Land Bill, were of opinion

that many would abstain from voting owing to their utter disbelief in the introduction of any Government measure this session. But when the division bell rang, and members flocked into the respective lobbies, it was seen that 354 divided on the resolution, 198 voters and tellers voting aye, and only 154 voters and tellers voting no—giving a majority of 42 votes for the hon. baronet's resolution. This is 16 more of a majority than last year, and yet 82 fewer members voted. Nothing could be more significant of the growth of the question in the constituencies than this increase in the face of the perplexities in which both the Government and the House are involved. It certainly augurs a not distant settlement of the question. But it is saddening to find Mr. Gladstone in the opposition again. Last year he had an ample excuse for his adverse vote; this year we have endeavoured in vain to find an excuse for him. He may have acted quite conscientiously in giving his vote against the resolution, but he cannot justify it. He is the only Liberal in Scotland voting against the measure, and, in his opposition he is deserted by the majority of the House, the majority of the members of his Government, and in his own Cabinet finds himself in a minority of one! We hope that he will be led by his position on this question, one hardly creditable to him, to give serious consideration to the question and show himself, by the measure he devises for the relief of his country from the evils of the liquor traffic, as worthy of similar admiration to that which he has evoked for great services done to his country. It is not an honourable position in which he stands at present—far from it. Little men and interested members of the trade may find some excuse for arraying themselves in opposition to the movement for the overthrow of the liquor traffic, but for the Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the friend of Italian and Bulgarian freedom, the friend of Ireland, to befriend the traffic in alcoholic liquor is to stain a bright fame and cloud a transcendent reputation. To have his name hailed in pot houses by noisy revellers with three times three because he voted for the publicans is enough to make angels weep and to plunge all true lovers of their country into sorrow and shame. The speech of Mr. Bright was one of the saddest ever delivered on this question on the floor of the House of Commons. Personally, it was in such painful contrast to the speeches of the hon. gentleman before he assumed the responsibilities of office. We did not always see our way to approve of all that Mr. Bright said or did, but we often admired his blunt outspokenness, his courage, and his eloquence. His speech on this occasion brought vividly, by painful contrast, to those who heard him, these eloquent efforts of his early years, when he was, like Sir Wilfrid, rousing his fellow countrymen to deal with a great wrong. No one could see in the abject apologist for a timid Government, the fearless agitator of other times. In his speech he condemned the Permissive Bill as pernicious, and

was at no pains to hide the pleasure he felt at getting Sir Wilfrid to substitute his resolution for the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill; repudiated any moral obligation as resting on the Government to embody, in the immediate future, the resolution of last year in a comprehensive licensing measure; afforded no hope of the present Government dealing effectively with the liquor traffic, and relegated the duty of dealing with that traffic to some future administration. What a spectacle it must have been to his friends to have seen him balancing four measures to see which of them was of most importance to the interests of his country. Comparing the liquor traffic with the assimilation of the burgh and county franchise, with the land laws (of the United Kingdom), with the redistribution of Parliamentary seats, and with the municipal misgovernment of London! Such a speech is deplorable, and makes it only too manifest that the Government will require to be educated to clearer views on the drink traffic, and pressed into more vigorous and speedy action on this signally urgent question. In our observations on the vote of last year we earnestly warned our readers against reposing too great confidence in the Government, and against leaving, with easy credulity, the settlement of our question in their hands. Events have since then given point and force to that warning, and greatly diminished the confidence of the Prohibitory party in the sincerity of the intentions of the Government of the day to grapple effectually with the evils of the licensing system. The Government is the creature of the people, and can only enjoy public confidence so long as it is deserved. The duty of all interested in this question is to constrain that Government to grant power to the ratepayers and householders to protect themselves against the operations of the drink traffic. Already it is virtually disobedient to the wishes of the House; the Land Bill will not occupy its attention longer than the present session. During the recess it has time to frame a measure calculated to satisfy the reasonable and just demands of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his followers. If it is sincere we shall soon see the introduction of a wise and statesmanlike scheme which all staunch Prohibitionists can approve; if insincere, the best efforts of its friends will be ineffectual for shielding it from the justly-incurred disapprobation of all earnest Temperance Reformers.

LICENSE AT THE BAR OF GOD.—“Yes,” said the Rev. John Pierrepoint, “you have a license, and that is your plea; I adjure you to keep it. Lock it up among your choicest jewels—guard it as the apple of your eye—and when you die and are laid out in your coffin be sure that the precious document is placed between your cold and clammy fingers, so that when you are called upon to confront your victims before God you may be ready to show your plea of justification, and to boldly lay down your license at the bar of your Judge. Yes, my friend, keep it; you will want your license signed by the proper parties against that dread day.”

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—VI.

DR. CAMERON'S FREE EDUCATION—POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—MALT DRAWBACK—EARLY CLOSING OF LIQUOR SHOPS IN IRELAND—FOREIGN BEER DUTY—DUTY OF THE POLICE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS—LICENSING OF RAILWAY CARRIAGES—POWERS OF IRISH MAGISTRATES—LOCAL OPTION DEBATE AND DIVISION—ANALYSIS OF THE VOTING—WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL.

May 18.—Dr. Cameron moved the second reading of the Free Education (Scotland) Bill, which, he said, was approved with practical unanimity in Scotland. Its object was to enable parents who could not afford to pay school fees to apply to School Boards, instead of the Parochial Boards, to pay the fees on their behalf, thus removing what the Lord-Advocate termed a blot on the Scotch Education Bill. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Mundella counselled the withdrawal of the bill, as the Government hoped to be able to carry through their Educational Endowment Bill this session, and the bill would in that case prove a serious obstruction to the progress of education in Scotland. The motion was therefore negatived without a division.

May 19.—Mr. Fawcett, replying to Mr. Buxton, said the Government stocks Savings Bank scheme came into operation on 22nd November, and on 14th May, less than six months, the amount invested through the Trustee Savings Bank was £68,400, and through the Post Office Savings Bank £455,800. £177,500 was transferred from the Depositor's Account, and £278,300 was specially deposited for investment. Notwithstanding the withdrawal, the amount of savings had increased by £1,010,360, and the number of depositors by 331,795.

—Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Col. Barne, said that it was not the case that the malt drawback was allowed to some London brewers on the quantity as shown by their books, and not as gauged by the revenue officers.

May 20.—Mr. Meldon moved that, in view of the many and serious evils arising from drunkenness on Saturday nights in Ireland, and having regard to the evidence given before the Select Committees of 1868 and 1877, and the recommendation of the Lords' Report on Intemperance of 1878, this House is of opinion that the hours during which intoxicating liquors may be sold on Saturdays in the large cities and towns having a population exceeding 10,000, should be materially and immediately shortened. Mr. Forster, Mr. Daly, and Mr. M. Brooks opposed and Mr. A. M. Sullivan and Mr. Ewart supported the resolution. The House divided, when there voted for the resolution 33; against, 49; majority against, 16. The result was received with Home Rule cheers.

May 23.—On the House going into committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, Mr. Hicks moved, on clause 3, that the duty on foreign beer should remain at 8s. for the 36 gallons, instead of being lowered to 6s. 6d. Mr. Gladstone pointed out that the hon. gentleman's motion really involved an increase of duty, and could not be entertained. Captain Aylmer objected to the option given to test the quantity of alcohol in spirits by means of Sykes' hydrometer, by distillation, or otherwise, and moved the omission of the words "or otherwise." Mr. Gladstone explained that as the object of having these words was to prevent the Excise from being precluded from using a better method should such be discovered, he hoped that they would be retained. The motion was withdrawn.

May 26.—Sir William Harcourt, in reply to Mr. Labouchere, said that he conceived, in the interests of free discussion in this country, it was the duty of the police to see that people calling a public meeting should be supported in holding that meeting tranquilly—(cheers)—and should not be interfered with by those who might desire to commit disorder. At the meeting referred to by his hon. friend, the police were ordered to clear the platform, and, in doing so, used no greater

force than was necessary. They performed a difficult duty with moderation and good temper.

May 26.—The proposed clauses as to the sale of intoxicating liquors, &c., in railway carriages were abandoned.

June 13.—The Attorney-General, replying to Sir W. Lawson, said that the Irish magistrates had powers, as English magistrates had, to order the closing of public-houses when they had reason to apprehend a riot. These powers the Irish magistrates commonly used when necessity called for their exercise.

LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION.

June 14.—The House resumed at nine o'clock, when Sir Wilfrid Lawson rose to move, "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable to give legislative effect to the resolution passed on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being intrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic." The hon. baronet began by remarking that this was a most unfortunate session for anybody to bring forward almost any subject, because for the time the attention of the country was directed almost exclusively to the important Government measure relating to the tenure of land in Ireland. Nevertheless, as the population of these islands was about 35,000,000 of people, it would not be out of place to call attention to a question which interested all of them. He had altered the resolution which had stood on the paper in his name for a long time. He gave notice of it at the end of last session, and he had hoped to deal with it if the Government did not intend to deal this year with the liquor question; but circumstances had changed since then, and it would now be folly to call upon the Government to bring in a great legislative scheme in reference to the liquor traffic, while they had the heavy Irish Land Bill on their hands. After taking counsel with some friends, he thought it would be better to move a resolution simply stating that this matter ought to be dealt with at the earliest possible opportunity. His resolution and the subject which called them there that evening dealt with a very great grievance. The grievance was that there was a law in this country by which irresponsible authorities were enabled to license places for the sale of intoxicating drink whenever they pleased to do so, and that having this power they exercised it to a very large extent. No doubt they exercised it with the very best intentions, but the result was not satisfactory. It would not be denied that the drinking habits of the people were the main cause of the pauperism which existed in this wealthy country. He observed with delight the efforts of the Postmaster-General to encourage saving habits among the people, but he often thought that it was very hard upon his right hon. friend that while he was doing all he could to establish savings-banks, all his attempts should be neutralised by the State allowing 150,000 men to take the money of the poor people by selling them drink in their licensed premises. Another evil which arose from drinking was the crime of the country. On this point he need not quote many authorities, but he should like to show to the House that this was not a new grievance which he and his friends had discovered, but that it was more than 200 years old. Sir Matthew Hale said, in 1670: "The places of judicature which I have held in this kingdom have given me an opportunity to observe the original cause of most of the enormities that have been committed for the space of nearly 20 years; and, by due observation, I have found that if the murders and manslaughters, the burglaries and robberies, the riots and tumults, the outrages and other enormities which have happened in that time were divided into five parts—four of them have been the issue and product of excessive drinking, of tavern or ale-house drinking." And Chief Baron Kelly, a few years ago, said that "two-thirds of the crimes that came before the courts of law of this country are occasioned chiefly by intemperance." He thought he had proved that pauperism and crime arose from drinking, and he might add that lunacy was occasioned more by the drinking habits of the people than by any other cause. There was another

evil which he might mention. A bill was now before the House for dealing with electoral corruption, of which, as everybody knew, there would be very little if it were not for the drinking shops. (Hear.) The Committee which sat in the years 1853-54, and which was presided over by his right hon. friend the member for Wolverhampton, said in its report—"Numerous committees of your honourable House bear unvarying testimony both to the general intemperance of criminals and the increase and diminution of crime in direct ratio with the increased and diminished consumption of intoxicating drinks." Again, his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster once said that the liquor dealers dealt in "articles which produced crime, disorder, and even madness." The right hon. gentleman's colleague, the President of the Board of Trade, said a few years ago that if something were not done, "the very stones would cry out." And the Home Secretary, speaking a few months ago, said:—"The character of the evil is of that sort which increases rather than diminishes with the prosperity of the people. . . . The whole industry of the country is at the mercy of this unhappy vice. . . . He was most deeply anxious to see if anything could be done to remedy it." Moreover, the Prime Minister himself remarked:—"It has been said that greater calamities are inflicted on mankind by intemperance than by the three great historical scourges—war, pestilence, and famine. That is true for us, and it is the measure of our discredit and disgrace." (Hear.) When a vice produced all the accumulated evils of crime, disorder, and madness, it was almost impossible to exaggerate its magnitude or mischievousness. Moderate men spoke on that subject sometimes in language that astonished many people. The hon. member for Berkshire (Mr. Walter), who, the House knew, was not a fanatic or an enthusiast, once said that alcohol was "the devil in solution." (Laughter.) He would not deny that drink was delicious stuff. (Hear.) The hon. member who cheered agreed at least in that remark. (A laugh.) Knowing how largely it was consumed, and how many poor men gave up their honour, fame, health, happiness, and all that made life worth having, for the sake of consuming that drink, it would be absurd to deny that it was fascinating. The State knew that it was a very dangerous article, and endeavoured to minimise the danger. In a speech made by the noble lord, the Secretary of State for India last year, the noble lord said they had given to a certain body of traders, the licensed victuallers, a monopoly of the sale of intoxicating liquors on the implied condition that the moderate consumption of those articles should be permitted, and that the immoderate use of them should be restricted and forbidden; but he added that the existing system was not one which worked satisfactorily, and that the implied condition on which that valuable monopoly was granted to them was not observed by that body of traders. (Hear, hear.) The State had considered carefully the how, the when, and the where that drink was to be sold. It took the greatest pains to inquire into the character of those who sold it, and if any one wanted to know what the many virtues of the licensed victuallers were he had only to go to one of their dinners, presided over by the hon. member for Guildford. (Laughter.) He agreed with what had once been said by the right hon. member for Birmingham—namely, that great harm had been done by running down the character of the licensed victuallers. His own conscience was clear on that point. He had always said they were the finest body of men in the world. (Laughter.) That was his case. If anybody proved that they were disreputable, the answer would be easy: Let fresh men be put into the drinking-houses. But he said they were good men; that they had done their best, and that it was not the men but the system which had broken down. The President of the Board of Trade knew that, and had said on one occasion that if he thought that by putting on an apron and going behind a counter he could carry on that trade better than was now done, he would deem it to be a most religious and patriotic act. But the right hon. gentleman had never

done that—(a laugh)—and why? Because the licensed victuallers were as good men as he. The State took great trouble as to the days and the hours at which the drinking-houses should be opened and shut; it also carefully arranged what sort of places they should be, and the magistrates were expected to look into the requirements of the district. But with all those minute precautions as to how the trade was to be carried on, the whole thing, as the noble marquis said, had been nothing more than a ghastly failure. (Hear, hear.) The working men of this country said that the licensing system did them a great deal of harm; and on the other hand, they found that there were many places where there were no drink-shops, and that they derived great benefit from their absence. He would take the case of Liverpool, which might be called the head-quarters of alcohol. There, however, the working men saw that there were large districts—one of which, he believed, belonged to Lord Sefton—where the landlord prohibited the opening of any drink-shop. Those districts might be called oases in the desert of drink in Liverpool; and the working men took houses in them in order to be away from contamination. Again, in London, there was the Shaftesbury-park estate, carried on by a company, one of the cardinal rules of which was that drink-shops should not be set up there. There were also many parishes where the landlords had prohibited drink-shops, and the result was that the people there were happy and comfortable, and thanked the beneficent landlords who had kept a great nuisance out of the place. Mr. T. Hughes, formerly a member of that House, had established a model colony in America, formed of the best-educated persons he could find. In his programme Mr. Hughes said that was a free country, where everybody did as he liked, but nobody was to sell any drink. (Laughter.) Our magistrates took care not to allow any drinking-shops to be opened next door to their own houses. When an application was about to be made for a license next door to him, the magistrate immediately wrote to his friends on the bench, urging them to be in their places to hear the application; there was a "whip" up, and the license was of course refused. Why was the poor man not to have the same means of protecting himself as the rich man enjoyed? He did not know whether the Government had faith in the whole people of the country availing themselves of this privilege which he sought to obtain for them; but of this he was certain—that a vast majority of the working people would avail themselves of it, and, as Dr. Guthrie had said, would sweep away the drinking-shops from among them. (Hear, hear.) He had more than once explained to the House of Commons the policy on this question which he wished them to adopt, and more than once had been defeated; but a change had since his last defeat been effected in their views. The election of 1880 was a remarkable one—he meant a remarkably good one. (A laugh.) When he looked at its result, he saw that the great publican bubble had been burst. (Hear, and a laugh.) The election decided that war should be made against the spirit traffic at home. (Hear, hear.) He moved his present resolution with all the more confidence that last year his resolution in favour of an efficient local option was adopted. It meant that no irresponsible body should be empowered to authorise the opening of drink-shops in neighbourhoods unwilling to have them, and that motion was founded on a resolution arrived at by Convocation itself. (Hear, hear.) If hon. members analyzed the vote of the House, they would see that while Ireland gave him a very considerable majority—nearly two to one—Scotland gave him a majority of eight to one in favour of local option, and Wales gave him a majority of twelve. No fewer than four members of Her Majesty's Government voted with him—he would not say how many members of the Government voted against him. (Laughter.) He was bound in honesty to say that the Prime Minister had voted against him, but the vote of the right hon. gentleman was counterbalanced by his speech, in which he said that he earnestly hoped the day was not far distant when the licensing laws would be dealt with "on the just principle to which his hon. friend

had pointed ;" and that he regarded as worth twenty votes in favour of his resolution. (Hear, hear.) Well, twelve months had gone by, and the grievance had still remained unredressed. And what had the country suffered in consequence? Why, the newspapers had been filled with accounts of crimes and outrages committed in all parts of the country, and he believed that in one week there were in the United Kingdom more crimes and outrages committed through the influence of drink than were committed in six months in Ireland. (Hear, hear, and No, no.) To show the evil which resulted from the present system, he might mention a case which had occurred in times not very remote. Tynecastle was a district largely occupied by working men, and was situate just beyond the Edinburgh municipal boundary. A license was sought for a corner house, and 80 per cent. of the adult inhabitants of the district petitioned against it. Notwithstanding this, the court granted the license, and when the question came before the Confirmation Court, the license was confirmed, notwithstanding the fact that out of 71 householders within 60 yards of the premises, 61 had signed a petition against the granting of the license. It might be said that he ought to proceed by means of a bill, but it was well known that in these times it was almost impossible for a private and independent member to get a bill of any kind through Parliament, and therefore he had proceeded by means of a resolution, and ventured to urge that the time had come when the Ministry should take up the question and deal with it, for he could not admit that even the question of Ireland was more important than that which dealt with the evils which the drink traffic was inflicting on the people of this country. He could not, of course, expect that the Government would in the present state of public business bring in a bill to deal with this question, but he hoped there would be given to the House an assurance that there was an intention to deal with the matter or to support some members of the House who had an intention to do so in a legislative sense. In conclusion, the hon. baronet moved his resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BERR, in seconding the resolution, testified to the interest which was taken in the evils resulting from the drinking customs of the country by the working classes and the public generally, and expressed a hope that the Government would give some assurance that they were prepared to grapple with it in such a way as that the inhabitants of localities should have a voice in the matter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DALY, in opposing the motion, said before the House adopted this proposal, the hon. baronet was bound to show that the drunkenness they all deplored resulted from the present licensing system. The hon. baronet had failed to prove that. But further he was bound to prove that the system he proposed to substitute for the present would decrease intemperance. To neither of these questions had the hon. baronet directed attention. (Hear, hear.) If they were to be governed at all by majorities, it should be by majorities of persons who actually used public-houses. (A laugh.) It was not fair to deprive a man of his liberties by the votes of those who, in taking away those liberties, themselves had nothing to lose. He objected to the scheme as totally unworkable. It would require the whole intellect of the present Cabinet to bring the resolution into a working scheme. A license was a really good, substantial property. He had frequently assisted in adjudicating on licensing questions, and he knew that it was next to impossible to procure a new license in or the transfer of an old license to a locality where the actual requirements were already supplied. The hon. baronet had slurred over the question of compensation, but the principle that it must be given had been affirmed over and over again, and notably in Dublin in 1877. The present Recorder refused to grant the renewal of a license on the ground that there were already licenses enough in the locality. The decision was appealed against and reversed in the Court of Queen's Bench, Lord Chief Justice May stating that existing vested interests should not be extinguished, even with a legitimate object, without compensation.

The hon. baronet spoke of the magistrates as an irresponsible body which had the power of forcing drink-shops on localities, but that was a wild flight of the imagination considering the points on which magistrates were bound to be satisfied, and the power of objecting inhabitants to appear before them. The existence of licensed victuallers' associations was a safeguard against an undue increase in the number of public-houses. The licensed victuallers possessed a monopoly, and it was their interest to keep others outside the ring. (Hear, hear.) If drink was to be sold, it was better for them it should be sold by 11 than by 12. In this fact there was some protection against drink being forced on localities and licenses being granted recklessly. The amount of property involved was 30 or 40 millions, and one-third of that granted a few years ago to Ireland would have made that country a Garden of Eden. (Laughter.) It would be premature and unwise in the House or the Government to hold out the shadow of a promise that the principle of the resolution should be embodied in a bill.

Captain AYLMER said the resolution contemplated local communities taking the place of the magistrates of the land, but the hon. member had not shown what was to be the formation of the body that was to take the place of the magistrates.

Sir W. LAWSON explained that he only proposed a veto which would be exercised by not licensing, not by licensing.

Captain AYLMER continued that it had not been shown how local communities were to exercise the veto—whether the power would be vested in all the residents, whether the veto would depend on manhood suffrage, or whether the women would have a voice. Anyhow, those who were most likely to have the interests of temperance at heart would be most likely to absent themselves from the poll; they would not go to the poll to meet the rowdies and the roughs opposed to temperance. (Laughter and cheers.) The decision would not be arrived at independently, for the public-house people would get at those who had votes, and would use every means to secure their votes for the renewal of licenses. It was possible that in some little gardens of Eden a majority might decide to do without drinking-shops. But it was not certain that other places would not take the opposite course of increasing their drinking-shops. He presumed that by local option those people would have the right to vote for an increase as well as a decrease. What did the resolution mean? It seemed to him that it meant the Permissive Bill pure and simple. (Hear.) It was very certain that if the State found that the sale of spirituous liquors was injurious to the State, it would be the duty of the Government at once to suppress, not only the sale, but the manufacture of those liquors. (Hear.) He did not think that it was the duty of the State to put down altogether the manufacture of spirits, beer, and such like things because a few people used drink to excess. If, then, it was admitted that the manufacture of these things was to go on, on what ground could it be said that the sale of them was not to be permitted. To him it seemed to be utter nonsense to say that a man might manufacture an article but must not sell it. He was as much in favour of temperance as the hon. baronet was in favour of doing away with the fearful effects of intemperance in this country, but he was sure the hon. baronet was not going the right way. The right way was to educate the people as to the vice of intemperance. By making public-houses large, more would be done to promote temperance than could be done by means of the resolution. (Hear, and laughter.) He opposed the resolution because it did not define the mode by which the hon. baronet proposed to do away with the vice of intemperance. The principle of local option was altogether wrong, however applied. After all, it was nothing but tyranny—the tyrannizing of a majority over a minority. (Hear.)

Mr. H. SAMUELSON had never voted for the Permissive Bill, but he had long thought it was necessary to stop what he believed to be a great evil. There was not one word in the speech of the hon. baronet about

the Permissive Bill. He understood that the hon. baronet had for the present altogether thrown aside the Permissive Bill, leaving it to the Government to decide what measures should be introduced. The onus of deciding the nature of the constituency that was to have the power of limiting the number of publichouses should be thrown upon the Government. He would never support any measure which the Government might bring forward unless it provided for the compensation of those whose interests would be affected by it, such compensation to come, not out of the funds of the country, but out of those of the particular locality. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) There was a strong and a growing feeling that some determined effort should be made by the Legislature to put a stop to the evil of drunkenness. For the reasons he had given he should have great pleasure in supporting the resolution. (Hear.)

Mr. HICKS remarked that it appeared that the hon. baronet thought that after so many hours of the day had been devoted to land, the evening should be appropriated to water. (Hear, and a laugh.) He was not there to deny the evils of drunkenness, but, while he was prepared to support any reasonable measure that would contribute to the sobriety of the country, he was not prepared to sanction any bill that was founded upon the principle of total abstinence. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BRIGHT.—The question before the House is one, Sir, of great importance, and is one in which both sides take a great interest, and can be discussed without heat and without passion. We have nothing to gain by making any mistake as to the question to be submitted to the House. Hon. members who have spoken on the other side of the House have, I think, not dealt fairly with the resolution of the hon. member for Carlisle. They have tried it as if it had contained the same grievous and almost poisoned elements which some believe the Permissive Bill to have embodied, and not the simple resolution which I think we all can understand. The hon. member for Cork has drawn rather a fearful picture of the consequence of allowing minorities to tyrannise over majorities. The hon. member for Maidstone has drawn a picture in rather darker colours, and the hon. member for Cambridgeshire has said that he would not set his seal on any project having total abstinence for its object. Well, I would say that these observations have no real reference to the resolution before the House. The resolution does not go further than to refer to the mode of granting licences, and to say that that mode ought to be in accordance with the wishes and wants of the people. (Hear, hear.) It binds the House to nothing more than that the present system of granting licences is not the best system that can be adopted. I myself took that view when the question was less discussed than it now is. I was always of opinion that the Permissive Bill was a main obstacle to licensing law reform—that it contained a principle which the House of Commons was not likely in our time to adopt, and I did what I could to secure that that Bill should be withdrawn. (Hear, hear.) The proposal now submitted to the House is one which every hon. member should support who believes that anything can be done by the House of Commons to discourage intemperance and get rid of that which is a great disgrace to the nation. (Hear, hear.) We have now arrived at this point. The House last year agreed that the present system was not a good one—at least, was not the best that might be adopted. Public opinion, it was said, was in favour of some change in reference to licensing for the sale of intoxicating liquors. My experience in political agitation leads me to think that it is no great charity towards those who are leaders in a great political agitation to think that they are right in believing it to be necessary and desirable to seize every legitimate opportunity to promote, by open discussion, the growth and development of public opinion on the particular question they have in hand. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I do not object at all to the course taken by the hon. member in asking us to re-affirm the proposition submitted to the House last year. I am sure that his purpose is not to ask us to agree to anything like the Permissive Bill, but it is to compel the Government—I do not use the word in

any offensive sense—to urge the Government to take this question, which, as he says, cannot be dealt with by private, unofficial members, into their own hands, and to bring it forward from this bench, which will be a great advance. That is quite true. I do believe the conditions of the House have been such for many years past, that it has been almost impossible at the end of a Session to hope that anything could be done except by the help or by the direct action of the Administration. As the House will recollect, the members of the Government voted some in one lobby and some in the other. It was not then, it is not now, in any sense a party question, and I hope it will never become a party question. In a matter of this nature, in which the public are so much interested, in which the morals of the country are so greatly interested, it would be a great misfortune that party spirit should enter into it, and mar the great work which it may be possible for Parliament to accomplish. I say the resolution of last year did not bind the Government at all; it was merely an expression of opinion on the part of the House; and, although my hon. friend has taken out of the resolution words to which objection has been taken, I am sure that in asking the House to re-affirm the resolution of last year, he does not mean more than to bring a certain pressure to bear on the Government, and to induce them, perhaps at an earlier period than they otherwise would, to introduce some measure upon this difficult question. But carrying a resolution is a very small matter indeed compared with carrying a Bill through all its stages. My hon. friend shrinks from engaging in what we all know would be an almost if not an entirely impossible task. The session is already blocked up by a measure of extraordinary urgency and importance. We have as much to do this session as can be done, and if that great measure be passed it may be that very little else may be done, and some efforts to pass other measures may end in total failure. Though nothing may be done by the Government or by the House this session, I may say for the consolation of the hon. baronet that the question continually grows, and this growth holds out to him a promise of future result. There are two difficulties in the way of a Government dealing with this question. Any Government Bill would meet with considerable obstacles. If it did not give power to suppress the traffic in liquor, but only gave power within limits to control it, I am not quite sure that we should have the earnest and cordial support of the hon. member for Carlisle. In the time that may elapse between now and the introduction of a Government Bill I hope he will in some degree, if not change, at least moderate his views, so that the force behind him may support a Government honestly attempting to deal with this question. The other difficulty is the question of compensation for the suppression of a public-house in case there had been no breach of the law. I gather almost from what the hon. baronet said, that he would not hold it absolutely wrong if Parliament did provide some mode by which men now in lawful business should not be deprived of it without some sort of compensation. (Cheers.) These are two points on which I take it any Bill brought in by any Government would probably differ from that of my hon. friend; and I should regret very much if he felt himself bound the moment a Bill founded on his resolution was brought in, to say it was a measure he would not by any means accept or support. If we are to pass this resolution, it will be another step in advance; we shall be gradually coming to something more like unanimity, and possibly approaching a state of opinion which may facilitate legislation at no distant time. There are several grave questions that are blocking the way. Hon. members are acquainted with a metaphor attributed to me, but really borrowed from my old friend, Colonel Perronet Thompson, who said you could not get six or twelve omnibuses abreast through Temple Bar. We are just in that position now with the great questions to which we are urged to give our attention. There is the question of the land laws with which my hon. friend (Mr. W. Fowler) dealt the other night. There is that other question on which the Liberal party, with scarcely any exception, are united, and which I believe will find support from many gentlemen opposite—the question

of the extension of the county franchise. (Hear, hear.) Then there is the question of the redistribution of Parliamentary seats, which I hope will meet with general support. There is also another question which is pressing very much, and that is the question of the municipal government of this great city of four millions of people. (Hear, hear.) Ireland itself contains only five millions of people; the metropolis in which we are sitting contains, I understand, four millions, and a greater confusion of government probably never existed in time of peace in any great city of the world. (Cheers and laughter.) These are very great and pressing questions, and some of them, at least, I think, are ripe for the consideration of the House, and for being dealt with by Parliament. Well, if the Government is to make a choice, what choice shall it make? It may be that the question of the drink traffic is one so critical and for which public opinion is so little ripe that it would be injudicious to take it up before the other questions I have mentioned. (Hear, hear.) I will not argue against legislation on the general position of my hon. friend; but I may argue that the passing the resolution of last year and the re-affirming the resolution this year must not be understood as compelling the Administration to take up the question and deal with it. If that be the case and the conclusion to which we come, my hon. friend has no reason to regret or despair. My hon. friend may take comfort in this—that although the Government are not prepared now to introduce or promote any Bill upon the question, the agitation among the people, the discussion of the question going on hereafter, as it has gone on during the last few years, will create a movement of opinion which will not only compel some Government to deal with the question, but is necessary to enable any Government to deal with it in a manner which will be effective and satisfactory. The policy pursued by the Government on this bench last year is the policy it pursues now. The resolution is not a resolution of the Government; the policy of the resolution is not a Government policy. It is a policy upon which every member of the House has a right to form his own opinion, and to act upon it. I hope that, whatever the division may be, it will be a division not influenced by party, but by a consideration of what is suitable to the time, and that its result will be to advance the cause which my hon. friend has at heart. (Cheers.)

Colonel MAKINS said that there was one advantage which the House had derived from the speech of the right hon. gentleman, and that was, it had got a rough draft of the Queen's Speech, not only for next session, but for many sessions to come. But the hon. baronet, the member for Carlisle, would not derive much consolation from the right hon. gentleman, for what he said came to this—that the Government could not help him at all, and that he ought to go on agitating and agitating so as to exercise pressure on some future Administration. For his own part he felt as much the necessity of doing something to put an end to the evils of intemperance as even the eloquent apostle of local option himself. But what he quarrelled with was the hon. baronet's method of dealing with the evil. The natural result of the division of last year was that the hon. baronet should have brought in a Bill embodying his views, and then the Government could have said whether they approved it or not. Hon. members might, therefore, go back to their constituents and say that they had voted in favour of temperance, but they must see the Bill on the subject before they could say whether they should support it or not. As the House appeared to be impatient for a division, he would only add that, feeling as strongly as the hon. baronet the evils of which he complained, he did not think the remedy he proposed was likely to be effective, while it would undoubtedly seriously interfere with the liberty of the subject. (Hear, hear.)

The House then divided, when the numbers were:—
 For the resolution, 196
 Against, 154

Majority, 42
 The resolution was therefore carried.

Nothing could better evidence the state of the House of Commons at the present time than contrasting it with its previous condition when discussions on the Permissive Bill or Local Option resolution took place. Like the lasses of Ettrick forest after Flodden field, hon. members seem "lanely, dowie, and wae." The cheery sprightly feeling that used to animate Her Majesty's faithful Commons has given place to a feeling of apprehension which drives pleasure away. The Land Bill like a huge vampire absorbs all vitality from the proceedings of the House. On bye-past sessions the lobby was crowded with strangers urging their various interests on the attention of their representatives, and these were moving hither and thither paying courteous attention to their constituents. This year the Tory squires and aristocracy had not all returned from their Whitsuntide holidays, and of those who had returned the larger portion were at Ascot Races sunning themselves in the radiance of the Court. "Count-outs" are becoming matters of habit. Hon. members are rather sluggish in coming down merely to find the signal of the assembled House on the clock tower of St. Stephen's quenched, and Parliament "Biggared" for the night. The word ran round that a count was one of the likeliest things to happen this evening at nine. But a number of the sympathisers with Sir Wilfrid resolved to form and keep a House. When the Speaker took the chair at nine, Sir Wilfrid immediately rose to face an audience only fair in numbers. The Opposition benches were at first totally deserted, and never were what could be deemed filled; the ministerial side of the House, and under the gangway, furnished the large and appreciative audience which our champion addressed. Year by year Sir Wilfrid grows more serious in his parliamentary utterances; his array of facts was well set forth, and made a deep impression, even the Speaker seeming greatly interested in all he had to say. His witticisms were heartily enjoyed all the more that they were, we think, in due proportion to the earnestness of his address. His speech was well received, only lasting 45 minutes. It appeared as if those in favour of the motion had a common understanding to be brief. Mr. Burt was unusually so, but was as usual impressive. From below the gangway Mr. Samuelson, who has written on drink, vigorously smote the fallacies of preceding speakers, but, to our sorrow, showed as great aversion to the Permissive Bill as its opponents. Mr. Bright rose along with several on both sides, but in respectful deference to the wishes of the House all these gave way. The right hon. gentleman should leave diplomatic speeches to others. He does not shine in halting statements. He was at much pains to show that Government was not committed by the resolution, and that compensation must find a place in any measure dealing with the liquor traffic. He showed that though the Prohibitionists had converted the House, they had not yet converted the Cabinet; but he believed if they went on they would compel some future administration to pass a measure to their liking. Of those who spoke against the motion little need be said. Mr. Daly addressed himself to opposing what Sir Wilfrid did not say, a convenient way of evading the point of his opponent's speech, but scarcely likely to further the cause he has to champion. Capt. Aylmer made a stand in defence of the magistrates, as did also Mr. Hicks; Col. Makins trotted out the old scarecrow of the liberty of the subject, and then came the division. Cheering began as soon as the Clerk handed Sir Wilfrid the paper, and by midnight all was over, another and greater victory adding additional lustre to the efforts of Sir Wilfrid Lawson to free his bleeding country from the evils of the liquor traffic.

THE DIVISION LIST.

The division on the 18th June, 1880, showed that 40 Scotch members voted, and 3 paired in favour of the Local Option resolution, while 5 only voted against it. The members for Scotland affirmed the resolution by 40 votes to 5 or 8 votes to 1. On the 14th ult., Sir Wilfrid moved a resolution asking the Government to deal with the resolution of 1880; this resolution was finally in the following terms:—"That in the opinion of this

House it is desirable to give legislative effect to the resolution passed by the House on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic." The House divided, when 354 members went into the lobby. Of these four were tellers, viz., for the resolution, Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Mr. Burt; against it, Mr. Daly and Capt. Aylmer; 196 voted in favour of the resolution, and 154 against it, showing a substantial majority of 42 in its favour, being 16 more of a majority than the Local Option resolution had a year ago, and that in a House 82 fewer in numbers. The following is the voting as regards COUNTRY:—English votes and pairs—*for*, 139; *against*, 159; Welsh *for*, 20; *against*, 2; Irish *for*, 28; *against*, 22; Scotch *for*, 43; *against*, 5. Total *for*, 230; *against*, 188. As regards party it is as follows:—*In favour*—English Liberals, 136; Welsh Liberals, 20; Irish Liberals, 8; Scotch Liberals, 41; Home Rulers, 11; English Conservatives, 3; Welsh do., none; Irish do., 9; Scotch do., 2. Total *for* 230. *Against*—English Liberals, 17; Welsh do., 1; Irish do., 3; Scotch do., 1; English Conservatives, 142; Welsh do., 1; Irish do., 4; Home Rulers, 15; Scotch Conservatives, 4. Total *against*, 188. Majority, 42.

The pairs on the division number 32; this brings the number in favour up to 230, only 15 behind last year, which, when we consider that 82 fewer voted, speaks eloquently in favour of the progress of the principle of Local Option in Parliament. A very significant fact was disclosed with regard to pairs, namely, that those willing to pair for the resolution could not do so, owing to the failure of the whips to get hon. members to pair against the bill. But for this many more would have paired for the resolution.

The voting on the part of members of the Government was most remarkable. Of thirty members having seats in the House of Commons, 20 voted for the resolution, and 5 only against it. This shows 4 to 1 in its favour, a fact deserving remembrance. Of the Cabinet 5 voted on the resolution—4 for and only 1 against; the four in favour were Right Hon. John Bright, Right Hon. W. E. Forster, Right Hon. G. J. Dodson, and Right Hon. J. Goschen. The one against was the Prime Minister!

THE SCOTCH VOTE.

The Scotch vote was virtually the same as last year, —39 voting and 4 pairing in favour of the resolution, and 5 against it. The vote is diminished by 1 and the pairs increased by 1. Scotland is again a magnificent contributor to the majority, giving more than fourfold that tendered by England, Wales, and Ireland. We annex the list of voters and pairs:—

COUNTIES.—*For*—Ayr (South), Colonel Alexander; Kincardine, Sir George Balfour, K.C.B.; Clackmannan and Kinross, J. B. Balfour (Solicitor-General); Stirling, J. C. Bolton; Fife, Hon. R. Preston Bruce; Argyll, Lord Colin Campbell; Renfrew, A. Crum; Perth, D. Currie; Bute, C. Dalrymple; Roxburgh, Hon. A. R. D. Elliott; Aberdeen (West), Dr. R. Farquharson; Aberdeen (East), Sir A. A. H. Gordon, K.C.B.; Lanark (South), J. G. C. Hamilton; Orkney and Shetland, S. Laing; Linlithgow, P. M'Lagan; Caithness, Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, Bart.; Sutherland, Marquess Stafford; Peebles and Selkirk, C. Tennent, 18. *Paired for*—Elgin and Nairn, Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart.; Kirkcubright, Captain J. M. Heron Maxwell, 2; votes and pairs, 20. *Against*—Haddington, Lord Elcho; Dumbarton, A. O. Ewing; Midlothian, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; and Wigtown, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., 4; majority for the counties, 16.

BURGHES.—Glasgow, G. Anderson, Dr. Cameron; Kirkcaldy District, Sir G. Campbell, K.C.S.I.; Ayr District, R. F. F. Campbell; Stirling District, H. Campbell-Bannerman; Edinburgh, J. Cowan; Elgin District, Right Hon. M. E. G. Duff; Leith District, A. Grant; Dundee, F. Henderson; Inverness District, C. F. M'Intosh; Edinburgh, Right Hon. J. M'Laren (Lord Advocate); Dumfries District, E. Noel; Perth, C. S. Parker; Kilmarnock District, J. Dick Peddie; Falkirk District, J. Ramsay; Greenock, J. Stewart;

Border Burghs, G. O. Trevelyan; Aberdeen, John Webster, LL.D.; Haddington District, Sir David Wedderburn, Bart.; and St. Andrews District, S. Williamson, 20. *Paired for*—Montrose District, Right Hon. W. E. Baxter; Wick District, John Pender, 2; votes and pairs, 22. *Against*—Wigtown District, Admiral Right Hon. Sir John C. D. Hay, Bart., 1; majority for the Burghs, 21. Universities.—*For*—Edinburgh and St. Andrews, Right Hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair, 1. *Against*, none.

There are 56 party constituencies in Scotland, apportioned as follows:—32 counties with 32 members, 22 burghs and groups of burghs with 26 members, and 4 universities with 2 members—total, 56. On the division we analyse, 18 county members voted for, and 2 paired, while only four voted against the resolution, and 8 absented themselves; then 20 burgh members voted and 2 paired for, while 1 only voted against the resolution, and 3 absented themselves. As regards the universities, one hon. member voted and the other absented himself. On no other question relating to Scotland can such a decided expression of opinion be shown. This is the eighth occasion out of thirteen divisions on which Scotland has emphatically declared in favour of her ratepayers having a direct veto on the liquor traffic.

Four Conservatives and one Liberal voted against the resolution, and two Conservatives and 41 Liberals supported it.

All the 5 members of the Government holding Scotch seats voted and paired in favour of the resolution.

While the number of adherents of the principle embodied in Local Option continues to increase on every division, no honourable member who once voted for it has ever been found to vote against it. This cannot be said of those who once supported the publican party. To their credit they have given effect to their altered convictions by recording their votes in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.

We append the names of the 12 Scotch absentees:—Ayr (North), R. W. Cochrane Partick; Banffshire, R. W. Duff; Berwickshire, E. Marjoribanks; Dumfriesshire, R. Jardine; Dundee, G. Armitstead; Forfar, J. W. Barclay; Glasgow, R. T. Middleton; Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, Dr. J. A. Campbell; Invernessshire, Donald Cameron; Lanark (North), Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart.; Paisley, W. Holms; and Ross and Cromarty, A. Mathieson. It is due to Mr. Armitstead, Mr. Marjoribanks, Mr. Jardine, and Mr. Holms, to state that they were anxious to pair for the resolution, but as adverse pairs could not be got, they could not be paired. Had they been paired, the number taking part would have been 52=47 votes and pairs for, and 5 votes against. One wonders how much nearer unanimity the Government would desire Scotland to be on Local Option.

The following formed the deputation to London in the interests of the resolution:—John Williams, Esq., Wishaw; D. Stenhouse, Esq., Cupar-Fife; J. Winning, Esq., Paisley; John Nisbet, Esq., Edinburgh; R. C. Murray, Esq., and T. L. Selkirk, Esq., Glasgow; Mr. M'Donald Tynecastle; Mr. J. H. Waterston, and R. Mackay. Their energetic efforts materially contributed to maintain the splendid Scotch vote.

WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL.

June 15.—The order for going into committee on the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill was resisted, several hon. members speaking strongly in favour of the exemption of several towns from the operation of the Act. The order was carried by 123 to 29—majority 94. On the division in favour of the second reading the Scotch vote was 27 in favour to none against. On this vote of going into committee, the Scotch vote was 25 for—against, not one. We are glad to see included in the twenty-five Mr. A. O. Ewing, Right Hon. Admiral Hay, Mr. R. W. Cochrane-Patrick, meantime sturdy opponents of Local Option. An attempt to mutilate the Bill by exempting Cardiff from its operation, was defeated by 118 to 27—majority 91. The Scotch vote was 19 against exemption and none for it. Scotland has given noble assistance to the Sunday Closing Bills for Ireland and Wales.

FIFTH GENERAL UNION FOR PRAYER FOR THE ENTIRE AND SPEEDY REMOVAL OF THE TRAFFIC IN INTOXICATING LIQUORS AND IN OPIUM.

THE Temperance Prayer Union Society have this year decided that the union for prayer will take place on the week, 4th to 11th December, 1881. They suggest the following subjects for prayer in relation to the

DRINK TRAFFIC.

SABBATH, 4th December.—Confession of the sin of intemperance, by which God is so much dishonoured—multitudes of persons of all classes are still hastening to ruin—with prayer that the causes of the evil may soon disappear. Read Daniel ix. 1-19; Luke xviii. 1-17.

MONDAY, 5th December.—Renewed supplications that the people may soon have the entire control of the liquor traffic, and may rightly use the power when it is obtained. Read Matthew v. 1-16; Psalm lxxviii. 1-8.

TUESDAY, 6th December.—That the fate of those who have fallen victims to intemperance during the past year may lead others who are walking in the paths of the same destroyer to turn without delay from their course of sin and danger. Read Ezekiel xxxiii. 1-16; Psalm vii. 9-17.

WEDNESDAY, 7th December.—That all Agencies and means employed for promoting the temperance reformation may be greatly blessed, and be more and more multiplied. Proverbs iv.; Deuteronomy vi.

THURSDAY, 8th December.—That all who are abstainers, or who may become so, may be true followers of the Saviour, and active workers for the promotion of His glory. Isaiah lv. 6-13; Luke xiii. 23-30.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

FRIDAY, 9th December.—Confession of the great guilt in which the British nation is involved in continuing this fatal traffic with China and other nations. Prayer that the eyes of all ranks may be opened to perceive their sin in this matter. Ezra ix. 4-15; Psalm, cxix, 33-40.

SATURDAY, 10th December.—Thanksgiving to God that the deplored opium traffic has again been the subject of discussion in the British Parliament, and that petitions and remonstrances against the evil have been transmitted from the representatives of various churches and societies during the past year. Psalm ciii.; 2 Thessalonians i.

SABBATH, 11th December.—That the Chinese may resist all inducements to the cultivation of the opium plant in their own country, and may universally combine in abolishing the whole traffic. That thus the destruction of human life, which is fearfully extensive, may be arrested; a powerful obstacle to the present and future wellbeing of the people removed, and that the Gospel in its conquering progress, under the Divine Spirit, may more rapidly advance. Isaiah, lxi.; Isaiah lxii.

All who read this, or receive a copy of the tract itself, are requested to send to Lorimer & Gillies, 31 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, for copies—8d. per 100, or 10d. per 100, post free, and diligently circulate them. They are also requested to unite in one or more of the meetings for prayer, and also to make the topics suggested the subject of much private supplication.

KILLEARN.—A very gratifying ceremony took place in this village on Saturday, 11th ult., namely, the introduction, by means of fourteen wells, of the Burn of Barrachie water for the use of the villagers. This boon was secured through the generous liberality of a native, Mr. Alexander Buchanan, of Messrs Buchanan Brothers, the eminent confectioners of Glasgow and Manchester. The works cost £700. The water is delicious, the supply equal to 50 gallons a day per head of the population, the motive to aid the temperance cause, which Mr. Buchanan has ever at heart. By this deed he has built himself a lasting name as a benefactor of one of the most lovely villages in Strathendrick.

“If I hit yer,” said one small boy to another, “yer’ll be usin’ yerself for snuff ter morrer.”

During the past year the casualties on the Railways of the United Kingdom were 1135 persons killed and 3956 wounded; but there are more than 120,000 slain by drink.

The London correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser* understands that a number of the Edinburgh Liberals are in communication with Mr. E. Jenkins with a view to his standing for the city at the next general election.

DROVERS.—The drover’s work must often make him thirsty one would think, and yet, according to the unimpeachable testimony of the police, he is a sober man. Colonel Henderson, speaking last night at the annual dinner of the Drovers’ Benevolent Institution, said he had asked one of his superintendents what was the general character of the men, and his reply was that he had never seen a drunken drover, and the public-houses built round the cattle market were all failures.—*Globe*.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARD EXHIBITION.—A novel exhibition of designs and pictures, suitable for the Christmas and New Year season, is announced to take place in the Gallery of the Society of British Artists, London, in August ensuing. Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner, publishers, 41 Jewin Street, London, E.C., offer for these designs and pictures prizes to the amount of £3500, and expect, by their own additional purchases, to raise this sum to £5000. The judges are Messrs. Frith and Millais, the Royal Academicians, with Mr. Stone, A.R.A. All designs and pictures must be in the gallery by Tuesday, 26th July, 1881. We hope that the first prizes will be obtained by staunch teetotalers.

A circular, of which the following is a copy, was forwarded to every Scottish representative, in view of the debate and division:—“Intoxicating Liquors (Licenses) Resolution—Sir Wilfrid Lawson’s motion, Tuesday, 14th June, 1881.—Right Honourable and Honourable Members are respectfully reminded that on Tuesday next the following resolution will be moved by Sir Wilfrid Lawson:—‘That, in the opinion of this House, the resolution passed by the House on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic, ought, without delay, to be embodied by the Government in a bill giving effect to the said resolution.’” The House of Commons divided twice in 1880 on Sir Wilfrid Lawson’s resolution. The Scotch vote on each occasion was as follows:—On 5th March, voted and paired, for, 32; against, 7. On 18th June, voted and paired, for, 43; against, 5. On no public question of practical and pressing importance is there at present such substantial unanimity of opinion in Scotland as on this, and the votes referred to are a significant and indisputable proof of it. It seems, therefore, hardly necessary to advance further argument in support of the principle of Local Option, which the House of Commons, twelve months ago, distinctly affirmed. At the same time it is right to state that a widespread impatience has been manifested throughout the country at the delay in giving effect to the resolution. The state of public business may doubtless be pleaded for inaction in reference to this question, on the part of the Government, although numerous measures of minor importance and less urgency have been introduced and discussed. Right honourable and honourable members are earnestly requested to be in their places on Tuesday next, and to support the resolution, in order to strengthen the hands of the Government in giving effect, without delay, to the decision of the House. James Hamilton, J.P., City Treasurer, Glasgow, President; James Torrens, J.P., Glasgow, Chairman of Executive; Thos. Dick, ex-Chief Magistrate, Kinning Park, Vice-Chairman; James L. Selkirk, J.P., Glasgow, Honorary Secretary; Robert M’Callum, Commissioner of Police, Govan, Treasurer; Robert Mackay, Secretary.—Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association; offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, 10th June, 1881.”

THE
Social Reformer.

AUGUST, 1881.

POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE TEMPERANCE
REFORMATION.

(Being a Paper read at a Meeting of the Dumfries
and Maxwelltown Temperance Union.)

BY W. DICKIE.

Scope of the Paper.—It would be impossible to discuss exhaustively the political aspect of the temperance question within the limits of a paper such as I have undertaken to read. All that I can hope to do is to state certain general principles and briefly to present to you some considerations in explanation and support of these principles. I therefore propose to pass over in silence the present licensing laws. Indeed, the time for criticism of them may be said to have passed. Parliament has already pronounced their doom, although it has not yet shaped the substitute for them. Neither will I ask your attention to any of the particular measures which have been proposed as legal palliatives of an evil which, by its universality, has unhappily too well earned the epithet of "national," and the gigantic proportions of which are forcing it upon the attention of statesmen, and of all who take an intelligent interest in the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the country. I believe I shall best secure the object of this paper by addressing myself to the general question, "Is the liquor traffic a proper object of legislative prohibition?" If that question is answered in the affirmative, we will at the same time have made out a case for any measures which, while stopping short of total prohibition, yet proceed on prohibitive lines. And I submit that it should be so answered.

Viscount Sherbrooke's Argument against Prohibition.—In discussing any question, it is an advantage to have the case against you clearly and forcibly stated. I therefore take as the text of this paper a succinct statement by Viscount Sherbrooke of the argument against prohibition. Before his elevation to the peerage, and while sitting in the House of Commons as the representative of London University, Mr. Robert Lowe received a memorial from 269 graduates of that University, asking him to support the Permissive Bill. With characteristic candour, he refused to do so, and with characteristic cogency he gave his reasons for that refusal in the following words:—

"I hold, and am supported in my view by the authority of Adam Smith, that the trade of a retailer of liquor is a useful and necessary trade, especially for the poor, and that the multitude of public-houses is the effect rather than the cause of the taste for intoxicating liquors. Such a trade requires regulation and inspection, but is no fit subject for proscription or extinction. You might as well proscribe the sale of arms because they may be used for the purpose of murder, or of useful medicines because their use in excess may prove deleterious or even fatal.

There is a wide difference between regulating and destroying freedom of action. The former is the legitimate office of Government; the latter is only right when the object is to prevent a specific offence or crime."

Powers and Duties of Government.—As the more convenient course, and also the course most consistent with the rules of logic, I shall deal first with the major proposition here advanced, viz., That the Government has no right to destroy freedom of action, or to prohibit particular trades, unless with the object of preventing a specific offence or crime. I meet this with another general proposition:—

That it is the duty of a Government to adopt efficient measures to protect the lives and property of its subjects. In the discharge of this duty it is called upon not only to punish crime, but to take precautions against its commission, to suppress vice, and to prevent the dissemination of disease; and for these purposes it may, in the exercise of its legitimate functions, impose restraints on individual freedom of action, and prohibit acts or trades not necessarily criminal in themselves, but which are proved, by uniform experience, to be attended with results injurious to the community.

It is not necessary to dwell, by way of proof, on the first part of this proposition. We have abundant proof in the existence of our extensive judicial and criminal establishments, the object of which is the protection of life and property. Neither will I enter into a discussion of the abstract principles of civil liberty. But I shall at once proceed to show by one or two illustrations that the principle which I have laid down has been admitted in the legislation of this country, and is being daily acted upon. Take, first, the case of gambling. There is nothing necessarily criminal in two persons playing together a game of chance, such as cards. Neither does it become so if the parties should agree that the loser is to pay to the winner a sum of money. They would be perfectly entitled to plead that they injured no one, that they only used their own money in the manner which pleased them best. In the same way they could defend the gambling-house which was established for the convenience of those who desired to engage in that form of amusement. They might say, "We need pleasure and relaxation after our day's work, and we find it most to our taste in this form; therefore, the gambling-house is as necessary to us as the news-room is to others; nobody is obliged to frequent it who does not wish to do so; and nobody else has a right to complain so long as we don't defraud anyone." The legislature, however, takes a very different view of the case. It replies: You may be all as honest as you profess to be; gambling in your case, and in the case of thousands of others, may be as innocent as you say it is; but experience has shown that it has a demoralizing effect upon the community, that it leads many persons to play for what is not their own, and to commit

thefts and forgeries, that they may obtain the means of indulging their passion; therefore, in order to remove from those unfortunate persons this temptation, you must give up this form of pleasure; we cannot follow you into your dwelling-houses to see what takes place there, but we will prevent you from pursuing it in any public place. Accordingly, during the reign of our present Queen, several laws have been enacted which prohibit the keeping of gambling-houses, and the playing of cards and other games of hazard in any public place, such as by a roadside; and several cases have lately been reported in which penalties as high as £100 have been imposed for contraventions of these Acts. Thus, the trade of a gambling-house keeper, which was not in itself criminal, and which the frequenters of such a house might plead was necessary for their convenience, has been prohibited because of its mischievous results.

This is an illustration of the anxiety of the law for the protection of our property, which it displays by the removal of temptations to dishonesty. One other example, and that a very homely one, I may cite from the department of sanitary legislation to show that it is equally solicitous about the preservation of our lives, and that for this purpose it adopts similar precautionary and repressive measures. The rearing of pigs is in itself a very innocent, and to many people, I believe, a very profitable form of industry. But experience has taught our rulers that there is great danger that epidemics may be caused, or increased in virulence, by the existence of filthy places such as pig-styes usually are, in districts where there is a dense population. Therefore, the law practically prohibits the trade or occupation of a pig-feeder from being carried on in a populous place. It may be objected that this is not properly a case in point, because the prohibition does not extend to the whole country. I might reply that it is a case of prohibition strictly analogous to what would occur under the Permissive Bill, when it was adopted only in particular districts; but what I am concerned to show is only that the legislature has exercised the power to prohibit this among other trades wherever it has been carried on under conditions inimical to the public welfare. Let it be shown that it can never be carried on except under such conditions, and the same reasons which justified a partial will then justify a total prohibition.

Two other instances of a similar kind I may adduce, in which prohibition has been resorted to for the protection of the lives, not of the people, but of their cattle. The last Parliament, in order to guard against the communication of rinderpest to our herds, prohibited for a time the importation of live stock from foreign countries, and conferred upon the Privy Council power to renew that prohibition whenever circumstances of danger should arise; and at the present moment the movement of live stock from England and Wales into Scotland, is prohibited because murrain has made its appearance in certain English herds.

The several instances of legislation to which I have referred not only prove by accepted practice the right of the State to restrict, and if necessary to prohibit, trades and occupations otherwise lawful when considerations of public health or public morality, or a due regard for the safety of our property, demand it; but they disprove in the same manner the statement of Mr. Lowe that this can only be done, or, as he puts it, freedom of action can only be destroyed, when the object is to prevent a specific offence or crime. There may be no reasonable probability that any specific offence or crime would have been committed in the case of thousands who find their freedom of action in this matter

destroyed by the statutes against gambling and gambling-houses; but because it is necessary to protect others—intellectually and morally weak, we may consider them—from temptations to dishonesty, and the public from the consequences of their dishonest acts, the whole system is prohibited. The object here is to prevent the creation of a condition of things which there is reasonable ground for believing will lead, in a certain small proportion of cases, to the commission of crime. The sanitary laws and the laws regarding the live stock trade to which I have alluded, are enacted not because it is known that a specific offence or a specific injury to society is prevented by the prohibition in any particular case, but because there is a strong probability that the lives of our cattle will be endangered by the introduction of disease, it may be by a single animal out of a hundred herds otherwise healthy, and that the lives of our citizens will be endangered by epidemics occurring, most probably, only at distant intervals.

As still more direct evidence of the exercise of the right to "destroy freedom of action," I shall take three other examples from recent, and I may say, progressive legislation. The first of these is the law which requires that every child shall be vaccinated. Many persons, as you know, object to submit their children to this operation, and entertain a very strong opinion on the subject. Many have submitted to repeated fines rather than comply with the law, and some have suffered imprisonment. Yet, notwithstanding the tenderness for individual opinion which distinguishes the legislature of this country, it here, as in all such cases, insists that these opinions, however honestly and strongly held, shall not be acted upon in a way likely to be detrimental to the community. It has been scientifically demonstrated that vaccination affords a protection from the terrible scourge of small-pox. Therefore the law inexorably demands that individual opinions and personal freedom of action shall be subordinated to the public good; and it requires of all parents that they shall have their children vaccinated for their own protection and the protection of others to whom they might be the means of communicating small-pox.

Take again the Education Act. All parents are compelled by it to begin the education of their children when they are five years old. But I may say: I believe it is far better that a child should not be subjected to any regular course of instruction until it is eight or ten years old, that it should be allowed till that age to develop its physical powers only; I wish at least to make an interesting experiment with my boy; and I assure you that when he has reached what I consider a proper age, I will give him an education that will satisfy all the requirements of the law. But the legislature will listen to no such plea. It says: We are satisfied that ignorance is not only a great disadvantage to the person immediately concerned, but it is a source of great danger to society; and we are further satisfied that if children are not educated between the ages of five and thirteen, the great bulk of them will never be educated at all; therefore, although your opinions may be quite honestly held, and although you may possess both the means and the will to continue the education of your son after he has reached that age, in order that we may be able efficiently to carry out a system which we are satisfied is for the good of the community, you must sacrifice your personal opinions or wishes, and begin his education at the age which the law directs. Thus, in a matter certainly as important as that of trade, and no more but even less within the operation of the law, namely, the management of my family, my freedom

of action is seriously restricted, and in this particular destroyed.

A convincing proof of the soundness of the principle for which I contend is to be found in the matter which for a long period in the early part of the present session monopolised the time of the House of Commons, and in the numerous coercive laws which at former times unfortunate circumstances have rendered it necessary to adopt in the case of Ireland. While Parliament is properly very reluctant to assume such a serious responsibility, it has repeatedly, when crime was more than usually common, asserted and exercised the right to withdraw from the inhabitants of the disturbed districts some of the ordinary privileges of citizens. It has even suspended in such cases one of the main safeguards of our liberties, the right to demand before punishment a fair and open trial, and where heinous crime is charged, the verdict of our peers. The history of "exceptional legislation" in Ireland would also supply an answer to one of the chief points on which Mr. Lowe rests his case. I am not aware that the sale of arms has been absolutely prohibited by any of the Acts to which I have referred, but a serious restriction has at times been put upon that sale, and it has occasionally been made illegal to possess arms without a special license. It has thus been conceded that if a reasonable probability is proved to exist that any considerable proportion of persons possessing firearms will put them to mischievous uses, it is a legitimate exercise of the functions of Government to forbid their use altogether. But these, you say, are exceptional measures. True, and exceptional only because the circumstances to which they apply are happily exceptional. If it can be shown that there are other evils which could be remedied by another exercise of the same prerogative, the case is not weakened by the fact that those evils, instead of recurring once in a decade, are continually operating.

Liquor Traffic Uniformly Injurious to the Community.—I think I may now claim to have established the proposition with which I set out, and to have shown that the Government may, and frequently does, destroy freedom of action and prohibit trades not in themselves criminal, when a regard for the public good requires that this should be done. Let me proceed to apply that principle to the case under consideration. My second proposition is:—

That uniform experience has proved that the public sale of intoxicating liquors is attended with results injurious to the community.

ROBERT BURNS AND THE WINE CUP.

TEMPERANCE men have often, probably none too often, pointed the moral of Robert Burns' life. Let us see if there is not something to be learned from his writings. He has been so long a beacon to warn, let us make him for once a light to guide.

Burns wrote as an inscription for a goblet these lines:—

"There is death in the cup, sae beware!
Nay, more—there is danger in touching;
But wha can avoid the fell snare?
The man and his wine's sae bewitching!"

That is the sum of the whole drink question, "There is death in the cup." To that conclusion are we driven by all research and experience from the poet's day to ours. "Nay, more—there is danger in touching." There is the philosophy of abstinence! Death is in the pot; at just what peg none of us may assuredly declare. Some who thought that it could only be in the lees, have found it in the top-

most bubble. It is there we know, invisible, but terribly real. There is danger in touching; there is positive safety only in abstinence.

But though we are practically agreed about that; though it has been pressed home to young and old till it seems the veriest commonplace, yet does drinking go on, and drunkenness result to an extent that is appalling, even as we dimly realize it. Our brothers and our boys, alas, sometimes our sisters and our girls, do not—it would almost seem cannot—"avoid the fell snare," such is the witchery of its associations. Here is the reason and necessity for our temperance "propaganda" (we thank thee, Dr. Crosby, for teaching us that word). This heart-breaking fact, it is, that will not let us be happy in our personal practice of abstinence, but impels us by all sorts of suasion, moral and legal, to induce others to be altogether such as we are, bonds and all; urges us to call on all good citizens to declare a complete and eternal divorce of the man from the wine, of social enjoyment from its hitherto universal, but unworthy and pernicious symbol, the intoxicating cup; constrains us to use voice and vote to influence our legislatures to withdraw State sanction from the impoverishing and debasing drink institution, and give us Home Protection.

In his address "to the unco guid," Burns says:—

"See social mirth and glee sit down,
All joyous and unthanking,
Till, quite transmogrified, they're grown
Debauchery and drinking!"

What a graphic picture of the easy and unconscious descent from innocent enjoyment to folly and vice! In this verse may be found the key to much of Burns' praise of strong drink. The goblet was in his day as in ours, the accepted symbol of sociability and good-fellowship, and the poet who would sing of these naturally chose their recognized emblem for his theme. Analyse "Willie brewed a peck o' maut," the heartiest drinking song extant, and see how little of its praise is given to the drink as drink—how much of it is bestowed on "social mirth and glee," at once the moving cause and natural outcome of such meeting of congenial souls. When Burns extols the drink for its own sake, it is usually in a humorous and half satiric vein. His oft-quoted phrase, "Freedom and Whisky gang thegither," if read understandingly with the context, is a piece of the keenest irony. When we read the verse quoted above, let us not say that Burns wilfully favoured debauchery and drinking. He sang of "social mirth and glee," but let us not accuse virtue of begetting vice. Innocent sociability never begat debauchery. Drink, its arbitrary symbol, is responsible for this vile spawn. Against the drink is our warfare, not against human happiness. We would increase the sum of social enjoyment, by guarding it against the foe who takes advantage of its unthanking and unarmed moments.

It is noticeable that Burns in his serious moods, and in the moments of worthy aspiration, despises drink and all mere sensual indulgence. "Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wines, A man's a man for a' that," is one of his stirring sentences. In another poem he says:—

"Gie dreeping roasts to country lairds,
Till icicles hang frae their beards;
Gie fine braw claes to fine life-guards,
And maids o' honour.
And yill and whisky gie to cairds,
Until they scunner.

While ye are pleased to keep me hale,
I'll sit down o'er my scanty meal,

Be't water-broze or muslin kail,
Wi' cheerfu' face,
As lang's the muses dinna fail
To say the grace."

It was the poet's prayer for *his* countrymen, shall we not echo it for *ours*—

"Oh, may Heaven their simple lives prevent
From luxury's contagion, weak and vile."

Alas, that we cannot point to the hard's practice for encouragement and example! Alas, that he was so little able, and so little helped to "avoid the fell snare!" But while we lament the folly of his ways, shall we not lay to heart the wisdom of his words, written as his own epitaph—

"Reader, attend—whether thy soul
Soar Fancy's flights beyond the pole,
Or darkling grubs this earthly hole
In low pursuit—
Know, prudent, cautious self-control,
Is wisdom's root."

D. M. HENDERSON.

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

THE WATCH'S FIRST OWNER.

I WAS made in Geneva many years ago, in fact, I must acknowledge that I am far down the hill of life. My outward case is less brilliant than it used to be, and the wreath of forget-me-not's engraven on my back became visible only through a magnifying glass long ago, but I still keep time to a minute.

I have seen a great deal of life, and as I am of a peculiarly observant turn of mind, it would be an easy task for me to fill a volume with my experience. But during that long life I have met no human being who interested me as my first owner did, nor any life-history which left such an indelible impression on my mind. I will tell it to you now briefly; for your sake I wish what I have to tell were not so sad.

Geneva is a very beautiful place, as those who have visited it know well. I found it a pleasant residence during the short time I spent there, and I keep a warm corner in my heart for it yet. The first few months of my existence were passed in a watchmaker's window in the principal street of St. Gervais, from which I could obtain a good view of the Rhone and the streets on the opposite bank. It was the summer time, and tourists were plentiful. I used to beguile the time by trying to read their histories in their faces as they passed, only, to do this well, one must have a very brilliant imagination, which is not a gift of mine.

Nobody inquired my price, so when the autumn waned, and the weird summits of the Alps were capped by another winter's snow, I, along with a number of my companions, was shut up in a huge packing case, in which we remained till our spirits went down to zero. We were conscious of being transferred from one place to another, but were entirely ignorant of our destination. When we once more saw the light of day we found ourselves in the establishment of a fashionable jeweller in Regent Street, London, and after being carefully polished and regulated, we were placed in a case in the window. My amazement at seeing the never-ending throng passing and repassing the window cannot be expressed. Geneva in the height of the season was nothing to it. However, I gradually grew accustomed to it, and even to weary of the monotony. I had lost my old habit of trying to read faces, and the time passed but drearily. I began to long for a purchaser, and my vanity was severely hurt at being allowed to lie so long.

However, one day, to my intense delight, the shopman put his hand into the window and lifted me out, case and all. There were two customers at the counter, a lady and gentleman, young, well-matched, and handsome. The gentleman wished to buy a watch for his

wife, and his taste seemed to be fastidious. The counter was littered with gold watches of every size and design, but he picked me up, and eyed me critically. My heart beat, especially when the lady took me in her hand. She looked at me for a minute with her gentle eyes, and then said,

"I should like this, Jack. The design is exquisite."

To my unspeakable delight a bargain was concluded, I was transferred to the lady's possession, my price paid, and the pair marched out of the shop. It was a disagreeable night outside, and almost impenetrable fog hung over the city, making queer yellow circles round the gas lamps, and dimming the shop windows. The gentleman seemed to be very anxious lest his wife should take cold, and both were glad to reach home. It was in a quiet street, which bore the unmistakable stamp of gentility, the house being substantial, and even elegant, while on the opposite side was a narrow strip of garden ground, named the Park. They paused at one of the doors and knocked. It was answered immediately by the neatest and daintiest of maid servants, quite a sight to see.

The lobby was prettily furnished, and had a new look; so had the dining room they entered, but it was the perfection of comfort. The big table was pushed back and a small one drawn near the blazing fire. Supper was laid for two. The lady left the room almost immediately, to remove her walking dress, I suppose, while the gentleman proceeded to get his feet into the slippers toasting on the fender. Now that I got a better look at him I did not like him. I could not tell why.

Before long the lady came back, and as she knelt down to warm her hands, I saw how fair she was, and oh, how very, very young. Too young, I thought, to be a wife.

"This is comfort, Jack," she said with a bright smile, and then she lifted me from the table, and admired me anew. By and by she placed me on the mantle, in close proximity to the timepiece, in whom I was delighted to discover a distant relation I had often heard of, but never seen. While our owners were at supper my cousin and I entered into a very friendly conversation, in which he told me that his master's name was Sylvester, that he held a lucrative situation somewhere in the city, and that he had married three months ago one of the sweetest girls in all London. She was an orphan and a governess. Ah, my friends, you don't know what bitter life histories lie hid beneath those two words. I have seen—well—I must not tell it, at least not here.

I asked him his opinion of Mr. Sylvester, but to my astonishment, he only shook his head ominously, and thereafter declined to talk any more. Then I took to looking again at our owners. They had finished supper, and Mrs. Sylvester was about to ring the bell, when her husband crossed to the sideboard, and opening it took from it a glass and a bottle labelled "brandy." She left the bell and laid her hand upon his arm.

"Don't, Jack, don't touch it," she said pleadingly.

"Not to-night, when you have been so kind to me."

He shook off her hand and laughed lightly.

"Don't be frightened, Mary," he said carelessly.

"The damp has got into my throat somehow—a glass will make it all right."

"You know you cannot stop at a glass, Jack," she said, and I could detect the quiver in her voice. "Give me the key, dear, and let me lock it up."

He pushed aside her outstretched hand more unkindly than he need have done, and filled the glass to the brim. She went from him then, and leaning her arm upon the mantel, looked into the fire with grave and sorrowful eyes.

"I don't want to hurt you, Mary," said her husband, speaking in a stern, harsh voice. "But you *must* not dictate to me in matters like this."

"I dictate to you! Oh, Jack, have I ever done it?"

"You are too good for me I know, Mary," he said, not heeding her interruption, "yet you were willing to take me with all my faults."

"In the hope that you would mend them," said she sadly. "You promised me so much, Jack, and yet you

have broken faith with me more than once already. I don't want to lose trust in you, but how can I help it?"

He compressed his lips, and I saw how even a handsome face can be disfigured by selfish passion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

A WEEK IN EDINBURGH.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

STR.—All tourists are attracted by Edinburgh. Besides being the capital of our country, its situation and surroundings give delightful effect to its noble buildings. It is famous for this alone. But its history especially, and the extent to which it dips into the national history, are an attraction to all alike—to Scotsmen and the intelligent of every nationality. Mary, as she is still seen, siding with her subtle French relatives, in their attempts to stereotype the past, and restore to undiminished power the disrupted ecclesiasticism of the middle ages, is, in her courage, beauty, diplomatic capacity, and devotion to the old faith, a personality to hover about, if not in sympathy, in sadness. All who beget this kind of sadness are fascinating, and Mary is fascinating. Yet, it seems, from the glimpses we get of her, that the stains with which she is besmeared from her passions, might not have soiled her so, if the gifts and culture of her nature had been able to resist the temptations which came in upon her from the shock she received in the losing battle she had to fight against the new order of things which Scotland was in no small degree commissioned to diffuse throughout Europe. Mary, her beauty, her strength, and her failings, make Edinburgh and Holyrood attractive, as the scenes of sin and sufferings, very sadly human indeed. And John Knox, the great personality in the opposing host she had to grapple with and be overcome by, is as much in Edinburgh now as a man is felt to be in the room from which he has just been removed to his "long home." I never look on his house at the head of the Canongate without a feeling something like this. When he was there he had a right to remain that no power could invalidate; and when he is gone it is still his through his undying influence. John is in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Europe to-day in a greater and more real sense than he is in the Auld, the Free, and the U.P. Kirks. The logical outcome of his movement is felt in the onflow of government by the people, in critical investigation, and in the conferred and prospective benefits from science and mechanism. These in no small measure are John's outcome. But without doubt it is greater than he calculated on. With the aid of Puritan Scotland, helped ultimately by the English Puritans, he established the right of private judgment, and ever since free inquiry has gathered strength to overcome opposition.

As I kept the "crown of the causeway," from Adair's Dunedin Temperance Hotel in the High Street down through the Canongate to Holyrood, and back to the Castle, on Saturday night, the 11th of June, my mind was occupied with this and other events which have made Edinburgh what it is felt to be. And, flooded as my ruminating was with the screech of drunken voices which came from the stationary and moving groups through which I had to find my way, I was distressed with the consideration that the drinking which occasioned the commotion and noise was to our time, with all its development, a greater obstacle to the progress of the future than was the state of matters which Mary failed to maintain against the onslaught of John in their time. The present, with its culture and freedom and diffused wealth, is the result of John's success in leading the people to know, think, and act in and for themselves. But freedom, culture, and wealth, when they cultivate vice are more to be deplored than tyranny, ignorance, and poverty, for they are then its slaves. And when the best powers of our nature are enthralled

to make prosperity minister to the worst, the hope of amendment becomes distant. This is especially the case when they are made to give brilliancy to the vice of drinking. While intoxication weakens will-power, it disposes to mental trifling and insincerity; and this state of mind is asserting itself so that its influence is felt in all directions. Wherever we turn we have to confront the demand for amusement. This demand has gone all the length of public houses without the drink, and in these centres of soberifying influence it is responded to with the means of gambling in comfortable circumstances. Even this attempt to wean the mentally enfeebled from drink must be baited with what is acceptable to trifling insincerity. It has already come to this. To save those tainted with drink they must be amused on the lines of insincere selfish mental excitement. They are becoming too weak to bear the strain of mental activity in the pursuit of a legitimate object, and too trifling to stand by a principle in self-denying persistent effort to give it headway. Everybody is craving of everybody to be entertained. In this respect our aim is little higher than that of a smart spoiled child. Our drink system, cultivated for revenue, substitutes the sensation of intoxication for the joy of sober thought; and we are becoming a funny people, without wit or sense, and a jolly lot, full of deliriousness, leading to despair.

I have been in all the large centres of population in the United Kingdom, with my eyes open to the social indications present in their streets, but in the High Street and Canongate of Edinburgh there were on Saturday night, the 11th of June, a greater display of drinking, and its effects, than I have ever seen anywhere in the same space and time. Those composing stationary groups who could not be reckoned drunk, were evidently on edge with the expectation of drink. It was interesting to observe the younger groups of this description. In their faces animal spirits looked out buoyant with the sense of relief from toil which Saturday brings. Thus relieved and at leisure, spirit-edness leaped in the spring time of their being, but there was in it the ferment of jolly-dog-ism, putting it on tip-toe to bound over into drunken excess, spiced with the indulgence which the young eagerly revel in when the bounds of innocence are passed.

These groups were on the first form in the school of publicanism, and reduced from the natural wholesomeness of youth. They were being transformed to have pleasure in intoxication, its inanities, sensualities, and brutalities, rather than in the guidance of thought and feeling, with their truth and joy, as they lead life, in order, up to development.

Mr. Gladstone would make every railway train a public-house, to cultivate this depravity and increase the revenue. And that it may not be diminished with the poverty that it gives, he votes with the Tories and the publicans against Sir Wilfrid and prohibition.

Then there were those who composed the moving groups. They were evidently intoxicated; and as they crashed through the crowded streets there could be no doubt that they were driven by a drunken impulse to realise the spree in swaggering good nature and maudlin fun, or in an opportunity for more unlicensed indulgence. They had made great progress under the training of publicanism, fostered by the licensing magistrates. They were enslaved and driven by the drink craving to waste themselves and their means in drunken indulgence.

The Liberals boast of repealing the Corn Laws, and of thereby releasing wages to purchase what the people produce. But where is the prosperity? The share of it that has come to the people is absorbed in the drink trade, and in the time of free-trade, as in the time of protection, crime and pauperism remain unsolved problems. In fact, restriction is perpetuated in publicanism as the means of revenue. The people, tempted and trained to waste their wages in drink, are less prosperous than they would be if they were sober and thrifty and eating their bread at Corn Law prices. Wages expended in drink are more effectually drained from trade than they were when expended on dear corn. For while the manufacture of drink gives little employ-

ment it takes corn for raw material and destroys it. This loss, added to the local taxes occasioned by pauperism and crime, cannot fall far short of the revenue derived. It must take as much in this wasteful manner to collect the drink tax as it amounts to. And while the Liberals foster and maintain this state of matters they are not free-traders, but the maintainers of a monopoly to demoralise and starve the people for revenue.

Besides these groups, in the drink-expectant mass, there were isolated *swaggerers, stoilers, and lancers* on to the perpendicular, by the strength they had in themselves, to keep erect, or by pressing close to a wall, or to a person able to uphold them. These could no longer keep the step and they had fallen out of the ranks. This army of Edinburgh revellers, organised and drilled by government licensing magistrates and their officers the publicans, had its wounded and its slain as other armies have in active service. These last that I have described were thus out of the ranks.

There was still another section, but those who composed it were obstructively active in no ordinary degree. They stood up and battered each other, or holding each other down rolled about on the causeway, surrounded by crowds who pressed in to see the brutal display with eager interest. It was evident that the police (or ambulance corps to this army) officered by the publicans, with their commissions from the Government, had more to do than they could overtake in removing the wounded, for they merely looked on at much of the battering and rolling, as if, like the swaggering and stoitering, they were not to be too narrowly looked into. Such was Edinburgh as I saw it in the High Street and the Cannongate on Saturday evening, the 11th of June.

I had arrived to speak on the following evening in the Queen's Park, and when the hour had come round, and the meeting had gathered and settled down, it was such as a man with a thought to illustrate would desire to talk to. The people had come to listen as they had done in their places of worship during the day. They were an audience; and an utterance without an audience is a greater waste of mind and of time than an audience is without an utterance. People who are something mentally in themselves are not any the worse when they get little mentally presented to them. But he who talks to a rabble who can neither take in thought, nor stimulate thought in him while he does talk, is greatly to be sympathised with by every intelligent person. This meeting in the Queen's Park did both. The *Daily Review* estimated the numbers present at 1000.

On each of the following nights, except one, I delivered addresses in different quarters of the city until Saturday, the 18th. The meetings in Nicholson Square and in the Temperance Hall, Nicholson Street, which were addressed in one night, are pleasant to think of. They were attentive and orderly. But those held in Parliament Square and Lady Lawson Street were the reverse. It is a mistake to attract meetings in the open air where the need for sobriety greatly transcends the capacity or desire to listen earnestly to the discussion of any truth. This was the case at these meetings, and interruptions and disturbances prevailed while they continued. I believe it has grown customary at gatherings of this sort to sustain the audience, as it is called, with chaff for chaff, and stale joke for stale joke as they are thrown in upon the speaker in a stream of continuous interruption. The temperance movement is not to be sustained by such meetings and such advocacy. They have in many places chased away the thoughtful, sincere, and morally reliable. No movement to reform society can prosper in the absence of these. The other lot are for fun and horse-play. These are in earnest; the other lot live to be amused. These manfully think and act to make the present a blessing to the future. Abuses have never been removed by fun, nor progress facilitated by entertainment. To remove the one and secure the other is now, as it has ever been, the work of men impressed by the prevailing evil, and resolved in all earnestness to remove it. Drink is not to be counter-attracted, it is to be

rooted out. Drink shop fun at temperance meetings can only have the effect of sending the people back to the drink shop for the fun and the drink together. To make out-door meetings a culturing power to root out the drink trade they should be held continuously in places favourable to the attraction of thoughtful people. In this way earnest men would be brought into contact to use the temperance movement, not as a counter-attraction to publicanism, but for its destruction.

And to cultivate this contact with all that it is fitted to bring about, the ablest and most earnest men of the movement should take to the CHAIR, and make out-door meetings, as they are fitted to become, the central, mental, moral, and political power in our movement.

JOHN PATON.

THE UNFERMENTED WINE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

6 Bond Court, London, E.C., July 5, 1881.

To the Editor of "*Social Reformer*."

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago you gave a cordial notice of the work undertaken by the Unfermented Wine Vigilance Committee. May I bring this same subject once more before your readers? The Report by J. Carter Bell, Esq., F.C.S., on Sacramental Wines is of so interesting and important a nature that it is most desirable that this document should be in the hands of every minister, church officer, and temperance reformer in the Kingdom. The committee have issued it with this end in view, and to secure this thorough circulation it is necessary to have a host of cordial co-operators. I am pleased to be able to acknowledge most valued aid already rendered to my committee, but much ground still remains to be covered, and those of your readers who have not already received a supply of these documents can render most important service by at once communicating with me, giving an estimate of required number for judicious distribution in the respective districts, when I shall have much pleasure in sending parcels of the papers, post free, to all such applicants. The postal addresses should be distinctly given, as I have already several applications to which I cannot attend in consequence of insufficient addresses. If any of your readers have not received their parcels in reply to this application I trust that they will kindly repeat this request, regarding the above as the explanation of my non-attention to their first request.

In conclusion I desire to solicit the help of your readers in the compilation of a list of churches where Unfermented Wine is now used. I shall be glad to have all such churches reported to me without delay, so that our list may be as perfect as possible,—I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant.

JOSEPH T. F. BISHOP, Hon. Sec.

In the Presbyterian General Assembly, the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved a resolution against prohibition, but the report of the committee on temperance was adopted by a vote of nearly two to one. This report urges the church to more energetic action, affirms that "total abstinence is correct in principle"; directs Presbyteries and Sessions to hold conferences upon the subject, declares the Scott (Permissive) Act "correct in principle, and that any changes should be in the direction of further restriction and more effective working of the act." There can be no doubt the endorsement of this influential body will add momentum to the movement towards prohibition—the only satisfactory solution of the drink problem. Other religious bodies have taken similar ground, and the sentiment in our favour is very strong. But we lack the organisation and determination which characterises the movement in the Old Land. It will be well for you to take newspaper statements regarding the working of prohibition in the United States with several large grains of salt. In addition to the great influence a wealthy community like the distillers and brewers must wield, there is a suspicion that they have actually

subsidised the associated press. At all events the colouring of intelligence from Kansas, Maine, Vermont, &c., is unmistakable, and many of the statements put forth on some, to me unknown, but it is alleged, reliable authority, has no foundation in fact. If you want to witness a real failure, come and see the Ontario license law in operation. It is giving more and more satisfaction to the publicans, and I regret to say that some of our temperance men do not heartily condemn it while their political friends are in power. By the bye, the hon. Mr. McLelan, who lately joined the Dominion Cabinet, seems to be a prohibitionist, at least I find by the Senate debates that he spoke and voted against the amendment to the Scott Act proposed by Senator Almon.—Yours faithfully,

Orillia, 6th July, 1881.

G. H. HALE.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, from 15th May to 14th July inclusive. During that period, 164 meetings were held, 79 being deputation, and 85 ordinary. At these meetings, 238 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Ayr, Dumbarton, Paisley, Govan, Glasgow, Perth, Kilmarnock, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Ferryden, Montrose, Greenock, Edinburgh, Partick, Pollokshaws, Whiteinch, Irvine, and Nairn, and addressed 49 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Stornoway, Invergordon, Beaulie, Aberdeen, Macduff, Banff, Portsoy, Cullen, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Ferryden, Montrose, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Elgin, Lossiemouth, Dufftown, and Nairn, and addressed 35 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has visited Ayr, Dumbarton, Paisley, Govan, Perth, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Greenock, and addressed 30 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Paisley, Glasgow, Greenock, Clarkston, Pollokshaws, Kirkintilloch, Irvine, and Partick, and addressed 29 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Glasgow, Edinburgh, Freuchie, London, Kirkcaldy, Dysart, and Pathhead, and addressed 25 meetings. Mr. J. H. Waterston went to Ireland, in room of Rev. A. M'Kinley, and while there addressed meetings in Lurgan, Ballinahinch, Belfast, Dromore, Moyallen, Gifford, Carrickfergus, Druminess, and Donaghadee. The meetings addressed were 24 in number. We append a notice of them from the Irish newspaper press—

'IRISH TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—Mr. J. H. Waterston, of Edinburgh, has just concluded a lecturing tour in the north of Ireland, under the auspices of the Irish Temperance League, which has given great satisfaction. Most of the meetings were held in the open air, and as Mr. Waterston is a ready, racy, and agreeable speaker, and brimful of anecdote, his addresses, as may be expected, were highly appreciated by his large and enthusiastic audiences.'—*Belfast Weekly Telegraph*, July 16, 1881.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Nackerty, Glasgow, London, Greenock, Partick, Hamilton, Whiteinch, Kirkintilloch, and Irvine, and addressed 19 meetings.

Rev. A. M'Kinley has visited Edinburgh, Leith, Peebles, and Selkirk, and addressed 11 meetings.

The Rev. Mr. M'Kinley met with a very gratifying reception while in Scotland, and cherishes a pleasing remembrance of the kindness and attention of the friends concerned in the arrangements for his meetings, and in the provision for his comfort and accommodation.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has visited Glasgow, Bonhill, Partick, and Alexandria, and addressed 11 meetings.

Mr. John Ripley has addressed 5 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh and Leith.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 3 meetings in Hawick and Selkirk.

Bailie Selkirk has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Mr. M. Edwards has addressed 2 meetings in Aberdeen.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Revs. John Kirk, Edinburgh; J. M'Dougall, Glasgow; and J. E. Dobson, Aberdeen; Ex-Bailie Lewis, Edinburgh; Messrs. R. M'Callum, Glasgow; James Winning, Edinburgh; John Buchanan, Dumbarton; W. J. Wood, Glasgow; D. Brown, Hamilton; D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; G. Sands, Edinburgh; John Butters, Edinburgh; and D. Moore, Glasgow.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Offices—112 Bath St., Glasgow, July, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—We are desired on behalf of the Executive to respectfully request a subscription from your Society to the funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

The Executive do so for the following among other reasons:—

I.—The funds at their disposal are not at all adequate to such a vigorous prosecution of the movement as they desire, and as is necessary for the speedy realization of the object of the Association—the suppression of the liquor traffic by the will of the people.

II.—By its energetic efforts—which they are glad to be able to state are now shared by all sections of the movement in Scotland—the Association has created a wide-spread, growing, and enlightened public opinion in favour of the abolition of all traffic in alcoholic liquors.

III.—Through its efforts at parliamentary election contests, and by its electoral canvass, the Scottish Electoral Constituencies at last General Election returned an overwhelming majority of representatives to the House of Commons, pledged to vote in favour of placing the existence of the liquor traffic unreservedly in the power of the ratepayers affected by its operations.

IV.—Twice since the General Election the House of Commons have divided on the Local Option Resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The Scotch vote in 1880 stood as follows:—43 votes and pairs for; only 5 votes against. This is a majority of more than 8 to 1. Last month, on the House dividing on the same question, this splendid vote was maintained. On no other question of interest to Scotland can such a decided expression of parliamentary opinion be shown.

V.—While sedulously prosecuting its special objects in the constituencies, it has ever offered assistance and co-operation to kindred associations. On all platforms its advocates and agencies may be found diligently striving to diffuse the blessings of temperance and prohibition among all classes of the community.

To enable it to continue and increase its efforts, which have on them the stamp of unquestionable progress and success, we very confidently appeal to your Society as one who, recognizing the faithful work it has done, is prepared to encourage its labours by a generous response to this request for financial assistance. Waiting your kind and early reply to this application, addressed to the Secretary,—We are, very faithfully yours, James Torrens, J.P., Chairman of Executive; R. M'Callum, Treasurer; J. L. Selkirk, J.P., Honorary Secretary; Robert Mackay, Secretary.

Ward Beecher says that the saddest faces he sees are those of women who have passed middle life.

The Persians have a saying that "Ten measures of talk were allotted to mankind, and the women took nine."

ON A BREAD PLATTER.—"Well, Esther, can you read that?" "No, mamma." "Well, it is rather difficult. These are Old English characters." "Are they? Then it is no wonder the ancient Britons could neither read nor write!"

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, AUGUST, 1881.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The twenty-third annual meetings of this Association will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday, 27th September, 1881.

The business meeting will take place in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, at 11 a.m. Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., President of the Association, will occupy the chair. The annual reports will be submitted, office-bearers elected, and business of importance considered.

The social meeting of members and their friends will be held in the Saloon of the City Hall, Candle-riggs, at 4 p.m. precisely. John Williams, Esq., The Green, Wishaw, will preside at this meeting. Addresses by delegates and representatives of kindred associations.

The public meeting will be held in the City Hall in the evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

LORD COLIN CAMPBELL, M.P., in the chair.

Farther particulars will appear in the next issue of the *Social Reformer*. This early notice is given to allow the friends of the Association ample time to make arrangements for being present. The Executive have a confident hope that they will be gratified by a large and enthusiastic attendance at all the meetings.

R. MACKAY, *Secy.*

THE TEMPERANCE REFORMATION FROM
A MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW.

BY JAMES MURRAY M'CUULOCK, M.D., &C.,
DUMFRIES.

We are glad that a second edition of this truly excellent lecture has been called for. It is beyond question the best argument for prohibition to which we can point, embodying the essence of all that has been written on abstinence as the duty of the individual, and prohibition by the will of the people as the duty of the state.

Copies are to be had from the office of this magazine, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, at one penny each, or six shillings per hundred, exclusive of carriage. Special

terms for larger quantities. On receipt of twelve stamps, a dozen copies will be sent post free to any address.

We confidently rely on the liberal assistance of our friends in securing a large circulation for this admirable lecture.

The Temperance Reformation from a Medical Point of View. By James Murray M'Cuulloch, M.D., Dumfries. (Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow). One penny.

This is the reprint of a lecture delivered by request to the students of Glasgow University by a provincial physician of eminence. It is beyond question one of the most trenchant assaults upon alcohol and the traffic which has ever appeared. The Association does well to republish it, and to offer its 20 octavo pages of well-printed matter at the wonderfully low price of six shillings per hundred.—*Dr. F. R. Lees in the "National Independent."*

Orders (terms cash) respectfully requested.

Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow.

It is to us a perennial source of surprise that our Legislature should be so very inconsistent in their dealings with admitted dangers. The people of Scotland have, through their parliamentary representatives, often demanded power to suppress the liquor traffic which affects them. Yet Parliament hesitates, minimises the danger of the public house and, in very cowardice as it were, refrains from affording protection to the soberly disposed rate-payers anywhere, against their enemies the drinker and the drink seller. Yet, the other day, when Mr. Summers, M.P., in the House of Commons, put it to the Home Secretary that there was extreme danger menacing the citizens of Liverpool from the great quantities of gunpowder stored in hulks on the Mersey, the contrast between their supineness as regards the liquor traffic, and their vigilance as regards gunpowder could not be more marked. The floating powder magazines on the Mersey have in store 400 tons of gunpowder, the explosion of which would doubtless lay Liverpool in ruins. Some time ago a ship on the Mersey with a cargo of gunpowder blew up, and gave the glazier and other tradesmen an unlimited supply of work in reglazing and renewing the windows that were shattered by the explosion. Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., by whose department, and not that of the Home Office, the question had to be answered, informed the interested House that there were special places on the river where these floating powder magazines were moored, that the Admiralty could order them anywhere, that an officer was specially appointed to look after them, and that a revenue cruiser was specially appointed to watch them, and that its boats contained a row guard. Even these severe precautions did not seem to assure the citizens sufficiently, and something more was apparently determined upon, of which the questioner was to have the earliest information. Now, let our readers sum up all the disasters which have followed

the manufacture and storage of gunpowder, and he will be pleased to find that because of extreme vigilance these have been comparatively few; in fact, for many years, Liverpool has enjoyed an entire immunity from such explosions. Yet that city has nearly 2400 public houses and beer shops with their appalling results. The murders, wife beatings, and similar fearful crimes, the fruits of these places, have multiplied to such an extent that Liverpool has received the name of "the dark spot on the Mersey." We cannot help thinking that our Government, to be consistent and even-handed, should take proper precautions to protect its subjects equally from the evils of intoxication, as from the dangers of gunpowder, just as the manifold dangers to the physical, moral, and mental nature, arising from the liquor traffic, transcend in quality and amount the happily rare dangers of gunpowder. As regards gunpowder, Government seeks to fortify the people against what is only a possible stroke; in the case of alcohol, we aim at getting power to avert the actual dangers and calamities which are inseparable from the traffic in alcoholic liquors. We cannot help mourning over their inconsistency, but we certainly shall not rest contented under their timidity or neglect to do us justice; they will neither have peace nor rest till justice be done to their subjects through the suppression of the liquor traffic being entirely in the power of the ratepayers.

During the present summer the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has "bad business on its hand." The demands upon its open-air agencies have been without a parallel in its history. The only regret is that it has not been better equipped for meeting them. So far as it has been able, however, it has gone heartily and devotedly into the work, and with the cordial co-operation of friends and committees, the truths of prohibition and the rightful policy with regard to it have been presented most effectively to the inhabitants of every town of importance in Scotland. Having a conviction in favour of the educational value of open-air meetings that deepens year by year, we rejoice at the abundant labours in this direction on the part of the agents and advocates of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and believe that they largely tend to speedily hasten the entire suppression of the liquor traffic.

A very important answer was given in the House of Commons by Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., the other day to a question regarding an engineer dismissed from the service for drunkenness. It appears that at the very moment his services were in request he was found utterly incapable of rendering them, and as, unfortunately for him, this was not his first offence, he was tried and sentenced to dismissal and disgrace. It is, however, to Mr. Trevelyan's comment that we wish to direct the attention of our readers. He said, "Drunkenness is a fault to which, however painful

the individual cases are, it is not permissible to show indulgence when such vast and delicate machines as the 'Northumberland' with all her crew are dependent on the care and judgment of a single officer." The case between society and those under responsibility with respect to it could not be better stated. Take any great concern—a shipload of people, a train and its passengers, a work with its operatives, or public institutions and their curators—and apply the doctrine to their case as precisely as Mr. Trevelyan has done to the 'Northumberland,' and its engineer, and you establish a case in which it is no longer admissible to tolerate drinking people in positions of trust. But to make a wholesale holocaust of this sort would be little less than a calamity, and quite unnecessary, when the better alternative lies within our reach. We can retain their valuable services by the removal, like a wise people, of that which exerts if unchecked a disastrous influence on their fortunes. To conserve then that skill, that knowledge, that power of organization, and those invaluable services that have tended so much to the material supremacy of our country, we do right to demand the utter destruction of the facilities for the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors which have proved so often and so entirely subversive of the ability and steadiness of really capable men in all the industries of Great Britain. On what grounds can we tolerate amongst us a class whose operations tend to the danger and injury of what is confided to their care, and to their own lasting loss of social position? Simply on the ground of our ignorance and our customs. When the first is dispelled, and the last is changed, which will be the glorious and benign effort of the prohibition at which we aim, and which by the votes of our fellow-citizens and the blessing of God, we shall at no distant day secure.

Under "Progress of the Work," our readers will find a copy of a circular sent by the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association to a number of societies in the various districts of the country. Therein is clearly and succinctly set forth the claims of the Association, not merely upon the organisations to which it more immediately refers, but upon all who believe the liquor traffic to be the fertile source of many appalling moral and social evils, and on that account deserving of extinction by the voice and vote of the ratepayers. It is but two months since we drew the attention of our readers to the urgent need by the Association of funds adequate to the increasingly vigorous prosecution of the agitation, and we are glad to be able to inform them that our doing so has not been altogether in vain. We can without fear of challenge point to the untiring energy and absorbing devotion exhibited so markedly by the Executive and its various agencies; and in doing this we cannot help saying that if ever vigorous agitation was deserving of encouragement, it is due to the Association and

its conductors to say that their efforts merit recognition in the best of all ways—in supplying them liberally with funds that they may increase and sustain their agencies, and be able to avail themselves of all means and methods which promise to still farther augment their power and influence in the country and over the Legislature as well as constrain the Government of the day to enact a law which will remit the liquor traffic to be dealt with by the ratepayers according as they may see fit. To give sparingly is just to protract the struggle and indefinitely delay the glorious consummation of labours which though as yet short of the attainment of their great object have conferred invaluable blessings on the community. To give liberally to the Association is to ensure seeing ere one goes hence the operation of one of the most beneficent laws that was ever asked for by Scotland—a law that will sustain virtue, discourage vice, and immeasurably swell the happiness of her people.

We have again earnestly to call the attention of all friends of prohibition to the electoral register. We do this with all the more pleasure that we believe that the attention hitherto bestowed by the friends of the cause throughout Scotland has been signally exhibited in her Parliamentary contests. She would not stand as she does, pre-eminently in the van of the agitation, had it not been that the electors favouring temperance and prohibition were actuated by a laudable desire to see to the electoral register. If ever eternal vigilance was required it is in this matter. We know not where or when every vote may be awaiting to maintain our position or secure an accession to our strength in the House of Commons. Nothing seems more uncertain than the tenure of a parliamentary seat. A parliamentary connection of twenty-four years' duration was last month severed by the choice of the Queen, and a contest for the seat vacated only averted by the lofty patriotism of the Liberal candidates. This will not always happen, however, so that in every case the highest wisdom is shown in being thoroughly organized and registered. We would earnestly urge upon all to see that their name is duly on the register. It may not be their fortune to cast the vote that may determine whether or not we are to have a warm supporter, a luke-warm friend, or a firm opponent, but it is always in their power to have a vote to give to the right, and thus swell the number of the friends of the suppression of the liquor traffic. The roll has to be completed by the 15th day of September, and to be afterwards submitted to the scrutiny of the ratepayers. All who have paid their rates previous to the 31st July are eligible for a place upon it, and it should be the special duty of friends or committees to see that all those willing to vote for prohibition should be duly and accurately on the rolls for their burgh or county. Lodgers require to be placed on the roll annually. LET ALL ATTEND TO THE ELECTORAL REGISTER.

Certain publicans sympathising with the Irish Land League, or overawed by its members, have declined to assist the military and the police in the discharge of their duty. Government has naturally resented such conduct, and instructed the magistracy to withhold the licenses of all publicans taking such a course. It is not to be supposed that Government that throws the shield of its protection over the publican, is to continue to do so while he aids and abets those that are thwarting the measures it is enforcing for the prosperity and peace of Ireland. Hence, if the Irish publican will not support the British Government, that Government has resolved on, in effect, retorting, "Well, go on and sell without us." Of course that would be felony, so some unhappy publicans, through trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, have come to grief on the matter. The Government takes up a position which is only tenable at the expense of its own inconsistency. The publicans everywhere injure its subjects, indeed they never stir within their bar without doing it. Why should the Government simply punish the publicans who interfere with the military occupation of Ireland, and let the thousands of them go scot-free that are ravaging households and ruining millions in the country? Is not a subject as good as a policeman any day? It may be urged that the publicans in question refused food and carriage to her Majesty's forces. Well, admitting that, what then? The publicans by supplying their customers with liquors, positively charge them till they become dangerous to themselves and all around them, a very much graver crime than merely withholding food and carriage. The whole relation of the traffic to the State is an anomaly, and the best way to deal with it is for all good citizens to combine for its removal in the interests of all.

The ancient burgh of Sanquhar has a Town Council composed wholly of abstainers—provost, bailies, and councillors, all having a natural or acquired aversion to alcohol in all its forms. Were toppers to read our magazine this statement would inflict a painful shock of surprise upon them. It would do more, it would set them wondering how the affairs of the burgh could be conducted at all when they were wholly in the hands of teetotal fanatics. Where, they would triumphantly ask, is the loyalty of the burgh on a Queen's birth-day, when the municipal authorities should meet to drink the Queen's health? God save her. How could they invest an illustrious stranger with the freedom of the burgh when "cake and wine" is not in all their thoughts? How could they duly lay the foundation stone of some public building or other when they were unable to pour the baneful wine of commerce upon the stone? Why, Sanquhar has never had such a visitation of providence since the Sanquhar declaration against Charles II. was proclaimed within it; and they would be even found going the length of saying that they really believed that these abstain-

ing authorities would be found prepared at any moment to frame a similar declaration against the tyrant and usurper, strong drink. "They say, let them say," the governing burghers of Sanquhar have no occasion for anxiety as to what such victims of the lung are pleased to say. They are the chosen of their fellow-burghers, and it is a high compliment to the temperance movement that the practice of abstinence is rather a help than a hindrance to municipal honours. The day is fast approaching when all our citizens, and all their rulers, will be called up to banish the publican in the interests of those they hold dear. When we see how, under the drink dispensation, they value those that adhere to a temperance life, we can be in little doubt as to the course they then will follow. They will exclude the publican from citizenship as entirely as the burghers of Sanquhar have, meantime, excluded him and his infatuated customers from the municipal dignities of Sanquhar. May God hasten the day.

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—VII.

TERRORISING THE GOVERNMENT—SIR WILFRID LAWSON ON THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC—WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL—THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC-HOUSES FORBIDDEN BY THE LAND BILL—MR. CAINE'S MOTION IN FAVOUR OF LICENSING BOARDS—THE OPIUM TRAFFIC IN BURMAH & C.

June 16.—The Earl of Dartmouth in "the Lords" dilated on the Solihull murder, where an Irishman in an ulster murdered a man named Gately in a public-house, on Sunday, 5th December, 1880, in the presence of a number of persons, and yet got clear away; and although a jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, the miscreant has still eluded justice. His lordship inferred that this murder was done to strike terror to the Irishmen in and around Birmingham, and was prompted by the tone of the Midlothian speeches, in which the Premier hinted that violence was necessary to force the Government to take measures for the benefit of Ireland. The Earl of Dalhousie effectually replied to what he termed his lordship's most ingenious attack on the First Lord of the Treasury, and the matter dropped.

June 17.—Sir W. Lawson, in reply to Mr. Newdegate, said his resolution adopted by the House on Tuesday was simply affirmative of the resolution passed last year, and designed to strengthen the hands of the Government in dealing with this question at the earliest practicable moment. He had full confidence in the Government—(hear, hear)—which came into power, as he understood, mainly to vindicate the authority of Parliament, and he did not think that it was at all likely they would ignore the instructions of the House of Commons, as it was clearly the mandate of the House. (Cheers.) If the Government did not act on the instructions of the House, of course he would have to consider the course he should take. (Laughter.) In that case he would give his hon. friend due notice of anything he intended to propose. He would hope to have his co-operation—(laughter)—and that of the hon. member for Bridport (Mr. Warton), and the other leaders of the Conservative party. (Renewed laughter.)

June 20.—On the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill

being reported as amended, Mr. Thomasson moved that the first clause be so far amended as to provide for the opening of public-houses on Sabbaths from 12.30 to 2.30 p.m. for selling off the premises. Mr. H. Richard could not accept this amendment. Mr. Warton moved the adjournment of the debate on account of the indecent haste with which the bill was hurried through Committee. He did not, however, press his motion. On a division, Mr. Thomasson's amendment was rejected by 81 to 32, majority 49. The third reading was fixed for 6th July.

June 23.—Lord Arthur Hill moved, on subsection 5 of the Irish Land Bill, the following subsection:—"The tenant shall not on his holding, without the consent of the landlord, open any house for the sale of intoxicating liquors, or undertake any trade or business of a dangerous or obnoxious character." The Attorney-General objected to the amendment on the ground that the liquor traffic was already under the control of the magistrates. Sir Wilfrid Lawson desired the progress of the bill. (Laughter and cheers.) Colonel Tottenham, remarking upon the amount of drunkenness in the rural parts of Ireland, said he knew of a village in that country where there were only twenty houses, ten of which were public-houses. (Oh!) Mr. A. M. Sullivan thought the gallant member must be libelling the Irish magistracy.

Mr. Callan said he happened to know the village to which the hon. member for Leitrim had referred. He would make no charge against the magistrates, but he must state one fact—that the ten public-houses in the village referred to belonged to one landlord. Every other house in the village belonged to other poorer landlords, and the magistrates would not give licences to any house except to those belonging to a brother magistrate. (Hear, hear.) Mr. M'Cartney supported the amendment, observing that he was sorry to see the hon. member for Carlisle (Sir W. Lawson) throw temperance and cold water altogether aside in connection with the bill before the Committee. (Laughter.) Sir J. M'Garel Hogg, as an Irish landlord, said he objected to the erection of public-houses on his property without his leave. He should, therefore, second the amendment. Mr. Gladstone said, there being great force in the arguments that the bill was for the protection of agricultural tenants in the prosecution of their agricultural pursuits—(hear, hear)—he was of opinion that it might be right to insert in the measure some such provision as was proposed by the noble lord. (Hear, hear.) The Government would not accept the amendment in its present shape. It might be best to bring up a subsection at the stage of report. Later on the Premier agreed to accept the amendment if it were to stop at liquors. Hon. A. Hill consented to modify his amendment. Mr. Callan expressed his strong approval of the course taken by the Prime Minister. (Hear, hear.) Mr. T. D. Sullivan wished to know if the consent of the landlord would entitle the tenant to a license. (Loud cries of "No.") Sir Wilfrid Lawson moved to omit "with the consent of the landlord" from the clause, and being ruled by the Chairman as too late, gave notice that he would do so at a future stage.

June 24.—Mr. Caine gave notice that that day four weeks, on going into Committee of Supply, he would move—"That in the opinion of this House the Government measure embodying the Local Option resolutions passed by the House on 18th June, 1880, and 14th June, 1881, while clearly defining the principles and conditions that are to regulate the trade in excisable liquors, should entrust the administration of the law to boards specially elected for the purpose by the rate-payers, leaving the jurisdiction affecting the breaches of the law as at present to the ordinary tribunals of justice."

June 27.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson asked the Secretary of State for India whether the measures recommended by Mr. Aitchison, Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, for prohibiting the traffic in opium, the cen-

sumption of which article he declared to be "affecting the very life of this young and otherwise prosperous province," had been carried out. The Marquis of Hartington said the principal measures recommended by Mr. Aitchison had been carried into effect. The number of shops for the retail sale of opium had been reduced from 68 to 27, the reduction to take effect from April 1 last. From the same date also the rate at which opium was supplied to farmers, licensed vendors, or medical practitioners, had been raised from 24 to 28 and 32 rupees. Three other recommendations were made by Mr. Aitchison in connection with this subject, but had not been adopted—first, that opium should only be consumed on the premises, and the possession of opium in any quantity, however small, outside a shop, except in certain cases, would be illegal; that habitual opium smokers should be placed under restraint, and required to find security for their good behaviour; and, thirdly, that a Commissioner of Excise should be appointed for Burmah. Sir Wilfrid Lawson—Can the noble lord inform the House whether the shops which are closed are to receive compensation? (Laughter.)

July 4.—The Marquis of Hartington, replying to Mr. O'Donnell, said the steps taken in Burmah to check the consumption of opium would end in a sacrifice of revenue amounting to £50,000 a year. The increase in the consumption of spirits was due to the increased prosperity in the province and to the fact that weaker liquors had been substituted for those previously used. There had been no increase of drunkenness in consequence of the adoption of the out-still system, which provided for the wants of the people in a legitimate manner.

Mr. Trevelyan, replying to Mr. Puleston, defended the condemnation and dismissal of Lieutenant Deacon for drunkenness. His messmates all testified that he was drunk at dinner. His conduct all through was not "good." He could not be employed again, as that would be simply to keep him as an annuitant on the public for life. (Cheers.)

Replying to Mr. Hussey Vivian, Sir W. Harcourt said his attention had been called to the case stated by his learned friend, of a resolution being passed at a Licensed Victuallers' Meeting, on the 29th June, denouncing "spurious clubs," and asking that they should be put under public-house supervision, but the real difficulty lay in distinguishing between "spurious clubs" and clubs which were not spurious, and he had not yet arrived at any firm conclusion regarding it. Of course any place called a club merely as a pretext for selling liquors without a license would be dealt with at once.

In reply to Mr. M'Donald and Mr. M'Intosh, Mr. Trevelyan stated that Mr. Milne of the Danae was sentenced on the 29th December last to be dismissed the service and to be imprisoned for twelve months. Since then his sentence has been confirmed by the Lords of Admiralty and his imprisonment remitted. His offence was being in a state unfit to take charge of the engines at the very moment when it was his duty to take charge of them. This was testified by the commander and the chief engineer of his ship. He was tried in 1879 for drunkenness, pleaded guilty, lost his ship and two years seniority—drunkenness is a fault to which, however painful the individual cases are, it is not permissible to show indulgence when such vast and delicate machinery as the Northumberland with all her crew are dependent on the care and judgment of a single officer. He (Mr. Trevelyan) did not think medical evidence any better than that of any other man as to saying whether or not a man was fit for duty of this kind. (Hear, hear.)

On the motion of Lord R. Grosvenor, the Speaker was ordered to issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the Elgin Burghs in room of the right Hon. M. E. Grant Duff, who had been appointed Governor of Madras.

July 5.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Mr. Samuel Laing, said that he thought he could give his hon. friend a satisfactory answer regarding the condition of the revenue. The decrease on the revenue of £420,000

was on the Excise. The difference in the distribution of the malt duty and the beer duty over the accounts of the year quite accounted for it. The beer duty is receivable in very nearly equal proportions in the four quarters of the year, but the malt duty varies as much in the four quarters as 14 per cent. in one quarter and 40 per cent. in another. The difficulty in the present case was this—that 30 per cent. of the malt duty was in a normal year, in the three months ending 2nd June, and only 24 per cent. of the beer duty. When I mention that 1 per cent. of the beer duty means £80,000 and that 6 per cent. means only £512,000, it will be obvious at once that that disposes of the whole of the apparent decrease.

In reply to Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Gladstone said that he could hold out no hope whatever that the Sunday closing bill would be taken to-morrow.

July 7.—Mr. Childers, in replying to Mr. Brand regarding the death of soldiers through the excessive heat, incidentally stated that a ration of 1s. or 2s. according to distance was issued to the Volunteers appearing in Windsor Park, that ample supplies of water and large blocks of ice would be in the rear of each division and at the railway stations, and great attention has been paid to the medical arrangements both on the ground and at the stations.

July 11.—On the motion of Mr. Nicholson, the return was agreed to of "the number of new licenses granted by the Justices in each of the several counties of England and Wales in the years 1878-79, 1879-80, 1880-81, with the total number in the whole of England and Wales in each of the said years," &c., &c.

The Attorney-General for Ireland informed Mr. Lalor that the Magistrates in Petty Sessions had the legal power to withhold a certificate of license from publicans who obstructed the constabulary in the discharge of their legal duties. Due notice was given to the publicans in question that their licenses would be opposed.

July 12.—On the motion of Mr. Stevenson, the order for the second reading of the English Sunday closing Bill was discharged and the Bill withdrawn.

July 14.—Mr. Childers, replying to Mr. Tottenham, said that Mr. Brown (publican) of Newbridge refused to supply liquors to John Costello not because he was drunk but because he had been employed by the police, and he did not intend to interfere with the decision of Sir Thomas Steele who had put that public-house out of bounds.

July 18.—Mr. Alexander Asher, introduced by the Solicitor-General for Scotland and Mr. R. W. Duff, appeared at the table and took the oath and his seat for the Elgin district of burghs. (Liberal cheers.)

THE ELGIN BURGHS ELECTION.

After a tenure of twenty-four years, the Right Hon. Grant Duff last month relinquished his seat as a member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs. The right hon. gentleman has been appointed Governor of Madras in succession to the late Right Hon. W. P. Adam, who died in office. Mr. Duff was at first very strongly opposed to the Permissive Bill, either in principle or policy. On its first introduction by Mr. Lawson in 1864 he voted against it, and repeated his vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson, after five years' absence from Parliament, moving its second reading. In 1870 and 1871 he was absent, but in 1873 he voted against it. In 1874, when the Tory Government divided upon it, we gladly observed that he had left the House prior to the division. In 1875, however, he voted adversely, but the next year he was again absent. The next year Sir Wilfrid gave up his day to the Irish Sunday closing party; in 1878 the right hon. gentleman voted again against the bill. In 1879 he voted for the Local Option resolution, thus supporting the principle, as we think he preferred a scheme like that propounded by Mr. Chamberlain—a modified Gothenberg scheme—to the Permissive Bill. In the next year he voted both in March and June, and in June this year he was again voting with Sir Wilfrid. He admitted, in the lobby of

the House, to a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, that he had received from his constituents more letters regarding the Permissive Bill than on all other questions put together. He has our best wishes for his success in the important office to which he has been transferred, and we earnestly hope that when he returns to his native land, he may find Scotland exulting over the success of her direct liquor veto law.

No sooner was there a probability of the seat being vacant than quite a number of candidates appeared before the electors. First there was Mr. A. Craig-Sellar, late secretary to Lord-Advocate Young, author of the Manual of the Scottish Education Act, and the energetic colleague of the late Right Hon. W. P. Adam, the Liberal Whip previous and during the general election of last year; second, Alexander Asher, Esq., advocate, who, in the Liberal interest, unsuccessfully contested the representation of the Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities at the general election last year; third, Mr. Douglas Ainslie, who offered himself in vain to the electors of East Aberdeenshire and of the St. Andrews Burghs; fourth, Mr. T. D. Buchanan, who was defeated by Lord Elcho last year in an attempt to carry Haddingtonshire in the Liberal interest; fifth, Mr. Jeans, who announced himself as a Land Leaguer; and sixth, Mr. M'Lean, who appeared in the Conservative interest, notwithstanding his overwhelming defeat in these burghs by the Right Hon. Grant Duff last year. Mr. Buchanan retired early, Mr. Jeans' mind lost its balance, and the last we heard of him, poor man, was his committal to the Inverness Lunatic Asylum. The Liberal representatives of the Burghs—Elgin, Peterhead, Banff, Cullen, Inverurie, and Kintore—with the exception of Cullen, attended at Inverurie, and decided on a "test ballot." This ballot was taken on Saturday, 9th ult., when Mr. Asher secured an absolute majority over Mr. Sellar and Mr. Ainslie, and was declared the Liberal candidate, the others retiring at once in his favour. Mr. M'Lean, the Conservative, believing discretion the better part of valour, withdrew, so that on Wednesday Mr. Asher was the only one nominated for the seat, and was thereupon declared duly elected.

Immediately on the announcement that Mr. Grant Duff was likely to retire, Mr. D. Blackwood, the northern district superintendent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, appeared in the burghs in the interests of the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic. Mr. Craig-Sellar was first waited upon, and freely and cordially told Mr. Blackwood that he would support Local Option resolutions as well as any bill the Government would bring forward, and expressed a hope that the bill would cover the whole scheme of Sir Wilfrid Lawson; then Mr. Asher, who stated quite distinctly that he was quite prepared to go as far as Mr. Sellar in the direction of Local Option. Mr. Jeans, when waited upon, stated that it was the land laws and not the liquor traffic that were the cause of the evils abounding in the country. Mr. Douglas Ainslie, in his speech at Banff on the 1st ult., said:—"There is only one other subject, gentlemen, with which I shall trouble you at present, and that is a much vexed and important one—the drink question in Scotland—(applause)—which has been so long, and which, I fear, will be for so long, a most vexatious and distressing subject. I must, gentlemen, say for myself that I totally disbelieve in anything resembling direct or forcible legislation on this subject. I am totally against Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill. I believe, on the other hand, most strongly in what I may call the application, as the medical men would say, of counter irritation in the matter. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I believe most strongly in the formation of clubs and of reading-rooms, in the establishment of cheap and good concerts, in everything which can elevate the minds of the people in large towns and elsewhere. I would wish to see in every village in Scotland some kind of club-house or coffee-house—call it what they will—where young men and others could meet in the evening, have games, amuse themselves pleasantly, see their friends, be sheltered from the wet, and have

an occupation. (Applause.) For I am quite sure that it is loafing about the streets, having nothing in particular to do, which leads nine-tenths of the men into idle and drunken habits. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I am sure there would be no greater benefactor to his country than a millionaire who would bequeath money for such a purpose. I would desire to see these institutions self-supporting in the long run, but, of course, they would need assistance at the first. I am sure that in this way more will be done to check drunkenness than by any direct legislative provisions that could be imagined. (Applause.) Those who have no other place to go to will go to the public-house when they are wet and cold or bored. Give them some place to go to which does not come under the denomination of a public-house, but which can be described as a comfortable, pleasant, well-aired, well-lighted, warm room, and I am quite sure they will not go to public-houses and to public-houses alone as they are forced—and I cannot blame them—to do at present." (Applause.) Subsequently at Inverurie he modified his views by defining his position as the same as Mr. Foster's, which is to give the people the power of reducing the number of public-houses to a certain maximum (!) but to hold out against giving them the power actually to prohibit public-houses. At Macduff he ventured to reiterate his obnoxious views. He said:—"Gentlemen, there is a subject which is always of interest in Scotland, I think, and that is the subject of the traffic in drink. I cannot say that I am a supporter of the out-and-out principle of Sir W. Lawson's Permissive Bill, and I am not, for this reason. I think it is an interference with the liberty of the subject. (Slight applause.) I do not think that a majority in any town or village has a right to say to the minority—'We are of opinion that you are not to obtain a glass of spirits at a public-house or elsewhere.' I think that the good gifts of Providence were bestowed upon us for judicious and moderate use. (Loud hisses and applause.) I am very sorry—(renewed hissing)—I am very sorry indeed—(hisses)—to have excited the meeting so much—to have excited so much opposition, but what I mean to say is that I think if the richer classes are allowed to take their glass of wine, I do not think we ought absolutely to forbid the poorer classes to take in some form or another, whether diluted or otherwise, some sort of alcohol. (Hisses and applause.) Gentlemen, all I mean to say is this—(interruption)—if you will allow me to finish my argument on the subject, you will, I am sure, agree with me more closely than you seem to do at present. I was going on to say that although I do not approve of extremist form of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill, I do approve of the Local Option Resolution. (Applause.) That is to say, I approve of the local authorities having the power to keep within the narrowest limits the number of public-houses in any given area. All I object to is absolute prohibition. I highly approve of keeping public-houses, which are in so very many cases a mere temptation to drinking, within the narrowest possible limits; but, gentlemen, as I stated at Banff, I have very much greater confidence in something else as a remedy for the evils of drinking, and that is in the application of counter attractions. I believe most strongly in the formation of clubs, of reading-rooms, in the establishment of cheap and good concerts, in everything which can elevate the minds of people. (Applause.)

Mr. Buchanan was prepared, he said at Inverurie, to support a suppressive veto if conjoined with a restrictive veto.

Mr. Asher, at Inverurie, in reply to a non-elect, said:—"Gentlemen, Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution was submitted to the House of Commons during the present session, and it has been carried by a large majority. When the Liberal Government see their way to introduce a measure for the purpose of giving effect to the views embodied in that resolution, if you send me to Parliament, I shall support that measure. (Loud applause.)

At Macduff Mr. Sellar said:—"I propose now, gentlemen, to say a single word upon a question which I understand is specially interesting to you in this

locality. I mean the question of the licensing laws. The system of licensing which gives the control of licenses to the Justices of the Peace seems to me to be indefensible. In saying this, I make no reflection on the justices who have discharged their duties, which are not congenial, in an impartial way. What I say is this, that the system of administering justice should not be mixed up with the system of controlling licenses. (Cheers.) You might as well ask the judges of the Court of Session to regulate the excise, or the minister of the parish to act as sanitary inspector, as to appoint the Justices of the Peace to control the licenses. And I have high authority for this statement, an authority which I am sure every one here will regard as of the highest importance. I mean the late Lord Russell. In 1835 Lord Russell, or as he then was, Lord John Russell, passed his Municipal Corporations Reform Bill. In this bill there were clauses which took the control of licenses for beer shops from the Justices, and transferred them to the Town Councils, and on this subject Lord John Russell, as he then was, made the following observations, which I commend to your attention, 'With respect to another part of this measure,' he said, 'it refers to the powers of granting ale-house licenses. It is proposed that this power should not be vested in the hands of the magistracy. We think it ought not to be mixed or confounded with the duty of administering justice, and that it should be left to the council, or a committee of the council. The council, being elected by the ratepayers, will always act under popular control, and be less likely to abuse the power of granting licenses than magistrates, in whose case the robe of justice is sometimes employed to cover a great enormity of abuses.' These words were spoken forty-four years ago, and the struggle has been going on ever since. I need not tell you that I am in favour of the ratepayers and against the justices, and would support any well-considered measure which deals with the control of licenses in this sense. (Cheers.) The bill passed the House of Commons, but these ale-house clauses were thrown out by the House of Lords. In other words, the House of Commons of 1835 passed a measure taking the licensing authority from the justices and transferring it to a popularly elected body. This is what Sir Wilfrid Lawson has been so earnestly struggling to carry out. His Local Option resolution has now been carried twice in full meetings of the House of Commons. In the face of such an expression of popular opinion, the Government must take the measure up, and deal with it in the sense of the resolution. If I were returned to Parliament as representative for the Elgin Burghs, I should gladly support the Government in passing such a measure. (Cheers.)

It is believed that it is to the fact that he is a native of Morayshire, an eloquent speaker, a highly successful pleader at the bar, and that he will soon fill the position of Lord-Advocate for Scotland, that Mr. Asher has so easily won the favour of the electors. He has our best wishes. None can foresee but he may yet be the Government official for Scotland, who may have most to do with ridding her of her bane and stain—the liquor traffic.

Twenty years ago there was only one public house in Nazareth, now there are a dozen or more. The Greek and native Christians support these places. The population is only between 8,000 and 10,000. How the Mahommedans must cling to their religion, and how much they must contemn the religion of the Nazarene!

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—Mr. Arthur Robertson, Gaelic-speaking deputy of the Highland Temperance League, has had wonderful success in gospel temperance work in the far north within the last few weeks. He can count his recruits in the districts of Durness and the neighbourhood of Cape Wrath by hundreds. Mr. S. Finlayson, secretary of the League, 278 Argyle Street, Glasgow, writes that funds are urgently needed for carrying on the temperance campaign in the Highlands.—*Ross-shire Journal*.

The Sons of Temperance have a membership of 15,000, an increase of 750 on last year. The funds now amount to £44,000, an increase of £3,000.

There are in the United Kingdom 31,500,000 acres of waste lands. One half could be made productive, and so profitably diminish our grain imports.

THE BLUE RIBBON ARMY.—It is reported that eleven thousand persons have taken the total abstinence pledge at Cardiff during the year, chiefly through the instrumentality of this section of the temperance movement.

The use of alcoholic liquors by nursing mothers causes convulsions (in the children). Beer increases the quantity but depraves the quality of milk. A large portion of infant disease and mortality comes from drink.

A Blackburn magistrate is said to own 140 public-houses and beershops. He presides on the bench and fines those who get drunk. If they get drunk on week day, 2s. 6d., on Sabbath, 7s. 6d! but the *Herald of Health* has never heard of him fining beer-sellers or publicans.

THE RECHABITES.—This body has now 35,000 members enrolled; these pay 1d. per week for every 2s. 6d. received during sickness and 5d. per quarter for each £5 to be received at death. It has 88 Districts and Tents. The 34th, 40th, 44th, and 48th districts are in Scotland.

An old toper, who had attended the Polytechnic where a learned professor caused several explosions to take place from the gases produced from water, said, "You don't catch me putting water in my liquor after this. I had no idea that water was so dangerous, though I never liked to take much of it."

Our readers will be glad to hear that Mr. Frederick Sherlock, recently the secretary of the Irish Temperance League, still more recently associated with Rev. Chas. Bullock on *Hand and Heart* and the literature connected with it, is now the editor of the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle*. Mr. Sherlock is, besides being a journalist, an author, and his many contributions to the literature of temperance are eminently fitted to give an impetus to the agitation.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE RELIGIOUS QUESTION.—At a church in the north-west of London the two kinds of wine (fermented and unfermented) are used. Those who partake of the fermented sit in the area, those who prefer the unfermented sit under the galleries. There is no discussion of the subject, but there is a steadily and quietly increasing migration from the area to the side seats—which foreshows that by and bye the area will be required for the abstainers.—*Daily Review*.

AN UNAPPRECIATED HERITAGE.—The Duke of Portland is disposing of a large quantity of the wines which came into his possession on his succeeding to the title and estates, and yesterday a portion of it was offered for sale in the riding school at Welbeck. Ninety dozen of port, of vintage 1857, was sold at prices ranging from 60s. to 45s. per dozen, which is said to be much below its value. Eighty dozen dry Malaga sold at 21s. to 9s. per dozen, and a similar quantity of Arinto fetched from 11s. to 9s. per dozen.

THE STUDENT.

He was a lover of all curious lore,
Far back through the dim ages he would peer,
And gathered knowledge up from far and near,
Knowledge was all he asked, he would explore
The deepest secrets of the earth, and bring
The truth to light, and wealth and rank he deemed
Base things, unworthy; silver never teemed
Where he was, knowledge was the only thing
He deemed worth seeking, lore of Greece and Rome
He learned, and gained from sages of the past
A wondrous knowledge, deep, majestic, vast,
And in the distant he was most at home,
And deeper grew his wonder as he wrought
The web of strange unfathomable thought.

ANDREW M. LANG.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

Health Lectures for the People. Edinburgh: Macniven & Wallace. One penny each, or one shilling bound. It is to Mrs. Trayner, the wife of Sheriff Trayner, that the public owes the delivery and subsequent publication of these health lectures. But one in reading them has the same feeling as the minister who prayed that God would forgive what was amiss and bless what was his own. In the second and the ninth lectures there is very much amiss. Dr. Russell offers a great deal of good advice on food, and does so in a most attractive way; indeed within the space of his brief lecture his readers will often have to pause and admire his powers of clearness and condensation. The tables he gives will greatly facilitate the reception of his observations, deepen the impression made by his lessons, and prove of easy reference at all times. It is when Dr. Russell enters upon the subject of stimulants that he becomes so untrustworthy a guide and so unsafe an adviser. We cannot do better than put two or three of his sentences into juxtaposition, when our readers will easily infer the proper rule on which to act for themselves. "Alcoholic stimulants are the worst we can select, speaking generally, for the effects pass off with great rapidity and leave the depression worse than before. There is no doubt that alcoholic liquors should be abjured by growing people, except under medical advice, and for grown up people the only time that they cannot be proved to do harm is when taken largely diluted along with food *after the day's work is done.*" "I believe a good deal in the poisonous effects of alcohol." "Strong and healthy people likely to live long, are more apt to become teetotalers than those in weaker health. The former feel that they have no need of stimulants and that it is no sacrifice to take the pledge; the latter feel the need of them and decline, and so by a process of self-selection the strong man goes to the one side and the weaker man to the other." "Spirits cannot be used if work has still to be done, or cold endured, as they merely give a temporary spurt, and the fatigue and depression are then worse than before." Now if we did not receive the same advice from medical men in England, Ireland, and America, we should just perhaps think that Dr. Russell's references to alcohol were characterised by the caution peculiar to the Scotch mind. No one with any sense of self-preservation can imbibe liquors about which a medical gentleman like Dr. Russell speaks with such bated breath. Liquors which are not for the young, and only when largely diluted are for the grown up when exhausted with labour, are not for those immediately engaged in labour, nor for those enduring cold, and above all poisonous, may very well be dispensed with altogether. It would in our opinion have been much better for Dr. Russell to have put his veto on their use, and thus have helped those members of the medical profession who are seeking their entire exclusion from indulgence by healthy people. In the *Social Reformer* for May last year we reviewed a lecture by Professor Fraser almost identical with Lecture No. 9 of these Health Lectures, and looking to the wider circulation it will receive in its new form we, with still more forcible emphasis, condemn his observations on and his advices regarding strong drink.

Temperance Prospects and Temperance Action.—Annual Sermon of the Irish Temperance League. April, 1881. By the Rev. R. J. Lynd, B.A. Published by request. Belfast: Irish Temperance League; Glasgow: Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 112 Bath Street. One penny each, or 6s. per hundred. This is a powerful sermon in matter and in style. The matter shows the preacher to have a decided opinion that Christians should be at the polling booth, and while there vote, not merely themselves,

but by their example induce their friends and neighbours also to vote down the odious traffic in strong drink. The way in which he shows this constitutes the eloquent charm of the discourse. Our readers should aid in circulating this truly appropriate sermon. It is on sale at the *Social Reformer* offices.

The Onward Reciter. Nos. 117, 118, June and July, 1881. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. One penny each. These numbers amply fulfil the anticipations which are begot by the thoughts of every coming number of the *Onward Reciter* now. It has bravely stood the test of time, and now is acknowledged to be the "only best" reciter in the market for Bands of Hope and other juvenile temperance societies.

Temperance Worker, Nos. 97 to 101, January to June, 1881. London: National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand. One penny each. The more we examine this little work the better we like it. Even a cursory glance at these numbers must convince any one of their importance and value to temperance advocates and agents. To Band of Hope teachers and local speakers we believe them indispensable. There is no temperance serial we more heartily welcome.

Joseph Livesey: A Life Story. By Frederick Sherlock, author of "Illustrious Abstainers," etc., etc. London: Home Words Publishing Office, Paternoster Buildings. This is a reprint from *The Fireside*, but it is worthy to rank with the "English men of letters." Mr. Sherlock, although having little new to tell, has set what is known in such a clear and graphic light that even those who knew or thought they knew all about the patriarch of temperance must have a rare pleasure in going over this life story and its lessons. We have not been slow to express our high admiration of the veteran temperance reformer, nor our deep, sad sorrow that he is so greatly against the permissive prohibitive interference of the legislature with the bloated liquor traffic. Yet we very heartily commend this sketch to our readers as vividly setting forth in a succinct and happy style those characteristics which so highly distinguish and ennoble Joseph Livesey, of Preston. A most excellent likeness of the venerable reformer adorns the book.

The Eighth Annual Report of the London Temperance Hospital. May, 1881. The London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W. This is an invaluable report. It is not merely the history of a year, but from it the sympathising friend of the institution can refresh his memory regarding all the prominent events that has occurred in the history of the hospital. From it we with pleasure learn that the hospital was opened in March last free of debt. As, however, £4000 will be required for the maintenance of the hospital, there is room and verge enough for the liberality of all towards this truly valuable temperance agency. In the old place, 112 Gower Street, during seven years four months 952 cases were treated. Of these 533 were cured, 378 relieved, and only 41 died. During the past year the patients number:—Out, 1125; in, 143—total, 1268. Of these there were 1052 from the metropolitan district and 63 from the country as out-patients; 99 from the metropolis and 44 from the country were in-patients = 143. Of whom 77 were cured, 37 relieved, 5 died, and 24 remain under treatment. There were 9 males and 6 females life abstainers; 37 males and 24 females abstainers = 76. Of non-abstainers there were 34 males and 33 females—total, 143. Of the 1,125 out patients, there were 77 male and 90 female life abstainers; 264 males, 250 females abstainers = 701; of non-abstainers 184 males, 240 females = 424—total, 1125. The receipts for the year on accounts of patients was £1579 5s. 7½d., the discharge £1435 17s. 5½d.; the balance to carry forward being £143 8s. 2d. We leave the rest of the report for want of space, earnestly recommending this highly important institution to the liberal consideration of our readers. It has fairly exploded the idea that alcoholic liquors are essential for the preparation of medicine or for the cure or relief of disease, and to make this evident over a series of years all friends should subscribe as liberally to its funds as their circumstances may permit.

The Sabbath School Magazine: issued by the Sabbath School Union. Glasgow: John McCallum & Co., 172 Buchanan Street. One penny. This monthly is conducted with great ability, and contains an amount of matter excellent in quality and admirably calculated to be of great use to all who aim to be praiseworthy Sabbath school teachers.

Special Dangers to Health in Large Towns.—By John Tatham, M.D., Medical Officer to the Burgh of Salford. Manchester: John Heywood. One penny. This is an impressive lecture. Dr. Tatham begins with the startling comparison of Glendale with Salford as shown by the mortality registers. At all ages the rate of mortality in the former is 15 per 1000, in Salford it is 27! In Glendale infants die under one year at the rate of 79 per 1000; in Salford the rate is 185. While 30 under five years of age die in Glendale, 93 die in Salford. The mortality of Salford and large towns generally far exceeds that of country places. Why? Dr. Tatham answers that "the causes which constitute the chief dangers to health in large towns" are two. 1, Overcrowding and insufficient ventilation; and 2, The employment in factories of female labour. We refer our readers to the lecture itself for a very able and lucid treatment of these two points, along with which, as our readers will readily believe, alcoholic stimulants are powerful sub-causes.

The Food Reform Magazine and Journal of the London Food Reform Society. No. 1. For July, 1881. Published quarterly. London: S. W. Partridge, 9 Paternoster Row. Price threepence. This is the first number of a food reform journal, and the preface has a manly ring about it which we heartily applaud. Mrs. Dr. Kingsford has not yet learned to plead her case successfully. She will only excite stubborn aversion and prejudice by designating flesh eating "corpse eating." We like her speech in the Memorial Hall much better. The other articles are dreamy, pretentious, and aimless. Much is to be learned from the speeches at the Memorial Hall meeting. Anthropophagy is an article that should afford to us sufficient grounds for the immediate dismissal of the editor. Only think of people, even in satire (!), speaking of "the flavour of a nice chop off a British young woman," or "the leg of a fat child," as dainty viands! We believe heartily in food reform, support the movement with all our heart, but we certainly would never derive sympathy for its beneficent aims from such a worthless issue as, apart from the preface and the meeting, this first number presents.

Monaco and its Gaming Tables.—By John Polson. Second edition. London: Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row. Sixpence. Mr. Polson intends to create a public opinion that will in the end overthrow the Monte Carlo gaming tables at Monaco. Monte Carlo might be an earthly paradise; it is at present simply a field of action for one of the worst passions of the human race. Its lease as a "gaming hell" does not expire until 1916! Its mistress (for it is held by a woman) reaps fabulous sums, and the Prince of Monaco shares the unenviable gains—getting in cash £2,083 yearly as rent, besides having his standing army and his public officials paid, and having the place maintained in a condition of the most elegant grandeur. The Church also derives immensely from the infamous vice. The late proprietor gave £125,000 to the Prince to maintain the Holy Church; but as only a little portion ever reached it, Widow Blanc has devoted an equal sum, but administers it herself! There are seven churches, which are almost all supported by the unholy gains of Monte Carlo. There are 300 or 400 regular clergy in religious houses, who mostly subsist upon it. Monaco is the only place known at present where the Church of Rome holds sole and absolute sway, and there hell holds constant carnival. The most selfish of the human race here engage in a constant war on each other's means. Yearly nearly two hundred suicides take place, and thousands receive irreparable injury to their means and minds. The imprudently can be at any time measured by taking a good rifle and shooting from east to west and from north to south. In both cases the space

measured by the bullet exceeds the limits of the principality! It is intolerable to think of permitting such a paltry territory to continue to degrade and debase people by affording facilities for the action of the worst of human passions. Mr. Polson deserves credit for so courageously exposing the terrible evils of Monte Carlo; and apart from his aim his pamphlet reads like a romance.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. JOHN M'GAVIN, GLASGOW.—We deeply regret to have to record the sudden decease of this amiable and large-hearted citizen at Kilwinning on Tuesday, 12th ult., in the 63rd year of his age. Mr. M'Gavin was no ordinary man. He had the rare faculty of winning hosts of friends in every walk of life he trod. In business, in culture, in philanthropy, he reaped abundant success. He studiously eschewed the distraction of municipal and Parliamentary life, and in railway management, in the promotion of the fine arts, and in works of benevolence, he found ample room and verge enough for business and for the leisure he could command. He was attached to the temperance movement for many years, being chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scottish Temperance League, always exhibiting a sustained and generous interest in operations based on the educational phase of the movement. To that institution he has left the princely legacy of one thousand pounds. He will be greatly missed, and long remembered as a man of unbending integrity and high Christian principle.

At the ordinary meeting of the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., in the chair, the following resolution, moved by Bailie Selkirk, seconded by ex-Provost Dick, was unanimously adopted:—

That this Executive desires to record the expression of its deep regret at the great loss which the Temperance movement in Scotland has sustained by the death of Mr. John M'Gavin, Glasgow, whose long, earnest, and generous devotion to the cause has contributed greatly to its progress, and the influence of whose example will doubtless be felt for many years to come.

That an excerpt of this minute be sent to the bereaved sisters of the deceased. R. MACKAY, Secy.

THE LATE REV. D. M'RAE.—A very deep and wide-spread feeling of regret will be evoked by the death of this truly good man on the 19th ult., at the venerable age of 86. Mr. M' Rae was held in affectionate esteem by his flock, to whom he had ministered in holy things so long. He had for 56 years adorned the doctrines he preached by a consistent life of vital godliness. Many a time he rendered effective service to the temperance movement, and his references to the value of total abstinence while he was building up the Gorbals U.P. Church testified loudly to the importance of an abstaining ministry. His son, the Rev. David Macrae, A.M., of Dundee, is, in this respect, the worthy son of a worthy sire.

THE LATE MRS. JAS. MITCHELL.—On the 30th April last, at West Plains, Invercargill, New Zealand, this worthy woman entered into her rest at the ripe old age of 84. Shortly after the decease of her husband, Mr. James Mitchell, Scottish Superintendent of the United Kingdom Alliance, and Secretary of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, she joined her family in New Zealand. She has survived him nineteen years, three months, and twelve days. When he undertook the work of organising the Glasgow Temperance Mission, Mrs. Mitchell supported him by efforts which might fitly be termed indomitable, and on all occasions the help she gave to the movement was entitled to admiration. She has had the proud satisfaction to find that the work done by her husband formed in no ordinary degree the foundation of the abundant progress which is daily evident to all. Her friends, and many who remember her with pleasure, will feel sorrow at her decease, and join in paying a tribute of praise and regret to her memory.

THE
Social Reformer.

SEPTEMBER, 1881.

POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE TEMPERANCE
REFORMATION.

(Being a Paper read at a Meeting of the Dumfries
and Maxwelltown Temperance Union.)

BY W. DICKIE.

II.

THE responsibility laid upon the advocates of prohibition is, I admit, a very serious one. They are called upon to prove, not simply that great evils exist alongside of the liquor traffic, but that those evils are to be traced to it as the cause; not simply that those evils have occasionally, and it may be accidentally, resulted from it, but that wherever the cause is present we have also the effect; and that the evils are so enormous as to justify a departure from what, notwithstanding exceptions such as those to which I have alluded, is the common rule of freedom of trade. But serious as this task is, it is not one from which they need to shrink from any fear of the weakness of their case. We assert that intemperance is the direct cause of more crime than any other single agency of which we have any knowledge: it has been frequently said, and it is I think universally admitted to be little if at all beyond the truth, that it is the cause of nine-tenths of the crime committed in this country: further that it is the immediate cause of death in a very large proportion of the cases which annually swell our death-rate, and of nearly all the pauperism which afflicts a great portion of the community and burdens the remainder for their support; and that wherever facilities exist for the purchase of intoxicating drink, there is intemperance as an invariable result.

The object of our present inquiry is not so much to ascertain the truth of the indictment which abstainers bring against the liquor traffic as to determine whether the charges, if proved, would warrant the Government in adopting their conclusion and prohibiting the liquor traffic. I am therefore spared the necessity of going through the long catalogue of evils which we lay to its charge and adducing evidence regarding them. It is well, however, to refresh our memories at times, so that we may be kept alive to the vast importance of the question at issue, of which familiarity is apt to make us think lightly. I shall therefore mention one or two facts tending to show that the question of intemperance is one of momentous and vital importance, that it is a fact too terribly real and not merely a hideous nightmare which disturbs the rest of some heated enthusiasts. The *Westminster Review* declared many years ago that "drunkenness is the curse of England—a curse so great that it eclipses every other calamity under which we suffer. *It is impossible to exaggerate the evils of drunkenness.*" The last of these sentences was adopted in so many words by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote, in one of his public speeches; and the truth of the statement here made has been

admitted by all our leading statesmen and by all authorities on social questions. We get some idea of the extent to which drinking customs prevail if we consider the amount annually spent on intoxicating liquors. In the year 1879 the amount so spent in the United Kingdom was, I am glad to say, £14,000,000 less than the sum expended on them in the preceding year. That of itself was a vast sum, but it only represented the eleventh part of the sum still actually spent upon these drinks. That amounted to £128,000,000; and unfortunately, with the first faint signs of returning commercial prosperity our expenditure on intoxicants began to increase. I am not in possession of the figures for last year, but they will, I believe, be considerably larger than those for 1879. Speaking of our national drink-bill for 1878, Earl Cairns, the late Lord Chancellor, said: "The interest of the national debt, the cost of our army, navy, judicial establishments, civil service, and education amount to between seventy million and eighty million per year. But mark that we spend in drink double the whole revenue which pays the whole expenses of this country. If people would drink half, they would save the whole of the revenue which is raised by taxation in this country." If they would drink none the saving would go a long way towards extinguishing the local rates too. So you see, even from a financial point of view, it is a national question of the greatest importance.

In speaking of the specific evils of intemperance I shall confine myself to one branch of them, viz., its effects upon human life. It has been computed by eminent medical authorities that no less than 42,000 persons die annually in the United Kingdom of disease brought on by their own intemperate habits, and that if we take into account the deaths indirectly caused, through accident or otherwise, by the intemperance of the persons themselves or of others; the number would not be less than 120,000. Let us try to realise if we can what this means in such a way as this.

If to-night the angel of death were to visit every home in Dumfries and strike down, not only the first-born, but every member of every household, man, woman, and child, and to-morrow the town were without a living inhabitant, the victims of even such an appalling calamity as that would fall far, far short of the number who are annually laid in the grave by the hand of drink. If the desolate town were re-peopled, and on the following night every soul again fell under the destroyer's power, it would yet fail to furnish us with a parallel. The terrible sacrifice would need to be repeated yet a third time before the loss of life would equal that which annually results from this one preventible cause. And if we are to reckon the number of indirect victims, we find that they are more in number than the combined population of the two countries of Dumfries and Kirkeudbright.

Let us look at the sad picture in yet another light.

The loss of life in the United Kingdom from two of the most fatal and wide-spread epidemics which have visited this country in recent times, the cholera of 1848 and 1854, did not amount to more, taking both epidemics together, than 80,000. That is certainly a fearful bill of mortality; but it does not equal the numbers which in the same years would be carried off by drink; and if we take into account the larger figures, representing the indirect results as well, we find that the fatal cases from two distinct visitations of cholera form only a third part of those which in two years are caused by intemperance. And if the Government felt called upon to adopt sanitary laws of a repressive and prohibitory nature, in order to prevent the death of large numbers of its citizens by pestilence at rarely recurring intervals, surely we may with perfect justice call upon it to adopt measures of a similar character to stay the ravages of another pestilence, not intermittent but constant in its character, which carries off not once in a generation but every year a hecatomb of victims equal in number to those who have fallen before the most fearful visitations of disease.

Another aspect in which we may view the effect of intemperance upon human life is this. According to tables which have been formed upon an extensive series of statistics, and which are used by insurance and benefit societies to calculate their risks and fix the amount of premiums to be charged, the average duration of life after a person has attained the age of twenty is forty-four years; but by well ascertained data it has been established that the average duration of life after the age of twenty, in the case of persons of intemperate habits, is only 15 years. In other words, the young man who at twenty becomes addicted to intemperance diminishes his expectation of life, humanly speaking, by twenty-nine years. True, this only applies to the intemperate, not to all who drink; but let it be remembered that the inexorable logic of statistics proves to demonstration that more than 40,000 persons annually pass over the boundary line of moderation to supply the place of those whom drink has laid in an early grave. And let all who feel confident in their own strength reflect what security they have that they or their loved ones will not help to swell that number.

This, however, is a slight digression from the proper purpose of this paper. I have now to seek to connect the liquor traffic with the evils of which I have spoken. That intemperance accompanies the general sale and consumption of strong drink as regularly as effect follows cause is proved by the past history of this country. I need not go further back than the early part of last century. Drunkenness was then so alarmingly prevalent that Government imposed what almost amounted to a prohibitive duty on whisky, with the object of lessening its consumption. In this they were unsuccessful, not because they acted on a wrong principle, but because of the inefficiency of the executive, which failed to put down the numerous band of smugglers to which the new state of things gave rise, and who, by evading the duty altogether, were able to supply the people with spirits as cheap or more cheaply than before. The vice has gone on increasing since that time, or at least it has not decreased in a proportion at all commensurate with the efforts, political, moral, and social, which have been made to repress it. We have thus strong evidence from the general tendency of history that intemperance stands to the public sale of drink in the relation of effect to cause. We have further positive evidence of the fact in the disappearance of the effect in those restricted areas where the alleged cause has been removed. I will only refer to one case, that of the little Irish town of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. That is a place of some

four thousand inhabitants, which is in the happy position of having within its borders neither a public-house nor licensed premises of any kind; and from the fact that it also has neither a policeman nor a pawnbroker, you may gather that its condition, if not quite Arcadian, is in striking contrast to that of a great portion of the Emerald Isle. Without disparaging other remedial measures which may be necessary, I may observe that we have here two important factors in the solution of the Irish problem, in the absence of whisky and the presence of industry, with opportunities for the exercise of that industry. I might further refer to the experience of Maine and other prohibitory States in America to show at once that prohibition is possible, and that it is attended with the good results which we claim for it. I know that doubts are attempted to be raised regarding the results of the Maine Law, as doubts are raised about every fact within the range of human knowledge; but it is a sufficient answer to these doubts to point out that other States of the Union, and our own colony of Canada, are so thoroughly convinced of the beneficial results of prohibition in Maine that they are following her example. The Canadian Parliament in 1878 passed a Permissive Bill, which has been adopted in many of the provinces. Within the last few months, the State of Kansas has, by a popular vote, decided for a prohibitory law. I may also notice in passing that a Permissive Bill has recently been passed in South Australia. I think I have indicated sufficient reasons for attributing the evils resulting from intemperance to the public sale of drink. And we may at once settle the logic of the matter by this self-evident proposition, that if the drink cannot be had, and consequently cannot be drunk, the evils which result from its excessive use will be effectually prevented.

Not a Necessary Trade.—Returning to Mr. Lowe's statement, with which I set out, I am compelled to admit that if the trade of a retailer of liquor is a necessary trade, then even the powerful indictment which we lay against it would not justify the Legislature in suppressing it. I am reminded that here I have against me the weighty authority of Adam Smith, the father of political economy. But Adam Smith lived a hundred years ago, and he had not the benefit of the medical testimony which we now possess as to the real nature of intoxicating drinks, or that might possibly have modified his opinion. And in venturing to differ from him on this point, I am encouraged by the reflection that while the greatest deference is still entertained for his opinions regarding the science of which he was the founder, his opinions have not been on all points slavishly followed. Adam Smith defended the Navigation Laws, which prohibited the carriage of foreign goods to this country in any but British ships; but the Navigation Laws have been repealed as the necessary sequence of free trade. He also gave at least a qualified sanction to the commercial doctrine of reciprocity, which has been repudiated within the last two years by both political parties in the British Parliament. To differ from Adam Smith is, therefore, not such an astounding thing as it might at first appear. Further, when I examine the passage in his book, "The Wealth of Nations," in which Mr. Lowe finds the opinion which he quotes, I find a theory there advanced which does not seem to me to be quite sound. The writer contends that if wines are only made so cheap as not to be an object of desire from the difficulty of obtaining them, people will cease drinking them to excess. To push this theory to its logical result, the best way would be to give the drink away for nothing. By establishing pumps in every town from which people

could get as much whisky, wine, or beer as they pleased without payment, you will effectually prevent them from getting drunk; and the way in which temperance reformers could most profitably direct their efforts would be to form themselves into associations for the free distribution of intoxicating liquors.

To proceed, then, to show—the authority of Adam Smith notwithstanding—that the trade of a retailer of intoxicating liquors is not a necessary trade, I apprehend I only need to show that intoxicating liquors are not a necessary article of food. On that point recent medical testimony must be regarded as conclusive. Some doctors of high authority—not in any way identified with the temperance movement—go the length of saying that alcohol is a deleterious poison, as Sir William Gull, physician to the Queen, did in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Lords. Sir William adds that many people are dying day by day, poisoned by alcohol, who do not know it, and that even when used in what is regarded as moderation, it is “the most destructive agent we are aware of in this country.” I do not consider it necessary, however, for my present purpose, to prove that intoxicating liquors are poisonous. All that I feel called upon to assert is that they are not a necessary food; and in this I think I am supported by all the eminent medical authorities who have publicly expressed their opinion. I shall adduce only the evidence of three witnesses, and these among the least favourable I know. Sir James Paget, in an article contributed to the *Contemporary Review*, in opposition to the pleas of total abstainers, was only able to assert in defence of the custom of taking alcoholic liquors, that it was “certainly pleasant, and possibly useful.” Dr. Kidd, who wrote in the same journal, also unfavourably to the temperance movement, was compelled, by his sense of honesty, to make this very material admission:—“To a person of perfectly sound constitution, in ordinary good health, undoubtedly the rule of life should be not to take alcoholic fluids habitually, to reserve their use, like medicines, for actual states of disease.” The other witness to whom I shall refer is Dr. Fraser, one of the medical professors in the University of Edinburgh. He delivered a lecture in that city last winter, in which he sought to prove that alcohol was valuable as a food; but he also was obliged to admit that “people could work as well without it as with it, and that the addition of alcohol to the diet might even diminish the capacity for physical exertion.” The gist of medical testimony, so far as I have been able to gather it—even on the most unfavourable construction—is that while intoxicating drinks, when taken in small quantities may be a convenient food for some people, they are certainly not necessary, and to many their use, even in the smallest quantity, is positively dangerous. I am entitled to submit, on this evidence, that the trade of supplying what is not necessary is not a necessary trade.

Ought to be suppressed.—In conclusion, I have only now to apply the propositions I have attempted to establish. If I have succeeded in the proof—or if those propositions are capable of being proved, whether I have proved them or not—it follows that it is not only the right but the duty of the Government to prohibit the liquor traffic. If it be once admitted that that traffic is productive of great evils, which would be prevented by its suppression, it becomes a simple question of calculation whether there are any compensating benefits derived from it to counter-balance those evils. In face of the admittedly enormous evils, I submit the only admissible plea would be that it is necessary to supply an

article of food; and that plea must certainly fail when brought to the test of competent evidence. Prohibition is demanded in order to protect the lives of multitudes of citizens who annually fall victims to abounding temptations; it is demanded for the protection of their fellow-citizens, who are exposed to serious danger from the crimes of the intemperate; it is demanded as a measure for the prevention of crime and the suppression of vice, and also as a measure which would greatly lighten the burden of taxation. We can appeal to the Government to grant our prayer by every reason which there is for its own existence. And although I do not expect to see the subject dealt with in this thorough manner by the present Parliament, I have no doubt that it will eventually be so dealt with. When once the public conscience is thoroughly roused to the enormity of the evils to which, from long familiarity, it has become callous, it will demand, in a voice which will not brook refusal, that the remedy shall be applied.

THE ACTION OF ALCOHOL UPON HEALTH.*

WHEN a small tract like this reaches a circulation of twenty thousand within a month, it is a proof that it has some extraordinary claim upon the reading community to whom it appeals. This has more than one. The author is one of the first physicians in London, who has as yet taken up no strong position in the temperance reformation, and is therefore free, in the opinion of society, from the suspicion or the taint of fanaticism, or partizanship, or bias. Then, the contents of the book are marked by the highest excellence, whether of style or matter. Standing between the great competing parties for national sway, the publicans and prohibitionists, Dr. Clark is, as it were, asked to decide upon their respective merits, and inform the nation which of them is most worthy of national regard. The judgment so calmly given is decisive. Alcohol is the great enemy of the human race, and, according to him, deserves a short shrift and a sure cord. The lines upon which the address is framed are exceedingly simple—the nature and influence of alcoholic liquors on sound or indifferent health, in work, in disease, and in its influence on the unborn. Dr. Clark, after setting forth the paramount importance of a knowledge of alcohol to the individual, enters with a solemn sense of his responsibility in treating of alcohol and its effects into his subject. We just give one of his striking remarks under each head without comment, assured that nothing that may be said by anyone can add to the impressiveness of his words:—“Alcohol is a poison, so is strychnine, so is arsenic, so is opium. It ranks with these, and, like it, can be habitually taken without any *obvious* prejudicial effect upon health, but only in exceedingly minute doses.” “Health is the state of body in which all the functions of it go on without notice or observation, and in which existence is felt to be pleasure, in which it is a kind of joy to see, to hear, to touch, to live. That is health. Now, this is a state that cannot be benefited by alcohol in any degree; nay, it is a state which in nine cases out of ten is injured by alcohol. It is a state which often bears alcohol without sensible injury, and it is not one which can in any way be benefited by alcohol. This is a state in which, sooner or later, the music goes out of tune under the continuous influence of alcohol.” There is a secondary sort of health which is the health of most of us, and the question is, what of it? What does alcohol do to it? Such health bears better with alcohol than any other, and even *seems* for a time to be benefited by it. There are some nervous people, people who are born into the world to be always ailing, and yet never ill. Health of this sort is a heavy burden to bear in life. It is always oppressive. I will next ask your attention to the question of work. One way

* An Address by Andrew Clark, M.D., Senior Physician to the London Hospital. London: Church of England Temperance Society, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster. One penny, or six shillings per hundred.

of determining this matter is by appealing to personal experience; another, and perhaps the better way, is by appealing to a carefully conducted experiment with bodies of men. Now, I will try both questions. I have no hesitation in saying that if a man has the courage to cast aside the imaginative difficulties which surround an experiment of this kind, and say, 'None of your nonsense, I mean to try this experiment: I'm not a coward, and I will try it honestly,' he will succeed. People always look a little paler or thinner under such an experiment, but bulk is not the measure of power, nor colour the measure of health." "If there is any honest man who really wants to get at truth, I would tell him fearlessly, and I would risk all that I possess upon the back of the statement, that as certainly as he does try the experiment for a month or six weeks so certainly will he come to the conclusion that, however pleasant alcohol is for the moment, *it is not a helper of work*. It is not only not a helper of work, it is a *hinderer* of work, and every man who comes to the front of a profession in London is marked by this one characteristic: that *the more busy he gets, the less in the shape of alcohol he takes*, and his excuse is—'I am very sorry, but I cannot take it and do my work.' Now for the experiment, Dr. Parkes got a number of soldiers of the same age, of the same type of constitution, living under the same circumstances, eating the same food, breathing the same atmosphere, and he did this that the experiment might be fair, and he divided the soldiers into two gangs, an alcoholic gang, and a non-alcoholic gang, and he engaged these two gangs in certain works for which they were to be paid extra. He watched these gangs and took the result of their work, and it turned out that the alcoholic gang went far ahead at first. They had buckets of beer at their side and as they got a little tired they took beer, and the non-alcoholic gang were in an hour or two left nowhere; but he waited and watched, as I told you, and as the experiment went on the energies of the beer-drinkers began to speedily flag, and do what they would, before the end of the day the non-alcoholic gang had left them far behind. When this had gone on for some days the alcoholic gang begged that they might get into the non-alcoholic gang that they might earn a little more money; but Dr. Parkes, in order to make the experiment clinching and conclusive, transposed the gangs. He made the alcoholic gang the non-alcoholic gang, and *vice versa*—the men being very willing to lend themselves to the experiment—and the results were exactly the same. The alcoholic gang beat the non-alcoholic gang at the starting, and failed utterly towards the end of the day. This is the most conclusive, and, I think, by far the most crucial experiment that I know of upon the question of the relation of alcohol to work. With that I will set aside this question by saying from personal experience, and from experiments most carefully conducted over large bodies of men, it is capable of proof beyond all possibility of question, that *alcohol in ordinary circumstances not only does not help work, but it is a serious hindrance of work*. Now, as to the effect of alcoholic drinks upon disease. I went to my hospital to-day thinking of my lecture, and I asked myself this question, How many of these cases are due to natural and unavoidable causes, and how many are due to alcohol? I do not desire to make out a strong case, I desire to make out a *true* case. I am speaking solemnly and carefully in the presence of truth, and I tell you I am considerably within the mark when I say to you that in going the rounds of my hospital to-day *seven* out of every *ten* there *owed their ill-health to alcohol*. I do not know that one of them was what you call a drunkard. It is not the drunkards that suffer so much from alcohol. There are a number of men that we know to be drunkards. They get drunk, and they get sober, and they are so much ashamed of themselves that they won't touch the accursed thing for months to come, until somebody tempts them. These are not the men to suffer most from alcohol. No; the men that suffer truly and really from alcohol are those who are habitually taking a little too much. They are very good fellows, do their work well, but they are always drinking just a little more than the physiological quantity I

mentioned at the outset; they are being sapped and undermined by this process. Day by day—just as the grass grows, and you cannot see it—day by day this little excess—often a little one—is doing its work. It upsets the stomach, the stomach upsets the other organs, and bit by bit under this fair, and genial, and jovial outside the constitution is being sapped, and suddenly, some fine day, this hale hearty man whose steps seem to make the earth resound again tumbles down in a fit. That is the way in which alcohol saps the constitution. Surely, surely, you will agree with me that a terrible responsibility lies upon those who, forgetful of these plain teachings which the commonest experience can yield, will stimulate people to keep themselves up with glasses of wine and glasses of beer. It is not they alone who suffer, but so soon as a man begins to take one drop more than what I have called the physiological quantity, the desire of it is not only begotten in him, but the desire of it becomes a part of his very nature, and that nature, so formed by his acts, is calculated to inflict curses inexpressible upon the earth when handed down to the generations that are to follow after him, as part and parcel of their being. What an awful thought is this? Can I say to you any words stronger than these of the terrible effects of the use of alcohol? It is when I myself think of all this that I am disposed, as I have said elsewhere, to rush to the opposite extreme, to give up my profession, to give up everything, and to go forth upon a holy crusade, preaching to all men—Beware of this enemy of the race."

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

THE WATCH'S FIRST OWNER.

Continued from page 73.

"Don't preach," he said rudely. The wife looked at him with startled eyes, and then left the room. He filled and drained a couple of glasses and flung himself on the sofa.

Before I had been a week in my new mistress's possession I grew to love her very dearly. Her husband was not so kind to her as he might have been, considering she had neither kith nor kin in the world. I believe he loved her, but he was wrapped up in the idol self. She did not complain; I never heard a reproachful word fall from her lips; she was always gentle to him, *always*. Her utter forgetfulness of self was the most wonderful thing I have ever seen. She was left very much alone; in the long evenings it was often midnight before he came; and then his step was often unsteady, and his eyes burning with the fire drink had kindled within. She would slip away from him at such times, trying, poor thing, to hide the loathing and disgust she felt. I have heard many a broken prayer ascend from her chamber, but on such things I have not the heart to dwell. She grew paler and thinner, more weary and listless every day; but he did not see it. No, the man's feelings were being blunted, and would soon be dead. I remember, and shall remember as long as I live, what happened one wild February night. Early in the afternoon Mary Sylvester was sitting at the window with her hands idly clasped on her lap, and her eyes fixed on the leaden sky. A cold northerly wind was moaning among the leafless boughs in the Park and driving the sleet against the window panes. About four o'clock the door opened, and her husband came in. She uttered an exclamation of surprise, and ran to him anxiously.

"Jack! Home already! What has happened? Are you ill?"

"Don't bother," was the surly reply, and he strode past her, and flung himself on the sofa. "Nothing's wrong. I've got the sack, that's all."

"The what?" enquired the wife timidly, not understanding his slang.

"I'm paid off; my services are no longer required. Can you understand that? Nice prospect for us, isn't it?"

She grew pale.

"Paid off! Why, Jack, what have you done?"

"The upright governors are not satisfied with my behaviour, that's all. Don't ask me any more questions. Get me some dinner, I'm going out."

She bit her lips to still their quivering, and proceeded to obey him without a word.

No further conversation passed between them till dinner was past and he took up his hat again.

"Don't go out to-night, Jack," his wife said. "Stay with me this one night, I have something to tell you which has been on my lips for days."

He looked at her curiously. "It'll keep another day then," he said, passing out into the lobby. "Don't sit up for me."

She stood still until the outer door closed upon him, then dropping on her knees she gave way to a burst of weeping, most pitiful to hear. It appeared to relieve her overcharged heart, for she rose composed and took up some sewing. The storm was rising outside. The wind soughed louder through the leafless boughs, the sleet battered fiercely against the panes. The hours sped, and when ten rang Mrs. Sylvester folded up her work neatly, and laid it past, aye, for the last time. Then she removed her slippers and put on her boots. She lowered the gas in the dining-room, and taking a hat and shawl from the lobby, slipped out into the street locking the door behind her. Heedless of the rain, Mary Sylvester hurried on her way, only pausing now and again to regain the strength which failed her at every step. It was evident she was bent upon a purpose, for she threaded the labyrinth of streets with methodical speed, and at length turned into one quiet and unfrequented, and going swiftly along, paused in front of a plain, unpretending-looking shop, with half-lighted windows and shaded door. She stood a moment on the threshold and then entered. The interior was a perfect blaze of light, it was veritably a gin-palace. The smooth paved floor, marble topped counters, glittering chandeliers, sparkling glasses, flashing fountain, everything calculated to dazzle the eyes, and please the senses. One would look in vain here for the tattered and hungry-eyed drunkard, the loungers, so far as outward appearance goes, were gentlemen. It was one of your aristocratic resorts. Many eyes turned to look in amazement at the slim, lady-like figure, as it crossed the floor, looking neither to the right nor to the left, until she paused before a man who was evidently the principal.

"Mr. Sylvester is here, sir," she said in firm, clear tones. "Will you be good enough to take me where he is." The man bowed slightly confused, and requested her to follow him. He led the way to a back room, comfortably furnished, in which a company of gentlemen sat round a table playing cards for heavy stakes. The place reeked with the odour of brandy and tobacco. Mary Sylvester went round the circle to the chair where her husband sat, and laid her hand upon his shoulder. His companions stared, some of them laughed.

"Come home with me, Jack," she said, in a low voice. "I am very ill, and I have come all this way to bring you."

He paused irresolute, but a titter ran round the table and that decided him. He shook off the gentle hand.

"You have gone mad, I believe," he said roughly. "Go home and stay there, I'll come when I'm ready."

"Come with me now, Jack," she repeated. "I am so weak, I am afraid I shall not be able to reach home alone. You cannot send me away." He turned impatiently from her, and shuffled the cards in his hands. Mary Sylvester raised her sad eyes to the company. "Gentlemen, you are his friends. Try and persuade him to come. You cannot have the heart to see a poor weak woman go home alone."

"You had better go Sylvester," said one, but again the titter ran round the table, and Jack Sylvester raised his eyes to his wife's face full of a meaning she well understood.

"Go home, I shall not tell you again."

"Yes, I am going," she answered huskily. "But let me tell you here what I meant to tell you to-night, I am dying Jack, and you know it. It is my earnest prayer that the remembrance of this night may not

haunt you in days to come, with the bitterest remorse a human soul can feel."

Like a spirit she had come, like a spirit she glided from their midst. The wind had fallen when she reached the street, and the sky was breaking overhead. Among the flying clouds the new moon was struggling for a place, and the evening star shone out like a messenger of peace from God. It was close on eleven o'clock when Mary Sylvester reached her home; the fire was low in the grate, and she was wet through, but that she did not heed. She flung herself into a chair, and for a long time sat very still. It neared midnight, and still he did not come. She arose at last and crossed the room. The piano was open, and a piece of music lay upon the key-board. It was a hymn, one of the sweetest ever penned. Forgetful of the lateness of the hour, she sat down and played over the prelude; a moment more and her voice rang through the quiet house in clear and mournful sweetness,

"Earth hath no sorrows
That Heaven cannot heal.

At these words she broke down, and buried her face on the keys. Just then a familiar step was heard at the door, the key was fitted to the lock, and her husband entered. She did not lift her head, nor show that she was aware of his presence. "What did you mean by making a fool of me before my friends," he asked fiercely. "I'll teach you not to try it again." Give him his due, if he had been sober he would not have done it; but, his hand fell heavily upon her woman's breast, not once, but twice. She uttered no cry, but went silently from the room, and tottered upstairs to her own. She was ill for many days, and he dared not go to her. But when they told him at last that the end was at hand, he went up and entered her chamber. The nurse went out closing the door behind her; none were present during that hour. Such pages in human lives are best unturned, so I will hasten to a close. She died that night with her head on his breast and his name the last on her lips—died of a broken heart. And, friends, hers was only one of the many, of which our God keeps a record against the day of judgment.

A. S. S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

DEAR SIR,—Your readers had laid before them last month a clear and full account of the Elgin Burghs' election so far as that election bore upon the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic. In thus again referring to it, I wish to state some of the impressions made on my mind during my stay in the Burghs. For many years I have had the conviction that the matter of prohibition has been in the hands of the social and moral reformers of the country if they had only realised how to wield their power. This opinion was strengthened by the recent election in the Elgin Burghs. It was quite apparent that the prohibitionists in the Burghs could get at least three of the advanced men who had a desire to represent the constituency in Parliament to go for a complete suppressive veto over the issue of licenses to be put into the hands of the ratepayers. Another thing was perfectly clear, and that was that only those who had ideas in harmony with the Permissive Bill took a special interest in the position of the candidates towards the liquor traffic. There are many theorists abroad in the country, who differ from us, but you never find them advocating their opinions earnestly, in a public way, or pressing them upon the attention of members of Parliament. They are theorists and theorists only. Then, I find a class of people who are constantly urging that we are not ready for prohibition. Those who teach this doctrine don't know the mischief they are doing. They are the enemies of prohibition. Many places in Scotland are ready to adopt a permissive law, and surely there is nothing that would so much tend to ripen prohibitory

sentiment as the knowledge that there was a law of this description upon the Statute Book. Law is a mighty educator either for good or for evil, and I was glad to see that the prohibitionists of the Elgin Burghs fully realised this fact, and the gentleman whom they have helped to send to Parliament will register their convictions in the House of Commons when the time comes round for him to do so.

Temperance reformers are not so much hampered by the politicians as by their own weakness of faith and want of action. The politicians will faithfully follow if we loyally lead. They will never go before us, but will aid us just as we are in earnest. Let our claims, therefore, be stated with definiteness. Let us never complicate our position but simply ask for justice, and we can only get that by having a full veto to suppress the drink trade within the licensing areas.

On the 14th of July Mr. R. Stevenson met me at Nairn, where we had an excellent meeting on the Links. Mr. C. Masson, of the East Coast Mission, took the chair, and a number of public-spirited young men sang a few hymns, and we soon had an intelligent company of fully 200 persons. These sat down on a green bank, and we addressed them from the level ground below. Those who have walked over Nairn Links will have some idea of the beauty of the surroundings. The earnestness of those present was all that could be desired.

We then went to Forres where we had three open-air meetings, and Mr. Stevenson preached twice on Sabbath in the Evangelical Union Church. We found the friends in Forres in good heart, and our visit was rendered very agreeable. The people listened to our arguments for prohibition with seriousness, and evidently appreciated the meetings. We then went to Elgin. There are a number of warm friends of the temperance movement in this burgh. We had two meetings here, and were well supported by the temperance men at the meetings which contributed greatly to our success. While Elgin can boast of a goodly number of earnest and intelligent reformers, it must also be stated that they have a heavy task before them. The burgh is sadly burdened with drink shops, there being one to every 13 electors. That is an enormous burden for 13 electors to carry. These places are all licensed for profit and rent. Moral considerations don't go for much with those who have an eye to big rents and large profits through the manufacture and common sale of alcohol. You must attack the liquor laws, and suppress the system of license, if you want to do anything worthy of the temperance movement.

From Elgin we went to Inverness. I have frequently visited the Highland capital since I came to the North, and have always been gratified by the kindly reception given to me. This time was no exception to the rule. A number of the friends increased their contributions to our funds, and our meetings were large, and an intelligent interest was manifested. We sold seven dozen of *Social Reformers* at the meetings. I hope to be back again to Inverness in September. Mr. Stevenson was well pleased with our tour, and we were both confirmed in the opinion that the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic should be held up more persistently than ever it has been done. The traffic is still sweeping multitudes of our young men into the vortex of ruin, and the fair fame of our country is even being more tarnished by the injury done to our women. History shows us that nothing but the legal suppression of the traffic will meet our case; all other efforts are

"Weak as a feather 'gainst a giant's shield,
Light as a gossamer floating on the wind."

Aberdeen.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD.

PUBLIC PRESS.

GOVERNOR TALBOT'S MESSAGE VETOING A LICENSE LAW.—"When I think of the victims to the use of intoxicating liquors in every village of the commonwealth; when I study the great field over which our Board of State Charities has supervision; when I consider our

jails and workhouses, and houses of correction and the State Prison; when I try to compute the loss and charges upon all our industries by reason of imperfect labour, and the taxes for the support of these institutions for reformation and punishment, my judgment unqualifiedly condemns, and my heart and my manhood rebel against a system that would permit the great source of all this wrong, and misery, and crime to exist by the authority of this commonwealth. My convictions against the policy of such a system are too strong; my desire for the welfare and progress of the people is too ardent, and my official responsibilities are too solemn and resistless for me to hesitate in doing the duty laid upon me. I therefore return the bill entitled, 'An Act regulating the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquor,' to the House of Representatives form which it originated, without executive sanction."

THREE REQUISITES FOR SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION.—Mr. Caine, in a letter to the *Times* recently, writes:—"There are three requisites for successful legislation. 1st, The repeal of every Act on the statute-book relating to the licensing of public-houses. 2nd, One comprehensive Act in their place. 3rd, To entrust the administration of that Act to a licensing board elected by the ratepayers every three years by ballot, and the cumulative vote, following in every respect the precedent of the Education Act." To this every true reformer adds a fourth requisite—An absolute veto power placed unreservedly in the hands of the people themselves.

IT DOESN'T PAY.—It doesn't pay to hang one citizen because another citizen sells him liquor. It doesn't pay to have one citizen in the lunatic asylum, because another citizen sold him liquor. It doesn't pay to have one citizen in the county gaol, because another sells him liquor. It doesn't pay to have fifty working men ragged, to have one drinkshop-keeper dressed in broad cloth and flush of money. It doesn't pay to have ten smart, active, intelligent boys transformed into thieves, to enable one man to lead an easy life by selling them liquor. It doesn't pay to have fifty working men and their families live on bone soup and half rations, in order that one shopkeeper may flourish on roast turkey and champagne. It doesn't pay to have one thousand homes blasted, ruined, defiled, and turned into hells of discord and misery, in order that one wholesale liquor dealer may amass a large fortune.

AN ANCIENT TEMPERANCE PLEDGE.—The appendix to the fifth report on Historical MSS., Part I., report on the MSS. of A. J. K. Erskine, Esq., of Dun, in the county of Forfar, contains:—Temperance Bond, Dundee, July 5th, 1627.—The parties to this contract, which is attested by four witnesses, are Alexander Erskine, of Dun, and Sir Jhone Blair, of Baigillo. They bound themselves to drink nothing, except in their own dwellings, till May 1st, 1628, under a penalty of 500 merks Scots, for the first "failzie and brack," and of 100 merks for every succeeding one, and for security agreed to register the contract. The reason alleged for this agreement is that the "access (*i.e.*, excess), of drinking is prohibit bothe be the law of God and man, and that they were willing to give guid exampill to vtheris be their lyff and conversacioun to abstain from the like abuse."—*Montrose Standard*.

JEANNIE DEANS.—When the carriage [that was to take her to Scotland] was getting ready, she was informed that the Duke of Argyll wished to speak with her, and being ushered into a splendid saloon, she was surprised to find that he wished to present her to his lady and daughters. "I bring you my little country-woman, Duchess"—these were the words of the introduction—"with an army of good fellows as gallant and steady as she is, and a good cause, I would not fear two to one." . . . The Duchess advanced, and in a few words, in which there was as much kindness as civility, assured Jeannie of the respect which she had for a character so affectionate and yet so firm, and added, "When you get home you will hear from me." "And from me," "And from me," "And from me," added the young ladies, one after the other, "for you are a credit to the laud we love so well." . . .

"Jeannie," said the Duke, "you must have *doch an' dorroch*, or you will be unable to travel." There was a salver with cake and wine on the table. He took up a glass, drank "to all true hearts that loved Scotland," and offered a glass to his guest. Jeannie, however, declined it, saying, "she had never tasted wine in her life." "How comes that, Jeannie?" said the Duke—"Wine maketh glad, you know." "Ay, sir, but my father is like Jonadab, the son of Rechab, who charged his children that they should drink no wine." "I thought your father would have had more sense," said the Duke, "unless, indeed, he prefers brandy. But, however, Jeannie, if you will not drink you must eat, to save the character of my house."—*The Heart of Millothian*.

COMMUNION WINE QUESTION. — "I will give the reasons for refusing to acknowledge sacramental intoxicating liquor as a legitimate article of commerce—1st, Because 'wine' is nowhere mentioned as in any way connected with the observance of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper; 2nd, because the fruit of the vine in a liquid state is the only thing specified as a beverage employed on this sacred and solemn occasion; 3rd, because the 'pure blood of the grape,' in its virgin and uncorrupted state, is like the Saviour—'holy, harmless, and undefiled'; 4th, because there is no warrant in the Word of God for substituting intoxicating liquor instead of the 'fruit of the vine'; 5th, because intoxicating liquor is the Scriptural symbol of God's wrath and curse from Genesis to Revelation, and is the appropriate symbol of everything that is wicked, sinful, corrupt, polluted, abominable, and destructive, and is therefore utterly unfit to represent the perfect benignity and holiness of the life and character of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; 6th, because in neglect of the dying injunction of the great head of the Church, and by unwarrantably substituting intoxicating liquor instead of the 'fruit of the vine' in a binding ordinance of the Christian faith, the Church has incurred the great guilt of sanctioning and enforcing the dietetic misuse of narcotic and intoxicating poisons in almost every age and country; 7th, because this deplorable and unwarrantable change is part and parcel of the great apostacy which came in after the working of Satan, and is the true cause of the failure of the Church to eradicate those gigantic moral and physical evils springing from drunkenness, which still continue to afflict and disgrace almost every country and nation professing the Christian faith; 8th, because alcohol, the distinctive principle of all excisable and intoxicating liquors, is the product of corruption, and is no part of the 'fruit of the vine' as it comes from the hand of God; 9th, because it is the duty of the Church to banish intoxicating liquor from the table of the Lord, and to restore the practice of using the 'fruit of the vine' according to Divine appointment, and by so doing raise an effective testimony against the bacchanalian practices of the world, delivering the Church from the guilt of complicity, and thus giving the glory of a coming temperance reformation exclusively to the Holy One of Israel; 10th, because the whole teaching of the Word of God is in strict harmony with this view of the question." (Applause.) —James M'Nair's speech at annual meeting Scottish Temperance League.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, from 15th July to 13th August inclusive. During that period 85 meetings were held, 38 being deputational, and 47 ordinary. At these meetings, 126 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. J. R. Waterston has visited Bo'ness, Leith, Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Kilsyth, Grange-mouth, Hamilton, Freuchie, Kirkcaldy, Pathhead, and Cupar, and addressed 32 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Forres, Elgin, Inverness, Edinburgh, Larkhall, Greenock, Glasgow, Pollok-

shaws, Hamilton, Lanark, Biggar, Lockerbie, Moffat, Coatbridge, and Whifflet, and addressed 29 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Forres, Elgin, Inverness, and Aberdeen, and addressed 17 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Irvine, Glasgow, Kilbarchan, Greenock, Bonhill, Hamilton, Biggar, Lockerbie, Moffat, and Port-Glasgow, and addressed 14 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Kilbarchan, Glasgow, Lanark, Coatbridge, and Whifflet, and addressed 8 meetings.

Mr. W. Kesson has addressed 4 meetings in Greenock, Glasgow, and Port-Glasgow.

Mr. J. M'Donald has addressed 3 meetings in Kirkcaldy and Pathhead.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 3 meetings in Leith.

Mr. M. Edwards has addressed 2 meetings in Aberdeen.

Mr. A. Bennet has addressed 2 meetings in Pathhead.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 2 meetings in Cupar.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Revs. T. Parr, Leith; and M. Bell, Hamilton; Ex-Bailie Lewis, Hamilton; Councillor Cross, Hamilton; Messrs. John Ripley, Edinburgh; J. M. Skinner, Glasgow; J. Hamilton, Hamilton; A. S. Munro, Aberdeen; D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; J. Bone, Edinburgh; and C. Mason, Aberdeen.

POETRY.

THE HAWTHORN SPRAY.

I mark'd the beauteous hawthorn
Bloom sweetly in the shade:
The fairest thing by far that liv'd;
Within the sunlit glade;
Not merely fair to gaze upon;
But every passing gale
Receiv'd sweet odour from its breath
In wandering down the vale.
It sinful seem'd to covet thus,
Yet I could not pass it by;
And, even while I pluck'd the flower,
I grasp'd it with a sigh.
How fondly I caress'd it,
As slow I moved along,
Through the dimly shaded forest,
Cheer'd by the bird's sweet song.
An hour had gone beyond me,
And, from my window high,
I watched the sun's last shadows
Sink in the glowing sky.
And through the gentle twilight,
And 'mid the forest's gloom,
I could see the hawthorn shining
In all its pride and bloom.
While lonely, blighted, at my feet,
My lately cherish'd spray,
All crush'd, and pale, and sighted,
In faded beauty lay.
As I gaz'd upon its sisters
In all their bloom and pride,
I wept that I could not restore
Their darling to their side.
Thus is it with the wanton,
Who, wandering in the glade,
Beholds a cottage maiden
Bloom sweetly in the shade.
Charmed by her quiet beauty,
He steals the flower away,
Leaving loving hearts to mourn the loss,
And curse her natal day.
And when her fragrance dieth,
She is coldly cast away,
To fade and die neglected;
Like my blighted hawthorn spray.

MARY GRANT.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, SEPTEMBER, 1881.

* * We have been most reluctantly obliged to leave over "The late Mr. John M'Donald," "Band of Hope Lesson," a letter from Mr. John Paton, and other important items.

* * The *Social Reformer* for October will contain a full report of the proceedings of the Annual Meetings of the Association, and we will issue a supplement in order to do that report every justice. 50 Copies 3s, 100, 6s, 200, 11s, exclusive of carriage. All orders should reach offices by 27th current.

MR. JOHN PATON.

We have the pleasure of intimating that this gentleman is to be at the disposal of the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 19th September to middle of December.

Early application for his services is necessary, and those who ask him to deliver a course of two or more lectures will, all things considered, have preference.

Application for his services, syllabuses of his lectures, terms, &c., should be made direct to the Secretary, R. Mackay, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, by whom they will be duly attended to.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.
ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The twenty-third annual meetings of this Association will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday, 27th September, 1881.

The Business Meeting will take place in the Christian Institute, 70 Bothwell Street, at 11 a.m. Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., President of the Association will occupy the chair. The annual reports will be submitted, office-bearers elected, and business of importance considered.

The Social Meeting of members and their friends will be held in the Saloon of the City Hall, Candle-riggs, at 4 p.m. precisely. John Williams, Esq., The Green, Wishaw, will preside at this meeting. Addresses by delegates and representatives of kind-

red associations. Tickets one shilling each, early application only will secure seats and prevent disappointment. To be had at 112 Bath Street, or sent to any address.

The Public Meeting will be held in the City Hall in the evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

LORD COLIN CAMPBELL, M.P., in the chair.

The Executive have pleasure in intimating that the following gentlemen have signified their intention to be present—

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, Bart., M.P. (United Kingdom Alliance).

DR. CAMERON, M.P.

BENJAMIN WHITWORTH, Esq., M.P.

REV. R. J. LYNDE, B.A., Belfast (Irish Temperance League).

REV. DR. NICOLSON, A.M.

Other speakers will be duly announced.

Societies subscribing to the Association the legal sum will please communicate the name of their delegates (one for every 10s. subscribed) to the secretary by early post.

Having regard to the importance of the business to pass under deliberation, and to the eminence of the chairman and speakers to be present at the evening meeting, the Executive have a confident expectation that they will be gratified by a large and enthusiastic attendance at all the meetings.

R. MACKAY, *Secy.*

THE TEMPERANCE REFORMATION FROM
A MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW.

BY JAMES MURRAY M'CUCCLOCH, M.D., &c.,
DUMFRIES.

We are glad that a second edition of this truly excellent lecture has been called for. It is beyond question the best argument for prohibition to which we can point, embodying the essence of all that has been written on abstinence as the duty of the individual, and prohibition by the will of the people as the duty of the state.

Copies are to be had from the office of this magazine, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, at one penny each, or six shillings per hundred, exclusive of carriage. Special terms for larger quantities. On receipt of twelve stamps, a dozen copies will be sent post free to any address.

We confidently rely on the liberal assistance of our friends in securing a large circulation for this admirable lecture.

We have pleasure in presenting the following press notice in addition to those that have already appeared:—

"The Temperance Reformation from a Medical Point of View."—By James Murray M'Cuulloch, M.D., &c., Dumfries. (Manchester: United Kingdom Alliance.)

The substance of this lecture was delivered to the students of Glasgow University twenty-one years ago, and "has now been re-written, corrected, extended, and re-published at the repeated solicitation

of various parties at home and abroad." It is a thoroughly able and rigidly logical exposition of the subject with which it deals, and is worthy of a wide circulation. The general conclusions arrived at by Dr. McCulloch are, "that total abstinence from alcohol and all other grain poisons as articles of diet and refreshment is an imperative personal duty, and that the total and immediate prohibition of their manufacture and sale for such purposes is the duty of the state."—*Temperance Record*.

Wilfrid Lawson, Chattoe, Stafford, writes to the United Kingdom Alliance:—"Kindly forward me twelve copies of Dr. McCulloch's pamphlet, 'The Temperance Reformation from a Medical point of view.' That pamphlet, soon after it appeared, was read by my father and resulted in a healthy teetotal family, of which I am the oldest of nine, and I want to spread such useful information.

Dr. Cameron, M.P., in his place in Parliament, felt constrained last month in view of the chaotic condition of the Local Government Board in London with regard to small-pox, to direct attention to the frightful mortality arising from that loathsome disease in the metropolis. It seems that in the face of the epidemic the authorities are powerless, and that nearly 12,000 persons had died who under proper sanitary arrangements, as regards small-pox, might have been alive. To illustrate his position and to show that his allegation was well founded, he pointed out that while 1590 per million persons died of small pox in Glasgow, the mortality in London was as much as 4580 per million. This result he attributed to the want of a responsible office or department the same as existed in Glasgow, and he asserted that the people themselves were entirely at a loss, not knowing what to do or where to turn. That is just their position in relation to a greater epidemic. The Government does a little to restrain the liquor traffic, but not near enough, and many valuable lives are in consequence literally thrown away. Were there power conferred on the rate-payers for the efficient isolation of the drunk, whose virus infects so many, we should very soon see its evils disappear. The people properly inoculated with the lymph of agitation, the result would be a pustule in the shape of a vote for ever guarding against a recurrence of the disease. Those responsible for peace and good order would see that the isolation of the drink from the stomachs of their subjects was strictly enforced, and one most wasteful epidemic, worse than even the black plague, would, like it, live only on the page of history.

The other day, in the House of Lords, Lord Waveney brought forward his Cottiers' Bill, the principle of which was the sanitary improvement of the cabins of Ireland and Scotland. In course of the debate his Grace of Argyll endeavoured to show that if the bill became law every landlord would be compelled to reconstruct the cottages on his estate, and so a noble lord who had 4000 cottier tenants would have to disburse £56,000 for the purpose. The cottage which would give all the Irish ideas of

life would at least cost £14. We waive consideration of the state of a country which can furnish such fearful statistical proofs of its sanitary condition. Our interest is based on the means of finding for every cottier a new cottage, when one can be built for £14. Ireland, "first flower of the field, and first gem of the sea," spends nearly £14,000,000 on drink which ruins the comfort of her homes, and renders her people more disaffected than industrious. Could the cottier inhabitants not leave the landlord of the public-house, and become fired with the noble inspiration of setting up as their own landlords? Such a transformation would not occur for the first time in her history. When early in the century her distilleries were stopped because of the ravages of famine, she was more prosperous than in the years when she had plenty and largely indulged in drinking. She was equally prosperous when now nearly fifty years ago Father Matthew administered the pledge to so many of her people. Were she to give up drinking and set industriously to work, in a few years we should see on every cottier's ground the substantial cottage superseding the filthy dilapidated cabin, and her people rising so rapidly in the scale of being as to be distinguished as much for their manifestation of the "hardy" virtues as unfortunately they are to-day held up to opprobrium as lazy, drunken, improvident, and seditious.

One of the most gratifying incidents of the Royal Review last month to all temperance reformers was that of ex-Lord Provost Collins, in the ancient Palace of Holyrood, receiving the honour of Knighthood at the hands of her most gracious Majesty the Queen. The gentleman whom all of us to-day hail as Sir William Collins must have been born at an auspicious hour. The son of a man whose exertions in behalf of temperance in the infancy of the temperance reformation were as indomitable as they are lasting, Sir William has through life trod worthily in his father's footsteps, and, throughout a career marked by uninterrupted commercial success, has ever been found one of the most trusted leaders of the Scottish temperance movement. His adherence to it has in no way impeded his progress towards honour and distinction. He has risen to be one of the magistrates of his native city, to hold the Commission of the Peace and the Deputy-Lieutenancy of Lanarkshire, to be the Hon. the Lord Provost of Glasgow, and now to be the recipient of a most signal mark of his Sovereign's favour. As an abstainer, it may be said with truth that his career is as singular as it has been brilliant. He has the hearty congratulation, uttered or unexpressed, of the Scottish temperance movement generally, and all will join with us, we believe, in wishing the new knight long life to wear his well-earned honours. He has been told by his Queen to be faithful, brave, and fortunate. He has been so, and no doubt will be still more so. But it has always been the duty of knights to devote themselves to the deliverance of

the oppressed, and to go forth in search of adventures to show their stainless courage. Our new knight will, we hope, select the floor of the House of Commons for the scene of his doughty deeds, and there bear himself with knightly courage by the side of our own true knight, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, until the liquor traffic be wrenched from its legal hold upon this country and be utterly routed, defeated, and destroyed. As he couches his lance in this great encounter, may God defend the right.

A change has taken place in the representation of Edinburgh. Notwithstanding that there were persistent rumours that the Lord-Advocate would have to leave his position for the Bench or the Bar, yet it was felt that as he had given fair promise of being an honour to the office he held and that until he had had time and opportunity afforded him for vindicating his aspiration to his high position, he should not either resign or be compelled to give way to others. But this feeling has received a rude shock through the sudden announcement of his leaving the Home Office for the Bench of the Court of Session. It is not our duty to enter upon the reasons ostensible and concealed that induced him to retire. To our movement he was friendly, and although he has been unable to give Sir Wilfrid a vote yet, we always cherished the expectation he would support the principle and the policy to which we adhere whenever opportunity allowed. Our best wishes go with him to the dignified position he has accepted. There was quite a plethora of candidates for the vacancy in the representation of Edinburgh caused by his demission of office. Among these was ex-Bailie Lewis, and we have to freely express our regret, which is shared by a large number of Temperance Reformers in Scotland, that he was unable to see his way to become a candidate for the seat. He would have been an invaluable ally of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's in Parliament. After much speculation and some turbulent feeling the Liberal Association selected Mr. T. R. Buchanan as their only candidate. This decision was loyally acquiesced in by the other two Liberal Candidates, and Mr. Buchanan is now M.P. for Edinburgh. We are glad to be able to inform our readers that Mr. Buchanan is to be a firm supporter of the suppressive Local Option, and who knows but that it may be his high privilege to lead on the prohibitionists of Scotland in their demand for power to relieve themselves of the Liquor Traffic. Mr. Asher, M.P. for the Elgin burghs, has been raised to the dignity of Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Balfour, M.P. for Clackmannan and Kinross-shires, being now Lord Advocate for Scotland. Mr. Asher has had to seek re-election, and as no opposition is offered he will soon be returned. A rumour that Mr. Henry Campbell-Bannerman, M.P. for the Stirling burghs, was to be elevated to the Peerage, fluttered the Temperance electors there, and only for a prompt denial of the accuracy of the statement we should have soon seen

them mustering together to maintain these burghs as loyal supporters of the movement for the abolition of the Liquor Traffic. The motto of our friends should always be "Ready, aye Ready."

Our readers will, we hope, from the annual meeting announcements in another column, which are barely more than preliminary, be able, in some degree at least, to realize that these meetings promise to be by far the most influential which have yet taken place. Speaking of the public meeting, the chair will be occupied by the honourable the member for Argyllshire, Lord Colin Campbell, M.P. In him we have the descendant of an illustrious race, famous for the services it has rendered to the cause of freedom, whose ancestors had died on the scaffold martyrs to the liberties of Scotland. Linked through him to the present head of his noble family, the Duke of Argyll, we have a nobleman famous for his contributions to the momentous metaphysical problems of his time. With a brother Governor-General of Canada and the husband of one of the Princesses of the Royal family, surely if ever there can be cause for the liveliest satisfaction, it must be at the fact that the audience in the City Hall on the twenty-seventh of this month will muster under so noble a name. Then we are to have Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., again with us. Our champion will share our gratification at meeting under such illustrious auspices, for when he came amongst us first, he found us but a hardy few, although undaunted and undismayed. Time after time as he honoured our meetings by his presence, he found us rising in the estimation of our countrymen and women, whose numbers swelled our ranks, and whose political strength has been sufficient to secure for us during the past two years so triumphant a vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution. We shall welcome our champion once more with all the fervour we can exhibit or his courageous and revered leadership deserve. Dr. Cameron, whose steadfast adherence to our movement we cannot sufficiently admire, will receive a right cordial welcome, such as shall in some degree attest how highly we value his unwearied service to the temperance cause. Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, M.P., is the Chairman of the Executive of the United Kingdom Alliance, and will see for himself how we in Scotland feel towards those principles and policy which his Association have propagated with so much undaunted vigour. The Rev. R. J. Lynde, of Belfast, comes amongst us for the first time with a reputation for eloquence which begets the highest, we believe justifiable, expectations of his oratorical ability. The Rev. Dr. Nicolson, of Linlithgow, appears amongst us in full sympathy with our aims, and will doubtless set forth right worthily his views on our questions. Such is an outline of what we may confidently expect at our annual public gathering. When the arrangements as to speakers are completed, it will be found that at no annual

meeting has there ever been a platform of such influence or excellences, nor one which will give a more powerful impetus to our agitation.

Then, as regards the Business Meeting, we cannot say so much, simply because that does not altogether depend upon the Executive. So far as the Executive is concerned, they may well have a proud satisfaction in once more meeting with their constituents to render an account of their stewardship. On our friends and members it will depend to make this meeting worthy of the stage at which the movement has arrived. There can be no dispute upon one point and that is, that the agitation must be far more vigorous and effective in the country and in Parliament before we can hope to constrain the attention of the Government to our contention. The Association, with the means at its disposal, cannot do much more than it is doing, and a glance at what other organizations expend on the agitation compared with the expenditure and the work of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will be immensely in its favour. The weak point of the Association lies solely here. It is unable to command power and talent nor to enter upon the agitation as fully furnished and equipped as the importance of the object in view demands. The Executive have over and over again laboured with strenuous energy to carry out the instructions of their constituents, trusting that the funds would be forthcoming to not only maintain but to vigorously increase the agitation. It will be for the Annual Meeting to say if their trust has been over sanguine or well founded. Any one will be able to see for himself or herself by the attention and deliberation given to the question of finance what will be the immediate prospects of the agitation. For ourselves, we will cling to the belief that the Executive will be encouraged by the generous liberality of their constituents to set themselves boldly, if such is the will of the meeting, to the task of framing a measure for the abolition of the liquor traffic by the people, and of submitting it to the country during the recess.

The friends of education must have felt elated at the progress of education so conclusively shown by Mr. Mundella's speech on the education estimates. But their elation is open to question if they rely upon education as the powerful factor of morality and temperance. There are now more than four million children at school, and it is cheering to find that the progress they are making is most substantial. The Board and voluntary schools are being recruited to a great extent from the children of the working classes, so that it is not too much to expect that in a few years we will have a population immeasurably educated above their grandfathers. This is done at some cost, but we have no doubt as to ample returns from the investment. The education

given costs, in Board Schools, per scholar, £2 1s 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., while the grant earned is, per scholar, 15s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. In voluntary schools the cost is £1 14s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and the grant earned by the scholars is equal to 15s. 5d. per head. The whole expense for the year is thus set forth:—Endowments, £143,000; voluntary subscriptions, £731,000; rates, £756,000; public grants, £1,431,000; school pence, £1,902,000; other sources, £65,000—total, over £5,000,000. It is pleasing to find that so dangerous a foe to society as ignorance is thus being so effectively grappled with, and the pleasure of anticipating that in a few years our nation will be largely freed from its trammels must also be great. Those friends who stand by education as the means of making all classes sober will not, we hope, forget that their favourite remedy is on its trial, and that in a few years at most its failure or success will be proved. Meantime we, knowing the tyranny of law, habit, and custom, cannot help being apprehensive of the future of these children now at our schools. The precepts of their teachers on temperance is one thing, but what if they do not run on all fours with their practice. At school they may learn the knowledge of alcohol and may be implored to avoid "the fell snare," but what if their first duty at home is to run for the dinner beer? The parent may, by sad experience recognise the superior virtue of temperance over the vice of intemperance, and confess his impossibility to compass it, but he can hardly be successful in dissuading his son from beer or tobacco since he himself is addicted to indulgence in them. The State is blind on this matter. It dispels ignorance by establishing the conditions of knowledge; at the same time it tolerates institutions having for their direct—their only end—the weakening of men's moral restraints and the exciting of their vicious propensities. The consequence is manifest. We have in the community a vast multitude educated but intemperate. Many a poor wretch overcome of drink and rendered by it dangerous and pestiferous, had the privilege of Sabbath school instruction, and of many of our criminals the same has to be said. So that when we rejoice at the progress of education we rejoice with trembling, because of the fate that, despite their education, will inevitably attend many of the bright scholars to whom Mr. Mundella referred. Were the State to give a grant equal in amount to what it gives for education—namely £1,431,000—for the purpose of educating the country into a knowledge of temperance, and were it at the same time to leave it to these same educated subjects to deliver themselves by a vote from the tyranny of the liquor trade, we dare venture to affirm that there would be such a substantial decrease in the crime, misery, and public burdens due to it, as would largely decrease the anxieties of future Chancellors of the Exchequer and City Treasurers, besides immeasurably increasing the morality and spirituality of all classes in the community.

ABOUT HEALTH.

AMONGST those who are equally wise and good we see diversity in the choice of objects to which they devote their leading thoughts and efforts. Some are specially interested in the promotion of temperance; others do more for the advancement of education, legislation, science, &c. Much, no doubt, depends upon diversities of natural disposition, but more upon environments that press upon the attention of one the necessity of efforts in a given direction, and upon others the urgent need for efforts in other directions. To whatever special evil attention is most directed, that evil is likely, in proportion, to bulk largely in the view of those who contemplate it. When its magnitude has to be spoken to, those concerned are apt to speak of it as of more immediate importance than anything else. In this we have an exemplification of the truth of the memorable expression "Mine eye affecteth my heart." And hence the importance of efforts made to fix the attention of the benevolent public upon prevailing evils, and needed reforms. Persistent efforts are, also, necessary because of the multiplicity of objects that may be said to be constantly competing for a share of public recognition. As a general rule evils have had to come to a certain height before the public mind could be aroused to deal with them effectively. When they had attained to this height they, in a measure, compelled attention to themselves, or, at any rate, it became much more easy for those who were already interested to secure the attention of others.

But an improved state of the public mind generally has much to do in determining specific action. The state, for example, of the criminal law that our forefathers were, as a nation, contented with would not be tolerated now. The history of the Temperance Reformation furnishes clear illustrations of these principles, especially of the latter. Between the strenuous efforts made to arouse the public mind to a sustained consideration of the magnitude of the evil, and the improved state of public morals, results promise to be soon secured that the majority of people would, not long ago, have deemed altogether unattainable. An important question is, What can be said for Health Reform, in the light of these principles, and in view of the history of the temperance and other reforms? Is the public mind—are our churches, and most other organizations—comparatively asleep in reference to what may be called the universal prevalence of disease and premature death? When war is raging thousands find premature graves. Widows and orphans are multiplied, and grief and lamentation because of bereavement are the inheritance of many a lately happy circle. Wide spread public attention is wide awake; general sympathy is felt, and the determination of all who are right hearted is firm that an end must be put to the war as early as possible consistently with national safety and honour. When by a railway or coal-pit accident, or the wide prevalence of a disastrous sea storm, hundreds of lives are suddenly lost, the heart of the nation is instantly stirred, and much is done in order that such calamities may be, in future, prevented. In harmony with the views before us, we have now, in every corner of the land, and amongst all ranks in society, great and growing attention given to the prevalence and remedy of intemperance. We have our societies, our leagues, our lodges, our annual assemblies, our conferences and contributions, reckoned in the aggregate by many thousands. But we have nothing to compare with this in reference to Health Reform. We have rather an excess than a deficiency of trained medical practitioners all over the country

doing their best to cure disease. They do *much* good. They are indispensable *in the meantime*, but nevertheless, at same time, disease and premature death are prevailing to a sad extent in all places, and amongst all classes. In order that our country may be brought into anything like a satisfactory state there is an immense deal to be done that our present medical resources fail to accomplish; and, so far as we can see, are likely to fail to accomplish in the future. The reason is obvious. We never can have a healthy country on the principle of cure. We might as soon expect to be free from the scourge of war on the principle of taking up and caring for the wounded, while conflict was still allowed to rage. Temperance reformers are fully alive to this as regards securing universal sobriety. It must come to the same as regards health. We are not indifferent to what is accomplished by our sanitary authorities—the improvements in regard to location and construction of houses, drainage, &c.; but all these are doing but *comparatively* little. The broad deplorable fact is that disease and premature death, with all the consequent grief and loss to mourn, still "hold carnival." If they prevailed only amongst the debased the case would be very different; but every one knows that large numbers of the loveliest, the best, the most useful, and those most full of promise, are amongst the yearly victims. The main reason is—people are so ignorant of one or other of the laws of health, and they remain ignorant because the public mind has not yet been anything like thoroughly awakened to our duty and interest in reference to this matter. The London Ladies' Sanitary Society, and other kindred associations, have been doing excellent work for years past; but when, notwithstanding the honourable array of names of officials and supporters, we look at the meagre funds with which the committee is furnished, we are reminded of the lad with five barley loaves and two fishes. After all the ladies have been able to do, the refrain still returns—"Disease and premature death prevail everywhere." Nothing short of sustained efforts to teach all, everywhere, all the essential laws of health, will meet the requirements of the case. Pastors of churches must everywhere inculcate upon those who sit under them the duty to themselves, to their families, and to their God, of having an end put to disease and premature death, all of which come from ignorance of, and consequent transgression of, the laws of health which are all divinely established, and *divinely vindicated laws*. In addition to this we must have organizations, and agents to take up health reform, just as we have taken up the temperance reform. It is evident that this reform would contribute to the advancement of every other. How much do our churches, our leagues, &c., lose every year, by untimely invaliding and deaths amongst their supporters? Speaking of the health of the city arabs, the *Times* once remarked that the vagabonds must live in order to be reformed. In like manner the best of people must live in order to do good to the world.

A. M.

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—VIII.

IRISH PUBLICAN CERTIFICATES—IRISH COTTERS—
RETURNS OF NUMBER OF BREWERS, DISTILLERS—
THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—RETURNS ON
SPIRITS, &c.—RATIONS IN THE NAVY—PUBLICAN
REGISTRARS.

July 21.—The Irish Attorney-General, in answer to Mr. Healy, stated that the magistrate's certificate required by a publican on the annual renewal of his

license, was certificate to his good character, and to the peaceable and orderly manner in which his house has been conducted. The Magistrates did grant certificates unless they were satisfied by evidence on oath that the publican was not of good character, or that his house was not conducted in a decent and orderly manner. There was no statutory definition of the character of a publican. There was no law compelling the publican to provide cars for public hire or to the constabulary, but if it appeared that their refusal to do so was part of a certain system for the purpose of obstructing the law, the Magistrates might consider whether the support of such a system was consistent or inconsistent with their good character. In all such cases the constabulary had received orders to oppose the publicans. Keepers of cars were not unnaturally connected with publicans who kept the cars for the accommodation of *bona fide* travellers and others. Mr. Parnell—Will the right hon. gentleman explain what connection there is between selling porter and whisky over the counter and driving policemen? The Attorney-General said a man could be but one kind of character, and if a man was of a bad character it made no difference.

July 21.—Lord Waveney (in the House of Lords) brought in a bill to enforce such sanitary supervision and improvement in the cottagers' dwellings in Ireland and Scotland as would bring them abreast of the high civilization of the present day, on the ground that besides being dangerous to the inmates themselves, they are a danger to the community as centres of disaffection and infection. The bill was read a first time.

July 25.—A return was ordered, on the motion of Mr. Wakely, of the number of persons in each of the several collections of the United Kingdom licensed as brewers for sale, victuallers to sell beer to be drunk on the premises, and to sell beer not to be drunk on the premises; stating also quantity of malt, and corn, and sugar, including the equivalent of syrups consumed by them, particularising each class in each collection, from the first day of October, 1880, to the 30th day of September, 1881, of the number of barrels of beer exported from the United Kingdom, and the declared value thereof, and where exported to, from October 1, 1880, so distinguishing England, Scotland, and Ireland, of the amount of license and beer duly charged in the same period, &c.

August 5.—Mr. M'Farlane moved "that the administration of the law in cases of outrage upon the person has long been a reproach to our criminal courts; that outrages and assaults of the most brutal character, especially upon married women, even when they cause a cruel death, are commonly punished less severely than small offences against property; and that the admission of the crime of drunkenness as an extenuation of other crimes is immoral and acts as an incentive to persons about to commit outrages to wilfully deprive themselves of the guidance of reason." Sir William Harcourt, who saw the weak point of this injudicious motion, replied, showing that it meant to censure all who held the commission of the peace; that only inaccurate reports of what was done at assizes reached the public; that as magistrates had a maximum and minimum within which to work, sentences varied accordingly; and it was very difficult to know whether the prisoner was a confirmed criminal or merely in for the first time. Mere offences against property were committed generally by hardened criminals, but the same could not be said of those who committed assaults. Mr. M'Farlane offered to withdraw his motion, but it was negatived without a division.

August 11.—On the motion of Mr. Charles M'Laren, a return was agreed to respecting the duties on spirits, wine, malt, beer, &c., together with the duty on tobacco, and the excise license duties, in order to show as far as can be ascertained the proportions of the several items of revenue derived from England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, the population of each kingdom separately, &c.

August 13.—On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Mr. Caine moved, "That in the opinion of this House it will promote good conduct and sobriety among the men and boys of

the Royal Navy if the spirit ration were henceforth discontinued, and some equivalent given equal to the value of the spirit ration in the form of improved dietary or increased wages." The hon. member said the navy cooks were frequently drunk from spirit rations; the rations were allowed to accumulate for birthdays, and hence disorder and dissipation ensued; then teetotalers sold their rations to the drinkers, and authority and discipline were with difficulty maintained; then petty officers were bribed with rations to overlook offences. After all rum was not food, but a drug injurious to health, and should be discontinued. Medical evidence was adduced to show that neither in arctic or tropical regions did it serve the end intended, for temperance men in all cases distinguished themselves above their fellows. The spirit ration had been discontinued in the American navy for 18 years, and the best private shipowners in the country ran their ships on teetotal principles. He hoped before long they would see this very stupid regulation abolished to the advantage of the government and the improvement of the naval service. (Cheers.) Mr. Williamson seconded, saying that he sincerely believed that the existing arrangements were really a temptation to men and boys, impairing their efficiency; they were an obstacle to the spread of temperance among the crews; his experience as a large shipowner was that although grog had been at one time served out in his fleet, yet it had not been for more than 20 years. The change had done the men good, and had been promotive of efficiency and good conduct. (Cheers.) Sir John Hay held that the navy was not ripe for the proposal. A great deal had been done in the direction indicated in the motion, but there were a number of considerations of climate, &c., which weighed against the ration being done away with. Then the water on board was often of a questionable character, and the medical officers were in favour of the ration. For the last 20 years the ration had been withheld from all under 18 years of age, and a great number were members of temperance associations. He thought the great majority who used it should be allowed still to do so. The Admiralty should by all means go on and endeavour to induce the habit of temperance among our seamen and marines which had been making so much advance of late years. (Cheers.) Mr. Trevelyan congratulated the House on the interesting discussion, and especially thanked the hon. member who moved the motion at the very time when the Admiralty for the first time in 20 years were going to do something effectual. (Cheers.) An order had passed the Admiralty to fleets serving abroad, the effect of which would be to abolish flogging in the navy as long as that order was in force, and it was necessary to do something seriously to reduce the crimes for which flogging was inflicted. About the cause of these crimes there was no doubt whatever. In 1850 a committee of admirals and post captains reported that they had come to the conclusion that the evening grog was the source of all those evils which rendered discipline irksome and gave the navy a character for harshness which did not exist. (Cheers.) That report reduced the ration of grog one-half—from a quarter to an eighth of a pint per diem, and very considerable additions were made to the diet of our seamen. The present scale of diet was this:—breakfast, on cocoa, at 7 A.M.; dinner at noon, at which he had rum; supper at 4.30 P.M., and nothing till breakfast again. One feature was the cheapness of the allowance. The Admiralty purchased the spirit in bond with duty; the ration would be worth 2½d., but it only cost the country one-third of a penny. Last year these rations cost £14,500, but this year, in consequence of a rise in their price, they would cost £18,000. If a man chose to forego his ration, he got double its worth in savings; but if he chose to forego his provisions, he saved less than they cost. Then no one could draw his ration under 18 years of age. The danger to a youth was this,—there was always such a lot of liquor going a-begging in the lower deck, that he was tempted to take more than was good for him. Of the 38,000 6,333 were teetotalers, yet only 3,000 took money, or tea, or sugar in lieu of liquor. It was a bad

thing for youths to take liquor, yet it was bad for them to get nothing to sustain them from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. The following changes were to be made:—No lad was to get any spirit ration till he was 20 years of age, but in its stead he, and any other that liked, would get soluble cocoa and sugar. Chocolate was preferred by many to cocoa, and it was much more suitable than cocoa to the few weak stomachs in the navy. (Laughter.) Commanders were asked to see that the sailors should take this cocoa in a hot meal during the night watch, or instead of taking any cocoa, sailors could get sugar—the most popular ration on board ship. The present allowance of 1½ lbs. of biscuit would be changed to 1 lb. of biscuit and ¼ lb. of flour, out of which the sailors could make their great favourite “duff.” (Laughter.) The belief of the Admiralty was, that when the young sailor got a hot meal during the night, besides additional flour and sugar, he would not care to draw his grog ration, but prefer the healthy substitute for it. In the case of officers, the ration would be entirely stopped—(cheers)—and its cost incorporated in the mess fund. Then the exhaustive labour in the stokehole in tropical climates had excited the pity of the Admiralty, and captains had been permitted to serve out extra grog to the stokers and claret to the officers. In the case of stokers the permission had been used to its fullest extent. In tropical climates the allowance to officers and men was doubled, as it was thought alcohol would counteract the effects of the heat. Several courts-martial had shown the peril of this course, and to the tropical grog several poor fellows owed the fact that they were not now in her Majesty’s service. The present Board abolished these allowances, giving unlimited issues of oatmeal, and sugar, and water, and they were found to be, though not exhilarating, very cheering in their effects. (Laughter and cheers.) The present cost of rations was £18,000, but the proposed changes, if adopted by the whole navy, would cost £36,600. The operation, however, would be optional and gradual. The proposal of Mr. Holmes to put a value on the ration, so as to induce the teetotaler to sell to the navy rather than to his fellows, would entail a burden of £96,000, and add £80,000 to the navy estimates. The Government looked forward with confidence to the good which such changes would bring about. (Cheers.) Mr. W. H. Smith approved of the action of the Admiralty. Mr. E. Clarke spoke against the motion. Mr. Caine expressed his pleasure at the course taken by the Admiralty Board, and his motion was negated without a division.

Aug. 15.—Mr. Forster, in answer to a list of 14 queries by Mr. Brown, stated that Robert Humphreys had held the office of Deputy Assistant Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in two electoral districts in Belfast. In 1875 he married a widow who held, and still holds, a spirit license. Such license, even if held by himself, would not constitute a legal disability to act as registrar, but it would be contrary to the regulations.

EDINBURGH ELECTION.

Owing to the promotion of Lord Advocate M'Laren to the bench a vacancy last week occurred in Edinburgh. The following Candidates were immediately named:—T. R. Buchanan, Esq., Ex-Bailie Wilson, Ex-Bailie Lewis, and Treasurer Harrison, Edinburgh, and A. Dunn, Esq., London.

Strong efforts were made to persuade Ex-Bailie Lewis and A. Dunn, Esq. to stand, but after consultation with the parties favourable to each, these two gentlemen were withdrawn. The others issued addresses which, so far as our question was concerned, were as follows:—

Mr. Buchanan—“Deeply sensible of the terrible effects of intemperance, and considering that the greatness of the evil is such as to demand every effort at Legislative remedy, I will gladly vote for Sir W. Lawson’s Local Option resolution.”

Ex-Bailie Wilson—“It is generally acknowledged that the existing method of granting Licences for the Sale of Excisable Liquors requires reconsideration.

The principle of ‘Local Option’ has been approved of by the House of Commons, and on the last occasion that it was discussed it was voted for by a large majority of Scotch members. It now remains for consideration how the principle is to be applied, and in doing so I shall give a ready support to such a scheme as may best tend to lessen the evils of intemperance.”

Treasurer Harrison—“If the citizens of Edinburgh do me the honour to return me to Parliament, I shall consistently support the Government of Mr. Gladstone in all liberal legislation—in placing the Licensing Laws on a popular and workable basis.”

The friends immediately took action, and it was resolved that Mr. J. H. Waterston arrange an interview with each, and that the two following questions be submitted to them:—

1. “Are you prepared, in your view of Local Option, to give the ratepayers the entire control of the liquor traffic in their respective localities.”

2. “In the event of a Bill being introduced into Parliament embodying these views are you prepared to give it your strenuous support.”

Messrs. Buchanan and Wilson were waited on and gave an answer to both questions in the affirmative.

Treasurer Harrison could not see the deputation, but his friends intimated that if the questions were sent he would reply to them. Accordingly, this was done, and on Saturday evening at a public meeting he made the following statement:—“The Local Option question is something like the Permissive Bill, and, if I understand aright, what is meant by the Permissive Bill, is something which I don’t believe any free people would submit to for any length of time. (Hisses.) It proposes, as I understand it, to give to a majority of three-fourths of the inhabitants the power of dictating what we shall drink. (‘No, no.’) That is the power. (Cheers.) If it does not give that power then I am quite prepared to consider any measure which will tend to diminish intemperance, and to give it my most careful consideration and adopt it if it be practicable. (Cheers.) I will never consent to give any majority—a Voice—‘Free trade in all things’—absolute power over the minority.” (Cheers.)

Our friends now saw that Mr. Harrison must be defeated at all hazards and either Mr. Buchanan or Mr. Wilson returned. Great interest was taken in the action of the Liberal committee who met on Monday evening, when there was a large turn out. On the first vote Mr. Harrison was thrown out with a sweeping majority, and the final vote was taken between Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Wilson: the former receiving 100 votes and the latter 95—thus Mr. Buchanan was afterwards unanimously elected, and to-day he has been returned unopposed.

The temperance vote was pretty equally divided between Messrs. Buchanan and Wilson, parties being left to do as they considered best under local circumstances. Edinburgh maintains the proud position of having still two members who support Sir Wilfrid Lawson in his noble efforts to free his deeply suffering country.

IRVINE.—TEMPERANCE CRUSADE.—“Do good unto all men” is a proverb that seems to be acted upon by the members of the Rock of Safety Lodge of Good Templars in Irvine. Some few years ago the Royal Renfrew Militia encamped on the Irvine Moor, under the command of Sir Archibald Campbell, and no sooner were they settled than the Good Templars at once set about work to draw the men from the canteen and public houses. Year by year this has been going on, and each year sees efforts more strenuous than the previous one put forth. Last year, weekly entertainments, distribution of temperance tracts, and other works were carried on, and the concluding entertainment was a most enthusiastic gathering at a soiree given by the Lodge and friends to close upon 350 of the militia. The results have been most gratifying. This year the Lodge determined to carry on a still greater effort by having a Temperance Crusade extending over three weeks. To enable them to do so successfully they applied

to the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, the Scottish Temperance League, and the Executive of the I.O.G.T. for lecturers, but only by the Scottish Permissive Bill Association was the request granted. The action of this Association was received with gratitude by the lodge, but the refusal of the others so damped the ardour of the members that it was resolved to abandon the crusade, and adhere to the entertainments only. When this was made known Mr. R. Mackay strongly urged the lodge to proceed with a week's crusade. Having resolved to do so, arrangements to begin on the evening of Friday, 8th July, were made, Mr. Robert Stevenson opening the proceedings. The attendance was reckoned very good for a beginning, and Mr. Stevenson delivered a very telling address reaching the hearts of his audience, and showing forth the benefits to be derived from total abstinence. Mr. Stevenson also addressed a meeting on Saturday evening, and gave great encouragement to all. Mr. Dransfield lectured on Monday evening, and was followed on Tuesday evening by Mr. R. Mackay who took advantage of the fine evening to have an out-door meeting. Taking his stand at the Bridgegatehead he held forth for about an hour and a half to an audience of about 300, and at the close announced next night's meeting in the Good Templar's Hall. At eight o'clock on Wednesday night the hall was well filled with an audience of upwards of 400, about one-half being from the camp. Mr. Mackay, on this occasion, gave a very telling address, the home-truths of temperance being listened to with marked attention. Following Mr. Mackay on Thursday evening came Mr. R. Dransfield, who also closed the course of lectures on Friday evening. Mr. Dransfield at once secured the ear of the house, more especially of the militia, by the recital of part of his own life, and as he proceeded and waxed eloquent in his denunciation of drink, his audience rewarded him with hearty plaudits. On both nights the audiences were good. The success that has attended these lectures warranted the lodge in making the proposal they first did, viz., of having a three week's campaign, for when brought to a close the audiences were not only large but enthusiastic, and not only would greater good results have been accomplished with the militia, but with the public as well. On Tuesday, 26th, the members of the lodge brought their efforts on behalf of the militia to a close with a soiree, to which the soldiers from the camp to the number of three hundred and fifty were invited, and eagerly accepted their invitation. The soiree was held in the Templar's Hall, and was under the presidency of Mr. S. B. Yuille who was ably supported on either hand by ministers of the town, sergeants of militia, prominent temperance reformers, etc. After a most substantial tea, served with precision and despatch, had been enjoyed, the chairman, who was warmly cheered on rising, referred to the work which had been done by the lodge in behalf of their military friends during their past and present sojourns on the moor. They hoped that their aim to benefit their friends in camp would have the result they earnestly and prayerfully desired. Their intercourse with the soldiers had been of the most pleasant kind, and they parted with them with the heartiest good wishes, trusting that they would staunchly adhere to a sound temperance practice. (Applause.) Mr. R. Dransfield of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association next addressed the meeting, and spoke of the personal advantages he had derived from total abstinence. He had tried both sides of the question, had experienced all the miseries that flowed from drink, and so was in a position to advise. His advice was to have nothing to do with the liquor traffic, as it brought only misery in its train not only on the individual himself but on all related to him. The illustrations given by Mr. Dransfield very forcibly illustrated the evils attending the use of intoxicating drink. The Rev. Messrs. Somerville, Rev. Mr. Maceaulay, and other friends addressed the meeting, paying a high tribute to the soldiers and to the Rock of Safety Lodge. To the one for their behaviour, and to the other for their enterprise and philanthropy. Songs, recitations, readings, and instrumental music imparted the liveliest enjoyment during the evening.

The usual votes of thanks to militia, members of the lodge, singers, speakers, readers, etc., were cordially awarded, and an effort which is so highly creditable to the Irvine I.O.G.T. Lodge, and fitted to do so much good, came to a close for the present.

EDINBURGH.—TEMPERANCE OPEN-AIR MEETING.—The last of the open-air meetings for the season, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society, was held last night in Jeffrey Street. Mr. R. M'Laren presided. Mr. Robert Stevenson from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association delivered an earnest and thoughtful address to a large audience. During the past week Mr. Stevenson addressed a number of meetings in different parts of the city. He was well received, always securing for himself a patient and attentive hearing. The meetings carried on for the past two months, it may be stated, have proved great successes. The attention exhibited throughout shows that the masses are taking an interest in the movement, and are beginning to be convinced that "drunkenness debaseth, and sobriety exalteth a nation," and that some strenuous means must be used to curb this sad social evil.—*Daily Review*.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

The "Eclipse" Temperance Elocutionist. London: John Kempster & Co. (Ld.), 9 and 10 Bride's Avenue. We heartily welcome the second edition of this excellent volume, and congratulate the publishers on their success. A new edition affords a gratifying and substantial proof of the estimation in which their Elocutionist is held. May another edition soon be required.

The Starlight Series of Temperance Tracts, compiled by the Editor of the British Workman. Sixpence packet, containing 1 to 40. London: S. W. Partridge & Co, Paternoster Row. We believe that the purchaser of this packet of Tracts will find in it a selection of all those telling stories and anecdotes which have made the temperance platform so impressively effective. The tracts are printed on fine paper, slightly toned, and are illustrated in the superior style which characterises all the publications of the renowned publishers.

Twentieth Annual Report of the Bonhill Total Abstinence Society. June, 1881. George L. Melville, secretary, address, Bonhill. We have always a pleasure in receiving this Society's report. There is a genuine ring about its temperance; a most hopeful outlook on the part of the committee visible on every page; a busy activity quite apparent even on its surface; and it always can command financial support from wealthy neighbours in the Vale. This year is no exception to the persistent progress which has distinguished it, nor to the prosperity its report unfolds. Income, £17 14s. 0½d., with balance from last year, £20 15s. 11d. and it commences the twenty-first year of its activity with the respectable balance of £3 5s. 8½d. It seems proud at being associated with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and we know of no Society that more closely co-operates with that institution.

A Word for the Pledge, and a Word to the Pledged.—By the Rev. Charles Courtenay, Curate of St. Paul's, Onslow Square. London: Church of England Temperance Society, London Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W. One penny each, or six shillings per hundred. These little books will easily go into a vest pocket. Yet, the first is thoroughly exhaustive of the subject of which it treats. In the 30 pages we find set forth the nature of the pledge—the prejudices against it—the form of it—exceptions—objections, and, lastly, an exposition of it. The Rev. Mr. Courtenay deserves credit for putting in a word

for the pledge, but we have no sympathy with his interpretation of it. It is too lax for us. The companion volume is a word to the pledged, and is treated in the same incisive manner. We have the fate that overtakes him who takes the pledge—the being laughed at and avoided—the nature of teetotalism—temptations—warnings—living faith in abstinence—temperance work—the dangers of teetotalism. Here we have an earnest, kindly monitor, and even the staunchest of us will derive profit from the homely truths so pithily put before us.

Health: How to Obtain and How to Preserve it.—By Philip Foster, M.D. London: J. H. Roberts & Co., Essex Street, Strand. The edition for the million. One penny. This is a really excellent little guide to health, although so brief. It is crammed with sensible information on all the conditions and practices of health. If some of our Bible readers and missionaries were to distribute this, and urge on those to whom they gift it a strict compliance with its teachings, the lives of thousands would be saved and that of millions improved. Dr. Foster's remarks on liquor, although not so strong as the case demands, certainly offers no sanction for the use in health of intoxicating liquors.

Consumption and other Chest Diseases.—By George Thomas Congreve. London: Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row. One shilling. This is not simply an advertisement of the nostrum of a medical professor, but it is a most excellent treatise on the subject matter of which it treats. Consumption as exhibited in its preliminary, advanced, and closing stages, is set forth so clearly as to be readily recognised by the patient, and prescribed for by Dr. Congreve in a way that inspires confidence in his experience and skill. He has a medicine—the Balsamic Elixir, and also Camphor and Quinine Pills—which are said by patients to be invincible and infallible. He lays down a course of diet and hygiene which, if persevered in, must largely contribute to the restoration of those suffering from the dread disease of consumption. Observations on coughs, colds, asthma, and chronic bronchitis, add much to the value of the volume. We know cases that but for the beneficent intervention of Dr. Congreve must have proved fatal, and we heartily urge those who believe themselves to be in the fangs of this fearful scourge to read the book and judge for themselves.

The Lay Preacher: a Magazine for all Christian workers, etc. Edited by Rev. F. Wagstaff, F.R.H.S. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Twopenny monthly. Vol. VI., third series. Nos. 61 to 67. We have perused these numbers with intense interest, and gained abundant profit and pleasure from the examination. It is hardly possible to exaggerate by praising the work. To lay preachers, evangelists, and Sabbath school teachers its worth is simply invaluable. Passing over the interesting "leading" articles, we can safely affirm that the outlines for the pulpit on Corinthians and Mark can hardly be surpassed for lucidity of exposition and fulness of illustration. "Work among the young" is excellently attended to, and the "Illustrative quotations and anecdotes" are exceedingly appropriate and incisive. The *Lay Preacher* needs only to be seen to be appreciated, and if some of our rich and benevolent Christians were to send a number to missionaries in whose work they were interested, they would find that they had taken a pleasant and effective means of stimulating thought and encouraging careful preparation on the part of those to whom they had shown this kindness. Rev. Mr. Wagstaff has our best wishes for his success in this truly needed and praiseworthy work.

William Morley Punshon, Preacher and Orator. 1824-81. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane. One shilling. This does not pretend to be more than a sketch of this famous man, but it is quite vivid enough to place before us the great excellencies that adorned Dr. Punshon's too brief existence and career. A burning earnestness was the life characteristic of this eloquent preacher. When he was being ordained, he is reported to have said—"Methodism was my birthplace, and by the grace of God shall be my

home. I know not where there are greener pastures and stiller waters. It shall be my one purpose to devote my life to the service of God, and before this assembly—before my fathers and brethren in the ministry—and before the spirits of the just made perfect—I offer myself 'upon the altar which sanctifieth the gift to live and labour, serve and suffer, toil and triumph—to do and to die for God.'" This is the grand key-note of his life. How he moved on from service to service—how he sounded the praises of Methodism—how he lengthened its cords, strengthened its stakes, enlarged its borders, we are well reminded here, and the press has happily preserved some of the masterly addresses that have deservedly swelled the triumph of his oratorical reputation. Seven of these great orations are to be found in this book, which should be in the possession of every thoughtful reader. Its worth far exceeds its price.

Received—*Health Papers for the People, 1880-1881, 1 to 7; Medical Temperance Journal; Graham's Science of Human Life, &c., &c.*

AMBITION.

To yonder peak the youth inclined his eyes,
High was the hill and dangerous the way,
But conning to himself a poet's lay
He sought the peak that towered near the skies.
He climbed and climbed, dark storms came on, and shrill
The tempest blew, but still with eager foot
Unbaffled still he urged his mad pursuit,
Through dangers sought the pinnacle of the hill.
But midway when his heart did still beat high
To reach the summit, o'er a crag he fell
On the wild mountain, and the shepherds tell
How a fair youth, most beautiful, did lie
Dead, midway up the hill, his lovely form
All beat upon by the wild mountain storm.

ANDREW M. LANG.

VARIETIES.

Somebody has discovered in this country a tombstone to a good stepmother! It was erected a hundred years ago.

When a man married a large homely woman, his friends said that he took her in bulk, and didn't care for the workmanship.

Fashionable young lady, detaching her hair before retiring—"What dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil."

There is a charitable man in Cincinnati who keeps two ferocious dogs at his door, so that tramps desirous of getting a "bite" can have one without going indoors. He is not a rare fellow in these days.

A beer-seller wrote over his door, "Bear sold here." An old toper declared it was spelt right enough, for the fellow's beer was of his own "bruin."

"This milk is rather warm, boy, for such a cold morning," said a customer to a milk boy. "Yes; father put hot instead of cold water into it to keep it from freezing," was the simple and truthful reply.

The other day one of our distinguished pickpockets, who has a pew in one of the fashionable churches of the city, and cannot be induced to steal on Sundays, transferred a well-filled wallet from the pocket of an infamous stockbroker to his own. The next morning the stockbroker received his wallet and a note by messenger boy. The note read:—"From the contents of this wallet, I perceive that you are engaged in the unholy traffic of stock gambling. Therefore I return your wallet, for my conscience will not permit me to retain anything arising from that iniquitous business. I would return your money also had I not unfortunately spent it before discovering your real character."

THE

Social Reformer.

OCTOBER, 1881.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL
AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE twenty-third annual business meeting of the members of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was held on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh September, 1881, in the Christian Institute Glasgow. There was a large attendance. Treasurer Hamilton presided, and was supported on the platform, by Bailie Selkirk, Ex-Bailie Lamberton, Bailie Torrens, Dr. M'Culloch, Dumfries, Mr. John Wilson, Glasgow, Mr. John Williams, Wishaw, and Mr. Wm. Noble, London. Present during the day were the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Wm. Paterson, Partick ; Thomas Kennedy, Moffat ; John Lightbody, Lanark ; John Harrigan, Kirkintilloch ; R. Dransfield, Glasgow ; Wm. Blackwood, Aberdeen ; James Bryce, Galston ; James Murray, Glasgow ; James Malcolm, do. ; Rev. Samuel Harding, Paisley ; M. G. Forrester, Glasgow ; Agnes Forrester, do. ; Peter Hastie, Grangemouth ; Thomas Lindsay, do. ; James Rae, Falkirk ; Thomas Archibald, Brechin ; John A. Harvie, Glasgow ; David Black, Cellardyke, Fife ; Mrs. James Rae, Falkirk ; Thomas Dick, Glasgow ; Thomas Robinson, Hurler ; R. M'Callum, Glasgow ; John N. M'Alister, do. ; Alexander Dewar, do. ; John Armstrong, Edinburgh ; John Paterson, Glasgow ; Treasurer Hamilton, do. ; John Stewart, do. ; H. W. Reid, Coatbridge ; J. R. Cleghorn, Port Glasgow ; John Miller, Edinburgh ; George L. Melville, Bonhill ; Edward MacKay, Edinburgh ; D. M. Duncan, Glasgow ; Wm. Hogg, Arbroath ; Peter Ferguson, Glasgow ; James Dymock, Boness ; Thos. T. Pendrich, Edinburgh ; Andrew Picken, Glasgow ; Robert Darroch, do. ; James Jamieson, Ayr ; J. M. Crow, Waynerburg, P. A., U.S., America ; A. F. Shanks, Barrhead ; James Patrick, Neilston ; Duncan Ferguson, Barrhead ; John M'Darmid, Dollar ; N. B. Cameron, Kilmarnock ; John Conchar, Glasgow ; Andrew D. Fulton, do. ; John Fulton, do. ; Robert Patrick, Barrhead ; Wm. R. Gibson, Kilsyth ; Adam Black, Leith ; Rev. Wm. Adamson, D.D., Edinburgh ; Rev. R. Wallace, Glasgow ; Wm. Hart, Kilsyth ; Wm. Shaw, do. ; R. Macaulay, Glasgow ; Wm. Noble, London ; Daniel M'Farlane, Barrhead ; Thomas Gray, Coatbridge ; Rev. A. Davidson, Greenock ; Wm. Hart, Coatbridge ; Colin M'Nab, Greenock ; Archd. Jardine, Bonhill ; James Drysdale, Bridge of Allan ; George Hunter, Gourock ; James Hunter, Partick ; George Richmond, Darvel ; A. D. MacKenzie, Edinburgh ; Stewart M'Millan, Glasgow ; John Hill, Edinburgh ; Isabella K. Hill, do. ; Rev. George Bell, M.A., Hamilton ; Rev. Robert Brown, Larkhall ; Robert Clark, Falkirk ; Wm. Smith, Glasgow ; Henry Doyle, Galashiels ; James Osborn, Mearns ; A. Hill, Paisley ; Neil Buie, Greenock ; J. D. Brown, do. ; Robert Millar, do. ; Isaac Lynas, Glasgow ; James M. M'Culloch, M.D., Dumfries ; Jno. Williams, Wishaw ; Robert M'Laren, Edinburgh ; Wm. M. Grant, do. ; M. Wilson, do. ; John Munro, do. ; Daniel MacKay, do. ; John Steel, do. ; John Wingate, Parkhead ; Wm. Crombie, Avonbridge ; David Thomson, Glasgow ; Wm. H. Gilbert, do. ; T. D. Weir (District No. 1), do. ; A. Gardner,

do., do. ; D. Brothie, Greenock ; George Rutherford, Kilsyth ; Joseph Morris, Broxburn ; Robert Semple, Paisley ; John Scott, Lesmahagow ; Walter Linton, Glasgow ; The Misses Hill, Edinburgh ; James Johnstone, Falkirk ; Robert Rodger ; Andrew Brown, Falkirk ; Mrs. Williams ; C. J. Williams ; Andrew Crawford ; Susanna T. C. Robertson, Paisley ; J. P. and Mrs. Lossock, Peebles ; James Miller, Monkton ; Henry Wyatt, Glasgow ; R. W. Bridgeford, do. ; James Selkirk, do. ; George Andrew, do. ; A. Cross, Ardrossan ; Archd. Steel, do. ; John Aitken, Kirkintilloch ; Wm. Jno. Wood, Glasgow ; Alexander Blyth, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; John Paton, Barrhead ; Jessie Macadam, Edinburgh ; Thomas M'Queen, Paisley ; Miss Smith, Bothwell ; Miss Goodson, Manchester ; James Winning, Paisley ; C. C. Maxwell, Dundee ; Hugh Lambert, Glasgow ; John Lamont, do. ; James Gilchrist, Lesmahagow ; Andrew Drysdale, Edinburgh ; J. H. Waterson, do. ; John Lindsay, Glasgow ; John Curle, Jedburgh ; W. Stewart, Glasgow ; Andrew Husband, do. ; M. Edwards, Aberdeen ; James Torrens, Glasgow ; John Howieson, Uddingston ; Robert Stevenson, Glasgow ; Robert MacKay, secy., do. ; Thomas Russell, Perth ; James Darling, Edinburgh ; John Wilson, Glasgow ; Mrs. Smith, Bothwell ; Mrs. Steel, Edinburgh ; Mrs. M'Adam, do. ; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow ; Alexander Black, do. ; James Fullerton, Salcoats ; James Beckett, Crosshill.

The meeting having been constituted by prayer, offered by Capt. Brothie, Mr. Mackay intimated, that he had received regretful letters of apology from the following :— Right Hon. The Earl of Aberdeen ; Right Hon. The Earl of Zetland ; Right Hon. The Earl of Dalhousie ; The Most Noble The Marquis of Tweeddale ; The Countess Dowager of Aberdeen ; Ex-Lord Advocate M'Laren, M.P. ; Peter M'Lagan, Esq., M.P. ; James Cowan, Esq., M. P. ; Sir George Balfour, M.P. ; R. F. F. Campbell, Esq., M.P. ; John J. C. Hamilton, Esq., M.P. ; Mr. R. Farquharson, M.P. ; Admiral Sir John C. Dalrymple Hay, Bt., M.P. ; R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., M.P. ; Dr. Webster, M.P. ; Col. Alexander, M.P. ; J. Maxwell Heron, Esq., M.P. ; J. Dick Peddie, Esq., M.P. ; C. Fraser M'Intosh, Esq., M.P. ; Henry Broadhurst, Esq., M.P. ; Frank K. Henderson, Esq., M.P. ; S. Williamson, Esq., M.P. ; Dr. C. Cameron, Esq., M.P. ; Ben. Whitworth, Esq., M.P. ; W. Graham, Esq., Ex-M.P. ; J. Miller, Esq., Ex-M.P. ; Sir Archibald Campbell of Blythswood ; Lieut. Colonel Purvis ; Major Thomas G. Coats ; Hon. Lord Provost Ure ; Prov. Hamilton ; Prov. Binnie ; James Guthrie, J.P. ; Mr. M'Micking, J.P. ; Hugh Mossman, J.P. ; Bailie R. Tindall ; Ex-Bailie A. Heron ; Ex-Bailie J. B. Sime ; Ex-Bailie Walls ; Ex-Bailie A. H. M'Culloch ; Profr. Geo. C. M. Douglas ; Profr. W. G. Blaikie ; Revd. Thomas Kirkwood ; Revd. David Macrae ; Revd. Wm. Logan ; Revd. Alexander Oliver ; Revd. Wm. Clark ; Revd. John Renfrew ; Revd. Hector Hall ; &c., &c. ; Messrs. Daniel Bates, James Miller, James Richmond, Peter Campbell, John R. Miller, D. Stenhouse, Stewart Clark, Robert D. M'Ewan, James Wood, John Polson, Wm. Howat, John Logan, R. Monteith of Carstairs, Alexander Allan, James Craig, Edward Howat, John Davie, Alexander M'Clymont, T. Fairgrieve, David Rowan, John Tait, R. P. Blair, &c., &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN then delivered his address, and remarked that one could not help asking why they were meeting to-day? The answer, he thought, was a simple one—their work had not been accomplished, and he considered his first duty was to congratulate them on being present at the annual meeting. It was very delightful to see old faces coming forward year after year, and it was still more grateful to know that they were making progress. (Applause.) He thought that was a great satisfaction they had got. Perhaps their movement in the past might be described as being faint yet pursuing, but now he held they were seeing very many signs of improvement to induce them to go forward with greater determination to gain their point than ever. (Applause.) It was interesting to notice a few of the signs of the times. Of course, in looking back to the great events that had taken place in the movement they must cast their eyes on the Forbes Mackenzie Act, an Act which had done an amount of good for Scotland and had been the precursor of other reforms and the pattern that other nations had taken to carry out their object. Since those days they had had the Irish Sunday Closing Bill, which had been another great step in the direction they were marching—(applause)—and it was an astonishing fact, and he had it on the authority of a Bishop, that there had been a million and half less money spent on drink in Ireland during the first year's operation of the Act than formerly, while apprehensions and convictions for drunkenness had been about 60 per cent. less than formerly. These facts regarding Ireland must tell upon the country, and whatever some individuals might say, these facts stood out, and people would ultimately be obliged to yield to facts. Then they had during the year the Local Option of Sir Wilfred Lawson. (Applause.) Although the resolution was good, yet the way in which it was received, and the speeches supporting it were better—even Mr. Bright's on the subject pointed very much in the direction of the suppression of the traffic. There was one point he would notice—the only thing that rather alarmed him—the question of compensation to the trade. That seemed an idea that many people had got—that the men in the traffic should be compensated. Mr. Gladstone had the idea himself, and if they were to be compensated on the principle of some five houses put up for sale in England which were valued at between £330,000 and £340,000, it was indeed to be a serious matter. Another point in the march of improvement was the passing of the Sunday Closing Bill for Wales, and although there seemed to be some ambiguity as to its effect at present, the question would soon be cleared up, and they would, no doubt, find it producing results similar to the Irish Sunday Closing Bill. They would doubtless have noticed that at the recent meeting of the British Association Mr. Hoyle read a very interesting paper on the cost of drink. He was opposed by Mr. Wheelhouse, who, however, unfortunately, seemed to be in want of education. Some people complained about the introducing of teetotal lectures at the meetings of the Association, but he (the chairman) really thought they would be the better of some of these lectures—(applause)—for he found that some of the individuals who appeared to despise these lectures seemed to have profited by them, and to admit that alcohol was not required by a person in health. (Applause.) The Social Science Congress was to be held in Dublin next month, and he had no doubt there would be some Armstrong guns loaded and discharged against the traffic. All these things showed that they were going on swimmingly, and those who were backing up the subject were advancing it very much. (Applause.)

He then called upon Mr. Mackay, Secretary, to read the report, which was as follows:—

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Submitted to the Annual Business Meeting, held on Tuesday, 27th September, 1881.

Your Executive have once more the pleasing duty to discharge of submitting to you a brief and rapid survey

of the past twelve month's work. The Great Temperance Reformation is gaining for itself the sympathy of all classes. The pulpit, the press, and the platform with deepening earnestness are spreading its truths throughout the country, which is being rapidly prepared to join in a united demand for legal powers to deal effectively with the liquor traffic. Parliament has by a substantial majority again affirmed its desire that the Government should without delay and without demur frame a measure on the lines of local option, and it only remains for the people to exhibit such an unquenchable determination to have it placed unreservedly in their hands for the agitation to culminate in a decisive triumph. During the year your Executive have, in prosecuting the Scottish agitation with courageous vigour, humbly, they believe, done what they could to bring about a triumphant issue for the permissive prohibitory movement there.

They now proceed to lay before you a short summary of the efforts of the year.

AGENCY.

In this department there has been no change. The Agents have been carrying out the instructions of last Annual Meeting, under your Executive's supervision, with unwearied energy, and, on the whole, to your Executive's satisfaction. Messrs. Black, Blackwood, Dransfield, Kesson, Lossock, Stevenson, and Waterston, are at present on the staff. Mr. Black has devoted himself entirely, with signal success, to the collection of funds, and his labours cannot be too highly praised. Mr. Blackwood continues to labour in the North, which he so worthily superintends. Messrs. Dransfield and Kesson are partially engaged, and co-operate principally and effectually with Mr. R. Stevenson, and meet with much appreciation. Mr. Lossock's services in the South-East continue to bear abundant fruit. Mr. Stevenson has a large district under his care, in the superintendence of which his well known ability is most manifest. Mr. Waterston labours in Edinburgh and neighbourhood. The district is a most important one, and he has shown himself admirably qualified to work it well. Your Secretary assists these gentlemen as often as his own duties will permit.

It may be interesting to you to know the platform labours of your agents as chronicled in *Social Reformer*, it is as follows:—Mr. Waterston 247 lectures and addresses: Mr. Stevenson 244, Mr. Blackwood 198, Mr. Dransfield 103, and Mr. Kesson 36. Mr. John Paton has delivered 69 addresses, and your Secretary 82 during the year.

Laudable as the efforts of your agents have been, still your Association is decidedly undermanned. Were you to-day to recommend the Executive to engage an additional agent, at least, they would be able to enter upon a long contemplated scheme of readjustment of their Agencies, which they feel would increase its efficiency, and of which they could, by even next year, present a most gratifying report. Were a new agent to be appointed your district superintendents would be in the proportion of one agent to fifteen members of Parliament. They could not urge a stronger reason in favour of such an increase than such a statement, and with it they leave the matter to your best consideration.

THE MEETINGS OF THE YEAR.

Your Executive are gratified to have to report that the meetings of the year have been uniformly successful. They have been largely attended, and have excited considerable attention in the localities in which they have been held. They number, 956, of which 304 are deputational, and 652 are ordinary. At these meetings 1311 addresses and lectures were delivered. They have been held under all auspices, all sections heartily co-operating with your Executive in making them effective. In no other way can the misconceptions, misrepresentations, and the ignorance on your question be more effectually dispelled, and that enlightened public opinion formed, which will one day by its invincible power crown your agitation with success.

Your Executive acknowledge with deep gratitude

the kindness of those gentlemen who have taken part in these as well as other meetings for the consideration and dissemination of your principles and policy:—Sir William Collins; W. S. Allan, Esq., M.P.; W. S. Caine, Esq., M.P.; Jas. Stewart, Esq., M.P.; Hon. A. Vidal, Canada; Ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P.; Sheriff Dougal; Provost Campbell; ex-Provost Dick; ex-Provost Rogerson; ex-Bailie Moncur; ex-Bailie Lambertson; ex-Bailie Maxwell; ex-Bailie Torrens; Bailie Kerr; Bailie Selkirk; Bailie Lyall; Treasurer Hamilton; ex-Councillor Rutherford; Rev. Professor Blaikie; Rev. Professor Hunter; Rev. Dr. Adamson; Rev. Dr. Ritchie; Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown; Rev. Dr. Nicolson; Revs. D. Macrae; T. Evans; J. Kay; John Kirk, Jun.; W. Tooley; Thos. Dickson; E. J. Boon; W. Armstrong; T. L. Armitage; J. Strachan; W. Arnot; J. Paterson; S. Harding; R. Wallace; R. Paterson, and Capt. Brothie; Messrs. Jas. H. Raper, J. Wilson, J. P.; J. Horn, D. Fyffe, James Paterson, A. S. Munro, H. Batters, W. Briggs, W. Scrymgeour, J. Scrymgeour, W. J. Wood, D. Moore, M. Edwards, A. Bennet, John Nisbet, John Steel, J. Ripley, J. M. Skinner, J. Bone, J. M'Donald, J. W. Mackay, etc., etc.

During the year several important meetings have taken place. Among those specially worthy of mention the following may be named—at Greenock that most excellent meeting in The Temperance Institute, over which Provost Campbell presided, and at which the member for the Burgh, James Stewart, Esq., M.P., and ex-Provost Merton took part, and where Bailies Torrens and Selkirk, and your secretary represented the Association; at Pollokshaws with ex-Provost Cameron in the chair, where Mr. James Winning and Messrs. Stevenson and Drausfield addressed a very excellent attendance; at Peebles with Dr. Connell in the chair, the deputation being Mr. Steel and Mr. Waterston, and in which a number of warm local friends joined; at Pollokshields where Provost Hamilton presided, and where your deputation included ex-Bailie Torrens and Bailie Selkirk; at Bo'ness Mr. J. Hyslop presided, and where your deputation comprised Rev. S. Sleath, Rev. J. H. Paterson, Mr. J. H. Waterston, and Mr. T. Hope, J.P., A. Brown, Esq., Mr. Dymock also largely contributed to the success of this meeting; at Rutherglen where, under the chairmanship of Rev. Wm. Armstrong, ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, and R. M'Callum represented this Association; at Grangemouth where Provost Macpherson occupied the chair, while Rev. J. H. Paterson, Bailie Selkirk and Mr. Waterston assisted by many warm friends in the town formed your deputation; at Hamilton where your Association had the able assistance of ex-Bailie Lewis who was accompanied by Mr. Waterston. Meetings have been held in many of these places: at Dumfries, where, joined by Councillor Johnstone, Rev. W. Tooley, Rev. James Strachan, and Dr. M'ulloch, Mr. Stevenson, and your secretary had two excellent meetings.

Your Executive cordially invited Mr. J. W. Manning of Canada, to Scotland for a week. Mr. Manning accordingly visited Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Kirkcaldy and Galashiels. His meetings were, as might be expected from his high reputation and well known ability, most successful. Mr. James Winning, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. Samuel Harding, Mr. James H. Waterston, and your secretary accompanied him. Very warm assistance was rendered by local friends so that these meetings were among the most gratifying of the meetings of the year. Mr. Manning met the Executive in friendly conference in Glasgow, where a most interesting conversation took place on prohibition in Canada and "the States," by which your Executive's favourable impressions of the prohibitory movement in the Far West were deepened and extended.

The usual deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance visited Scotland, unfortunately at a time when the weather was extremely inclement. Rev. H. H. Pereira was the sole English member of the deputation. He began at Dumfries and visited successively Irvine, Montrose, Aberdeen and Greenock. To these places he was accompanied by Rev. Samuel Harding, Mr.

James Winning, Mr. Robert Stevenson, and Mr. Wm. Blackwood, and at all of them he received most efficient local support. At Greenock he preached a sermon. He succumbed to the excessive cold. His place was taken at short notice at Linlithgow by Bailie Selkirk, who along with Rev. J. Paterson, Dumbarton, and Mr. Waterston, met with a most cordial reception. The local friends rendered substantial aid and the meeting as might be expected was highly successful. At Cupar his place was taken by Rev. E. J. Boon, Mr. D. Fyffe, and Mr. J. H. Waterston, and a most satisfactory meeting testified to the ability of the improvised deputation. Although not so brilliant as the Alliance meetings in Scotland usually are, these did much to attract the public in the places visited, and greatly commended permissive prohibition to the listening audiences.

At the annual meeting of last year it was a special instruction to the Executive to have a number of district conferences to assist the parliamentary efforts of the Association. These conferences have largely contributed to the satisfactory prosecution of the agitation during the year. Chief among them may be mentioned that at Edinburgh where a signally successful conference took place in the New Waverley Hall, ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., presided and the speakers included such well known friends as Professor Blaikie, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Revs. John Kay, and J. C. Cunningham, ex-Provost Dick, Bailie Selkirk, Messrs. J. Winning, G. Tait, J. Coutts, and J. H. Waterston. The whole proceedings were such as to encourage an early visit to the Scottish Capital. A very successful conference was held in the Young Men's Christian Association, Dundee, over which Bailie Selkirk presided, in the absence of ex-Bailie Torrens. This was a most gratifying meeting, the several speakers exhibiting such a grasp of the object aimed at as to make all they said interesting. Ex-Bailies Moncur and Maxwell, ex-Councillor Rutherford, Rev. David Macrae, A. Inglis, and T. Dickson, Messrs. Briggs, W. Scrymgeour, and J. Winning took a prominent part in the proceedings. Conferences were held at Dunso, Dunbar, Peebles, at which Mr. John Steel and Mr. Waterston represented the Association. At Grangemouth an excellent one took place, on which occasion Provost Macpherson took the chair. Conferences were held at Edinburgh, Broxburn, Loanhead, Falkland, West Calder, Irvine, Govan, Aberdeen, and many other places, and were very pleasant to those joining them, and largely beneficial to the agitation.

Previous to the debate and division in Parliament it was resolved to follow up the Electoral work by Mr. John Paton in North Ayrshire by as many deputational and conference meetings as possible. The dreadful inclemency of the weather marred in some degree the attendance, but the spirit of these meetings was most commendable, the resolution to act in view of the coming division being enthusiastically adopted. Bailie Selkirk and your secretary were present at Ardrossan, and Mr. James Winning was present with your secretary at those of Dalry, Beith and Kilbirnie. One of the most agreeable was at Kilbirnie where an enjoyable conference followed the meeting. Warm hearted local friends assisted your deputation in all the places. Local deputations with memorials from various towns in the country waited upon Mr. Cochran Partick, M.P., and it is gratifying to note that he did not vote against the Resolution.

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

It affords your Executive much satisfaction to state that the open-air advocacy this year has in success distanced its predecessors. In Edinburgh Mr. John Paton addressed meetings from the 11th to 17th June; Rev. A. M'Kinley, 28th June to 1st July; Mr. J. H. Waterston, 10th to 15th July; and Mr. R. Stevenson, from 24th to 29th July. All of them concur in stating that these meetings were largely attended, and pervaded by the most evident enthusiasm. A week's meetings were arranged in Greenock, which were addressed by Messrs. Paton and Stevenson and your Secretary, in addition to the usual summer supplies. So both Greenock and Cartsdyke societies. A lumber

of meetings were held in Glasgow, Dumbarton, Partick, Perth, Ayr, Govan, Aberdeen, Paisley, Dundee, and one or more in almost every town in Scotland, so that by this means multitudes who rarely or ever attend indoor meetings have been reached. These audiences evidently took a deep interest in what they heard, and it is most gratifying to observe that they appreciate the value of the facts and arguments which the various speakers lay before them. Your grateful thanks are due to those friends who, believing thoroughly in the pervading power of this apparently unconventional advocacy, go boldly with your agents to the streets, there to sow the seeds of temperance and prohibitory truth in the minds of the common people.

Your Sabbath meeting on Glasgow Green has this year been vigorously carried on under the able and genial superintendence of Mr. R. Dransfield. At no season of these meetings has there been such an able and varied advocacy taking part in its proceedings. Rev. W. M'Dougal, Stonefield; Mr. Jas. Horn, Lanark; Mr. W. Stockbridge, London; Mr. J. M. Skinner, Oxford; Mr. John Steel, Edinburgh; Messrs. John Paton, J. H. Waterston, W. Blackwood, R. Stevenson, Wm. Kesson, R. Mackay, and the talented chairman. The audiences have been enormous. So highly are these meetings appreciated that a very pressing desire for their continuance during the winter months indoor has been brought to the notice of your Executive.

Ex-Bailie Torrens and Mr. James Winning were your representatives to the annual meeting of the Irish Temperance League at Belfast this year. The friends enjoyed the addresses of both gentlemen, and as usual the eloquence of ex-Bailie Torrens roused the warm enthusiasm of the Belfast people, who keenly appreciate his visits. The Rev. R. J. Lynde, B.A., represents the League at your meetings to-day.

Ex-Bailie Torrens and your Secretary represented your Association at the Alliance anniversary meetings in October. These were as usual imposing and impressive. The vast crowds that thronged the council room and the public meeting strongly testify to the growing interest in this question which actuates the English people. Your deputation were appointed to take part in the overflow meeting, over which the worthy Bailie presided, setting the meeting aglow by his address from the chair. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., and Benjamin Whitworth, Esq., are deputed to represent that Association here to-day.

Bailie Selkirk was deputed to represent the Association at the annual sessions of the I.O.G.T. The most cordial relations continue to exist between this order and your Association. The Rev. R. Wallace attends on behalf of that order to-day.

Messrs. J. Winning and R. M'Callum were deputed to attend the breakfast party of the Scottish Temperance League. Your Executive are on the best terms with the National Temperance Association, and the Rev. James A. Johnston and ex-Bailie Burt represent it at your social meeting to-day.

The Rev. David Tatum, one of the Temperance Reformers of Ohio, paid a hurried visit to this country. Coming to Scotland as he did during the new year holidays, your Executive could not extend fraternal co-operation to him. He had, however, several meetings in Edinburgh, and had the co-operation of your district superintendent, Mr. Waterston.

At the desire of the Irish Temperance League your Executive heartily consented that Mr. Waterston should go to Ireland on a lecturing tour, while Rev. A. M'Kinley was to come to Scotland to address an equal number of meetings in his absence from his district. The interchange was a great success. The U. K. Alliance has requested Mr. Waterston for a fortnight to Newcastle district, Mr. Paton holding an equal number of meetings in Mr. Waterston's district. Your Executive highly approve of such reciprocity on the part of associations, and their agents, believing that those concerned—speakers and districts—will be mutually benefited.

Mr. John Paton by the kindness of the United Kingdom Alliance has been lecturing in Scotland. His

first visit extended from the 2nd November to the 22nd December, his second visit lasted from the 16th May to 25th June, and his third will extend from 19th September to the end of the year.

A very interesting, and somewhat novel series of meetings in connection with the camping-out of the Renfrewshire Militia, took place at Irvine. The Good Templars there have been in the habit of holding meetings, concerts, and a soiree, with the special view of benefiting the militia while away from their homes. This year your Association was asked for speakers, and gladly complied with the request. Messrs. Stevenson, Dransfield, and Mackay respectively, addressed large audiences, and met with a very cordial appreciation from the audience, and with warm thanks from the committee at Irvine, for their stirring appeals to the soldiers and townspeople who thronged these truly excellent meetings, the arrangements for which reflect great credit on those who organised and carried them through.

Your Executive rejoice to be able to add, that the various organizations in Scotland devote a very large portion of the time of their lecturers and advocates to the promulgation of the principles of Permissive prohibition. The addresses that are most heartily applauded are those that advocate the right of the ratepayers to be invested with a direct veto over the liquor traffic. Highly as the people appreciate the truths of total abstinence, they yet more highly extol the principles and policy of your Association, believing that the great stumblingblock in the path of a universal fidelity to the practice of total abstinence is to be found in the legalised temptation of the drink traffic, and they hail all efforts that go to secure the abolition of that traffic, whose destruction will make it easy for the community to adopt and follow personal abstinence.

To all, whether organisations or individuals, who have with such readiness co-operated in sowing the seeds of an enlightened public opinion through these meetings, your Executive ask you to tender your most cordial thanks.

THE CHURCHES.

One of the most encouraging features of the agitation is the growing earnestness of the various churches on the subject of temperance and prohibition. Many of the leaders of the Church have been painfully convinced by the late prosperity and present adversity of the country, of the power of the liquor traffic to diminish the wealth gained in prosperous times, and to intensify the sufferings which adversity brings. Although far from a unanimity on the cardinal principles of the temperance reformation, yet it is gratifying to observe that they fully recognise the vital urgency of legislative interference with the liquor traffic, as well as the necessity laid upon the Church to establish, in connection with every congregation and every mission station, some temperance organisation, to train the young in the principles of abstinence, and to restrain those of maturer years from the destructive vice and sin of intemperance.

The United Presbyterian Synod met in Edinburgh. During the sittings, the convener of the Temperance Committee, in presenting their report, while rejoicing at the marked advance made by the movement with regard to ordination and induction dinners and funerals, still had to deplore the ravages of intemperance and the drinking usages. He suggested the following as the deliverance of the Synod:—1st, That the Synod express its hope that the Church would discourage drinking usages on all public occasions. 2nd, That it recommend the preaching of a warning sermon in December against the dangers connected with these usages, and urging the adoption of practical measures for the suppression of the evils of intemperance. 3rd, The securing of an earlier hour of closing than eleven o'clock, of power to the ratepayers to control licenses, and liberty to the temperance committee to petition in favour of any bill brought into Parliament having these objects in view. 4th, That sessions be recommended to specially look after the young under their care, in connection with the evils of intemperance, and the formation of Bands of Hope auxiliary to all the congregations.

This suggestion became the deliverance of the Synod, and thanks were heartily awarded to the committee on temperance and its convener the Rev. Mr. Rankine. The committee petitioned in favour of the Local Option Resolution.

The usual annual breakfast party under the auspices of the U.P. Temperance Society, was held during the Synod sittings. Rev. Dr. Adamson and Mr. J. H. Waterston represented your Society. They express their high appreciation of their own reception and of the interesting proceedings.

The Free Church this year brought in its report on Public Morals disjoined from its report on Temperance. The convener, Rev. Mr. M'Kenzie, in submitting the first named report, referred to the numerous instances of revival which had taken place; the larger portion of those impressed being church members of some standing. The report deplored the prevalence of illegitimacy, and urged the Church to rouse itself against this fearful sin and great national evil: the widespread evil of profanity which was greatly affecting the young: the too rapid independence of the young through earning wages early; and the prevalent scepticism which was apparent all over the churches. The report called for strenuous efforts to check and remove these fearful evils, and urged that ministers should deal more firmly with their flocks. There was no reference to the temperance question in the report. In an interesting discussion on the Sabbath question, Dr. Thomson of Paisley made excellent use of the principle of Permissive Prohibition, as shown in the course taken by Government in regard to the Scotch, Irish and Welsh Sunday closing questions. He asked that no legal desecration of Sabbath should take place if the people signified that they were opposed to it. The report on temperance was, as usual, most elaborate in dealing with the various aspects of the temperance question. The deliverance moved by Mr. C. J. Guthrie recommended the preaching of the usual sermon in December, and through interchange of pulpits, as far as that was possible; rejoiced to observe the growth of temperance in the Church, exhorted all ministers, &c., to diligence in advancing temperance among the young and others agreeably to repeated deliverances of this house; resolve on the issue of a short pastoral address on the subject to be referred to or read from the pulpit about the new year; express their cordial satisfaction with the passage of the Local Option Resolution in support of which they petitioned Parliament last year. They are convinced that public opinion is more ripe in this country than in England for the embodiment of this resolution in practical legislation. Having regard to the general and concurrent expression of opinion by presbyteries upon the subject, the Assembly resolve to petition Parliament to the following effect:—"That a 'Local Option' measure for Scotland should be introduced into Parliament as soon as possible; (2) That, while maintaining all existing restrictions on the drink traffic, Parliament should intrust the working of such a measure to local boards, to be elected for this purpose by the ratepayers on the same principle as school boards; and (3) that within the limits of existing restrictions, such boards should have power to determine all questions regarding the number of licensed houses, hours of sale, &c." The Assembly instruct the committee to prepare petition to Parliament in accordance with the above resolution, to be signed by the Moderator in name of the Assembly.

The members of the Temperance Society in connection with the Church met at breakfast, and Mr. James Winning and Mr. Waterstone attended as a deputation from your Association. The proceedings were full of encouragement, and great earnestness and enthusiasm pervaded the meeting.

The Assembly petitioned in favour of the Local Option Resolution.

The Established Church Committee's report on Temperance spoke on Temperance legislation with bated breath. The report stated that according to the instructions of last venerable Assembly, they had "watched over the interests of Temperance within the

Church" while co-operating in outside movements. The Committee thought that it was pre-eminently a Church question with which the Church was bound to deal. The work could not be done effectively by a Committee; every minister should take it up and make a practical effort. The number of ministers and laymen interested in this matter was yearly increasing. There had been an increase in parochial Temperance Associations, and much attention had been devoted to the young. Whatever might be thought of legislation on the subject, the committee were of opinion that the number of public houses might be decreased, and thus temptation to over-indulgence removed out of the way. The committee asked to be allowed to continue their work. Mr. Marjoribanks moved the adoption of the report, the reappointment of the committee, with power to add to their number, with instructions to promote temperance principles throughout the Church, especially among the young. He frowned on temperance tracts, and urged the Church to have a temperance printing press of her own (applause). Mr. M'Laren seconded the adoption of the report, and Mr. Webster said that if half the efforts devoted to heresy hunting had been put forth in behalf of temperance, it would be well for their Church, well for their country, and, in the case of thousands, life would then become better worth living. The report was then adopted.

The annual meeting of the Church of Scotland Temperance Association took place during the sittings. Rev. Dr. Dodds presided. The annual report was read by Rev. Mr. Jamieson, Portobello. The chairman was sure the meeting could not but feel that intemperance was doing great harm in the country. There were many agencies at work to counteract its effects, but while the Assembly sympathised with their objects, they could not be at one as to the means. Some of them were associated with political objects, but the association felt they could not thoroughly associate themselves with such. Their organisation was rather in harmony with gospel views. Other addresses, equally out of harmony with your line of action, were delivered.

The Established Church Temperance Breakfast was held as usual. Your district agent, Mr. Waterston, was present.

The Congregational Union met at Aberdeen, and bestowed much consideration on the temperance question. This Union has not a publican within its pale, nor more than half a dozen wine merchants. About 70 per cent. of the pastors, and a large percentage of the members of the church are abstainers.

The other denominations—Evangelical Union, Baptist, and others—use means for bringing the temperance question before their members, with gratifying and growing results.

LITERATURE.

Your Executive are profoundly sensible of the power which the Press can wield in favour of your agitation, and often regret that they have never felt themselves warranted in diminishing the resources at their disposal, to the extent of putting this department into a state of efficiency. That, in their opinion, can only be done by the friends making a resolute effort for that special purpose. Your Executive have gradually augmented their stock of literature, until they can safely say that at no time was it more varied and extensive. All the most important volumes, and the newest pamphlets on the temperance and prohibition question are in stock. During the year they printed for Dr. M'Culloch, Dumfries, a new and thoroughly revised edition of his famous lecture, and with his permission, and jointly with the United Kingdom Alliance, a second edition, which is already nearly sold out. They have also thrown off a large edition of the paper read by Bailie Selkirk at one of the winter conversations of the Scottish Temperance League. It is entitled "The Duty of Temperance Electors at Parliamentary Elections." The New Year's Tract of Rev. Dr. Bonar of Edinburgh met with a most gratifying sale, indeed better than this series of tracts has met with for years.

Your Executive are glad to be able to state that the New Year's Tract for 1882 will be written by the Rev.

Professor Kirk, and earnestly bespeak the efforts of the friends for its extended circulation.

The Social Reformer, the Organ of the Association, continues to fulfil its mission as the fearless exponent and upholder of the principles and policy of the Association. Its merits continue to receive the flattering recognition of the contemporary press. Your Executive would earnestly ask you to recommend it to the notice of your own friends and neighbours, and in this way enlarge its sphere of usefulness. To its contributors and Editor your grateful thanks are due, and the assistance of friends willing to contribute to its pages is earnestly invited, while suggestions for its improvement and for its increased circulation will always be gladly received.

The temperance press is assuming enormous dimensions. The skill of the Journalist, the art of the graver, combine with the printer in the production of literature which can appeal to the most critical mind, while the stores which offer themselves in all the departments of human knowledge, furnish the temperance movement with invincible weapons for aggression and defence. The literary services of Dr. Kerr, Dr. Richardson, and Dr. A. Clarke, Mr. Wm. Hoyle, and others less conspicuous, but not less ardent upholders of temperance doctrine, powerfully recommend the literature of the agitation to all classes of the community. Mr. Hoyle's annual letter to the "Times," and his paper read before the British Association are signally prominent even in a year which has witnessed numerous triumphs of literary skill in behalf of the temperance reformation.

The general press has during the year been affording ample space to the consideration of the questions affecting the movement, and its treatment, save in very exceptional circumstances, has been most respectful and sympathetic, and in numerous instances laudatory. The more intelligent and influential journals although not prepared yet to accept all the conclusions of the agitation, are with increasing frankness admitting that the days of publican tyranny are virtually over, and that the sooner the "trade" sues for terms the better. The Scottish agitation is deeply indebted to *The North British Daily Mail*, *The Daily Review*, *The Christian News*, *The League Journal*, *The Greenock Telegraph*, *The Aberdeen Daily Free Press*, *The Alloa Advertiser*, *The Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, *The Irvine Express*, and other newspapers, for space for reports, correspondence, as well as for the editorial comments which have from time to time appeared. *The Alliance News* deserves special mention. *The Weekly Record*, *The Medical Temperance Journal*, and *The Church of England Temperance Chronicle* are unsurpassed for the admirable manner in which the special aspects of the question with which each has to deal is issue by issue treated. Bearing in mind that before the Maine Law was established in Maine, that state had to be sown knee-deep with temperance literature, your Executive trust that this important means of enlightenment will receive your increased favour and attention.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

The Parliament opened this year on the 6th January, and was prorogued on August 27th. Notwithstanding the truly exceptional nature of its proceedings, and the exacting nature of the Irish questions it had to deal with, precluding the treatment of any but Irish grievances, the Temperance has been signally successful. The gratifying position attained last year by the Local Option Resolution has been improved, and as a concession to the vigour of that agitation, the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill has to be numbered among the Parliamentary victories of the movement.

The Queen's speech did not, as was hoped, allude to the Liquor Traffic, but on the afternoon of the opening day a number of Bills were noticed, among these were a notice by Sir Henry James regarding Corrupt Practices at Elections; of the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill, by Mr. John Roberts; the English Sunday Bill, by Mr. Stevenson; of a Bill Closing Public Houses during Parliamentary Elections, by Mr. Carbutt. Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice of a question on

the 10th, "Whether the Government intended to introduce any measure during the present Session of Parliament for carrying out the resolution of the House with respect to the licensing system and local option." The Premier on the 10th answered this question in the negative, and on the 11th Sir Wilfrid gave notice that on the earliest possible day he would move "that in the opinion of this House, the resolution passed by the House on the 18th June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic, ought without delay to be embodied by the Government in a bill giving effect to such resolution." On the 17th May he gave notice that his resolution would be moved on Tuesday, 14th June.

So soon as the date was fixed your Executive communicated with the Scottish Temperance League, all the orders of Templars, Rechabites, United Temperance Associates, &c., for support. A strong appeal was made to all friends and subscribing societies, and such other steps taken as were necessary to bring the full pressure of the electors to bear on their representatives. A hearty response to this appeal was received, and the kindred associations appealed to rendered invaluable co-operation. The Executive appointed a deputation to go to London to support the interests of the resolution, among the representatives from Scotland:—Messrs. J. Nisbet, R. C. Murray, T. L. Selkirk, J. Winning, J. H. Waterston, and R. Mackay; John Williams, Esq., D. Stenhouse, Esq., and Mr. McDonald joined the deputation. The energetic efforts of the united deputation materially contributed to the magnitude of the vote.

When the House resumed on the 14th June, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., rose to move his resolution. He did so in a most impressive speech of 45 minutes duration, Hon. members trooping in and filling the benches as they returned from dinner. Mr. Burt, Sir Wilfrid's staunch supporter, seconded briefly in an excellent speech. He was followed by Mr. Samuelson, and then Mr. Bright spoke for the Government. He showed all the old feeling he had against the Permissive Bill in his speech on the resolution, counselled patience and more work in the community, and expressed a hope that some future administration would concede permissive prohibition. Mr. Daly, Mr. Hicks, Col. Makins, and Capt. Aymer spoke against the resolution in similar terms to those used by its opponents all along, and then the division was taken.

The division shows that 196 voted for the resolution and 154 against it, majority 42; including the 4 tellers and 33 pairs the numbers are 231 for, and 189 against; majority as before 42, or an increase over the second division of last year of 16 votes. The voting on the part of Scotland was virtually the same, 39 voting for, and 4 pairing for; total 43, against 5, or a majority of 38. Both counties and burghs show majorities. The majority for counties being 16 (20 for and 4 against); that of the burghs 21 (22 to 1), only one burgh vote being cast against it. The universities gave one vote, showing a majority as before of 38. The majority over England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland was 42; to that majority Scotland contributes 34, a truly magnificent aidance. On no other question regarding Scotland can anything like the same unanimity of voting by Scotch members be shown, and this is the eighth time that her Parliamentary representatives have declared in favour of her people having power to directly veto the liquor traffic of their respective localities. It is due to Mr. Armitstead, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Majoribanks and Mr. Holms to state that they would have been paired in favour of the resolution could adverse pairs have been to be had, but the publican party could not muster more. These pairs would have brought up the number to 47 for, as against 5 opposed; and it is matter for wonder how much nearer unanimity the Parliamentary representation of Scotland would require to be to induce the Government to grant its people a direct veto over the liquor traffic. All the members of the Government holding Scotch seats, with one exception, voted and paired in favour of the resolution. The voting (and pairing) was as follows:—

COUNTIES.—*For*—Ayr (South), Colonel Alexander; Kincardine, Sir George Balfour, K.C.B.; Clackmannan and Kinross, J. B. Balfour (Solicitor-General); Stirling, J. C. Bolton; Fife, Hon. R. Preston Bruce; Argyll, Lord Colin Campbell; Renfrew, A. Crum; Perth, D. Currie; Bute, C. Dalrymple; Roxburgh, Hon. A. R. D. Elliott; Aberdeen (West), Dr. R. Farquharson; Aberdeen (East), Sir A. A. H. Gordon, K.C.B.; Lanark (South), J. G. C. Hamilton; Orkney and Shetland, S. Laing; Linlithgow, P. M'Lagan; Caithness, Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, Bart.; Sutherland, Marquess Stafford; Peebles and Selkirk, C. Tennent, 18. *Paired for*—Elgin and Nairn, Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart.; Kirkcudbright, Captain J. M. Heron Maxwell, 2; votes and pairs, 20. *Against*—Haddington, Lord Elcho; Dumbarton, A. O. Ewing; Midlothian, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; and Wigtown, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., 4; majority for the counties, 16.

BURGHs.—Glasgow, G. Anderson, Dr. Cameron; Kirkcaldy District, Sir G. Campbell, K.C.S.I.; Ayr District, R. F. F. Campbell; Stirling District, H. Campbell-Bannerman; Edinburgh, J. Cowan; Elgin District, Right Hon. M. E. G. Duff; Leith District, A. Grant; Dundee, F. Henderson; Inverness District, C. F. M'Intosh; Edinburgh, Right Hon. J. M'Laren (Lord Advocate); Dumfries District, E. Noel; Perth, C. S. Parker; Kilnarnock District, J. Dick Peddie; Falkirk District, J. Ramsay; Greenock, J. Stewart; Border Burghs, G. O. Trevelyan; Aberdeen, John Webster, LL.D.; Haddington District, Sir David Wedderburn, Bart.; and St. Andrew's District, S. Williamson, 20. *Paired for*—Montrose District, Right Hon. W. E. Baxter; Wick District, John Pender, 2; votes and pairs, 22. *Against*—Wigtown District, Admiral Right Hon. Sir John C. D. Hay, Bart., 1; majority for the Burghs, 21. Universities—*For*—Edinburgh and St. Andrews, Right Hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair, 1. *Against*, none.

The most important temperance measure of the session was the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill. Notice was given of its introduction on the first day of the session. The second reading was taken on the 4th May. Mr. Roberts presented a splendid case in its favour—the almost entire unanimity both of the Welsh people, and their parliamentary representatives (the principality has 30 members, and 29 of these voted for the Bill). The canvass was a marvel of exhaustive and disinterested work. The opposition the Bill received came, as might be expected, from outsiders. The Premier, himself a Welsh landlord, supported the Bill in a powerful speech, and the division showed 163 in favour and 17 against, showing a majority of 146. 27 Scotch members were in the majority, and not one against it. On June 15, the order for going into committee was opposed, but, after some lively debating, was carried by 123 to 29—a majority of 94. Again 27 Scotch representatives voted with the majority, and not one against it. Afterwards an attempt to exempt Cardiff from its operation was defeated by 118 to 27—a majority of 91. On the 20th June, Mr. Thomasson was defeated in an attempt to allow the public-houses to sell on Sundays off the premises from 12.30 to 2.30 p.m. by 81 to 32—majority 49. On the 19th August Mr. Richard moved the third reading, and after a feeble protest from its opponents, it was carried without a division, amid great cheering. On the 23rd, in the House of Lords, Lord Aberdare moved the second reading in a most significant speech, being on local option lines. On the 24th Lord Denman objected, because liquors were to be sold at railway stations. Objection was over-ruled, and the bill passed through committee without amendment. On the 25th it passed the House of Lords, and on the 27th received the Royal assent, and is now law. It is not fully in operation, because it is not definite as to the time of its becoming operative.

The English Sunday Closing Bill met with a hapless fate. On the 6th January Mr. Stevenson gave notice of his bill, but on the 8th January Mr. Callan "blocked" it, and on the 12th July Mr. Stevenson moved the order for its discharge, and it was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Carbut's bill for the closing of public-houses during polling at parliamentary elections was read for the first time on the 12th January. On the 30th March he moved the second reading. The whole draft of the interesting debate was in favour of the bill, and in view of the Government dealing with the evil against which the bill was aimed, Mr. Carbut withdrew the bill.

Then Mr. Meldon on the 20th May moved the second reading of his bill that in all Irish towns of 10,000 inhabitants the hours of publicans selling liquors should be materially shortened. After a spirited debate the bill was rejected by 49 to 33—a majority of 16.

During the discussion on the Land Bill Lord Arthur Hill, on the 23rd June, moved as an amendment, that "a tenant shall not, without consent of the landlord, open any house for the sale of intoxicating liquors." The debate was well-sustained, and the amendment was ultimately accepted by the Government.

The next matter of importance was the Budget introduced by Mr. Gladstone in a speech which quite disappointed expectation, a brilliant one being anticipated. His proposals were simply re-adjustments of the liquor duties, and his faith in the substitution of a beer duty for the malt tax was deep, for he took off the penny of income tax which he required to impose to enable him to entirely abolish that tax.

On the 14th May the Committee on Ways and Means adopted the following resolution, "That there shall be charged and paid upon every license for the sale of intoxicating liquors and tobacco in any carriage used for the conveyance of passengers on any railway an excise duty of £5." Mr. Gladstone undertook to bring this matter forward. Mr. W. Fowler on the instant gave notice, that in going into Committee on the Customs Bill, he would move "That any system of grant of license for the sale of intoxicating liquors in railway carriages will be injurious to the public." One of the most remarkable national manifestations of sentiment took place. Foremost in the opposition were a number of honourable members who declared a strenuous opposition to the proposal; then the various temperance and prohibitory associations rose *en masse* against it, and the general public looked upon it with strong aversion. Under these circumstances Mr. Gladstone on the 23rd May frankly disclaimed anything like a revolutionary character in the proposal, and admitted that it was effectually killed by the menace to which it had been exposed. On May the 26th the proposal was finally abandoned. Such was the result of a national rising against any reactionary legislation on the drink traffic, another signal instance of the power of public opinion in favour of Temperance, and of the rapidity with which it can act on the Legislature.

Your Executive lost not a moment in co-operating with the various Scottish organisations who with all promptitude met this proposal with an uncompromising resistance. A memorial from your Association was forwarded to Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and a copy of it to the Home Secretary and to every member of parliament for Scotland. The horrors and dangers averted by the action so universally taken against this proposal are incalculable; it is matter for joy that it was so signally successful.

Mr. Caine brought forward two very important motions during the session, one on the 31st March in Committee on the Army Discipline Bill. He moved the abolition of all sale of alcoholic liquors either in canteen or on the march in a most exhaustive speech. Although defeated—156 to 34—he was able to secure a promise from Mr. Childers that greater stringency would be exercised in this matter in the army commissariat in future. On the 13th August in Committee on the Navy Estimates, he moved in favour of the discontinuance of the spirit ration, and in favour of giving increased dietary and wages in its stead. Here another most interesting debate took place, and a strong case made out for the naval authorities. Action by Mr. Trevelyan in the direction urged by Mr. Caine, who withdrew his motion after expressing his deep satisfaction with Mr. Trevelyan's explanation.

In the beginning of March what was stated to be a first draft of the Government licensing bill appeared in the *Standard*. Questioned on the subject Sir W. Harcourt stated with confidence that "no printed draft of a Government measure for regulating the trade of licensed victuallers has got abroad, and for this reason that there never has been such a draft." This is conclusive as to the Government intention at the time, and it will rest with the temperance electors of the various constituencies if the same will have to be said by the Home Secretary on a similar day of March, 1882.

The slightest reflection on the progress of temperance and prohibition in the Parliament of last session must be of an exceedingly gratifying character to all staunch friends of the agitation. We see that year by year the Government is making larger concessions to the growing public opinion on the liquor traffic, and that it is in making these basing its reasons on the amount of local sentiment prevalent on the question at issue, and vindicating its concession by a reference to the right of the people to protection from institutions affecting themselves and their families to an injurious degree. So soon, as was the case in Wales, as the people give sufficient evidence of their sentiments, the Government will feel constrained to grant their demand. This is most encouraging to all true friends of prohibition, and is well calculated to induce us to increase our efforts for the creation and direction of an enlightened public opinion on the evils of the liquor traffic and on the abundant necessity for immediate legislation for its suppression by the injured and burdened ratepayers.

BYE-ELECTIONS.

A number of bye-elections have taken place during the year, and your Executive rejoice to intimate that all have gone in favour of the principles of local option. The elevation of Mr. Adam to the high position of Governor of Madras created a vacancy in the united Shires of Clackmannan and Kinross in the month of November of last year. Mr. J. B. Balfour, who unsuccessfully contested North-Ayr, offered himself to the constituency, and was returned unopposed. His election is a decided gain to the movement, as, for the first time during the agitation, this constituency supports Sir Wilfrid Lawson's policy. His elevation to the distinguished position of Lord-Advocate is full of significance for the future of the cause. The death of Col. Muir, a staunch Parliamentary friend, created a vacancy in Renfrewshire. Mr. Alex. Crum was unanimously chosen to succeed him, and was returned unopposed on the 29th November. He, like the gallant Col. supports Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The retirement of Mr. Duncan M'Laren, the senior member for Edinburgh, and one of the best friends in Parliament of the movement, led to a contest there between Lord-Advocate M'Laren and Mr. Edward Jenkins. Both gentlemen favoured your principles, and our friends in the constituency appeared to be divided in their preference. The poll was in favour of the Lord Advocate, the numbers being:—for his Lordship, 11,390; for Mr. Jenkins, 3,940—majority, 7,650. The Right Hon. Grant Duff in July accepted the post of Governor of Madras, which had only been held by the late Right Hon. W. P. Adams for a few months, and thus severed the political connection between himself and the Elgin district of burghs, which had lasted twenty-four years. Quite a number of candidates offered themselves,—Mr. Craig Seller, Mr. A. Asher, Mr. T. D. Buchanan, Mr. Douglas Ainslie, Mr. J. Jeans, and Mr. M'Lean. The three first and the last named had more or less sympathy with the aims of your Association, the others were not even intelligent upon them. The electors by a test ballot accepted Mr. A. Asher as their candidate, and he was returned unopposed on the 13th July. On his appointment as Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Asher sought re-election, and on the 25th August was again returned without opposition. The Right Hon. Lord Advocate having intimated his resignation, and his acceptance of a judgeship in the Court of Session, a vacancy occurred in the representation of Edinburgh. For the seat several candidates appeared—Mr. G. Har-

rierson, Mr. John Wilson, and Mr. T. D. Buchanan. The Liberal Association having by a majority chosen Mr. Buchanan as its candidate, the others withdrew, and that gentleman was, on the 23rd August, returned unopposed. Mr. Buchanan will take the place of the Lord Advocate in supporting Sir Wilfrid Lawson. There has thus been six bye-elections in Scotland during the year, and the gain has been with your agitation, the vacancies being filled with men pledged to vote against the liquor traffic, and Clackmannan and Kinross giving their support to your principles for the first time.

DEPARTED FRIENDS.

As year after year the members of the Association assemble to review the past and to resolve for the future, they have to regret the loss of some well known friend, whose warfare is forever at an end. This year we enter on the same sad experience, for during its onward march many worthy friends have been called away. Councillor Johnston, of Dumfries, a well tried friend, died in a foreign land; Mr. John M'Gavin's decease was a serious loss to the temperance movement generally, to your Association he gave liberally, and his sympathy with your object was increasing; Mr. John M'Donald, Aberdeen, has not left behind him in the North one that could surpass him in loyalty to the principles you uphold, or one who can exhibit greater sympathy or liberality to the agitation; Mr. D. Carswell, Paisley, heartily befriended the association; Dr. Morrison, Beith, did much to advance your question; the Rev. D. Macrae, Glasgow; young Mr. Nicol, Rattray; Mr. T. Biggart, Dalry; Rev. Wm. Jaffray, Irvine; Rev. G. Charles, Stranraer; Rev. A. Thomson, Peebles; Mr. James M'Ilroy, Dunning; Mr. Wm. Gibb, Glasgow; Mr. A. Lamberton, Kilbirnie; Mr. James Fimister, Kirriemuir; Mr. Jas. Grant, West Calder; Mr. J. Slater, Lerwick; Mr. Wm. Shanks, Bridge-of-Weir; Mr. W. Jamieson, Stow; Mr. John Shaw, Kilsyth, all deserve the sorrowful recognition of their services to the good cause.

Mrs. Mitchell, the widow of the former Secretary of this Association, herself an ardent adherent of the movement, and a true yoke fellow to her gifted husband, departed this life at Invercargill, New Zealand, on the 30th April, last.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

As an instance of the great advance of temperance and prohibitory sentiment in the community, with its inevitable result, greater discernment of the relations of the liquor traffic to society, your Executive have to record a resolution by the School Board of Glasgow in the following terms:—"That the clerk be requested to report to the Board in committee, previous to each licensing term, all applications made for new licenses for spirit shops or for transferred licenses, if the premises are situated within 200 yards of either a Board School or the High School, with the view of the Board taking such action as they may determine in the interest of the young attending such schools."

The London Temperance Hospital is now removed to its new premises in Hampstead Road, and is entirely free from debt. The successful establishment of this institution, and the signal evidence which it has afforded through the seven years of its existence, that alcoholic liquors are quite unnecessary either in the preparation of drugs or as drugs themselves, has vastly contributed to expel the idea from the minds of the medical faculty and their patients that these baneful liquors are in any way useful in morbid conditions of the human frame. It will, though indirectly, be a powerful auxiliary to the prohibitory phase of the agitation.

THE FUNDS.

The state of the funds must always be a matter of anxiety to your Executive, which every true and earnest friend of the Association will share. The present commercial depression, whose pressure is scarcely if at all relaxed, has been a period of grave concern to your Executive, whose difficulty was to maintain and increase the efficiency of the agitation. The difficulty was increased by the loss through death of many generous friends. Many friends however have this year

kindly augmented their subscriptions, while a number have subscribed for the first time, so that it is pleasing to record that the funds are in a healthy condition, having sufficed for the vigorous efforts of the past year.

The amount received during the year, exclusive of balance, is £2071 15s 1d, which shows the satisfactory increase of £55 2s 8d over the income of last year. Under the head of "Subscriptions and Donations" there is the very satisfactory increase of £67 8s 7d. This latter increase testifies to the continued generous liberality of friends to the funds of the Association. The amount expended on the operations of the year is £2065 19s 11½d, leaving in hand a balance of a similar amount to that of the last two years.

With a view to enable the Executive to ascertain what amount of support they might expect to receive during the year, they asked the friends of the Association to indicate the extent to which they were disposed to contribute during the coming year in aid of the agitation. A large number of friends have made a generous response, and many, recognising the encouragement which the early payment of subscriptions affords to your Executive, have in the kindest manner sent their cheque along with their promise forms. With the balance in hand, and with the amount realized already from the promises of friends, your Executive are enabled to begin the year's operations with larger resources than has for some years been the case. They earnestly trust however that you will not separate to-day without giving your best consideration to this urgent matter, so that the agitation may be prosecuted with greater vigour and increased agencies.

Your Executive are convinced that a generous and spirited policy, on the part of their friends, with respect to the movement at all times, will do much to inspire the public mind with the earnestness and determination which actuates them in this vitally important agitation, and infuse still greater courage and devotion into the heart of the leaders of the movement, and its supporters throughout the country.

THE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Your Executive have removed the Offices from 30 Hope Street to 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The change has been most advantageous to the Association. There is increased and better accommodation at a rent much less than was paid for the premises lately occupied.

CONCLUSION.

In bringing their Report of the operations of the Association during the bygone year to a close, your Executive have to congratulate you upon the position and prospects of the agitation. The advance that was made last year and which has been fully maintained this year is proof of the solid progress of the movement. All sections of the Temperance and Prohibitory movement are looking earnestly forward to the time when the Government will grant some means of relief from the terrible national infliction of the liquor traffic, the application of which they will gladly leave to the ratepayers. Social Reformers everywhere are manifesting a growing amount of sympathy with the object you have in view: the churches have accepted the principle of a local interference with the liquor traffic, and at no distant day will show themselves the most powerful and influential of your allies. Great as has been the progress of the agitation, your Executive are glad to observe that it seems as if it were but whetting the resolution and the determination of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory party for a more decided advance, and the time seems to smile upon the effort. The people have again and again affirmed through their parliamentary representatives their desire to have the ratepayers of Scotland invested with a direct veto over the liquor traffic, and are becoming profoundly convinced that only through the demand which you continue to so earnestly press upon the attention of the Legislature can they hope to secure the final settlement of a question the most vital to the welfare of society. The justice of this demand cannot be gainsaid. It remains with the community to say how much longer it

is to be withheld. The people have on every occasion declared in favour of the principles and policy upheld and maintained by this Association. They will sustain its efforts and strengthen your hands in the good work fortified by their confidence, cheered by their sympathy, be it yours with indomitable firmness to press your demand upon the attention of the Government. Whatever has been gained all through the agitation has been achieved by the most determined action on the part of the loyal friends of the movement. Let us bear ourselves like them, let us emulate their indomitable energy, their uncompromising firmness, their glowing faith, and through this course unwaveringly and faithfully pursued we shall in the near future reap the reward of our efforts in the enactment of a law by which the ratepayers of Scotland will effectually uproot and destroy the liquor traffic.

Mr. M'CALLUM then read the treasurer's statement.

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1881.

<i>Income.</i>	
To Balance from last year,	£59 2 0½
„ Subscriptions,	1854 6 0
„ Publications and Advertising,	136 12 1½
„ Collections at Public Meetings,	80 16 11½
	£2130 17 1½
<i>Expenditure.</i>	
By Salaries and Expenses,	£877 11 3
„ Publications,	114 0 0½
„ Deputational Tours, &c.,	197 16 7½
„ Office Expenses, Clerks' Salaries, Stationery, Rent, Taxes, &c.,	272 10 3
„ Printing and Advertising,	446 1 1
„ Postages, Telegrams, Carriages, &c.,	158 0 8½
„ Balance on hand,	64 17 2
	£2130 17 1½

ASSETS.	
To Accounts due Association,	£34 10 0
„ Office Furniture,	55 6 0
„ Publications and Stationery,	115 17 0
„ Cash on hand,	64 17 2
	£270 10 2

LIABILITIES.	
By Accounts due Association,	£30 7 3
„ Balance in favour of Association,	240 2 11
	£270 10 2

Glasgow, 26th September, 1881.—I have examined the books of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for year ending 24th September, 1881, and compared them with the vouchers produced, and I certify the whole correct—the balance on hand being Sixty-four pounds seventeen shillings and two pence sterling.

(Signed) JNO. GOURLAY, C.A.
Auditor.

Mr. M'CALLUM said the Executive had to return their warmest thanks to the friends for their support. The Executive could go on cheerfully with their work when they got the sinews of war. This was the most satisfactory state they had been in for six or seven years back. The Executive were somewhat anxious as to how they were to get on in consequence of the depression in trade. Then there was another matter they had to contend with. Many people did not know whether Local Option was the Permissive Bill. The Permissive Bill was Local Option, and Local Option was the Permissive Bill. (Applause.) Well there had been £56 more in subscriptions than last year. That was a gratifying fact. (Applause.) He then thought

there was no society in Glasgow stood upon a firmer footing than theirs, and he expressed the hope that the friends of the Association would continue to give it their support. (Applause.) A few members had been doubling their subscriptions and promises had been received from many others; they would soon with a full treasury gain the end they all had in view. (Applause.)

Mr. LINDSAY, in moving "that the reports now read be adopted, printed and circulated," said he had much pleasure in doing so, though he was sorry the report had not been read in its fulness. The chairman remarked that they had not yet come to the end of their work. He (the speaker) did not think that was to be lamented. The people had to be educated, and he thought every year which passed they must have observed there was a greater desire prevailed in the breasts of the people, either for legislation, or for some effort being put forth to lessen the intemperance of the land. (Applause.) The work of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association was thorough, and no make-believe. He closed by asking the meeting to agree unanimously to his resolution. (Applause.)

Mr. JAMIESON of Ayr, in seconding the resolution, said some people were very apt to find fault, but they could have no occasion that day to speak disparagingly of the labours of those engaged in the working of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—The first resolution has been moved and seconded. Is it your wish that it be carried? (Applause.)

Mr. MATTHEW EDWARDS of Aberdeen moved "That the following gentlemen be the office-bearers of this Association for the ensuing year." (The list is held over.) Mr. Edwards said it was very important that men of sound wisdom and common sense, and thoroughly understanding the objects of the Association should be at the head of its affairs; therefore, he had much pleasure in proposing those gentlemen named.

Baillie KENNEDY of Moffat, in seconding the motion, trusted all the gentlemen named would be thorough-going and earnest social reformers.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. JOHN WILSON, J.P., said—Before speaking to the resolution put into my hands, I would throw out a hint to our excellent Secretary, Mr. Mackay, that the next time he advertises the business meeting of the Association, he should put in a separate paragraph "ladies cordially invited to attend." (Hear, hear.) We all know how much we are indebted to the ladies in this movement, and I am certain had an opportunity been given them, they would have been present at this meeting. (Hear, hear.) I shall now read the resolution which has been put into my hands. It is, I think, the most important which will come before this meeting to-day:—

"That this meeting regards the progress of the agitation during the year as highly satisfactory; rejoices at the very decided parliamentary vote of this year in favour of Local Option, heartily approves of the energetic manner in which the conference resolution of last year has been carried out, recommends the Executive to continue these conference meetings, and to otherwise prosecute the agitation with unabated energy, so that a thorough-going measure for Scotland may be introduced into Parliament at the earliest possible moment." (Applause.)

From what we have heard stated by the preceding speakers, and from the exhaustive reports which the Secretary read to us, I feel that you will be fully convinced that the agitation during the past year and the work of the Society have been highly satisfactory. (Applause.) We all rejoice at the results which have been arrived at in the House of Commons with reference to the resolution proposed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson on Local Option. (Applause.) Parliament by a large, ay, exceedingly large majority, so far as Scotland is concerned, has approved of that measure twice over. (Applause.) I feel proud of my country that we stand in such an enviable position before other nations as temperance people. Notwithstanding all that has been said about the drunkenness of the country, we can, as temperance reformers, bring such an influence to bear

upon our Members of Parliament that they shall be constrained, some of them against their mind, to go in with us in the views we hold. At the last annual meeting a special resolution was adopted that conferences should take place during the year in different parts of the country in order to educate the people up to that standpoint in which we ourselves are. These meetings did great good. Notwithstanding the very unfavourable weather, our agents have been most indefatigable in their efforts to spread temperance knowledge over the country, and the results of their labours are manifesting themselves, because there is now a healthy sentiment in society with reference to our work and temperance principles generally. (Applause.) I trust that the Executive will continue to carry out the programme which they have entered upon, and hold conferences, conversaciones, and other meetings, and also get up electoral memorials and deputations to press the important points which we hold upon the minds of Members of Parliament. (Applause.) I think we in this country have arrived at the stage that we are ripe for a prohibitory measure for Scotland—(applause)—a measure that will give us a power—the principle which the British House of Commons has now twice over accepted. (Applause.) Scotchmen were the first, as our chairman stated, to teach the sister countries the blessings of the Sunday Prohibitory Act, which for many years has worked so well that Ireland has entered upon the same lines. (Applause.) Last session saw the crowning triumph of Wales, which had voted so persistently to come under the beneficent influence of this measure. We shall probably see England moving in the right direction, for Cardinal Manning, at a meeting held in Liverpool last week, stated "that, as sure as summer comes next year, we shall have this measure for England." (Applause.) All these things are certain indications of progress, and I would ask you to do all in your power to aid the Executive of this Association in their endeavours to keep this important subject prominently before the public mind, so that when the hour arrives for carrying a thorough-going measure, we may be ready to use all the power we possess in gaining a great triumph. (Applause.)

Mr. A. SHANKS, Barrhead—The speech by our worthy friend Mr. Wilson saves me from making many remarks in seconding the motion. The resolution states, "That this meeting regards the progress of the agitation during the year as highly satisfactory, and rejoices at the very decided parliamentary vote in favour of Local Option." Now, our progress has been very great. In fact, if we had received nothing else but that which Wales got, we would have reason to be thankful, and to take courage. This has been a great step in the right direction of temperance legislation. I believe that although the United Kingdom Alliance, and the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, have not been specially working for Sabbath prohibition in Wales and in Ireland, yet, I say, it has been through the influence of these associations that the measures were passed. (Applause.) With regard to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's measure, though I believe his putting before Parliament his Local Option Resolution was a wise one, still his idea of Local Option, and the ideas of many who voted for it, are very different things indeed. But I approve of it as a temperance move, because it sets to the test the principle of putting this matter in the hands of the people in one form or another. What we want is something more substantial. What I like about the Permissive Bill is that people know what it means; that it is power for the people to put down the liquor traffic if they so choose. This is the policy of our Association, and I would not like to see it degenerate into anything else. (Hear, hear.) I think it would be a good idea if we had in several parts of the country little local Permissive Bill associations, because I know they are required. I can speak from experience. In Barrhead, when the Good Templars came to the front, the old reformers dropped their flag, and left their work to be done by the new society of Good Templars. I do not wish to say anything against that body, but the particular work we pursued has not been taken up

by them, so there is room for the reconstruction of the old teetotal societies, which could aid us in pushing forward this Permissive Bill. (Applause.) I am puzzled that we have forty Scotch members on our side, and not one of them is prepared to take up our measure and make it his own. (Hear, hear.) Scotland has the reputation of being a nation of heroes, and it has a history of heroism both in political and ecclesiastical affairs; therefore I am astonished as years roll on, that no one has been brave enough to take up the measure. There is our friend Mr. Wilson. He has made enough of money—(a laugh)—could he not be persuaded to make the Permissive Bill for Scotland his life work? (Laughter and applause.) I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution. (Applause.)

Ex-Bailie MAXWELL, Dundee, in supporting the motion, said he was glad to see the temperance question had been brought up at the recent meeting of the British Association. He hoped that it would not only come up there, but come up at meetings of all kinds of institutions, for he held there was no kind of meeting where it could not be discussed. He would welcome any measure in the right direction, even one where the grocer's license was separated from the beer license. When speaking of licensing boards which would be an improvement, he was met by a cry of no, no. To which his response was that he was there to give his opinion. (Applause.)

Dr. M'CUCCLOCH said they would never raise the enthusiasm of the people with an indefinite measure. They, in fact, did not understand Local Option. Everyone understood the Permissive Bill. (Hear, hear.) His opinion was they could not improve the liquor traffic, the only improvement that would be effectual, would be to improve it off the face of the earth. (Applause and laughter.)

Mr. T. ROBINSON, Hurler, said that although they had so many Scotch members of parliament, they had no one amongst them who was willing to be the leader. There must be something wrong when no man could be got to fill that position. He thought there was a fear of dividing the Liberal party in getting at what they aimed. That was their weakness. But why need they wait, could they not get one of their own men there to-day to be the leader; ay, there was the mover of the resolution sitting there. (Applause.)

Mr. AENEAS MACKAY, of Edinburgh, asked what he was to understand by the latter part of the motion, was it Local Option or Permissive Bill?

Bailie TORRENS interposed and said, he thought the answer was easily given. The resolution carried this in its face, they were willing to accept any legislation which came in their direction; but their demand was nothing less than the Permissive Bill. (Applause.)

Mr. REID, of Coatbridge, asked if there was nothing less than Permissive Bill, why was it not stated in the resolution? Were they ashamed of the organisation of their Association? He said as a member they ought not to be ashamed of their name, they ought to go on at once, and not say "a thorough going measure," but "a Permissive Bill for Scotland." (Applause.)

Bailie TORRENS said they were not ashamed of their position. He asked that the expression be withdrawn.

Mr. REID in doing so proposed as an amendment, that we introduce "Permissive Bill for Scotland instead of thorough-going measure." (Applause.)

Mr. AENEAS MACKAY was glad to hear that it was not a Local Option measure that they were going in for. This resolution had been put before them year after year, and he asked what really were the Executive doing? If they would pay attention to the few Scotch members of parliament who were wavering they would find that their cause was much advanced.

Mr. R. MACKAY, the Secretary, said it was evident that some of the members were beginning to twit them just like the outsiders, but some morning the Executive might be able to meet them to congratulate them on the success of their efforts. Their great difficulty was this, they could not get a man with backbone enough to stand along with Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

Rev. Dr. ADAMSON, Edinburgh, considered that to make the change suggested would be going back instead of making progress. (Applause.) A Local Option measure was in effect a Permissive Bill, and *vice versa*. It was, he thought, insulting to his intellect for anyone to come and ask what was meant by a thorough-going measure.

Mr. M'LAREN considered this resolution as the most important, and it was their duty to discuss it fairly and fully before letting it go past. It ought to have been made a little more definite, and in order to make it so, he did not see why that meeting could have any objections to wording the latter part of the resolution in this way; "to prepare a thorough-going measure for Scotland to be introduced into Parliament during the ensuing session." He did not see why the motion should not pass with that alteration. They could have nothing tangible before them till they got a bill. To talk about Local Option and nothing definite, they would never make any progress. (Applause.)

Ex-Provost DICK said they could get plenty to adopt a measure on certain grounds, but what they wanted was a thorough-going measure, as stated in the resolution: These words, "thorough-going measure," were nothing less than "a thorough-going Permissive Bill." (Applause.)

Mr. AENEAS MACKAY said that it was wasting time to move resolutions year after year. The Executive had never yet made a draft of a bill, and he thought that until they did that they could not shew what they wanted. He would ask Mr. Mackay why a bill was never framed.

Mr. MACKAY said that being the servant of the movement he had never taken an active part in the business meeting, preferring to listen. But being directly appealed to, he could easily answer the question. The Executive in 1870 drafted a bill and laid it before the friends in the most important districts. It was far too advanced. In 1876 a second bill was drafted and laid before Honourable members in the Conference Room of the House of Commons, but its penal clauses were considered much too severe. These were in the IX. clause. He would read it. It was to the effect that neither sale, barter, or otherwise disposing of liquor was to be allowed. The penalty for doing so was imprisonment for a first offence of three months, &c., and with the confiscation of the liquor and utensils. But they were quite hopeful on the subject and did not give way to despair. (Applause.) The Executive would be very glad to send to the country a draft of the bill. It could be read at conferences, and then sent back with a resolution stating the decision the conferences had arrived at regarding the proposed bill.

Mr. M'DERMID of Dollar said the Executive should hold a conference in Clackmannan. He did not think they ever held a conference there. Clackmannanshire was one of the most important counties at the present time. If the electors under whose auspices he was met that day, knew the principles of the Association they would make the Lord-Advocate know them, and knowing them he would have an influence in the Cabinet, and also would be backed up by the members for Scotland. (Applause.)

After some further discussion Mr. Mackay, Edinburgh, said he was thoroughly satisfied with Bailie Torrens' answer, and the chairman putting the resolution to the meeting, declared it carried.

Mr. AENEAS MACKAY, Edinburgh, moved the fourth resolution, which read as follows:—

"That this meeting records its warm approval of the *Social Reformer*; tenders its grateful thanks to editor and contributors; approves of the issue of literature which has taken place during the year; heartily recommends this important department to the co-operation and support of members and friends throughout the country, in order that the Executive may be enabled to devote increased attention to the issue of solid, educative, and appropriate literature."

He said public meetings did a great deal of good, but literature did more, because it went into the homes, and was distributed to, and read by, persons who would not otherwise learn of the great work the Asso-

ciation was doing. He highly approved of the *Social Reformer* which was a working representative of the Association. (Applause.)

Councillor RUSSELL of Perth in seconding the resolution, said he derived the greatest amount of blessing—and he had no doubt it was the experience of many throughout the country—in perusing the *Social Reformer* and other literature issued by the Association. (Applause.)

Captain BROCHIE rose to support the resolution, because the literature issued, including the *Social Reformer*, had done an immense good throughout the country. (Applause.)

Mr. SEMPLE said it was a pity the circulation of the *Reformer* should be so limited. He thought the agents should bring it more prominently before the constituents. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MALCOLM said the organ of the Association was a capital one. He took eighty copies per month, and distributed them to many persons who were not temperance reformers. (Applause.)

Rev. Mr. HARDING thought it would be well to get the boys upon the streets to sell the *Social Reformer*.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried.

Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS, of Wishaw, moved the fifth resolution, as follows:—

“That this meeting, having in view the pressing necessity that exists for increasing and extending the operations of the Association, earnestly and respectfully urges members and friends to take the financial requirements of the movement into their immediate and generous consideration, so that the Executive, during the coming year, may be amply furnished with financial resources for a vigorous and sustained agitation.”

He said, in moving that resolution he was not begging for money for orphans and widows, but for funds to prevent children becoming orphans and women widows. He hoped that this matter would be generously considered. (Applause.)

Mr. JAMES WINNING, of Paisley, in seconding the motion, said their friend from Clackmannanshire had been complaining of their having no conference. The fact of the matter was this—the Executive had to cease meantime having such conferences because they had not the means at their command. He was looking at his friend, Bailie Torrens. That gentleman thought him one of the most irrepensible of men. The Bailie, if he (the speaker) recommended any scheme, would remark they were going into bankruptcy. (Laughter.) The resources required to be developed, and no agitation could be carried on to success unless the members and friends gave funds to sustain that agitation. (Applause.)

Bailie TORRENS said it was rather amusing to come to that meeting and hear how the Executive were to work, and also find money besides—(laughter)—and to listen to the complaints as to what they were doing. Could any of the gentlemen calculate the valuable time he and many of his colleagues had spent in prosecuting the work of the Association. He had been the previous night at Kirkintilloch, and the other night at Kilsyth advocating the cause, and his travelling expenses were not paid, and in fact he had to pay for his ticket that evening to the City Hall. (A laugh.) Mr. Winning had to make too much begging. He should not have stooped to beg. It was the duty of every one to give as the Lord had prospered him to this, the greatest cause that was ever agitated in the land. (Applause.)

The resolution being put to the meeting, was heartily carried.

Mr. DUNCAN FERGUSON of Barrhead moved the sixth resolution—

“Fully and gratefully recognising the valuable services rendered to the Association and the movement by friends and supporters, this meeting tenders its most cordial thanks to advocates, to agents of the Association, and to all who have in any way striven to advance the interests of the agitation.”

He thought the resolution deserved the cordial approval of the meeting. He was satisfied from the discussions which took place that day there was a healthy,

thorough-going temperance sentiment being among the Executive, and those in the meeting.

Mr. EDWARDS seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mr. JOHN SCOTT, Lesmahagow, moved a vote of thanks to Treasurer Hamilton for presiding, and Mr. John Concher, Glasgow, proposed a similar compliment to the Executive. On the motion of the Rev. S. Harding the Secretary was thanked for his services. All these motions were cordially adopted, and the proceedings concluded by Rev. Mr. Hamilton pronouncing the benediction.

THE ANNUAL TEA MEETING.

This meeting took place in the saloon of the City Hall, which was crowded by an audience largely composed of ladies. The chair was occupied by John Williams, Esq., Wishaw, who was supported by R. M'Callum, Esq., ex-Bailie Burt, Rev. R. J. Lynde, and Mrs. Lynde, Rev. Dr. Grundy, Mrs. Professor Kirk, Miss White, R. C. Murray, Esq., Bailie Selkirk, Mr. James Winning, Rev. J. A. Johnstone, and Mr. R. Mackay.

After the company had partaken of a sumptuous tea, and accompaniments served in a superior style by Mr. Jenkins, Great Western Cooking Depot, thanks were returned by the singing of the hundredth psalm, Mr. R. Semple of Paisley leading the melody.

The chairman then gave a most excellent address, based upon what he held to be the cardinal principle of the temperance reformation, the most important truth ever discovered—that man had no need of intoxicating liquors. (great applause). Addresses were then delivered by Mr. Matthew Edwards, Aberdeen T. A. Society; Mr. Campbell, Independent Order of Rechabites; Mr. Matthew Hilson, Edinburgh T. A. Society; Mr. John Stewart, I.O.G.T.; ex-Bailie Burt, Scottish Temperance League; Mr. Neil Baie, Greenock T. A. Society; Mrs. Helen Kirk, Scottish Christian Union British Women's Temperance Association; Mr. John Paton, United Kingdom Alliance; Mr. Wm. Noble, Blue Ribbon Army; Mr. James Malcolm, St. Rollox Temperance Society; Mr. Andrew Brown, Kerse, &c., &c. The thanks of the meeting to the chairman were heartily awarded on the motion of ex-Provost Dick, and this most enjoyable meeting was dismissed by Rev. James A. Johnstone, who represented the Scottish Temperance League, pronouncing the benediction.

MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

THE twenty-third annual public meeting of this Association was held in the evening in the City Hall. There was a large gathering. The proceedings were announced to begin at half-past seven o'clock, but long before that hour the large hall was quite crowded in all parts, and later comers were sent into the Lesser Hall where an overflow meeting was held. In the large hall the chair was taken by Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., who was supported on the platform by the speakers, and amongst others, by Treasurer Hamilton, Bailie Farquhar, Bailie Selkirk; Councillors Torrens, Osborne, Lamberton, Ure, and Filshill; ex-Bailie Burt, and Bailie Maxwell, Dundee; Dr. M'Millan, Dr. M'Culloch, Dumfries; Rev. R. Mitchell, Manchester, Rev. George Gladstone, Rev. John Edgar, Rev. Robert Finlay, Perth, Rev. Wm. Jackson, Eyemouth; Rev. Dr. Morison, Rev. Dr. Nicholson, of Linlithgow; Rev. Dr. Adamson, of Edinburgh; Rev. Samuel Harding, Messrs. Wm. Robertson, and Jas. Winning, of Paisley; ex-Councillor Fulton; ex-Provost Cameron, of Pollokshaws; Messrs. John Wilson, J.P., Andw Wallace, Thomas Jackson, John Turnbull, James Finlayson, Wm. Johnstone, James Jamieson (Ayr), William Carney, Wm. Noble (London), R. E. Aitken, A. H. M'Lean, Thomas Jenkins, James Miller

Shaw, Peter Ritchie) Kilmarnock), A. Ritchie, Daniel Mackay, James Watson, W. W. Grant, J. Middlemass, T. Pendreigh, J. Armstrong, J. Miller, J. Darling, J. Steel, J. H. Waterstone, A. Drysdale, Edinburgh; Wm. Fyfe, R. Moyes, Wm. Coghill, R. M'Callum, R. Dransfield, J. N. M'Allister, P. Ferguson, R. Mackay, Glasgow; Thos. Clark, Largs; A. Brown, Kerse; J. Morris, Broxburn; P. Turner, and G. Wilson, Leith; Councillor Russell, Perth; J. P. Lossock, Peebles; J. Lightbody, Lanark; Bailie Kennedy, Moffat; J. Howison, Uddingstone; Jas. Dymock, Boness; J. Osborne, Mearns; W. Crombie, Avonbridge; Matthew Edwards, Aberdeen; W. Blackwood, Aberdeen; J. Fullarton, Saltcoats, &c., &c. Mr. Charles Tennant, M.P., of The Glen, sat in the side gallery, with Lady Campbell, wife of Lord Colin Campbell.

LORD COLIN CAMPBELL, M.P., who was received with loud cheers, said—Ladies and Gentlemen—I have been several times on several occasions in this hall, but I do not remember on any one of them to have experienced a more cordial and kindly welcome than I have got this night. (Cheers.) I can assure you that I am not so vain as to take this entirely to myself—I take it to be your way of congratulating me upon the fact that I come here surrounded by those who have really earned some such welcome, accompanied by the hon. member for Carlisle—(cheers)—who we all know is the best company in the world—(laughter and cheers)—and accompanied by many others who have put their hand to the plough and endeavoured to work out a great social reform. (Hear, hear.) Well, I can assure you that I am very glad to come here, glad to show my respect not only to that large and increasing body of electors which I learned to respect at the last election—(laughter and cheers)—that large and increasing body of electors which has adopted and acted upon the programme of this Association, but also to show my respect to the hon. member for Carlisle, your leader, our leader—(cheers)—in and out of Parliament, who by his indefatigable exertions, by his courage in the face of obstacles which would have disheartened many a less earnest and conscientious man, has gone on until he has placed you in a position from which, if you cannot now look on complete and absolute victory, yet a position from which the steps towards final and complete victory and triumph are comparatively few and easy. (Cheers.) When I remember that this movement originated, as far as Parliamentary history is concerned, in 1864, that in the course of seventeen years, if I am right, he has thirteen times challenged the opinion of Parliament upon this question in four successive Parliaments, and that in spite of many discouragements, in spite of adverse decisions and of great majorities against him, aye, and in spite of the unfavourable attitude of many who are now the leaders even of his own party, he has persevered until he has influenced the election of a Parliament which is prepared to carry out this great work of reform. (Cheers.) It in fact has declared itself twice, on two successive occasions, in favour of such reform. I think that you will search in vain in the history of our Legislature for an instance of more splendid tenacity and fixity of purpose. Well, I must say that I think you have nearly reached the goal. You have overcome what I will term the *inertium* of the Parliament, and I must express the hope, and even the confident hope, that another session of Parliament will not pass away without there being added to the Statute Book a measure which will grant to the people that degree of freedom which you have been educated up to, a measure which, while granting this degree of freedom, will also—I fear that I am about to trespass on somewhat contested and debateable ground—will also grant a recognition of those rights which we are apt to term vested rights—rights which have unhappily grown up—been suffered to grow up—by the lethargy and the apathy of the Legislature. Well, now, I remember that on the last

election, and I had that experience, you were told—I am not quite sure that I was not amongst the number who told you—that you might lay aside all crotchets, that for the sake of the party it was necessary to lay aside all crotchets. Well I have to congratulate you that I am convinced that you took the right course. (Hear, hear.) I have to congratulate you that you did not allow this question to be put into the category of crotchets, that you have lifted it out of this category, and though I do not, though I cannot, go as far as many of you, though I am not in favour of absolute restriction of the liquor traffic—(a voice, "Prohibition")—the prohibition of the liquor traffic—well so be it; but I know there are many of you who believe that absolute restriction of the liquor traffic is possible. I don't believe that it is possible, and if it were possible, I am not very sure, indeed I am persuaded I may say, that it would not be entirely just. (Cheers.) But I go far enough. I think you will say I go far enough, in accepting the great principle that the ratepayer should have a voice in the determination of the number of public-houses or pest-houses, which you choose to call them—(cheers)—determine the number of such houses which a locality is to have. In accepting this doctrine I think you are urging reform which is most vital to the interest of the community. I think you are urging reform which exceeds in its importance, which is more clamant, more urgent, than any party cry—(cheers)—than any question which is now before the Legislature; ay, than the question of the agrarian state of Ireland—(cheers)—and I sincerely trust that you will not allow another session of Parliament, at least as far as the question concerns Scotland, to pass without putting some pressure on the Ministry to bring forward a measure which shall give you those rights for which you have been agitating. (Cheers.) Well, ladies and gentlemen, I do not know, I cannot see why this question should be postponed. I cannot see why you should not force it, with all the power of this great organization, upon the attention of Parliament and upon the consideration of the Ministry. I tell you that there is nothing more important. I do not know that those questions upon which Parliament has proceeded and debated during the last session are more important. I am not sure that it is wise to allow the people of this country to think that the Land League of Ireland is to be the only league using weapons which the people of this country will never use (hear, hear, and cheers)—the only league which shall extort from the Ministers the principle which is founded upon the abiding principles of justice; and I must say I think that the difficulties which encompass us in considering the reform of the licensing laws are insignificant in comparison with that great work which Mr. Gladstone undertook. (Cheers.) And I think also that the evils arising from leaving it alone are likely to be much greater than the evils which we might conceive possible to arise from allowing the peasants of Ireland to remain at the mercy of the landlords and the feudal laws. The Liberal party at the present moment are thinking of extending the franchise. (Cheers.) It would be a strange anomaly if the Liberal Government were to pass such a measure dealing with the franchise before it had conceded to the people—before it had granted to the ratepayers a certain control—that control which you wish for your own internal affairs. We think to codify the criminal law. It is certainly a question of great importance. But why not go first to the fountain-head—(hear, hear)—to the main cause of all the crime in this country. (Loud cheers.) We shall be told next session that there are great fiscal difficulties—great difficulties of a social and economic kind. Ladies and gentlemen, there were great difficulties 50 years ago, when Parliament, prompted by the philanthropy, and aided by the devout labours of Wm. Wilberforce, carried that great Act of Emancipation which cost this country twenty millions of money, which freed something like 800,000

negroes, and which abolished, root and branch, the most detestable and most obnoxious trade which has ever disgraced the commerce of mankind. (Cheers.) Now, there is one aspect of the case which, I think, at this time we cannot overlook. It is the expression of opinion which has come from Scotland. (Cheers.) I need only remind you of the vote of 1880, of the vote of the 18th June, that forty Scotch members voted for the resolution of the hon. member for Carlisle—(cheers)—while only five voted against that resolution. (Cheers.) And if you will go to the trouble of analysing the number of that vote, I think you will find that represents the vote of a majority of 310,000 electors, as compared with a vote of less than 13,000. (Cheers.) Now, I am afraid to go too deep into figures, but I don't think it would be unreasonable to take the minority in each case at a fourth; and if you will work out the figures of that vote, you will find that you get something like a net majority of 148,000 votes in favour of that measure which is advocated by the hon. member for Carlisle. (Cheers.) Now, I cannot see that if the people of England are not ready to give their assent to some such measure that the people of Scotland should be held back. (Loud cheers.) And I say this, if the Government do not introduce a measure for the United Kingdom, they are at least bound by these figures to introduce a separate bill for Scotland. (Cheers.) I am in great hopes that there will be no great occasion for such separate action. We have the satisfaction of knowing that many members of the Government have passed into the lobby with the hon. baronet. We have the satisfaction of knowing that some three or four members of the Cabinet have declared their adhesion to the principles embodied in the resolution. (Cheers.) And, above all, we have the declaration of Mr. Gladstone. (Cheers.) We have the earnest declaration that the Licensing Laws were urgently in need of reform. We have his declaration that as soon as the pressure of public business—and mind you, if I may say it with respect,—it is for you to increase the pressure—(laughter)—will permit this question shall engage the attention of the Administration. (Cheers.) Not only that, it shall be based upon this resolution which has twice been affirmed by the House of Commons. I trust we may not see Parliament placed in the false position of twice declaring itself by two resolutions passed in two successive years, in favour of this measure. I am sure that would be a false position. I know that an abstract resolution is very awful, and most disagreeable to a Ministry. It is a most disagreeable pill to take, especially when the Government know they must be prepared with a draught to swallow afterwards. I say that it is the duty—the urgent and solemn duty—of the Executive to give effect to the resolutions of the House. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you most cordially for the kind-hearted and patient attention you have given to me. (Loud cheers.)

Rev. Dr. NICHOLSON moved the first resolution, as follows:—"That this meeting regards with profound concern the abounding social and moral evils which originate in and are fostered by the liquor traffic, together with its enormous waste of the national resources, and calls earnestly for such an united effort on the part of the electors of Scotland as will secure to the people the legal power to remove these gigantic national evils." He said that there was no call why he should enlarge upon these abounding moral and social evils, because they were seen all around. The victims of strong drink thronged into the corner shops, for the publicans knew well how to secure the best sites. They could always afford to give the best prices for the best sites. The time was when there was a great deal of wordy commiseration upon this subject. The time had now come for action. They were going to the Legislature—the most intelligent for many years—and ask them to give justice. Considering that restriction was applied to the sale of drugs and dynamite, the objection to the restriction of the liquor traffic was utterly baseless and illusory. The drunkenness of the country was in proportion to the number of public-houses. Depend upon it, the more you mul-

tiplied the public-houses, the more you increased the drunkenness of the country. It was said that the liquor trade should be thrown open to all. But this was tried in Liverpool, and the result was they had to revert to the other plan—to a certain extent to restrict the number of licenses. Then as to compensation, when that was broached, the idea was received with a smile of incredulity by those interested in the traffic. But when it was brought forward by others, and notably by the head of the present Government, it demanded attention, and ought to be faced. But really the certificate to sell liquor never conveyed the right to compensation. It only stated that the right was to be exercised for a year. It was no very great inducement to go into an ordinary business to be told that the license to sell a commodity was for only one year, and no longer. (A voice—"It is long enough," laughter and cheers.) He was glad to see their friend agreed with him. (Cheers.) Some would say it was too long. Dr. Nicholson then pointed out how on the one hand public-houses increased the value of the property in which they were situated, and how on the other they depreciated the value of adjoining property, the owners of which obtained no compensation.

Mr. JOHN WILSON, J.P., Glasgow, said—My Lord, ladies and gentlemen,—I rise with much pleasure to second the resolution so well and ably put by Dr. Nicholson, with every word of which I cordially concur. It appears to me that while this great movement is one that ought deeply to interest us all, yet in a special manner it is a movement of supreme importance to working men. Their more favoured and well-to-do fellow-citizens in the social scale of life can and do protect themselves from the evil effects of having public-houses planted in their immediate neighbourhood, and in most cases you have to go a good way before you can get one of those institutions which are ostensibly planted with such extravagant consideration for the benefit of the working classes. (Cheers.) In fact, my lord, it is most difficult to suppose that a working man is able to live and rear a family surrounded with such incentives to all that appeals to the lower instinct of human nature without being contaminated with the vice of intemperance. (Cheers.) As for the waste of the national resources, when we think of the sum annually spent on strong drink one stands appalled at the nation's wickedness. I use strong language, but nothing stronger than the circumstances of the case demand. Within the last three years it has been my misfortune to look over accounts involving millions of money; but I confess that when I look at what is stated as the sum of this nation's drinking bill, I feel persuaded that it is impossible to comprehend intelligently its *vastness, prodigality, and waste*. Indeed, language is too feeble to convey to the mind what 150 millions of money means. (Cheers.) Nor is this all, if you add to it the outcome of this misguided power, in the *idleness and indolence, the crime and poverty* which it generates—the requirements of benevolence that is needed to counteract and minimise the misery entailed on society—the criminal jurisprudence that is required to keep it in check—the sorrow and affliction that has to be endured, on which no figures in money value can be placed; the whole making such a total that I feel convinced, were the Christian intelligence of the country calmly to weigh the whole subject, this resolution would meet with the unanimous approval of every right-minded ratepayer, not only of Scotland, but also of the whole British empire. (Cheers.) It had been said by a great statesman that the object of all government ought to be to make it easy to do right, and difficult to do wrong. I trust that the worthy statesman who is reported to have said this will yet see his way to bend those wonderful God-given powers of his to the consideration of this great question, and may light be given him to see his way to devise and carry through a measure that will emancipate this grand old country of ours from this great evil. (Cheers.) I cordially beg to second the resolution.

LORD COLIN CAMPBELL—I should like to read a telegram I have just received from the annual conference of the North of England Temperance League, Sunder-

land:—"This annual conference sends hearty greetings to you and Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and sincerely wishes the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association anniversary all success." (Cheers.) I shall now call upon Sir Wilfrid Lawson. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOHN WILSON—The organist was not at his post to play "See the conquering hero comes;" but here he is. (Cheers.)

Sir WILFRID LAWSON, M.P., who was most enthusiastically received, the audience rising to their feet, waving hats and kerchiefs, and cheering heartily, said—Ladies and gentlemen, I have always heard, and, indeed, I know, that the Scottish people are people of great intelligence—(laughter, and hear, hear)—but I am inclined to think that among that intelligent race about the most intelligent and the shrewdest specimens who can be found are to be found in the Executive of this Association. (Laughter.) I will tell you what they did, pretty nearly accurately, perhaps not quite accurately, but they did something of this kind. They wrote to Lord Colin Campbell before writing to me, before having any promise from me, and they said, "My lord, will you come and preside at the annual meeting to meet Sir Wilfrid Lawson?"—(laughter)—and then they wrote to me, I think by the same post, and they said, "Sir Wilfrid, you really must come to do honour to Lord Colin Campbell"—(laughter)—and that is the history of our both being here. (Laughter.) But I say, in all sober earnestness, that you are intelligent—(laughter)—and you proved it on the 18th of last June, when you gave me that tremendous and overwhelming majority of the Scotch vote on the Local Option resolution. (Cheers.) Ah! I think it was a good vote; I think it was a good policy. To-night we are here to advocate fair trade, the policy of Protection. (Laughter.) Oh, yes; not the protection which is in vogue in some quarters, not the protection which is to prevent us eating too much, but it is the protection to prevent us drinking too much. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) We are not fighting to protect ourselves from imports, to drive away people who wish to sell us goods. No; we are trying to protect ourselves from a foe that is entrenched in our midst, and that foe is the liquor traffic, which John Bright—(cheers)—several years ago said was a traffic producing in this country crime, disorder, and madness. I have said that you showed your intelligence by sending members to Parliament who agreed with me. (Laughter.) That always is the real test by which we try any man's intelligence. (Laughter.) And in agreeing with me they voted for what is called Local Option, and to-night I am here advocating Local Option. But I will be bound to say there are a good many people in this meeting—(At this stage a person at the back of the hall shouted at the pitch of his voice and apparently in an excited manner, "Sir Wilfrid Lawson")—probably the gentleman who shouts is one of them—(laughter)—who do not exactly know what Local Option means in regard to the liquor traffic. It does not mean giving you any judicial power, any of those powers which now belong to the magistrates as regards licenses; it does not mean giving to the people of this country any power to regulate the liquor traffic, and arrange how it should be carried on. It simply means giving you the power of the veto on the issue of licenses by whomsoever those licenses may be issued—(cheers)—simply giving you the choice, the option of saying whether you will have licenses among you or whether you will not. That is the whole of Local Option, and it is very natural that our friends the publicans do not like it. There is a peculiarity about every institution and every vested interest that they have—that they think the world was made for it, and not it for the world. It is the same with all sorts of institutions. My lord, you and I have sat in the House of Commons. Is not night made hideous by every colonel in the British army crying out that everything is to be done for them, that the country exists for them, and not they for the country? So it is with the officers of the law. Propose law reform, and the lawyers are down upon you directly. They want to live by the law, to live on you, and not you to live on them. (Laughter.) If you try to take

away any privileges from the Irish landlords, it takes a whole session for us to do it; because they think the earth is not the Lord's, but the landlord's. (Great laughter and cheers.) Very naturally our friends the publicans say—We are a great institution, and the country is bound to maintain us, and we ought to be allowed to carry on our trade wherever we like; wherever we and a bench of three or four magistrates choose to say that our trade should be carried on, there it ought to be carried on; and the people for whom one would imagine it was carried on have no right to say anything at all in the matter. Now that, I think, is a grievance. I think that the privilege which is granted to the drink sellers, whenever they can get the magistrates to agree with them, of setting these down wherever they please, is a very serious evil to the people of this country. And why? The trade is not like any other trade, as my rev. friend, I think, explained to you. If a butcher's shop be set up, or a baker's shop, the people deal with it. It does not increase the rates. That man does a fair business, and lives by legitimate profit. But the publican, when he sets up a shop, immediately increases your rates and taxes for the crime, and the pauperism, and the riots that are produced. You see that they have some disturbances in Ireland now and then—it is not so peaceful as Glasgow. (Laughter.) And in Belfast, I think, they have religious fights now and then; but I do not believe they would fight, even about religion, there if it was not for the drink, because I have observed over and over again, after they have been at war in Belfast for a day or two, you see a telegram in the *Times*, "About five o'clock in the afternoon, the Magistrates decided that all the drink shops should be shut up; since then the town has been perfectly quiet." (Laughter and cheers.) Ah, now mankind are the same all the world over—Ireland, Scotland, and England—in this respect. One more case though for Ireland—I got it only the other day, and it is rather good. It is connected with the Limerick races. Now I should think that if there was a hot-bed of riot anywhere, it would most likely be Limerick races. But the Magistrates took a sensible course this year, and they shut up the drink shops. They said there should be sold no drink on the racecourse of Limerick, and the sporting correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*, writing from Limerick on the 13th September, says—"All was peace and harmony at Ballinacurra to-day, and not even a passing thumping match called for the intervention of the police. I have never been on a racecourse where I saw less rowdiness or intemperance. Peace, absolute and utter, characterised the opening day of the Limerick meeting." Now, I say if the prohibition of the liquor traffic can produce peace at the Limerick races, there is no spot in the wide world which it won't help to pacify. (Hear, hear.) One more quotation to show how this drink is the curse, as the poet says, of every age and every clime. We are all thinking a deal of America to-day, and our hearts are sad as we think of the grief that has befallen that country—the home of freedom and the home of progress; and we hope that, surmounting that trial, they will go on and prosper. (Cheers.) But what is the danger in America? There is no danger from Democracy in itself. This is the danger, as Wendell Phillips, their greatest speaker, said only the other day—"If universal suffrage ever fails here for a time—permanently it cannot fail—it will not be incapable civil service, nor ambitious soldiers, nor Southern vandals, nor venal legislatures, nor greed of wealth, nor boy statesmen, rotten before they are ripe, that will put universal suffrage into eclipse—it will be rum entrenched in great cities and commanding every vantage ground." That is a strong indictment against the drink traffic, and a strong fact is that where we find that drink boycotted, put a stop to just as at Limerick races, there you have peace, order, and increasing prosperity. (Cheers.) Now I do not propose, I never have proposed in the House of Commons, that you should have a law shutting up all the public houses. We do not want to shut up a single public house, we only want to prevent them selling drink. I never proposed to stop the sale of drink. I would do it in a

minute if I thought I had a chance of carrying it. (Laughter.) What I have said is, "Let local communities have their option in this matter—(cheers)—leaving all the machinery, licensing magistrates to license the houses, jailors to take care of the manufactured article, policemen to look after them—leaving everything exactly as it is—only, I say, put a key into the hands of the people by which they can turn off the steam and prevent the machinery going to work if they wish to do so. Now, I am not going into the compensation question. You have heard a good deal about that already very ably put. All I say is that if the publicans have any right to compensation, I sincerely, earnestly, and cordially hope that they will get it. (Laughter.) I am waiting anxiously every day to see their case. Nobody pays a bill until it is sent in, but when we get our Local Option Bill—which I hope, as the chairman says, the Government soon will bring in—when we get that bill into committee, then the publicans, no doubt, will state their case; and you may be quite sure they will have a very favourable jury, for the House of Commons has an affection for all sorts of scoundrels—(laughter)—and I have not the slightest doubt that the publicans will get what they deserve, and perhaps rather more. (Laughter.) Now, I think it is two years since I had the pleasure of addressing your great annual meeting, and, to use a classical expression, a great many things have happened since then. (Laughter.) One thing was the Midlothian campaign. (Cheers.) I am glad that the campaign made an impression on your minds; it made an impression on a great many people's minds. (Laughter.) I think that Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, in the House of Commons, has more than once explained that from the Midlothian campaign arose all the subsequent evils in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America—(laughter)—Turkey, India, and the Fiji Islands. (Laughter.) I do not think it did so much harm as that. I think it did an immense deal of good. (Cheers.) What was the great lesson that the greatest orator of his day—(cheers)—when he came to Scotland, taught to the people in the Midlothian campaign? Why, it was the wickedness of our selfish aggressions upon foreign nations and selfishly taking from them what was not ours in pursuit of what we called our own interests; and I agree with that great statesman. But surely if war and outrage are wrong when perpetrated against foreigners, they are equally wrong when perpetrated against the people of our own country. (Cheers.) And what does this drunkenness, do, this drunkenness which is the outcome of the liquor traffic? Why, in the words of Mr. Gladstone himself, it produces in this country the cumulative evils of war, pestilence, and famine. (Cheers.) So I say we may take courage from the Midlothian campaign. But something else has happened since I have been here two years ago. You have had a general election. Unfortunately it put out the Tories. (Laughter.) This is not a political meeting, and so I may shed a tear over this unhappy event. But what I have to explain to you to-night is that it put out somebody else beside the Tories. What became of the great drink traffickers? Why, it was like a flood. There were two or three dozen brewers struggling in the water all at once. Morning after morning, when we got our papers, we read how another batch of brewers had gone to the bottom. (Laughter.) Don't you remember what Mr. Gladstone made of the three jolly Allsopps who went out to dine, or something of that kind, and never came back again. Why, it was the greatest overthrow imaginable. As the late Lord Beaconsfield said himself, concerning the overthrow of the Tories on that occasion, it was the greatest smash that had ever been seen since the days of Overend and Gurney. (Laughter.) And what was the result of that great election as regards our point? Well, the chairman has told you what the result was. No sooner did we get a Parliament more truly representing the public opinion than any Parliament of our day, no sooner did we get that Parliament installed at St. Stephen's than within a very few months they passed a resolution declaring and affirming the policy which I am advocating to-night, declaring in a full house, by a majority of 26, that it was unjust and

wrong that places for the sale of liquor should be thrown upon communities who did not wish to have them. (Cheers.) That was the whole meaning of the resolution. But we did nothing that session. We were very busy last session. A number of important things had to be attended to. In England, you know, we are not so much civilised as you are, and up to last year we could not bury Dissenters decently. We had to put all that right, and Mr. Gladstone was busy repealing the Malt Tax—which appears to me to have puzzled everybody and satisfied nobody—and looking after the affairs of Montenegro. We are always very anxious to see justice done to foreign countries, whatever is done at home. And my friend, Sir William Harcourt, was very busy combating the ravages of hares and rabbits. So we could not attend to the drunkenness of the English people when we had all these things on hand. Then came the session of 1881, and I moved my resolution again—only, mark you, it was stronger. We increased the dose this time. Instead of affirming merely the injustice, we affirmed that the House had already affirmed the injustice, and that we ought now speedily to legislate on the matter, and have a law carrying out the principles of the resolution already passed. The dose was stronger, but the majority was bigger. That was very encouraging. Instead of 26 we had a majority of 42, and although I have said we are not Liberals or Conservatives here—we are neutrals—yet we may be very glad—there is no harm in that—we may be very glad that there were so many Liberals in the majority, because the Liberal party being in power it is the party to whom we must look to doing us any good. And what were the numbers? Why, 245 Liberals voted for me and 22 against me. (Cheers.) No party question! Oh no, the Conservatives did better this time; in fact they did in England three times as well as they did before, because in 1880 I only got one, this year I got three. (Great laughter.) As the noble chairman has told you, the vote of the Scotch Liberals was one of the most remarkable votes in the annals of our Parliamentary history. Forty-one to one of the Liberal members in Scotland voted in favour of this great right being granted to the people of England, Scotland, and Wales. And we had two or three Conservatives from Scotland—I think two—and if you take Scotch Liberals and Conservatives together you have a majority of eight to one of the Scotch members in favour of my motion. Now, of the 22 Liberals who voted against me, personally they were excellent good men. I have not a word to say against them, but I think if anybody was to go through them man by man, he would find that a more unreliable, shaky, weak-kneed lot of Liberals never assembled together in any place before. (Laughter and cheers.) I wonder how Mr. Gladstone felt when he found himself in such company. We all have the greatest regard for Mr. Gladstone, and we all must be sorry to see him getting into bad company. Why, there were three "Basses" with him in the lobby. You know we have brewers in the House of Commons. By whole families they come in—fathers and sons, and I daresay the grandsons by and by. There were the three Basses—the great ale-kings of England—marching around Mr. Gladstone into the lobby. I wonder if he thought of the old song about the "Three Allsopps" then when he was there with Bass's entire around him. (Laughter.) I think he must have felt lonesome, and would have liked to have been with the respectable people—with the noble lord and me. (Laughter.) But it is no use to be too much vexed about anything. Don't be too much vexed about Mr. Gladstone not going with us on that occasion. I say that we had a great triumph in regard to Mr. Gladstone himself—a most remarkable triumph, because Mr. Gladstone, although he went into the lobby voting in the division in which ten to one of the party of which he is leader were on the other side, he did not speak, and when Mr. Gladstone does not speak you may be quite sure there is nothing to be said. (Great laughter and cheers.) Now, you know I am here to-night defending Mr. Gladstone, that is my business—(laughter)—because I know some of you would feel rather sorry at that vote: and if there are any Mid-

lothian electors here—I think I can see some of them hanging their heads for shame—I want to encourage them, give them hope, and give them more confidence in Mr. Gladstone, because he really is with us in spite of himself. Why, my friend here quoted his memorable words in which he said it was the duty of the Government to make it easy for men to do right, and difficult for them to do wrong; and if he thinks for a moment he must know that scattering public houses about the country is the way to make it easy for men to do wrong and difficult for them to do right. (Laughter and cheers.) And more than that, you have heard of the Irish Sunday Closing Bill which we had such fights over some sessions ago. Well, Mr. Gladstone used to help us warmly in that matter. And why did he support the Sunday Closing Bill in Ireland? For this reason—he said that the members in Ireland were—here are his words, he said this—that we had the highest and most reliable of all manifestations, the most regular and constitutional, namely, the votes of the large majority of the representatives of Ireland. But in that case—I looked it out the other day—the majority was only five to one; but here in Scotland the demand for local option is backed up by the representatives of Scotland by a majority of eight to one. (Cheers.) They have as much right to this benefit as our Irish fellow-countrymen had to their Sunday closing, and surely Mr. Gladstone could not long resist all this overwhelming evidence in favour of there being a strong popular opinion on this matter. Nay, I hope, as the noble chairman hopes, that before long we shall see him leading the van in the attack upon this grinding and crushing monopoly. (Cheers.) My lord, you are quite right. I don't think Ireland ought to block the way for ever. I say the thirty million of people in England, Scotland, and Wales have as much claim to be attended to as the four or five millions in Ireland. (Cheers.) We do not really ask the Government to take up any great amount of its time in this matter. We have told you we want no grand bills for licensing boards and fresh regulations and fresh choices as to the character of publicans, and all sorts of regulations of that kind. Nothing of the sort. Let the Government bring this in if they see their way to do it. But we do not ask them to do that. We say, "You license regulators have had a fair chance. You have done your best, and now it is time that the people who believe in permissive prohibition should have their chance also." (Cheers.) Why, the Tories tried licensing reform. Mr. Cross brought in a bill. Mr. Gladstone's first Government brought in a bill. Mr. Cross made the thing a little worse, and Mr. Bruce made it a little better. But we find that all these licensing schemes are failures. Sometimes the licenses have been granted by the Excise, sometimes by elected magistrates, for you have elected magistrates in Glasgow, who grant the licenses; but we always find the same thing, whether administered through a Board, or bench of magistrates, or the Excise; and whether you administer to the people in the shape of whisky, beer, or wine, it still works evil and woe to the country. It is no use people saying that the evil is not very great. We know it is. I heard a bishop the other day saying we were the drunkenest nation in Europe; and what did Mr. Samuel Morley say? Quoting the opinion that the world has of us—I am quoting this to show that the thing is no light evil—Mr. Morley said when he went to Switzerland, the people had a song which, translated into English, was this:

A Swiss will drink whenever he can,
Till he gets as drunk as an Englishman.

(Laughter.) Now, I say the time has come to wipe out this reproach on our national character. Who can do it? The present Government can do it. (Cheers.) Who can make them do it? The Parliament of this country can make them do it. And who can make Parliament act? Why, you, the electors of the kingdom, and nobody else. (Cheers.) The Government is in earnest when Parliament is in earnest, and Parliament is in earnest when the electors are in earnest, and at no other time. Here then, let me sum up the case

before I sit down. Parliament has twice admitted a grievance and a crying wrong—the thrusting of drinking shops on places where they are not wanted. No private member could carry a bill through dealing with that evil. The present Government came into power declaring especially that its mission was to restore the authority of Parliament. And I say it is not credible—at least I will not believe—that the present Government will be so false to all their promises and their principles as to ignore the mandate of the country and the decision of the House of Commons. Our course is clear—we must give them no rest until they hearken to the voice of the nation. Lord Colin Campbell told us with ingenuous frankness that he had learned to respect the Permissive Bill electors in his constituency, and that is what we want. We want the House of Commons to respect us, and the Government to learn to respect the decision of the House of Commons; and I say, my lord, that surely what we are fighting for is worthy something more than a mere party struggle, the mere putting out the one Government and putting in another, dethroning one Prime Minister and replacing him by his successor.

Ours is no dark intrigue for place,
No jostling in a party race;
Beneath our banner proud to stand,
Look up the noblest in the land.

And what is inscribed on our motto? Why, the grand old words, that what is morally wrong can never be politically right. Under that motto, if we be true to ourselves, beyond the shadow of a doubt, we shall ere long march to a great and glorious triumph. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, after putting the resolution to the meeting, declared that it had been carried unanimously.

Lord COLIN then asked if the meeting would return as answer to the telegram from the North of England Temperance Society the following: "That you reciprocate the good wishes and congratulations of the North of England Temperance League." (Loud cheers.) Before calling on the next speaker, his lordship said he would read a second telegram which had come in from J. M. Skinner, Oxford, who telegraphed—"Our magistrates have to-day refused the licenses of six of the twelve publicans who were scheduled for corrupt practices at the late election." (Cheers.)

REV. R. J. LYNDE moved—

"That this meeting declares its profound conviction that no legislation on the liquor traffic will be satisfactory to the people of Scotland which does not confer full powers on ratepayers or householders to veto all traffic in alcoholic liquors when they shall so determine."

He came among them, he said, as a representative of the Irish Temperance League—(cheers)—to convey to the Glasgow brethren their warmest sympathy with the present movement, and to catch and carry back if he could some of that sacred enthusiasm which animated their breasts in connection with one of the noblest national causes which ever banded a people together. (Cheers.) The presence of Irishmen even in the highest councils of the realm was not always conducive to harmony—(laughter)—and he feared they were credited with an amount of pugnacity which if it could not find an adequate field abroad must seek an outlet in intermittent eruptions at home. (Laughter.) Whatever truth there might be in that, he thought he might safely say that on no public question within the memory of living man had there been such a consensus of opinion as that which existed at the present moment in favour of Local Option. One of the best omens for the future of Ireland was that the cause which they were met to promote had overleaped all separating walls of ecclesiastical creed and political party. Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian—Liberal, Conservative, and Home Ruler—were found standing shoulder to shoulder, and, by a large majority of their Parliamentary representatives, following the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Out of 56 Irish members who voted or paired 36 supported him, the minority only numbering 20. In Ulster 21

members voted, and of them 17 determined for the Local Option resolution, and only 4 against. (Cheers.) He was in a position to tell them that the drink bill of Ireland had decreased since their Sunday Closing Act by £2,000,000—(cheers)—whilst both England and Scotland had increased their drink bill during the same period. He humbly submitted that with all her faults, and with them all he loved her still and strongly, Ireland had not been a source of weakness but of strength to the temperance cause. It obstructives to hostile or inefficient legislation were wanted she could furnish apt and experienced agents in that department. (Laughter.) If the principles of combination were in their infancy among them, she could teach them how to form a league whose edicts would carry the force almost of law. If they wished to be indoctrinated in the wholesome principles of boycotting breweries, distilleries, and public houses, he did not know where they could find more efficient teachers than in some parts of Ireland. (Renewed laughter.) If the zeal of the boycotters outran their discretion, Ireland could supply them with Emergency men who would preserve a salutary equilibrium in agitated society; or if they wished for large-hearted, self-denying, and devoted combatants in the cause—(cheers)—the land which gave them Edgar from the North, the father of the temperance reformation, and Father Mathew from the South would not be lacking in a supply of men of kindred spirit who held that the serfdom of drink was the most galling bondage, and that the truest patriotism consisted in hewing through the devil's chain which manacled the kingdoms. (Loud cheers.) There are three questions to the motion I was called on to move—1st, Is it practicable; 2nd, Is it right; and 3rd, Is it necessary? As regards the first we have no intention of creating an Utopia, or constituency, or community which should be fortified against the inroads of evil, but we hope and fully expect the Government of these lands to pass a measure which shall abolish the prime taproot of crime, disease, waste, and death, from which the nation acknowledgedly suffers. (Cheers.) How is this to be accomplished? Our Parliament makes the laws, but our people make the Parliament. The House of Commons has declared that the time is ripe for legislation on the subject, and the greatest living statesman, though non-pledged to the special proposal of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, has again and again expressed his conviction that some drastic remedy is needed for the regnant evil of the day. But what proves the practicability of the present proposal is that in America it has in several States become an accomplished fact. The thing has been already done. (Cheers.) In States larger than Scotland, public-houses have ceased to exist. The sale of intoxicants, save for medical purposes, is a crime punishable by law, and distilleries, breweries, and whisky stores have been swept into the dust-hole of things that were, and are remembered as we remember the dwellings to which the memory of a great crime clings like a shadow, tenanted tenements which we cannot pass without a shudder. (Cheers.) In my own province we can point to Bessbrook, where some thousands of workers subsist without a public-house, and are all the better for it. The thing is practicable. (Cheers.) The abolition of slavery seemed impracticable, but it was accomplished. Reform seemed impracticable, but it was effected. Catholic emancipation seemed impracticable, but it was attained. Free trade seemed impracticable, but it has irresistably been established. (Great cheering.) Disestablishment seemed impracticable, but there are no Dissenters in Ireland now. The Land Act seemed impracticable, but now every tenant in my island may cultivate his farm, none daring to make him afraid. (Cheers.) The interest in the traffic is immense, but I believe in a living God and in going against any form of evil in His name, and though it had the thews, and the helmet, and the spear, and the boasting defiance of Goliath of Gath, I believe the stripling of Temperance can bring it to the dust, and strike off its head amid the songs of an emancipated nation. (Great cheering.) My answer to the second question, Is it right? It is certainly, for no harm has been proved to

have followed to any community who has carried and enforced a law suppressing the sale of these baneful liquors. (Applause.) Indeed, great good would be effected all round. It would set ten thousand thralls who are now sunk in the most degrading bondage. It would be a blessed evangel to multitudes who cannot call up strength to combat with the strongest temptation of their nation. It would remove the curse from a million homes which now sit in the shadow of death. A Christian nation should have learned long since to rise above the level of the first murderer's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"—cheers—into the pure gospel light of their self denial, "I will eat no flesh while the world standeth if it make my brother to offend." (Loud cheers.) Of one thing we may rest assured, that no more righteous cause has ever fired a people's zeal or roused a people's efforts than that to which we have put our hand. (Applause.) In other causes we may sympathise with the vanquished, for many noble traits may have characterised a system which stern necessity commands us to abolish, but when the liquor traffic has been abolished no righteous man will shed a tear over its fall, no lover of his kind will bewail its disappearance, no hater of vice, immorality and crime but will rejoice when its doom is struck, for its history down the whole long line of its existence has been the fearful record of lamentation, mourning and woe, such as no other system ever called forth. (Cheers.) Lastly, is it necessary this power of absolute veto? It is too late in the day to prove its necessity for the evils to which the drink traffic leads. We have all supped full of its horrors. It has been no temporary plague cutting off its thousands and then passing away. It has not been like the stern arbitrament of war which, after a few soaked battlefields, will give place to a permanent peace. It is not like a year of famine which scourges a kingdom till a fresh harvest is ripened, but it has all the concentrated evils of permanent war, permanent famine, and continuous pestilence combined. All other means of lessening its ravages but the veto power have been tried and failed. Education has failed, the teaching of the pulpit has failed, the power of example has failed, the dread proclamation of the horrors of drink has failed to warn men away from it, and why? Have we any right to expect that these weapons will succeed when we refuse to employ the most effective weapon of all? I am a Christian, but I am a member of a Christian community, and until I have used the political power which God has given me with which to war against this traffic, and have done my best to drive it from its legal entrenchment, I have no right to expect that the God of battles will give us the victory. (Cheers.) The Christian religion is not to be severed from politics but to leaven them; and every Christian voter is bound, if he takes our view of the evil of intemperance, to give his vote in favour of the representatives who are pledged to put down the drink traffic, or at least to allow the people to do so if they will. (Cheers.) Each is responsible for his political influence. The State can give us this power, can most effectively prohibit, and it is the solemn duty of all voters to see to it that those who represent them in Parliament should no longer trifle with the national need, but grant a boon, the greatest which Government ever gave a people. I have great pleasure in moving the resolution. (Loud and protracted cheering.)

Mr. WILLIAM NOBLE, in seconding the resolution, asked what right had any one to place legalised temptations in the way of others. Dr. Moffat, at a meeting at Cardiff, told an incident of a mother sitting with her child when a lion appeared. The mother rose, and facing the lion, called out she would be torn in pieces ere she would allow the lion to go near her child. The lion gazed upon her, and after a while, seeing her determined attitude, went away into the jungle. (Cheers.) Mr. Noble asked whether the mothers of Great Britain would be brave enough to stand up for their children, and oppose the great lion of strong drink, which was threatening their lives? The mothers manifested courage like that of the poor

African woman, we would soon hear of a great diminution of intemperance. (Applause.) Glasgow had the same evil to contend with as London. At the present moment there were men connected with the churches, who were taking money from poor people in exchange for that which sent them to perdition. The Christian public were responsible for this state of things. (Cheers.) Again, alcohol was no respecter of persons. It would knock down a bishop as fast as a chimney-sweep. (Laughter and cheers.) He had yet to learn whether alcohol entered the system of the refined man; and then said, "I beg your pardon, I have made a mistake." When a poor man was found drunk in the gutter, some of our refined men would say, "Poor fellow, let us open the museums on Sunday." We would never make a man moral by first making him break God's law. (Cheers.) Other men said, let us give the poor man some light wine. But the so-called light wine made him drunk. There was a Frenchman invited to a college supper, who partook of a liquor which gave him a fearful headache. On the following morning, he said it was a liquor full of contradictions. It contained brandy to make it strong; sugar to make it sweet; water to make it weak; and a lemon to make it sour. (Laughter.) He asked what was its name, and was told it was called Punch. He said it was a very good name, for it had punched him very much about the head. (Laughter.) Mr. Noble affirmed that 60 per cent. of the reformed drunkards relapsed. A poor fellow told him, in James Morrison Street Hall, that he was a "waster." Mr. Noble had never heard the word before—(laughter)—and asked the man to explain. The man told him it meant that he was a wreck. For that class, prohibition was the only safety. (Applause.) Finally, Mr. Noble said, there was Scripture authority for their warfare, and their watchword should be "If we conquer in the fight, thine shall the glory be." (Cheers.)

Provost MACPHERSON moved the third resolution as follows:—"That this meeting hails with the liveliest satisfaction the numerous evidences of the progress of the movement, in particular the decided vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Option Resolution, especially the Scotch vote (and pairs) of 43 for and only 5 against; urges on the friends in the constituencies the vital importance of continuing and increasing the agitation in and out of Parliament for securing a direct veto on the liquor traffic, and pledges itself to support the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association by vigorous co-operation and liberal support." He said—My Lord, ladies and gentlemen,—I think one of the best evidences of the progress of the movement is to be found in the large and enthusiastic gathering in this hall to-night. In the early days of the temperance reformation, and that not so long ago, it was very difficult to get a place in which to hold a temperance meeting, and even more so to get anything like an audience. Ministers, doctors, and the great body of the people were against the movement—and even Sir Wilfrid experienced this in the House of Commons, in having to lead, year after year, many a forlorn hope against tremendous odds. It is said we must not legislate in advance of public opinion. But I am glad to say that now public opinion seems in advance of legislation, and one of the most decided marks of progress is the recent votes in the British Parliament, when the Local Option resolution was carried, and afterwards reaffirmed, with this significant addition—that it ought to be given effect to by the Legislature. We trust, therefore, that before long Her Majesty's Government, as they are in duty bound to do, will pass a measure embodying the principle, thanks to Sir Wilfrid for his persuasive eloquence and able leadership, and specially to the Scotch contingent, the gallant 43, who supported and accompanied Sir Wilfrid into the lobby of the House of Commons. (Applause.) A great deal is made by those who oppose the movement of majorities ruling minorities. But is not the whole line of the legislation of the country based on this very principle—the vote of the people? When a Liberal Government is in power, the Tories say they are not represented, or rather they are misrepresented,

and that the whole country is going to the dogs. (Laughter.) When a Conservative Government is in power, then the Liberals turn round and say the same thing. In asking, therefore, for Local Option, or the power to a community or a district to say whether or not they wish public-houses in their midst, we only ask what is recognised as just and right in Parliamentary and Municipal Government. Another evidence of progress is that the sympathies of the churches are being increasingly arrayed on our side. Ministers are beginning to see it to be their duty, both by precept and example, to throw in their influence with the movement. One of the most eloquent and earnest ministers in your city had the moral courage, in this hall, and from this very platform, to tell his fellow-citizens that in consequence of the terrible evils connected with the use of intoxicating drink he had resolved to become a total abstainer—and this, too, against the expressed wish of his medical adviser. (Applause.) A further evidence of progress is the almost unanimous testimony of the highest medical authorities against the use of alcohol. What did Dr. Andrew Clark, one of Her Majesty's physicians, and medical adviser to Mr. Gladstone, say the other day? That for twenty-five years he had been physician to one of the largest hospitals in this country—that it had been a part of his daily business to ascertain the influence which alcoholic drinks exert upon health. After such a long experience what is Dr. Clarke's testimony? That upwards of 70 per cent. of the patients in the London hospital owe their ill health to the excessive use of alcohol. He further says that alcohol is a poison, and ranks with strychnine, arsenic, and opium. That a healthy person cannot be benefited by it; and although the system can bear it sometimes without obvious injury, yet is benefited by it never. (Applause.) Working men, and I am glad to see such a large number of working men present, this is a matter which is closely connected with your interests and that of your families. These places generally are planted thickly around your homes, and are temptations not only to yourself but to your wife and children, whilst your more wealthy fellow-citizens live away from them, and will on no account allow even one to come near their dwellings. Working men I have yet to learn that your children are not just as dear to you as the sons and daughters of those who live in the squares, terraces, and parks in the west end. Then rally every one of you round Sir Wilfrid, whose Local Option will put you on equal footing, and give you the power to say whether you wish them or not. (Applause.) Only yesterday a large landed proprietor informed me that in a district of the county in which he is interested, four-fifths of the inhabitants protested against a license being forced upon them, yet even in the face of this remonstrance the Justices granted it. He said also that he sometimes thought of sending to Sir Wilfrid the particulars as they might be interesting and useful in the crusade in which he was engaged. The last part of the resolution "urges upon all friends of the movement the great importance of increased agitation and co-operation by personal efforts and liberal support." We find that large contributions and legacies are given to our churches, hospitals, and asylums. So far good. But very small sums comparatively are given to temperance organisations. If, however, it is, as Dr. Clarke says, that upwards of 70 per cent. are in hospitals in consequence of the effects of alcohol, and a still larger percentage is to be found in our prisons and poor-houses from the same cause, does it not occur to you that it would be better to give larger contributions to our Alliance and Permissive Bill and Temperance Associations, whose agencies would save many from ever reaching the hospital, the prison, or the poor-house. (Applause.) Your late townsman, John M'Gavin—(cheers)—loved and esteemed by all who knew him, seemed to act on this principle, for many years he gave annually £100 to the Scottish Temperance League, and left a legacy of £1,000 to the same cause. I tremble for the future of our country and the rising generation, and yet, forsooth, in seeking to remove the temptations out of the paths of our brothers and sisters we are told that we are interfering

with the liberty of the subject. Call this liberty, I call it bondage, slavery, thousands upon thousands of our fellow-creatures bound by the enslaving chains of strong drink, and to-night are sighing and groaning for deliverance, and that the temptations by which they are surrounded may be swept away, and swept away for ever. Is there not a Wilberforce who, for the sake of his country, will step out as its liberator, break the fetters and let the oppressed go free? (Cheers.) Did you ever hear foreigners say, as I have heard them, "De Scotch is a drunken people, de Scotch is a drunken nation," how humiliating to listen to this and know that it is only too true. Scotchmen, descendants of Wallace and Bruce, who fought for our freedom and independence; Scotchmen, sons of your noble covenanting forefathers, who, that they might transmit to us the legacy of civil and religious freedom, stained the heather with their life blood, will we, their children, not unite together as citizens and patriots in doing everything that lies in our power to wipe away our nations greatest curse and reproach? (Applause.) Would not our noble chairman, in whose veins there flows the blood of M'Callummore, lead on the van. (Cheers.) His illustrious ancestor, the first Marquis of Argyle, signed the National Covenant and sealed it with his blood. Not less illustrious in the history of our country would our chairman be, if, in the House of Commons, he would move and carry a Local Option Bill for Scotland, and thereby effect our country's deliverance from a curse, the evil of which Mr. Gladstone, the Prime Minister, says is greater than the accumulated evils of war, pestilence, and famine. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. ROBERT WALLACE said—I came here as a representative of the Good Templars—(cheers)—in order to show our sympathy with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. I trust it will never relax its efforts until the drink trade is banished from our midst and our country set free. I second the resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Ex-Bailie TORRENS said he had very little to do on the present occasion. He was one of those who worked in other halls and kept himself in the back-ground at such large gatherings. He had a pleasant duty to perform, namely, to propose a vote of thanks to the various speakers who had advocated the great cause. (Cheers.) It was a pleasure that amongst these speakers Scotland, Ireland, and England were well represented. If it were proved satisfactorily that this great evil existed amongst us, then it was right to seek its removal. (Applause.) He had heard it said that the machinery of the licensing law was to be kept as it was, only the people were to have the veto, and some person mentioned licensing boards. He had no objection to that change, although he thought we had already as good a licensing board as it was possible to obtain. He believed that the magistrates were honest men, and sought to discharge a very disagreeable duty in the licensing court. A licensing board could do nothing more. (Applause.) The magistrates had this advantage, that they knew the cause of the evil, seeing the results so frequently in the courts. They would be strange Bailies, indeed, who sought to vindicate the extension and perpetuation of the liquor traffic. (Applause.) Personally, he had witnessed scenes which had brought the tears to his eyes, and he was not ashamed to own it. Indeed, his heart burned with shame at the degradation of poor humanity. This was especially the case when, in a cell, he saw a young mother lying drunk with a babe a few weeks old beside her. Looking upon this spectacle, he vowed that though he had wrought years and years in the temperance cause and in the effort to get others to follow his example he would continue to labour and to proclaim the necessity of removing this thing which was destroying the vital energies of the men and women of our land. (Cheers.) They had got Lord Colin to vote for the Permissive Bill, and now they had got him in the chair. (Cheers.) They wanted the Members of Parliament to study the question as Christian politicians and philanthropists, and consider whether it was right that

anything should go into the national exchequer which perpetuated the immorality of the people. They were honoured with the presence of the member for Peebles-shire. (Great cheering.) If that gentleman and the other members from Scotland saw their way to bring in a bill for this part of the empire, Government would not long stand in the way. He moved a vote of thanks to those gentlemen who had so worthily addressed the meeting that evening. (Loud applause.)

Sir WILFRID LAWSON said—On behalf of the other speakers and myself, I thank you very cordially. But I have something even more pleasing to do than to thank you. I have to move a vote of thanks to the noble lord who has so ably filled the chair to-night. (Cheers.) There is one circumstance which I do not think any one has mentioned to-night. I believe his father has carried out the principle of Local Option in a portion of his own property—(cheers)—and that very good effects have arisen from the prohibition of places for the sale of drink, which we always do find arises in such cases. I am delighted to find his son here to-night prepared to give to the working men and the poor men of this country the same power to do good which the rich men already possess. (Cheers.) Now, it is needless for me to talk about his lordship, because the way in which you have received this proposition proves to me the opinion you have of him. On my own part and yours I thank him for the straightforward manner in which he has advocated our policy. Something has been said about a bill giving the power of the veto to Scotland alone. "Well, I never saw my way individually to bring in such a bill, because I think it better to go on the broad principle that I should endeavour to get justice done for the whole of my fellow-citizens throughout the united kingdom. But there is no reason whatever, after the vote which your Scottish representatives gave last June, and after the Welsh and Irish Bills, and the Scotch Sunday Closing Bill, why some Scotch member should not bring forward a Local Option Bill for Scotland. (Applause.) I do not know what his lordship will think of that suggestion—(laughter)—but I do know, after having heard him to-night, that if he should think well of it, there is no Scotch member more able to do justice to the question and to his fellow-countrymen than the noble lord in the chair. (Cheers.) Well, whether he will think it right to come forward and do that great service for his fellow-countrymen I have no means of knowing? One thing I do know and feel convinced of, and that is, whatever his future career in Parliament, it will be one in which he will be true to his principles and to his supporters. (Applause.) I now ask all who are in favour of the motion to hold up their hands. (Cheers, and all hands held up.) All those who are contrary. (Laughter.) None. The motion is carried unanimously, my lord. (Cheers.)

Lord COLIN CAMPBELL—I have to express my acknowledgment of the more than kind terms in which the honourable baronet has moved this vote of thanks. I confess that if I had foreseen all the consequences of my speech I might have thought better of it, or at least I might have been more prudent in what I said. But as the challenge has been thrown down to me, I cannot refrain from saying this, that if after consultation with other members of Parliament it may seem wise and expedient—after consultation with the honourable member in the gallery there (Mr. Tennant, M.P.)—(cheers)—it may seem wise to take a separate line of action for Scotland, I shall be most glad indeed, and I shall esteem it a great honour, to put my name on the back of a bill which shall give to the people of Scotland that for which the people of Scotland have pronounced in the most unmistakable terms. (Applause.) Well, it occurred before I came here to one or two of my friends on hearing I was to take the chair to-night to say—"Is it true you are going to take the pledge?" (Laughter.) I am very glad to come here under the wing of Bailie Torrens and learn a great deal of the temperance movement. But I confess I have not come to that. I think I have given sufficient promises for one night. (Cheers and laughter.) Ladies and gentlemen, I do thank you from my heart for the most cordial reception you have given me. I have met with recep-

tions which, I will say, could only have been made and found among the warm-hearted people of Glasgow. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. HARDING then pronounced the benediction, and the proceedings concluded.

When Lord and Lady Colin, Sir Wilfred Lawson, and Mr. Tennant left the hall they were cheered most enthusiastically by the large multitude who had been in the hall. Lady Campbell and the gentlemen bowed their acknowledgements, and drove off amid continued cheering.

OVERFLOW MEETING.

HUNDREDS desirous of being present in the large hall reluctantly turned away unable to secure admission. About 500 went to the lesser hall. There ex-Provost Dick took the chair. During the evening, the resolutions prepared for the large meeting were submitted, and carried by acclamation. The first resolution was moved, seconded, and supported by Rev. Dr. Grundy, Mr. Wm. Blackwood, and Provost Macpherson respectively; the second one, by Mr. J. H. Waterston, ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., and Mr. John Paton; the third, by J. Wilson, Esq., J.P., Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and Rev. R. J. Lynde. A vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. R. Simpson, most cordially paid to the chairman; and the meeting, highly pleased, dispersed.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. JOHN M'DONALD, ABERDEEN.—On the 5th ult., in the 76th year of his age, there departed this life one of the most estimable and disinterested friends of the Temperance Reformation in the North of Scotland in the person of Mr. John M'Donald. He was truly a remarkable man. None could be in his presence for any time without coming naturally to that conclusion. On the Temperance question in its length and breadth, its depth and height, he was an authority. He had brought the exercise of a singularly acute and searching reason to bear with such effect upon this question that no one surpassed him in the knowledge of it in all its bearings. His views were those of the most advanced thinkers on the question, and these he upheld even in the face of formidable opposition and at the risk of rupturing private friendship. Far-reaching in the sweep of his intellect, eminently sagacious as regarded the future, singularly trustful in the progress of truth and right, he inspired all in contact with him with a fervid sense of duty towards the movement that had such a hold upon his affections; and also with an unflinching expectation in its ultimate and triumphant success. None who knew him well but felt that his convictions were pervaded by that love of truth which is the sovereign good of human nature, that honesty and sincerity, that intelligence and wisdom which distinguish the highest order of minds. His capacity of thought so largely transcended his powers of expression that in public he was never able to sufficiently exhibit the exuberance of wisdom he had so carefully treasured up on this matter, so it was the privilege only of the more intimate of his friends to enjoy that communion of mind with mind which constituted the supreme pleasure derivable from his friendship. Singularly free from dogmatism, he was eager to give all who differed from him the same credit for truth-seeking as he inflexibly claimed for himself—hence the respect entertained for him even by those that were unable to agree with him, and that was never diminished or withdrawn. He held no parley with insincerity nor faithlessness, nor hesitated to bestow on such vices his withering rebuke. Like other noble souls, although he had a presentiment that he might not participate in the final triumph here below of the cause he held so dear, yet he laboured none the less ardently and hopefully in its behalf. During his long life he had been assiduous to his personal duties and enjoyed almost uninterrupted health. Latterly, however, he was sensible of the failure of his eyesight, and

had become blind in one of his eyes. The exhaustion caused by nursing his partner, to whom he was most devotedly attached, had not passed away, when, in July last, she suddenly died by his side. The shock, together with jaundice acting on a frame which had long survived the allotted span of human existence, overwhelmed his weakened powers of resistance, and cut off a life as pure in its aspirations, as loyal to its obligation, as clear in its moral vision, and as resolute in the pursuits of true happiness, as exists. No more leal adherent to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association lived than John M'Donald, who has been one of its vice-presidents for nearly a score of years, and one of its most liberal supporters in the north. The Executive have recorded in their minutes their deep sense of the loss sustained by the cause through his decease, and their high appreciation of his worth as a man and a social moral reformer.

THE LATE JOHN MACDONALD.—Our obituary of the 6th inst. contained the name of this quiet, unostentatious but worthy citizen, a man little known beyond the precincts of the well-conducted coffee room on the New Market stairs, where, since the opening of that important public institution in 1842, now a period of thirty-nine years, he successfully carried on a quiet, useful business, respected by his customers alike for his uniform courtesy and the superior quality of the viands he supplied. During so long a business career as that indicated, Mr. Macdonald could not fail to have made the acquaintance of many of his fellow-men; but few of them, probably, were likely to have imagined that their quiet, unostentatious host was none else than the last male representative of the famous Macdonalds of Glencoe. Speaking from a thirty-six years' intimate acquaintance with him, and an even more intimate acquaintance with his bosom friend, the late Dr. Linton, R.N., we can say that John Macdonald had higher life aims than temporary distinctions and mere material interests. He believed in God as a reality, not as a figure of speech. His faith in the ultimate triumph of righteousness by Jesus Christ was immovable. He knew his Bible much better than many professional divines; and what was of far more practical value, he reduced its golden letters to practice in his life. His theological opinions might not have squared with some creeds, but his life was all right. His reading was select. He knew what and how to read. He was a thinker of no mean order; and the select circle of his intimate acquaintances do not need to be told of the clearness with which he could lay down a proposition, and the cogency with which he could enforce it. Nothing gave him greater delight than to make the acquaintance of a thoughtful young man, nor could anything exceed his patience with the early prejudices which his keen eye never failed to detect as obstructions in the path of an ardent inquirer. His method was to shed a ray of light in upon the mind and heart, thus silently but surely displacing prejudice from the mind, as the fresh and budding life of spring displaces the withered leaves of a former growth. His adherence to the temperance cause was whole-hearted and progressive. His knowledge of the nature and effects of alcohol upon the human system was extensive and thorough. The prohibition of the traffic in all intoxicants for beverage purposes, by the will of the people, he was one of the earliest of temperance reformers to apprehend and fully appreciate. In all questions affecting the good of mankind, John Macdonald took a deep and lively interest, and was ever ready to aid every good cause, both by counsel and means. He was an indulgent and attached husband and a loving father; but leaves neither wife nor family behind him.—*Aberdeen Daily Free Press.*

Upon being promised a penny by his mother if he would take a dose of castor oil, a bad little boy obtained the money and then told his parent that she might "cast her oil" into the street.

I clasped her tiny hand in mine; I vowed to shield her from the wind and from the world's cold storms. She set her beauteous eyes on me, and with her little lips said she, "An umbrella will do as well."

THE FUNDS.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

OCTOBER, 1881.

**** The almost entire absorption of the space at our command by the Annual Meetings proceedings has forced us to crush out everything not already in type, even although we give an eight page supplement. Our contributors may depend on us doing our best to overtake all possible arrears in next issue. May we hope that this number will have its circulation helped by our friends this month?

**** We fell into an unaccountable error last month when we said, in our leading columns, that Ex-Lord Advocate McLaren had not yet voted for the Local Option Resolution of the House of Commons. He did so in June last. Such of our readers as file our magazine will we hope correct the error with a pen.

Month by month for the past nine months all that had a bearing on our question in the Imperial Parliament has found a place in our columns. We have not anywhere seen a similar attempt. Only the more important matters have been thought worthy of record. In our opinion a history not omitting anything will more vividly show the relation of the Liquor Traffic to the State, how much that system interferes with the business of Parliament, how invariably it requires State interference, and how were it not for the constant exercise of public opinion little even of legislative palliatives would be secured. As a mirror, too, of the steady flow and force of the tide of public opinion, such a history cannot fail to be interesting. We have made the attempt for one session, and that a most remarkable one. None but those who have entered upon such attempt can judge of the patience and the research required, but if it prove half as interesting and half as useful to our readers as it has been instructive to ourselves we shall rejoice.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS.

We have to congratulate the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on its annual meetings, which were a brilliant success. Nothing like them has taken place. The friends are feeling the progress being made; they see that in Parliament,

as well as in the country, the cause is a power. They find that at every bye-election the active friends of the movement exert themselves, and there will at no distant date be no candidate returned who does not sympathise with their efforts. They believe the time is ripe for an advance, and last Tuesday they gathered themselves together to rejoice over the past and to determine what action should mark the coming year.

The attendance at the business meeting largely exceeded the attendance of past years; and, to our liking, a deep earnestness pervaded the proceedings. Men assembled to strengthen the Executive in their unflinching purpose, and once more to declare that their conception of Local Option was identical with the Permissive Bill. It was pleasant to find that the presence of more of the fair sex than we have seen only whetted the desire that there should be many more. We see no reason why women should not crowd our business meeting. There is no barrier in the way. We have seen a lady and her daughter there, with scarcely an exception, for twenty years, and we feel sure that the presence of other women as loyal to the movement as they have ever proved will be in harmony with the feelings of the executive. The chairman's speech was as usual a resume of the progress of the movement in all its aspects. It deserved the applause bestowed upon it. The Report was too lengthy a document to be read, but we think that a mistake was made in compressing its special points into ten minutes. The Treasurer's report was most creditable to the liberality of the members; the funds, if not flourishing, are in a healthy condition. The resolutions were fewer in number, to allow of fuller discussion on the policy of the movement. The Report was warmly praised and unanimously adopted, the Office-bearers cordially elected, the *Social Reformer* unstintedly praised, and the literature of the year heartily approved; the friends co-operating with the Executive and the Agents received the warm thanks of all; the Executive's services gratefully acknowledged, and the Secretary received a meed of approbation. The real resolution of the meeting was the third. It meant approval of the past work, and the continuance of conference work, and that preparation of the country for a determined Parliamentary struggle to get a Local Option Bill for Scotland. The most superficial present must have seen from the tone of the meeting the unquenchable spirit that had brought the movement to its present stage glowing brightly in the resolution, and we anticipate that our pages will be crowded by the records of the struggle resolved upon.

The tea meeting was quite a jubilant affair—one of the sunniest we have seen. There was a larger number of the fair sex, and their presence lent a gay appearance to the saloon. The provision for their enjoyment was superior and most admirably served. The chairman was truly a most genial

governor of the feast. His position was acknowledged, but his power was never felt, so great was the sympathy between him and his guests. A most significant fact was reflected from the programme, that was the unification of the Scottish Temperance Movement on permissive prohibition. There were present the representatives of the United Kingdom Alliance, Scottish Temperance League, the Independent Order of Good Templars, the Rechabites, the Scottish Christian Union British Women's Temperance Association, and delegates from many temperance societies. Such a representation is truly significant of the position of the hopeful prospects of the agitation. As a citizen association in the parliamentary interests of the great temperance reformation, it is rallying around it all sections of the movement who see in its success their own decisive triumph. Then we had the representative of the Irish Temperance League, and the founder of the British Blue Ribbon Army. No wonder, then, that this meeting was successful and so enjoyable. It could hardly be otherwise, for on its platform and throughout its proceedings there was that feeling of unity and identity of aim which, in a warfare like ours, is so indispensable to power and success.

The evening meeting was a brilliant success. The appearance of the meeting was magnificent. The City Hall was so densely crowded, and the passages so thronged, that if it were not for the good humour and forbearance of the vast assembly it might have been unmanageable. To relieve the tedium of the long interval between the opening of the doors and the commencement of the proceedings, the city organist's services were engaged, but he never appeared. The Lesser City Hall was also densely packed. Lady Campbell, accompanied by Mr. Tennant, M.P., occupied a seat in the gallery to the right of the chair, and on their appearance both were warmly greeted. As soon as the noble chairman appeared the audience received him with cheers again and again renewed; the same reception awaited Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and the other speakers and prominent friends as they appeared came in for their share. The chairman's speech was excellent of its kind, not so thorough as some looked for, but full of sympathy with the principle and in hearty accord with the tactics of the Association. The Rev. Dr. Nicholson was unable to ingratiate himself sufficiently with his audience. Mr. John Wilson's speech was as eloquent and forcible as it was judiciously brief, and he "scored" a great success. Sir Wilfrid's speech was, as his always are, brimming with the gayest of wisdom, hopeful and undaunted in tone, eminently clear and simple; it carried the minds and hearts of his listeners. His reception was one to be remembered. Hats were waved, kerchiefs streamed welcome and cheers, and the Hall echoing with cheers again and again renewed. Such an outburst of gratitude as this dispels the sense of weariness and discouragement, enlarges the hopes and strengthens the energies of

a leader. The Rev. R. J. Lynde, Belfast, made a most brilliant appearance, his speech was a clarion cry, and at times rose to a thunder peal of eloquence. He has had few equals and no superior on the City Hall platform. Mr. Wm. Noble, of London, gave a most characteristic address, and all interested in the Hoxton Hall blue ribbon agitation can easily apprehend how, under such an advocate, it has risen to fame. The Provost of Grangemouth's speech was powerful and appropriate, and met with deserved approbation. The Rev. R. Wallace, in a few burning words addressed the audience, and then ex-Bailie Torrens moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. Nothing could indicate the effect of the various addresses more clearly than the fact that, carried away by them, the worthy ex-magistrate gave one of his inimitable addresses, for which he had the strained attention and the unstinted approbation of his audience. Sir Wilfrid, in replying, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the noble chairman, and put it to the meeting, and when it was endorsed by vociferous plaudits, conveyed it to his Lordship. Then his Lordship promised much more than was ever expected, that if he could at all he would put his name on the back of a Local Option Bill. The proceedings then closed, but the meeting's influence did not end. It will roll on. If we dared to speculate we might trace great issues from what then took place. We forbear. To the pen of the historian we leave this, as we have left the other meetings, but this may be said of it, as of all, that it was worthy of the agitation, and was in every sense a resplendent demonstration. The overflow meeting was, though not so imposing, no less worthy, and on a par with the great demonstration of which it was the "overflow."

INTELLIGENCE.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—IX.

THE COST OF IRISH WINE AND BEER LICENSES—THE WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL—ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS—THE WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING BILL IN THE LORDS—MR. WARTON ON CLUBS—THE NEW MEMBER FOR EDINBURGH—THE ROYAL ASSENT TO THE WALES SUNDAY CLOSING BILL—END OF THE SESSION.

August 18.—Lord F. Cavendish, in reply to Mr. Biggar, said he was not aware that £3 licenses for the retail of wine and beer for consumption off the premises had been refused by magistrates sitting in petty sessions, to any Irish trader who was entitled to obtain them, or that the collectors of revenue in Ireland compelled traders to take out two separate licenses—one for beer, at a duty of £4, 11s. 1d., and the other for wine, at £2, 10s., making a total duty of £7, 10s.

August 19.—Mr. Richard moved that the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Sunday) Wales Bill be read a third time. Mr. Warton, seconded by Sir H. Giffard, moved that Cardiff be exempted from the operation of the bill, and that it be recommitted on clause 1. Mr. Gladstone opposed the amendment in the first place, the hon. gentleman has already had full opportunity—and a more favourable opportunity than the present one, because it was a fuller house—of stating the whole of the arguments which he thinks ought to show that Cardiff should be excluded from this bill. The

House has decided this matter when three times the number of persons were present than now. On the 15th June a motion was made, and there was a debate and division. The ayes were 27, the noes 118; and he submitted that we ought not, in the reduced numbers and exhausted condition of the House, to overturn a decision which is of so much greater weight than any we might now arrive at. But we had some experience upon this subject in the case of Ireland. In the case of Ireland it was granted for the sake of securing the passage of the bill, rather than on account of any conviction of the parties who made the concession that certain large towns should be excluded from the operation of the Irish Sunday Closing Act. But he understood that, speaking generally, the same Irish opinion which pronounced so emphatically in favour of that bill, is eminently unfavourable to the countenance of that exclusion; and that as soon as the temporary measure comes to be renewed, undoubtedly Parliament will be asked to put an end to that exclusion, and to allow the bill to pass for the whole of Ireland. The hon. gentleman has frankly owned that there is a general and wide-spread disposition for the passing of this bill. The exclusion from the bill of a large town of this kind would be a gross anomaly—an anomaly of the most unfortunate kind—and we ought not to introduce such an exception. (Hear, hear.) The bill was read a third time, amid great cheering, without a division, although one was called for.

August 22.—On the motion of Mr. Onslow, a return was ordered of arrests from drunkenness on Sunday.

August 23.—Lord Aberdare, in the House of Lords, moved the second reading of the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill. He conclusively replied to the objection that the bill was very late for the consideration of their Lordships. The Irish people had wished for a similar measure, and he contended that the same measure of justice should now be extended to the Welsh people. The inhabitants of Wales were anxious for the measure now proposed, which was similar to that in existence in Scotland and in Ireland—namely, that the vending of intoxicating liquors should be prohibited on Sundays. When he said prohibited, he meant with the same exceptions—the *bonafide* traveller, the lodger, and the railway traveller. What he desired to show their Lordships was that there was a genuine desire on the part of the Welsh people—an almost universal desire, he might say,—that the proposed change should be effected. With respect to Wales, nothing was more clear than that the opinion was in favour of an alteration of the law. In the parish of Aberdare, he found that the number of householders whose opinion was taken, resulted in 4,659 being in favour of the closing movement, and only 210 against it. The population there was mainly composed of colliers, and it was therefore obvious that the feeling of the labouring class on this question as to drink, was decidedly in favour of Sunday closing. Such being the case, he thought there was a sufficient justification for the passage of the measure by their Lordships. The only question which, however, their Lordships had to consider was, whether the principality of Wales was sufficiently distinct from England, as to entitle it to lay claim to having separate and distinct legislation. Scotland and Ireland had been benefited by Sunday closing to the extent of having a diminution of fifteen per cent. of their drinking. Wales might therefore be considered to have a right to separate and distinct legislation. He was not urging forward the measure on the ground of more drunkenness on Sundays, as compared with other days. There was, however, the amplest evidence that on Saturdays there was a far greater amount of drunkenness than on other days of the week. The next most drunken day was Monday, and there could be no doubt that continual drinking did go on from Saturday, through Sunday, and so on till and throughout Monday. Now, a measure which broke through this habit was of itself a measure of great importance. Quite apart from the religious aspect of the question, it was of great importance that the day on which the working man received his wages should be separated from the Monday by the intervening Sabbath, and thereby interrupt a course of

continued intoxication. (Hear, hear.) The bill was read a second time.

August 23.—In reply to Mr. Warton, Sir Wm. V. Harcourt was afraid that he could not promise to give a return of the number of clubs in the United Kingdom, the number of members, the places where such clubs existed, the amount of subscription annual or otherwise, whether proprietary club or *bonafide* working-men's clubs, or registered under the Friendly Societies' Acts; and giving the annual sale therein of all excisable liquors during the last three years, or as long as they were established, if established less than three years. He did not know of any means by which he could obtain such a return. If the police made such an inquiry, he was afraid that there might be just cause for complaint.

August 24.—In the order for the Lords going into committee on the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill, Lord Denman objected to that part of it which proposed to allow liquors to be sold at railway stations. The objection was overruled. The bill then passed through committee without amendment.

August 24.—Mr. T. R. Buchanan, introduced by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, took the oath and his seat for the city of Edinburgh, amid cordial cheers.

August 25.—The Welsh Sunday Closing Bill passed the House of Lords.

August 27.—The Royal assent was given to this bill, which is therefore law.

Parliament to-day was prorogued to the 12th day of November next.

PARISHES WITHOUT PUBLIC-HOUSES.—There are no fewer than 1325 parishes, townships, and hamlets in the Province of Canterbury alone, without either public-house or beershop. The absence of crime in these parishes is remarkable, or may seem so to those who do not know the intimate connection between drink and crime. The Northern Province has not yet made a report, so the above numbers represent but the half of England. There are no public-houses on the Shaftesbury estate, Battersea, nor the Queen's Park estate, Harrow Road. Similar estates are being formed in Liverpool and Birmingham. The town of Bessbrook, near Newry, is the property of Mr. J. G. Richardson, the proprietor of the Bessbrook Spinning Mills. This large linen factory employs about 2500 hands, and they reside in the town adjoining the mills, all of which have been erected during Mr. Richardson's lifetime. He lets the houses to the workers at a fair rent, and has neither public-house, police, poor-law, nor dispensary in the town. The shops are co-operative stores belonging to the mill-workers. The town of Saltaire, erected under very similar circumstances by the late Sir Titus Salt, has the same immunity, but speculators have built public-houses close to the boundaries of the estate, and found magistrates to license them. The village of Elvetham, Hants, the sole property of Lord Calthorpe, has not a house or place for the sale of intoxicating drinks. The village of Scorton, near Lancaster, has no public-house. A little village in Wales, the inhabitants of which are almost exclusively employed in a slate quarry in the neighbourhood, is a paradise as regards the dwellings of the operative classes. Every man is possessed of a small freehold, purchased by his own exertions; many have one or two cows, and some of them have saved as much as £400, £500, and £600 out of their wages. So striking is the happiness and prosperity of this little district that it has attracted the notice of many statesmen, amongst the rest Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, who visited it, and expressed a desire to know the secret of this prosperity and happiness. It was explained that there never has been let in that locality a plot of land on which a public-house can be built. The result is that there is not a public-house within seven miles of that little village.

A tyro wants to know why the mouths of rivers are so much larger than their heads?

THE
Social Reformer.

NOVEMBER, 1881.

A PLEA FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

Of all that God has committed to our care, children are the most important. They are not things, but beings. They have souls as well as bodies. They are endued with power, capable of indefinite improvement. They are precious vessels intended to be filled with the pure and the good. They are plants given us by the wise Husbandman, that they may be cultivated for the great future of time and eternity. With what care and concern therefore should we deal with the soul of the child, and yet with what carelessness parents and guardians act towards the children. Though a child is a child it should be dealt with as having in its nature the germs of future nobleness. We watch and tend with care the young plant in our garden, and protect it from the frost of night, and from the scorching heat of the sun, and water its roots and support its stem that it may gradually become strong and hardy. We don't deceive it by pouring salt water over it instead of fresh. We don't expose it to the gaslight instead of the sunlight. We deal faithfully and honestly with the plant, we don't mock it. And if we thus act in relation to the plant of a day, how much more so should we act in relation to the human intelligence that has been committed to our trust, to be trained for time and eternity. I make these remarks in order to an observation or two on the harmfulness of playing with the feelings of a child, and mocking it by setting before it a dangerous example. The child is simple and trustful, guile has not yet polluted its mouth, it takes upon trust all that you say, and therefore on no account ought the child to be deceived. No advantage should be taken of its spirit of trust. The open receptive heart should get only what is lovely, pure, and true. The child opens its mouth for bread, and woe be to that one who gives it a stone instead of bread. A stone will not digest, it will not give strength, neither will the false and the untrue nourish or strengthen the soul. You don't take bad money to the bank to be put to your account. You don't send to your tailor or dressmaker rotten cloth to be made up into garments for wear. You don't mix sand among the flour you use in the kitchen. You don't want an adulterated article when you go to your grocer, you want the genuine article. And shall we act contrary to all this when we are dealing with the dear child, shall we adulterate the mouth with error when we feed the young mind, or shall we do even worse, give that which is altogether untrue. There is nothing more common than to hear parents and others telling the dear child the most unlikely things that had never happened, nor ever will happen, and using threats that they never mean to carry into execution, and making promises that they have not the slightest intention of ever performing. Is this the way to deal with your child? Do you want to train your child to believe that you

do not speak the truth, and if you do not speak the truth to it how can you expect it to speak the truth to you? If you want truth to come from the lips of your child, then let truth go from your own lips into its open ear. Make no promises to induce obedience that you don't mean to fulfil. Employ no threat you do not intend to execute. Do not awaken in your child groundless fears about that which has no real existence. Do not put before its imagination stories about persons or things which have never occurred or never will. You may please the child for the time. You may quieten the creature that it ceases to cry, but you are doing the child an evil which may prove an affliction to its nature for life. I have at the age of more than half a century a vivid recollection of things that were told me when I was a child, that even haunt my thoughts to this day. Not that I believe them now, but the circumstances when they were spoken are fixed in my memory and imagination [and likely will be there till I die. These stories were told me doubtless without any bad intention on the part of my seniors, but it was not only foolish but sinful on their part to put such things into my mind. It is almost an impossibility to efface from memory the evil effects connected with untruths planted there in the early years of life. They start up unbidden every now and then, not as pleasant pictures but often as dark spectres on the walls of memory. George Combe in his autobiography tells us when he was a boy in Edinburgh, he was out one day with one of the men employed by his uncle. On the road they met with a sergeant of the Black Watch or 42nd Highland regiment, a tall important looking man, dressed in the highland costume, having a huge cap surmounted by clusters of black feathers, with a sword hanging at his side. After the two had exchanged greetings, the sergeant, looking at the boy Combe, said to the man, "Is this your son?" He replied, "No; he is my employer's nephew." The sergeant said, "I hope he is a good boy." "O yes, he behaves very well." "I am glad of that, for (laying his hand on his sword) it is my duty to cut off the heads of all naughty children. The king, you see, pays me and gives me this sword and sends me out in his service, and I must do something for his money." The boy naturally believed every word that the sergeant said to him, and from that time he felt a terror lest he should at any time meet with one wearing the dress of a soldier. Combe remarks, "This way of playing with the feeling of children is highly injurious; not only was I frightened, but my moral perceptions were again perplexed and outraged, for no act of misbehaviour which I had committed or seen other children commit appeared to me to justify cutting off their heads, and henceforward I regarded a Highland sergeant as a sanguinary monster, like the ogre of fairy tales." The Rev. Wm. Arnot tells us of a somewhat similar occurrence that took place with him when he also

was a boy. A person in a military dress took him fondly in his arms, slipped a shilling into his hand. When this same person happened to pass at any time, grown-up people told him seriously that he was enlisted, and when he was old enough the officer would return and take him to the wars. "This intimation," writes Wm. Arnot, "sunk into my soul, and lay at my heart like lead all the period of my childhood. I was afraid to speak of it, and suffered in silence. The terror was never taken off by a serious explanation, for no one knew how great it was. I obtained no relief until my understanding gradually outgrew it. That he wrought grievous harm to me. Besides overclouding life at its rosy dawn, it left within me when it departed a general grudge against mankind for wantonly wounding the helpless. When the boy was big enough to shake off the phantom he was full of indignation against the world, for amusing itself by torturing a child." But there are other ways of deceiving the children. How many thousands of children are deceived by their parents in regard to alcoholic drinks. They are familiar with the decanter and the glass at the table, and they see those drinks in daily use just as they see the bread put down on the table. What impressions are they likely to form of the nature of these drinks? They cannot suppose them to be dangerous to take, when they see their parents and friends daily using them, and not only do they see others take them, but in many cases they are taught to partake themselves. This is a sad deception which is practised upon the children. Thousands of children get their first love for these drinks at their parents' table. If they are trained to look upon these drinks as harmless beverages, what can be expected from them after they leave their home to go out into the world; will they not be in danger of forming a habit the germ of which has been planted in early life by the example that has been set before them by their parents? The Book says "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." We ask, Is this one of the ways to train up a child, to teach it to suck a poison out of the glass, or to frequent the public-house in order to obtain a beverage to quench its thirst? Many parents don't seem to realise at all the awful danger of setting such an example before their little ones. And these same parents send them to the Sabbath school, and to the church, that they may be taught to "abstain from all appearance of evil" and at home they counteract this divine teaching. Oh, if parents would only think as they look into the sweet innocent faces of their children, of the awful possibility of any of them becoming drunkards, reeling along the streets a curse to themselves and a curse to all connected with them. Methinks they would make sure that their own practice would not tend to lead them in that direction. We would therefore make this loving appeal to parents, that if you value the present and future happiness of your children, that you purge your home of these poisonous drinks, and show to your family a more excellent way,—the way of total abstinence from all which can intoxicate. Let your example in all things be such that it will be safe for your children to follow in your footsteps. W. S.

IS ALCOHOL FOOD?

[Specimen Lesson given in illustration of "How to Conduct a Band of Hope." See "Social Reformer" for May and July.]

Introduction.—You will remember, children, that at last meeting I explained to you what Alcohol was. I said—

(a) That it was the poisonous spirit, found more

or less in all strong liquors that make people drunk. I noted on the black board that

Rum	contained	15 ounces	of it	in every	pint.
Brandy	"	10	"	"	"
Wine	"	4	"	"	"
Pale Ale,	"	2½	"	"	"

(b) That it got its name from an Arabic word—"Al-Kool," i.e., "devil," because it stirs up to all manner of evil.

To-night I am to tell you other two things about it—

(c) That it acts on the brain, producing a pleasurable excitement which is mistaken for strength.

(d) Those who sell it call themselves victuallers, because, say they, "it is food in a liquid form."

Food, you know, is all those substances taken into the body to give and maintain its strength, and in doing so it

I. Gives warmth; II. Makes flesh; III. Makes bone.

[Write these on black board, and get the class to repeat them simultaneously.]

Get examples of food under each head, thus—

I. Warmth giving—e.g., sugar, fats, potatoes, flour, &c.

II. Flesh forming—e.g., meat, fish, game, cheese, &c.

III. Bone making—e.g., water, fresh vegetables, salt, &c.

Observe (a) that the body does not need these different kinds of food in equal quantity. The number 8 would represent the amount of warmth-giving food required, 4 the flesh forming, and 1 the bone making.

(b) There is only one food which, by itself, does these three things—viz., Milk, it is therefore pattern food.

Let us inquire now if Alcohol

I. GIVES WARMTH.—When taken a burning sensation is felt in the mouth, and all the way down into the stomach, just as you would feel a burning heat if very hot water touched your skin. But this kind of heat, you know, does not warm you. So with alcohol, it burns but does not give heat. This is proved

(a) By applying the thermometer to the body after taking spirits—its heat is lowered.

(b) By the inhabitants of cold countries showing a preference for oils, fats, &c.

(c) By examining (*post mortem*) the internal coating of the alimentary canal (explain) and stomach of drinkers.

Observation.—One is very apt to suppose that because alcohol is distilled from wheat, which contains 60 parts of starch (a warming food) in every 100; or from oats, which contains 40 in every 100, that therefore it must be a warmer. But the many processes through which the grain has gone—mashing, boiling, cooling, fermenting, cleansing, &c.—have so changed it that every nourishing property has been completely destroyed.

God has sent the nourishing grain—"His good creature"—but the Devil has taught man to cook it, so as to work his destruction.

It is therefore no warmer.

II. FORMS FLESH.—The name given by learned men to those foods that form flesh is *nitrogenous food*, because they are largely made up of a substance called nitrogen. An ordinary man needs 250 grains of this substance daily in his food else his body will soon fall into decay. When the chemist, i.e., a man who tries to find out what substance all bodies are made of, examines alcohol he finds various things in it, but not a single trace of nitrogen.

He farther tells us that alcohol enters and leaves

the body the same, having undergone no change, that instead of dissolving food as water does it hardens it, so that it cannot in any way nourish the body, and that what is sold as "highly nourishing beer" contains exactly *one* part of nutritive matter in 1666 parts.

You will remember in connection with this that Daniel and his companions, on pulse and *water*, were fairer and fatter in flesh at the end of the ten days than all the children which did eat of the King's meat and drank his *wine*.

It is therefore no flesh former.

III. MAKES BONE.—Bone is made chiefly out of the salts—*e.g.*, phosphorus, sulphur, chlorine, potash, soda, lime, common salt, &c., taken into the body from water, vegetables, fish, seasonings, &c., of which the body needs half an ounce daily. The chemist cannot discover any of these substances in alcohol, and

It is therefore no bone maker.

Observation.—The grand error made by the champions of alcohol is, mistaking its stimulating qualities for strength. Food produces fresh strength, but alcohol is merely a whip to call out whatever force the frame contains, and is always followed by depression.

Conclusion.—(a) Food satisfies; alcohol does not.

(b) Food makes men work better; alcohol does not.

(c) Food never robs a man of health, character, and happiness; alcohol does.

(d) Food does not pauperise, nor sweep 60,000 annually into untimely graves; alcohol does.

Alcohol, therefore, is not food; nay, more, science has proved it to be a poison—"toxicum" of the same class as chloroform, laudanum, strychnine, &c.

Repeat altogether this text—"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?" Isaiah lv. 2.

With senior boys and girls I would advance and tell that when lovers of alcohol are driven from this position they say, "Well, if it is not food it economises food," and they instance cases where people were deprived of beer and the consumpt of bread was strikingly increased. They make no mention of the cost of beer *versus* bread, nor of the decrease of work and probable increase of doctors' bills under the one as compared with the other.

Laughed out of this, they maintain now that alcohol arrests waste in the tissues of the body. But this is the dearest economy of all, for our bodies are kept healthy by natural changes, for I am told by scientific men that every part of my body is renewed in seven years. The most unanswerable argument on behalf of total abstinence is to be found in the tables of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, where abstainers and non-abstainers are insured under separate schemes. On black board quote examples in proof.

YET ANOTHER WARNING.

IN 1879, we had a cloudy and dull summer, and a hopelessly late harvest, followed, however, by an open winter, which was succeeded by a sunny, glorious summer, and untold abundance both by sea and land. The Heavenly Father smiled plenty upon us. But we heeded not, but went on our way transgressing his commandments, setting at nought his will, defying his will, perverting his authority, and transforming his bounties from solid wholesome grain into a poisonous liquid. "As our fathers did, so also do we." Mammon and Bacchus are the twin deities we "free-born Britons" delight to worship. Altars are reared to these and libations

are poured out to them by thousands of householders, morning, noon, and night. No matter that storms and tempests linger over us for months, deepening distress in the midst of plenty. Abundance of food in our storehouses, plenty of garments in our groaning warehouses, but no money with which to purchase, for labour cannot be had. But the old proverb holds good, "The drunken man gets aye the drunken penny," and the dram shop is frequented as of old, and our intoxicating drink bill runs up, with its thousand and one concomitant evils—poverty, and crime, and wretchedness; which when looked into reveal a sad and depressing state of matters, individual, domestic, social, moral, and religious, enough to make us blush for shame, and recorded of any other country under heaven, would stamp its inhabitants as little better than barbarians. But so it is in so-called Christian Britain. How much longer shall this state of matters last and endure?

Were we in the midst of a series of swamps whose pestiferous exhalations every now and then thinned our population by fell disease, traceable to preventive causes, what should we do? Drain off the swamps, and no mistake! These swamps, dear as childhood's joys from early associations, and stretching back from time immemorial, may be looked upon by some, it may be by many, as next to a sacrifice to touch, far less to remove, these swamps, but walk they must. The common-weal demands their removal. The brave few who would venture to moot such a thing are sure to be described as "fools" or madmen. "Take away the swamps fringed with trees, shrubs, and wild flowers, yielding water-cresses, and swarming with water-fowls. The whole district would become a desolation!" Tradition and association and fancy may cling for a time to preserve things as they are; but what with the spread of knowledge and the ever recurring diseases striking down some youthful member of a household, consigning the victim after a lingering illness to an untimely grave, leaving the survivors draped in mourning, public opinion gets stirred up, reaches a point when something must be done. This is hopeful, and feeling becomes intensified, till action is taken, and one after another the swamps are drained off, and the whole district speedily assumes a changed aspect for comfort, health, and plenty; and people begin to wonder why the swamps were allowed to remain so long; and precisely so will it be with the removal and the fruits of clearing away our drunkenness-beggetting centres—the licensed groceries and dram-shops. Every conceivable means has been tried, shorter hours, closer inspection, a closer scrutiny of the character of the vendors; but the stream of drunkenness rolls on, much the same as before; and will continue to roll on till by local option the sources are dried up; and to make such an attempt public opinion is rapidly ripening. Slowly but surely it is nearing the point for action; and the polluting centres once drained off, can never again be allowed to settle down, will no more be tolerated.

Rosemount.

W. C.

COMMON SENSE, COMMON FACTS AND COMMON HONESTY.

PHILOSOPHY without common sense is a matter for study rather than to be clearly understood and made practical; and science unsupported by common facts may be a very learned affair, but not a reliable guide. Sound philosophy and real science start from common sense and common facts. They are to the development of wisdom and truth, as the sights, sounds and forms of Nature are to poetry, music and art. A man with poetry in himself sees it, realizable, in the combinations which evolve beauty out of the details of Nature. He is attracted by these, for in it right himself he is in

sympathy with them. The feeling, pensive heart, responsive to the charms, the shows and forms of Nature, does not pass her by to burrow in books in the search for poetry; nor does the observant intellect overlook what is commonly known in the search for a foundation of facts strong enough and broad enough for truth to rest on and to be displayed from. All that is commonly known is rather more clearly seen than overlooked by the intellect endowed and trained to overtake minute and extensive observation. Degrading habits, extensively practised, may be despised as vulgar, but, he is even less than vulgar who despises the knowledge held in common before he begins to know for himself. Truth is not confined to what is known by the multitude, but its development takes place from their knowledge. This is felt by the wise as they develop knowledge into wisdom and happiness. The sense, common to all as to what it is well and wise to do, is to the true philosopher the first step in his ascent to the higher regions of wisdom and goodness in labouring for the people's well-being. In the development of knowledge and for its reasonable application, to succeed, we must feel at one with the people in all that they really know, and also in the capacity they have to make it beneficent and practical. In these respects the common people are not to be despised except at the risk of being ignorant in the name of knowledge and foolish in the name of wisdom. But religion must also receive vitality from common honesty to make it practical. He is the best philosopher who has the most common sense; and he is most scientific who is most intimately and most extensively acquainted with the common facts. This is true, but it is also especially true, that he who does not say *yes* when he should say *yes*, and who says *no* when he should say *yes*, is in the way of removing himself from the obligations he is under to God and man: and these, well fulfilled, constitute religion. Common sense, common facts, and common honesty are common to all; for, without what is called learning, all are necessitated to keep their eyes open to what transpires about them, and to keep on reasonably good terms with their fellows. And social order, after all, is to be attributed more to this attitude than to the enforcing of the laws, for they do not enforce themselves, but operate through public opinion. The multitude have therefore from the exercise of their natural faculties, the sense, the facts and the honesty which make them wise enough, knowing enough, and good enough to make life, property and freedom, tolerably secure. In the light of this acknowledged outcome, look at the common facts which enforce the practice of abstinence from alcoholic drinks. They intoxicate. This is a fact observed by everybody, and intoxication is insanity. Even children are impressed by this fact. Afraid of intoxicated people, they run from them in greater alarm than they do from those who are out of their minds from other causes. Impressions begotten in children's minds by the personalities and manifestations of those they come in contact with are suggestive. But intoxicating drinks also beget physical derangement. A man who is drunk reels and falls to the ground in a state of feebleness which unfits him for doing work. This fact is so commonly known that a man, even partially intoxicated, is recommended, when he presents himself to do work, to go home and sleep himself sober, so that when he does it he may be in a state not to spoil it. It is a matter of common knowledge that intoxicants produce mental and bodily derangement, and that under their influence men are unfitted for the duties of life. This is the science of common facts, but the science of other facts which are so impalpable that the learned dispute about them, affirms that intoxicants are food. It is a common fact that porridge maintains the mental and physical vigour to give endurance and efficiency in doing all the work that devolves on us. It has never been known that a man reeled and fell to the ground from taking porridge and was sent home to sleep it off and get into the state in which he could do his work and not spoil it. It is therefore clear to common sense that the impalpable and uncommon facts which magnify the nutritive qualities of intoxicants may be of service as the occasion of disputes

between the learned; but to the common people, who must have sound minds in sound bodies, they are not to be substituted for the common facts as guides to health and strength. It is evident that the mental and bodily derangement which comes of intoxicants should beget suspicion. Results so unlike the wholesome manifestations from well attested food should set aside the assumed facts which would establish their dietetic use. Such facts have no claim to be relied on as dietetic data. The common facts are sufficient, and it is both scientific and philosophic to be guided by them. While physical and mental derangement result from taking intoxicants he must be a philosopher without common sense who attributes the effects merely to the quantity taken; and such common-senseless philosophers, while drunkenness increases from their advice, secure its continuance by encouraging the drinkers to cultivate sobriety by persisting to drink as little as possible. If the intoxicating quality was not in the drink the quantity in which the drink might be taken would not produce drunkenness. It is the quality that is to be avoided. If a large quantity produces much drunkenness, a small quantity can only produce less to increase the craving for more. If much drunkenness is therefore to be avoided the commencement must take place in abstaining from the least quantity of intoxicating drink. Little drunkenness from a small quantity of intoxicating drink is just less mental and physical derangement than results from a large quantity. Common sense can give no choice between little evil and much evil. Little evil leads to much, and in this case emphatically so. The science and philosophy which recommend little drinking in order to avoid much drunkenness are antagonistic to the common facts and to common sense, and foster the evil they affect to cure. But if science opposed by the common facts and philosophy opposed by common sense, lead to drunkenness, in this attempt to lead their victims to sobriety, to what an extent must the mistake be accelerated when they are helped by religion divested of common honesty. To common honesty the Holy Spirit is revealed as the culturing power of our nature. It is guaranteed by the Saviour to every one who may ask it. It is our birth-right, to rise by to the height of manhood. But that our personality, body and soul, may be its own to dwell in, there must not be enshrined in us a defiling lust, nor a principle of action the outcome of which is to subvert justice and kindness between men. To enshrine these, and pretend to be religious, is to say *yes* for *no*, and *no* for *yes*. The Holy Spirit claims the mind and body in a state free from the diseases which result from moral perversity, and little intoxication is a degree of insanity which, when enjoyed and justified as mental pleasure, must be felt to be the outcome of moral perversity. A religious man cannot respond honestly to his intelligence who at the same time claims the pleasure of alcoholic delirium and the guidance of God's Spirit. It is a matter of common knowledge that they are incompatible. The Divine Being waits in the fatherly attitude to aid the faculties with which He has endowed us, that they may operate in harmony and conform to His will. It is thus that He makes us co-workers with Himself to realise his purpose of infinite goodness. We are in union with God when we allow ourselves to be guided by His spirit, but out of union with Him and among ourselves when we are driven by the spirit of alcohol. The state of mind resulting from the Divine influence compared with the delirium, violence, and impurity produced by alcohol is as light to darkness, goodness to badness, and wisdom to foolishness. But still the use of alcohol is justified on religious grounds. It is called "a good creature of God to be used with thankfulness." If experience did not endorse the utterance that "a drunkard cannot inherit the kingdom of God," those who talk thus might be excused, but everybody have it recorded in their experience that intoxication more than most other sins does flagrantly overturn the rule of God in the soul. And those who thus talk are seduced by this deceiving spirit of alcohol from responding to experience with the common honesty which begets confidence in the ordinary affairs of life. In fact their *yes* in experience is made *no* in this utterance to the

truth that intoxicants are as subversive of the state of mind favourable to Godliness as they are to bodily health and to the state of mind needful to investigation and business success. The scientific are bound to respect the common facts and start from them in prosecuting their inquiries after all that is to be known of the action of alcohol on the mind and on the body; these are the true indicators, and in observing from them scientists must be directed to the true issue. This is now the attitude taken by scientists who have the most accurate powers of observation, and their inquiries are illustrating the common facts and vindicating them from ignorant and unmerited contempt.

And as this state of matters grows into the order of the day, philosophers and religionists, not to be relegated out of place and influence, will no doubt take up with common sense and common honesty for the inspiration and guidance which can alone relate them to truth and goodness. The immediate future of our temperance movement is therefore much brighter than some of the overtaken periods that I can think of.

JOHN PATON.

PARTNERSHIP IN INIQUITY.

BY THE REV. S. HARDING, PAISLEY.

THIS is an age of innovations. Among the many that might be mentioned, there is the modern style of conducting business. The old-fashioned way has been superseded by co-operative societies, limited liability companies, and partnership in business. There may be advantages arising from this altered state of things, but we confess our sympathies are with the old-fashioned way of every man being held personally responsible for the conduct and results of his own business. As matters now are, society is in the dark concerning the parties embraced in the word company. If the business be a legitimate one, the public have little concern about it; but if it be questionable, and its results injurious to the community, then the people have a right to know who are the parties hiding themselves behind the scenes. It is only when a financial crisis comes, or a serious defalcation takes place, that the real parties are known, and made to bear their share of blame and responsibility.

The liquor traffic is one vast system of partnership. In its list of shareholders are to be found the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, the refined and the debased, the theologian, the atheist, and the sinner. All of these are more or less interested in the prosperity and perpetuity of the traffic. In consequence of the secrecy observed by many connected with the traffic, it would be difficult to obtain a complete register. But the eye of the Omnipotent One is upon every one, and their names are registered on high, and when the "Great Assize" shall be held, every one will be judged, not according to their status in society, or the creed they held, or the profession of religion they made, but "according to their works." We are not referring to those engaged in the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. Their position is clearly defined, and their guilt and responsibility is tremendous. But every man who, in any degree, profits by this traffic, is a partaker in that iniquity, just as the receiver of stolen goods is a participator in the occupation of the thief. Whoever allows himself to profit by wrong doing is guilty of that wrong. The same principle holds good even to nations. Let us particularize.

The Government of this country are large shareholders in this iniquity. It has been, and still is, to their interest to give every facility for the consumption of intoxicating liquors, say what they will to the contrary. They hold fellowship with the throne of iniquity, and frame mischief by a law.

If we accept the definition of a Government, as given by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone in his speech at the Mansion House, London, on the 13th October, "A Government is a portion of the community, selected by that community, for the purpose of discharging duties, but dependent for their efficient discharge upon the support which the government receives from the community itself," then every person who gives his

vote for a member of Parliament who upholds the liquor interest, is a shareholder in this iniquity, and must bear his share of the responsibility of the guilt occasioned by the traffic.

Magistrates who grant licenses for the sale of these liquors must not be alarmed at finding their names in the list of contributors to the vices of the people. In God's Statute Book there is no permission, or license granted to evil doers. Thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not bear false witness, &c. To license an immorality is to ignore God's prohibition of evil, and whoever does so takes upon himself the responsibility of such an act.

House proprietors are in the shareholders list who enrich themselves by the rent of houses devoted to the sale of intoxicating liquors. They may never frequent such places themselves, and would scorn to be found in the company of the lewd and drunken. But they are partakers of the sins of these unholy and ungodly persons while they receive their share of the wages of iniquity in the shape of rent for their houses.

The Church is in partnership with this iniquity. It has taken the liquor traffic under its special protection and grants indulgences to its supporters. This is a fearful accusation to bring against the Church. Our proof is,—That there are to be found in the majority of the churches in Scotland those who are engaged as distillers, maltsters, brewers, or publicans, many of these holding offices as elders, and contributing largely of the proceeds of the traffic towards the support of the Church and ministry. A further proof is,—That, in the majority of churches at the Holy Communion, they place the alcoholic wine upon the Lord's Table to represent the blood of him who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Thus throwing the wing of the Church around the "mockers."

What would be said of that church which allowed gamblers, keepers of immoral houses, and receivers of stolen property to be members and office-bearers therein, and periodically receive its share of the plunder and ill-gotten gains?

Society would cry Shame, and in the name of common decency demand the expulsion of such persons therefrom. And yet many of the churches allow within their pale, and even honour with office, those who are engaged in the liquor traffic, which is the great contributory to vice, immorality, and prostitution, and receives a share of the proceeds of the traffic. But society does not cry Shame upon such conduct, or demand the expulsion of such persons from these churches. Strange anomaly! Wonderful inconsistency!! Where are Zion's watchmen? Are they asleep, or quietly acquiescing, so as not to disturb the peace of the Church? Fearful perversion of the New Testament order, "First pure, then peaceable." Paul's injunction to Timothy in matters of this kind was, "Neither be thou partaker of other men's sins, keep thyself pure."

Lookers on are found among the partners in this iniquity. Meroz was cursed by the angel of the Lord, not because it opposed Israel, or rendered assistance to its enemies, but because it remained neutral. "It came not to the help of the Lord against the mighty." The conduct of the priest and Levite was reprobated, not because they inflicted additional wounds upon the already half dead traveller by the road side, but because they simply "Looked on him, and passed by on the other side."

The servant who received the one talent was not condemned because he had squandered it, but because he had not used it like the rest of his fellow servants. "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain. If thou sayest, Behold we knew it not, doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth he not know it? and shall he not render to every man according to his works?"

Matters have come to a crisis. Sides must be taken. There is no neutral ground between right and wrong. There must be loyalty to conscience. Convictions of duty will make obligations plain. The course is definite and discernable, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

FRUITS.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

CHAPTER I.

"EVENIN' NEWS."

"EVENIN' NEWS, ma'am; murder in Edinburgh; Evenin' News, ma'am," cried a shrill little voice at the elbow of a young lady, as she turned from Princes Street into St. Andrew's Square in company with a tall dark gentleman, on whose arm her daintily-gloved hand lay affectionately and trustingly. They were brother and sister, tenderly attached to each other and to their widowed mother, the light of whose lonely life they were. The mite of a girl who addressed them brushed close to the young lady's rich skirts, and she drew back in disgust. "Go away, child; I don't want any. There's a penny for you," she said crossly. But her brother's hand closed over hers, and removed the copper from it to his own.

"Give me a paper, child," he said; and the shivering child gratefully complied.

"It is not right, Alice," he said as they passed on, "to give these newspaper children money without taking wares in return. It encourages a new system of begging, which, Heaven knows, we have no need of in the city. Poor little mortals! They have a hard time of it."

Alice Taylor shrugged her shoulders. "They are hideous-looking children, and so filthy I shudder to have them near me. Why can't workhouse and ragged school authorities remove these nuisances from the streets? I declare one can't walk in peace of an evening; it is a disgrace."

"The authorities you speak of, Alice, have their hands full already," returned James Taylor gravely. "But among that regiment of newspaper children there is wide scope for the exercise of individual charity."

"Is that a hint to me, James?" asked his sister half pettishly.

"I think if you were to take some of them in hand, I would not hear so many complaints of *ennui* from you, dear."

"You are absurd," was his sister's sharp reply. "Why, I teach in the Sabbath school, distribute tracts, sing at the free breakfasts, attend the soup kitchen, and I don't know all what. What more would you have? Are my hands not full enough of these things?"

"Yes, if you feel it so," was the enigmatical answer given, with a peculiar twist of the firm lips, which was very distasteful to Alice Taylor. She withdrew her hand impatiently from his arm.

"If you had some girls for your sister, James, you might have reason to complain. Look at the Wilsons, the Templetons, and Georgie Hume; they think of nothing but dressing, and going to parties and such things. You are too fastidious. I try to please you, but it seems I am as far off as ever. I have given up a great deal for you, James. I have left off going to the theatre, and refused wine always at people's houses, besides persuading mother not to offer it at ours. If you knew how much ridicule I have borne in silence for your sake, you would not be so hard upon me." And Alice Taylor finished her long speech by brushing away a few rebellious tears.

Her brother drew her hand within his arm again, and looked down into her face with his grave, earnest eyes.

"My darling, I am not hard upon you, and I did not mean to vex you. Do you think I am not proud and grateful for what you have done for my sake? I was only hurt to hear you speak so sharply and unkindly to that poor little child who surely deserves our pity if not our help."

But Alice was offended, and would not be conciliated. There was an uncomfortable silence, and both were glad when they reached the door of their own home in St. Andrew's Square.

It was a grateful change from the chill, damp March air to the warmth and comfort and elegance of the cosy drawing-room which some of the Taylors' friends declared was the pleasantest room in all Edinburgh. It was handsomely and tastefully furnished, everything in keeping, and the lonely old lady in the easy chair on the hearth looked as if she found it so, especially when her children came in that night.

"You are late, my dears," she said. The lines and wrinkles on her face softened wonderfully by the loving smile with which she greeted them.

"Late; yes, I think we are," said her daughter, her face clearing a little now. "I stayed two hours with Minnie Templeton, and hurried to James's office, dreading his patience would be gone. But he was busy with a client, and kept me waiting nearly another hour on him."

"She did not find it long, I assure you, mother," said James Taylor teasingly. "Wilson happened to be in, and I heard their tongues go like bells."

"Nonsense, James," said Alice, reddening slightly. "May we have tea up, mamma?"

"Certainly, dear; whenever you like."

Miss Taylor touched the bell, and the servant brought in the tray. Tea was only a nominal meal with them, as they dined late to suit James.

"How did you find the Templetons, Alice?" asked Mrs. Taylor, as she handed Alice her tea.

"Well, but in trouble as usual with Fred," was the reply. "He has been dismissed again, it seems, and came home from Manchester yesterday. Mrs. Templeton had a letter from the firm saying he had scarcely been sober for the last two months."

Mrs. Taylor shook her head. "It is very sad; his poor mother will be heart-broken."

"She is, poor creature; she was crying very bitterly to me. I wish you saw Fred; the change would frighten you. He is not the same man he used to be. You would scarcely know him. He was a nice-looking fellow once, but now"—Alice shuddered.

"He wants backbone—mental backbone, I mean," said James Taylor; "and his up-bringing was against him from the first."

"There was always plenty of drink going at their house anyway," said his sister. "And to-night Mr. Templeton was denouncing Fred in strong terms to me, and sipping his wine at the same time. I nearly told him of his inconsistency."

"He was taught to drink at his father's table, I do not doubt," said James Taylor gravely, "and that young Walter will follow him, or I am much mistaken."

"Drink is a dreadful thing," said Mrs. Taylor. "Nobody had ever a better chance in life than Fred Templeton. Three hundred a year and a prospect of a share in a first-class business is not to be had every day."

"It is a dreadful thing," said Alice Taylor with a sigh. "It made my heart ache to-day in that beautiful home, where such a shadow dwells always. It is the same in poorer homes too. When Minnie and I were coming to the car we met a drunk man being led along by his wife, who was crying like to break her heart."

"Let us be thankful, my children," said the mother, with streaming eyes; "Let us be thankful always that we are spared *that* kind of grief."

"Ay, and do what we can to lift the curse from other homes," said her son with impassioned earnestness. "Mother, I think God demands it of us."

CHAPTER II.

ONLY ONE.

Meanwhile the little elf-like figure who had so disgusted Alice Taylor's sensibilities was wending her way with weak and weary feet up the North Bridge, to her home in the High Street. She had a dozen or more papers beneath her arm yet, and only a very few halfpence in her pocket. She was a pitiful-looking little creature but only one of many in the city, and therefore no likely to meet with either notice or pity. She might

be nine or ten, not more, but meagre and stunted, as children must be, reared as she had been. Her face was small and pinched, and sore lined and seemed like an old woman's. Her eyes were very beautiful, large, dark, and lustrous, but dim and worn to-night; for poor little Jennie Gibson was ill enough to be in bed instead of wandering on the streets of the city on one of the bitterest nights of a very bitter spring. She had been jostled and pushed and kept in the background by the other newspaper children, and she was wending her way home in fear and trembling, knowing what awaited her there. As she turned into the High Street, the bell of the Tron rang ten. All shops save the public-houses were closed an hour ago, but the latter were busy enough, as they ever are, selling the stuff which brings ruin and desolation to so many hearts and homes. She walked more slowly, still dreading the reception she would get from a mother whose feelings had long since been blunted by drink and vice.

At the mouth of one of the closes a group of ragged, dirty women were standing, arms akimbo, talking in loud rough voices, and among them a red-faced, blear-eyed woman, whom Jennie called "Mother." She was watching and waiting impatiently for the child's return, and darted towards her, holding out an eager hand for the hard-won coppers. A dark scowl spread over her face when she saw how few they were, and how many papers yet remained unsold.

"Ye lazy little brat, what hae ye been daein' a' nicht, stannin' about. I see warrant, claverin' wi' some o' thae limmers o' bairns." She took the child by the arm, and swung her round like a leaf in a storm.

"Dinna, mother. I'm no weel. I wasna able to fecht afore the rest," she moaned, her great eyes full of pleading. "I couldna' help it. Dinna strike me. O mother, dinna."

If there had been one spark of motherly or womanly feeling left in Jean Gibson's heart, that cry, those pleading eyes, might have touched it; but there was none. Her clenched hand fell heavily on the shrinking child, who cried out with pain, and then she flung her from her into the gutter, and, grasping the precious coppers in her hand, stalked into the nearest public-house.

Slowly Jennie picked herself up from the mud, and crept down the close, and feebly up the broken stairway to the garret which was her home. What a burden of pain and misery rested on that child! I do not suppose any who may read this can even faintly guess. Her one longing was to be able to fall asleep never to wake again, never to open her eyes on the world, beautiful and dear to some, but black and cold and cruel, cruel to her.

Into that little low room the moon and stars were shining, but Jennie did not know the kind Hand that made them shine, nor the infinite heart of love dwelling above them. God's name had never fallen on her ears, save in dreadful oaths and curses; but though no human eyes saw the tears of agony she wept that night, God saw and treasured them up, ay every one. By and bye, growing calmed, the child's thoughts flew back to happier days she could but dimly remember, when father and mother had been kinder to her, and when they had had a comfortable home in a far better place than this. Father was gone away now—dead, the neighbours said. Drank himself to death, they said too, when she asked sometimes. She had not seen him for a long time, and did not expect ever to see him. She did not feel sorry, for he had beaten her dreadfully when he was drunk, more than mother even, and she was bad enough. Must I tell you? The one passionate longing in Jennie's heart that night was that her mother might die soon and leave her in peace. She was not afraid of being left alone in the world, for who could be more utterly alone than she at this moment?

Poor Jennie! Poor little riven, ignorant heart! There is One above—a great Friend with a heart bleeding for the woes of such as you! And the day is coming when you will know and love him, and by and bye go with him to his home above.

VARIETIES.

Oh, she was a jewel of a wife; she always struck me with the soft end of the mop.

"To be continued in our necks," said the toper, as he listened to the liquor gurgle from the bottle.

Why is a drunkard like a bad politician? Because he is always putting his nose into measures to the injury of the constitution.

"How seldom it is," said a philosophical old lady, "that the 'flower of the family' does anything towards providing the family bread."

A doctor and a military officer became enamoured to the same young lady. She said it was hard to choose between them, as they were both such killing fellows.

An old bachelor explained the bravery of the Turks in the last Russo-Turkish war by saying that a man having more than one wife was willing to face death at any moment.

"Why," said a physician to his intemperate neighbour, "don't you take a regular quantity every day? Set a regular stake that you will go so far and no farther." "I do," replied the other, "but I set it down so far off that I get drunk before I reach it."

A Cincinnati girl spent all her leisure time for three years learning to box, and then when she got married and wanted to fight her husband, she went at him and pulled hair and scratched the same as any other woman would. You can't make over human nature.

A drunken man at a Yankee temperance meeting, interrupted the speaker by exclaiming—"I say, mister, do you think does a gin sling do a fellow any harm?" "Not if a man slings the gin far enough, but when the gin slings him ever so little, then it does harm."

Have you heard this before? A child asked: "Mother, what is an angel?" "An angel? Well, an angel is a child that flies." "But, mother, why does papa always call my governess an angel?" "Well," explained the mother, after a moment's pause, "she is going to fly immediately."

The Corporation of Preston having come into possession of the licences of three public-houses, by the removal of property to make room for the new free library, has wisely determined to sacrifice the £900 which could have been secured by their sale in order to diminish by three the enormously excessive number of public-houses in the borough. There are far too many drinking places in London; but in Preston the number is proportionately twice as great, for there is one public-house to every 173 inhabitants, or, allowing five persons to each house, one house in every thirty-seven is licensed for the sale of intoxicants. The result is that "proud Preston" has become drunken Preston, even the policemen being continually intoxicated.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

POETRY.

BOOKS.

I sit within my chamber, and the good
And great who lived in the grand olden time
Are here beside me; here are bards sublime
That minister to me in pensive mood,
And here are sage philosophers that peer
Into the mysteries of life and bring
The meaning clear of many a hidden thing,
And wise and deep historians are here.
All stand assembled here in order due,
And at my bidding wait—they are my friends,
And neither time nor ill that friendship ends.
Few human friends have I, Oh! very few.
But books in choicest language speak to me,
Give knowledge, mirth, and silent ecstasy.

ANDREW M. LANG.

THE FUNDS.

** * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

NOVEMBER, 1881.

MR. JOHN PATON.

We are glad to state that Mr. John Paton has been in the north—Inverness, Elgin, &c.—and been received with great satisfaction. He has been also in the south-east—Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Edinburgh, and neighbourhood—where his labours have been highly appreciated. During this month we observe that he is to labour in Glasgow to the 4th Nov.; Stirling 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th; Greenock 14th and 15th; Parkhead 17th; Dalry 18th; Dumbarton 21, 22, and 23; Plantation, 28th; Glasgow, 29th. His engagements, it will be seen, are rapidly filling up, so that friends desirous of a visit should at once communicate with Mr. R. Mackay, 112 Bath Street.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION'S NEW YEAR'S TRACT.

This tract is from the pen of Rev. Professor Kirk of Edinburgh, and bears the significant title of "National Poverty." It is unnecessary to say one word in recommendation of anything on the liquor traffic from the pen of this able writer. The tract is illustrated by the same artist who has so skilfully illustrated those of previous years. The tract may be had at 10s. per 1000, or 1s. per 100—carriage not paid. Societies may have their name and the night and hour of their meeting printed upon it at an extra charge of 1s. 6d. on orders of not less than 500. On orders of 2000 and upward there will be no charge for heading if more than 40 words are required, by special agreement. The price post free is 1s. 5d. per 100. Orders should be sent in without delay as the tract is certain to be in great demand.

The other day we railed from the coast to Glasgow, and were one of a party of eight in a compartment of a most comfortable carriage, but, alas, at a side station, two of the company left, and their places were supplied by a drunken workman and his chum "not so far gone." For the rest of the journey we had a vivid illustration of what railway drinking carriages would have been had our Chancellor of the Exchequer's scheme of railway carriage licensing

been adopted. The contents of the cauldron of Shakespeare's witches seems horrible enough to read of, but it was as the nectar of the gods compared to what we heard during that short run. The "mair o' horrible and awfu'," that Burns suppressed in Tam o' Shanter, must have been the profanity belched forth by our fellow traveller. The incoherent jumble of sense and nonsense might have well provoked the risibility of all of us, but that nonsense was continually pervaded by a running fire of oaths, not minced oaths, but downright, aimless, unmanly, blasphemous oaths, discharged in such intermittent volleys that we sat amazed and ashamed. And looking back on the whole matter, the sense of relief is deadened by the reflection that we should all have remained silent when our fellow worm was so openly and daringly impious. Burke tells us that the time was when ten thousand swords would have leaped from their scabbards to avenge the look even that would have threatened Marie Antoinette with insult, and here half-a-dozen of men had never a voice to lift in honour of their Maker who was being defiantly offended in their presence. Well, we for ourselves plead guilty, and hope that our sufferings will be our penance. We shall certainly never cease to associate the scheme of licensing railway trains with the drunken working man who exhibited such a horrible ingenuity in profane expression as to silence and confound, as well as to inflict upon us the severest mortification we have been called upon to endure.

But we are by no means alone in our travelling experience. A voyager to New Zealand in one of the splendid sailing fleet of the Orient Line had an experience to which ours was as the small dust in the balance. A passenger to Nelson, New Zealand, he had to endure the horrors of the "bar" of the ship all the way. There was a free and unfettered "bar," and some half-a-dozen of his fellow passengers went to the most frightful excesses during the voyage in drinking, profanity, and strife. There was no cessation, cooped up in that splendid vessel the sober and well disposed had their feelings outraged by night as well as by day, and timid women saw and heard enough of mankind during that time as must have driven them pale with affright, not to speak of utterly destroying all idea of trustfulness, generosity, and chivalry ever entertained by them of man. This may appear strong language, but it does by no means measure the horrors of that by no means exceptional voyage. There is no public place free of this abomination that maketh miserable; and on a peculiarly sensitive and pure mind the effects must be in a high degree deplorable. The progress of culture, education, and social and moral advancement may do much, but it is idle to hope that on such debased natures as those who made the emigrant vessel a floating hell, these virtuous agencies can make a permanent impression. Let Britain be wise, and first cast out the devil that is tearing and

wounding her sons and daughters, leaving them more than half dead, and then to these factors of a life in sympathy with all goodness may be safely left the process of shaping the life of man, no longer drink-enthralled, in accordance with his destiny and the good purpose of God concerning him.

We were gratified to learn that the promises to the funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association reach a gratifying amount, and that many of the friends have generously resolved to increase the sum they have been in the habit of subscribing to the Association. Every one who yearns for its progress and success will rejoice at this. We hope that all who have not yet intimated what they intend to do during the current year will do so at the earliest convenient moment to them. We can fancy with what pleasure the Executive can deliberate upon any desirable course when a list of promises rises before their minds' eye for their encouragement and incentive; and the larger that list the greater their enterprise. The Constitution forbids them contracting debt. Is it not just to infer that when this restraint was imposed upon them the members thereby meant to affirm that they would give them resources in abundance? Surely it did, and so vividly has that idea presented itself to the minds of many generous friends that they have, with unflinching kindness, supplied the sinews of war. Last year the income and discharge might be said to have met each other, but that chiefly arose from the determination of the Executive that their efforts would be strictly measured by their income. That is not the position in which the movement should stand, and this would not be the position of the agitation for one moment were our friends to carefully take the matter of funds into their generous consideration. Were they to scrutinise their respective subscription lists in the light of the principle that prevention is better than cure, we believe that next to the gospel and its claims, there is no movement that would receive such munificent support as the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association during the short period it would require to labour to secure a triumphant issue to its efforts. Were our friends on the first day of the new year, now so fast approaching, to devote but a small portion of the sum usually expended on the gratifications common to that festive season, they would not be less happy, while their accumulated offerings would swell the treasury of the Association, invigorate all its agencies, and vastly encourage the heart of the Executive. We shall cherish the hope that this suggestion, so easy of adoption, will bear fruit in the shape of a new year's offering on the part of many of our readers.

The *Scotsman* when on the rampage always makes us turn and look for the red rag that puts his bovine-spirit so greatly on his mettle. He has been on the

rampage since we met our readers, and this time the proceedings of the annual meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are the existing causes of his fury. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, that used to escape the fury of his rushes, is the object of his rage, and had the hon. baronet not already passed the gauntlet of hosts of such infuriated critics who, fortunately, in their madness miss their aims, it would have been all over with him. The statements at the meeting, which the *Scotsman* thinks would be a waste of time to examine, were not marked by any desire to convince the public, but only by a resolution to coerce them, were based upon serious exaggeration, total misrepresentation, and intended to be the foundation for gross intolerance." Could our readers undertake to lay before the public as the result of careful research an equal number of words marked by equal hardihood of assertion? We think not. In the tempest of his wrath he has fairly missed the point of all the agitation carried on by the Association. It is cause, however, for honest satisfaction that the public, with fuller vision and better reason, does not look upon the agitation with similar feelings to this venomous writer. We are more desirous of the good words of the electors than afraid of the random thrusts of the publican's ally, the *Scotsman*. The writer is of the opinion that "success has demoralized Sir Wilfrid, who speaks in the tone of a man who is master of the situation." In what other tone would the *Scotsman* have Sir Wilfrid speak? Surely not in the tone of despair when he himself gathers from the tone of the hon. baronet his anticipation of coming victory. He falls foul of Sir Wilfrid's liberal opinions. Now, we have always understood, and its enemies have always declared, that liberalism means redress of grievance even though to secure redress interests had to be abolished. If Sir Wilfrid is such a liberal, what ground can the *Scotsman* have for cavil? How any one professing a liberalism of this kind can cut and thrust at Sir Wilfrid because he cannot tolerate the liquor traffic—a mighty grievance—is to us a mystery, and a mystery with which we wish to have nothing in common. As regards this party matter, however, we have no desire to defend Sir Wilfrid from the *Scotsman's* blind fury, especially as he is so incensed that the object of his attack is beyond danger. This we will say, that liberalism knew its best supporters were of the temperance party, and by enlisting their sympathy it is now, to-day, in office and in power. He clearly perceives the favourable issue of the agitation on the part of Sir Wilfrid and his followers, and yet he tilts against Lord Colin Campbell for presiding over the late annual meetings of the Association. He points out that his Lordship is not yet so advanced in his opinions as Sir Wilfrid. Well, though he does not as yet see so far he does not sin against knowledge as the *Scotsman* does, but shows a kindly sympathy and offers a helping hand. When his Lordship endeavours to define how much power the ratepayers

should have, and is willing to grant them a larger share of power over the traffic than they have now, he will fail as certainly as now to satisfy the *Scotsman*. None who offers to assert in getting power for the people to defend themselves and those near and dear to them from that evil, will ever enjoy the *Scotsman's* good wishes—if he has any. Lord Campbell can afford to choose his own course whether the *Scotsman* be pleased or angry. His lordship no doubt sees that, notwithstanding all the incorrigible opposition of that doughty champion of the drink traffic, that the agitation has grown into a movement of commanding national importance. Like Giant Pope in the Pilgrim's Progress, the *Scotsman* gnashes his teeth in impotent rage and mumbles the opposition to the movement which he is too impotent to enforce. Lord Colin Campbell is not the first reformer who, while couching his lance against a foe, believed that he might satisfy honour by slightly wounding him; but found his enemy so worthy of death that he did not hesitate to inflict it. The great majority of prohibitionists entered upon their warfare against the colossal wrong of the drink system, in the belief that it could be controlled. Stern experience of its operations undeceived them, and they are now earnestly striving for its overthrow. Stern history points her finger at 480 Acts of Parliament which were designed to regulate the operation and restrict the area of the traffic mischief, but all these are branded with failure. The Act we strive for, puts it into the power of the ratepayers affected by the liquor traffic to suppress that traffic, and when our work is done and the Act finds a place on the Statute book, the work of the ratepayers will begin. They, and they alone, apply the suppression, and the question may well be asked, where then can be the coercion. Oh, says the advocate, the *Scotsman*, you coerce the minority. To that we have the conclusive reply, The minority seems under our constitution to be only when in the wrong, coerced. We were the minority once, and we were coerced. We had to pay rates, to endure annoyance, to see our sons and daughters and our bosom friends betrayed and ruined. We appealed to the people for justice, for redress, and all the wicked sophistry of the *Scotsman*, notwithstanding our appeal, appears to be so just, so fair, that a scion of the noble family of Argyll sympathises so far with us as to preside over our annual meeting, and 42 of his Parliamentary colleagues vote against the drink system, and its great aider and abettor, the *Scotsman*. Let him continue to wallow in his venom, we will continue to move proudly onward with the growing multitude that will soon be armed with sufficient legal power to lay the great national wrong against which, with so many good citizens we stand arrayed, for ever in the dust.

We are glad to learn that the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are making their arrangements for carrying out with vigour the instructions of the recent Annual

Business Meeting. They are to have conferences with the friends in as many places as they can reach. We drop the hint that friends might cordially invite them to hold a conference in their town or city. There is Dumfries, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Perth, Stirling, Forfar, Cupar, Falkirk, and Hamilton, where a conference would be of mutual benefit to Executive and friends. When we also have to state that a bill, "with all the latest improvements," is under adjustment and consideration, we have done enough to stimulate the desire of our friends for a visit. The Executive are about to pay a visit to Lord Roseberry, the Under Secretary of State for Scotland, and what will gratify all our friends, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., is to visit Edinburgh early in December. A little flattering attention to one deep in the secrets of the Executive has enabled us to place this information before our readers. We could really have gained much more from the same obliging source, but we think that what we have given will convince our readers that, quietly but vigorously, like some irresistible stream, the Executive is prosecuting the agitation, and all will be abundantly satisfied if we have placed before them what will stimulate them to a closer and more energetic co-operation with the Executive during the Parliamentary recess.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.

The anniversary meetings of this grand political organisation took place last month at Manchester, and were a great success. The first meeting was the breakfast one in the area of the Free Trade Hall, and so many assembled that breakfast was taken in relays, a number being served giving way to others. It was a sight as striking as it is rare to see such an immense party so early in the morning assembling to fortify themselves for the deliberations and demonstrations of the day. Mr. John Nisbet, of Edinburgh, was chosen the Scotch representative on the Business Meeting Committee, on the ground that he was a constituent of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.

The Council meeting assembled at ten o'clock in the Friends' Meeting House. Long before that time more than a thousand persons thronged the building. Friends met with friends. Eager were the enquiries about the working of each other's district, and hearty the congratulations showered in return for good news of progress made. Cheer after cheer resounded as some prominent leader of the movement appeared. When Mr. Barker, the indefatigable secretary, entered, followed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., Mr. B. Whitworth, M.P., Mr. T. Burt, M.P., and other friends, the audience cheered, waved their hats, handkerchiefs, and sticks, and shouted their welcome till the welkin rang. After the excitement was over the President gave a most able and vivid statement of the objects and aims of the agitation. Mr. Samuel Pope, Q.C., read a portion of the annual report. As usual, this is quite a formidable document, the most valuable of all issued by the Alliance year by year. There are many appreciative references to Scotland in its pages, notably on Sunday closing, bye-elections, the voting in favour of the Local Option Resolution, and specially the following:—"The movement in Scotland continues to advance in the most marked and satisfactory manner. The overwhelming Scotch vote in 1880 and again in 1881 in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution has

demonstrated the strength of public opinion on the question of Local Option, and has given urgency to the demand for a separate measure for Scotland, which has always led the van in temperance legislation. At the recent annual meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which were the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in connection with the movement in Scotland, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who was present, reiterated his willingness to see a Scotch bill introduced, and suggested the chairman, Lord Colin Campbell, M.P. for Argyllshire, as an eligible member to introduce it. The noble lord promptly replied that if after consultation with some other Scotch members the way appeared to be clear, he would have great pleasure in responding to the appeal, and in introducing a measure. The announcement was received with unbounded satisfaction, and it only remains for the friends in Scotland vigorously to follow up the success they have achieved so that a Scotch Local Option Bill may be brought forward next session of Parliament." The report showed that the aggregate from all sources, inclusive of last year's balance, was £18,907, leaving a balance to carry forward of £1,702, almost the same balance as last year. A series of ten resolutions was submitted to the council by friends from various parts of the kingdom, in speeches displaying a wide range of speaking ability, the audience marking with their vociferous approval all the thorough-going utterances, while what was up to the high level of the prohibitory platform received the stamp of their signal approbation, references to restriction and regulation scarcely awakened even the echo of a response. The proceedings did not strike us as so stirring and striking as usual, and our impression is that the Alliance should at once regain the position she held with the Permissive Bill. Far distant as it seemed, and slow as was the progress made, yet the warmth, the fire, the eager glow of the proceedings, made an atmosphere for the ardent spirits that sent them to work with an energy and fire amidst which the foundations of the agitation were laid with an adamant stability, and work done which requires no undoing.

We reproduce the substance of Mr. Nisbet's speech, in submitting the fifth resolution calling upon the Government to redeem its promise to deal with the liquor traffic. He said:—I wish to call your attention to the fact of our condition in Scotland. We have three great agitations at the present moment before our population. I don't wish to say a word on any of the first two, the Land Question and the Disestablishment of the Church, for I am not here to deal with them, but I want to tell you how differently these two respective questions stand as compared with our own question. The meetings which are held all over the country in connection with these meetings are nothing compared with the meetings which we have with us in this great issue. We never hear of special trains being required to bring hearers to any of the meetings for these specific purposes, but when the great exponent of our question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, comes down to Scotland, it is not uncommon for it to be necessary to run special trains that the friends of the movement may hear his voice and listen to the inspiration which he gives them. It will be proof sufficient of what I have said to remind you that in Scotland, out of the gross vote given upon our question when the resolution was moved upon the last occasion by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, there were 43 to 5, or 8 to 1, of the Scotch members in favour of Local Option. (Applause.) This is a very flattering condition of things in Scotland, and it has instigated us to do as much as we can to make the others either to come round to our way of thinking, or we will have to try if we can't put somebody in their places who will think otherwise. Before I sit down I would like to refer to the last portion of the resolution. It refers to the promise which was made by the Prime Minister, that at the earliest possible date a measure would be introduced dealing with the licensing laws, and embodying the principle for which the hon. gentleman in the chair has contended. I am afraid that some of my friends here may say that we have not educated Mr. Gladstone up to the mark, but I hope that after we have five

years past us we will have educated him up to the mark. (Cheers.) I had something to do in calling the first, ay, and the second, expression of opinion which he gave by repeated communication with him, and very much satisfied we were with these declarations. We had some little reason to be dissatisfied with the action that succeeded, but I have hope of the great statesman and that his heart is right, and before long he will take the same position on our question as he has taken with the Welsh Sunday closing. What gives us hope is this, that if Mr. Gladstone has enunciated one principle more than another it is this, that whatever great movement likely to benefit the people was afoot, all that was necessary was that the Government of the day should be convinced that the people wanted it, and no Government could withstand the voice of the people, but in time would have to give way. I call upon the friends upon this side of the border to imitate the example we are setting them. Put your shoulders to the wheel and give us a majority in England, and I am satisfied that you will not find Scotland and Wales lagging behind. We have ten members to get from you if a redistribution of seats comes, and if we get that there will be ten more of our men. (Hear, hear.) I have every hope that Mr. Gladstone, when he knows the great heart of the nation throbbing with impatience to read of his course, will respond to the righteous call of the people and of God. (Applause.)

The annual public meeting took place in the Free Trade Hall in the evening. The hour was fixed at seven; by half-past five, however, the platform was filling fast, and the portion at the back of the area under the gallery free to the public, was already full. To all the other portions, area and galleries, admission was by paid ticket. The overflow meeting took place in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall adjoining, which was crowded. The speakers included eight members of Parliament, all abstainers—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Messrs. H. Mason, M.P.; W. S. Cain, M.P.; T. Burt, M.P.; W. S. Allen, M.P.; J. N. Richardson, M.P.; B. Whitworth, M.P., and the chairman, Mr. E. Stafford Howard, M.P., together with Sir William Collins, Bart., and other gentlemen. All spoke most fervently if not always thoroughly on the resolutions which they had in charge. The speech of Sir Wilfrid was quite a model speech and our advocates should make it the framework of their winter addresses.

There was quite manifest at these meetings an amount of enlightened public opinion at which all true friends of the movement must heartily and prayerfully rejoice; but it is waiting, it is in reserve, it is not yet concentrated, and until there is a Bill either by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., or by the Government, the grand Alliance will not show that great ebullition of public sentiment so signally as we would like to see. When one thinks of all that it has done—how it has exposed the big traffic, expounded the principles of prohibition, and built on them an irresistible demand for a law enabling the people to be their own protectors against the odious inroads of the liquor traffic, one has the most cogent reason for wishing from the bottom of his heart prosperity and speedy success to the national and patriotic aims of the "grand" Alliance.

The Burton brewers have been forced by the pressure of competition to supply private parties with beer at wholesale prices. We trust that ere long, by the pressure of public opinion backed by law, they will be compelled to cease supplying either private people or public traders with their baneful wares.

BERWICK ELECTION.—Mr. Jerningham, the Liberal, said at a meeting of the electors that his views on temperance had known no change. He gave Sunday closing his firmest adhesion, believing that most licensed victuallers desired it themselves, and that the measure will do good without prejudicing any interest whatever. Local option was coming to the fore. He would support any Government which would embody that principle. (Cheers.)

Messrs. Waterton & Sons (Limited), have prohibited the introduction of any kind of intoxicating liquors into their establishment, but have arranged for non-intoxicants being obtained for those of their staff who desire to purchase them.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION—INTERVIEW WITH MR. FRASER-MACKINTOSH, M.P.—Mr. William Blackwood of the Permissive Bill Association, and Mr. John Paton of the United Kingdom Alliance, with leading men of the temperance movement in Inverness, were introduced on Saturday by Councillor Elliot to Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P. for the burghs. Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh votes with Sir Wilfrid Lawson for Permissive prohibition, and it was to thank him that the deputation was introduced. Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh expressed his pleasure at being approached by the representatives of his temperance constituents, and stated that his support of Sir Wilfrid and the Permissive Bill Association would be continued. It is encouraging to know that our Scottish Parliamentary representatives are at one in this important matter.—*Inverness Advertiser*.

We have pleasure in giving insertion to the following:—Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society. Instituted 1836. President—Baillie Cranston. To the Citizen Electors of Edinburgh. The time has again come round for the discharge of a grave and responsible duty—the exercise of the municipal franchise. It is incumbent on us as a professedly Christian people that we promote to civic appointments those only who entertain healthy views on the social problems of the day—the most important of all such problems pressing for solution being that of the drink traffic. That the citizens may form an intelligent opinion on what so greatly affects alike the material prosperity and the morality of our people, the following statement of facts is supplied on data which cannot be gainsaid:—Population of Edinburgh—say 230,000; deduct two-fifths as under 16 years, 92,000, also one-tenth as abstainers, 13,000—total, 105,800: leaving a non-abstaining population, 'liable to be tempted to drink,' of—say 124,000. The police convictions for 1879 are as follows:—Drunk and incapable, 2,758; allow to cover repetitions, 1,379—total, 1,379, that is 1 in 90 of non-abstaining population. Drunk when apprehended for breaches of the peace, &c., 4,556; allow to cover repetitions, 2,778—total, 1,778, that is 1 in 54½ of non-abstaining population. Unite the two sections of police-convicted drunkards, and we have 7,315; allow to cover repetitions 3,657—total 3,658, that is 1 in 34 of non-abstaining population. Adult paupers 3,198; less as the sober poor 1,066—total, 2,132, that is 1 in 58 of non-abstaining population. Uniting the police convictions and the bibulous paupers gives a total of 5,789, equal to 1 in 21½ of non-abstaining population. The amount of misery—personal and relative—involved in these figures cannot be reckoned. They do not exhaust the evil. It consists with the knowledge of every elector that there are numerous cases of evil fruit from the drink traffic which never find a record in police books or their full fruition in a poorhouse. The accumulated evils are incalculable. Note that—as showing how accidents occur, having their source in drink—of the police convictions, 117 were of lorrymen, cabdrivers, &c., incapable of taking charge of their horses; and 82 were of mothers incapable of taking care of infants! The electors are invited to ponder earnestly this state of matters, and then let conscience say what is individual duty in relation thereto.

ELGIN—MR. PATON'S LECTURE.—On Wednesday evening, 12th ult., this veteran advocate of the temperance cause addressed a meeting in the Congregational Chapel, South Street, Elgin, his subject being "Wealth and Waste, or a Picture for *Punch*." Baillie Orr occupied the chair, and, after calling upon the Rev. Mr. Swan to engage in prayer, he introduced the lecturer as a very old friend of his, who had borne the brunt of the temperance battle from almost the very first. He promised the audience a rare treat. Mr. Paton then rose and commenced a concise review of our country's history, especially of the last fifty years,

which came within his own personal experience, showing the vast improvement in the material well-being of the nation during that period. He took such a wide circuit and drew such a masterly survey, that it did not look like a temperance lecture at all, but rather one by a great political economist, so replete was it with reference to Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" and other authorities. The point of the argument came at last, however, with tenfold force. He showed that with Adam Smith's principles and James Watt's power the nation had worked up nature for the production of wealth, but that the nation, by its own act, was depriving itself of the enjoyment of its resources. The often-used phrase "over-production" came in for a most merciless scathing. He would substitute for it "under-consumption," and showed that no fewer than seven millions of the population were living under the mark and sliding towards pauperism—one million actually in it—who, if sober and wise, would make a large home trade in the necessaries of civilized life, and make us more independent of a precarious and capricious foreign demand. If appointed editor of *Punch* for one week—no more—he would represent John Bull misapplying his means as he has long been doing, and take his motto from Burns—"O wad some Power the giftie gie us," &c. The lecture lasted one hour and twenty minutes, and was sparkling with humour all through. Though a master of good English, Mr. Paton in a great measure prefers the broad Doric, and it has a most telling effect. Baillie Orr corroborated much of what had been said, and proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was rapturously accorded. Mr. Blackwood moved a vote of thanks to Baillie Orr for his admirable conduct in the chair, Mr. Swan pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.—*Elgin Courant*.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, from 14th August to 15th October inclusive. During that period 137 meetings were held, 55 being deputationary, and 82 ordinary. At these meetings 215 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Glasgow, Campbeltown, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Greenock, Rutherglen, Partick, Broxburn, and Parkhead, and addressed 41 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Stonehaven, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Paisley, Perth, Keith, Dufftown, Grantown, Insh, Portsoy, Inverurie, Laurencekirk, Inverness, Nairn, and Forres, and addressed 41 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Ceres, Nenthorn, Campbeltown, Edinburgh, Aytoun, Galashiels, Eyemouth, Chirnside, Addiewell, West Calder, Loanhead, Pathhead, Musselburgh, Fisherrow, Peebles, Kirkcaldy, Blantyre, and Glasgow, and addressed 34 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has visited Partick, Kilsyth, Govan, Glasgow, Ardrossan, Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Keith, and Dufftown, and addressed 20 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Bonhill, Glasgow, Kilsyth, and Coatbridge, and addressed 12 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has addressed 11 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. M. Edwards has addressed 5 meetings in Aberdeen.

Ex-Baillie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 3 meetings in Kilsyth and Glasgow.

John Wilson, Esq., J.P., has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has addressed 3 meetings in Greenock, Glasgow, and Port-Glasgow.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Rev. R. J. Lynd, B.A., has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. Wm. Noble has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Leith.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh and Leith.

Mrs. Professor Kirk has addressed a meeting in Glasgow.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Peter M'Lagan, Esq., M.P., Broxburn; Rev. Drs. Adamson, Glasgow, and Nicholson, Glasgow; Revs. S. Harding, Glasgow; and R. Wallace, Glasgow; Provost M'Pherson, Glasgow; Ex-Provost Dick, Glasgow; Bailie Kennedy, Glasgow; Ex-Bailies Lewis, Carluke; Maxwell, Glasgow; and Burt, Glasgow; Councillor Russell, Glasgow; Captain Brochie, Glasgow; Dr. M'Calloch, Glasgow; Messrs. J. Bone, Linlithgow; W. Stockbridge, Glasgow; A. Jamieson, Blantyre; R. M'Callum, Glasgow; J. Lindsay, Glasgow; J. Jamieson, Glasgow; J. Williams, Glasgow; J. Winning, Glasgow; A. Shanks, Glasgow; T. Robinson, Glasgow; Eneas Mackay, Glasgow; D. Ferguson, Glasgow; J. Scott, Glasgow; Campbell, Glasgow; M. Hilson, Glasgow; John Stewart, Glasgow; and N. Buie, Glasgow.

PUBLIC PRESS.

"One morning recently, when on duty at the Post-office, Gravesend, a coal carter came with a load of coals. After he had delivered them in the usual way the coal-ticket was handed in for signature. It being very early, I told him I had no cash then out of which to give him the accustomed gratuity. I asked him to please call again, and at the same time I offered him his choice of either doing so or accepting a few postage stamps instead of money. 'The stamps are no good to me,' he rejoined, 'they won't buy me any beer, master.' 'But, my good friend, why should you not have a savings bank account with her Majesty?' I replied, handing him at the same time a blank Post-office Savings bank form. It was a new thought, and a happy one to the man; and with a glad look he took the stamps and form from me. I am pleased to inform you that this coal-carter has now an account opened in his name, and every night for the past sixteen weeks after work is done, he might be seen coming to the Post-office to purchase stamps out of his so-called 'beer-money,' and steadily adding to the sum standing to his credit in the bank. I think this would be a profitable plan for others to adopt, as, no doubt, a great sum is daily wasted in this way as 'beer-money,' instead of being turned into capital by being regularly invested in the Post-office Savings-bank." J. H. B.

A man of the name of Buckley went to the European Hotel in Sydney; he had with him a considerable sum of money, and in about three weeks he died of alcoholic poisoning. At the magisterial inquiry, the publican acknowledged that he had supplied Buckley with the incredible number of 2,080 drinks, or nearly three drinks every hour, night and day, for three weeks. Now, sir, that poor man is dead, and there is not the least doubt that he has been murdered. The Government of the day support by their action the wholesale slaughter of her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects; therefore I hold that the time has arrived when an enlightened and intelligent public should raise their voices high towards the utter destruction of the Publicans' Licensing Act. And in seeking to create public opinion that will render trading in intoxicating liquors a crime, we are endeavouring to introduce no novelty in legislation. From the very first this traffic has been a vagabond always in the hands of the police. From the very first our legislators have aimed at protecting the community from its effects. Scarcely an Act of Parliament has been passed which had reference to the sale of liquor without setting forth in the preamble the dangers to which strong drink exposes us. The ticket-of-leave system, then, as applied to the trade, has proved a downright failure—fornearance being exhausted and reformation hopeless—and we now demand

not merely the total abolition of the licensing laws, nor limitation and restriction merely, but that the traffic in liquor as a beverage be entirely prohibited.—*Mr. J. Deans in Queensland (Australian) Times.*

NORTH-WEST CANADA.—On the farther side of a beautiful bay lay the white barracks of the mounted police; on its nearer shore we encountered a small hamlet, embracing a carpenter's shop and a couple of hotels. One of the latter claimed to be the "Temperance House," but it was hard to see that any credit could be accorded on that score in a country where alcoholic liquor is tabooed, and not even the passing traveller allowed to carry the means of rectifying stagnant prairie water, without having previously armed himself with a permit. The restriction in question, originally enacted by the Hudson Bay Company in the interest of the Indians of the north-west, has been continued under the Government regime, and seems to be very strictly enforced by the mounted police, who have apparently got the country into such good order that very little else is left for them to do. We had not been long at Choral Lake when a keen-scented officer smelt out a case of brandy which had been quietly joggling along in the mail waggon for the comfort of some thirsty soul farther west. The relative permit was demanded, and none being forthcoming, the officer forthwith stove in the case, and having duly tested the character of the liquor remorselessly consigned it to the lake. I was told that a member of the Dominion legislature, out here on an excursion, was pounced upon at the same spot and ruthlessly reduced to a condition of compulsory abstinence. Some people take the trouble to obtain permits and so continue to enjoy with official sanction what others no doubt feel it rather hard to be deprived of, but do not care to have it upon such terms. As the general result of the system liquor is unquestionably excluded from the north-west to an extent which must be highly gratifying to prohibitionists, though it must not be supposed that over-indulgence in the forbidden luxury is altogether unknown. Nothing stronger than tea is to be had at any hotel or roadside stopping-place, and the beverage appears as an indispensable part of every meal. In the absence of beer and spirits many people who were accustomed to the moderate use of these articles would really seem to have left off wishing or thinking of them, and I have been repeatedly told by men who did not profess to be abstainers, that, owing to the pure and exhilarating quality of the Canadian air, they never felt out here the same necessity for stimulants as they did in the old country. On the other hand, the conditions described are clearly favourable to the unfortunate class who cannot be within reach of liquors without indulging to excess. A good many such persons are said to come here in order to escape their besetting vice, and to have found it an easy matter as compared to what it might have proved elsewhere to fall into habits of confirmed sobriety.—*The Scotsman*, 21st Sept.

HOW TO SUCCEED.—The Hon. H. G. Eastman, of Pongkeepsie, gave this terse advice to the students of Eastman's Business College:—"My students, you are the architects of your own fortunes. Rely on your own strength of body and soul. Select some speciality for your life's work, and adhere to Paul's precept: 'This one thing I do.' Let your star be industry, self-reliance, faith, and honesty, and inscribe on your banner, 'Luck is a fool, Pluck is a hero.' Earnest effort in one direction is the surest road to wealth and high position. Don't take too much advice. Keep at the helm, steer your own ship, and remember that the great art of commanding is to take upon yourself the largest share of the work. Don't practise too much humility. Think well of yourself. Strike out. Assume your position. It is the jostlings and joltings of life that bring great men to the surface. Put potatoes in a cart over a rough road, and the small potatoes go to the bottom. Turn a raft of logs down a mill-race, and the large logs come on top. Rise above the envious and jealous. Fire above the mark you intend to hit. Energy, invincible determination, with a right motive, are the levers that move the world. Don't drink. Don't

chew. Don't smoke. Don't swear. Don't deceive. Don't read novels. Be in earnest. Be self-reliant. Be generous. There are two sides to every balance, and favours thrown in one side of the scales are sure to be reciprocated in the other. Be civil. Be a gentleman. It is a foolish man who does not understand that molasses will catch more flies than vinegar. Read the papers; they are the great educators of the people. Advertise your business. Keep your own counsels, and superintend your own business. Make money and do good with it. Love God and your fellowmen. Love truth and virtue. Love your country and obey its laws."

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL ASSOCIATION—DEPUTATION TO LORD ROSEBERRY.—On 28th ult. a deputation from the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, comprising gentlemen from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and the leading towns in Scotland, had an interview with Lord Roseberry, in the Lord Advocate's Chambers, Parliament Square. There was a large and influential meeting. Mr. John Wilson, Hillhead House, introduced the business of the deputation, and he was supported in urging the principles of the Association upon the attention of the Government by Rev. Dr. Adamson, Bailie Torrens, Glasgow, and ex-Provost Dick, Kinning Park. It was forcibly pointed out to his lordship that nothing would satisfy the claims of temperance and social reformers in Scotland but the conferring of power upon the ratepayers to entirely veto the liquor traffic in their respective localities. The speakers gave his lordship statistics as to the temperance electoral power of the country, and expressed the hope that the Government would take early steps to legislate in the direction indicated by the deputation. His lordship expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the deputation had stated their case, and intimated that he would favourably represent their views to the Government.—*Daily Review.*

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1881-82.

President—TREASURER HAMILTON, J.P., Glasgow.

Vice-Presidents—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart, M.P., Brayton; James Stewart, Esq., M.P., Garrocks; Councillor Hope, Edinburgh; John Davie, Esq., Dunfermline; J. M'Kenzie, Esq., M.D., Inverness; Ex-Provost Ferguson, Partick; Provost Rae, Wick; Ex-Provost Taylor, Forres; J. D. Bryce, Esq., J.P. Glasgow; J. Morton, Esq., J.P., Greenock; J. Robertson, Esq., J.P., Lauchope; Dr. Robertson, J.P., Renfrew; J. Miller, Esq., J.P., Rothesay; J. Cowan, Esq., J.P., Beeslack; J. Smith, Esq., J.P., Peterhead; D. M. Home, Esq., J.P., Paxton House; Jas. Guthrie, Esq., J.P., Brechin; Councillor Moncur, Dundee; John Jamieson, Esq., Perth; Rev. Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D.D., Edinburgh; Rev. Prof. Kirk, Edinburgh; Rev. Prof. Hunter, Leith; Rev. Dr. Longmuir, Aberdeen; Rev. A. A. Bonar, D.D., Glasgow; Rev. R. M'Corkle, St. Ninians; Rev. W. Ross, Rothesay; Rev. A. Davidson, Greenock; Rev. D. Brochie, Greenock; Rev. A. Inglis, Dundee; Rev. Hector Hall, Glasgow; Rev. J. Thomson, Hawick; Rev. Wm. Clark, Barrhead; Rev. J. Stewart, Peterhead; Rev. James Ronald, Annan; Rev. John Tait, Newport; Rev. James Mather, Langbank; Rev. A. Affleck, Auchtermuchty; Rev. R. I. Gray, Galston; Rev. W. Halliday, Glasgow; Rev. J. C. Russell, Campbelltown; Rev. John Colvin, Creetown; Wm. Govan, Esq., Glasgow; Bailie Lambertson, Glasgow; G. Tait, Esq., Edinburgh; James Horn, Esq., Lanark; John Buchanan, Esq., Glasgow; J. Neilson, Esq., Glasgow; Adam Dryden, Esq., Edinburgh; Dr. Bowie, Edinburgh; E. Howat, Esq., Dundee; W. Scrymgeour, Esq., Dundee; Wm. Clark, Esq., Aberdeen; Councillor Rodger, Dumfries; Dr. J. Gilchrist, Dumfries; Dr. J.

M. M'Culloch, Dumfries; Major Malcolm, Burnfoot; R. Patrick, Esq., Barrhead; Wm. Robertson, Esq., Paisley; Robert Hay, Esq., Perth; P. Campbell, Esq., Perth; Bailie Sime, Perth; Duncan Smith, Esq., Glasgow; Ex-Bailie Kennedy, Dumfries; Robt. Roy, Esq., Dumfries; James Wood, Esq., Galashiels; Andrew Jack, Esq., Kilmarnock; A. D. Stewart, Esq., Kilmarnock; James Miller, Esq., Shaw, Monkton; Walter Scott, Esq., Langholm; J. Y. Simpson, Esq., Largs; D. Stenhouse, Esq., Cupar-Fife; John Hogarth, Esq., Kirkcaldy; Robert Bird, Esq., Paisley; Lockhart Dobie, Esq., Rothesay; George Lewis, Esq., Selkirk; J. Shanks, Esq., Bridge-of-Weir; Bailie Tindall, Fraserburgh; W. Menzies, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh; James Jamieson, Esq., Ayr; Provost Hay, Esq., Inverkeithing; John Wilson, Esq., J.P., Hillhead; A. S. Cook, Esq., Aberdeen; William Craig, Esq., Barrhead; J. P. Smith, Esq., Dundee; Councillor Anderson, Elgin; William Fraser, Esq., Forres; Alex. Munro, Esq., M.D., Forres; J. Borthwick, Esq., Hawick; Provost Young, Jedburgh; Provost M'Pherson, Grange-mouth; G. Bruce, Esq., Dunse; John Adair, Esq., Edinburgh; John Telfor, Esq., Portobello; Ex-Bailie Ross, Inverkeithing; Wm. Davidson, Esq., Aberdeen; Wm. Briggs, Esq., Arbroath; William Howat, Esq., Stirling; James Paton, Esq., Tillicoultry; James Drysdale, Esq., Bridge-of-Allan; Wm. Rutherford, Esq., Forfar; Thomas Hope, Esq., J.P., Bo'ness; James Lawson, Esq., J.P., Huntly; Bailie Kennedy, Moffat; Rev. Alex. Stewart, D.D., Heathcote; Rev. Thomas Dickson, Dundee; Wm. Whitelaw, Esq., M.D., F.F.P.S.G.

Honorary Directors—Mr. James Murray, Glasgow; Mr. James Russel, Douglas; Mr. G. Arthur, Forfar; Mr. J. R. M'Ausland, Bonhill; Mr. John Curle, Jedburgh; Mr. A. P. Brown, Kilmarnock; Mr. W. M'Ewen, Kirkcudbright; Mr. A. K. Williamson, Edinburgh; Ex-Bailie W. Dougal, Linlithgow; Ex-Bailie Heron, Annan; Mr. S. Cavan, Kirkcudbright; Mr. A. Jardine, Bonhill; Mr. A. M'Millan, Milngavie; Mr. D. G. Simpson, Kilwinning; Mr. John Cook, Crieff; Mr. J. R. Russell, Haystone, Peebles; Mr. A. Macdougall, Glasgow; Mr. R. Adams, Aberdeen; Mr. A. Byers, Langholm; Ex-Councillor Paul, Falkirk; Mr. W. Crombie, Avonbridge; Mr. T. Fairgrieve, Galashiels; Mr. Walter Mercer, Stow; Mr. D. Mathewson, Craik; Mr. Gilbert Archer, Leith; Mr. Chas. Newall, Locharbriggs; Mr. Alex. Glen, Eyemouth; Mr. Wm. Milne, Edinburgh; Mr. George Mitchell, Campbelltown; Mr. Peter Esson, Dunfermline; Mr. John Macfarlane, Stirling; Mr. William Glass, Grantown; Councillor Elliot, Inverness; Mr. John Macdonald, Inverness; Mr. J. C. Thomson, Stonehaven; Mr. William Smith, Balzeordie; Mr. Alex. Ogilvie, Dingwall; Mr. Joseph Morris, Broxburn; Mr. D. Christie, Ladybank; Mr. William Scott, Lesmahagow; Rev. E. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy.

That Mr. Wallace Allan, Ayr, be an Honorary Director of the Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—*City Members*:—Thomas Dick, J. N. M'Allister, J. Colquhoun, George Gray, Wm. Stewart, R. M'Callum, T. L. Selkirk, R. C. Murray, and James Torrens; Peter Ferguson, A. Husband, J. L. Selkirk, J. Forrester, Wm. Smith, and Hugh Chalmers. *Country Members*:—Wm. Hart, Kilsyth; J. Nisbet, Edinburgh; John Steel, Edinburgh; J. Winning, Paisley; John Lang, Greenock; J. Howeson, Uddingstone; Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh; John Williams, Wishaw; and James Osborne, Mearns.

Chairman of Executive, . . . EX-BAILIE TORRENS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of Executive, EX-PROVOST DICK.

Treasurer, . . . WILLIAM SMITH.

Honorary Secretary, . . . BAILIE SELKIRK, J.P.

Secretary, . . . ROBERT MACKAY.

Bankers, . . . UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Organ of the Association—*The Social Reformer*,
Monthly, One Penny.

Offices of the Association—112 BATH ST., GLASGOW.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

The Food Reform Magazine and Journal of the London Food Reform Society, published quarterly. October, 1881. Threepence. This is an excellent number, the contents varied and instructive, the "hints to beginners" and "what it costs" being specially worthy of perusal. The whole contents are eminently worthy of the society, and specially fitted to advance a purer and more economical mode of living.

Le Voyage du Chrétien, &c. Par J. Bunyan. Imprimé pour Benjamin West. Se trouve chez Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row, London. This is a cheap translation into French of the Bedford tinker's immortal allegory. It is well printed and profusely illustrated. We have only the first part, but the excellencies of the dream are remarkably well produced, and as a French text-book for students essaying the mysteries of the language of "La Belle France," we can confidently recommend it.

The Public School Series Drawing Books, first grade, freehand, No. XI. London, Daldy, Isbister & Co., 56 Ludgate Hill. Fourpence. These books are designed by a practical art teacher. We can well believe it. The copies are admirably set. By dotted lines the self-educator may, with needful care, do them all. The choice of studies is excellent and the paper of a quality to stimulate the art students to do them justice. These books deserve, and will, we believe, find a place in our best educational institutions.

Le Nouveau Testament de Notre Seigneur Jesus Christ. Traduction nouvelle d'après le texte grec par Louis Segond, Docteur en Théologie. Imprimé pour Benjamin West. Se trouve chez Elliot Stock, London, E.C. Within the compass of 126 pages, double columns, non-pareil type, we have the New Testament in French. Thirteen spirited illustrations adorn the little book. The text is not disfigured by verses but is in paragraphs. Such an arrangement is seen in all its excellence when the reader gets to the Epistles. Although in paper covers, this testament will supply a want in the library of students and self-educating youths and maidens.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—"Testimonies of Medical Men on Vaccination." "Are we a Sober People?" "Onward Reciter." "Temperance Worker." "The Lay Preacher." "The Rechabite Magazine." "The Border Counties Magazine." "Sylvester Graham's Lectures on the Science of Human Life." "Journal of Proceedings of the I.O.G.T. Grand Lodge of Scotland." "Western Temperance Herald." "Value of Alcohol in Health and Disease." "Monaco." "Thirty-sixth Report of the Aberdeen Temperance Society." "Good Cookery." "Mrs. L. D. Brown." "Vaccination." "The Drink Catechism, by J. C. M'Kenzie." "Danger Signals," by E. N. Holmes, &c., &c.,

The Abbotsford Copybooks: for the Six Standards. London: William Isbister & Co. (Limited), 56 Ludgate Hill, E., and 13 Frederick Street, Edinburgh. Twopence each. These are unquestionably the best writing copybooks we have seen. The specimen before us focuses the excellencies of them all. Repetition of elemental form is duly attended to, and the whole series is constructed to form the style of the pupil like that which Lord Palmerston so highly valued. There are several special features; first, the figures are remarkably good. The capitals are formed for formal or for business hands, a most excellent idea, and to test the pupil's progress long sentences are introduced to be written by him without a slavish following of a copy. These features must certainly commend the book to all who value the combination of beauty of form with practical utility, and rapid and satisfactory progress.

The Passion of the Drunkard for Stronk Drink. By Thos. P. M'Naught, Detective Officer, Glasgow Police. Twopence. Not since the issue of Cruickshanks' "Bottle," or the "Nemesis of Drink" by Dean Close, have we seen a more forcible exposure of the horrors attendant on drinking. Mr. M'Naught from his vocation must have ample opportunities of viewing the darker phase of humanity, and being possessed of a keen observation, he here presents the drunkard as he drifts down the rapids of intoxication to dash upon the rocks of intemperance. One's flesh creeps, and one's heart throbs with indignation when they think that in a Christian land such systemic debasement as is here so graphically described, should be legally carried on. Young men should turn to these pages and as they trace a fellow-youth's career from the elegant bar with its champagne and cigars to the narrow coffin with its loathsome and dishonoured tenant, ask themselves with a shudder if they are prepared to enter upon a similar career. We heartily recommend this tract, and hope that, as the contribution of a detective officer, it will be welcomed by a host of sympathetic readers.

The National Temperance League's Annual for 1881. Edited by Robert Ray, secretary. One Shilling, or One shilling and sixpence cloth. London, National Temperance Public Depot, 337 Strand, W.C. This is a most valuable work of reference, one that will very fitly take the place of "Tweedie's" Year Book. The biography and the thirty-two articles which make up the book deserve a very large meed of praise. To our liking the articles by Rev. D. Burns and Mr. W. Hoyle and the other statistical portions of the book are the most useful. The article by Mr. W. R. Selway, M.B.W., would have been perfect if he had not been, as regards legislation on the drink question, so "ready to halt." He pleads the hardship of having to pay for the consequences of intemperance and not sharing in its profits, but why should there be consequences at all? Why not veto the traffic altogether? Temperance men should not suggest compromises, but should always insist that no liquors should be sold on any pretence, and the people educated to feel with them would soon render the issue of licenses impossible. These deductions from its value, notwithstanding the book, is one of the handy means of reference which should not be absent from the desk of the temperance advocate. A better "coach" we do not know.

The Smoker's Guide, Philosopher, and Friend. Hardwicke & Bogue, London: 92 Piccadilly. One Shilling. Professes to tell the reader "what to smoke, what to smoke with, and the whole 'What's what' of tobacco, historical, botanical, manufactural, anecdotal, social, medical, &c." The design of the book is, as has been remarked by a reviewer, "not to set before youth an estimate of the advantages and disadvantages of using tobacco. It is rather an attempt to carry by storm the position that tobacco is one of the prime blessings bestowed on the human race." The literary merits of the book are certainly small, and the language is often unwarrantably strong, at times even profane. The arguments used, moreover, are in many cases weak and illogical, and some of the statements made are, to say the least, open to question. A few extracts will suffice to show what nonsense this book contains, and how little likely its author is to prove a true guide to the many smokers who are possibly only less blinded by prejudice and the fascinating power of the weed than himself:—"The invention of smoking is one of the most remarkable events in the history of mankind. It seems to be more or less connected with man's religious instincts. Smoke, fume, or perfume of some sort, from the earliest times was an emblem of divine satisfaction." The author considers the man blessed "who first discovered in this providential herb the means of sleeping with our eyes open," and calls it a "sacred herb," and

"The daintiest dish of a delicious feast,
By taking which man differs from a beast."

"Just as he does by getting drunk!" he might have added. The "special function of tobacco is described

as "the intellectual alleviation of the excited and the weary." The chapter on tobacco in the religious point of view contains some absurd sentences, *e.g.*, "If he who smokes *dines*, it is also certain that he who smokes *thinks*, and equally certain that who thinks must become a good Christian sooner or later!" How could any sensible, unprejudiced person be expected to trust themselves to the guidance of one who holds that "tobacco came upon civilised man as a 'conquering hero;' that it conquers pestilence, kills time, is the 'solace of the poor insane in their dismal affliction,' 'is good for the wits and makes us moralise;' is 'a moral, material, and governmental or financial benefactor,' 'a spiritual power,' 'a completion, as it were, of our corporal and mental state.'" The concluding remarks are addressed to the young; and, as coming from a warm advocate of smoking, are, to say the least, suggestive:—"To us few sights are more painful than mere boys indulging in the pipe or cigar. How these wretched little miscreants must poison themselves to acquire the 'manly' habit, is sufficiently obvious; but they should know that they are playing with dangerous edged tools." "Tobacco is not required by the young, whose brain will develop itself by its own natural force in due time, and in a normal manner." "A great many boys, however, take to the practice through human apishness—that is, in order to ape their elders and appear 'manly;' indeed, there is no telling how many of our 'young rascals' are not already masters of the art." "The Smoker's Guide" entitles himself also his "Friend;" but the above extracts show that he has befriended him truly in a way which he little intended, by strengthening the hands of those—his real well-wishers—who seek to induce him to give up a practice which injures body, mind, and soul. J. F. M.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

On the day preceding the Recent Royal review of Volunteers, the "place of tombs" called Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh, received the mortal part of Mr. John Slater, stonecutter, Lerwick. His health having failed some months ago, he went south in the hope of recovering it; and was several weeks at Dr. Kirk's Seamill Sanatorium, West Kilbride, where, to all appearance, he considerably improved. After leaving it he stayed at his son's house, 30 Maryfield Place, Edinburgh, and latterly seemed gradually to be gaining strength, so that he and his friends anticipated his early return home to Lerwick. On Monday, 22nd August, he took a trip to Portobello without any apparently bad effect; he seemed more than usual cheerful and lively, but during the night a blood-vessel gave way and he quickly passed from the lower to the higher sphere without pain, at the age of 62. He has left a widow with five sons and five daughters, from the age of 12 years and up to man's estate, who deeply feel their loss; but, as they all apparently inherit their father's gentle, active, earnest, and intelligent disposition, and withal his antipathy to the liquor traffic, there is little fear of them doing ill for themselves. After learning his trade, and while a young man, Mr. Slater went south, and wrought in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, Falkirk, &c., and having been brought to the knowledge of saving truth by the Rev. John Kirk, Edinburgh, he very soon became an admirer of the professor, not only as to his religious opinions, but also as to his views of the temperance reformation, hence he became an ardent prohibitionist. Mr. Slater's temperance efforts resulted in the formation of a temperance society in Shapinsay. He faithfully worshipped in the Congregational Church, Lerwick, but never joined until the introduction of unfermented wine at the Communion. Always active, self-denying, and unassuming, he was most esteemed by those who knew him best, would there were more of his character and disposition to oppose the social evils which he so earnestly fought against. He was a sound prohibitionist, and a warm supporter of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD HOWAT, NEWPORT.—It is with deep sorrow that we record the decease of this gentleman on the 5th ult., of heart disease, at his residence, Albany Villa, Newport, Dundee, in the 65th year of his age. As a citizen he was intensely patriotic, as a merchant a man of the highest integrity. His patriotism took the lines of temperance reform, and few men were to be compared with him for the stability of his temperance principles, or for the constancy of his adherence to them. With him, in the present circumstances of the country, temperance was the primary essential to usefulness in society, and the vice most to be shunned by all who wished to have their conversation in heaven. In evangelistic matters Mr. Howat was fervent and devout, ardently desirous of the salvation of souls. As regards the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Mr. Howat was one of its most devoted friends, and at one time was a member of Executive. On his removal to Dundee he accepted a vice-presidency; and at a time when vigorous means were needful to secure a footing there, Mr. Howat ably assisted both by counsel and effort. He was one who admirably united the temperance reformer and the Christian. His Christianity was made practical by his temperance efforts, and these were inspired by his love of Christ, who was his chief joy.

THE LATE MRS. BADGER, HADDINGTON.—After a lingering illness this very warm friend of the movement passed away on the 18th ulto. Mr. Badger who is one of the truest and staunchest friends of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement, took the deepest interest in the fortunes of the agitation, and his lamented spouse evinced equal sympathy with its objects. At the general election none could have been more actuated by an eager desire to render all the service in their power than both were, and their house and their hospitality were at the service of the friends of the cause. Mrs. Badger does not leave behind her equal in this respect in the south-east of Scotland. We regret to state, that she has been called away from a loving husband and a large family, who are left to mourn a true helpmate and an affectionate mother. Her remains were followed on Saturday the 22nd ulto. to their last resting place by a very large attendance of mourning friends.

THE MITCHELL MEMORIAL.—On the west side of this beautiful monumental tribute erected in the Southern Necropolis, Glasgow, in memory of the late Mr. James Mitchell, the eminent advocate of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement, who died in 1862, the following inscription has been placed:—

Also,
In Memory of
ELIZABETH WALKER,
Spouse of
JAMES MITCHELL,
who died at
Invercargill, New Zealand,
30th April, 1881,
Aged 84 years.

A small sum was left over after paying for the monument, and out of this sum lodged in bank and bearing interest, the cost of the above inscription has been defrayed. The monumental stone, which is a good one, is beginning to waste, having been up for so many years, and the waste will go on rapidly if not checked. For its preservation it would require to be well polished down and receive a coat or two of raw oil. If a few of the old friends of Mr. Mitchell wish to assist the fund in meeting this expense they can kindly communicate early with the treasurer, R. Mackay, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow, who will see all that is needful done, and will duly acknowledge their kindness.

THE
Social Reformer.

DECEMBER, 1881.

FRUITS.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

CHAPTER III.

THE BREWER'S TROUBLES.

Two gentlemen were standing talking together on the kerb-stone at the corner of Castle Street, the one old and whitehaired, the other tall, and lithe, and strong, with a pleasant face and grave earnest eyes. They were Mr. Templeton, the great brewer, and James Taylor, the young lawyer.

"I don't know how it is," said the old gentleman in a tone of grieved annoyance; "I don't see what I have done that I should be so afflicted. Fred was bad enough, but it cuts to the quick to see Walter following in his footsteps—only two sons, and both of them going to the dogs as fast as possible. Can you account for it, Taylor?"

Yes; Taylor could account for it very well, but at that moment held his peace.

"I wish I had a son like you, Taylor," said the old gentleman, after a moment's pause.

"You are making your mark—so are mine in their own way," he added, with grim humour. "It is a pleasant thing, isn't it, for my girls to be afraid to go out with their brothers for fear they get drunk on the way." James Taylor looked as if he felt full of pity for the girls, and for the old man with his white hair and anxious face. "It isn't as if they had never tasted liquor of any kind or had been taught to think it a forbidden pleasure, to which they might rush whenever they were free from my control. It has never been forbidden them; one would think they would grow up careless about it, as they get of other luxuries."

"Is it wise, Mr. Templeton," said James Taylor, "Is it wise to bring up one's children in the midst of such temptation? There are very few who could withstand it."

He feared his plain words might offend, but they did not. "Fred turned upon me the other night when I was rating him, and asked me who taught him to drink if I didn't. Hot that from one's own flesh and blood, eh, Taylor?"

He spoke half jestingly, but with painful bitterness. "It was hard enough, I grant you, but there was truth in it. I am a young man, Mr. Templeton, forgive my seeming presumption if I ask, do you not feel it a duty now at least to banish drink from your house and table?"

"No, I don't," was the sharp retort; "Maria and I can't do without our wine in our old age. Why should we, but the girls, Minnie especially, are dead against it."

James Taylor remained silent, thinking of Minnie, of the cross weighing on her young shoulders, of her brave stand, her earnest endeavour to do what good she might in her own home.

"Well, I must be off," said the old gentleman; "you, a temperance reformer might speak a word in season to my lads. They need it, I assure you, as much as any of your bundles of rags at the free breakfast. Look up soon and bring Alice with you. My regards to your

mother, good day;" and without waiting an answer he nodded and was off.

James Taylor touched his hat and walked off slowly towards St. Andrew's Square. Five was pealing from the city bells; he had half an hour yet to be home in time for dinner. It was a raw afternoon, and bitterly cold, the gray lowering sky giving promise of a coming storm. The fashionable promenaders had long since quitted Princes Street, and were replaced by clerks and business men hurrying home to dinner or tea. As usual, the newspaper regiment were plying their trade briskly, but their repeated offers of "Evenin' News, sir," fell unheeded on James Taylor's ears. He was absorbed in thought, revolving a thousand plans and schemes for the lessening of the great evil which seemed to meet him on every hand. At the corner of the Square as usual, little Jennie Gibson stood shivering with her papers under her arm. She held out one timidly to James Taylor, recognizing him, and remembering that he had glanced kindly at her before. She was a shy shrinking creature, unable to cope with the bold impudence of her companions, and so was often pushed into the background. James Taylor's eye was arrested by her blue, pinched face, and he paused in front of her.

"What's your name, child?" he asked.

"Jennie Gibson, sir."

"Are you well enough? you look very ill, not fit to be out."

"No, sir, I'm no weel," she answered simply, her eyes running with tears. "But I hae to come, or—"

"Or what?"

"Mither'll lick me, sir," was the low reply.

"Are you telling the truth?"

"Ay, sir."

"You are hungry and cold, I suppose; at least, you look it."

"I'm near deid, sir; after a bit I get that I dinna feel. Ha'e a paper, sir?"

"Not to-night, come along with me."

The child drew back.

"I daurna, I maun sell them every yin the nicht, or she'll kill me, and see I've only sold twa."

"Never mind," said James Taylor, authoritatively, "I'll pay you for them, come along."

The child, trusting him implicitly, as did every one who came in contact with him, followed him obediently up the square to his own house. His ring was answered by the housemaid, a damsel the perfection of dainty neatness, who looked with extreme surprise and disgust at the master's strange companion.

"Take the child down to the kitchen, Mary," he said, half smiling at the expression on the girl's face. "Let her warm herself at the fire, and give her some tea. I'll be down by and by."

Mary gingerly obeyed, and James Taylor went upstairs to the drawing-room. Alice was there looking fair and sweet in her sweeping black velvet robe, and turned with a smile to greet her brother.

"Where's mother?" he asked.

"In her room, I think. Do you want her particularly?"

"After dinner will do," he answered, and Alice wondered what was the meaning of that odd smile lurking about the corners of his mouth.

CHAPTER IV.

THE HOMES OF THE VERY POOR.

Meanwhile Jennie Gibson was being attended to in the kitchen. Mary gave her in charge to the kitchen-maid, and retired not caring to be in company of a "dirty street brat," as she termed her, and added that "goodness only knew what the master would fetch into the house next." The kitchen-maid, though not so pretty and smart as Mary, was much kinder of heart, and did her best to make the child comfortable; she was perched on a chair on the spotless hearth, her bare feet stuck out to the blaze, and the graceful warmth pervading her chilled frame. Tea was placed before her, but she ate meagrely; she was ill, you see. Thus, the three from the dining-room found her when they came down about an hour later.

"Is that what you brought us to see?" cried Alice Taylor, blankly. "Why, James, what will you do next?"

"You poor forlorn little waif," said her mother, moving closer to the child. "Have you had any tea, my dear?"

"Yes'm," answered Jennie fearfully; these ladies were more formidable by far than the gentleman.

"Deed, mem, it's a precious wee morsel she's eatin', purr thing. It's wae fu tae see her," said the kitchen-maid.

"Is your mother living?" asked Mrs. Taylor, in her kind voice.

"Yes, mem."

"And why does she let you out when you are so ill as you look?"

"I hev tae sell the News, ye ken," said Jennie, with that odd simplicity which always characterized her. "If they're no a' selt she'll kill me the nicht, she said she wad."

"Your mother said that?" enquired Mrs. Taylor, much shocked.

"Ay."

"Is she your own mother?"

"Ay."

"I can scarcely believe such a thing possible, James," said the old lady looking at her son.

"When she's drunk mem, oh she's awfu', I'm feared, an' creep awa doon the close an' sleep on a stair, or ony gate till mornin'," said Jennie, quite calmly; "she had me by the hair o' the heid last nicht, gan to fling me ower the windy, but I yelled out, an' Mrs. Tavish came in an' stopped her"—the child broke down now, weeping piteously.

"Wull ye gie me the money for the papers, sir? for as shure as deith she'll kill me if I dinna sell them a'. I'll hae tae gang hame noo."

Alice Taylor turned her head swiftly away, her grey eyes brimming with tears, but her brother saw them.

He took out his purse, counted the papers, and gave her money for them.

"Tell me your address," he said, "and I'll come to-morrow and see if all you have been telling me is true."

"Very weel, sir, it's just Jennie Gibson, Blair's Close, High Street. I'll wait at the mooth o't till I ha'e tae gang for the papers—about three o'clock."

"Wait a moment," said Alice, and flew up stairs to her own room, returning in a minute with one of her own wraps, a soft grey woollen shawl, which with her own hands she rolled round Jennie, her brother looking on with glistening eyes. Bewildered with the warmth and the comfort and the kindness, Jennie tried to stammer out her thanks, and gathering up her money curtised to them all, and was shewn out by the maid.

"If I come up at one to-morrow, Alice," said James Taylor to his sister, "will you be ready to go with me on a visit of enquiry to the child's home?"

"Yes, I shall be ready," was the reply quietly spoken, for the girl's heart was very full.

But it happened next day that James was unusually busy in his office, and at one o'clock the boy came with a note for Alice saying the visit would need to be postponed till after dinner. The day was clear and beautiful though frostily cold, and the night was one of rare

beauty and enjoyment for pedestrians, whose warm winter garments bid defiance to the icy touch of the north wind. In her heavy serge dress and rich furs, Alice Taylor looked as if she felt delightfully comfortable, and said to her brother there had not been such a beautiful night for long. There were many not a stone's throw from her who could not have re-echoed her words. They did not see Jennie at her accustomed corner, nor did they encounter her on her way up the North Bridge; both feared that the child would be too ill for her ordinary work. The clock was ringing seven as the brother and sister made their way up the High Street, the latter shocked and saddened at sight of so many miserable human beings whose life in such a place and in such circumstances was a mystery to her. James Taylor had no need to ask where Blair's Close was, his labours among the poor took him to this district many times, and he knew every lane and court and by-way in the High Street. At the mouth of the close the usual groups of men and women were lounging. Keeping his sister's hand on his arm, he stepped up and asked to be pointed to Jennie Gibson's house.

"An' what d'ye want wi' her, nicht I speir?" enquired her mother, who was one of the group.

"Are you her mother?" asked James Taylor.

"I'll no say but what I am," she said with a leer.

"What d'ye want wi' the bairn?"

"Is she in the house?"

"Maybe ay an' maybe no," returned Jean Gibson, at which the rest laughed, and the sound made Alice shudder.

Then the pair passed through the group, down into the close, meeting a ragged urchin there. James asked him to shew them to Gibson's house. The lad stared.

"That's Jean Gibson stannin' there, but if it's Jennie ye want she's in the hoose, up there; see, the very tap garret," and pointing to a low dark doorway the urchin darted off.

"Are you afraid, Alice, you are very pale?" said her brother anxiously. She held his arm the closer, and answered bravely.

"Not when you are with me. Let us go up and see the poor child; she must be ill, surely."

Then without further pause they ventured in at the entry, and clambered as best they might up the broken stair. James struck several matches, which guided them to the top. There were half a dozen doors on the landing, and knocking at one was answered by a little thin scraggy woman, with an anxious, sincere face and dim weary eyes.

"Does Jennie Gibson live here?"

"No, sir," was the civil answer; "in there," pointing to a door at the further end.

"Is she ill, do you know?" asked Alice, encouraged by the woman's appearance and manner.

"No, mem; at least, no that I ken o'; but I heard her greetin' sair last nicht late, aboot twel' or there aboot. Her mither was drunk, my Geordie said, an' wad be threshing' her likely; she's an awfu' deil o' a wummin Jean Gibson, especially when she's fou. Jennie's no been oot wi' the papers the day; she's no able, I believe, purr cratur."

"Thank you," said Alice; "she was speaking the truth, you see, James. We will just go in."

The door the woman had indicated was shut, but the handle turned easily, and they heard a noise inside like some one rising and coming feebly across the floor. They flung open the door, and saw a bare wretched place whose gloom was only made visible by the rush light burning in a broken bottle on the window ledge. There was a straw mattress in the corner, a broken table propped up on a brick, one chair, and a child, standing wan and shrinking in the middle of the place. Seeing and recognizing the visitors she burst into tears, saying brokenly,

"I thoct it was my mither? She said she'd fling me doon the stair if I wasna up gin she cam' back."

"Are you ill, Jennie?" asked Alice pitifully.

"I canna move—see that an' that," she showed her arms and her shoulders black and blue and bruised; the result of her mother's beating the previous night. Before they could speak there was a shuffling on the

landing outside, and Jean Gibson bounced into the room, red and angry, and smelling vilely of whisky.

"What ye daein' here, I'd like tae ken, walkin' in tae a decent wummin's hoose, athoot saying by your leave?"

James Taylor's face grew dark and stern, and he pointed to the shrinking child.

"You will be punished for your cruelty and neglect of this child; it's time some one interfered."

Jean Gibson's manner changed. "I'm a puir weedy wummin, sir and mem," she whined, "anxious tae dae weel, if it wasna for the drink; my man learned me tae drink, sir an' mem, an' God kens I've tried sair to gie't ower. But naebody gies me a kind word o' help, an' sae I just drink on an' on, an' I never meddle wi' Jennie, sir an' mem, except when I'm drunk. Dear lamb, I loe' her ower weel."

"Will you give the child to me?" queried James Taylor, taking no notice of the long speech. "Let me take her away to-night, I can promise you she will be properly cared for, and you can see her sometimes if you wish."

Jennie's face brightened momentarily, but fell again when her mother spoke.

"Deed, I'll dae nae sic thing—bonnie Christians ye maun be tae tak' an' only bairn frae a puir weedy wummin. Na na, if that's a' ye want ye'll better tak' the road, sir an' mem, unless ye can gie' me a bit o' siller tae buy a bite for her an' me."

"I'll send up some things, the money would go straight to the public house, Alice," said James Taylor to his sister; "And mind, I'll keep a sharp eye on you," he added to Jean Gibson, "And if I hear of you ill treating Jennie again I shall report the case and have you punished for it."

"Very well, sir," said Jean Gibson humbly; "It's just the drink; ask the neebors, they'll tell ye."

"Good bye, Jennie," whispered Alice, bending over the child; "Whenever you are able come to our house, I want to see ye."

"I thank you ma'am," answered the child, her eyes brimming with grateful tears.

Then the pair went away. A grocer at the corner of the close was found willing to send up a basket of things to that wretched home, and was willing, too, to procure some coals, for which the gentleman paid him most liberally. The shopkeeper added his testimony to the worthlessness of Jean Gibson's character, and her constant ill-treatment of her child.

"We must talk the matter over with mother," said James Taylor, when they were walking quickly home. "She will be able to suggest some way of getting poor Jennie away from her mother. It's a pity she isn't old enough to take into the kitchen. Hannah would learn her to be of use."

Alice remained silent, and guessing something of what was passing in her mind, he said no more. When they reached the quiet street where their own home was, he felt her hand tremble on his arm, and she uplifted shining wet eyes to his face.

"I have been a wicked selfish ungrateful girl all my life, James, caring for nothing but my own ease and pleasure, forgetting how many of my fellow creatures are in abject want both for body and soul. I will not be so any longer, James, and God will help me if I ask Him, to be a better girl than I have been."

"He will help us all, my darling, if we but ask Him earnestly, and will bless, too, our feeblest strivings after good, our weakest effort in His cause. Ay, indeed, the vineyard is large and the labourers few."

Dear friends, is it not so, and is it not time we bestirred ourselves in the Master's work?

"What is the worst side of naval warfare?" asked a school teacher. "The broadside," replied a boy in the back seat. He went up to the head.

Two men were conversing about the ill-humour of their wives. "Ah!" said one, with a sorrowful expression, "mine is a Tartar!" "Well," replied the other, "mine is worse than that—mine is the *Cream of Tartar!*"

PUBLIC PRESS.

MR. BURTON ON THE PERMISSIVE BILL.

[In his political manual, lately published in an abridged form, Mr. Sydney Burton has done all parties in the State great service by presenting both sides of all the burning questions now before the country. We hope all our readers will possess themselves of this manual, and to induce them we give the Permissive Bill portion, leaving to them to get the manual itself for "Local Option," "Restriction," etc.]

Others would go further [than merely restricting the traffic], and would allow a majority of the ratepayers in any district to prohibit altogether the sale of any intoxicating liquor in that district.

The vote of the majority (two-thirds is the number proposed in the Bill) whether it sanctioned or prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors in the district, would be binding for a definite number of years (three years is the term proposed); at the end of that time the policy adopted would, by another vote, be either reversed or confirmed for a further period.

The principle of the "Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill" is upheld on the grounds:—

1. That "whereas the common sale of intoxicating liquors is a fruitful source of crime, immorality, pauperism, disease, insanity, and premature death, whereby not only the individuals who give way to drinking habits are plunged in misery, but grievous wrong is done to the persons and property of her Majesty's subjects at large, and the public rates and taxes are greatly augmented," the prohibition of sale would be an unmixed good to the pockets, bodies, and souls of the people.

2. That as the common sale does unmixed harm, no consideration of public revenue, or regard for vested interests, can justly be urged in opposition to its suppression.

3. That the public income would not suffer from the extinction of the liquor trade; the people, relieved from its thralldom, would be better able to contribute to the revenue.

4. (a) That it is impossible satisfactorily to regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages; and that unless extinguished, its evils will continue unabated. State interference (though it may have slightly improved public order) has so far been powerless to diminish intemperance. (b) That any attempt on the part of the State to regulate the trade gives it legal protection and sanction; raises up further vested interests; and depraves the popular standard of morals.

5. That the present licensing system has proved itself to be a complete failure, and gives rise to much abuse.

6. That suppression is quite compatible with legitimate free trade and rational freedom.

7. (a) That as drinking and drunkenness greatly injure the inhabitants of a district (in rates as well as otherwise), it is right and expedient to confer upon the ratepayers of cities, boroughs, parishes, and townships, the power to prohibit the common sale of intoxicating liquors. (b) That as a publican, when applying for a license, is obliged to give local public notice of his intention, it is evident that the principle of consulting local opinion in the matter of licensing has been already conceded. (c) That localities have at present large powers of dealing with local matters, and there would be nothing novel or dangerous in conceding to them one further power. (d) That in the case of a harmful trade like that of intoxicating liquors, the wishes of the many should outweigh those of the few.

8. That the drunkard himself will hail, and may fairly claim, aid in his efforts to avoid temptation.

9. That this is one of the points on which the relation of the State to its people should be that of a father to his children, not merely guarding their rights, but also keeping temptation out of their way.

10. That the State should have a sense of moral right, altogether apart from the duty of guarding its subjects from being wronged; it is therefore neither

right nor politic of the State to give legal protection and sanction to a demoralising trade.

11. That in other countries—notably in the State of Maine, U. S. A.—the absolute prohibition of the sale or possession of intoxicating liquors has worked beneficially.

The principle of the Permissive Bill is opposed on the grounds:—

1. (a) That it is in no case the province of the State to withhold men from follies, but only to guard their rights and protect their persons. And that as long as the State takes care to punish A., if by his excesses he injures B., it is doing its full duty, and should leave A. alone to ruin himself if he chooses. (b) That the State would not be really omitting to guard, but would be itself trespassing on the rights of the people, in taking a harmless indulgence from Z. because A. finds it hurtful. (c) That it saps the force and self-reliance of the people for their rulers to do for them that which, by right, they ought to do for themselves. (d) That such attempts of the State to outstep its true field of work always miss their mark and do unlooked for mischief. (e) That though liberty which leads to abuse may fairly be restrained, the abrogation of all liberty in the matter of drink would be followed by a sweeping reaction, and more harm in the end be done. (f) That it would be neither just nor expedient that the purchase and moderate use of liquor by the majority of persons should be prevented, because there are some who abuse it to their own hurt, or that of others. (g) That the adoption of the Act would be a gross infringement of the liberty of all for the sake of a few; "it is better for the people to be free than sober."

2. (a) That as the Bill would prohibit the sale only, and not the manufacture, importation, or possession of intoxicating liquors, it is unsound in principle, and likely to prove mischievous or inoperative in practice. For it is not consistent in the State to prohibit the sale of an article, while it does not prohibit its manufacture, importation, or possession; either the article is so dangerous to the people that all dealings in it should be prohibited, or it is not sufficiently dangerous for the sale to be prohibited. (b) That the Bill, while professing only to be directed against the common sale of liquor, would indirectly affect the common use of all alcoholic beverages, and so affect the manufacture, importation, and possession of them, and the Legislature, while avowedly injuring one trade, would also injuriously affect another, and an entirely different one.

3. That it would be illogical for the State to allow a trade to be tolerated in a particular district and to be prohibited in another; the trade is equally harmful or beneficial in both. If it be pernicious, the State should prohibit it altogether; prohibition or toleration should not be left to the chance vote of the ratepayers.

4. That it would be an improper delegation of the notions of Parliament to give to local bodies the absolute power of toleration or prohibition in this matter.

5. That if the principle is conceded that the ratepayers in a given district have a right to forbid a trade or calling of which they disapprove (though the trade may be perfectly lawful elsewhere), logically they could claim a right to forbid unpopular places of religious or political resort to be opened—and this could never be conceded.

6. That the bill contains no real element of representation; the popular will would only be able to act by a mass vote.

7. That the districts in which restrictions are most needed, would be those least likely to adopt them.

8. (a) That where one district in which the sale of alcoholic drinks had been prohibited adjoined another where the sale was tolerated, the act would prove inoperative; there would be no difficulty in obtaining liquor. (b) That where such escape from the letter of the Act was difficult or impossible, prohibition would lead to the illicit and secret sale and consumption of liquor.

9. That ceaseless agitation and strife would usually result from the (absolutely indispensable) provision that the adoption of the law should be from time to time subject to revision by the votes of the ratepayers.

10. That the bill, by making tenure less secure, would unsettle the trade and give it more speculative character, and thus would deter respectable, and attract disreputable men to the business.

11. (a) That all vested interests which have been allowed to grow up in a trade must be protected, and if injured by the action of the State, must receive proper compensation. (b) And that the amount of capital which has been embarked in the liquor trade is so enormous that it would be imprudent and impracticable for the State to reimburse it.

12. That after public houses had been suppressed, and compensation paid, a change in the wishes of the ratepayers might reopen fresh houses, and raise up fresh vested interests, again to be compensated if suppressed.

13. That drunkenness is gradually confining itself to the lowest classes, and will ultimately almost completely disappear; there is therefore no need for drastic measures, from which unforeseen evils may arise.

14. That the restrictions proposed would be unfair on the working man, inasmuch as the public house is his club, and he is unable, like the wealthier classes, to lay in any store of intoxicating liquor.

15. That though in certain points the present licensing system may be with advantage reformed, it works in a satisfactory manner, and deals fairly and thoroughly with the issue of licenses, while it is sufficiently subject to popular opinion and public criticism.

ON THE WING.

The Presbyterian Church of England has commissioned its Committee on Temperance to form a Church Temperance Society. There are such societies in connection with one-third of the congregations. Alas, the Commission are to form societies either wholly or partially abstinent. If the Commission will profit by experience, we shall soon hear that all the societies it has organized are of the genuine character, for nothing else will succeed in the longrun.

Mr. B. F. Dunn, a prominent citizen of Edinburgh, urges meetings of certain wards in Edinburgh for the purpose, among other business, of "taking immediate steps to frown down that growing impertinently audacious interference with electoral freedom in our municipal contests by the rowdy section of the publican class in our midst." If he thinks to repress the publican, he may just save himself any taking of steps whatever. The thing can't be done. The only means of frowning down the publican is to suppress him.

That was a true remark of Lord Aberdare's when he said Sunday closing would break up the dreadful habit of drinking which, beginning on pay-day, ran over Sunday and as far into the week as the victim's earnings were able to hold out. Still, it leaves the great question of total suppression untouched, and it leads men to believe that drink is bad because the drinker violates the fourth commandment. Limited as drinking is on Sunday in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, the liquor traffic is nearly as far as ever from being tolerable to all right-thinking men, and this idea, that Sunday closing will do no more than palliate the evil, should be kept clearly in view.

It is pleasant in one's reading to meet with a newspaper that can estimate the worth of the temperance agitator. The *Northern Echo* does so in the following manly terms:—"Those who advocate what they deem a desirable reform are thoroughly in earnest, and the earnestness of the agitation goes a long way towards attaining the end in view. The temperance agitator is worthy of all respect. He cannot be accused of seeking any personal benefit. He does not plead for himself, or for any one class, but for the nation. He is convinced that restriction upon the sale of intoxicating drinks would save many persons from poverty, disgrace, and crime, and he bases his arguments upon facts which are indisputable." The cruel manner in which temperance advocates are treated by those who

never did a tittle of what they do to benefit humanity does not say much for the Briton's love of fair play.

The minister of Prestonpans has been in the Court of Teinds, asking an addition of four chalders to his stipend. The learned counsel, in presenting the case of his reverence, dwelt upon the extent of the parish, the labour of preaching twice on Sunday, the number of summer visitors, and the fact of there being a large population, chiefly colliers, fishermen, and "those employed at public works." This last class awakened the curiosity of Lord Deas, and his desire to know what public works there were in Prestonpans. "What kind of public works?" was his question. "Breweries, my lord," was the instant reply of the learned counsel. It appeared, too, that the number of the poor was so great as to necessitate a missionary, who was partly a burden on the minister. Now, if woe was to be the portion of those who wrested the Scriptures to their own destruction, little less, we think, than moral reprobation should be his portion who wrests a good phrase like "public works" from its real utilitarian meaning, and uses it to signify a number of breweries, of which "works of darkness" would be the most fitting appellation. We are not surprised to hear of there being a large and poor population in Prestonpans. A brewery has little employment to offer, and the wages of those employed near it are sadly diminished by the powerful temptation to mis-expenditure it continually presents. A brewery is a work of darkness, but thank God, the day is drawing near when it will be a vessel doomed to social perdition by the veto Prohibitionists aim to secure.

*

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "The Irish Temperance League Journal."

SIR,—When your committee did me the honour of asking me to represent the Irish Temperance League at the meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, in Glasgow, I acceded to their request with some fear and a little hesitation. Shortly after I reached the other side, however, I discovered that what I had contemplated as a task had been converted into a pleasure, and what in the distance I had considered a burden beyond my strength, was speedily resolved into a labour of love. The indefatigable secretary of the Association, Mr. Mackay, made me feel at once at home among the leading supporters of the cause to whom I was introduced, and who gave me a cordial greeting. This, I need not say, was not on my own account, for of me personally they knew nothing, but simply and solely as your representative. I went first to the social meeting, which was mainly composed of active members of the temperance cause; and the practical wisdom, intense earnestness, and subdued enthusiasm of the several speakers, elicited my warmest admiration. The spirit of union which was exemplified in that meeting was quite refreshing. There were represented the Independent Order of Rechabites, the Edinburgh Temperance Society, the Independent Order of Good Templars, the Scottish Temperance League, the Ladies' Temperance Association, the United Kingdom Alliance, the Greenock Association, the Blue Ribbon Army, and the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, with other societies, I think, whose names I cannot recall; but all were as much of one spirit as if they had belonged to the same society and were banded together under one designation. The speaking was all good. Mr. Paton, of the United Kingdom Alliance, struck me in the few sentences he uttered as being one of the most effective speakers I have listened to. His sentences were terse and to the point. His matter was

more than ordinarily thoughtful, and his manner full of fire and nervous energy. A young gentleman who, I was told, is factor to the Earl of Zetland, spoke exceedingly well, as did also Mrs. Kirk, who is doing a great work among the Christian ladies of Scotland. The highly Christian tone of all the speeches was most striking; all seemed to feel that they were engaged in a great Christian work, and that without Christ it could not succeed, and with His spirit inspiring their efforts they seemed to dread no failure. On the whole it was a meeting to brace and draw tense the heart-strings of men lax in the temperance cause. The evening meeting in the City Hall was a sight not to be forgotten. Fully an hour before the time every seat was occupied, and standing-room ceased to be available. Another hall was filled to overflowing, and many were turned away who could gain access to neither. When the noble chairman entered, the audience rose; and rounds of applause with the waving of handkerchiefs and hats all over the hall on gallery and groundfloor, which greeted him, were repeated with still greater enthusiasm when Sir Wilfrid Lawson made his appearance. I need not attempt to characterise the several speeches. The whole nation is familiar with Sir Wilfrid Lawson's style. With a quiet and undemonstrative manner, and a voice of small compass, he rivets the attention by the strong common sense of his remarks, and by that irrepressible humour which ever and anon comes bubbling to the top, and for which the audience is constantly on the watch. Again and again they were intensely tickled, and the gravest Scotchmen among them had to relax, as something unusually good slipped, one would have thought unconsciously, from the speaker's lips. It would be a great mistake, however, to suppose that Sir Wilfrid is merely an amusing speaker. He has a thorough grasp of his subject, and discusses it most earnestly and effectively all the while that the light of his humour plays upon its surface. The meeting was prolonged till a late hour, but the enthusiasm never waned till the close. It struck me that among our friends in Scotland a far larger proportion of the magistrates and men of social position and influence are identifying themselves with Sir Wilfrid Lawson's movement than is the case with us. That movement, if I might judge from what I saw and heard, has taken fast hold on the mind of Scotland. Men who make no pretensions to be abstainers admit that the proposed legislation is required and perfectly right and practicable. I should be delighted to see the wealthy classes as well represented on the temperance platform at home as they are in Glasgow. There I saw several aged patriarchs—men venerable for their years, revered because of their lives, and respected because of their position in society—just tottering on the brink of the grave, coming forward to testify, before they died, against the great evil of the day. It is very probable that Scotland will secure a Permissive Bill next session. Only five of her members voted against Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolutions, and Lord Colin Campbell at the close of the meeting expressed his readiness to put his name on the back of a Bill for Scotland alone, if that should be thought the most advisable course. Several of the speakers, myself among the number, had to speak to the meeting in the smaller hall as well as the monster meeting. As to the reception I met with in the City Hall I leave others to speak; suffice it to say, it was all that even you could wish your representative to enjoy. I may add that my wife and myself enjoyed generous hospitality as the guests of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, and that previous respect and regard for Scotland and the Scotch have been deepened by our recent visit.—Believe me, yours sincerely.

R. J. LYND.

Altoona, Windsor Avenue,
20th October, 1881.

THE TEMPERANCE RIBBON MISSION.

SIR,—I beg, with your permission, to draw the attention of your readers to the missions by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Booth, who are eagerly trying to get up mis-

sions in this country on the blue ribbon principle. I exclude Mr. Noble of the London Hoxton Hall Blue Ribbon Mission from present consideration, because, like a true temperance reformer, he has organised his mission, and by efforts which are fully entitled to be called laborious, is trying with considerable success to build up his converts into unswerving abstainers. I, however, confess surprise at the rapture with which the ribbon mission of Messrs. Murphy and Booth are hailed on this side of the Atlantic. People in some places seem to be losing their heads about them. I cannot get into ecstasies on their work, because my experience of moral suasion efforts guides me better. These gentlemen simply "go in" for bringing people into a white heat for signing the pledge. But that is neither new nor effective. Temperance societies anyway energetic, can get hundreds a week to do this, and the roll books of such societies testify to the eagerness with which ensnared victims of the drink system "join" again and again. But what is wanted is not simply registration, but unflinching adhesion. To sign a pledge is one thing, to stand to it "like a man" quite another thing. Unless adhesion follows registration, the practice of abstinence follows the pledge, what can be expected but hopeless collapse and failure. To sum up the signatories by thousands, overlooking means for securing their adhesion, cannot be justified by wisdom or common sense; and to ask individuals who staunchly abstain, to sign their names and swell results, is a scandal to a moral movement. I am quite at a loss on grounds that are in harmony with Christianity to account for such action on the part of Christian men. The pledge to me means the visible sign of my inward conviction that total abstinence is to me at once a benefit and an obligation; by my after-life formed in harmony with the principle that underlies it. I set my seal to it that it is true. Now, of what use is it to me to sign that pledge whenever asked? It cannot increase the potent influence in behalf of temperance which my life sheds on those around me. Nay, it is wrong, for the poor fellow who signs, seeing how easily I sign, may get into the belief that it may be signed as often as he likes, and the solemn sacredness of the act disappears. Evidently the people at Leicester are appreciating the "totting up" process at its true value, for they are advertising for a missionary to look after those who have signed the pledge during the recent mission. The money expended on this "troubling of the waters" would do more than pay a missionary £80 a year for such a duty. The signatories have not come into the fold, and he is asked to go down and bring them up, and bring them in and harden them into staunch abstainers. Yet many of them may have signed the pledge half a dozen times during the visit of these clever American brethren. We hope that the missionary may reap a rich reward from his labours and we will eagerly look for his report, but our reason forbids our cherishing great expectations. When the Hoxton Hall Blue Ribbon Army, and the Templars of all sections, with special machinery, find it difficult to retain their members, it is too much to hope that merely asking men and women struggling in the meshes of the drinking habit, and who are got to pledge in the heat and excitement of a meeting, is all that is needful to make them stand firm. After the registration comes the terrible fight with the habit, and too often the surrender, if left alone, of the poor inebriate to his vice. The fight is fought at the bench or the desk, in the comfortless home of the drunkard, and as the mission has nothing but the exciting public meeting to meet this condition of the would-be abstainer, I see little in it to commend it to those who are toiling manfully in our temperance hall, to bring home the blessings of abstinence to the business and bosoms of the people. Moral suasion can only make progress through a special education on the temperance question, and by a mutual association in order to confirm and sustain the weak and develop a permanent abstinence from strong drink in the adherent. This twofold work in the absence of a prohibitory law does often largely tend to increase the number of abstainers. But to crowd a register with names of inebriates, and abstainers who have displayed

a conspicuous fidelity to their principles, and submit such a register as a record of permanent results, is an insult to common sense and calculated to bring discredit on the great temperance reformation.

Yours truly,

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

SIR,—All who are persuaded that sobriety is not to be attained while drink-shops are licensed to facilitate drinking, must congratulate the Scottish Permissive Bill Association in the attitude it has taken to the Government, through its deputation to Lord Rosebery.

The Association, as seen in this deputation, stands clearly by prohibition untainted by the least leaven of license. The deputation, in talking to his lordship, put prohibition plainly as the remedy for drunkenness. They neither confused his lordship nor the public by propounding the notion that a mere majority of the ratepayers should be empowered to retain or reduce the number of drink-shops, until they can produce the large majority of three to two to prohibit the whole number. This mixture of license, with prohibition to neutralise it, was entirely discarded by them.

The Scottish temperance public are under a debt of gratitude to the Association for thus taking, at this critical time of prospective temperance legislation, the clear, well-defined position which it occupies; for, if it had encouraged his lordship to legislate on the principle that a mere majority should have power to perpetuate the drink trade, while a third of the ratepayers should have power to prevent a majority from establishing the conditions of sobriety in entire prohibition, a licensing law might have been expected, with a temperance sanction, which would have given an interested, corrupt minority power to overrule the majority, and flood society with drunkenness from a source difficult to dry up.

If this notion is ever produced in legislation it will be easy to continue the drink trade and difficult to put it down, for all who are interested in maintaining the trade will be legally helped to make up the required third out of the morally debased voters. The interested and the worthless, because they are less in numbers than the disinterested and patriotic, are by this notion to receive the power of law to enable them to inflict drinking and drunkenness on the majority. No licensing law has been the outcome of a notion so reckless of moral and social order as this. But it is, certainly, not entertained by the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. It exists to destroy the drink trade totally and immediately, by the will of the people, and it cannot consent to subject society to a minority who have a money interest in its drunkenness; hence its representatives assured Lord Rosebery, that nothing less than power in the people directly to veto all licenses would satisfy Scotland. Scotland, they told Lord Rosebery, was prepared for this, and the evidence, they affirmed, was in the fact, that nearly the whole of our representatives voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, for this, his avowed object. And well they could afford to say so; for the representatives had been helped to vote with Sir Wilfrid Lawson by the organised voting power of the temperance movement. A power the Association was fully cognisant of, for it fostered it, and knows that its extent is sufficient for its object. Let the Association continue to occupy this attitude, and every attempt to reduce it from being the rallying point of the Scottish temperance movement must fail. Temperance reformers could not, if they would, remain satisfied with a notion in the name of temperance, which boycotts prohibition and puts a premium on license.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

NO LICENSE.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SCOTLAND FROM A LOCAL OPTION POINT OF VIEW.

OUR readers will, we believe, be glad to possess another of our statistical tables. The one we present shows the representation of Scotland, the number of electors for 1880, the area in square miles, and the amount of

wealth represented. A glance is sufficient to show how very insignificant a portion of Scotland returns Parliamentary representatives opposed or indifferent to the permissive prohibitory movement. The most striking language in which we could clothe these facts could not represent them nearly so eloquently as the figures in which we tabulate them; and, hopeful of the deep impression they will make on our readers' hearts, we leave them to their serious consideration:—

COUNTIES. FAVORABLE.	Pop. in 1881.	Electors.	Area in sq. miles.	Property and profits, Assessed to Income-tax
Aberdeen, E. } Aberdeen, W. }	267,963	4,721	664	£897,835
Argyle,.....	76,440	3,426	3,183	899,949
Ayr, South,.....	217,504	3,920	872	1,135,118
Bute,.....	17,666	1,364	224	203,026
Caithness.....	33,845	1,147	699	239,517
Clackmannan and Kinross,.....	32,376	2,105	188	404,204
Elgin and Nairn. 54,214	1,958	685	503	391,996
Fife.....	171,960	4,789	503	1,452,796
Kincardine.....	34,460	1,866	396	447,736
Kirkcudbright.....	42,126	2,223	953	711,930
Lanark, South,.....	904,405	3,707	605	1,084,656
Linlithgow.....	43,198	1,266	127	354,963
Ork. & Shetland.....	61,746	1,727	839	217,544
Peebles & Selkirk.....	39,381	1,217	615	416,862
Perth.....	128,985	6,005	2,545	1,760,114
Renfrew.....	262,981	6,185	245	1,137,080
Roxburgh.....	53,436	2,026	667	830,606
Stirling.....	29,709	3,399	454	875,971
Sutherland.....	23,366	325	2,124	165,815
	2,500,760	57,515	17,915	14,446,219
BURGHs FAVORABLE.				
Aberdeen.....	105,003	14,152	9,547	£1,376,877
Ayr District.....	41,731	4,267	5,136	385,361
Dumfries District.....	25,587	2,999	3,664	261,925
Dundee.....	140,054	15,824	6,135	1,786,923
Edinburgh.....	228,190	28,644	6,531	6,552,747
Elgin District.....	32,805	3,829	6,637	245,331
Falkirk District.....	49,346	5,564	4,068	356,348
Glasgow.....	487,948	57,832	7,911	12,535,268
Greenock.....	63,899	7,205	2,553	983,619
Haddington D.....	13,755	1,879	2,605	146,718
Hawick District.....	34,708	4,909	2,577	428,968
Inverness District.....	26,427	3,126	4,968	428,965
Kilmarnock Dis.....	65,650	8,082	4,889	579,132
Kirkcaldy Dis.....	31,101	4,518	3,703	239,378
Leith District.....	72,851	10,377	5,821	1,051,109
Montrose Dis.....	65,676	8,278	8,111	440,620
Perth.....	28,948	4,059	3,281	264,602
St. Andrews Dis.....	19,406	2,153	4,375	153,687
Stirling District.....	36,793	4,904	5,663	282,194
Wick,.....	17,455	1,782	5,719	115,703
	1,587,333	194,383	103,894	28,615,475
Total Favorable Counties & Burghs.....	4,088,093	251,898	18,018,894	43,061,694
COUNTIES OPPOSED.				
Dumbarton.....	75,327	3,041	268	796,757
Haddington.....	38,472	1,067	278	628,129
Mid-Lothian.....	388,977	3,870	354	1,177,219
Wigtown.....	38,602	1,700	511	452,047
	541,378	9,678	1,411	3,054,152
BURGH OPPOSED.				
Wigtown D.....	10,139	1,420	1,392	103,839
	551,517	11,098	1,412,392	3,157,991
Total Counties and Burgh Opposed				
THE UNIVERSITIES.				
		Electors	Electors	
		1868.	1880.	
Favorable.				
Edinburgh and St. Andrews.....	4,880	5,967		

ABSENT.	Pop. in 1881.	Electors.	Area in sq. miles.	Property and profits, Assessed to Income-tax
Ayrshire, North.....	217,504	3,711	273	£861,676
Banffshire.....	62,731	2,646	613	434,402
Berwickshire.....	35,381	1,869	464	794,763
Dumfriesshire.....	76,124	3,409	1,100	1,088,416
Forfarshire.....	266,374	3,634	877	1,122,062
Inverness-shire.....	90,414	1,894	4,241	587,568
Lanarkshire, N.....	904,405	10,475	273	3,048,961
Ross & Cromarty.....	78,539	1,739	3,244	520,468
Dundee burgh.....	140,054	15,824	6,135	1,786,923
Glasgow.....	487,948	57,832	7,911	12,535,268
Paisley.....	55,642	4,979	5,528	749,332
Glasgow and Aber- deen Universities, —	—	5,969	—	—

SUMMARY.

Counties for (with pairs),.....	20	
Burghs for (with pairs),.....	22	
University (Edinburgh and St. Andrews), 1	—	43
Counties against (no pairs),.....	4	
Burgh,.....	1	5
Majority for,.....		38
Or a majority of more than 8 to 1.		

* * Two Burgh members and two County members desired to pair for, but could not, as pairs against could not be found for them!

VARIETIES.

They went fishing. She looked languidly at him and said, "I wish the fish would bite your hook. If I was a fish I would."

A young woman in Rochester recently sued a man who kissed her for damages. A young man who can't kiss a woman without damaging her, should take means to get rid of his awkwardness.

A man who had been quaffing beer until he was completely drunk, hiccupped out that beer was both meat and drink. Soon after, going home, he tumbled into a ditch, on which a companion observed that it was not only meat and drink, but washing and lodging too.

"William," observed a Milwaukee woman to her husband, "Mrs. Halcomb feels pretty badly now, since the loss of her child, and I wish you would drop over there and see her. You might say that all flesh is grass; that we've all got to go the same way; and see if she is going to use her dripping-pan this afternoon."

"Whisky is good in its place. There is nothing like whisky in this world for preserving a man when he is dead. But it is one of the worst things in the world for preserving a man when he is living. If you want to keep a dead man put him in whisky; if you want to kill a living man put whisky in him."—*Dr. Guthrie.*

DECEMBER.

IN the cold frozen wood no song is heard.
Where are the birds now, and where are the flowers,
That gladden'd all our hearts in summer hours?
The ices firm the woodland streams retard.
Why should we roam abroad while winds blow shrill,
And icicles hang from the forest trees?
Beside the fire we'll sit, and at our ease
List to the wind that blows o'er wood and hill.
With books and music and with gentle friends,
The winter night will calmly wear away.
'Tis bleak December, and how short the day,
The night how long. But he who with life blends
Fair art and song can still with joy make bright
December's murkiest day and darkest night.

ANDREW M. LANG.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

DECEMBER, 1881.

OUR NEW YEAR TRACT.

WE beg to draw the attention of our readers to the New Year Tract of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and to solicit their early orders for a liberal supply. The tract is written by that experienced writer, Professor Kirk, and is well got up in illustration, type, paper, &c. The price is 10s. per 1000, exclusive of carriage; 1s. per 100, or 1s. 5d. post free. Societies ordering not less than 500 can have their name, night, hour, and place of meeting printed on their order for 1s. 6d. additional, if not more than 40 words. On all orders of 2000 there is no charge. Orders sent in before the 10th December can be headed and forwarded in time for an early new year distribution.

During the past month Mr. Paton has had, with scarcely an exception, an excellent series of meetings. He had a week's meetings in Bridgeton, Glasgow, which somewhat disappointed expectations. He was four nights in Stirling, two in Greenock, three in Dumbarton; he has also visited the following places—Parkhead, Dalry, Skelmorlie, Newmains, and Stonehouse, besides addressing several meetings in Glasgow. He has been highly gratified with his reception and reports very favourably of not a few of his meetings. During the month of December he is fixed for Rothesay (two nights), Paisley, Kilbarchan, Kilmalcolm, Pollokshaws, Milugavie, Troon, Lesmahagow, and Cross Hall, Glasgow. He will also be in the south-east for nearly a week. His time with the Association is fully taken up and he will leave, we believe, for Ireland, early in the year.

Our readers will be glad to learn that Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., has kindly consented to address a meeting in Edinburgh on Monday, 12th inst. Besides the Honourable Baronet there will be present T. R. Buchanan, Esq., M.P. for Edinburgh (in the chair), James Cowan, Esq., M.P. for Edinburgh; A. Grant, Esq., M.P. for Leith district of Burghs; J. Dick Peddie, Esq., M.P. for the Kilmarnock District of Burghs; the Rev. R. J. Lynd, of Belfast, who so eloquently represented the Irish

Temperance League at the late annual meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association; John Wilson, Esq., J.P., Hillhead, who so ably addressed the same meeting; Ex-Bailie Torrens, Sheriff Guthrie Smith, Rev. Professor Blaikie, Rev. Professor Johnston, Bailie Cranston, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. J. Kay, Rev. W. H. Gray, Rev. J. Young, Dr. D. Brodie, Liberton, and many others will also take part in the proceedings. The meeting will take place in the United Presbyterian Church Hall, and promises to exceed in importance any similar demonstration on the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory question ever held in Edinburgh.

We have been creditably informed by a Parisian co-temporary that there are 35,000 medical men in Great Britain and her Colonies. We will accept this estimate and assume that each of these professional gentlemen have only during the year six patients, whose deaths are distinctly traceable to their intemperate habits. Yet it would show that 210,000 persons died by alcoholic poisoning every year in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, India, &c. No medical man will, we think, assert that there is any exaggeration in this dread estimate. It was not wonderful that the Premier should characterize the drink traffic as productive of greater evils than war, pestilence or famine. It would take a great war every year with its costly loss of 210,000 men to equal the number on this low estimate slain every year by drink. If war in our day could point to such a multitude of victims, the moral sense of the civilized world would, we believe, be found arrayed against it. But death on the battle-field is still held to be glorious, and death by intemperance to be disgraceful. Hence there is every incentive on the part of relatives and friends to hush up the murder by intoxicating liquors, and the poor victim passes on to the bar of judgment to meet the living God, while there is none of all his kindred bold enough to cry even for vengeance on the system that has murdered him. We learn that 50 per cent. of the estimated number of medical men practise in the United Kingdom. Here within the four seas then we have no less than 105,000 persons sent into eternity yearly by the drinking system. This is more than one in every six deaths which take place in the country. Were it an injunction that the causes as well as the symptoms of disease were published in the quarterly reports of the Registrar-General the indignation of the country would be so aroused that in the outburst the drink system with all its evils would be utterly and deservedly consumed.

The poor old *Scottish Standard*, the organ of the beer, wine, and spirit trade of Scotland, is defunct, killed by the traffic it served, through sheer starvation. With a callousness which does not surprise though it certainly does chill, the publicans allowed their "flag" to perish. Another has, however,

stepped into the gap left by the *Standard*. What's in a name, says Juliet. Looking to the name of the new "barrel" organ of the "vittlers," we say, much, my lady, especially when it is pretentious. Iago says, "he who steals my purse steals trash, but he who steals from me my good name, steals that which not enriches him and leaves me poor indeed." The honest word trade is filched by the new publican's defender, and made the sign of the most nefarious, no matter who is licensed to carry it on, of all traffics yet tolerated in civilized society. *The National "Trade" Guardian, the representative of the Licensed Trade of Scotland*, was lately ushered into being, and heralds its existence by a boisterous, if not a pointed, attack on the enemy. We will merely content ourselves meantime with sampling some of the literary wares of this new guardian of the publican traffic: "Temperance philosophically considered is an incontrovertible law of human existence, and it is a grossly gratuitous imputation on the honour and reputation of the large and important class of the community engaged in what is generally designated the liquor traffic, that its existence as a legitimate means for the proper use of alcoholic beverages is inimical to the welfare of society." That is, the publican issue and our friends should make themselves clear upon it. The writer's next sentence is a pregnant one. "The hackneyed proposition of the United Kingdom Alliance that it is neither right nor politic for the State to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people has been conclusively answered." These sentences place the great issue between the publican and the Permissive billite fairly before our readers, and, besides, show how the one mystifies and deludes itself with a cloud of words while the other appeals to those principles of justice and constitutional right and obligation that must in the end prevail.

We had only time to transfer a paragraph from the *Daily Review* on the deputation to Rosebery to our columns last month, but no time to comment on the event. The gentlemen forming the deputation were received in the courteous manner for which his lordship is distinguished; and he heard the statement read with the closest attention, evidencing deepest interest in its contents. The facts stated and the reasons given in the statement converged to one point, that there was in Scotland a solid and matured opinion upon the necessity of special legislation on her liquor traffic. His lordship received the statement with more than official courtesy, indeed, we but do him justice when we say that it was with evident sympathy that he promised to lay the matter brought before him fully before the Home Office. The Executive feel, like their constituents, strongly in favour of a Bill for Scotland, and their grounds for this feeling were so clearly and forcibly put, that his lordship paid them a high compliment on the

way they put their case. Some time ago, in London, they met Sir William Harcourt, the Home Secretary, on the subject, and found him impressed by the strength and growth of the sentiment they represented. They have now seen Lord Rosebery; the present Lord-Advocate supports by his vote the principle for which they contend, and the Solicitor-General's vote may be expected the first opportunity that presents itself. It will be seen that all the Parliamentary officials having to do special Scotch business, have been at one time or other put into possession of a clear, full, and urgent statement of the case for the suppression of the liquor traffic in Scotland. But it cannot be denied that there are abounding difficulties in the way of getting the question introduced in Parliament. The difficulties need neither daunt nor dishearten. As the event has justified the Executive in their creation of the enlightened conviction that the liquor traffic should cease, so we believe that they will emerge from the difficulties that beset the Parliamentary stage at which the movement has arrived. While our friends all heartily sympathise with them, they can do more, they can assist them. They can communicate with their representatives, showing them that they fully share the feeling that Scotland should, either by a special Act, have suppressive powers conferred on her ratepayers, or that such powers should be expressly provided for in the forthcoming measure of the Government. If they press home these views on their representatives they will lighten and speed the labours of the Executive, and do much to encourage an hon. member to step forth and lead the nation in its demands for such a reasonable measure of justice for Scotland.

For a long time a most anomalous state of licensing has obtained in Campbeltown. There are so many distillers there! Hitherto distillers, from their wealth, have been looked upon as peculiarly eligible for a seat in the Town Council, that till lately they have almost monopolised its seats, and filled all its offices. The awakening of the public mind on the drink system seemed to threaten the extinction of this arrangement. The licensing laws very properly exclude all interested in the traffic from a seat on the licensing bench, and as there is but one Bailie who has no interest in the liquor traffic it seemed as if no sessions for granting or renewing licenses could be held, with the result that all licenses would speedily terminate of themselves. The Justices have stepped in on several occasions to avert this consequence, taking the report of the only Bailie out of the traffic on the suitability of the premises as sufficient grounds for their action. This year that magistrate refused to certify, but, nothing daunted, the Justices have assumed the whole duty of licensing for the town, thus practically abolishing the Burgh Licensing Court. The licensing of Campbeltown public-houses is now on a level with the English licensing system. It is in the hands of an

irresponsible body of Justices, and the people of Campbeltown have virtually lost all control over the liquor traffic that affects them. The Justices say that it is not contemplated by the law that because of the failure of one magistrate to report on the suitability of premises the whole of the licensing applications are to fall to the ground; but it was certainly not contemplated by the law that distillers—men expressly disqualified by their trade from licensing—should monopolise the magistracy. Matters cannot rest in this wise. The Home Office should be communicated with. It is evident that the disqualification of the distiller should be operative at an earlier stage, and as he is of no use in the magistracy, his services should not be accepted for the Council. We will be interested to know what will be done with the Confirmation Court. There is only one magistrate qualified to represent the burgh on the Confirmation Committee, but three are required. Will the Justices assume the whole functions of that court also? Surely not. Our friends in Campbeltown will, we trust, make some effort to avert the loss of their powers to check in some degree the liquor traffic. What a blessing to them would be the existence of a Veto Act. Ere many weeks had passed, we doubt not, that they would have had a poll as to whether or not the liquor traffic should exist or terminate in Campbeltown. In the present state of feeling there on the subject, the Act would most likely be adopted, and the greatest source of social corruption in the burgh ended for ever.

Our excellent contemporary the *Church Standard* points us to the sad condition of Switzerland through its intemperance. Round this country there cluster so many heroic achievements in behalf of liberty, and her annals are adorned with such deathless names as Tell, Winkelried of Unterwald, and Ulric Zwingle, that one cannot but feel sad when he hears that the Swiss nation is becoming, through drinking, the degenerate descendants of such a noble ancestry as once were the bulwarks of its freedom. Lately the Swiss Society of Public Utility held its annual meeting, and vigorously discussed the national intemperance. It appears that the imports of wine were in 1880 as much as 100 per cent. more than they were in 1861, and yet in the same nineteen years the increase of population was only 15 per cent. At the same time all the wine grown in this Alpine region is consumed in the country. Then, taking the canton of Zurich there are 4121 public houses in it, or one to 115 of the population. Such is the potency of these temptations that it is said 10s. a week is spent by the people, or about one-fifth of their average earnings, on liquor. This state of matters is condemned as "conducting to a multiplicity of evils, and constituting a serious national danger." It will be seen that other countries are like our own under the fell curse of intemperance and its most prolific nurse, the traffic in strong drink. It is worth glancing at the remedies pro-

posed for this state of things. They are fourfold—1st, a heavy tax on the liquor sellers, which simply means increased robbery of those dependent on the drinker and augmented plunder to the State; 2nd, Regulated licensing for a kind of free trade. We hail this remedy. Regulation is partial prohibition, and may lead to total. 3rd, The punishment of offending publicans. This proposal is an evidence of the ignorance on the question which pervades the society. Hofer goes into A's, drinks; steps on to B, drinks; drops in upon C, drinks. He is now visibly drunk; C is flogged, fined, or confined, but A and B escape. The putting this remedy into practice will soon end in its being cancelled on the statute book. 4th, The imprisonment of any drinker seen three times drunk in public. Worse and worse. The poor fellow is punished enough by being poisoned without being deprived of his liberty. He is allowed to form a habit till it becomes uncontrollable; then he is imprisoned, and his wife, family, and business all allowed to suffer along with him. Yet the cause of this appetite, this public disgrace, doesn't lie so much in his want of control as in the liquor traffic. If this society had had the sagacity to discern the true relation between the drink and the man, they would have found a truer solution of the difficulty to lie in the prohibition of all liquor traffic, rendering it practically impossible in future for any to "put an enemy into their mouths to steal away their brains."

The Burgh of Grangemouth seems destined to be one of the great battlefields of the Scottish Permissive prohibitory movement. The echoes of the great struggle between the publican feu-holders and the Earl of Zetland, the superior of the town, have hardly yet died away. During that memorable struggle, not, however, closed, the inhabitants showed by an overwhelming number of signatures how much they were in sympathy with the Earl's course of action. Another struggle much more decisive has just taken place. At the last licensing sessions, application was made for a license to premises in Dundas Street, New Town. The residents viewing this aggression on their amenity with strong aversion, met in public meeting and unanimously protested against the granting of the license sought. Not satisfied with a protest, they memorialized the justices to refuse the application. We cannot help characterising the action of the justices in view of this resolution, and that of the memorial, as of the most high-handed sort. There were 350 rate-payers around, 32 were absent or at sea; 48 declared themselves undecided; 253 heartily signed the memorial, leaving only 17 who might be set down as in favour of the license! Against this overwhelming expression of opinion on the part of the ratepayers in the immediate neighbourhood of Dundas Street a counter petition was presented in favour of the license by 170 persons—commissioners, ratepayers, and inhabitants of the burgh! Very few of these

had any interest in the new town for which the license was sought, and this petition was the fruit of the applicant's own canvassing efforts, which was sufficient to condemn it. The justices, however, took their own way, and granted the license by a considerable majority. This adds another to the numerous instances of Justices' tyrannical Quarter Session decisions, and will tend to deepen the conviction that laws so administered can never operate for the good of the district they sway; besides, a better argument for vesting the ratepayers with a direct veto over the licensing system affecting them could not be given. It is high time that a system which professes to legislate for the good of a neighbourhood, and yet thrusts upon that neighbourhood a public-house which is, judging by their action, bitterly repugnant to the great body of the inhabitants, should be abolished. This is the view, evidently, of a large number of the people whose wishes were so entirely set aside. They could not show their sense of the mischievous action of the Justices, to them; the great majority of them being irresponsible to the inhabitants. Mr. Henry Burrell, J.P., is also a Commissioner of the Burgh, and he had to ask re-election last month. So also had Provost Macpherson. These gentlemen had their respective colleagues, and from the diverse sentiments upheld by each there were two camps—the publican and the temperance camp. The issue could not be more clear, nor was it doubtful. The temperance party triumphed, Provost Macpherson being at the head of the poll, while Mr. Burrell was ruthlessly rejected. The people have shown him what they think of his conduct. Set over them by their own votes he goes to the licensing court, where, instead of averting from his constituents, as far as in his power, the calamity of a public-house, he joins the Justices in their outrage upon the social amenity of those he represented. Everyone must feel that he suffers justly in being ignominiously rejected. It may not bring him to a better mind, but it will show to the country that Grangemouth is clear in her sympathies for the prohibition of the liquor traffic, and that she will not permit those that favour that traffic to bear rule over those weighty interests which she requires to conserve.

It is marvellous how often the Church is found deploring the meagre inflow of the offerings of her children into her treasury. Ever seemingly on the verge of privation she just escapes poverty by the munificent bequests of the faithful. It would seem, however, as if there were a marked indifference to her financial condition among the great majority of her flock. When times of abundance occur she is enabled to rejoice through the large increase of tribute from her loyal subjects, but when times of leanness lower over the land her coffers are almost amongst the first to be overlooked and forgotten. It is as if her people looked upon her as the Chinese are said to look on their idols, but with, of course, a

difference. The celestials are, when in prosperity, generous with their votive offerings and frequent in their devout attentions. But when misfortunes overtake them their wrath kindles against their deities and the chastisement they infallibly inflict upon their gods fills their joss houses with sounds. The difference lies in this that we do not punish our ministers with blows we visit them with leanness of teeth. There does not exist any who more heartily prays for the prosperity of Jerusalem, who wishes that peace may abide within her walls, or who seeks her permanent good more earnestly than we do, and hence we venture to suggest a more excellent way than she takes to replenish her stores. She labours to establish sustentation funds, mission schemes, and other ways and means with but indifferent success, especially among the working portion of the community. The wealthy pour into her coffers of their abundance as in the days of old, but the working people sadly lack the needful generosity at the door of the sanctuary; yet were the great body of the people interested and trained to be givers of the devoted shekel as in those days when Israel wandered in the desert, the worshippers in our churches would soon have to be asked to cease their liberality because the sacred vessels were full to overflowing. The Church sees with too little of earnest protest the profusion of offerings to Bacchus and the stinted support to the Church, and blind, apparently, to its cause it sits by the wayside begging. We are led into this line of remark by a writer in *Life and Work*, the parochial organ of the Established Church. He waxes woeful on the condition of its foreign missions. Congregations will not give, and the mission threatens to wither for want of support. The State Church is not, however, alone. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown said not long since that were those of the U. P. communion who partook of strong drink to diminish the amount of their drinking by merely fivepence per week that church would not only have a substantial income, but her schemes would flourish as they had never done before. The Free Church too complains. She boasts, and properly too, of collecting in the first twenty-seven years of her history eight and three quarter millions sterling, yet Scotland spends on her liquors a sum equal to that every six months. The three great Scottish ecclesiastical bodies have at least no advantage over each other with regard to this matter, for they are equally in a condition of impecuniosity. The writer in *Life and Work* puts his case well. The demands of the foreign missions for which he pleads would be met, he says, by a sum of fourpence half-penny a head:—three half-pence to the Indian mission, three half-pence to the Chinese mission, and three half-pence to that in Africa. Asking the members of a church to give fourpence half-penny a year, and thousands of them having a yearly drink bill of several pounds sterling to discharge! The Rev. Mr. Gray, one of a deputation to the churches, put his case at Dumbarton with considerable point when he

stated that one farthing a week from each member in the Established communion would produce twenty-five thousand pounds yearly. This should open the way of the Church to a better solution of the question of means. The waste upon strong drink in Scotland is enormous, the fruits of that waste is incalculable, and the Church has also to maintain costly agencies to deal with the evil and its fruits. Nay more, how many does she lose a year through backsliding through intemperance? Let her stop the leak. Let her rouse herself against the liquor traffic in the might and grace of her supreme Head. When she overthrows this iniquity, and who dare believe she would fail if she was sincere, what would result? Peace and plenty would cover the land as the grass and flowers cover a field which the Lord God hath blessed. The foul brood of evils that rise in the wake of the liquor traffic would have disappeared, and with these those agencies that had to be maintained to keep them in check. The votive offerings of those delivered from the bondage of intemperance, and of those relieved from assailing the evil would pour in augmented flow into the Lord's house. With these the Church could deal effectively with those evils that would remain. The Christian graces would flourish as the palm tree in the courts of God, and the saints would truly inherit the earth. Instead of the Churches of the land begging for a dole, let them arise determined to purge the land of our present-day idolatry, and they would soon find the wealth, the power, and the influence of all classes at their command.

INTELLIGENCE.

LORD ROSEBERY AND LOCAL OPTION.

ONE of the advantages of such gatherings as that held in this town last week under the auspices of the Liberal Association is the bringing members of the Government into more direct contact with the popular sentiment on the great questions of the day. Lord Rosebery could not fail to be struck with the fact that no words uttered in our Town Hall elicited a warmer response than the allusion made by the Member for Perth to the subject of Local Option. The *Scotsman* was pleased next morning to pronounce a glowing eulogium on Greenock as the possessor of political traditions that place it in the first rank as a stronghold of genuine and robust Liberalism. No burgh in Scotland can present a nobler record in this respect than our own, and the fact was frankly acknowledged by our Eastern contemporary. But that journal, as well as the new Under Secretary at the Home Office, will do well to make a note also of the fact that this seat of Liberal sentiment has no stronger wish at the present hour than to see the subject of Local Option taken up in earnest and satisfactorily disposed of by the Government. The existence of this desire may not be a fact acceptable to the Edinburgh journal we have named; and, if we may trust the impression that appears to have been made upon the minds of a recent deputation to Lord Rosebery, it may to some extent be distasteful also to his lordship. We have not the slightest doubt of the noble Earl's strong attachment to Liberal principles; and we can quite understand how these principles may be so understood by his lordship as to make him doubtful of the policy that is advocated by that section of the Temperance Reformers who plead for further legislative interference with the liquor traffic. It is

only of late that Mr. Bright has seen his way to the acceptance of the resolution that is identified with the name of Sir Wilfrid Lawson; and the member for Birmingham is but a type of many in the Liberal ranks who, while animated by the very strongest desire to see the stain of intemperance removed from Britain, have yet been slow to concur in the application of Sir Wilfrid's specific for the cure of the gigantic evil. The new Under Secretary at the Home Office would see, however, that the Liberals of Greenock, upon whom he bestowed a eulogium that was probably as well-merited as it was gracefully expressed, have made up their minds on the subject, and that there is no part of the work lying before Parliament in which they feel a deeper interest. In view of the votes of the Scottish members, it will be unfair to delay the matter much longer; and the sooner Lord Rosebery faces the problem the more likely is he to retain and strengthen the popularity which he at present enjoys. Mr. Parker mentioned three great subjects in relation to which Scotland is ready to lead the way; but there is not one of these about which the national sentiment north of the Tweed is so manifestly ripe as that of Local Option. In a material as well as a moral point of view, it is one of transcendent importance; and we hope that Lord Rosebery's communion with the staunch and well-tried Liberalism of this town will hasten a decision on his part conducive to the solution of a problem that cannot be trifled with by those who have the welfare of the country at heart.—*Greenock Telegraph*.

Nine-tenths of the Primitive Methodist ministers are abstainers.

The Newport Town Council condemn the pernicious custom of paying wages in public-houses. It is time that custom was condemned in Scotch ports.

Mr. R. T. Booth's temperance mission in Leicester is said to have resulted in 10,906 total abstinence pledges, and in the distribution of 19,630 blue ribbons.

It is stated that nearly 4000 dram shops in the city of New York are kept by women. There is only one American-born woman among them. They are mostly Irish.

At last Dr. F. R. Lee's Works, in 10 half crown volumes, are announced. Orders are being received at the *National Independent Office*, Guildford Street, Leeds.

We were very sorry to learn that the Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, has been prostrated with fever. It is satisfactory to know, however, that he is soon likely to recover.

The prosperous among us have an average duration of life of 50 years, the children of toil one of 32 years. That last need not be so low were these children to abstain from liquor and tobacco.

The San Francisco *Rescue* calls Mr. Wm. Hoyle Sir William Hoyle. Perhaps one day our sovereign lady's sword may be laid on his shoulder. There are few who are more deserving of the honour.

The Sons of Temperance have at length resolved to issue a monthly for the advocacy of the principles and objects of the Order. The first number appeared last month. It has our hearty wishes for its success.

Dundee can rejoice over a Provost who is an abstainer—ex-Bailie Moncur being now its chief ruler. We, too, rejoice at his elevation, and offer our heartiest wishes for a distinguished and successful tenure of office.

Kansas has an area of 50,000,000. Kansas is under liquor prohibition. Numerous immigrants are pouring in. It is believed that the constitutional prohibition of the liquor traffic will largely increase the material prosperity of the State. When the question of prohibition was submitted to the whole vote of the people, a large number of habitual drunkards were foremost in voting for it, saying any legislation that would break the habits in whose fell gripe they were was worth the voting for. Kansas for ever!

It is cheering to learn that when Mr. Gladstone was entertained the other day by the Leeds Liberal Club, Sir Edward Baines, who presided, and who proposed the Premier's health, not only drank the toast as a teetotaler should, but boldly announced that his glass was filled with "Nature's noblest liquor—pure water."

Along the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, 14,000 miles long, the sale of intoxicating liquors has been abolished in the station restaurants, and 2000 railway servants are pledged abstainers. The fact has been proved that "a railway, especially a very long single track like the Grand Trunk, can be worked more safely and efficiently on total abstinence principles than in any other way."

LOCAL OPTION.—The highly popular League conversations began this year with a discussion on "Legislation for Scotland," led by the Rev. J. A. Johnston. On the motion of Mr. D. Fortune the discussion was adjourned till Monday 21st, when in Niven's Central Dining Rooms a paper of great excellence was read by Mr. Fortune on Local Option legislation for Scotland. So far as it went the paper was unanswerable. The discussion was continued, but save for the remarks of ex-Provost Dick, John Wilson, Esq., J.P., and Mr. Galloway, was devoid of interest. Rev. Mr. Johnston having replied the proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman, Sir William Collins.

PRESENTATIONS TO SIR WILLIAM AND LADY COLLINS.—On the 27th October Sir William Collins was entertained by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow at a conversation in the Corporation Galleries. There was a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. The Lord Provost in an appropriate speech presented Sir William with a portrait of himself from the study of Patalano. Bailie Dunlop presented Sir William with a portrait of Lady Collins also by the same painter. Sir William made an appropriate reply. He is in court dress and her ladyship in evening dress. On the 29th in the presence of 50,000 spectators Mr. A. H. McLean unveiled a handsome fountain erected to mark the Provostship of Sir William. The fountain was accepted on the part of the Corporation by the Honourable the Lord Provost of the city. Sir William Collins returned thanks; addresses by several prominent citizens were hailed by the vast multitude with applause; cheers were given at the close for Sir William and Lady Collins. There was a procession of all sections of the temperance movement numbering 8000.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE AND TEMPERANCE.—A striking illustration of the value of total abstinence and the advance of public opinion on our question, is to be found in the prospectus of "The Lancashire and Yorkshire Accident Insurance Company." The directors of that company have wisely recognised the fact that abstainers run infinitely less risk, than those who do not abstain, in meeting with serious accidents, therefore they have resolved, with commendable enterprise, to offer a bonus of 10 per cent. abatement of premium to all their customers who have renounced the use of intoxicating drinks for the previous twelve months. There is not the slightest doubt that a very large proportion of the saddest catastrophes occur, by road and rail, by land and sea, through indulgence in alcoholic liquors, consequently this company is acting with praiseworthy prudence in holding out strong inducements to its numerous supporters to shun this active cause of eminent danger, and so avert calamities to the assured, and heavy claims on their own funds. Such a company deserves the very best encouragement from our friends for the bold step they have taken. A promise is held out that, if sufficiently supported, the directors will make the bonus even greater in the future. We trust they will be rewarded with the success they merit. Our good friends, Thomas Dick & Son, of 12 Stanley Street, Paisley Road, West, Glasgow, who are agents for the company, will no doubt be happy to afford all needful information to any one who may feel interested in this matter, and to them we heartily recommend our readers to apply direct.

WINES SCRIPTURAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL.—On the 18th ult. Dr. N. S. Kerr, of London, delivered a lecture on the above subject in the Chapter-house adjoining St. Paul's Cathedral. Dr. W. B. Richardson presided. Dr. Kerr had been driven to the study of this subject by the objection urged by infidel patients, who asserted that the Bible commended and that Christ made poisonous drinks. He was quite satisfied that the God of nature was the God of revelation, and that there could be no contradiction between His work and His word. To meet this objection thoroughly he determined to study the question. The true solution of the Bible wine problem was to be seen in the recognition of two essentially different kinds of scripture wine—one unfermenting and innocent, the other intoxicating and dangerous. This interpretation of biblical references to wine was so simple and natural, and so reconciled the teaching of the scriptures with that of science and experience, that it had been persistently disputed by sceptics. The only inference Dr. Kerr could draw from his study of the teaching and life of Christ, was that He could not have made a poisonous beverage for such as had freely drunk of poison already. This interpretation invested the miracle of Cana with peculiar beauty and force, inasmuch as it represents Christ accomplishing in a moment that which every year takes several months—the conversion of the watery sap of the vine into wine in the grape. He felt bound to test the objection that unfermented wine did not exist, and spent nearly a year in an extended and crucial series of experiments with grapes and grape juice. The result was conclusive. He had proved that unfermented wine could be kept from fermenting for days, and ascertained that the ancient methods were most effective. He showed a large variety of specimens in solid and liquid form. The only unfermented wine in the English market which he could recommend was that of Frank Wright, 68 High Street, Kensington, London. A host of authorities, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1737; the Archbishop of Armagh, 1796; the Bishop of Norwich, 1660; Rochester, 1702; and London, 1778, were quoted to attest that unfermented wine had been in use from the earliest times to the present day. Such unfermented and unfermenting beverages had all along, by travellers, scholars, poets, and other writers, been called *wine*; both unfermented and fermented palm juice had been known as *palm wine*; the chief use of grapes in the East was *not* to make fermented wine; grapes could be kept fresh all the year round, so that unfermented wine could be newly prepared at any time. *Yayin*, in the Old Testament, and *oinos*, in the New Testament, were general terms for both unfermented and fermented wine. *Tirosh* was unfermented, and probably the solid fruit. Distillation being then unknown, *shakar*, condemned in the Bible, would be what is called a "naturally fermented" wine, and therefore not more than half the strength of our ordinary port or sherry. Other words in the original and several scripture texts were commented on, and a warm tribute paid to the Bible Temperance Commentary. Dr. Kerr said that he was now in treating on ecclesiastical wine on sure ground, for he was on his own domain of medicine. As a physician with some experience in the treatment of habitual drunkenness, he knew that it was not safe for the dipsomaniac to taste intoxicating drink in any circumstances, while in a state of consciousness; and, therefore, he (the lecturer) Churchman though he was, even when a drinker himself, never allowed a reformed drunkard under his care to go near a communion table when intoxicating drink was presented. He was supported in this line of treatment by Dr. A. Fergus, of the General Medical Council, and recently President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, by Surgeon-General Francis, and by other experts in the higher ranks of the medical profession. There need be no difficulty about the legal matter. At all periods in the history of the Christian Church, unfermented juice of the grape had been held to be *wine for the purpose of the Sacrament*. Witnesses were cited in the original from the second, fourth, seventh, ninth, thirteenth, seventeenth,

eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Unfermented, un-intoxicating wine was, at the present day, recognised as a lawful element of Communion by the Methodist, Episcopal, and other bodies in America, by the Established Church of Scotland, by a large number of Nonconforming congregations throughout the kingdom, by a considerable array of Established Churches and mission charges in England, and by the annual Mildmay Conference. One bishop had sanctioned its use, while several bishops had communicated in it and *had made no sign*. The tent that so many churches used was *not* fermented wine at all, but, even at its best, unfermented wine with spirit added to it to prevent fermentation. As to the legality of the sacramental use of unfermented wine, the opinion of the well known ecclesiastical lawyer, Dr. A. J. Stephens, Q.C., seemed conclusive. Dr. Stephens says there is no evidence to show whether the fruit of the vine our Saviour administered at the Last Supper was unfermented or fermented; that in ancient times both freshly expressed and preserved unfermented grape juice was drank; that such wine could not intoxicate; that in early times communion might be had by pressing vine clusters into the cup; that there are authorities for calling unfermented grape juice wine; that both fermented and unfermented liquors were in use in ancient times; that "mustum" meant "unfermented;" and that as a matter of principle it was indifferent whether fermented or unfermented wine were used, no question of doctrine being involved. The lecturer stated that he himself, as an individual, cared nothing about what kind of wine was employed at the sacrament. He had always communicated in fermented wine, and perhaps might always do so; but, in his capacity as a physician, he would be disloyal to truth if he did not honestly testify to the serious risk of communion in an intoxicant to the reformed inebriate, and to the yet unfallen subject of the hereditary drink crave. At present what was the fact? Some reformed drunkards had been repelled from the church altogether, some had deprived themselves of the privilege of communion, and some, while worshipping regularly at an Established Church, communicated at some Nonconformist place of worship where unfermented wine was used. He implored the clergy, as a mere matter of justice and of right, to render the most sacred rite of their venerable church safe for the weakest of the victims snatched from the fatal embrace of drink. The whole question was surrounded with difficulties, but he had perfect confidence in the candour and judgment of the bishops and clergy, to whose devoted labours for Christ he bore willing witness. Hitherto the truth on this delicate and important subject had not been laid before the Church. His confidence in the future action of the hierarchy and priesthood of the National Church on this question arose from his knowledge of their honesty and earnestness. Well he knew that no body of men were more open to receive the truth, and to carry their intelligent convictions into practice. (Applause.) A most interesting discussion followed. The Rev. W. Allan, St. James, Bermoudsey, had used Frank Wright's wine for 6 years. It had given entire satisfaction. The only objector was a brewer's daughter, but she become convinced and partakes still. Rev. G. S. Bott preferred to preserve the wine by immersion in hot water, and thought that done in this way no waste could result through not keeping. Surgeon-General Francis instanced the case of a lady who fell into drinking habits, but on his advice drank Wright's unfermented wine. She went to a church where the communion was dispensed in fermented wine, and she came to him to tell him that the old feeling was returning upon her. It was a dangerous precipice on which such communicants had to tread. The Chairman, Dr. W. B. Richardson, said that if you wanted a fermented article you ought to have it pure, but as regarded fermented wine that was quite out of the question. If you wanted a pure fermented article it was now easily procured, and it answered all the demands of the holy ordinance. With bread it is the same. You must have the best bread, but there is a kind of rye bread which, when taken, produces in some per-

sons a singular condition of a disease of a cerebral spinal nature, that ends in mortification of the extremities of the body. Presuming it became a fashion in the churches to use bread of that kind, and it was found that it produced a certain amount of disease in the community who partook of it—and certainly it would never produce anything like the amount of disease that might be produced by wine—yet if that were suggested, that kind of bread would be put by entirely. The general term *bread* would be used to give the best and simplest, and purest bread, and that would be taken and used which was perfectly harmless. He thought that same argument might apply very well to wine—to take the wine that was perfectly harmless, and that would be unfermented wine. On the grounds of the heredity involved in the question, he earnestly urged a reform in this matter. The danger in using the present wine at the sacrament was very great. Hardly a month passed but patients were speaking to him on this subject. He invariably and strongly advised all in danger of relapse never to run the risk of going forward to the sacrament. He then moved the thanks of the meeting to Dr. N. S. Kerr. Dr. Kerr briefly acknowledged. There was a large exhibition of unfermented wines on the table, amongst which were those of Mr. Frank Wright, who remained in attendance and explained to an interested audience the system by which he produces his beverage.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, from 16th October to 15th November inclusive. During that period 75 meetings were held—17 being deputational, and 58 ordinary. At these meetings 84 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. John Paton has visited Edinburgh, Dysart, Pathhead, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Penicuik, Bo'ness, Linlithgow, Addiewell, Glasgow, Stirling and Greenock, and addressed 22 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Braehead, Forth, Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Addiewell, West Linton, Leith, Clarkston, Portobello, Dalkeith, and Kilsyth, and addressed 17 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Greenock, Glasgow, Aitkenhead, and Uddingston, and addressed 16 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Marykirk, Aberdeen, Lomay, St. Combs, Inveralloch and Rosehearty, and addressed 12 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Tyldesley, Glasgow, Dalry and Strathbungo, and addressed 7 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow.

Ex-Provost Dick has addressed 2 meetings in Harpurhey and Manchester.

Rev. S. Harding has addressed a meeting in Glasgow.

Bailie Selkirk has addressed a meeting in Shettleston.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has addressed a meeting in Glasgow; and

Mr. W. Chalmers has addressed a meeting in Dalry.

If I poison my grocer, the very lightest sentence is penal servitude; but if my grocer poisons me—ah, that is a different thing—he is fined ten francs.—*Alphonse Karr*. [This fits the liquor traffic better than any business we know.]

A gentleman called last week at a large stationer's to order some note-paper with a heading. On being shown various designs, monograms, &c., "No," he said, "I want something simpler—just a flower, such as a forget-me-not." "But, sir, that would surely be more suitable for a young lady?" "I know what I want," was the prompt reply; "I am a tailor, and—the paper is for my customers."

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

We rejoice to observe that the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle* is, under the energetic editor, Mr. F. Sherlock, rising so rapidly in its circulation that many times lately the manager has reported that the supply has proved unequal to the demand. The *Chronicle* worthily deserves its success, only we wish it would, with a larger circulation, take higher ground on the prohibition of the traffic.

A Detective's Experience of the Passion for Drink.—We are glad to learn that this pamphlet, reviewed in our columns last month, has now reached its fourth thousand. The publican organ—*The National Trade Guardian*—is dreadfully annoyed by it, and even goes so far as to express the hope that Captain M'Call may have his attention drawn to Mr. M'Naught's publication. We may fairly conclude that this little admirable experience turns out to be a well-aimed blow at the traffic. Every temperance society and Templar Lodge should get a supply on sale at its meetings. Keep the temperance press agoing.

Danger Signals. A volume of temperance tales. By F. M. Holmes. With thirteen illustrations. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price Two Shillings. Mr. Holmes is an industrious writer, and his ability in story telling is manifest in the volume now before us. Working out his idea of danger signals he offers an abundance of warning in this volume. The instances given are so varied, however, the characters so numerous and yet so different, that one insensibly feels the impression gaining on him that the drinking customs are one great whirlpool in which of all that fall in only few are rescued, and of these, but few are really restored. There are thirteen tales, and though all are not of equal merit, we believe the wide circle of readers in which it will circulate, will have but one opinion, that it is most pleasant because profitable reading. We incidentally observe that the author holds advanced views on the temperance question, an additional good feature in our eyes.

Good Cookery. A culinary catechism for the use of schools and young persons. By Mr. D. L. Brown. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price Ninepence. This is a most excellent conception, very successfully carried out. In the compass of about 170 pages we have an amount of knowledge conveyed by question and answer of which the ordinary reader has scarcely any notion. We believe that, were the mothers of children who at school are going through lessons on domestic economy, would find it invaluable in questioning these on their progress in cookery, besides largely adding to their own knowledge and correcting by its means the defects in their own youthful education, when such an admirable little manual was never dreamed of. Many a cook could bring up "the scullery maid" wisely and well by the questions and answers so clearly set down here. We cordially recommend it.

The Thirty-sixth Report of Aberdeen Temperance Society. Aberdeen: Mw. Edwards, secretary, 2 Correction Wynd. The committee modestly term their report a brief outline, but we should rather call it an abstract of a brilliant year's work. True, the society is rich beyond any society in Scotland, but its merit lies in its using the wealth it has inherited for the vigorous prosecution of the work it was instituted to do. The summary of its work is as follows:—"206 members enrolled, 86 meetings held by the society, 150 addressed by its secretary, who has made 3,000 visits and collected £98. It has distributed 15,000 temperance periodicals, 400 circulars, 1,350 post cards, it has presented 6 petitions, organised 5 Bands of Hope and 1 temperance class, held 27 committee meetings, printed

6,400 bills and 4,000 tickets and 1,500 programmes, and sold 500 Band of Hope cards and 700 hymn-books, and 26,000 persons have through its efforts been brought into contact with temperance truth." There is a record of which any society may be proud, and one that reflects the greatest credit on all connected with the Aberdeen Temperance Society. We are sorry to learn that Mr. A. S. Cook, who has been in close connection with it for thirty years, nearly all that time as either hon. secretary or president, feels obliged to resign his office through overwork. A more faithful office-bearer than Mr. Cook, never held office in the society. The income, including balance from last year, is £393, 11s. 7½d., and there is a balance of £5, 6s. 5½d. to carry forward. By the stock account abstract we learn that the amount at the credit of the society is now £1,357, 6s. 5½d. The society has reached the golden age.

The Economic Influence of the Drinking Customs of Society upon the Nation's well-being. By Wm. Hoyle, Esq., Bury. Manchester: The United Kingdom Alliance, 44 John Dalton Street. London: National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand. Price One penny. The desire to do justice to the proceedings of the annual meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association constrained us to omit any report of Mr. Hoyle's paper read at the September Meeting of the British Association at York. We gladly seize the opportunity, which its republication in pamphlet form presents, of noting some of its valuable features. The first paragraph is a model of what an introduction should be. Economic Science is the science of the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth. Its aim is to indicate the course of conduct to be pursued, to gain from our actions the greatest material good, and the object of the paper is to show that the drinking customs operate to the great detriment of its material well-being. Mr. Hoyle shows that the nation, in the ten years ending 1880, spent £1,363,330,711 on drink, or £136,000,000 yearly. In 1830 the consumption per head of liquor was £2 13s., in 1880 it had reached £4 3s. per head, an increase of 56 per cent. upon the former year. Now our intemperance in 1830 was deplorable, how much more must it have been in 1880 when the increase in consumption was so great. But we consume tea so largely that it has in a great measure superseded beer for dietetic purposes, and then there are a very great number who never take liquors at all now; in 1830 there were very few, so that there is an immensely increased consumption of strong drink is most obvious. The direct cost being £136,000,000 yearly, there is the indirect cost. Now estimating loss of time, £50,000,000; destruction and abstraction of property, £5,000,000; private and public charges for crime and pauperism, destitution, sickness, madness, and early death, £20,000,000; loss of wealth through idleness, &c., £28,000,000; loss on non-productiveness of capital spent, and of capital employed, £20,000,000; loss of wealth through cost of justice, police, &c., £5,000,000; loss of wealth spent on reinforcing the religious and moral agencies to cope with the evil, £10,000,000. Total, £138,000,000. Add to this the direct cost and you have a grand total of £274,000,000, from which, however, deduct £54,000,000 for revenue, and for what some would contend was lawful use, and there is £220,000,000 as the annual economic loss to the nation. This direct expenditure of £136,330,799 is slightly less than our expenditure on wheat, barley, and oats £80,787,500, milk £26,000,000, on cheese and butter £13,500,000, and on potatoes £16,650,000. Total, £136,937,500. We have complained of bad harvests the past six years, yet we have spent yearly not less than the value of our wheat, oats, and barley, our milk, butter, and cheese and potatoes. Why, though we had lost all these and been abstainers we should from what we could have saved from drinking been able to replace them. It is no wonder then that we have among us a large number of paupers and of persons trembling on the verge of destitution. Of the first we have 1,011,389 on the books, but three and a half times this number apply for relief in the course of the year, or 3,539,861 applying for help in

the course of the year. An equal number to this is continually bordering on destitution, so that we have 7,000,000 or one in every five of the population either a pauper or next to it. The amount of poor and police rates last year amounted to £16,165,220, the largest amount ever paid in one year! Nothing more clearly shows how, by drinking alcohol, the individual and the nation violates the laws of wealth, and so diminishes and often destroys their chances of realizing material well-being. We have, we hope, so indicated the excellencies of this pamphlet as to induce our friends to master it themselves and aid its wide circulation around them. In this way they can best show their appreciation of Mr. Hoyle's eminent services to the cause of Temperance and Prohibition.

The Drink Problem and its Solution. By David Lewis, J.P., ex-Magistrate of the city of Edinburgh, author of "Britain's Social State," &c. London: National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand, W.C. Price Four Shillings and Sixpence. Mr. Lewis stands in the foremost rank of Scottish temperance reformers, and few men have studied the drink problem more thoroughly than he has done. As might be expected his utterances on the question, whether expressed by the living voice or the pen, are always clear and vigorous. The volume before us is not a whit behind any of his previous efforts, and is a worthy contribution to a pressing social reform. The chapter on "Labour and Commerce" deserves very serious consideration at the hands alike of employer and employed, and is to our thinking quite unanswerable. His exposure of the inherent weakness of all remedial measures in chapters 7 and 8 is as complete as it is logical, and when in chapters 9 and 10 he treats of permissive and imperial legislation he urges his well known pronounced views with all his accustomed point and power. We hail the volume as a valuable addition to the sound and thorough-going teaching on this momentous question which is much needed at the present hour, especially by that large class of "sympathizers" with the temperance reform who are always ready to council moderation in the efforts to suppress this giant evil. Perhaps, however, Mr. Lewis will permit us to say that in some respects he has not done himself, his argument, and many of his temperance friends sufficient justice. The force of many of his best passages is marred by the use of language, especially when applied to the Government, that implies a strong moral culpability arising from a conscious participation in wrong doing. Now, no one knows better than Mr. Lewis that the Government is but the creature or executive of the nation, and that without the direct and unmistakable instructions of those who placed it in power, it is absolutely helpless in the matter of drawing revenue from the liquor traffic. The real responsibility rests with the people, and this Mr. Lewis has failed to give due prominence to, and to that extent has, in our view, weakened the force of his otherwise strong argument. Again, it is hardly fair to say, as he does on page 36, that the labour expended on the grain by the brewer and distiller "is all intended to make the grain unfit for the purposes for which it was given by a beneficent Creator in order to produce those fiery liquors which are the bane of our country." Mr. Lewis is too old a controversialist in the temperance ranks not to know that an imputation of motive to an opponent is almost equivalent to a confession of weakness in argument, and always serves as a handle for a sneer at what our opponents are pleased to call the intemperance of temperance advocates. Mr. Lewis will permit us to say further, that he does not sufficiently recognise the efforts of those organisations in Scotland that have contributed so materially to the education of the people on this question, which in its turn has led to the Scotch vote on local option with which he is so pleased. A franker acknowledgment of these efforts would have been graceful as well as gratifying, especially as Mr. Lewis knows full well what these have been. But we have no wish to find fault. We feel rather disposed, in view of Mr. Lewis's fervid appeal on page 259 to "the leaders in the cause of temperance and social reform" to "rise to the occasion and resolutely demand a full settlement

of their country's claims," and in view of his suggestions as to the steps necessary to that end, to frankly and heartily invite Mr. Lewis's cordial co-operation in the line of conduct so well pointed out. No one is better able to state the case and to enforce its paramount claims, and no one has done more, in an independent way, in this respect than he. Indeed, one of the most pressing wants of the movement is the want of "public-spirited and acceptable speakers," other than the well-accredited agents and lecturers. If Mr. Lewis will, in conjunction with, say half-a-dozen of the ablest lay speakers on the prohibitory aspect of the temperance question in connection with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, volunteer his services for a limited period during the coming winter in joining deputations to "the various centres of population, so that the opinion of the people may be brought to bear on the Legislature," he will lay the movement under lasting obligations, and contribute in no small degree to hasten the accomplishment of the supreme object upon which he, as well as we have all resolutely set our minds.

ODDS AND ENDS.

More shoemakers go on "tramp" than any other tradesmen.

When is a lady like a publican? When she is doing crewl work.

Whisky never misses fire, nor Beer fail as a good kindling wood.

"The only way to look at a lady's faults," said a gallant, "was to close your eyes."

Why is electricity like the police when they are wanted? Because it is the invisible force.

"What would you do, madam, if you were a gentleman?" "Sir, what would you do if you were one?"

IMPOSSIBLE IN THE EVENING.—Theodore Hook, about to be proposed a member of the Phoenix Club, inquired when they met. "Every Saturday evening during the winter," was the answer. "Evening! Oh, then," said he, "I shall never make a phoenix, for I can't rise from the fire."

"Dear bredren," said a coloured preacher, "of I had been eatin' dried apples for a week, and den took to drinking for a mont, I couldn't feel more swelled up den I am dis mennit with pride and vanity at seein' de full tendance har."

A Scotsman, being asked by his minister, "What kind of a man was Adam?" replied, "Oh, just like ither folk." The minister insisted on having a more special description. "Weel, naebody got onything by him, and mony ane lost."

A clergyman was once forced to say to his congregation, "Brethren who will persist in putting buttons into the collection boxes will please not hammer down their eyes, for while the process does not increase their value as coins, it does impair their usefulness as buttons." The admonition was effective.

An inebriate got into an omnibus and became very troublesome and annoying to the other passengers—so much so that it was proposed to eject him. But a genial and kind-hearted reverend doctor, who was also a passenger, interposed for him, and soothed him into good behaviour for the remainder of the journey. Before leaving, however, he scowled upon the occupants of the bus, and muttered some words of contempt; but he shook hands warmly with the doctor, and said: "Good day, my friend! I see you know what it is to be drunk."

TEMPERANCE AGENT WANTED for the PAISLEY TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY. Salary, £100. Applications, with Testimonials, to be addressed to Mr. ROBERT RISK, Secretary, 1 Buchanan Terrace, Paisley.

THE
Social Reformer.

JANUARY, 1882.

ESSAY ON THE PERMISSIVE BILL.

[The late Mr. A. B. Stewart, of Ascog Hall, offered £20, in three prizes, for the three best essays on "The Permissive Bill: Arguments for and Against." The judges—Rev. Dr. Williamson, and Rev. Messrs. Macfarlane and Thomson—awarded the first prize of £10 to Mr. Hugh Thomson, letter-carrier, Rothesay. We have pleasure, by Mr. Thomson's permission, in presenting that essay to our readers. It is in contemplation to give the others.—ED. S. R.]

THAT the drinking customs of our country are fraught with evils is a statement requiring no proof; we have but to look around, and the state of society supplies us with abundant evidence of their baneful effects. Indeed, the evils flowing from them are so great that it has taxed the wisdom of our statesmen to devise laws for the proper conducting of the liquor traffic. Many schemes have been tried, and to-day we have still to deplore that drunkenness abounds in our midst—dragging many of our countrymen deep down in the social scale, and causing misery beyond the tongue of man to describe. Who can tell how much is implied in these two words, "Drunkard's Home?" Here we need summon no imaginary heart-rending scene to make the picture more gloomy than it really is. Facts are more strange than fiction, and sometimes far more appalling; and certainly were it possible to picture out all the evil resulting from the drinking customs of our country, it would be something awful to contemplate. Can nothing be done to stop intemperance, which has justly been termed our national sin? All good men deplore it, however much they may differ as to the means that ought to be used to put an end to its onward course. Many who advocate moral suasion are not so sure of the Permissive Bill. They look upon it as if it were a something not in keeping with the British constitution—an undue interference with personal liberty, a making of people sober by Act of Parliament, which they seem to think not at all practicable. Now, I admit that we cannot be too careful in framing our laws so that there may be the utmost freedom compatible with good government. I am of opinion the less the Legislature has to do with the private actions of the individual—albeit these actions do not hurt or infringe on the liberties of others—the better; but we cannot have good government unless to some extent an investment of what might be termed our rights is placed in the hands of Government to be used for the common good. The great aim of Government ought to be the welfare of all, not any particular section of the people; and whenever anything is found that has a tendency to cast a blight upon the nation, it then becomes a matter for the State to consider.

The drink traffic has been already under consideration, and has been found a most difficult subject to legislate upon. Our statesmen have been endeavour-

ing to modify the evil. The trade being an exceptional one, demanded exceptional measures; exceptional measures have been passed, but still the evil remains. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." If it is the nature of the drink to produce intemperance, so long, then, as the drink is upheld by the State, so long will it produce its effects upon the people. If these effects are good, let the drink traffic be untrammelled—why place it under restraint? If these effects are bad, take away the cause, and its effects must cease. If the Permissive Bill were passed, the power would then be placed in the hands of the people to determine whether or not intoxicating liquors should be sold in their midst; and surely they are best able to judge of their own wants. At present the people have not the power to prevent public-houses being planted in their midst. If a man gets his license, the community is not consulted on the matter; he opens his place of business, and strives to do as much trade as he possibly can. The people who fall victims to his trade are punished by the law for being drunk and incapable, while he is licensed to sell that very thing which, to the extent of his success in business, means an increase in the intemperate habits of the people within his influence.

According to the Permissive Bill, if two-thirds of the ratepayers in any place object to the sale of intoxicating liquors, their objection will be carried into effect. Now, two-thirds is not a bad majority. We all admit that the majority ought to have the ruling power. "Yes," says an objector, "but in a matter which concerns personal liberty it alters the case altogether. What right has any majority to dictate to me what I shall eat or drink or what I shall clothe myself in? Have I not a right to eat and drink and clothe myself according to my own pleasure?" My answer is—"You have a perfect right to do all these things according to your own mind so long as you do not injure others; but if in the gratifying of your own desires, you do an injury to the community, I say you have no right." I would go further and say no one has a right to injure himself or herself, far less others. The majority have no right to suffer from the doings of the minority, and, if they can remedy the evil, they are justified in doing so. Now, the Permissive Bill gives them an opportunity of doing so; it puts the power where it ought to be—that is, into the hands of the people.

That the drink traffic is at the root of a great deal of the crime done in the country must be well known to all who read what is to be found in the daily prints. Many eminent judges have given their testimony as to drink being the fruitful source of crime. Our prisons are a standing proof containing many witnesses that would not require to utter one single word; of them it might be truly said—but in a sad, sad sense—"They are living epistles known and read of all men." Now I say whatever leads to

crime, directly or indirectly, is a matter for the State to deal with. Our laws should be of such a nature that they prevent stumbling-blocks being placed in the path of virtue. Good government ought to have an elevating effect, and whatever causes an opposite ought to be swept away. It is the duty of the State to see that no obstacle is placed in the way of righteous living. Not that I believe we can make people virtuous by Act of Parliament; but if that cannot be done, this at least can be accomplished—and ought to be accomplished—by the State: to see to the removal of all hindrances. Surely no one will deny that the drink traffic is a hindrance to the sobriety of the people. Now, soberness is a virtue, and, as society is constituted at present, one that is sorely tried. Thousands have fallen under the temptation, and thousands will continue to fall. That being the case, who needs to be told that one vice leads to another. Why, whoever falls a victim to intemperance generally goes from bad to worse. It is quite unnecessary to enumerate the black list. Alas! society is made painfully aware of their presence. Not only are our prisons filled with the victims of intemperance, but our lunatic asylums receive their full share of the wrecks caused directly or indirectly by the drink traffic. What of our poor-houses? Who can shut their eyes to the fact that a great deal of the extreme poverty in our midst is due entirely to the drinking customs. I dare not say that in all cases poverty is to be traced to this source, but this I will say that it is one of the most powerful currents in our midst, driving men and women the straightest and surest way to the poor-house. There they are lost sight of, and soon fill a pauper's grave; while many more are out in the busy world pursuing the same course—fitting themselves to occupy the same position. I say fitting, because it requires some preparation before the mind is in a suitable frame to submit to all the circumstances that surround a pauper's lot; for intemperance has a tendency to blunt all the finer feelings of our nature.

Now, these are grave charges against the drink traffic, but they are, alas! too true. Every day we live is adding fresh testimony to their truthfulness. Surely a traffic producing such fruits ought to be dealt with by the State accordingly. Humanity demands it—the prosperity of our country demands it. Some may ask, What of the revenue? I frankly admit that a large revenue goes to Government from the drink, but if the revenue cannot be supplied unless at the expense of our national degradation, then I say there must be something very far deficient in our economy. Let the revenue be placed on one hand, and the expenses that the country is involved in through crime and all the other evils accompanying the drinking customs of our country on the other hand. Let it also be remembered how much grain is annually destroyed in the making of the drink, and then let the balance be struck and see whether we are not, as a nation, losers through this traffic. Therefore, apart from moral considerations altogether—looking at it as a matter of profit and loss—the sooner this traffic is a thing of the past the better will it be for our national prosperity. Why, it has been estimated that in the year 1875 about 90,000,000 bushels of grain were destroyed in the making of intoxicating drinks. The food destroyed in our own country in the year 1875 has been put down at 70,000,000 bushels of grain, or within about 8,000,000 bushels of the quantity of wheat produced in Great Britain; and to make up for this great waste we must purchase all the more of our food from foreign countries—thus wasting our own means while enriching other lands. So that, looking at this question in the light of pounds, shillings, and

pence, the sooner we rid ourselves of this traffic the better. I suppose the grain destroyed in 1875 would give us a fair idea of what was destroyed in 1879. Whatever has been the exact quantity I cannot say, but this I am sure of that it must have been enormous. Now, apart from the effects of the traffic upon the morals of the people, true economy makes it imperative that something be done, and that speedily, to put an end to the ravages caused by intemperance. At any rate there can be nothing more fair than to allow the ratepayers to have their mind on the matter, as they are the most interested in it; and as this is the main object of the Permissive Bill—to place the power into the hands of the ratepayers—I think the principle is quite in keeping with the British Constitution. But, however much the passing of such a bill might benefit the nation in material wealth, there are still higher considerations to be taken into account. The poet was right when he sung—

“ Learn this, enough for man to know,
Virtue alone is happiness below.”

And what is good for an individual man must be good for a nation of men. The law of right is not lost in the multitude; our national sins bring national calamities. It is false policy that ignores the moral bearings of anything. Whatever is purchased at the expense of morality is bought at too dear a price; so that if the drink traffic enriched our coffers—which I believe it does not—yet if it be found an enemy to morality, it ought to be looked upon as an enemy to the State. We may boast of our material resources—and no nation should undervalue wealth—but the stability of the nation has a deeper foundation in human nature. It is the spirit of a man that alone can sustain him in the battle of life, and it is the spirit of a nation that must form its surest bulwark. If we degenerate in morality, it is the surest sign of our decay; whatever strikes at the morality of the nation strikes at the vitality of the nation. Our own poet, Robert Burns, breathed a true patriot's prayer when he penned these noble lines:—

“ O Scotia, my dear, my native soil,
For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent,
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
Be blessed with health and peace and sweet content.

And, oh, may Heaven their simple lives prevent
From luxury's contagion weak and vile;
Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,
A virtuous populace may rise the while,
And stand a wall of fire around their much-lov'd isle!”

Yes, it is the virtuous populace that makes the nation secure; and, as the Permissive Bill would give the people power to some extent in removing temptation, so that their lives may be preserved from “luxury's contagion weak and vile”—and, as the result, live nobler and purer lives—surely such a bill ought to receive the hearty support of all who love their country's weal. I know it may be said that such a bill would give rise to illicit traffic in drink; but no law is condemned simply because some would try to elude it. Let the penalty of the law be enforced on all offenders, and I have no doubt that the stigma that would follow the carrying out of the law would have a salutary effect. No one likes to be thought lawless; self-respect has a great power in preserving order in society, and there its influence would be felt. Let the law set its seal against the drink traffic, and it will receive such a shock that it will soon sicken and die. And because I believe the death of the liquor traffic would be the moral life and prosperity of society, I advocate the passing of the Permissive Bill. **VOX POPULI, VOX DEI.**

FRUITS.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

CHAPTER V.

A SHADOWED HOME.

ON the Saturday evening James Taylor went out to the Grange, taking Alice with him, as Mr. Templeton had desired. The residence of the brewer was a substantial mansion, standing in its own grounds, about three miles out of town. It was long since they had been together at Temple House, and there was a sore change on some of its inmates in the interval. They were ushered into the drawing room, which was occupied by Minnie alone. She was a slight, graceful girl, in the first blush of womanhood, with a sweet face, somewhat paler than it ought to be, and dark tender eyes, which expressed every thought and feeling of her loving heart. She greeted her friend Alice warmly, and extended her hand with shy courtesy to the brother. His eyes dwelt longer on her face than they need have done; perhaps he found it a pleasant study.

"Papa, and mamma, and Kate are in town to-night," she said, when the greetings were over.

"Fred will be in his own room, I fancy," and her face reddened slightly. "Just touch the bell, will you, Mr. Taylor, and I'll ask for Walter."

The servant who answered the ring said he had just gone out, but had not intended to go far, as he went out with a smoking cap on.

"He will be in directly, then," said Minnie Templeton. "He often takes a stroll in the gardens. He is an idle fellow, I can tell you; eighteen past, and can't make up his mind to what he means to do or be. Papa wishes him to go into the business, but, but"—she paused, and turned her face away.

"Is your mamma well, Alice?" The abrupt turn to the conversation brought up other topics, and they were talking merrily when the door opened, and a young man came in, attired in dressing gown and smoking cap. It was Fred; and as James Taylor rose to greet him he remembered Alice's words, and saw how true they were. He had been a handsome fellow once, he was a wreck now. His face was haggard and worn, his eyes dim and blood-shot; for since his home-coming he had taken drink daily, more than was good or even safe for him in his present state of health. There was plenty in the house, you see, and he was beyond the time when a simple remonstrance could deter him. Minnie blushed painfully, and half rose from her seat.

"Oh, Alice, is it you?" said Fred, languidly, and offered her a couple of fingers. "Ah, Taylor too, how do? It's a deuced long time since I saw you. Pretty as ever, Alice, I see, eh?"

"Fred, Fred, do go upstairs," said Minnie, in a low voice, full of shame and pain. "You are not fit to come to the drawing-room just now." Fred smiled that meaningless smile you see on the face of a man slightly intoxicated.

"Nice way for a fellow's sister to speak to him, eh, Taylor; you used to be sweet on Minnie once—worn off; eh, well, I don't believe in tying one's self down to one girl myself."

"Alice, will you come to the parlour?" said Minnie, desperately; and Alice gladly rising, both girls quitted the room.

"Oh, Alice, I think I shall die," said she, breaking down, and leaning on her friend's shoulder. "Scenes like that are daily occurrences in our house now. God only knows what will be the end of it; and Walter too. Oh Alice, darling, thank God every day of your life for your brother." Alice Taylor could only offer her loving sympathy, for what comfort could she give in a sorrow like this. Truly none.

Fred had followed the girls from the room, but had gone upstairs to his own, leaving the guest alone in the drawing-room. But ere long Walter returned to the house, and being told who had come, ran upstairs at once, to find James Taylor alone, looking over a book.

"Have they left you alone, my boy?" he asked, in his gay, boyish voice. "Too bad; where's the girls?"

"Fred came down, and they left the room," returned James quietly, and Walter understood.

There was a moment's silence. Then James Taylor rose, and laying his firm hand on the lad's shoulder, looked into his face with his grave earnest eyes.

"I am older than you, Walter, and I have known you all your life. When I saw you come in at the door just now, I wondered how long it would be before you looked as Fred did when he came in not long ago."

"Oh hang it, Taylor," said Walter ashamed. "Don't suggest anything so awful. I'm not going to turn like that, you know."

"Small beginnings lead to great things, Walter; and you must know how insidiously this fearful habit grows. Was Fred always like what he is now?"

The lad was silent, and moved away from the range of these penetrating eyes.

"Do you care for your mother and sisters, Walter?"

"Don't be a fool," was the quick retort, shewing how the question had gone home.

"If you had seen your sister's face to-night when Fred came in, you would think seriously about the matter."

"I've seen it scores of times; you needn't tell me. Do you suppose it hasn't cut me like a knife before to-day?"

"You might one day cause her to look like that. Be a man, Walter, and make your sisters proud of you instead of ashamed."

There was silence again, broken only by the tick of the timepiece on the mantel. How fraught with issues for weal or woe these moments were to Walter Templeton, only himself now. James Taylor waited and prayed, and drew a long breath of relief when Walter turned his face to him, his curls pushed back from his broad brow, his blue eyes shining with a steadfast purpose.

"From this moment, Taylor, I am a total abstainer. I will be a man, and free myself from this hateful habit. It is growing on me; but I am done with it for ever, so help me God."

"He will, Walter," said James Taylor, in deep heart-felt tones, and their hands met in a long clasp, the seal of the new bond between them. Much more was said which I have not the space to tell; and by-and-bye a servant appeared to say, Miss Taylor waited downstairs for her brother. Then both went to the parlour.

"How are you, Alice?" said Walter; and his sister, looking at him, wondered what was different about him. "Minnie, put on a shawl, and let us go down the avenue. It's a fine night." She very willingly obeyed. Walter walked on first with Alice, and the other two came behind. Minnie was quiet and sad, but James Taylor made an effort to speak.

"Miss Templeton, do you know what Walter did upstairs to-night?" he asked.

She started, and shook her head in the full light of the moon; he saw how pale the sweet face grew. She seemed to live in a constant dread.

"He made a firm resolution, took a solemn vow upon him to become a total abstainer from this night, and with God's help he will keep it, I know."

She lifted her face to his in sheer amazement, scarcely crediting what she heard. But there was truth in that grave honest face, and she put her hands before her face, sobbing in very joy.

"Oh, Mr. Taylor, you have done this—God bless and reward you; my poor thanks are nothing, but you have them from the very depths of a truly grateful heart."

"Nay, I have done nothing; Walter owes it to you, and he will tell you so; but, Minnie, that will not prevent me asking a reward some day. Will you listen when I do?"

He bent from his tall height, and looked into the sweet face, but it was hidden still, and her eyes drooping beneath his gaze. But he guessed that when he asked his reward would not be denied him.

CHAPTER VI.

THE OLD OLD STORY.

ALICE TAYLOR was alone in the house, sitting at the drawing-room fire, her hands idly clasped in her lap, her grey eyes fixed dreamily on the fire. There was a change in her these past few days; she seemed to have grown gentler and kinder, and the sharp irritable temper the servants had been wont to fear, seemed to have been laid aside; they spoke of it among themselves wonderingly, not guessing their young mistress was learning the "beauty of holiness," and trying with all her might to imitate the Master she loved, and had vowed to serve. But so it was. The shadows of the early winter twilight were changing to darkness in the room, when a knock came to the door and Mary entered, her pretty face wearing a slight frown.

"Please, ma'am, here's that little ragged child come again. That's the worst of taking any notice of them, they'd never be done botherin'."

"Bring her up here, Mary, if you please," said Alice gently.

"La, ma'am, you don't mean it," exclaimed the girl in extreme surprise.

"A pretty object she'd be in a drawing-room, Miss Alice; why, she's just a mess of rags. The kitchen's good enough, I should say, if she must come in."

Mary was a good servant, and considered herself privileged to make suggestions when she pleased. But her mistress turned her head, and repeated quietly.

"Bring her up here to me, Mary, if you please."

Then Mary tossed her head and went to obey; but she did not forget to administer a few sharp words to the shrinking child as she ushered her upstairs. She pushed her into the room, and shutting the door, proceeded in great indignation to the kitchen. Alice rose, and came forward, smiling reassuringly at Jennie, who stood at the door in a maze of wonder and awe. She had never seen a place like this even in her dreams.

"I thought you had forgotten to come, Jennie," said the young lady. "What has kept you so long?"

"Please, mem, my mither wadna let me," said Jennie, finding her voice. "But she was that drunk the day that she could dae naething but sleep, so I ran oot."

Alice shivered. It was an awful thing to hear this young child speak in such a matter-of-fact manner about her mother's degradation; but what else could be expected of her. The thing was a daily occurrence. Poor Jennie lived in the very midst of the black work drink makes; it was according to nature's law that she should grow accustomed to it and regard it lightly. But it seemed none the less horrible to Alice Taylor on that account. She drew a stool close to the fire, and bidding the child sit down, resumed her own seat. She saw then, that Jennie had done her best to make herself neat and clean to pay her visit, and though the result was not very great, she honoured her for it. She was a fair, pretty child, but delicate looking; nay, more, it was evident she was wasting away. Her eyes looked out from great hollows, and her cheeks were wan and shrunken. She would cough sometimes too, and hold her hand to her side as if she felt pain. Alice Taylor's heart bled for her.

"Do you feel well, Jennie?" she felt impelled to ask.

"Whiles," answered the child. "The noo I'm fine, but oot wi' the papers i' the cauld I feel like to dee. What's deein', ma'am? I ken they bury ye i' the kirk-yard, but is that a'?"

"No, Jennie, my child, that's not all." Jennie lifted her eyes to Alice's face, mutely asking what else there was.

"Did you never hear of heaven, Jennie?"

Jennie nodded.

"I aince went tae the mission schule wi' Katie Brown, an' there was a gentleman tellin' aboot a braw place abune the sky, whaur fock gaed if they were guid. I dinna mind muckle o't, but I aye mind that he said there was na sorrow, nor cauld, nor hunger, nor ony o' thae things. That's whaur I'd like to gang.

But, ye see, I dipna ken hoo tae get; mebbe ye can tell me."

A prayer rose up from Alice Taylor's heart, that she might be able to tell the old story simply, and make the way to heaven plain and easy for this poor little seeking waif.

"Listen, Jennie," she said, low and earnestly. "Long, long ago, hundreds of years before you or I were born, the world was so wicked that God wanted to destroy it altogether. Then His Son, Jesus Christ, living up there in happy heaven, said he would come to the world and give himself for the wicked people in it that they might be saved from God's anger. So he came, Jennie, and went about healing the sick, and comforting all sorrowful people, till wicked men took him and nailed him to a cross, where he died so that God might forgive all people's sins." She paused a moment, her own eyes full, for Jennie's were running with tears.

"What mair, mem," she asked, breathlessly.

"Then Jesus went up to heaven again, where he lives now; and because he once died for us, every one of us may go to that beautiful heaven if we will only believe he died for our sins, and if we will only love him with all our hearts—that is all he asks."

"Did he dee for me, ma'am?" fell with intense eagerness from Jennie's parted lips.

"Yes, for you, Jennie," and Alice laid her hands on the child's shoulder to enforce her words; "and if you believe and love him he will take you to heaven when you die, to live happy with the angels for ever, and feel no cold, nor hunger, nor weariness any more; there are none of these things there, Jennie."

"But hoo am I to ken him an' lo'e him, ma'am; I canna see him; an' hoo am I tae believe he'll dae a' that?"

"When I told you to come here, Jennie, that I would be waiting to see you, did you not believe it? and though you have not seen me since then, did you not feel quite sure I would be here, and would be glad to see you when you came?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"It is just so with Jesus, Jennie. He tells us in the Bible he is waiting for us, and is longing for us to love him. Can't you love this great friend, Jennie, although you cannot see him?"

"Oh yes, I could, ma'am, but—but I'm sic a puir ragged lassie he'll no see me among a' the rest."

"He sees every one, Jennie, no matter how small, or poor, or miserable. In his own book he says 'Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' You will be glad to go by-and-bye, Jennie."

"If I was sure he wad let me in, mem, I'd ask him tae tak' me noo; it maun be a better place than Blair's Close; an' I'm that miserable whiles, mem, I could greet na een oot. Ye see, mither drinks."

Looking at the child's face, looking old, and pale, and worn in the fading light, Alice Taylor thought pitifully that it would not be long before she was called away to a better home than the one she knew now.

"Just kneel down, Jennie," she said, "and we will ask the kind Jesus to bless you, and make you one of his own by-and-bye."

The child knelt down wonderingly, and Alice uttered a few simple words of prayer, which Jennie understood and felt with all her heart. Neither knew that the door had opened very softly, nor that James Taylor had turned away swiftly, noiselessly closing it again, nor that his eyes had grown dim as he looked.

"If your mother will give you to me, Jennie, and I think she will," said Alice, by-and-bye, "will you come, my dear, and when the sunny days come I shall take you away to the seaside, where you will grow strong and well again?"

"If she will, ma'am," said the child, a look of strange deep delight on her face. "I'll gang ony gate, dae anything ye want."

"We will see about it immediately," said Alice cheerily. "Now, come downstairs and I shall get you some tea. I have been making a new dress for you,

Jennie, but it is not quite done; you will get it next time you come.

"Yes, ma'am," answered Jennie, her eyes speaking the gratitude her lips could not utter.

About an hour later, after being warmly fed and cheered, Jennie went away. Alice herself shewed her the way out, and, impelled by the strange wistfulness in the child's uplifted eyes, bent her head and kissed her on the brow.

"Good night, Jennie; next Monday afternoon at three your dress will be done, come for it; but before that I shall come and see your mother about giving you to me."

Then she went in and shut the door. Nobody saw Jennie press her lips to the handle which Alice's fingers had touched the moment before, nor heard the sob which broke from her as she ran quickly down the steps and away home.

"She is a dear child that, James," said Alice to her brother that night. "I am going up to that mother of hers, and offer her some money if she will give her to me. She is very ill, James, I don't think she will see the winter out, and I should like to make her last days easier than her life has been."

"God will bless you for it, Alice," was the earnest answer. "These neglected little ones are precious in his sight, and will be recompensed, I doubt not, by-and-bye, for the heavy cross they have borne on earth."

DR. RICHARDSON'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS.

In a recent lecture this gentleman points to twenty-one landmarks, salient points, in which great advance has been made in relation to the education of all classes on temperance.

The first point is the belief of people that when they bought liquor it was quite apart from water. The gentleman would tell "it was champagne at £7 per dozen," the poor say "this is not water but good malt and hops"—"the hotter the liquor the farthest removed from water." They all seemed to forget that in their beer there was 90 to 95 per cent. of water, in their wine from 12 to 42 per cent, in their spirits 50 per cent. of water, while the fact that the people are beginning to realise is that they are unwittingly, and in a very unfortunate way, water buyers and water drinkers.

The second point is the nature of alcohol. It was believed once that alcohol was the only thing of its kind, but now we are learning that there is a large family of alcohols; some the offspring of wood, wheat, potato, &c., and alcohol, instead of coming from molasses, malt, &c., might have come from quite another source.

The third point is that we are as a nation beginning to doubt that alcohol is a food. Foods are water which make up 75 per cent. of the mass of the body—substances like albumen, egg, cheese, meats, &c., substances that burn in the body like fat, oil, starch, and sugar. Now alcohol has been proved not to belong to water, not to nourish like albuminous substances, and instead of heating it lowers temperature and prevents the creation of the substances which come from the burning of the body. Indeed, it is no more food than chloroform or ether.

The fourth point. We have imbued many in the community with the idea that there must be a limit to drink. Formerly men never thought of a limit, now you hear them, when pleading for moderation, saying, "you may take a little if you do not exceed the physiological quantity." A gentleman declared when he went out hunting or to parties, he only took a spoonful of spirit. There are many such waiting till the cause gains strength and power, when they will declare themselves on our side.

The fifth point is this. People twenty-one years ago believed that they could with drink do more work than without it. Science showed that it was perfectly impossible that that which did not build up the tissues of the body, did not supply water, warmth, or vitality to the body, could impart strength to it. Now what are the facts. All men who are going into training for

rowing, racing, or long walks, firing, &c., discover the advantage they get if they altogether abstain from the use of this degrading and debasing physical agent.

The sixth point. I remember the time when it was considered necessary to write at night that a man must prime himself with a glass of wine or spirit. Now we are able to show that nothing is so injurious to mental work and capacity as for anyone to lace himself up with strong drink, under the idea that he is assisting himself.

The seventh point. It was once believed that to meet the vicissitudes of cold and of heat, it was necessary that a certain amount of alcohol should be taken. Our ships went out to the Arctic regions charged with liquor to assist the men, and our soldiers went out to India with spirit rations. Look at the extreme absurdity of this practice. If the men who went due north had this alcohol to warm them, the men who went to tropical climes could not want it for this. We now know that those men who have been total abstainers have lived best, worked hardest, suffered least, and come home soundest. In the tropics those who have taken least have fought the hardest battles and made the best marches, and that those who have taken none at all have been better off still.

The eighth point. Twenty-one years ago it was supposed that persons could live for a certain length of time upon alcohol, and one of the hardest nuts we had to crack was this one. It was very common to give to people, weak and feeble, wine and strong drink, and they lived upon it, it was thought, though it was not the alcohol but the water that sustained them. The person who takes a rusk with wine or champagne, does not live on the alcohol, but on the rusk and water, and he could live on himself for many days if you were to supply him with water only. Take the Welsh miners. They lived away from nourishment, light, and alcohol, merely living on water flowing near them. If they had had an ounce of alcohol, all those opposed to us would have cried "behold what a small quantity of alcohol has done." But these men survived many days on water, and came out of their imprisonment almost unscathed. All who are said to have lived on alcohol have lived on the water in spite of the alcohol.

The ninth point. Then alcohol was the grand panacea in all diseases. Now you will find wherever you go that the treatment of disease by drink has passed into oblivion.

The tenth point. Then we attributed to alcohol but little as a cause of disease. There was gin-drinker's liver, delirium tremens, mania potu or dipsomania. Now you find that alcohol is an adjective in disease as alcoholic consumption. We did not know then that it was from the influence of this one particular agent that all this vast mass of disease was springing. A professional brother has even said, that in walking his hospital he has been led to the conclusion that sixty to seventy of the cases of disease which came there, were cases of disease brought about either directly or indirectly by this one agent.

The eleventh point. We have known always that when a man or woman sat down to table and began to take wine too freely, there is a stage of excitement, another stage of more excitement, another stage of wasted excitement, and coldness and pallor, or darkness of the face, and a final stage when the body lies helpless, or, as we should call it, dead-drunk. That was known as the first effects of alcohol. What do we now learn? We know that the slow insidious effect of alcohol upon persons taking it day by day, year by year, at last gives us great populations who, not being intoxicated in this special or acute form, are still its victims in the same way. These can take the physiological quantity which brings them to the first stage, and then numbers begin rather early in the day, and go from bar to bar and place to place, and are perpetually in the second stage; and others, who go on day by day and never go to bed thoroughly sober, are in the third stage; and when we go into our asylums and hospitals we find the victims of general paralysis, who are unable to help themselves, who are practically speechless and practically dead-drunk from the permanent use of this,

because they have advanced into the fourth stage, in which they are ready and ripe to drop into the grave.

The twelfth point. Twenty-one years ago our insurance companies were blind to the fact of short lives through drink, but now so keen are they on this question of the effect of drink upon those that seek insurance, that on those that drink they put an extra tariff, and the question asked by them is the question of sobriety, for they know that there is nothing so fatal in a general way, or so likely to lead, not simply to disease from the agent itself, but springing up and intensifying by its employment other diseases, as the free use of this particular destructive national enemy.

Thirteenth point. Twenty-one years ago we never conceived it possible that the mortality from the use of this agent should be so great. Dr. Farr estimates that forty to fifty thousand a year die from what he calls "tipping." His returns showed this startling fact, that there were variations from 70 to 130, 100 being the standard. If the whole of the occupations examined had a mean mortality of 100, then the most favourable lives went up to 70, and the least favourable came down to something considerably over 100. We find that when we get to one occupation we get to the lowest but one. Among those engaged in the sale of spirits we find 138 deaths to the hundred to the mean of the population. The grocers, who, before they had the license to sell spirits, were standing in a most favourable place in the scale, 86 to 100, since they have begun to sell drink, have begun to go down and show a higher mortality. Then you see what an important point we have scored—that just in proportion as this agent is approached by the multitude who deal with it, just in proportion does the vast multitude begin to die with the rest of its fellows.

Fourteenth point. Then as regards insanity. Exactly in the same way as the body ceases to exert its proper power under this agent, so the mind begins to go. Twenty years ago this phase of the question was not under discussion. It is generally admitted that there is a very great amount of insanity produced by drink indirectly and directly. Dr. Edgar Shephard declares that 40 per cent. of the persons who come to Colney Hatch Asylum are brought there by the direct and indirect effects of the drink. The Royal Commissioners say that the direct effects are represented by 14 per cent. Dr. Masson would put the results of insanity from drink far higher than Dr. Shephard, and would say that all ranks and classes are its victims.

Fifteenth point. Twenty-one years ago we had no notion of *heredity in drink*. We know that the inebriety of parents should be regarded as one predisposing cause of the insanity in children. The principle cause is the inebriety of the parents—92 of 116 cases in our asylums have such a parentage. Think of the important solemn truth, that you unwittingly, by indulging in this one particular agent, may be the progenitor of abuse in another generation, which should be affected in a similar manner, and that that may go on for age upon age, always with the still continued increase of the same form of disease, intensified, perchance, and multiplied perhaps a thousand and a millionfold. Here, like as a forest may begin from the implantation of a single plant, so from the beginning of the taking of this agent the mischief may progress from generation to generation until at last, if such efforts as ours are not put forth, this world might indeed—I am using the words of truth and soberness—become one gigantic inebriate asylum.

Sixteenth point. We have now brought out in a manner never before attempted, the relationship of alcohol to crime. Our judges are now alive to this subject, and this very day Justice Kay says judicially, "I know by my experience that 50 per cent. of the crime of the kingdom springs from this cause." In the Medical Temperance Association, over which I preside, we were discussing the question of the treatment of dipsomania. We were all of this mind, that one of the most diagnostic marks of drink craving, that which distinguishes it as a mental characteristic from all other things, is, that the drink craver is always a falsehood-teller, that there is no actual case where a person affected with the drink-

craving has been known to speak the truth, that we never can believe a word they say, and many of us are of opinion that the tendency to untruthfulness descends to the offspring of those people. See how solemnly strange it is that a physical agent should be taken into the body which should, after a time, so destroy all moral sense of right and wrong of responsibility that the very foundation of morality is actually so changed that the person becomes as it were naturally and habitually the child and representative of falsehood. These are facts which were not known twenty years ago, and which must in the end tell largely, as they are made known, in the promotion of our cause.

Seventeenth point. We have declared that alcohol prepared and taken on a large scale is a source of starvation—that to take large quantities of this is to starve. All who have depicted drunkenness have connected it with want and penury. We get beyond that. We see the nations that are going to suffer severely are nations that destroy the produce which is given to them for the supply of the natural wants, by appropriating it to unnatural productions. For instance look at Ireland. One of my friends has brought me a book on the culture of land in Ireland, and has shown that 75 per cent. of the cereal produce of the country goes for the production of one grain—barley, which goes in its turn for the production of one destructive drink—whisky. Let us take that to our minds, and that is only one illustration of which many more could be given; but we have here this broad fact before us, that directly we begin to take food for a false purpose we take from ourselves that which nature wishes us to have, and starvation, misery, and penury are the natural results.

Eighteenth point. Twenty-one years ago it was common to say, "What the total abstainers say is right enough, but we are accustomed to the use of strong drinks, and are unable to leave them off; it is dangerous to leave them off. You may not break lightly a habit, you must be moderate." On that point we have a grand experiment going on in our model prisons, we know that those unfortunates who are locked up are locked up entirely from this agent. When my mind became turned towards the action of alcohol upon the body, I said, "Here is a crucial test about the leaving off." I inquired of all the prisons, "Do you let these people down drop by drop, and gradually reduce it?" "No," I found was the response. As the prison door closes, the tap closes, so far as they are concerned. Then I asked, "Do they suffer in any way?" The answer was "Never." So wherever I made inquiry into prison discipline of life, I have never once found an instance where it could be shown that the sudden leaving off of their drink by these people was a cause of any disease or any kind of defect whatsoever. In America and Canada we have had some experience. Dr. Buck has recently published some experiments he has conducted. In six hundred cases he has removed suddenly strong drink, and he says his asylum was never in better condition, and that he has never had the least occasion to suppose that the slightest injury was inflicted. For the cause of the moral side of this question, this is a fact of supreme moment for you to bear in mind.

Nineteenth point. Historians now are beginning to look up and say "There were great wars at various times—how did they spring up? Who were the men that led them?" They look at those great wars that led to the American Revolution. Who were the statesmen? Why they were the statesmen who were always in wine. Look at the great riots and troubles that have arisen. What was their origin? Wine and strong drink. Even Alexander the Great is spoken of as "Alexander the drunkard," and it is known that he died intoxicated. Historians will soon be able to pick from the history of the past that which was sober and that which was drunken in the history of mankind and nations.

Twentieth point. We have scored a point in legislation. Twenty-one years ago no statesman would have dared to have thought of legislation as to abolishing the English Juggernaut. On the contrary, he would let our people roll under its wheels and be killed whole-

sale, and think nothing about it; but now it is the ambition of statesmen to lead the van, and by-and-by Sir Wilfrid Lawson will have more compeers, perhaps, were it not that his heart was as sound as his head.

Twenty-first point. Lastly, we have given up the notion pretty generally—those who are men of science and thought—of alcohol as a necessity. That general expression of alcohol as a necessity has passed from our minds by the accumulated evidence derived from so many sources. We speak now of this as a plague, and we say it produces fever, and it kills. We speak of this as a pestilence, for we say that it infects and spreads and devastates. Twenty-one years ago we used to hear in our churches the ministers saying, "From plague, pestilence, and famine, from battle and murder, and from sudden death," and we used to hear the congregation give the response, "Good Lord deliver us." Now, by the knowledge we have, we say yes, and plague, and pestilence, and famine, battle, murder and sudden death are all more or less linked up with this one agent; and we declare that if we could say, and not only say, but ensure ourselves that we were delivered from this one agent, then the rest of our deliverance were indeed at hand.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

THE GREAT MEETING IN EDINBURGH.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

Sir,—Permit me through your columns to thank the many willing workers in the temperance societies and Good Templar lodges in Edinburgh, Leith, and Midlothian, who so nobly aided in the arrangements for the above meeting in U.P. Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday, 12th ult. The order and comfort of all concerned, as well as the general arrangements, were admirably carried out, which could not have been accomplished but for the kindness and energetic assistance of those named.

As to the meeting itself, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have never had such an influential platform, and as for the speaking there was the right ring all through; no faltering in the demand; no trimming with the enemy, but a demand for the entire overthrow of the traffic by the will of the people. The audience numbered over 3500, and a glance showed that it was composed of the very best and most influential classes in Edinburgh. Judges, Sheriffs, Magistrates, Town Councillors, lawyers, ministers of all religious denominations, Professors from the Universities and denominational Colleges, leading merchants, and a large proportion of our noble working classes, and yet hundreds had to be turned away from the doors. The feeling and enthusiasm that pervaded the meeting was most affecting—all apparently in downright earnest, and this, next to the progress and success of the Association, I attribute largely to the glorious work being carried on in Edinburgh at present by these godly men Messrs. Moody and Sankey. The audiences they are getting at all hours of the day, and in the evening, surpasses anything ever witnessed in Edinburgh, and great and mighty good is being done. They never miss an opportunity of showing that drink is the greatest obstacle to conversion of the soul to God, and to the adoption of a Christian life; and not only do they urge the salvation of the drunkard, but it is not unfrequently that we hear from their lips as well as from many others in prayer and in the addresses, "God have mercy on the moderate drinker, the drink maker and seller; and Good Lord, remove this terrible curse, this awful temptation from the land."

I have felt it my duty to throw in my energies with this great work, so far as my time will allow, and I can honestly say it has not only been refreshing to me personally, but it has inspired many to more earnest

work who are deeply interested in the object of our Association, I mean "*The suppression of the liquor traffic.*" One thing all should feel deeply grateful for in connection with our great meeting, is this, that Mr. Moody waived his public meeting on Monday, the 12th, and only held a private meeting for the anxious enquirers, while Mr. Sankey and a host of the Christian workers attended our meeting. This act of kindness will long be gratefully remembered, for to it I am convinced much of the success which attended the Edinburgh meeting was due, all admitting that it was the most thorough, earnest, and powerful meeting ever held here. The singing of the Fountainbridge E.U. Church choir, admirably led by Mr. Steel, was also most refreshing, and on the whole it was the most memorable, soul stirring prohibitory gathering ever seen in Edinburgh. May the work now going on here by Messrs. Moody and Sankey, and the grand appearance made by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and others at the recent meeting, inspire all true hearts in the south-eastern district of Scotland with new hope, new energy, and increased determination to labour for the emancipation of our dear country as the chief end of our existence.—I am, &c., J. H. WATERSTON.

Edinburgh, 17th Dec., 1881.

CANADIAN NEWS.

SIR,—You will be pleased to read of the action taken by the Church of England Synod of the diocese of Toronto, during its recent session, for the formation of a diocesan Temperance Society on the same basis as the Church of England Temperance Society in the mother country. After a discussion in which some Churchmen excused past inaction by accusing us poor abstainers of various sins, errors, and misdemeanours, the resolution was unanimously adopted, and a committee appointed with instructions to proceed with the work of organisation at once. It may be noted that the assistance of the total abstainers is not refused, nor even discouraged, notwithstanding their former "evil courses." Indeed, they are still in the fore-front of the battle, and it is the non-abstainers who are offering aid in carrying on the work which the "zealous" section has hitherto been left to do alone. We will not be inclined to cast any reflections upon the past apathy of our new allies, but endeavour to bring them altogether into the safe path of "*look not upon strong drink.*"

Napanee, Ontario.

G. H. HALE.

[We are pleased to see the Church moving, however slowly, but we should have liked better that she had planted her standard on the rock of abstinence than on the iron and clay of abstinence with "*moderation.*"—Ed. S. R.]

The six governors of New England are all total abstainers, and yet some persons believe that the Maine Law is a failure.

We understand that ex-Bailie Lewis' new book "*The Drink Problem,*" is meeting with a favourable sale. The hon. member for Edinburgh, T. R. Buchanan, Esq., M.P., at the great demonstration of the 12th ult. referred to it as a remarkable book, and the audience cheered the reference.

BARRHEAD—BAZAAR.—A grand bazaar in aid of funds for the erection of a Good Templar hall was held in the Public Hall on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ult. The bazaar was opened on the 1st by Sir William Collins and Rev. W. Clark, on the 2nd by Rev. J. A. Johnston and Rev. William Young, and on the 3rd by ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Rev. Thomas Buchanan, and ex-Provost Dick. The total receipts for the three days was £128. Those engaged are gratified with their success. There is about £50 worth of goods left over for a supplementary bazaar. The committee were greatly indebted to the ladies, to the choir, and its leader, Mr. W. Patrick, and also Messrs. Cochran, Brown & Cox, for their services. It is the intention of the committee to commence the erection of the proposed hall immediately.

THE FUNDS.

* * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

JANUARY, 1882.

ALLIANCE DEPUTATION.

MANY of our readers will be glad to learn that the Rev. William Barker, Queen's Chaplain, Isle of Wight, will make a short tour in Scotland on behalf of the United Kingdom Alliance. The dates will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th January. We learn that it is likely that he may visit Ayr, Port-Glasgow, Perth, and Portobello, but nothing certain is known. Many of our friends will share our regret that his stay should be so brief.

* * We have been obliged to leave over several interesting papers, reports, &c., although we give two supplements this month.

With our present number we present every reader of the *Social Reformer* as a New-Year supplement a copy of our New-Year tract for 1882, written by Rev. Professor Kirk, Edinburgh. We will be glad of further orders for quantities of this highly appreciated tract. Price 10s. per thousand, exclusive of carriage, or 1s. per hundred, 1s. 5d. post free.

A Happy New-Year to all our readers, and many of them! At so hallowed and gracious a time we rejoice to think we have the opportunity of mingling our good wishes with theirs for all who co-operate for the deliverance of our country from an avowed and terrible injustice. Standing, as we do, like Janus on the confines of two worlds, the world of the past and that of the future, we can heartily rejoice at the fruits of patient toil harvested in the field of prohibition in the one, and look forward hopefully and confidently to the fruition which will await the true-hearted toilers in the other. Truly the little has become a thousand. Time was when the permissive prohibitionists were met with the cry that they were wrong. But this cry came from the ignorant who had never really enquired either into their grievance or their remedy; from those who sympathize too little with the common people ever to wish to broaden their liberties; from those

that shrink from the "active service" enjoined on all true reformers, and from the prophets who declared that they would never gain the end they had in view while those they laboured to have entrusted with power of self-protection were themselves contented with their slavery. But these reformers feeling themselves in the right, supported by the evidences which history, science, and experience supplied, and commending themselves to the Almighty Being who strengthens and supports those that enter upon the mission of defeating the oppressor and freeing the oppressed, went forth to wage a war of extermination against the colossal wrong of the liquor traffic. They went forth undauntedly, although the sympathies, habits, and interests of those they sought to benefit were seemingly arrayed against them, and at such a season, when wise men take a retrospective view, the question may be asked, how have they sped? By patient continuance in well-doing they have gained the sympathies of the good, and enlisted so many interests already in their favour, that their natural enemies, the publicans, begin to seriously realize their danger, and apprehend the end of the legal protection which has enabled them to reap enormous wealth from the demoralization and misery of the community. Although 1881 has passed without witnessing the destruction of the drink interest, yet it will be memorable from the rapid advance made by the Scottish prohibitory agitation, and it has seen the people more determined than ever to have a potent say in what concerns the existence of the liquor traffic, and their Parliamentary representatives mustering an overwhelming majority in favour of the speedy introduction by the Government of effective measures directed against the existence of that system: measures not on the old imperial lines, so inadequate and unsatisfactory, but measures framed to leave the responsibility of its future entirely to the ratepayers. There is at this moment a serious danger looming ahead—the danger of accepting the indirect power of a Board to the direct power of a veto—whether that Board is called local, county, or licensing. This is the step over which they will fall, or which they must overleap, for it lies directly in their way. They will stumble if they are satisfied with any other kind of power than a direct suppressive veto at the ballot box, and they will stumble heavily if they do not make a determined resistance against any kind of Licensing Board for Scotland. Let them make the year that has dawned upon them memorable by the persistency and unity of their efforts to constrain the Government to do them justice, along with the sister kingdoms, by the settlement of this question on local option lines, or by making Scotland a prohibitive area, and so test the virtues of genuine local option. As it appears more and more evident that this is their attitude, and that they are resolved to maintain it, they will induce some member of Parliament for Scotland to place himself at their head to enable them to carry

their demand in the House of Commons itself. Let him be satisfied of their determination to decline all compromises, as the country has been satisfied with their energy and sagacity, and he will not hesitate to place himself in the van of the Scottish prohibitory army. Such a leader, warmly supported by growing numbers and qualified by wisdom and statesmanship, will draw around him those who see in the removal of the liquor traffic the indispensable condition of the progress and elevation of the Scottish people. Let us be ripe for action at any moment, and in this way we will best secure the fulfilment of the wish that meets us on the threshold of the new year, "A Happy New-Year and many returns."

Since we last noticed Mr. John Paton's operations, he has addressed three meetings in Glasgow, two meetings in Rothesay, two meetings in Grangemouth, and one meeting in Stonehouse, New Mains, Kilbarchan, Paisley, Kilmalcolm, Milngavie, Pollokshaws, Troon, and Leith. The attendance has been most encouraging, and his lectures fully appreciated. When about leaving Troon, he had a serious attack of inflammation, which, we are glad to learn, yielded to prompt and vigorous measures, so that we are glad to be able to state that he is now quite well. After a brief holiday, he leaves for the North of England, and then goes across to Ireland for some time.

By the time that this number of the *Social Reformer* is in the hands of our readers, the Annual Report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will most likely be in the hands of the subscribers to that Association. We always hail its appearance with satisfaction, and after we pause to first enjoy the same pleasure of seeing ourselves down in its subscription list, as those have who see themselves in print, we turn over its pages. The Office-bearers having been first scanned, the Report itself carefully perused, the Treasurer's Abstract pondered over, the several pages of valuable information duly laid to heart, we come upon the Subscription List. From it we gather a number of, shall we say striking facts? The Association was supported by—1st, the usual subsidy from the United Kingdom Alliance; 2nd, by 5,695 subscribers; 3rd, by 135 societies. The income from subscriptions alone is £1,854 6s, which is £154 10s. 6d. per calendar month, or £5 1s. 7d. per day. We find that in 1879-80 the Association had a monthly income of £148 18s. 1d.; in 1880-81 it was £154 10s. 6d.; then the daily income was £4 18s. 1d., in 1880-81 it is £5 1s. 7d. In the former year there was a special donation of £100, so that the ordinary funds of the Association have made most encouraging progress, although the increase per month be only £5 12s. 5d., and 3s. 6d. per day. Now that prosperous times are in the ascendant, may not all true friends of prohibition not only earnestly desire

a large increase of subscriptions to the funds, but cordially co-operate with the Executive in bringing that increase to pass.

Continuing our investigations further, we find that two friends subscribed £20 and upwards, 8 from £10 to £20, 23 from £5 to £10, 60 from £2 to £5, 229 from £1 to £2, 251 from 10s. to £1, 701 from 5s. to 10s., 1,942 from 2s. 6d. to 5s, and 2,469 from 1s. to 2s. 6d. 678 paid 5s., 1,816 paid 2s. 6d., and 1,616 paid 1s. Under all the headings but the first and the last there is an encouraging increase. We see also that 135 societies subscribed to the Association the sum of £83 19s. 9d., or on the average 12s. 5d. each. Then, when we take up the subscribers, we find that the average sum they give is within a fraction of 5s. each. Last year, in analyzing the report, we expressed a hope that many friends, in looking over our figures, would make an effort to rise from the lower class of subscription to a higher. We have reason to know that many have kindly taken our hint and done so. We hope that many more will graduate, and from being subscribers of to them a merely nominal sum, will show a more generous liberality to the Association. The real strength of the Association does not lie in its advocates or officials, however worthy these are, and we cannot here sufficiently express our high estimate of their worth, but in the amount of resources at its disposal. It may be surrounded by the best of talent, but without the means to bear expenses of meetings, deputations, memorials, &c., these are of little avail. The funds are the steam, and we believe that the Association has never yet been driven at "full speed." We are among those that gratefully appreciate its energy, and have reason to laud its vigorous and so far successful efforts, but we entertain a firm belief that if the income were but doubled, that its efficiency, and its efforts, and the range of its operation would be far more than doubly manifest. Within the means allowed, it has every reason to be satisfied with the past. The only reason for regret we have is that the Executive of an institution with such a very satisfactory report should ever have any financial anxieties at all.

During the past month the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has been pushing its operations with great vigour and success. There were conferences in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Irvine, Renfrew, and Hamilton. These conferences have been highly encouraging, much practical suggestion being under discussion which has gone to sustain the course being pursued by the Executive. These conferences were followed, with one exception, by public meetings. The most successful was the magnificent demonstration in Edinburgh. It was one certainly worthy of any cause but especially one the object of which is to exterminate the liquor traffic. We refer our readers to the very ample report we give of the proceedings and to the letter

of the district superintendent of the Association, Mr. Waterston. The other meetings were of a highly encouraging nature, and as from them the resolutions adopted go to the members of the Government most nearly concerned with the liquor traffic, it is hardly possible to estimate the good that will follow these gatherings. The ordinary agitation has been steadily maintained. It being the custom at this season for ministers to deliver a sermon on temperance in view of the Christmas and New Year's festivities, the Executive were fortunate in securing the services of Rev. R. J. Lynd of Belfast to deliver a sermon in Glasgow, which was very largely attended. The arrangements for the New Year contemplate equally vigorous operations, and we shall have pleasure in reporting on these as they occur. The Association is at present doing most effective work otherwise. Indeed, all have long been of opinion that the efforts on which silence sets her inflexible seal are those that, in the long run, are among the mightiest for the pulling down of the stronghold of the liquor traffic.

From that indiscrimination of distribution which is so marked a feature of the commercial system we have received a copy of a little tractate on "How Scotch whisky is made;" of course it was not intended for us. It is well written; indeed in its crisp epigrammatic style will be found its danger. The writer sings the praises of whisky to the disparagement of all other members of the alcoholic family, he roams through the literature of all lands to dress out his favourite beverage, and even Samuel Johnston is brought in to show its power in softening rugged human nature; the butcher Cumberland is held up as quaffing it after Culloden, we are left to suppose that it was to drown his remorse, and the muse of Professor Blackie is said to need a lift in its flights from Oban whisky. All this seems strange until we glance at the writer's name Strephon, when all is clear. Strephon is the name of some Romeo of Arcadia, and the modern incumbent of the title has all the vices of his Arcadian prototype. He raves as wildly about the object of his devotion as stock lovers do, and some of his phrases induce us to believe that he has pilfered them from rings. When the tinsel is torn from his idol how ghastly its nature, how fearful its operations, how terrible its history! Notwithstanding the praises bestowed upon whisky, we manage to get glimpses of truth. Here we learn that "the age of port has passed. It has been succeeded by the age of whisky. We have grown suspicious of wines because they are brandied, while the highest authorities unite in opinion that beer is a beverage that should be seldom drunk after a man is over forty. Scotch whisky is the tittle most recommended by the medical profession. There is whisky—and whisky." And the public analyst of the City of Glasgow is pressed in to testify to the supreme excellence of the Oban produce. At the Oban distillery, "too small to live in

and too large to hang on a watch chain," the mountain dew comes in at one door straight from the hills and goes out at the other door whisky. "The water comes down from moss and mountain vitalized with the zone of the hills fragrant with heather, sweet with wild thyme, and laden with the aroma of a thousand wild flowers, whose bouquet is preserved in the spirit." With this delightful water the beverage of heaven, we would cordially pledge the friends dearest to our hearts, but when it passes through the whisky still, contaminated with the impalpable and tricky alcohol, it is the devil in solution, and renders him who takes it liable to be presently a fool, by-and-bye a beast. Were we, like Strephon, to appeal to poetry we should o'erstep his wildest ecstasies by the emphatic testimonies of the great thoughts of the past. He sees in the Oban stores "whisky enough to make the apostle of the pump moralizingly speculate in pathetic conjecture as to how many drunks and incapables, how many splitting headaches, how many beaten wives and wretched homes this potentiality of puncheons, this arsenal of alcohol contains when it goes out into the world." *Experientia docet*. He may pooh pooh our advocacy, but what about our facts; they stand out horrible and grim after all the tricks of style and gorgeousness of language in which he can trim his theme. Of course he says "the intemperate teetotaler fails to conjure up the refreshing power of this imprisoned spirit—when it is liberated—to the London sportsman in a Scotch mist on a grouse moor, the gaiety it infuses into intellectual converse, its medical value in sick chambers, its destiny in cementing friendships, its worth as a stimulant to reasonable people who use and not abuse its privileges." Where, tell us where, is such a spirit to be found. Ah, shade of Owen Glendower, we can call such a spirit from Strephon's brain, but will the real one come when we do call? Nay, nay, the spirit he apostrophises is as different from the spirit that stalks abroad as Ariel is from Caliban, and the people are beginning to know that: and their indignation will kindle with the growth of their knowledge. In his last paragraph he has a "lament" over the strict supervision of this "sma' still," but we do not share his sorrow, nay, we rejoice in the hope that the Government will be compelled to take a sterner oversight of all such seed-plots of crime and misery, and it will be found that although Government interference now may be likened to whips, the legal interference of the ratepayers will be as fell as the successful assaults of scorpions.

Few burghs in Scotland seem so fully alive to the present necessities of the agitation as Greenock. The friends there tried to induce Lord Rosebery to grant them an interview when he lately paid a visit to that town. To his lordship's regret this was not possible. But fertile in resource, the committee of the Greenock Total Abstinence Society asked his lordship to receive a statement of their reasons why

Greenock should have power to suppress the public houses therein whenever, in the opinion of the rate-payers, their suppression was necessary to the interests of peace, good order, and lessened taxation. His lordship having expressed the pleasure he would feel at receiving such a statement, the committee prepared a lengthy and exhaustive document. Mr. R. Stevenson, district superintendent, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was invited to get this document signed. Mr. Stevenson, in the course of a very few days, got it signed by Provost Campbell and ex-provosts Morton and Lyle, a number of magistrates, town councillors, and commissioners of police, by nearly all the ministers of the gospel in town, by many leading gentlemen, and by the president, vice-president, and the committee of the Total Abstinence Society, also by members of the Carlsdyke Total Abstinence Society. Such an effort reflects the highest credit on all concerned. They feel that the Government will grapple with the liquor traffic when it is convinced that the people are determined that they shall do so. We commend the example of Greenock to every constituency in Scotland, and as far as is in the power of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, we believe they will heartily co-operate with any constituency who follows an example so laudable.

A paragraph from the *Alliance News* is going the round of the papers, showing that the liquor traffic has during the last eight years contributed to the revenue the sum of £256,770,497 stg. This sum is ghastly enough, but it is nothing compared to a fuller statement of the subject. In these eight years, then, the people that drink have contributed to the exchequer two hundred and fifty-six and say three-quarters millions as a drink tax, or the sum of £7 5s. 8d. per head of the population, or 18s. 2½d. per head of the population per year. Now this sum would be very much increased if we could say per head of those who drink, as we would subtract a large number of infants, of women, of men who have ceased or have not begun to drink. But the figures are as bad as bad need be; only worse remains behind. To enable the publicans to contribute that sum, the people of this country spend on drink on an average £136,937,500 yearly, or during the same period of eight years per head £28 6s. 2d., or each year per head £3 10s. 9¼d. It will be difficult to find a folly which can surpass this. The drinking of £28 6s. 2d. that the publicans may be able to hand to the Government that protects it the paltry sum of £7 5s. 8d. is one of the most absurd of acts. The British toper spends a shilling for the good of the revenue, as he thinks, and the publican pays over a quarter of the amount! Can this be the intelligent era to which the working men of fifty years ago looked forward as the threshold of the millennial age? But there is a lower depth. The drinker not merely spends, but in spending he becomes idle through his

intemperance, diseased through it, mad and criminal through it; he becomes demoralised and pauperised through it, and indirectly loses at least as much as he spends. Hence it comes to this, that to support the revenue by his drinking he spends a shilling and loses a shilling, and after all only gives the revenue threepence; or to contribute £7 5s. 8d. he spends £28 6s. 2d. and loses £28 6s. 2d., or £56 12s. 4d! There is a dread on the part of some Conservative working men that the Government may become atheistic. It is practically atheistic already. The Government may never go to business until the chaplain has "read" prayers, but it as practically denies God's existence and defies his retribution by maintaining this drink system as if it had, like the fool, said in its heart, "There is no God;" and it would not surprise a Christian to witness its destruction for its crime.

The Charity Organization of Relief Society of Glasgow has been holding its annual meeting. It too casts a lurid light on the national bane. In its report it states—"then as to indiscriminate charity the council's experience showed that as a rule the most plausible story tellers were the most unworthy, while the most modest and retiring were the most deserving. There was nothing which added so much to the drunkenness, indolence, and crime, and therefore nothing so disastrous in its results as the giving money without first making sure that the applicant was worthy." Dr. Richardson confirms the experience of the society when he shows that the experience of the Medical Temperance Association is that the drunkards are like the Cretans, liars, and lie like truth. The society might recommend to the charitable public the withholding of money from all that are likely to be demoralised through "tips," (cabmen, charwomen, porters, and others) giving them instead orders upon some one or other of the restaurants, British Workman Public Houses, &c., or giving them the sum in stamps if they have the Post Office deposit form. At one time we thought it cruel to supersede the friendly "tip" by the cold and barren "thank you," but we felt constrained to acknowledge that "tips" were our indirect contribution to the traffic. The giving an order to these poor folks, procuring them a cup of hot coffee and a bun, or swelling their savings bank account, dischargeth you of an obligation in a graceful way, while conferring a substantial pleasure upon those whom you seek to recompense.

In our last we referred to the anomalous state of Campbeltown in relation to the liquor traffic. We stated that owing to there being only one magistrate unconnected with the traffic, the justices assumed the power to license, and now any control that the burghers of Campbeltown have over the liquor traffic is practically gone. The distiller may boast that he gives the world good liquor, but it is more certain that he has practically abridged the liberties

of his fellow-townsmen in a direction the most perilous to their amenity. It did not perhaps occur to those concerned in voting in distillers to their Town Council that they were taking a course which would shortly result in their own disfranchisement so far as their liquor traffic was concerned, if it had perhaps they would have paused ere giving honour to distillers, they were losing the small control over the public houses affecting them which they possessed. The matter has advanced a stage. The justices licensed but they could not do so absolutely, and here the virtue of the "Cameron" Act is clearly seen. The licenses they granted must be confirmed, and by a court whose status and extent is expressly defined. That court met, but being unable to muster a quorum could not give effect to the decision of the justices. It is not likely that any privation will be felt by the town at the inability of the confirming court to give sanction to the licenses granted by the justices, but the matter cannot rest, and it may be that the Home Office may be taught by the present crisis at Campbeltown that the best court of appeal is the people themselves. There is always a quorum of them, and they are interested not merely in this or that institution, but in the welfare of the wives, their children, and their neighbours, and that in protecting their own and these other interests they are acting not on the lines of interest or caprice, but in accordance with the highest dictates of justice and righteousness.

Among the best things in the papers at the present time is the cheering and accumulating indications of prosperous times. *Labour* speaking on the "State of trade and the comforts of the people," says "the mass of the people are much better off than they were twelve months back, for they are much better able to buy the necessities and the comforts of life than they were at the earlier date. They have had more work, that work has been more evenly distributed, and in many cases the increased work has been remunerated by a higher scale of wages. The labour barometer applicable to an industry which is increasing in importance, furnished in the monthly reports of the Amalgamated Association of Engineers, shows how steadily previously unemployed labour of that class is being absorbed. At the present time in the great Manchester district the proportion of unemployed to the whole membership is only about 3 per cent. There is hardly an engineering establishment of note anywhere in the kingdom at which there have not lately been works extensions to meet present and prospective demands. Wholly apart from the heavier mill and tool concerns are those of Lincoln and Ipswich say, and establishments might be cited in those towns in which, if the capabilities had permitted, one hundred more agricultural and road locomotives might have been turned out than was last year possible." Now if the working classes were wise and would patronise the "savings banks" as fully as

they have patronised the "losings" banks—our abounding public houses—we would not dare to set a limit to their health, their prosperous condition, their real happiness, or their ability to secure means to crown a youth of labour with an age of ease. This paradise of the future will never be reached by a path leading through the public house, but if all their order were heartily to combine to abolish the drink traffic, this highest earthly condition of their class is assured.

INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.

ON Monday, 12th ult., a most successful temperance demonstration was held in the Synod Hall of the United Presbyterian Church under the auspices of the United Kingdom Alliance and Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The great hall was crowded to excess long before the hour announced for the commencement of the proceedings, and hundreds had to be denied admittance. While the audience was assembling the choir of Fountainbridge Evangelical Union Church, under the leadership of Mr. Steele, discoursed an excellent programme of music. The chair was taken at half-past seven o'clock by Mr. T. R. Buchanan, M.P. for the city of Edinburgh. He was accompanied to the platform by Lord M'Laren, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P. (who was received with great cheering); Mr. James Cowan, M.P.; Mr. J. Dick Peddie, M.P.; Mr. Duncan M'Laren; Sheriff Campbell; Drs. W. Menzies, D. Menzies, and Bowie; J. Cowan, J.P.; Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P.; Messrs. D. W. Paterson, S.S.C.; James Coutts, S.S.C.; Revs. Principal Cairns, Professors Calderwood, and Kirk; Rev. Drs. W. C. Smith and C. R. Teape; John Sutherland, G.W.C.T.; and a great number of representative men from the city and neighbourhood.

Prayer having been offered by the Rev. Dr. Gray, Liberton,

Mr. J. H. WATERSTON intimated the receipt of a large number of apologies, among them being one from Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud cheers, gave a lengthened address, claiming for himself and those holding views favourable to a moderate use of liquor as great a hatred to drunkenness, as the most advanced abstainer entertained, rejoiced that such could meet with the suppressionists on the common ground of local option, and appealed to them not to refuse the help they were willing to give them in their efforts against drunkenness. He thought that one thing was imperative, that the people should have a direct control over the liquor traffic of the district. (Cheers.) He proceeded to advocate the getting of palliative legislation, and was met with cries of "oh, oh," and prudently declined to proceed further in that direction. He said, in conclusion, that he esteemed it a very high honour to preside on the occasion over so large and so enthusiastic a meeting of the citizens of Edinburgh for an object which is so good, and the attainment of which will be the advancement of righteousness and temperance. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. ADAMSON moved the first resolution, as follows:—"That, considering the vice, misery, crime, waste of food, increased taxation, and stagnation of trade caused by the traffic in intoxicating liquors, this meeting declares that no legislation will be satisfactory that does not confer the power of a popular veto on the liquor traffic." (Applause.) No civilised Government could keep its hand off this peculiar traffic, which is not a legitimate trade. It ought to be cut down as a cumberer of the ground. And this is to be accomplished by the will of the people. Those who suffer from the traffic, and who pay for its evils, should have the power to deal with it. And we wish to tell Mr. Gladstone,

Sir William Harcourt, the Earl of Rosebery, and the Lord Advocate that no bill they can introduce to Parliament to deal with this subject will be satisfactory that does not give the power to suppress the liquor traffic in their localities. Such a power might be placed in the hands of the ratepayers with the fullest confidence that it would be used justly and wisely.

Mr. JOHN WILSON, J.P., Glasgow, in seconding the resolution, said—We respectfully ask the Government to hearken to the voice of the people, as given expression to twice over in the House of Commons, and award them their inalienable right to protect themselves from the evils which result from the present licensing laws of the land. It lies with ourselves to determine this matter. Governments and Parliaments are very much what the people make them, and did there go forth from the people a persistent and united cry upon this question, it would be as of old when the embattled walls of ancient Jericho fell by an unseen hand before the astonished gaze of an armed host. (Cheers.) In view of what is looming in the near future, I tremble for the morality of my country; knowing well what the effect was on our working population when the last briskness of trade was upon us. I do trust when the tide of prosperity does again come to our shores, that the people will be privileged to possess that which a free and enlightened nation now demands, the right of self-protection from a traffic that is hurtful to the best interests of the commonwealth. (Cheers.) The Dominion of Canada has now the "Scott" Temperance Act in full operation, with the most encouraging results. Many towns and counties in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and also two counties in Manitoba, and two counties in Ontario, have adopted the Act. (Applause.) It needs no prophet to foretell, once a similar opportunity is given to this small island home of ours to wipe out this national disgrace, that we will not be slow to advise and educate our neighbours to go and do likewise. I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution. (Applause.)

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, who was received with loud and continued cheering, said—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,—I feel a little nervous—(laughter)—before this great audience, not only because I well know the intelligence of a Scotch audience, but because I have been warned a little by the speeches of the chairman and the gentleman who seconded this resolution. In the first place, the chairman warns me that I must be moderate. I shall take his advice, and I hope that before I conclude I may be able to say that my moderation is known unto all men. (Renewed laughter.) Then my friend on the right has also been a warning to me. For once he seemed to me on the verge of deviating into party politics, and I shall take care that when I sit down nobody shall know from anything I have said whether I am a sound and respectable Tory or a reprobate Radical. (Cheers.) Our question is far above party politics, and I must say that I am glad it excites so much interest in the famous city of Edinburgh. I have been paying visits to a good many influential people lately, and to the constituencies of Cabinet Ministers. On Tuesday I addressed a large meeting of the constituents of Mr. Forster, on Wednesday I addressed the constituents of Lord Hartington. I found them, as far as I could judge, unanimous and enthusiastic in demanding that the power should be given to the people to protect themselves from the liquor traffic, which we are asking for now. And today I am addressing many of whom, I have no doubt, are the constituents of one who is greater in public estimation than even Lord Hartington or Mr. Forster, and that is, I am addressing the constituents of Mr. Gladstone. (Prolonged cheering and slight hisses.) Mr. Chairman, observe that I am adhering scrupulously to my rule. (Laughter.) I do not say that he is greater than anybody else intellectually, morally, or politically, but because, simply as a matter of fact, he is the greatest man in the country—he is the Prime Minister. (Cheers.) Well, as far as I can judge from the tone and aspect of this immense meeting, you are as enthusiastic in favour of this power of protection being given to the people as well as those other constituencies

to which I have alluded; and I thank you for the feeling which you show, and I thank you as being in one sense a representative meeting—representing other constituencies in Scotland. I thank you for the support which you gave my resolution in the House of Commons from Scotland, when Scotch members of Parliament voted for my resolution in no less a proportion of eight to one of those who took part in the division. (Cheers.) They were in favour of protection; protection not against free trade—(laughter)—not against fair trade, but protection against the worst trade which ever afflicted the country. But although I am glad to see you here to-night, I do not know I was very keen of coming, because when I am asked to go and address meetings on this matter in which I take so deep an interest, I always say to those who are arranging those meetings, what is the use of going to people who are converted. I am a missionary, send me among the heathen. (Laughter.) Some places in the south of England where they talk beer, think beer, and believe in beer—(laughter)—I would do much more good there, because here in Scotland you are logical, intelligent, enlightened, and you have got rid of the old fallacies, which I used to encounter in the beginning of these agitations, and fight against. First of all we were told that we were trying to put a stop to public-houses and whisky shops, that it was very wrong to rob a poor man of his beer. My answer to that was that the Government at present robs a man through his beer—(laughter)—makes him pay taxation, and pay a large sum for that which injures him. Well, we used to hear the old talk about liberty of the subject. Would you interfere with the liberty of the subject? Certainly not. I am going to interfere with the licenses of the publicans, which is quite a different thing to liberty of the subject—the license of a man to do harm to his fellow-subjects. That is all I want to interfere with; and I think one has a right to interfere with a man who is injuring the public. I do not say on my authority that the drink-seller is injuring the public; I say it on the authority of the *Edinburgh Review*, which must be an authority to an Edinburgh audience. It said long since that the liquor traffic was a nuisance socially, morally, and politically. (Cheers.) That is a sort of thing which the law ought to interfere with. Then we used to have an argument that we were introducing the tyranny of a majority if we let the bulk of the population interfere with the precious drinking rights of the minority. But that is the case now. The magistrates are a very small minority of the people, and it is merely a majority of the minority of the magistrates who have the power to license all these places among us. Therefore, we are doing away with the tyranny of the minority. Well, I have said, I think, that most Scotchmen pretty well agree with me that the time has come when the people ought to have somehow or other some power to protect themselves from this drink traffic. But there are two questions which I shall discuss to-night, and which still remain. One question is—In what manner, in what mode, is this power to be entrusted to them? and the other question is—How are we to get it at all from the Parliament and from the Government? Well, now, the House of Commons has already laid down the lines on which our policy in this matter is to be moulded, and I think I had better quote the resolution which the House of Commons has passed, and which it has again reaffirmed, as it did during the last session of Parliament, because there is a good deal of misunderstanding about that resolution. It is—"Your committee, in conclusion, are of opinion that as the ancient and avowed object of the licensing and sale of intoxicating drink is to supply a supposed public want without detriment to the public welfare, the local power of restraining, issuing, or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested, viz., the inhabitants—those who are entitled to protection from the injurious influences of the present system." Now, that was the resolution that I moved in the House of Commons, and now I want you to pay particular attention to the sentence in the report which succeeds that resolution, because that will make the resolution even clearer than as it stands.

It says—"Such a power would, in fact, secure to the districts willing to exercise it the advantages now enjoyed by the numerous parishes where, according to the reports furnished to your committee, owing to the influence of landowners, no sale of intoxicating liquors is allowed." Now, I think that is as clear as anything well could be. The great landlords of extensive property at present have a veto on the issue of licenses in their districts. Then my resolution says, "Let us, instead of a private veto, give a public veto to the people." (Cheers.) Let us put the people exactly in the same position in which the great landowners are now, and allow them, if they please to do so, to veto—that is, prohibit—the issue of licenses among them. Now, I think there never was a simpler resolution proposed to the House of Commons. You said something about teetotalers and people who believed that to drink was wrong and so forth. Well, they would be entitled to vote in the law embodying this resolution, which allows everybody—the moderate drinkers, the immoderate drunkards, habitual drunkards—everybody to have the chance of saying whether they would have these public-houses among them. I am quite sure the hatred and detestation of these moral evils, these nuisances described in the *Edinburgh Review*, are not confined to teetotalers, but would be found to exist among many, many good citizens besides. (Cheers.) When that resolution came on, I was astonished to find in the speeches on it that the resolution meant all sorts of things. But all I mean is that the people of this country ought to be entrusted with a public veto on these your licenses. (Cheers.) Some people say that that ought to be carried out by boards. Well, boards are all very good things, only we have so many of them that we are almost "bored" to death, I sometimes think. (Laughter.) Boards are very good things, and if the licensing party wish the license through boards I do not exactly know why they should not, only you must understand we prohibitionists do not go in ourselves for promoting anything of that sort. We do not believe that the quality of drink is altered according to the person who sells it, or according to the authority by which he is entitled to sell it. I know that in some religious persuasions people will not listen to those who have not been ordained in a proper manner; but, in my opinion, truth is the same whoever speaks it, whether he has been ordained or not. (Cheers.) And my notion of drink is that intoxicating drink has a tendency of intoxicating those who take it, whether it is sold by the saint or the sinner—(laughter)—and whether that saint or sinner has been licensed by an elected board, or by one of those great and good men, the magistrates of the country. (Cheers.) You see we do not bother about boards. What we want is a veto pure and simple, and if you are to veto through a board, that is doing the work twice over. Besides, boards are things well known to you in Scotland. Why, you have the system here already. Your municipal authorities are elected by the people, and these municipal authorities virtually, as I understand it, appoint a small council for licensing purposes among other things, that is those eminent men the bailies. The bailies, as I understand it, really are an elected board in Scotland, and are doing their best to promote sobriety, as all licensing authorities are. (Laughter.) But what is the result of these good men doing their best? Sir Wilfrid here referred to the great drunkenness in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Greenock, where licensing boards already existed, and to the deplorable fact that publicans were rarely or ever punished for their work. He continued that now the festive season was approaching, when the licensing system came into fuller play than ever, that in about a fortnight's time all the hospitals and infirmaries would be clearing decks for action, as it were making ready the cockpit of a man-of-war before she went into action, to receive the poor drunken wretches, lame and wounded, whom this glorious licensing system will carry there. (Cheers.) Now, you see that I do not think the licensing reformers can do much more. Nobody can bring accusations against the police. The police do their best; and nobody can bring accusations against the publicans, because they are doing their duty—only four

in one place and five in another are found out transgressing the laws. Therefore, I say when you have this horrible state of things in this town of yours, like the evils of battle—this indescribable degradation and misery—I say it is not the men who carry out the system who are to blame, but it is the system, and you who keep that system up. (Cheers.) And the Scotch members of Parliament know that. I am happy to say they see this miserable failure, and this is the reason why they vote a majority of 8 to 1 when the reform we advocate is brought before the House. They voted for the giving of this veto power to get rid of all this evil or get rid of the most objectionable. And what do our opponents do? They cannot be satisfied, I think, with such facts as I have quoted; they must admit there is something wrong somewhere, but they say they must wait for the improved education of the people. After showing that, in spite of all the education operative in the country, that drinking and drunkenness abounded, he went on to say—But do not run away with the idea that I am a disbeliever in education. Nobody believes in it more firmly than I do. I believe in it fanatically, and that is the reason why I am here to-night. It is because I believe that the 150,000 licensed sellers of drink educate the people to drunkenness that I am here to-night to attack the system. And these 150,000 licensed drink sellers are paid by results—(laughter)—they are paid a premium on every glass of drink that they can persuade their fellow-subjects to consume, and that is why they are so earnest and diligent in business; and my opinion is that these 150,000 licensed publicans are beating the schoolmasters and ministers out of the field. Mr. Bright talks in his speech about "prisons and jails darkening the land." So they do; but why are they there? The prisons and the jails are nothing more than monuments of the energy of the publicans—(cheers)—and they are monuments of your disgrace, because you have hitherto maintained or allowed the laws by which they are licensed to do this great evil. You may say that I am undervaluing the work of the ministry. That is not the case at all. I believe in the power of truth—but I must use the proper means for bringing the truth before the minds of the people. There is no parable in the Bible more instructive than the parable of the sower. He sowed good seed, but when that seed fell where there were thorns, the thorns sprung up and choked it, and there was no crop; and you may depend upon it the most pious and most eloquent minister may preach for a long time in a district infested with whisky shops and public-houses before he has anything like the crop which he ought to have by sowing the truth. (Cheers.) Well, then, but other people say—"Oh, we need not do this thing now; let us wait till good trade comes again." I don't think that will do much, because good trade hitherto has meant a good trade for the publican; and that means what Lord Rosebery described when he said the enormous consumption of spirits which comes with good trade means an enormous amount of crime and pauperism. I think that there is something pathetic in the position in which we are standing now. There seems to be a turn of the tide. There seems to be a hope that good trade is coming again, and manufacturers and merchants are looking forward to the improvement of business. There are other thoughts arising when we are looking forward to that business. I saw an article in the *Newcastle Chronicle* two or three days ago, in which it said—"Trade is reviving. We are looking forward to better business, but with that improved trade there will come an increase of drinking and misery," and, it added, "the beat of the wings of this destroying angel is drink; the beat of the wings of this destroying angel is in the air, and, as in Egypt of old, we may have the result that there is not a house in which there is not one dead through this vice." I think there can be nothing more awful than in good trade, good wages, increased comforts to the working people, they should live in this miserable state of things, and that the larger proportion of their earnings should go to the publicans. But other people say a good house for the working people will stop drunkenness;

if a man has a good house he will not drink. I think a man makes a house quite as much as the house the man, and it is because the people drink and have no money that they live in these wretched houses. My friend General Neal Dow explains it in this way. He said if a pig were put into a parlour what would be the result? Do you think the parlour would reform the pig or the pig demoralise the parlour? I think the latter would be the case, as far as I could judge the pig. (Laughter and hear.) I go to the representatives chosen by the people—to your own old representative, Mr. Duncan M'Laren. (Loud cheers.) I go to your present representatives, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Cowan, and I go to the whole body of Scotch members, and I say here—and you know I speak the truth—that there is not one of them, be he Liberal or be he Conservative, who dare go before a Scotch constituency and say, "I am in favour of the repeal of the Forbes Mackenzie Act," who would have the shadow or the shade of a chance to ever appear again in Parliament. (Loud cheers.) That one fact is worth all the newspaper articles that ever were written. It shows how the people really view the prohibition of the liquor traffic for one day in seven. It is a grand step in the right direction, but it is not enough. Now, I say the veto—the veto for stopping a trade. That is what we want. But you may ask, What is to become of the Government? The Government gets 30 millions a year from this trade, and want it very badly. In round numbers, our army and navy costs us about 30 millions, and in round numbers we get that sum from the drink traffic in England. We raise 30 millions by killing our own people, with alcohol, and expend the same money in gunpowder to kill people abroad. (Great laughter.) These sums balance very nicely. That is the beauty of this system. (Renewed laughter.) But why are we to be so tender about the Government? We talk about the Government doing this, Government stopping trade, Government preventing the opium business, and so forth, but when I say Government I mean you. It is a free country, you are the sovereign people, and you make the Government. As a speaker before me said, the Government is just as you make it, and you are all alike in this matter. What did the *Morning Advertiser*, the leading organ of the publicans, say about the traffic? The Government and the Treasury were sleeping partners, and that three-fourths of the profit derived from drink, viz., of every 20s. profit from drink the Treasury got 15s. Thus you are a sleeping partner with the publicans, and I am here to-night to do what little I can to rouse you out of this ignoble and selfish sleep. This is a great audience, representing, I am sure, members of all the different classes of society, but I think that this question appeals more to the workmen than to any other class of the community. You, the working men, have a deal of power now. I do not know what it is in Edinburgh, but there has been a recent decision in England in registration matters which virtually gives us manhood-suffrage in the burghs of England, and the working men now are a great and growing power, and they must work out their own salvation in this matter. You cannot expect the upper classes to be so keen about it as you are. The upper classes believe in drink. Of course, they drink moderately. The *Saturday Review* had an article not long since, in which the writer said if he had to lose the cellar key upon a Sunday, Sunday would be no Sunday to him—(laughter)—and being thus devoted to drink—moderate drinking, of course—they think that your happiness depends upon it also. I say they believe in this drink, even the best of them. Take our friend, Mr. Fawcett, the Postmaster-General—(cheers)—a great friend of mine, and not a better man to be found anywhere, doing as much good by his Post-Office reforms in getting people to save money and so forth, as any member of the Government. He has a craze about this drink, too. I saw the other day, in a window of the post-office near which I live, a placard saying, "If anybody will inquire inside, the postmaster will give a little pamphlet stating the advantages of going into the army;" and so I went in and got it. I got a paper—not that I was going to enlist myself—(laughter)—I am

past the age—but I wanted to see what the inducements were, and I found that they got 15s. a week, all told, at the outset; and Mr. Fawcett said also that they would get cheap beer and tobacco. (Laughter.) That seemed to me rather extraordinary. I thought that glory would have been enough. I thought that the chance of having the honour of being shot yourself, or having the pleasure of shooting somebody else, which, I suppose, is glory, would have been quite sufficient inducement to men to enter the army; but I find my good friend, Mr. Fawcett, was obliged to have recourse to the stimulus of drink to increase the stimulus of glory. (Laughter.) You see, then, there is Mr. Fawcett—one of the best of men—he is trying to promote cheap drinking. What does cheap drinking mean? It means more consumption of drink. He thinks there is not enough drinking by the working people, and he absolutely sticks it in post-office windows—a placard to induce them to drink more. And then, of course, you know the trade is very powerful and very rich—I suppose it is the richest trade anywhere. If you look into a small town you generally find it is the brewer who gets richer than anybody else, and the distiller in Scotland gets richer than anybody else. Two or three years ago, when trade was bad, the licensed victuallers had a grand festival at Burton, the headquarters of the brewing interest, and they said, "Burton is the green spot of England; whatever trade suffers, this trade goes on, drinking goes on steadily, the brewer and the distiller thrive on apace." There are, however, a few good men—they build churches and chapels; and I honour them for that. I see now they are getting on a still more—Mr. Disraeli took one step in that direction, and Mr. Gladstone has taken another step, and two of them have been made peers, they have been raised from the "beerage to the peerage." (Laughter.) We see what tremendous powers we have to fight against. Notwithstanding all that, the great fact remains that the Parliament of the United Kingdom voting on my resolution, and supported by twenty-five members of the present Administration, have declared that you, the people of this country, have the right when you choose to put a stop to that trade. That is the position in which we stand at present. What we have to get now is to make the Government act on that resolution which has been passed, and make them carry it out in what is called practical legislation. Now, how shall we get this power? In the last Parliament, as we know, Ireland blocked the way—Ireland always does block the way, as far as I can see; but it would be intolerable, as I think, to spend another session over the wrongs of Ireland and neglect the wrongs of Scotland and England. It must not be done; how are we to prevent it? Mr. Herbert Gladstone, the son of the Prime Minister, wrote a letter the other day giving us advice; and he said—"Temperance men must make their views heard above those who are heard agitating for other reforms." (Cheers.) We must do that. We must let the Government see that we are in earnest. Now, Mr. Chairman, what I say is this. Our cause is a strong one, and let me sum it up. The House of Commons has twice declared that the people are entitled to the right of possessing this veto power. You have in office the strongest and most able Prime Minister that the country has seen—(cheers)—you have the House of Commons—and my fellow members on this platform will bear me out in what I say—you have the House of Commons, more imbued with a reforming spirit than any Parliament in our generation; and you have an overwhelming public opinion out of doors to back them on in the course of the agitation. Now is the time for us to speak in a manner which cannot be misunderstood, and to declare what we will have done.

If we have whispered truth,

Whisper no longer;

Speak as the thunder speaks,

Stern and stronger.

(Cheers.) Do that, and the day is not far distant when the power will be placed in the hands of the people to sweep away the most deadly obstacle which yet bars the progress of a great and noble nation in all the paths of peace, prosperity, and virtue. (Loud cheers.)

A show of hands was called for the resolution, which was declared unanimously carried.

The Rev. Mr. KAY, Argyle Place United Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh, moved the second resolution—"That, considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland on liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution—this meeting calls upon Government to introduce a measure for Scotland in next session of Parliament, which shall enable ratepayers to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their various localities." Mr. Kay pointed to the result of the last election. Proceeding, he said—I hold that if the public voice of Scotland be once heard in the House of Commons, it will be given all but unanimously in favour of suppression. (Cheers.) Every Church worthy of the name will go for suppression. (Cheers.) Every public man worthy of the name will go for suppression. The only exception, as I take it, in Scotland will be the publicans themselves. (Cheers.)

Sheriff GUTHRIE SMITH, in seconding the resolution, said—I wish to ask your attention to what the Act of 1828 was. It says the license should be granted to such and so many persons as the justices, or the magistrates, or the major part of them should think meet or convenient; that is to say, justices in granting or refusing a license should be influenced by the consideration of what are the requirements of the particular district. Now, there is no doubt in every community a very large section of the people who say, we don't want public-houses at all; and I want to know how, at the present day, in the present divided state of opinion, it is possible for a magistrate to find out the number of public-houses required in a district, except in the manner proposed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion, namely, by public vote on the question of public-houses—"Yes" or "No." (Applause.)

The Rev. R. J. LYND, B.A., Belfast, in an impassioned address, supported the resolution. He said—If the community but realised a tithe of the evil which springs from drink—of the crimes to which it leads, the cruelty it creates, the tortures it inflicts, the homes it bares, the hearts it breaks, the ruin it works, the plagues it produces, the minds it maddens, the graves it digs, we believe they would arise as one man, and, in the righteous indignation of a passionate but just revenge, would rout the accursed traffic out of the kingdom, "so that the place which knows it now should know it no more for ever." (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

The Rev. Professor BLAIKIE, D.D., moved—"That copies of the foregoing resolution be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and Scotch Members of Parliament; and that it be remitted to the committee who arranged for this meeting to take such steps as they think necessary to press the claims of this movement upon the Government and others interested." The rev. doctor, in supporting the resolution, said—I have always felt it to be a great misfortune, and indeed a scandal, that in such a city as this, the working man is unable to find any street, or lane, or corner where he can find a dwelling suitable to his means free from the temptation of the drink-shop at his door; and even where working men had clubbed together and, by their hard-worked earnings, built clusters of comfortable dwellings for themselves and families, they had been unable to protect themselves from the temptation of the drink-shop at their doors. ("Shame.") Dr. Blaikie concluded by saying that he would be happy if in any way he could strengthen the hands of the noble champion who had raised this question of local option. (Applause.)

The Rev. JOHN YOUNG, M.A., Newington United Presbyterian Church, seconded the motion, which was at once adopted by the meeting.

Principal CAIRNS, in moving a vote of thanks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson and the other speakers, said the meeting gave him the greatest pleasure for many reasons, but particularly for the testimony which it gave them of the immense progress which the cause had made, especially in recent times. He thought this the very

greatest meeting that had ever been held in the city on this question, and he rejoiced that it was so. It gave them a hope, a rational hope, of the very speedy settlement in the right direction of this great question.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON acknowledged the compliment. He said he was grateful to Principal Cairns for all that he said. The Principal assumed that they were very close on victory. Now, one should never prophesy unless he knew, and he knew more about it than the Principal—(laughter)—he knew what the House of Commons was, and the immense opposition they had to encounter. He never prophesied unless he knew, and he did know that they should win at last—(cheers)—and when they should win depended upon them, and he thought they had that night showed how great was their interest in the matter. (Applause.)

The Rev. Professor JOHNSTONE, D.D., moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The Rev. Professor KIRK, D.D., pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.

AFTERNOON CONFERENCE.

In the afternoon a conference, called by the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was held in the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, to consider "How best to secure that a thorough measure for Scotland may be introduced at the earliest possible moment." Ex-Bailie Torrens, Glasgow, occupied the chair. The Chairman explained the reason for calling the meeting, and stated it was open to all to speak out their mind. In the last session of Parliament they had forty-three Scotch members against five in favour of dealing with the traffic. They, however, wanted men who would not simply put their names to a bill, but would press forward such a measure of local option. Dr. Adamson said they must insist on some measure being brought in by the Government. They looked to the Liberal Government to do this, and if they did not do so they were not entitled to be called a Liberal Government. He was prepared to submit the following resolution:—"That, considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland on liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution—this meeting calls upon Government to introduce a measure for Scotland in next session of Parliament which shall enable ratepayers to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their various localities." A very animated discussion took place, in which Principal Cairns, Rev. J. Kay, Mr. Sutherland, G.W.C.T., I.O.G.T., and others, took part. Rev. Dr. Adamson's resolution was heartily adopted. The Rev. Mr. M'Gregor also moved "That this conference requests the executive to approach the Government and the Scotch members with a memorial calling upon them to introduce a measure conferring upon the Scotch people the power to prohibit the liquor traffic within the various districts of the country; and that the executive use every effort to influence Scotch members of Parliament to support such a measure." This was seconded by Mr. George Tait, and unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Dr. Adamson, a vote of thanks was accorded to Ex-Bailie Torrens for presiding.

We are glad to see that the Perth Temperance Society issue a monthly, *The Temperance Register*. It is well run, and will, we hope, achieve a large circulation. The first number is excellent.

According to Father Carlisle of Stockton-on-Tees, there are 800 iron workers in the town who are teetotallers, showing that even the hardest work does not necessarily involve the use of intoxicating liquors.

We are glad to observe that there is a movement on foot to erect a monument to the memory of the late Mr. Alexander Dick, the well-known temperance advocate, whose labours at the foot of the Nelson Monument on Glasgow Green were so disinterested, so unwearyed, and so earnest. His many friends should co-operate heartily in bringing this attempt to do honour to his memory to a successful issue.

EAU-DE-COLOGNE AS AN INTOXICANT.—According to the report of Surgeon Major Lyon the inhabitants of Pen, in the Kolaba district, Bombay, use Eau-de-Cologne as an intoxicant, finding it to be cheaper than the native liquor Ab Kari.

THE ANTI-NARCOTIC LEAGUE.—This body have just engaged a lecturer and collector—Mr. John Davenport—for a twelvemonth. As the appointment in salary, travelling, &c., will involve an outlay of £400, it is hoped that the needful liberality will be forthcoming.

The total receipts on the British railways for 1880 was from passengers, £27,200,464; from goods, £35,761,303; and from miscellaneous, £2,529,858—total £65,491,625. That year was a most prosperous one, yet had all those receipts entirely disappeared, and the country devoted what it spent the same year in drink to making up the loss, the actual loss would not have been more than £10,000,000. This comparison should make economists pause.

“The Nottingham Town Council has decided not to open its Free Library on Sunday. The public houses, we understand, remain open as usual.” Now is it insinuated that the library and public house should both be open, we say no; because though one evil the public is allowed, there is no justification for allowing another, the Free Library. The thing to do is to close both. The people will have no occasion to indulge either in drink or in recreation that involves the loss of Sabbath rest and enjoyment to a number of their fellow men.

RICHARD COBDEN.—The *Glasgow Herald*, in its review of Morley’s “Life of Cobden,” says, “For the cause of temperance he went in strongly, by example as well as by precept, for he gradually gave up the beer which had been his every day drink, the glass of spirits and water in which he used to join with others, and even to a great extent dinner wines, mixing water with the champagne when in company, while with his own family he took only water. The children he hoped to see teetotalers, but he would not himself take the pledge, because that would compel a singularity of habits in social life.”

On the 2nd ult. a circular was issued to the Fleet in which the Admiralty cancelled the existing regulations for allowing spirit ration in the navy. The issue of the ration is discontinued to all officers excepting warrants, the saving in price being paid into the mess funds. On special occasions and under careful report spirit rations may be issued to officers detached on particular service, if the mess stores are not available, but spirits will be issued on payment under no other circumstances. No spirit ration will be allowed to seamen under twenty, and warrant-officers, men, and boys may receive in lieu of spirits cocoa, chocolate, and sugar, or partly specie.

CRIME.—I am entirely at one with my friend Sir Wilfrid Lawson that one of the greatest and most fertile sources of crime has been and still is indulgence in strong drink. (Applause.) I may say that by far the largest number of these painful cases, of which I am sorry to say I am compelled to have personal cognisance—I mean these cases which result in murder—are crimes which are committed under the influence of drink. But, at the same time, I am happy to find that the figures which are given me show that for the special offences of drunkenness and disorderly conduct under drink, there has been a decrease.—*The Home Secretary at Cockermouth.*

THEN AND NOW.—Hear to what Uncle Billy said: “When I was a drunkard I could never get my barn mor’n half-full. The first year after I signed the pledge I filled my barn, the second year I filled my barn and had four stacks. When I was a drunkard I owned only one old cow, and I think she must have been ashamed of me, for she was red in her face. Now I own five good cows, and I own three as good horses as ever looked thro’ a collar. When I was a drunkard I trudged from place to place on foot; now I can ride a conveyance of my own. When I was a drunkard I was three hundred dollars in debt; since I signed the abstinence pledge I

have paid the debt, and have purchased 200 acres of wild land, and I have the deed in my possession; two of my sons, who are teetotalers, are living on the lot. When I was a drunkard I used to swear; I have ceased to be profane. The last year of my drunkenness my doctor’s bill amounted to thirty dollars; since I signed the pledge I have not been called to expend a cent upon medicine.”

ABERDEEN.—CONFERENCE ON LOCAL OPTION.—A conference on local option was held on 7th inst., in the tea room of the Café, Shiprow. A number of leading men from the different temperance organisations in the city were present at the meeting. Mr. James Paterson, president of the Aberdeen Temperance Society, presided. There was a free expression of opinion on the question, and the mind of the meeting seemed to resent the idea of having boards to grant or refuse licenses. A direct vote of the people, without any change in the licensing authority, appeared to meet with most favour by the various speakers. Votes of thanks to the chairman, and to Mr. G. Kemp for introducing the subject, terminated the meeting.

RENFREW.—LOCAL OPTION MEETING.—On Monday, 12th ult., a public meeting was held in the Good Templar Hall under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The chair was taken by Ex-Bailie Cuthbertson. The meeting was ably addressed by the chairman, the Rev. A. Wilson, Paisley; James Winning, Esq., Paisley; W. R. Stevenson, district agent of the Association; and Messrs. Jas. Blair, Jas. Vernal, Robt. Duncan, J. Hamilton, and James Tagg. Resolutions in support of local option and calling upon the Government to introduce a measure for Scotland containing full veto power to the ratepayers to prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquors in their respective localities, were carried with acclamation and great enthusiasm. Prior to the public meeting, a conference was held in the side hall, presided over by Bailie Cuthbertson, when a local option-measure for Scotland was discussed with great spirit, and with the very happy result of the warm adhesion of temperance friends who had hitherto been doubtful of the principle involved in the total prohibition of the liquor traffic in any locality, but who are now convinced that it is the most reasonable and only effective method of dealing with a traffic so detrimental to the interests of society.

BARRHEAD.—LOCAL OPTION CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC MEETING.—On Tuesday, 13th ult., a conference of those favourable to the suppression of the liquor traffic took place in the Lesser Public Hall. Mr. Jas. Osborne, Mearns, presided, and was supported by Bailie Selkirk, Ex-Provost Dick, and Mr. R. Mackay, secretary. Messrs. M’Lellan, Shanks, M’Farlane, Johnston, Partick, Craig, Ferguson, Robinson, and others, expressed their unalterable devotion to temperance and prohibition, and the result of the proceedings was a resolution to resuscitate the Total Abstinence Society, and a recommendation that a Women’s Temperance Association should be formed on an early day. The public meeting afterwards took place in the public hall, over which Mr. A. F. Shanks, who introduced the proceedings in an appropriate speech, presided, supported by the speakers and many warm friends of the movement. A most efficient choir, under the leadership of Mr. W. Shanks, discoursed most excellent music; the singing of some of the pieces being exceptionally fine. The first resolution was, in substance, a call to the Government to fulfil its promise, and legislate on the liquor traffic on the lines of local option, was moved in a telling speech by Mr. W. Craig, followed by a vigorous and convincing address by Bailie Selkirk, and supported by the Rev. Samuel Harding, whose remarks were highly approved. The resolution was carried. The second resolution was briefly submitted by Mr. Johnstone, seconded by Ex-Provost Dick in a pithy speech, and supported by Mr. Mackay, whose remarks were summarily cut short by time. The resolution was carried. Other resolutions followed, and were likewise adopted. The usual votes of thanks to chairman, choir and leader, were most heartily awarded.

A CONVICT'S OPINION.—I am not a professed teetotaler, but compulsory association with the brutes that have been created and reared under the immediate influence of whisky shops, has forced me to the conclusion that to keep an establishment where liquors are sold over a bar to be drunk on the premises, is about the meanest thing a man can do to earn a living.—From "*Convict Life*," by a *Ticket-of-Leave-Man*.

THE NEWEST LEGAL DUTY.—A swallow doesn't make a summer, but it tells us that summer is nigh. Mr. Alex. Russell, of Ottawa, insured his life in the Canadian Life Insurance Company, and died last year. Being reputedly intemperate, his heirs were refused the amount of his policy. A lawsuit resulted. It was proved that though he was sober at the time he joined the company, he did not disclose his former intemperance. The Insurance Company were held justified in not paying his policy to his relatives.

Madame de Nedikoff will contribute to an early number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article on "The Temperance Movement in Russia." Strange as it may seem, the article is designed to prove by undeniable statistics that such a movement really exists. As to its success, however, some doubts may be allowed. Still, the Russians are in all things extreme, ebriety and inebriety included. So a great future may await Russian temperance. It was made clearly apparent to the soldier-mind during the Russo-Turkish War that tea was the real friend, not *vodka*; and the fact of which the soldier became convinced may be rendered clear to the moujiks in general. The Holy Synod, it seems, has taken the matter up, and is distributing tracts widely which advocate sobriety even on saints' days. Village societies are also being formed, which will inflict various penalties on drunkards; and the *Selesky Vestnik* or *Rural Messenger*, which is being widely circulated, under official protection, is writing against drunkenness.—*Athenæum*.

THE PRICE OF WHISKY.—Mr. Dobell questioned a statement by Sir Wilfrid Lawson "that the Chancellor of the Exchequer got 5d. out of every 6d. spent on spirits in the drink-shops," and gives his own estimate as follows:—The cost of making sixpennyworth of whisky may be divided as follows—actual cost of making, including materials, wages, wear and tear of plant, &c., 4d., manufacturer's profit 1d., cost of transit 1d., publican's profit 2d.,—total 3d.; leaving only 3d. for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This may be demonstrated another way—the Government duty on whisky is 10s. per proof gallon, but the publican adds 20 per cent. water to a gallon of whisky, thus reducing the duty to 8s. per gallon of whisky, as sold in the drink-shops. For this gallon the publican receives 16s., of which 8s. goes to the Government and the rest accounted for as above. Brandy is retailed at 32s. per gallon 20 per cent. underproof. The duty is about 10s. 5d. per gallon, or 8s. 1d. 20 per cent. underproof, so that the Chancellor of the Exchequer only receives 8s. 1d. out of 32s. spent on brandy, or 1½d. out of every 6d. In many cases he only gets 1d. out of every 6d. Sir Wilfrid quoted Lord Derby's speech in the *Times* of February 26th, 1880. "I do not think that the great consuming classes quite realise when they order sixpennyworth of spirits, that they are handing over 5d. out of every 6d. as their gift to the Chancellor of the Exchequer." Mr. Dobell is correcting Lord Derby and not Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

MR. J. H. WATERSTONE.—A series of meetings under the auspices of the Newcastle Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance, which have been held during the last fortnight in Newcastle and Gateshead, were brought to a close last night in the Central Hall, Newcastle. Mr. J. H. Waterston, of Edinburgh, who is an old Radical political reformer, and a very popular temperance and prohibitive advocate, has spoken successively at all the meetings, and notwithstanding the amount of eloquence that has been expended on the subject, introduced an amount of energy and force of argument as well as timely anecdotes that gave novelty, instruction, and interest to his remarks. The result has been that large audiences have attended every

meeting after Mr. Waterston's powers as a lecturer became known. Last night's meeting was no exception to the rule, and we bespeak for Mr. W. a hearty reception should he ever again visit our town. Last night, after a brilliant closing address, the following motion was unanimously carried by the large audience:—"That this meeting express its high appreciation of the excellent and high-toned lectures delivered by Mr. Waterston during the last ten nights, and beg to convey to the Newcastle Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance their best thanks for securing his services, and further express the earnest hope that they may be able on an early day to secure his return again to this town for a series of lectures, which we have no doubt will do much to advance the Temperance Reformation."—*Tyneside Echo*, December 2nd.

GLASGOW.—SERMON BY REV. R. J. LYND.—On Sabbath, the 11th inst., this popular Irish minister of the gospel, at the request of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, preached a temperance sermon in St. George's Free Church to a very large audience. The service was varied, there being prayer, praise (Psa. xxxiv., 11), reading (Prov. xxiii.), praise (40th Hymn, or 26th Paraphrase), reading (1 Cor. xiii.), prayer, Psa. xxvi., 1, followed by the text (Isaiah lxxv., 25), after which prayer, praise, and the benediction. The rev. gentleman said his text implied three things, (1) Intoxicating drinks must be removed from the earth. (2) The employment of means on our part adequate to their removal; and (3) It contains an assurance that its removal will be complete. The sermon was admirably adapted for the season when the high courts of the Church have enjoined the preaching of sermons previous to the Christmas and New-Year celebrations, and the preacher was a Boanerges. We subjoin a few sentences whose eloquence will strike every reader as they did the entranced hearers:—"Hurt and destroy!" The prophet uses the wolf, the leopard, the lion, the asp, the cockatrice, as emblems of the hurtful and destructive agencies in the Lord's holy mountain; but the ravening wolf has never, in all the ages, committed such ravages as drink; the bear has never hugged his victim with such deadly embrace, as drink has done; the spotted leopard has never presented such an attractive appearance or so cunningly caught his prey, as drink; the lordly lion has never banquetted to the same extent on flesh and blood, as drink has done; the asp was the self-chosen executioner of Egypt's queen; but drink has been the self-chosen executioner of millions; and the cockatrice—poisoning, even with its breath, subterranean in its habits, and oviparous in its propagation—was pure in its breathings, and limited in its spread compared with the great destroyer of our day and of the days that are gone."

THE SCOTT ACT MARCHING ALONG.—The Act was first adopted in Fredericton, the Capital of New Brunswick, October 31st, 1878, by a majority of 2 to 1 on a full vote. Since then it has been passed in nine counties out of fourteen in New Brunswick; in the whole of Prince Edward Island; in eight counties of Nova Scotia; in two counties of Manitoba, and two counties of Ontario. It has been defeated in two counties of Quebec and in one city and one county of Ontario. That is a series of thirty contests, the Act has been carried in twenty-six, by an average majority of more than three to one. St. John City and St. John County, in New Brunswick, have filed petitions, and will vote upon the adoption of the Act in a few weeks, and as every contest in the Maritime Provinces has resulted in favour of the Act, it is expected that two more victories will be scored. Pictou, N.S., votes on the 9th November, and the passage of the Act is regarded as certain. Several other counties in Nova Scotia are getting petitions ready. Two other counties in Manitoba are pressing forward towards the Act of 1875, forbidding both the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. In Ontario petitions are ready or filed for the Counties of Lincoln, Welland, and Lambton; Kent and Middlesex are at work; Norfolk, Elgin, and Huron are just about holding conventions for or-

ganisations for campaigns. Russel and Carleton are petitioning, and in several other counties the people are stirring for active measures. The Ontario Alliance is organising auxiliaries in every city or county, and throwing its whole force into the movement. The close of this year and the beginning of the next will witness an active contest in the Western peninsula. With Norfolk, Elgin, Kent, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Huron, and perhaps others, carrying on a mutual and simultaneous campaign, the question at issue is likely to receive a large share of public attention.—*Canada Casket*. [Pictou has adopted the Act by a large vote.—Ed. S. R.]

GREAT TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT AT FORFAR.—A great temperance movement, with unprecedented results, is going on in Forfar. It commenced on Sunday week past, and was inaugurated and has been carried on by Mr. Francis Murphy, a temperance missionary from America. He came on the invitation of the leaders of the temperance cause in Forfar, and is very highly commended by high personages in the United States. One of his credentials is from ex-President Hayes, whose letter is authenticated by Mr. Lowell, late minister of the United States in London. Mr. Murphy, who is the founder of a body called the "Blue Ribbon Army," commenced his mission in the Reid Hall, which was completely filled by a very large audience. The chief characteristic of his address is his earnestness, and he throws intense energy into his work. He narrates the leading incidents in his somewhat chequered career with considerable pathos, and, at the same time, with the humour peculiar to America. During the whole of last week he addressed crowded meetings, and gathered about him nearly all the ministers and several of the leading laymen in Forfar. The people join his cause nightly in hundreds, amongst the recruits being the whole of the ministers in Forfar, with the exception of two. At the end of the week the meetings were removed to the Old First Free Church, where they are being nightly carried on, and attended by immense crowds of both old and young. His roll of recruits now numbers about 3,000 adults and about 1,600 juveniles, or nearly one-third of the entire population. Amongst the adults are many persons who have long been deemed hopelessly addicted to drunkenness, and a very marked difference is observable in the trade carried on by the dram-shops, of which there are relatively a large number in Forfar. People in all ranks of society can be seen on the streets wearing a blue ribbon in the lapel of their coat or in the breast of their dress—this being the badge of Mr. Murphy's "army." However long the effect may last there can be no doubt that a revolution, approaching the dimensions of a phenomenon, has taken place in Forfar, and that already a very marked difference in the social habits of the people is observable.—*Daily Review*.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 112 Bath Street.

We are glad to observe that *A Detective's Experience of the Passion for Strong Drink*, which we have noticed in commendatory terms in these columns, is now in its sixth thousand, a marked evidence of its merits and its popularity. It can now be had at one penny per copy at Hamilton's printing office, 182 Trongate.

The Irish Temperance League, Band of Hope Union, and Permissive Bill Association. Twenty-third Annual Report. Belfast: Irish Temperance League Buildings. Secretary, Mr. William Wilkinson.—This is a report characterised by all the excellences of brevity, fulness, and relevancy. We have a singularly clear and an attractive record. The comprehensive title of the League gives it a wide area in which to carry on its

operations, and on all fields of the agitation it has reaped success. While it has been working energetically its subscription list has not, however, defrayed its expenditure, and it has had to rely upon the profits of its coffee-stand and café account to make up its deficiency. It has, however, received in subscriptions the handsome sum of £1,160, 8s. The other matter in the report is very succinctly and clearly arranged, and altogether it is calculated to advance the interests of the League.

The Christmas number of the "Church of England Temperance Chronicle" is named the *Amethyst*, and deserves the highest encomiums and the widest circulation. It is crowded with good matter, five original Christmas tales, numerous Christmas papers, and besides is admirably illustrated. It is a temperance gem reflecting the utmost credit on all concerned in its production, and most of all on its able editor Mr. Sherlock, and what is most pleasing to record, there is no advance in the price.

Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Edinburgh Temperance Society. 1881. Edinburgh: 52 Nicolson Street. Mr. William Reid, Secretary.—As usual, the committee of this energetic society submit a most creditable record of their year's operations. Their report is under eleven heads and embraces all phases—educational, social, political—of the agitation. Great prominence is given in the report to the voting on the Local Option resolution. The income is, inclusive of balance, £289, 19s. 5½d., and there is a balance in treasurer's hands of £12, 11s. 1d., but all who know the society will regret to find that it is about twenty pounds in arrears, and will heartily wish that by another year it may be able to present to its supporters a balance on the right side. The committee acknowledge the services afforded to its advocacy by the secretary and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

Silver and Gold. Short Stories for Young and Old. By Emilie Searchfield. London: J. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price Half-a-Crown.—This is quite a gorgeous story-book, being handsomely done up in silver and scarlet and gold, and gilt-edged. It has a most attractive exterior. Within a compass of about two hundred pages we have page about of story and illustration. We are glad to be able to congratulate Mr. Longley upon the illustrations, which, with only a few exceptions, are the prettiest he has ever produced. So far as the letter-press is concerned, Emilie Searchfield has succeeded in putting an excellent story into a page. Altogether this is a signally successful combination of the engraver and the story-teller; and all into whose hands it may fall will, we believe, derive the greatest pleasure from picture and story. Beautiful without and within, it deserves to rank as a standard presentation book.

More than Conquerors. By Frederick Sherlock. London: "Home Words" Publishing Offices, 1 Paternoster Buildings. Price 1s. 6d. We will by-and-by give over the summing up of Mr. Sherlock's works. Biographer, journalist, historian, and novelist, he is certainly one of the most prolific and versatile of writers. We have admired his "Illustrious Abstainers," profited greatly by his history of "Fifty years temperance in Ireland," are informed by his weekly newspaper, and now we enter upon the pleasure of fiction supplied by his pen. The story, "More than Conquerors," suffers somewhat from two causes—it is by far too brief, and it is written piecemeal to meet the demands of a monthly serial. Still it shows us what the temperance-reading public has to expect from our gifted friend when he sets himself to frame and finish a novel full of incident, character, and description. The Conquerors are the sons of a distiller and the sons of a working bricklayer. The object of conquest is the drink, and the conquest is heroically achieved. We refer our readers to this finely written and beautifully illustrated story, advising them to jot its title on their memorandum before they sally out to secure a few capital books for New-Year's presents to the little folks.

Stones from the Brook. Talks with the Children, by the Rev. Richard Newton, D.D., author of "The King's Highway," &c. London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price One Shilling.—The brook is the word of God, and in eleven sections we have such headings illustrated, as the Best Captain; the Best of all Blessings; How the Birds Praise God; the Good Soldiers; the Conqueror's Jewels; the Heavenly Bread, &c., &c. There is a marvellous profusion of stories specially suitable for children and fitted to draw their youthful hearts to God. We do not mean to say that the stories given in such profusion are all equally pointed, but we can and do say that we never in any book of its size saw scattered in such abundance so many really telling and delightful stories given in illustration of the worth to children of those things that belong to their life in God here, and their lasting peace hereafter. As a pious New-Year gift it deserves the widest possible circulation.

British Women's Temperance Association—Scottish Christian Union—Report of the Glasgow Prayer Union Branch, 1881. Secretary, Miss White, 1 Belmar Terrace, Pollokshields, Glasgow. This report, though not so ample as in previous years, yet shows well. The prayer meetings in Sauchiehall Street have been kept up and district prayer-meetings are also being carried on. There is a book kept for requests for prayer, and it is pleasant to find that answers to these requests have had to be recorded. Many of these requests are for intemperate young wives and mothers. The Saturday night gospel temperance meetings in the Evangelistic Tent and Hall have been highly successful, more than 1,000 pledges being taken during the year ending 1st September last. Deputations and memorials to magistrates and a petition to Parliament in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option resolution were successfully promoted. The Prison Gate Mission is another womanly work which has been carried on during the year. The poor discharged prisoners were almost all victims of the drink traffic, and the object of the mission is to relieve their wants, procure them employment, and seek their soul's welfare. From 30 to 40 women are in connection with the mission, working steadily, receiving a small daily wage, and others are doing well in situations. Then about 20 cabmen's rests in the city are supplied with interesting temperance and gospel reading, and one of the railway waiting rooms is similarly supplied. What one is there who on reading this simple record of their great and good, yet unobtrusive efforts, but must feel constrained from the bottom of his heart to pray that God would bless and prosper them.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. JOHN BUCHANAN, DUMBUCK HOUSE.—With keen sorrow we record the decease of this gentleman, who died at Dumbuck House, Dumbartonshire, on Sabbath, 11th ult., of a painful internal malady, which cut him off after years of painful suffering at the age of fifty-eight. A native of Killearn, he went to Glasgow and entered the firm of Messrs. John Gray & Co., wholesale confectioners. Ultimately, with his brothers, he entered into business under the designation of Messrs. John Buchanan, Bros., a firm which has from the integrity of its members a high reputation for its productions and its commercial honour. Mr. Buchanan was a most exemplary business man, large-hearted, loyal to his attachments, sympathizing with distress, and ready to afford generous aid to what could reasonably commend itself to his liberality. He will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends who knew his worth, and with whom he was always ready to cooperate in every good cause. He was a vice-president of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, almost if not from its commencement, and was held in great esteem by the Executive. On hearing of his decease they met and passed the following resolution on the sad event:—"That this Executive hereby resolves to express the deep sympathy they entertain

for Mrs. John Buchanan, and her orphan family, on the removal by death of her husband and their father, the late Mr. John Buchanan, one of the vice-presidents of this Association, and to proffer to them in their affliction, their sincere condolence on their inexpressibly sad bereavement; that the Executive, in paying this mournful tribute to his memory, desires to express their high opinion of the worth of their late friend, whom they always found warm hearted, unwavering, and generous in his sympathy with the objects of the Association, and whose kindly encouragement of their labours they deeply regret to think will gratify them no more. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Buchanan, and also to Messrs. Alex. and Andrew Buchanan, brothers of the deceased."

POETRY.

THE OLD CLOCK.

THERE is strange music in its sound,
The old clock in the kitchen there;
How long its old hands have gone round
I do not know, but I would dare
To say 'tis aged a hundred years.
And yet it strikes the hours so well,
So shrill and loud that one who hears
Seems listening to some minster bell.

I heard it long ago within
The old farmhouse so far away,
Where my young feet went out and in,
Protected kindly day by day.
Yes, I remember how its sound
Rang through the farmer's kitchen old,
And still as time goes round and round
It strikes the hours as shrill and bold.

Oft in the midnight, as I woke
And lay and listen'd, I would think,
As still its sounds the stillness broke,
How to Eternity's cold brink
Time bears us, and each moment brings
Us nearer to that awful goal;
I seem'd to hear Time's fleeting wings,
I felt a terror in my soul.

O grand old clock! O solemn thought!
Thou hast a prophet's voice, thou art
A monitor, and thou hast sought
To tell to every musing heart
How swiftly Time moves on and on,
How soon Eternity will come,
How soon men's short life will be done,
And all things meet a final doom.

And ever in the busy day,
And in the calm and silent night,
Thou sayest Time goes swift away,
Thou sayest haste and do some bright
And noble action, let not Time
Pass all away without some word
Or deed that will make life sublime,
For Time no respite can afford.

ANDREW M. LANG.

Woman's right—husbands.

An old maid was heard to explain, while sitting at her toilet the other day—"I can bear adversity, I can encounter hardships, and withstand the changes of fickle fortune; but oh, to live, and droop, and die like a single pink—I can't endure it; and what's more, I won't!"

The following *bon mot* is attributed to the Prince of Wales:—On being asked what he thought of Lord —, who always appeared clothed in the height of fashion, however extravagant the fashion might be, His Royal Highness is reported to have said—"To my mind he dresses not wisely, but too swell."

THE
Social Reformer.

FEBRUARY, 1882.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL—ARGUMENTS
FOR AND AGAINST.

SECOND PRIZE ESSAY, BY MR. JOHN C. HARVEY,
ROTHESAY.

[The Essayist introduces his essay by making an affecting allusion to the generous aid which the late Mr. A. B. Stewart so kindly afforded to rising talent.]

BEFORE beginning to study the direct arguments for and against the Bill which for so many years has been intimately associated with the name of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, I think it is wise to enquire whether the "evil" proposed to be dealt with is real or imaginary. Is it a fact that the licensing system of our country is not what it ought to be? Is it a fact that there is no Act on the statute books of the realm which is able to prevent the cases of drunkenness which we daily witness? In considering the whole subject, I shall studiously avoid all exaggerations and mis-statements. I feel that the facts themselves are sufficient to induce any candid mind to agree with me that something ought to be done, and that immediately, to prevent the excesses which are draining the life-blood of many who should be the pillars of the State. It is absolutely impossible to deny that there are many in our land who have been ruined by the excessive use of strong drink, and that there are many more who even now are treading the downward path of drunkenness. It is scarcely within the scope of the subject of this paper to adduce the evidence of the clergy, the medical profession, the bar, and many others in places of influence and authority, whose daily work brings them face to face with the evils which follow the abuse of alcoholic beverages. Even those who are engaged in the liquor traffic have, time after time, publicly declared their abhorrence of drunkenness. An eminent brewer (the late Mr. Charles Buxton) said that "the struggle of the school, and the library, and the church, all united against the beer-house and the gin-palace, is but one development of the war between heaven and hell. It is, in short, intoxication that fills our jails; it is intoxication that fills our lunatic asylums; and it is intoxication that fills our poorhouses with poor. Were it not for this one cause, pauperism would be nearly extinguished in England." The *Times* recently said that "no way so rapid to increase the wealth of nations and the morality of society could be devised as the utter annihilation of the manufacture of ardent spirits—constituting, as they do, an infinite waste and an unmixed evil." Again I quote the leading English newspaper, which, in a recent issue, after describing the effects of intoxication upon various races of the human family, says, "For a scene of horrid vice, and filth, and lust, and fury, all drawn into one point and then fermenting, a man might search the world all over and not find a rival to a thriving public-house in a low gin-drinking neighbourhood of London." I frankly admit that some of the ex-

pressions used by the authorities I have quoted are rather stronger than I would have used of my own accord, but still I think I have taken my evidence from unbiassed sources. It will be enough for me to say that the immoderate use of intoxicating liquors is the cause of the drunkenness in our country, and it is quite as certain that the mischief resulting from intemperance tells not only upon our national position and the crime of the country, but also upon our social and moral well-being. Nothing tends so much to create the extremes of immense wealth and deepest poverty as the liquor traffic. By it insanity and disease are created, social demoralisation is induced, political corruption is engendered, homes are rendered desolate; whilst morality, religion, education, and all the virtues which go to exalt humanity, are obstructed; and for these evils this nation pays directly and indirectly an immense sum of money annually. The evidence of almost every judge in Great Britain could be adduced in support of my statement, that a very great portion of the crime which comes under their notice arises from the existence of these licensed houses, which are kept open by permission of the State, and which undoubtedly involve the intemperance which leads to the commission of crime. I am sure no one will venture to contradict the statement that the occupiers of houses presently legally licensed for the sale of intoxicants, could not obtain a subsistence but for the intemperance of at least a portion of the community. Interested parties have tried to prove, by dividing the total quantity of liquor used among the entire population of the country, that the amount per individual is very moderate; but even these statisticians must know very well that a large number of people use no intoxicating liquors at all, and this, of course, all goes to make up a larger proportion per head for those who do use it. Within the last fifty years there has been a great expansion of trade in the country; the working-classes are earning more wages; the hours of labour have been reduced; sanitary and other improvements have been made; the spread of education—religious, moral, and social—has done much to remove the cause of that crime which arises from ignorance, and yet the fact stares us in the face that our nation is more criminal now than at any time since the dawn of the present century. Why this should be so I cannot explain, and I do not believe it can be explained, otherwise than by pointing to the fact that the liquor trade has spread its poisonous influences so widely over the land. In the year 1860 the apprehensions for drunkenness and disorderly conduct alone were 88,361, while by the year 1874, the apprehensions for the same crimes were 185,730, or an increase of 110 per cent. Leaving out of account the very many cases of death indirectly caused by strong drink, not less than 30,000 lives are annually lost in England alone through overdrinking. Truly intemperance has a right to be called death's prime minister. Under a wise and just government the

lives of the people are the wealth and strength of the nation, and when we consider that life is labour, and labour is riches, we must see that our nation is being hindered in its progress to prosperity by the curse of intemperance. Besides this, there is a direct loss in money of not less than two hundred and fifty millions of pounds per annum. During the past our legislators have been acting as if they believed the best method of dealing with the liquor traffic was to license it. Even very recently the local authorities of Liverpool tried free trade in licenses, but in a very short time they saw the evil of their work, as Liverpool has acquired for itself the unenviable distinction of being the most drunken town in the kingdom, and they are now trying to undo their work as speedily as possible; but under the present law, this will take some time.

If licensing the liquor traffic has been meant as an experiment, then it has been proved a failure, as is shown by the fact that drunkenness, with all its concomitant evils, is increasing more than the increased ratio of population warrants. But I do not wish to adopt an untried principle, for I hold that the principle of prohibition is as old as law itself. All that the supporters of the Permissive Bill wish is that this time-honoured and well-tried principle be applied. There are many acts which the law not merely restricts, but entirely prohibits. Thus the business of coining money is put down by every civilized State; gambling, polygamy, the slave trade, bull-baiting, cock-fighting, are all prohibited because the Government assumes the right to prevent or remove anything which may interfere with the moral, physical, and social interests of the people. Surely, then, seeing that the liquor traffic does interfere with the moral and social well-being of the people, it is the imperative duty of the Government to abjure licence and demand prohibition. This is simply the object of the Permissive Bill. The measure is not one clogged with many clauses, nor with a machinery difficult to understand or work. It is based upon the broad principle which I have just set forth, viz., that the liquor traffic as presently constituted is inimical to the well-being of the nation, as declared in its preamble as follows:—“Whereas the common sale of intoxicating liquors is a fruitful source of crime, immorality, pauperism, disease, insanity, and premature death, whereby not only the individuals who give way to drinking habits are plunged into misery, but grievous wrong is done to the persons and property of Her Majesty's subjects at large, and the poor rates and taxes are greatly augmented; and whereas it is right and expedient to confer upon the ratepayers of cities, boroughs, parishes, and townships, the power to prohibit such common sale as aforesaid.” I wish particularly to notice that Sir Wilfrid Lawson's measure will not necessarily put an immediate stop to the sale of intoxicating drinks. Hardly ever do I read a speech directed against the Permissive Bill in which I do not find statements to the effect that the measure is premature; that it would impose mortifications upon the majority for the vices and excesses of a small minority; that while it is a law designed to check an abuse, it would prevent the moderate and rational use of an article which only a few fanatics regard as injurious. I look on these affirmations as so much bluster and assertion without the slightest foundation, and I find that such statements never have anything appended to them by way of proof. The fact of the matter is, that the Permissive Bill will be entirely inoperative unless a majority, and a large majority too, are of opinion that the liquor traffic should be restricted. If the inhabitants of any town choose to encourage the liquor traffic, the passing of the Permissive Bill will

not prevent them from having their will, but, on the other hand, if they desire to exclude or diminish the licensed houses in their own neighbourhood, it will be lawful for them to do so. The Permissive Bill, if passed, will not infringe on personal liberty, it will only acknowledge the liberty of self-government, for

“Law does not put the least restraint
Upon our freedom, but maintains it;
Or if it does, 'tis for our good,
To give us greater latitude,
For wholesome laws preserve us free,
By stinting of our liberty.”

(To be continued.)

TEMPERANCE TEACHING FROM THE JOHN KNOX ST. MURDER, GLASGOW.

ON Sabbath afternoon, January 8, Dr. Fergus Ferguson, of Montrose Street E.U. Church, preached on the above subject, taking for his text Psalm cvii. 20 verse, “He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” He remarked that although Thomas Ferguson had been reprieved the day before, and thus what some would call the sensational interest taken away from his case, he nevertheless thought it to be his duty to bring before his people the chief lessons the tragedy taught in a temperance direction, for he was of opinion that the woes wrought by drink often preached a better lecture than the best total abstinence advocates could deliver.

First. The first “destruction” he would take up that was wrought by drink, was the “destruction” of manliness. It was the duty of the husband to provide for the household, and he (Dr. Ferguson) never married a couple without telling the bridegroom that whereas up till that day he had a kind of liberty to expend his earnings on himself, he voluntarily denuded himself of that liberty by entering into the compact of matrimony, for thenceforth it would be incumbent on him to consider the interests of her he led to the altar as well as his own. Now, what do we find here? We find a man out of whom manliness has been so completely taken by drink that he is willing to allow this poor woman to work with her ten fingers, as she feelingly expressed it, for the support of herself and her children, whereas he works only when he pleases, and spends what he earns on his own lusts. We do read in books of South African travel and missionary enterprise that Hottentots and Caffirs compel their wives to work while they themselves lol lazily in the sun; and yet whenever Christianity truly enters their hearts, as if by a new instinct, the old regime is departed from, and the European custom, which is also the Bible enactment, immediately becomes the law of the house and of the day. O hearers, if you do not wish all the manliness taken out of you, and the meanness that is implied in such conduct as this tragedy brings before us, avoid, I beseech you, for ever, the fascination and the spell of the intoxicating cup.

Second. The next “destruction” that drink causes is that of conjugal love. Of course this is implied in the previous remark, but it deserves special notice by itself, for this man was most cruel when he should have been most kind. If at any time the tenderness of a husband's heart is specially drawn forth, it is when a man child or a woman child is born into the world. Then he walks through the house on hushed tiptoe, and beseeches all the rest to be quiet for the sake of her who is prostrate and weak, dividing his attention lovingly between the wife of his youth and the tender babe on whom he

has impressed his own image. But O what a contrast have we here. All the kindness comes from the stranger, and the cruelty is from the husband and the father of the child. He comes about the house about five o'clock in the morning, and when the stranger asks his wife what is he wanting—for she did not know what he meant by "Give me my drops—my 10 drops,"—the reply is, "Oh, it is a glass of spirits he wants." Then wonderful generosity, for that forenoon he actually works and makes five shillings, and gives it for the support of the house, but in a few hours returns and demands it back again. When this demand is refused by her who knew the exigencies of her home, the glare of demoniac rage comes out of his eyes, and with clenched fist he says "I will do for you both." In a few hours he is seen in the neighbourhood intoxicated, and the poor frightened woman exclaims, "Lock the door, and take that heavy chest and roll it to it to keep him out." Husbands and fathers, that is what drink does in the hour when human tenderness is most called forth. What a difference when the husband's footstep on the stair is a source of joy—when all are glad when father comes home, especially the mother, with her new-born child on her breast, for she knows he will come and kiss it tenderly, and ask how she has fared since he left. What a contrast! And if you wish to be the latter and not the former, see that you abstain from maddening, brutalising drink, which, as Burns says concerning another vice, "hardens a' within, and petrifies the feelings."

Third. I remark next on this case that drink destroys life. The tragedy is not yet complete; the climax has not yet arrived. On that 16th of August a scream is heard on the stair, for one who had stood at the marriage altar vowing to nourish and cherish this woman for life has a gleaming knife in his hand, with his other hand on her shoulder, not in kindness, not in love, for the knife is about to descend into that principal organ of life—the heart. Ah, he had won the heart, and then he had broken the heart, and made the heart bleed with the bitterest drops of sorrow, and now he is about to perforate the heart through and through. "Must it have been a heavy blow," said Lord Deas to Dr. Moore in the witness box. "Yes," my Lord, "for you see the knife went through the cartilage of the rib and then penetrated the whole heart almost through and through." Again I say he had won the heart, and broken the heart, and now he pierces the heart through and through. Is it not enough to make all Glasgow rise that such a deed could be done at high noon, in broad daylight, in the city that should flourish by the preaching of the Word. In John Knox Street, too, with the monument of the Reformer visible at the head of it. Ah, me! if the city were rightly exercised in mind, the perpetration of such a deed would cause sackcloth to be hung next day on our sheriffs' benches, and our magistrates' benches, and on all the pulpits of the city, and signs of mourning exhibited from east to west and north to south. But, alas, they will drink on, and the very next entertainment the Provost will pass the loving cup round. Strange desecration of the name; for cup of hatred, or killing cup would be a far better name!

I have been listening to what the people were saying in Duke Street last week as they passed along the pavement, looking up to the prison. I heard two young women say, "Do you think he will be in yon window? He asked a knife to bone a ham, and he boned his wife." Poor things! I looked after them in all the attractiveness of their simple virgin beauty, and wondered if they would ever have hearts broken and hearts bled and hearts

pierced by strong drink like their sister in John Knox Street. Still the thing moves on, and there are dozens of counters at which every morning the drink can be got by public license, just as Thomas Ferguson got it, for one man gave evidence that on the fatal morning he paid for his glass at 8 o'clock, and another that he paid for his glass at 10 o'clock, and when asked if he was drunk, the reply of both was—"No, but just hearty." Ay, hearty enough, excited enough to do the deed of blood.

Fourth. Notice next that drink destroys the intellect, the reason of man. The doctors have been giving evidence on different sides as to the sanity or insanity of this poor man, just as they are doing across the Atlantic on the case of Guitau; but there is no doubt that the persistent use of strong drink inflames the brain as the punishment of God, and induces that disease called *delirium tremens*, so closely allied to insanity, and very often its precursor. And if you wish never to be murderers, and never to have your brains so inflamed, touch not, taste not, the intoxicating bowl; for these dreadful consequences invade the Christian Church. I have got a call in my own house before now, as early as 8 in the morning, from two professing Christians, and the wife explained the visit by saying, "You see, sir, my husband says he has seen the Evil one. He says he saw him this morning looking out behind the blind in St. Andrew's Parish Church across to our house, for we live in St. Andrew's Square." "Yes," said the afflicted man, "I see him, I see him, I see him." I was but a young man then and felt alarmed, as it was to me a novel sight and a novel narrative, yet what could I do but only kneel down with them both and pray Him who exorcised the legion of devils from the demoniac of Gadara, that He would deliver the poor possessed man who trembled before me. I have known also this visitation come on the office-bearer of a Christian church, for men come to us and profess to be converted, but afterwards the old habits return and their old sins master them. This man had flung articles of furniture from a high window one day. The police coming up exclaimed, "What is this? what is this? You, woman, cannot keep that man down in his bed, you must get help." That was the "destruction" that drink brings even within the bounds of the Church. O God, send Thy Word and heal us, and deliver us from such "destructions." Bless the word of a Richardson on the side of moral suasion, and the word of a Lawson on the side of legislative enactment, that we may be delivered from these "destructions."

Fifth. Notice further that drink destroys good grain, the people's food. Perhaps I should, in strict logical order, have brought in this particular first, as it may be called in one view of the case the cause of all these other "destructions," but I have designedly left it to the last, that my axe might, by God's blessing, give a blow at the root and help to bring the whole upas tree down. We hear it constantly said that drink is a good creature of God. I maintain that it is no more than are the torpedo or the Martini rifle, engines of destruction which man has made by his own skill and ingenuity. I have witnessed the whole process of the manufacture of drink; I have been told "This, sir, is the large vat in which the grain is steeped first; then this is the floor on which it is dried next, till it sprouts again, and you observe after it has sprouted it ceases to be of any use to the baker." When that remark was made I said to myself, "and can God be pleased that it ceases to be of any use to the baker?" Then I was led past the rolling stones that pressed it down to the mash tub and up again two or three stories to the fermenting vat, where first the peculiar odour of

the alcohol begins to be felt, and by that time I was ready to say "It is not so much a creature of God as God's creature perverted and made poisonous by man." Even though you should call it in a very general sense a creature of God, who permits it to be fabricated by the reckless still, as my eloquent friend, Dr. Joseph Brown, quaintly remarks—"A hedgehog is a creature of God, but you do not take it into your bed with you." O, hearers, beware of this destruction, and God grant that the day may soon come when an end will be put to this "destruction," for I agree with Bailie Lewis in his late characteristic blast and manifesto, in which he declares that the land will never be right till brewing and distillation are branded as public crimes.

In the close of his discourse, Dr. Ferguson approached the spiritual part of his subject, and illustrated the Gospel of Christ by the reprieve which Lord Provost Üre had read just the day before to the condemned man in his cell. A word gladdened him, and healed him, and delivered him from his destructions; so, said the preacher, although there are important differences between the two cases, the Gospel of the death of Christ for man, and the pardon it brings, are the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

SIDE ISSUES.

BY REV. S. HARDING, PAISLEY.

If there ever was a time in the history of the temperance reformation when a declaration or re-affirmation of our principles should be known and widely diffused, that time is the present.

From various causes, there seems to be considerable doubt in the minds of both friends and foes as to the real attitude now assumed by the temperance party—whether it be one of uncompromising hostility or concession to the traffickers.

The matter is of vital importance, and the people should not be left in doubt as to the real position now taken.

Are our leaders really in earnest?

Are they seeking the overthrow of the liquor traffic?

These are questions that are being asked, and ought to be definitely answered. The people are tired of sham-fighting. The question at issue is one of life or death to multitudes of our fellow-men, of weal or woe to our country, of honour or shame to the name of our God and Saviour. The cause is too sacred, and the interest at stake too tremendous to be trifled with any longer. Either consolidate the forces, form into line, hoist the colours, sound the war-cry, and go forward to meet the enemy, or disband, drag down our colours, beat a retreat from the field, and hand over the perishing and dying to the tender mercies of the god of this world.

The country is weary listening to the various schemes and side issues that are being proposed as a remedy for the intemperance of our land, "shortening the hours," "providing counter attractions," "prohibiting the sale of liquor on the river steamers," "electing licensing boards," "reducing the number of licenses," &c.

These proposals indicate either sympathy with the traffic, moral cowardice, or want of faith in God and in the triumph of the truth.

Surely the men of Scotland have not forgotten the noble deeds and daring of their forefathers, who rather than compromise their principles stained the "heather" with their blood.

Shall temperance men be put to shame by those who are seeking a reform in the land laws, or by those who are banded together to separate the

church from the state. What are these matters when compared with the magnitude of the evils occasioned by the liquor traffic, and yet there are no side issues, no compromises suggested by either of the parties named.

The Government are looking on, and carefully weighing the deliverances of those who assume the leadership of the movement, and the people will discover when it is too late that instead of the main question, the power to veto the traffic, they have a licensing bill in keeping with the side issues, so industriously propagated by temperance men themselves. Are not members of the Government calling upon temperance men to make their voices heard above others, with the implication that if they do so their wishes will be attended to. The present Government are not given to side issues upon any of the questions of the day. The noble deliverance of the Home Secretary at Derby in November clearly indicates their determination upon any matter they may take in hand.

"I will say for Her Majesty's Government, and if I did not say it, they would have no right to such a title—we will not swerve one single hair's breadth from the path which we believe to be necessary for the interest of the United Kingdom, whether we govern or whether we lose the Irish vote." Only let the temperance men of Scotland be true to their principles and press their demand upon the Government, that in the promised Licensing Bill power shall be given to the people to veto the traffic in alcoholic drinks, and earlier than many expect "Local Option" will become the law of the land.

LIQUOR PROHIBITION AND FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

It was announced in the daily papers the other week that the question of female suffrage is one which is about to receive the "careful consideration" of Mr. Gladstone and his Government. When Mr. Gladstone speaks in this manner we all know what he means. If the country is prepared to take up the question of female suffrage and press it to definite political issues, he is prepared to accede to the will of the country, and in due course frame a measure of political enfranchisement which knows no distinction of sex. The truth is, the question of female suffrage is no longer what it was only the other day—one of theory only—of mere abstract political speculation. From that purely verbal, inoperative realm it has finally emerged in tangible, concrete form, to take its place in the active arena of every-day politics. Women have now the right of voting at municipal elections.

When Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have found time to turn their attention to this question of female suffrage, the very first difficulty they will have "carefully to consider" is the following:—At present the elective suffrage is a household one—the political property of male householders. To universalise the qualification so as to include female householders as well, would be advancing the political enfranchisement of women in name only, leaving matters very much as they are so far as the masculine gender of the mass of the electors are concerned. And the reason is obvious. Women are not householders—that is women as a class. In general, house property is owned and tenanted by the fathers, brothers, and husbands of women, but not by women themselves. Any change, therefore, in the direction of a purely adult franchise, without distinction of sex, must be one freed from the householding qualification if it is intended that women are to benefit politically by it. In short, if it is in contemplation to extend to women a participating share in the elective franchise such as will really place them on a footing of political equality with the male sex, there is but one perfectly just basis upon which such a scheme is practicable, and that is universal suffrage without distinction of sex.

Whether or not, as thus explicitly defined and set forth, this is the problem which Mr. Gladstone is prepared to take into "careful consideration," the moment is most opportune, we think, for liquor prohibitionists to do so. We will briefly adduce one or two very pertinent reasons why.

After eighteen years of indomitable drilling and tunnelling through the obdurate whinstone rock of parliamentary hostility and prejudice, our modern Archimedes, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, has at length succeeded in getting his world-famous lever of legislative interference with the drink traffic inserted into the very centre of parliamentary action. And now liquor prohibitionists have only to press with might and main, and lo! the huge incubus which is crushing the life out of society begins to move! Local Option passed, and our Archimedean lever dug anew into the granite bowels of the publican interest in the House of Commons; one strenuous, one irresistible heave—ho! more, and we have swept the curse of strong drink from our land? But to overtake this latter feat with assured and certain success we require one thing; we require the fulcrum of a new elective power in the State. We require to enlarge our platform, and go in heart and soul for the political enfranchisement of women—for universal suffrage without distinction of sex.

Now, it cannot be called in question for a single moment that if women had the power the traffic in strong drink would become non-existent to-morrow. It is chiefly males that drink, but it is chiefly women and children who are the sufferers. This vicarious distribution of indulgence and penalty may not be flagitiously at open variance with the strict letter of our brave masculine rights as defined by marital law and sanctioned by universal custom; but what do women themselves think about it? What do they think, or rather what is it that their crushed and agonized hearts do not daily and hourly endure in consequence of the hellish curse that dooms them and their hapless children to lifelong acquaintance with nothing in this world but poverty, hunger, nakedness, misery—misery unutterable; and cruel blows without end? And what they would do if, for a single day, the political remedy were entrusted to their hands no sane person need ask.

It augurs well for the final outcome of all recent controversy on this subject that we live in days when the alleged inferiority of women, as compared with men, is no longer shamelessly avowed as a sufficiently reasonable and valid ground why the former should be excluded from participating in the elective rights of our constitutional democracy. We must now leave ourselves room for one or two observations bearing more directly upon the fitness of women to be admitted to their just share of political responsibility.

Women bear rule in the domestic sphere, and they do so with a wisdom which rarely jars or comes into conflict with the cheerfully acknowledged regal authority of husbands and fathers within the habitable precinct. While males of despotic temper are humoured and conciliated, and the titular lord of the household is encouraged to believe that his spoken word is law, and that blind obedience to his most unreasonable mandates is first and last the sacred duty of the wedded wife, it is sufficiently notorious that the masculine head of the house has seldom the smallest claim to a particle of real authority inside his own doors. While clothed and honoured with tokens of respect and every outward semblance of undivided domestic empire, it is usually the good woman who butters his bread for him who retains all the substance of power. And it is well for the happiness of most homes that such is so very commonly the case. Most men will readily acknowledge that they owe everything that is pleasing and elevating, that sweetens the cup of existence, and renders life endurable to the good sense, taste, and good management of their wives. Only propose, however, that their women folks should still further illustrate their incomparable talents for making the best of things, for diffusing happiness, for bringing social joy and summer to the howling winter discontent of our barren over-masculine civilisation by voting for members of parliament, and nineteen out

of twenty of these self-same matrimonial eulogists instantly stand aghast at the prospect. From the primitive times when there were female judges over Israel, from the days of Deborah, of Judith, of Zenobia, down to the reigns of Queen Margaret of Scotland, Queen Elizabeth, and our own Queen Victoria, the voice of history is not silent as to the admirable fitness of women to bear supreme rule. It is said we have a pretty lavish sprinkling of old ladies in the House of Lords already. No doubt we have, and if ladies—not so absolutely well stricken in point of years perhaps—literally sat on both the Ministerial and Opposition Benches of the House of Commons, surely the presence in Westminster of such a welcome guarantee of parliamentary good manners were infinitely to be preferred to our present interminable Irish rows and Bradlaugh expulsionscenes. But we have no reason to believe that women are a whit more ambitious of wielding direct political power than we know them to be non-ambitious of wielding direct domestic power. Women are much more largely gifted with modesty, and the precious culture of habitual non-selfassertiveness than their loud and braggart lords and masters of the opposite sex. And to suppose them rampantly ambitious of signalling themselves to public gaze as unsexed he-creatures, legislative amateurs in petticoats, is a bogus of very unenlightened and very irrational masculine superstition. Even in the matter of School Board elections women rarely vote for women.

The truth is, were women admitted to the elective franchise, and a new House of Commons were returned to-morrow, the present masculine personnel of that assembly would remain unchanged. There would be change indeed, but it would be quite other than a mere displacement of sex antecedents. A new spirit would be inbreathed into legislative debate and governmental action, giving utterance and ultimate embodiment for the first time in history to the diviner side of human nature—the noble, the impassioned, the unselfish humanitarian instincts of the feminine mind. There would be an end to many crying enormities of our crusty and lamentably defective civilisation. But first in the programme of swift reform there would be an end to the drink!

Meantime the responsibility of a great opportunity rests upon the shoulders of the temperance party of this country. We are in the thick of the most deadly warfare known to our race-history. Either we must destroy the drink, or the drink will destroy us. After fifty years of unparalleled conflict, this is the exact logic of the contention at issue, and it is one which is thoroughly understood on both sides. The camp of our enemy lies invested. We have drawn the lines of parliamentary circumvallation closer and closer, but to all appearance rearing front more invincibly above ground than ever rises the defiant fortress of the public-house interest; and pointed to our bosoms with more murderous effect than ever the fatal guns of the dramshop belch forth the indiscriminate slaughter of wife, of friend, of child. Surrounded with the heaped up slain of alcohol on every side, how are we to conquer? Well, we have the women on our side. Outside of the poisonous interests of the accursed traffic itself, every woman's heart in the country is with us, every woman high and low, rich and poor, married and unmarried. If, while pressing liquor prohibition to the utmost, the great temperance party take up the cause of our natural allies, and, doing so, engineer the question of female suffrage with the political skill and determination which they have heretofore displayed in agitating upon the lines of their more especial programme, they will accelerate the march of events, and anticipate, as with giant strides, the near and final extinction of the doomed traffic itself. One last word, our Archimedean lever lies ready to our hand, but if liquor prohibitionists are convinced that we must have the sure political fulcrum of female suffrage to enable us to sweep away the drink, then we have no time to lose. Instant action should be our watchword. Everywhere we should promptly set about utilising our organisations throughout the country for the purpose of specially educating women to a due sense of their political power

and responsibility in connection with our especial agitation for the total suppression of the drink curse. If we seize time by the forelock, we may not succeed in entirely rescuing the present generation of drunkards, but assuredly we will save our children.

JAMES HUNTER.

FRUITS.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

CHAPTER VII.

HOPE DEFERRED.

NEXT morning's post brought a letter from Mrs. Taylor's only brother, saying his wife was at the point of death, and begging them if they wished to see her to come off immediately. He was a doctor practising in a remote part of the northern Highlands, a long journey from Edinburgh, and one which, owing to the number of changes from train to steamboat, the ladies could not make alone. But though pressed with business, James said he would accompany them, for Aunt Ellen was very dear to them all. She was indeed a sweet, amiable, loving woman, who had borne an invalid's cross uncomplainingly for years. It was a terrible grief to them, and you cannot wonder that in the tumult of thought and bustle of preparation Alice forgot Jennie Gibson, and only remembered when they were fairly away that she should have left a charge to the servants concerning her. She would write, she told herself, whenever she reached Arrachdhu, but Aunt Ellen's spent condition demanded her attention and thoughts, and again the matter was laid aside and forgotten.

All Friday and Saturday Jennie watched hungrily for the friend who was far away, and her heart sank when Saturday drew to its close, and still she did not come. As she stood with her papers beneath the gas lamp at the corner of St. Andrew's Square, she eagerly scanned every passer by, hoping to see her among them, but again she was doomed to disappointment. So occupied was she that she forgot the papers must be sold if she wished to escape her mother's wrath; she came to herself with a start as a neighbouring clock struck nine, and now she saw Princes Street was almost deserted, for the night was bitterly cold, and the first flakes of a coming snow-storm were flying in the wind. She left her corner and sped across to the stairs leading to the Waverley Station, but they were already possessed by half a dozen eager urchins who would not be slow to drive the interloper away with oaths and blows, if she ventured to encroach on their domain. There was nothing to be hoped for there, so she turned wearily round the crowded corner of the North Bridge, sometimes offering a paper timidly to a passenger who would only push her aside with a shake of the head or a cross refusal.

As she neared her home noise and bustle increased, for in the quarters of the poor, the streets are always busy—you see there is so little, so *very* little in their wretched homes to keep them within doors. Jennie peeped in at all the public houses as she passed up the High Street, wondering fearfully where her mother was. There seemed to be a crowd at Blair's Close, a fight, Jennie thought likely. Saturday night could not pass in peace and quietness, drunken brawls and breaches of the peace were the common amusements of the eve of the holy Sabbath day. She elbowed her way through the crowd to see what the commotion was, and then she shrank back with a low cry. It was her mother and another drunken woman, fighting like tigers, blinded by fury, and urged on by the brutal encouragement of the depraved onlookers. Not a policeman was to be seen, but a gentleman passing went in search of one, and he was promptly on the scene, and handcuffed them both. I cannot describe to you the appearance of these two women—it would have made your heart sick to see them, human beings in whom God had implanted once the loveliness and purity of womanhood, sunk now lower by far than the

lean and ugly cur yelping at their heels. Truly our God had need be merciful to such as these. The policeman led them both off to the police station followed by a hooting mob angry at being deprived of their sport; then Jennie, crying bitterly, crept down the close and up the stair to the garret. But lo, it was locked, and Jean Gibson had the key away with her in her pocket, so for the night Jennie was homeless. She did not much care after all, it was a poor shelter, and surely she would find some corner outside big enough to hide her till morning. She left the papers lying at the door, and went down again to the street. With one of the few halfpence she had earned she bought a roll, and ate as she retraced her steps down the North Bridge. She turned round into Princes Street again, and went quickly along by the railway to the gardens at the further end. By daylight Jennie had often looked longingly into that beautiful place, knowing it was not for her, and that she dare not set foot within the gates. They were locked now, for ten had rung; but Jennie meant to enter now, and when not a soul was in sight, she nimbly scrambled over the railing, and was soon lost to sight in the gloom of the valley below. She went lightly down the broad walk, not feeling afraid though it was dark and lonely. She was looking for some snug corner below some tree, perhaps, where she might pass the night unseen and unmolested. By-and-bye she slipped down beneath a thick spreading holly tree, standing in the great black shadow of the Castle Rock, and where no eye could see her now but God's.

It felt warm down there, it was sheltered, you see, and Jennie felt very snug and comfortable indeed, and happier than she often did in the garret at home. It was very dark away up in the street, the gas lamps shone steadily like so many stars, and the lights in the windows looked very beautiful indeed, so Jennie thought. By-and-bye a train whizzed past with a mighty noise and shriek, the red lights gleaming fiercely through the night. Jennie could see the men on the engine, and held her breath for fear they had seen her. How could they? The wind had fallen, and the snow did not seem ready to come on yet, for the flakes had gone. Away up in the sky, far beyond the grey turrets of the castle the stars were shining. In a timid way Jennie looked at them, and wondered about the God who lived above them, and knew and loved her, poor and wee and ragged though she was. Was He looking at her now? and was He angry because she had stolen in here where she was forbidden in the daytime. She shut her eyes up very tight and almost trembled to think of it. But by-and-bye that fear died away again, and she looked up at the twinkling stars, remembering only the words Miss Taylor had taught her, "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

With that thought in her heart, Jennie fell asleep.

CHAPTER VIII.

UNDER THE SNOW.

By daybreak on Sunday morning Jennie was awake and stirring. It was grey and still, *very* still; there seemed to be no sound in all the great city but the twittering of a bright-eyed robin on the topmost bough of the holly tree. But the sleeping hundreds would awake by-and-bye; the church bells would ring their summons, and the streets would be alive with worshippers on their way to the house of God. The bells had no summons for Jennie; she had never been within a church door in her life, and did not very well know the meaning of the word. She hurried up again to the railing and vaulted over just in time, for a sharp-eyed policeman was on his beat not many yards away. But she was away along the street like a hare before he had time to wonder from whence she had sprung. She felt stiff and weary, and the pain at her side was worse than it had been the previous day; but she dragged her tired limbs slowly towards her home, although knowing well enough her mother would not be there, A neighbour at her window saw her enter the close.

and came out on the stair to ask her where she had been all night. Jennie told her, whereat she was much shocked.

"Ye micht hae cam' in tae me, bairn; I'd hae gi'en ye a corner some gate. Ye maun be stervin' o' hunger an' cauld, an' ye look for a' the warld like a ghost. An' dear only kens when yer mither 'll be oot the gaol again. She'll get sixty days likely."

"Wull she?" asked Jennie listlessly, not caring much though she got sixty years.

"Come in, an' I'll get ye a cup o' tea," said the kind-hearted soul. "Ye're a waefu'-lookin' crater, bairn. My certes, Jean Gibson 'll hae a sair punishment to bear for this yet. I've heard the Lord forgies a'budy, but gin He forgies sic a mither as she's been, He's no' ill tae please."

"She wasna' aye as bad, Mrs. White," said Jennie. "I mind when she didna' get drunk, and never licket me."

"That's no' been this mony a year. Weel, come awa' in, an' I'll get ye some tea."

Jennie willingly obeyed. She did not feel hungry, only faint and sick, and like to drop where she stood.

The tea revived her considerably, and she fell asleep again by the kind woman's hospitable fire. In the afternoon she went out again, with many injunctions to be sure and come back to sleep all night, which was very willingly promised. She sought her way again to St. Andrew's Square, in the hope that she might catch a glimpse of her kind friend coming home from church; but, alas! at that moment Alice Taylor was weeping passionately at a dying bed in a far away northern village, and asking God to bring the sufferings of a loved one to a merciful close.

So the Sunday wore away, and at night Jennie lay down to sleep, thinking joyfully that to-morrow was the day when she was to see Miss Taylor again. On Monday she was to go for her new dress; but it was not of the dress the child thought, but of the sweet face, the gentle, kind voice, and above all of the wonderful story she might hear again about the kind Jesus who had loved and died for her, a poor little waif, nothing in the world to anybody—not even to her mother.

It snowed on Monday morning, but towards noon it fared a little; but it was only a breath of peace before the coming of the great storm which had been brewing for days. The hours seemed slow and long to Jennie that day, but they passed one by one, and three o'clock came at last. She hurried off full of hope and joy, heedless of the bitter cold and the icy wind. She felt tired when she reached St. Andrew's Square. A very little way wearied her now, and she paused a moment on the steps to still the pain at her side before she rang the bell. Her ring was answered by Mary, who had been quarrelling with the cook, and was out of temper. "Is—is the lady in?" queried Jennie, looking fearfully at the girl's flushed face.

"No, she isn't; she's away from home; don't know when she'll be back; and see here, you little beggar, don't come here again, botherin', or I'll get a policeman to you sure."

Then she slammed the door, and left the child chilled and astounded on the steps. It was a terrible disappointment. The tears welled up in her eyes, and a sob broke from her quivering lips. This was the end of all her happy hopes. The lady was gone, and had forgotten her. She would never see her again; she would hear no more of the kind Jesus, nor of His happy heaven where even she might go by-and-bye if she only loved and trusted Him. She wandered on through the streets, heedless of the direction she was taking; and then, feeling that she wanted a place to lie down and sleep in, she came back again with weak and weary feet to the Gardens in Princes Street. The snow was falling so thickly and heavily that she entered without being seen, and sped down to her corner beneath the holly tree. Creeping down there, she drew her little dress over her head, and whispered beneath her breath,

"Dear Jesus, tak' me hame tae heaven, for I've nae hame here, an' I'm tired an' sair, an' I like tae greet."
And the snow flakes fell thickly from the leaden

skies, and, being whirled by the wind in upon the child in her poor shelter, made for her a pure and spotless shroud.

James Taylor and his sister returned to town on Tuesday afternoon. They had left their mother behind to comfort awhile the mourning household.

"Did Jennie Gibson come yesterday, Mary?" was the first question she asked the girl as she helped her off with her things.

Mary bent low over her mistress's bag to hide the flush of shame the question brought. But she answered carelessly enough,

"Yes, ma'am, and I told her to come back before the end of the week, as you were away."

"I forgot to tell you she was coming, and to be kind to her, that was all," said Alice wearily, for she was tired and sad. "I shall go and see her to-morrow. Let us have some tea upstairs as quickly as you can, please. Mr. Taylor must go to his office immediately."

(To be concluded in our next.)

POETRY.

A HUMBLE GRAVE.

RICH was the floral wreath he entwined,
To adorn the grave of his darling dead;
And with many a sigh and scalding tear,
The flowers were placed 'bove her beauteous head.

Proud was the meaning each floweret bore,
For she was a haughty and high-born maid,
But the giant Death despiseth rank,
She was smote by his hand and lowly laid.

And almost ashamed was this proud bridegroom
Of the humble grave by his darling's side;
The golden lines on the marble stone
Told their ancestral line with boast and pride.

Yet e'en she is loved, he coldly thought,
And gazed on the violets that deck'd her breast;
And perchance, like me, some have sighed and wept
When they laid her there to her final rest.

He sailed away that his grief might die,
Might fade 'neath the sun of a far off clime;
Then again he'd grace his father's halls,
Cheered by travel and soothed by time.

He came again when a year had passed,
And straight to the grave of his loved one hied;
But lo! the splendid wreath he entwined
Lay faded and brown, each flower had died.

But the violets bloom on the humble grave,
And a perfume shed as they sweetly wave;
What are noble birth, and pomp, and pride?
Humility only reigns in the grave.

MARY GRANT.

A little girl was the other day parsing the word angel when she stopped dismayed, and asked her teacher if there were any men angels in heaven?

"WHEN WINE'S IN, WIT'S OUT."—There is no rule without its exception, and the case of Jock Lawson was a striking exception to the above. On leaving off work one Saturday afternoon, Jock indulged too freely in "the cup that inebriates." Having assuaged his thirst, Jock started for home; but he had hardly reached the street when his head began to reel, and he was glad to avail himself of the support of a friendly lamp post. After steadying himself against it for a time, he essayed to move on; but his limbs refused their office, and after one or two ineffectual attempts at progression he gave it up, and stammered out, "This'll no dae, Jock; ye'll hae to tak' a cab—better a shillin' the day than five on Monday."

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

FEBRUARY, 1882.

* * We have been obliged, in order to find room for meeting reports, to leave over much of our general news, Book Shelf, and a number of important papers.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the sermon which we publish by Rev. Dr. Fergus Ferguson, Glasgow, on the man Ferguson, sentenced to death for wife murder in this city, but now in penal servitude for life. The reverend preacher speaks trumpet-tongued against the liquor traffic.

A GENEROUS DONATION.

The Secretary has received the following gratifying letter from Miss Jane Nicoll :—

“Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in forwarding through you to the Association the enclosed sum of twenty pounds sterling as a memento of my dear departed father and brothers, David and Robert. It will not make up for the loss sustained by the Association in their removal. But the cause is God’s, and he can raise up many others. Hoping that the day may not be far distant when the stain of intemperance shall be wiped from our beloved land, I remain, yours, in a common Saviour’s service,

JANE NICOLL.”

This is a truly generous donation, quite apart from its filial intention, which is worthy of admiration, and greatly enhances the value of the gift. We hope that the generous example of Miss Nicoll will encourage many of our friends who may be deliberating upon the many appeals to them for aid. They may like her encourage the Executive by sending such a sum as will be a memento of some friend who, had he lived, would have continued a generous supporter to the funds. We hope, for the sake of the agitation, that the noble gift of Miss Nicoll may be followed by many others.

Up to 1st January last the brilliant progress made by the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement has been made under the impression that severe as is the struggle to get the veto embodied in legislation

it would not be more so than the effort to apply it in any constituency; the evils, nay, the horrors attending these efforts were made as appalling as was possible to the pen of the newspaper writer. While we had no desire to minimise the difficulties attending the introduction of so great and beneficial a change, we never faltered in our belief that we should succeed. Now that women—widows and spinsters—have a voice and vote in municipal affairs we believe that any misgivings on this point are removed. On all that relates to the stability of home their womanly instincts will lead them to vote for the right. They will not hesitate like men between their duty and their interests, but to relieve human suffering, to protect their cruelly wronged sisters, and their worse than orphaned offspring, they will crowd the polling-booths and vote down the publicans. Intelligent observers of American voting pay a just tribute to their unflinching efforts for Home Protection. We believe that in Scotland we will find in female municipal voters one of the best of our reserve battalions.

The Blue Ribbon movement is still making surprising progress in Scotland. In Forfar, although not near so rapid, still the impetus of Mr. Murphy’s visit continues its stimulus, and we hear the most pleasing accounts of the good work. We have not heard sufficiently of the effort made to fix the results attained by organisation, but we feel assured that the friends are quite alive to the necessity of keeping as many as they can of the large numbers who assumed the Blue Ribbon badge. Of the effect on the community of Forfar there can be no mistake. It has been asserted, and it has not been denied, that great prosperity to trade and commerce has followed this special temperance effort: the moral and religious results are to be seen in greater attendances at the churches and in the absence of disorder and crime. It is matter for regret that the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Act could not have been voted upon in Forfar. Not only would we have had the Blue Ribbon electors casting a joyful vote in its favour, but we should have had many of those going along with them who in all that concerns business and trade “take care of the main chance.” A combination of these would have triumphantly carried local prohibition in Forfar, and in all time to come its blessings would have rested on the community. Forfar has within itself a little prohibitory community which will be appealed to at the proper time. Meantime as the present agitation expands itself, not a few will be confirmed in their desire for a direct veto of the liquor applied and sustained by the ratepayers.

Dundee has had the Blue Ribbon agitation going on within its area for a month, and the results have been marvellous, about 25,000 persons putting on “the ribbon of blue.” Provost Moncur has been

unwearied in his efforts to secure all the advantages to Dundee possible from such an agitation, and much is owing to him of the striking results that have attended this exceptional campaign. The friends working with him also can lay claim to great credit for their cordial co-operation during the whole progress of Mr. Murphy's visit to Dundee. There are two features of this agitation worthy of our readers' serious attention. The first is the singularly unchristian and unsympathizing attitude of the greater portion of the ministers of Dundee to this movement. They stand aloof, and let the work of rescuing the perishing lie to laymen's hands. They make a sad mistake; they show to those saved by this movement that salvation is not necessarily of the church, and that the church does not lead the moral and religious progress of the age. To allow that idea to lodge in the minds of the community is to widen the chasm that already obtains between ministers and the common people, and to allow of a state of matters that may sooner or later bring disaster upon the church. The very energy and self sacrifice shown at this time of special efforts by the few godly ministers who rally around Mr. Murphy and his fellow workers, make the absence of other ministers more striking. A reformation of our churches is urgently demanded and is among possible events. Woe be to those that resist its purging power. The other feature of the Blue Ribbon campaign is of the most encouraging nature. On the motion of Mr. A. S. Cook, of Aberdeen, a resolution in the following terms was adopted at the All-day Conference held in the Kinnaird Hall on the 24th ult. "As the liquor traffic ostensibly exists for the public convenience, this conference believes that the time has now come when power should be given to the people to veto the traffic when and where they are disposed." The adoption of that motion was carried by the conference *en masse* rising to its feet. Its passage with such hearty unanimity shows how great the change is that has taken place in the conduct of moral suasion effort. When kindred attempts to that of Mr. Murphy's mission used to be made, those taking part in them were at no pains to conceal their exultation over prohibitory efforts. At such times we prohibitionists were loudly reminded that to shut one's mouth was the only true abstinence that was consistent with human freedom. But what a change! People have been learning by bitter and chastising experience that great numbers in the community are unable to resist the legalised temptations to drinking that abound in our villages and our cities; that these unhappy people notwithstanding the herculean efforts of moral suasion missions, do fall under the fell spell of the public house, and that their last state is their worst. Now it is being clearly seen that prohibition is really the complement of moral suasive action, and at this moral suasion conference a demand goes up to Government that a veto ought to be given to the ratepayers by

which when and where they are they may exclude the liquor traffic from their locality, and for ever relieve the ratepayers from the mischievous operations of a business which saps the physical, mental and moral vigour of the drinker, and proves dangerous to the life and property of all. We hail this resolution of the Dundee Blue Ribbon movement as one of the most obvious indications of national enlightenment on the precise attitude which prohibition bears to moral suasion—an attitude based on identical interest and of the duty which prohibitionists and moral suasionists alike are called upon to discharge—to spend and be spent in the prohibitory warfare until decisive victory crowns their patriotic struggle.

We are on the eve of another Parliamentary Session. An attempt has been made by many clever people to forecast its course. These clever people tell us that the Government will be wrecked about June or July, when there will be an appeal to the country on the assimilation of the county and burgh franchise. As there may be such an event, we hope that our friends everywhere will be prepared, as they were at the last general election, to carry out their old policy—supporting those candidates only who will give them suppressive local option. Indeed, after the recent definition of that term to mean prohibition or restriction or future prevention, it had better be dropped and the suppressive veto or the Permissive Bill take its place. Let our friends see that no man is returned by them to Parliament who declines to grant the ratepayers power to suppress the licenses in their district. Have no fellowship with restriction, but support prohibition. That is the want of Scotland, and that alone. Our friends will all the sooner gain their end that they do two things—make it clear to the Government that they want suppression, and that they are determined to have it. In that spirit a general election will be found still further contributing to the progress of their cause.

In our last issue we pointed to the highly creditable effort of the Greenock friends in getting up an excellent memorial to Lord Rosebery, and we hinted that such a memorial might go up to Mr. Gladstone from every burgh in Scotland. The Greenock memorial was signed by nearly one hundred of the municipal and other officials in the town, by almost all its ministers, and by many leading gentlemen. Such a course of action would redound to the credit of all communities taking it, while the publication of the memorial would, as in the case of Greenock, produce a stimulating influence on the movement throughout Scotland. We earnestly commend this matter to all earnest souls who desire to move the Prime Minister and their own representative to enact a law for Scotland embodying a suppressive veto. This is the true way to follow out Mr. Her-

bert Gladstone's advice, to let their voices be heard above the rest of their countrymen in demanding the overthrow of the liquor traffic.

During the past month the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have put forth a most strenuous effort. Beginning as soon after the new year saturnalia as possible, their representatives—including Revs. Dr. Adamson, A. Wilson, John M'Queen, E. J. Boon, W. C. M'Dougal, and Samuel Harding; ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Bailie Selkirk, J.P.; Capt. Brothie; Messrs. J. Coutts, S.S.C.; John Steel, James Winning, and others, with the Secretary and agents—have visited a number of leading towns. Meetings, preceded by conferences, have been held in Dumfries, Port-Glasgow, Perth, and Portobello. The deputation to these four places had the singularly able assistance of the Rev. W. Barker, Queen's Chaplain. The other places included Dundee, Linlithgow, Grangemouth, Peebles, Galashiels, Kelso, Maybole, Whithorn, &c. At these places the utmost enthusiasm was manifest, and the Executive have been instructed to continue and increase their efforts to get a special suppressive veto Act for Scotland.

During the past few years the directors of the Scottish Temperance League, the Executive of the Good Templars, and the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, met from time to time in friendly conference with a view to uniting in promoting special liquor legislation for Scotland. These conferences resulted in the League's adhesion to the suppressive veto of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and in all the Executives accepting the famous "six points." When the Joint Executives, however, set themselves to frame a measure which would include the suppressive and lesser veto, difficulties, which were at last found insuperable, presented themselves. There was, however, no difficulties with the suppressive veto—none whatever. Its simplicity and directness were more than ever conspicuous. With the lesser veto this was not the case. The difficulties attending the attempt to embody it in a bill could not be overcome, and the plebiscite superseding it is as impracticable as a bill. Matters continued in this state until the beginning of October last, when a conference was called to consider certain proposals for the solution of these difficulties. These proposals are the methods of the united manifesto now before the country: namely, local boards with plenary powers, and an alternative plebiscite. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association attended this conference merely to intimate that they could not and would not enter upon these proposals, which were in their nature subversive of prohibition and alien to the principles and policy of prohibition of the Association. It is due to all

parties to state that they parted on the most friendly terms, amid sincere expressions of mutual regard. The directors of the other associations continued to meet, and as the result of their deliberations they had placed these proposals before the country in a united manifesto.

Up to the time of separation much benefit followed these conferences. All the associations became unanimous on the necessity of a suppressive veto. None of them has greater reason to rejoice over this gratifying result than the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. That unanimity vindicates years of agitation and encourages the hope that in the near future, if the agitation is maintained with its usual vigour, is liberally supported, and its supporters evince the same steadfast loyalty to their principles, their labours will see a triumphant issue. While they can thus regard their efforts with proud satisfaction, they cannot on the other hand refrain from expressing their deep regret at the appearance of the united manifesto. It will, in their opinion, lead to distraction and confusion in the ranks of temperance reformers, and suggests to the Government of the day reasons for shelving the question of special suppressive legislation for Scotland for another session. It will satisfy no truly intelligent and reflecting temperance reformer, while it will offer an opportunity to the timid and strategic alike of evading the direct issue of suppression. These proposals are a lame and impotent conclusion to the prohibitory declarations of both Associations in the united manifesto. There we find it is said, "The manifesto must not be regarded as a formal expression of the full or ultimate demand of either Association." Had they intended to issue such, "One short sentence would suffice, viz., total prohibition and suppression of the manufacture, sale, and importation of all alcoholic beverages." "While we insist upon local option, we must let all parties distinctly understand that no form or measure of local option will be satisfactory, or lead to a cessation of the agitation, which does not concede a pure veto, *i.e.*, a veto on the traffic alone, and a full veto, *i.e.*, a veto on the issue, transfer, or renewal of all licenses."

The just expectations arising from such laudable sentiments would be a resolute determination on the part of the League and Templars to ask for that only which they can rightly claim from the Government—power to the ratepayers absolutely to veto the liquor traffic affecting them. These Executives are at the head of associations who teach that alcohol poisons the brain, deranges the mind, and through that derangement brings innumerable and intolerable evils upon society, and they urge upon all who are within the reach of their appeal to abandon the use of these liquors. Yet in their united manifesto these abstinence doctrines are so clogged by compromises as to be practically worthless. It is a matter of convenience or expediency, not a matter of conscience or duty to deal with the evils of intemperance. Instead of

calling upon men and women to take their stand upon what is right and due, they ask them to elect boards or to call for a plebiscite, neither the one nor the other necessarily resulting in prohibition. They cannot point to a licensing or local board scheme, having as its object suppression, and they know that the licensing courts or boards of Scotland have ever been in their attitude to prohibition a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. Within the last few weeks we learn that Maine has abolished local boards in favour of a popular veto. We should have as soon have expected to have found it recorded that Boards had been elected to administer the Slave laws effectively, or the Corn laws, as the drink system. It is due, however, to those responsible for the united manifesto to state that they prefer a ratepayers' veto to local boards.

The local option they desire may be fitly described as of Hermaphroditic or amalgam origin, being a compound of Lawson, Bright, Foster, Anstruther, and Parker. The united manifesto has done one good service by its attempt to define local option—it has shown the utter want of either temperance or prohibitory principle in a remedy founded upon its definition. The suppression of the liquor traffic is the right and duty of the citizen, and being so, what are the alternatives they offer but an evasion of that right and that duty. The liquor traffic is held as partly right or wholly wrong, as the man asked to vote may think, not a veritable wrong in itself. A man is told by the schedule that he may or may not interfere with the existing traffic, and that his duty as a voter may be fulfilled by simply declaring that he does not want more public-houses than those existing around him. The publicans can easily sign No. 3, laughing, most likely, at the gross ignorance of the preventive new licensing powers in Dr. Cameron's Act, shown by the framers of the united manifesto. They will be found signing No. 2 when a moment's reflection shows them the utter impossibility of carrying it out. There are 479 licensed places in Dundee, and it is proposed to reduce them to 279. The same difficulties that surrounded the lesser veto would cluster around No. 2 of the plebiscite, and it is for the owners of this manifesto to come forward and show to the authorities of Dundee how 200 are to be selected for sacrifice. "Two women were grinding at the mill, the one was taken and the other left"—but unerring wisdom made the choice. It is as likely as not that the 279 left would be more worthy of suppression than the 200 taken away.

After all, the suppressive veto of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association stands out more simple and clear. Its friends and supporters appeal to the people on one issue and one only, namely, the unutterable wrong that alcoholic liquors continually and of necessity inflict on society, and calls upon them to say if such a wrong is to exist—not whether it is to be diminished, but whether it is to exist. The one question with them is public-

houses or no public-houses; their ballot-paper has a simple Yes or No. Their veto is pure, because it is uncontaminated by restriction or alternatives; it is full, as it provides for the only duty which can be founded upon the principles of the Association—the overthrow of a system alike emphatically condemned by Scripture, reason, science, and true politics. This is the issue which those who are responsible for the united manifesto should have placed before the people. In doing this they would have been leading the movement which they believe is the only one that will secure the destruction of the traffic, and they would have left the ignorant and interested "outsider" to tinker with a system incurably bad, by palliatives, which but slightly lessen its virulence. If they stand by their manifesto they will inevitably place themselves in the ranks of those whose abortive legislative schemes have been the sorrow of staunch prohibitionists, and have provoked the jeering comment of practical minds.

INTELLIGENCE.

TEMPERANCE MEETINGS IN PERTH.

ON Thursday, 19th ult., two meetings were held in Perth under the auspices of the Perth Temperance Society.

CONFERENCE IN GOOD TEMPLARS' HALL.

At six o'clock a conference was held in the Good Templars' Hall, Canal Crescent. Councillor Russell, President of the Perth Temperance Society, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were:—The Rev. Mr. Barker, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen, Cowes; the Rev. D. D. Bannerman, Free St. Leonard's Church; the Rev. John Rainnie, Knox Free Church; the Rev. J. Symon, Free St. Paul's; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow; ex-Bailie Torrens, Glasgow; Mr. Robert Mackay, Secretary of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association; Councillor Campbell; Councillor Bridges; Mr. John Moncrieff, Perth Glass Works, &c. The representatives present were as follows:—From Free St. Leonard's Temperance Association, Mr. Hugh Monro; E.U. Church, Perth, Rev. R. Finlay and Mr. D. Scrimgeour; Perth Women's Temperance Society, Mrs. Peebles, Princes Street; Perth Temperance Association, Mr. D. Allan; Perth Temperance Hundred, Mr. Crystal; Crief Temperance Society, Mr. John G. Allan; Pitlochry Temperance Society, Mr. John Young; District Lodge of Good Templars, Mr. A. Wright; Good Templar Lodge, Mr. P. Campbell, Mr. Watson; Bridge of Earn Good Templar Lodge, Mr. A. M'Niven; Fair City Lodge, Perth, Mr. John Wilson; Ark of Safety Lodge, Perth, Mr. D. W. Dewar; Star of Kinnoull Lodge, Perth, Mr. James M'Carrick; Star of Tay Lodge, Perth, Mr. R. R. Robertson; St. John's Lodge, Perth, Mr. J. Ferrier; Star of Hope Lodge, Perth, Mr. R. M'Lauchlan; Tayside Lodge, Perth, Mr. George Caird; Heather Bell Lodge, Crief, Mr. J. G. Allan; Hope of Stanley Lodge, Mr. Wm. Low, Stanley; Coupar-Angus, Mr. John Barnett.

After tea, the CHAIRMAN stated that letters of apology had been received from Sir Donald Currie, M.P.; Mr. C. S. Parker, M.P.; Mr. Robert Pullar; the Rev. A. Sutherland, York Place U.P. Church; and the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Dunkeld. Sir Donald Currie, in a brief note, assured the conference that he "would give his best consideration to whatever proposals may be made with a view to the increase of temperance amongst the people of Scotland." Mr. Parker in his note, which was also brief, hoped that in the proposals of the conference "regard will be had less to what societies for the total suppression by law of the liquor trade may desire than to what Parliament might

practically entertain." (A Voice—"That's a sham." Laughter and applause.)

Bailie SELKIRK then proceeded to read a paper on temperance legislation for Scotland. While legislation had accomplished much, it had practically failed to meet the evil, because it had had reference not to the cause, but to the surrounding circumstances. Nothing short of prohibition would secure adequate protection, and that prohibition could only be attained by convincing the electors of the country that the truth they had been advocating was thoroughly sound, and of the beneficial effects that would accrue to the country by its adoption.

An open discussion followed, in which the following gentlemen took part:—Mr. Johnston, gardener, Perth; Mr. A. Wright, Perth; Mr. Mackay, Glasgow; ex-Bailie Torrens; and the Rev. D. D. Bannerman. In the course of his remarks, the last-named gentleman read an extract from a letter which he had recently received from Sir Wilfrid Lawson, in which he said, "Do not suppose I object to the veto being exercised through a Board elected by the people. It seems to me to be really a cumbersome way of doing a thing, but if those people prefer it let them by all means agitate for the mode they consider the best."

On the motion of the Rev. J. RAINNIE, a vote of thanks was awarded to Bailie Selkirk for his paper, and a similar compliment having been paid to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

A public meeting was held in the City Hall at the close of the conference. There was a large attendance. Most of those who attended the conference were present, and beside them there were on the platform the Rev. J. Tulloch, the Rev. A. Sutherland, ex-Bailie Greig, Mr. D. Hepburn, solicitor; Mr. Fairbairn, city missionary; Bailie Sime, Councillor Norwell, Councillor Campbell, and Councillor Logan.

Councillor RUSSELL occupied the chair, and in a short speech said he believed that the passing of a Local Option measure would be a great benefit to the country. Such a bill was the means to an end, and that end was the extinction of the liquor traffic altogether. (Applause.) Many said that was a utopian idea, and would never be carried; but in several places it had been tried and found to suit admirably.

Councillor CAMPBELL proposed the first resolution, which called on the Government in response to the well-founded expectations of the country to redeem its promise and pass a permissive prohibitory liquor law. In supporting the resolution, Councillor Campbell referred to the sights which were to be seen on Perth streets during the recent New Year or festive season. Speaking to gentlemen who were interested in the subject, they said to him that during many years' experience in Perth they never saw so many young men and lads under the influence of intoxicating liquor as they saw on the Monday of the New Year in Perth. Two or three years ago he had no doubt that many of these lads were members of Bands of Hope and similar institutions. It was high time that people had the power to control the temptations waylaying their young men. They in Perth had something to do in the matter. When they had occasion to return a representative to Parliament, they should keep the object of reforming the liquor system well before them. And on this subject he would remark that when they put to their Parliamentary representative a question as to whether he was prepared to give the people the power to put a stop to this traffic, they should not rest content with an answer so vague and indistinct in its terms as to suggest no precise signification. (Loud applause.)

Bailie SELKIRK, J.P., seconded the resolution. Referring to the talk which they now heard regarding compensation for vested interests in the liquor traffic, he said that when he heard that talk he began to think they were drawing near the beginning of the end, and his attitude on that point was—Let those who claimed compensation make their claim, and may they get all they were entitled to. (Laughter and applause.)

The Rev. Mr. BARKER supported the resolution in a long speech, in which he spoke on the evils arising out

of the operation of the liquor traffic, especially upon the working class, and strongly advocated the granting of a direct popular veto upon the issue of licenses.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and was carried by acclamation.

Mr. D. SCRIMGEOUR moved the second resolution, which was as follows:—

That this meeting shares in the almost universal dissatisfaction that prevails throughout Scotland with the licensing system, and being convinced that no measure of amendment will be satisfactory to the people that does not embody the principle of the Local Option Resolution as interpreted by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, earnestly invite the co-operation of moral, educational, and social reformers, and all true friends of their country, in pressing upon the Government the urgency of giving shape to the twice recorded resolution of the Legislature by passing such a law as will invest the ratepayers of Scotland with a direct veto over the drink traffic in their respective localities."

In proposing the resolution, Mr. Scrimgeour said that the drink traffic was the greatest obstacle to the spread of the gospel, the greatest obstacle in the way of all moral, social, and political reforms, and the greatest hindrance to all branches of industry and to their national and commercial prosperity. By the present laws it was impossible to regulate or restrict the traffic.

Ex-Bailie TORRENS, J.P., Glasgow, seconded the resolution in a humorous and racy speech, and spoke emphatically upon the physical and mental deterioration produced by the consumption of alcohol in the form of spirituous liquor.

Mr. MACKAY, Secretary of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, supported the resolution, after which it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Another resolution, asking the Chairman to forward the resolutions adopted to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, &c., was, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. SYMON, Perth, seconded by Councillor CHALMERS, adopted. The Rev. Mr. Finlay moved the thanks of the meeting to the speakers. The Rev. W. Barker acknowledged the compliment, and moved the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman. The meeting closed by Rev. Mr. Chalmers pronouncing the benediction.—*Dundee Advertiser* (abridged).

Eighteen out of the thirty-eight ministers of the gospel in Greenock are abstainers. That is very near the half of them.

A SOBER BURGH.—There were no cases at Govanhill Police Court yesterday morning (2nd ult.), and it was intimated that on Sunday no person was taken to the office. Last year the same creditable record was made. In the whole burgh, with a population of 10,000, there are only two public houses, and these in the least populous parts, a fact which no doubt largely helps in preventing the usual drunk and disorderly cases at this season.—*The Daily Press*.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT BILL.—The forthcoming County Government Bill will be found to be a very thoroughgoing measure. The County Boards are to be wholly elected by the ratepayers, and they will be charged with almost every function of local government except the administration of justice. That will be vested in Stipendiary Magistrates, who will supersede the present Justices of the Peace, and transact all criminal business not of sufficient importance to be reserved for the superior judges. It may be taken for granted that a far-reaching reform like this will not pass without determined opposition, and I should not be surprised if it shared in the customary July massacre. At present, however, there is a firm intention to press it to an issue, and it will take precedence of every Government measure save the Bankruptcy Bill.

PEEBLES—LOCAL OPTION MEETING.—A conference of social and temperance reformers in Peebles, Innerleithen and district, was held on Monday, 23rd ult., in the Good Templar Hall. Mr. J. B. Lyall presided, and there was a good attendance. After a lengthened

conversation a motion in favour of the Local Option Bill for Scotland was unanimously agreed to. A public meeting was held in the same place in the evening, Mr. J. B. Lyall again presiding over a large attendance. The speakers to the various resolutions were Treasurer Russell, Mr. D. Nimmo, Mr. James Coutts, Edinburgh, Mr. Thomas Robertson, Mr. Dunlop, Rev. E. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy, Mr. Allan Smith, and Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh. The proceedings were rendered more enjoyable by the singing of hymns, anthems, &c., by the parish church choir, under the able leadership of Mr. W. Ewing.—*Daily Review*.

The Illustrated Carpenter and Builder has directed its attention to the practice of smoking by journeymen during working hours. It gives three reasons why tradesmen should not smoke during working hours. 1st, it reduces physical energy by the sense of relaxation it imparts; 2nd, it often makes the worker stop till his pipe is "out," and 3rd, it is dangerous. It does not believe that any man can properly see what he is about with a cloud of hot smoke and gas rising into his eyes. He notes a case of twelve journeymen who smoked being timed, when it was found that a quarter day was lost, and that employer was obliged to stop the practice. In this extract a most pregnant matter to all employers is involved. The loss and danger in under or above-ground works is so great that we can easily foresee that a stern prohibition will be launched against it, and a more detestable and filthy practice never was suppressed.

PORT-GLASGOW—LOCAL OPTION MEETING.—On Wednesday, 18th inst., a public meeting was held in the Town Hall under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The chair was taken by R. Duncan, Esq. The meeting was ably addressed by the Rev. W. Barker, M.A., Cowes; Rev. John Campbell, Dr. Kennedy, John Campbell, and A. Baird; Bailie Bell, ex-Bailie M'Bryde, Councillor Ross, and Joseph Russell, Esq., Port-Glasgow; J. Winning, Esq., Paisley, and Mr. R. Stevenson, Glasgow. Resolutions in support of Local Option and calling upon the Government to bring in a measure for Scotland to give full direct veto power to the people to prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquors in their respective localities, were passed with great unanimity and enthusiasm. Prior to the public meeting a conference was held in the Lesser Hall, presided over by Rev. A. Baird, when the subject, how best to promote a thorough-going Bill, was fully discussed, and it was cordially agreed upon to form a temperance fifty to carry out the object of the meeting, and in every way to promote temperance legislation. A president, secretary, and interim committee was appointed, both meetings were highly successful, and the speeches were thoroughly appreciated—a goodly sprinkling of ladies were present.

LOCAL OPTION MEETING AT LINLITHGOW.—A conference of the friends of local option in the burgh of Linlithgow and surrounding district was held on Tuesday, 17th ult., in the British Workman Public-House, Linlithgow—Councillor M'Alpine in the chair. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That this conference requests the directors of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association to approach the Government, calling upon them to introduce a measure for Scotland conferring upon the people the power to veto the liquor traffic within the various districts of the country." A public meeting was held further on in the evening in the Vennel Hall. There was a good attendance, and Councillor M'Alpine again presided. After an address by Mr. J. H. Waterston of Edinburgh, and others, the following motion was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be forwarded to the members for the burgh and county, and others:—"That, considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland in liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir W. Lawson's resolution—this meeting calls upon the Government to introduce a measure for Scotland in next session of Parliament which shall enable the ratepayers to veto the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their various localities."

TORY AND LIBERAL CLERGYMEN AS ABSTAINERS.—At the public meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association in the Town Hall, Port-Glasgow, on the 18th ult., Rev. John Campbell, of Newark Established Church, in moving a resolution, said—"Mr. Winning has just told you that he is a fanatic. I say that I am a bigot, and I am a tremendous bigot, a Tory of the Tories, as touching the Kirk and Establishment, and a bigot in the sense of being from my infancy a total abstainer. I rejoice at being most tremendously bigoted on all these subjects. This is too big a question to permit for one moment to fall off into the narrower grooves of our party political movements. (Applause.) If it is going to pin itself to the coat tails of either party—well, well, bigot though I be, I do not know but I might say good bye to it." At a later stage of the proceedings Rev. A. Baird, of Newark Free Church, said—"You have heard the Rev. Mr. Campbell state that he is a bigot and a Conservative—(laughter)—but that still he is a total abstainer. I appear before you, ladies and gentlemen, as a Liberal—(great laughter)—a Radical, if you will. (Applause.) I am anxious for progress in this great question of temperance, and I feel that it augurs well for the prosperity of it that men occupying such different standpoints can meet together on one common platform to help on the movement. (Applause.)"—*Daily Mail*.

GREENOCK—NEW YEAR SOIREE.—The annual New Year Soiree of the Total Abstinence Society was held on Monday 2nd ult. in the Temperance Institute. The president, Mr. J. Lang, occupied the chair. On the platform were a number of local friends. After tea the chairman delivered a most seasonable address. Rev. Alex. Wilson, who represented the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, expressed the pleasure he had in being present at a social meeting in connection with this the oldest temperance society in the town. He had been at such a meeting in Paisley the other day, and he had to tell his present audience that they looked wonderfully like the Paisley bodies at such a meeting, there were so many who had grown grey in the service—veterans in the temperance ranks; and he felt his heart warm as he looked into their faces, for he remembered the battle they had had to fight in former years. It was much easier to be a total abstainer now than it was forty or fifty years ago. The temperance movement included within the charm of its circle a large number of societies, and he would say with regard to them that they were all needed. It was the duty of each individual to remember that they were fighting against an evil which had rooted itself in their life in all its various aspects, and the work would need most earnest and persevering energy. He was glad to know that the churches in Greenock were much in advance of those of many other districts in reference to this question, and he was glad to know of the large number of Greenock's clergymen who had adhibited their names to that Local Option petition that was to be presented to Lord Rosebery. (Applause.) But he did believe that churches as a whole throughout the country were standing on the wrong side. The Christian churches ought to see to it that in no way they had any complicity with this traffic that was working so much ruin. (Applause.) Their Christian Churches were at present stamping the traffic with an air of respectability—by admitting those who were directly engaged in the traffic into fellowship with their churches, and in connection with the use of fermented wine at the table of the Lord. These were knotty points, and he would not enter into them at length; but he would say that he hoped the time would soon come when no man engaged in the liquor traffic would find admission into Christian Churches. Mr. Wilson concluded by strongly urging personal effort in connection with the temperance cause. (Applause.) Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Rev. J. J. Cooper, the newly elected missionary and agent of the society, Rev. John Baird, Capt. Brochie, and Mr. J. M'Allister. The usual votes of thanks closed a most enjoyable meeting.—*Greenock Telegraph* (abridged).

DEMONSTRATION AT PORTOBELLO IN FAVOUR OF LOCAL OPTION.—A public demonstration in favour of

local option, under the auspices of the United Kingdom Alliance and Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was held in the Town Hall, Portobello—Mr. John Telfer, president of the Portobello Total Abstinence Society, in the chair. Amongst those on the platform were—Councillor Reid, ex-Bailie Kemp, Rev. A. Barron, Rev. Wm. Barker of West Cowes; Mr. R. C. Gray, Mr. James Coutts, Mr. J. H. Waterston, and others. There was a large attendance. The Rev. Mr. Gregor proposed the first resolution which affirmed that no legislation would be satisfactory to Scotland which did not embody a direct veto over the liquor traffic. Mr. John Pool seconded the resolution, which was supported by Rev. William Barker, who said—“If it was true that the womanhood of England was becoming addicted to intemperance, he asked those present, as persons of imagination, what must be the ultimate outcome of the calamity if it was not checked?” Referring to the principle of local option, he said it was impossible to have an Imperial enactment to close public-houses. Were there an Imperial enactment passed to-morrow, in his opinion, there would be such a violent reaction that, instead of good being done, the temperance movement would be retarded fifty years. In a free country, as it had been said by a great statesman, “force is no remedy.” Far be it from them to force their opinion upon an unwilling community; far be it from them to force by statute any political or social sentiment formed by another man. That was not their policy. Their policy was this—was it right, was it within the Constitution, was it according to the principles of their Legislature to entrust the people with the control or management of matters affecting themselves in their own localities? Was that according to the system upon which they governed. It was, undoubtedly. (Applause.) The resolution was passed with acclamation. Mr. James Coutts, S.S.C., proposed the next resolution, which declared that Scotland, because of her advanced position on the liquor traffic, deserved to have permissive prohibitory legislation for herself. Ex-Bailie Kemp having seconded the resolution, it was supported by Captain Brochie in his usual graphic manner and agreed to. A third resolution asking the chairman to forward these resolutions to the Prime Minister, &c., was also enthusiastically carried. The public meeting was preceded by a conference at which a resolution calling on the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association to approach the Parliamentary representatives of Scotland, and also memorialize the Government, was most heartily adopted. A letter was read during the evening from Mr. A. Grant, M.P., in which he said that had he been near the burgh he would have felt pleasure in being in the chair.

GRANGEMOUTH TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.—On Monday evening, 16th ult., a temperance demonstration under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association took place in the Institute Hall here. Hugh Macpherson, Esq., Chief-Magistrate, was in the chair, and in the course of a very excellent address quoted an extract from a paragraph which appeared in this journal some time ago, describing the drunkenness which characterised the town on New Year's day. He asked what were to be the fruits if this continued? Poverty and then the poorhouse! Crime and then the prison! Disease and then death! The following resolution, proposed by the Rev. G. W. Cumming, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Lindsay, was then unanimously agreed to:—“That considering the vice, misery, crime, waste of food, increased taxation, and stagnation of trade caused by the traffic in intoxicating liquors, this meeting declares that no legislation will be satisfactory that does not confer the power of a popular veto on the liquor traffic.” Mr. John Steel, Edinburgh, supported the resolution in a very thoughtful and argumentative speech. Commissioner James Leishman proposed, and Mr. John Lyon seconded the next resolution as follows:—“That considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland on liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution—this meeting calls upon Government to introduce a measure for

Scotland in next session of Parliament which shall enable ratepayers to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their localities.” The Rev. Samuel Harding, Paisley, supported this resolution, which was also unanimously adopted. The third resolution, as follows, was then proposed by Mr. M. Gavin, teacher, and seconded by Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh—“That copies of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the chairman and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord-Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and members of Parliament for the County of Stirling and the Falkirk Burghs.” This resolution was also agreed to. This terminated the business, and a vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by the Rev. J. Anderson, Falkirk, and to the chairman by the Rev. Mr. Harding. The choir in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association sang some hymns, &c., during the evening—Miss Yates acting as accompanist on the harmonium. Prior to the demonstration a conference was held of social and temperance reformers in Falkirk and Grangemouth, in the Commercial Room of the Institute—Hugh Macpherson, Esq., in the chair. There was a good attendance. After an excellent tea had been partaken of, considerable discussion took place as to the best mode of furthering the interest of the temperance cause. The following resolution was latterly adopted:—“That this conference request the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association to approach the Government and the Scotch members with a memorial calling upon them to introduce a measure for Scotland conferring upon the people the power to prohibit the liquor traffic within the various districts of the country; and that the Executive use every effort to influence Scotch members of Parliament to support such a measure.”—*Falkirk Herald* (abridged).

DUMFRIES.—LOCAL OPTION DEMONSTRATION.—An influential deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance and Scottish Permissive Bill Association visited Dumfries on Tuesday, 17th ult., under the auspices of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Temperance Union. The deputation was composed of the following gentlemen: Rev. W. Barker, Queen's chaplain, West Cowes, Isle of Wight; Rev. John M'Queen, Free St. Andrew's Church, Kilmarnock (formerly of Wamphray); Mr. J. Winning, Paisley; and Mr. R. Mackay, Glasgow. A conference was held in the afternoon, in the Greyfriar's Hall, Irish Street, under the presidency of Dr. M'Culloch, president of the Union. Among those who took part in the proceedings, besides members of the deputation, were the Rev. G. W. Tooley, the Rev. F. Binns, Mr. W. Haining, and Mr. P. B. M'Kill, Dumfries. Mr. R. Mackay deprecated the proposal to embody in the forthcoming County Government Bill, as part and parcel of the measure, a provision for the establishment of a series of local boards for licensing purposes, which was likely to meet with as much opposition as Mr. George Anderson's bill for placing the power in the hands of the Sheriff; and expressed his conviction that Mr. Gladstone was not the man, seeing how magnanimously he had acted with regard to the railway carriage proposal, to turn a deaf ear to the demands of the people for the power of putting a direct veto on the liquor traffic. Subsequent speakers endorsed these sentiments. Mr. Tooley characterised Local Option as the question within the range of practical politics, of greater importance than the disestablishment of the Church, the extension of the county franchise, or any of these reforms, and declared that the temperance party were the backbone of the nation—the majority, if not in numbers, at least in quality. The Chairman advanced his favourite theme of exclusive voting, by which the repeal of the Corn Laws and other great reforms had been secured; and gratification was expressed that a bill came into force that day which would give them the assistance of females in the municipal arena. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings. In the evening a large and enthusiastic public meeting took place in the same hall. Dr. M'Culloch again occupied the chair; and he was accompanied on the platform by the members of the deputation, Ex-Provost Shortridge, and Mr. J. B. A.

M'Kinnel, ironfounder. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, referred to the great reforms which had been accomplished during the last fifty years, and pointed out that intemperance had hindered these from conferring the immense benefits they would otherwise have done. He urged them to listen attentively to what they would hear that night regarding that great reform, the principle of which had twice been endorsed by the House of Commons, giving the power of licensing to the people instead of the magistrates and Justices of the Peace. (Cheers.) These gentlemen showed neither justice nor peace in this matter—(laughter and cheers)—and if we wanted an instance of that we had only to look to the fact that a public-house was never established at their own doors or where it was apt to injure their property. (Cheers.) Ex-Provost Shortridge moved a resolution urging the Government to introduce a measure giving a prohibitory power over the liquor traffic to ratepayers. The motion was seconded by the Rev. W. Barker in an able speech which was loudly applauded. The resolution was agreed to with cheers. The next resolution, asking a special optional liquor veto for Scotland, by Mr. J. A. B. M'Kinnel, seconded by Mr. James Winning in a telling speech, which was heartily applauded, and supported by Rev. John M'Queen, Kilmarnock, whose speech received deserved applause, and was agreed to amid cheers. The third resolution moved by the Rev. Mr. Cooper, and seconded by R. Mackay, instructing the chairman to forward the resolutions adopted to the parties named, was also heartily agreed to, and, the Rev. W. Barker having moved the cordial thanks of the meeting to the respected chairman, which were awarded amid cheers, one of the most successful meetings held in Dumfries for years came to a close.

PAISLEY TEMPERANCE JUBILEE.—Paisley claims to have instituted the first society founded on total abstinence, and on the 14th January, 1832, this society was commenced. Four of the eight members who sat at its cradle are still alive, and three of them are still in Paisley. The jubilee was celebrated by a Band of Hope demonstration, a conversation, a religious service, a conference and a public meeting. On the 13th ult. the Band of Hope meeting took place. There was a large attendance. Mr. James M'Lean, president of the adult society, presided. He said, since the society was started fifty years ago it had borne fruit to the glory of God and the good of man. (Applause.) Mr. Fielding Thorpe, of York, then spoke. He had lived fifty years and had never tasted liquors, and he hoped the same would be said of those before him. (Applause.) Addresses were then given by Messrs. J. T. Melvin, S. Clark, R. Robertson, Rev. S. Harding, and Mr. J. Scott, and the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. W. C. Miller, terminated a highly successful meeting. Dr. Fairlie and Mr. A. Fairlie, with a choir of 500 voices, contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the proceedings. On Saturday afternoon 14th a conversation was held in the Good Templars' hall. The chair was taken at four o'clock by Treasurer Clark, and was supported by a large gathering of local gentlemen and visitors. A most sumptuous tea was provided, after which the chairman gave a very appropriate address. Fifty years ago there were only some half a dozen members in the society, there were now he believed some 2000 abstainers in Paisley. He then entered upon an exhaustive history of the rise and progress of the Bible wine question. Mr. A. Fairlie presented an address, beautifully written, to Dr. Richmond and Mr. David Melvin, of Oxford, congratulatory of their being abstainers for fifty years, and of their being the founders of the Paisley Total Abstinence Society. The address was signed by Mr. James M'Lean, president, and Mr. R. Risk, secretary. Mr. James M'Nair having spoken to the work inaugurated by the gentlemen honoured, Dr. Richmond and Dr. Melvin having suitably replied, Provost Campbell, Greenock, J. Wilson, Esq., J.P., Hillhead, James Johnstone, Esq., Langbank, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, which was enlivened at intervals with the performance of an excellent choir. On Sabbath 15th, the Rev. Alex. Wallace, D.D., delivered a sermon from Exodus xiv. 15,

to a crowded meeting in the Good Templar hall. The conference was held in the Good Templars Hall on Monday, 16th ult., at noon. Amongst those present were Rev. Dr. Hutton, Rev. W. N. Challice, Rev. Alexander Wilson, Rev. William C. Miller; Dr. Richmond; Mr. David Melvin, Oxford; Mr. T. J. Melvin, Mr. H. Harper, Mr. William Hill, Mr. James Cook, Mr. James Fergus, Mr. Thomas Goodlet, Mr. John Spence, Mr. Thomas Muir, Mr. Robert Risk, Mr. James M'Lean, Mr. James Parlane (printer), and Mr. J. M. Cunningham and Mr. R. Mackay, Glasgow. Mr. Jno. Spence presided, and called upon the Rev. Dr. Richmond to read a paper on "The Dawn of the Temperance Reformation in Scotland." Mr. J. M. Cunningham read a paper on "The History of the Temperance Movement previous to the formation of the first Total Abstinence Society." A paper entitled "The opinion of a doctor of medicine on strong drink at the beginning of the century," by Dr. W. Whitelaw, Kirkintilloch, was read by the Rev. W. C. Miller. A paper, entitled "Prohibition Principles," by Bailie Selkirk, was, in his unavoidable absence, read by Mr. R. Mackay, Secretary to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. At the close, those who prepared the papers, those who read them, and those who presided over the interesting and lengthy proceedings, were heartily thanked, and the conference closed. The public meeting took place in the large hall the same evening. There was a large attendance. Provost MacKean presided, and was accompanied to the platform by the Revs. Dr. Hutton, Alexander Wilson, W. N. Challice, Richard Steel, J. A. Johnstone of Springburn; Mr. Stewart Clark of Kilnside; Treasurer Clark; Sir William Collins and Ex-Bailie Torrens, Glasgow; Mr. Fielden Thorpe, York; Mr. David Melvin, Oxford; Dr. Richmond; Messrs. T. J. Melvin, Archibald Fairlie, Robert Risk, James M'Lean, Hugh Harper, Thos. Goodlet, William Robertson, R. Chrichton, James Pinkerton, Robert Semple, James Walker, Wm. Hill, and J. T. Smith. The proceedings were commenced by the singing of a Psalm, after which, prayer was engaged in by the Rev. Dr. Hutton. After an interesting address from the chairman, Sir William Collins was introduced to the audience. Sir William referred to the enormous drink taxation which, in Glasgow, was equal to 10d. per £; affirmed that the only remedy for intemperance was total abstinence; appealed to the statistics of Assurance Societies as proving the deadly nature of strong drink, and declared the getting of a local option bill for Scotland a matter of urgency. Mr. Fielden Thorpe, of York, urged Christian Churches to aid the total abstinence movement. The Rev. Mr. Johnstone entertained the meeting with an address on "Anecdotes," and was loudly applauded. Ex-Bailie Torrens gave a characteristic address. "Before sitting down he would repeat," he said, "that it was his strongest conviction that, till the people should have the power to say that the whisky shops should not be amongst them, the workers in the abstinence cause will require to go on as they are doing." (Applause.) Mr. Semple sang three pieces of his own composing, which were warmly received. On the motion of Rev. Alex. Wilson, the speakers were thanked for their services. On the motion of Rev. Mr. Steel, Mr. Semple was awarded a hearty vote of thanks, and on the motion of Mr. Walker, the meeting paid a similar compliment to the chairman. The meeting was dismissed with the benediction.

PUBLIC PRESS.

ALCOHOL DEADENS SENSIBILITY OF FEELING.—On account of its stupefying nerve-deadening properties, alcohol is always classed among *narcotics* or sleep-makers. On account of its numbing effect on the nerves of sensation, it is also called an *anæsthetic*, which means a remover of feeling. In this respect it resembles chloroform or ether, which are derived from alcohol by chemical processes. It has long been known that in a state of intoxication (that is to say, a state in which the system is under the influence of a sufficient

quantity of alcohol, more or less according to many circumstances, the sensibility is lessened. This is referred to by Solomon, "Who hath wounds without cause? . . . they that tarry long at the wine . . . they have beaten me but I felt it not." Before the discovery of chloroform it was not uncommon to make persons "dead" drunk if they had to undergo any painful surgical operation. The delicacy of the sense of touch is interfered with by a very small quantity of alcohol, and is gradually destroyed as the quantity is increased."—*Band of Hope Chronicle*.

THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE.—A minister in America preached a sermon one Sunday evening in favour of slavery and wine drinking. He defended slavery, and said it was scriptural; he defended wine drinking, and said that Christ made wine. There happened to be in that congregation an infidel, who did not drink intoxicating liquors. When, therefore, he heard that slavery and the drinking usages of society were defended from the Bible, he went away under a stronger conviction than ever that religion was a farce. A few days after, this minister, visiting from house to house, went into the house of this infidel. The minister asked if there was a Bible in the house. "No, sir," said the infidel, "and I never intend to have one!" "What! not have a Bible?" "No, sir. It is from that book I heard you defend slavery and drinking. If that be your Bible, it shall never come into my house." "It was a word spoken in season, and made a deep impression on this minister, for he determined to be an abolitionist and an abstainer. If the ministers of this country who have opposed the temperance reformation, knew the amount of mischief they are doing to the bodies and souls of the people by giving countenance to one of the most cruel, wicked and immoral systems on the face of the globe, they would no longer countenance the drinking usages of society."—*Canada Casket*.

"I thought before you died I'd just tell you how much I have always loved and honoured you." This sentence from a letter to one of our workers has in it matter for reflection. It hints at one of the most unaccountable errors in our conduct of life's relationships. We speak our words of praise too late. We blow the trumpet of our approbation at the earnest worker's ears—but not until Death's finger has closed it for ever. We utter at the grave side the tender words that might have kept sensitive souls with us in a new lease of life. We build monuments with money that if bestowed upon the living toiler would have re-enforced the wasted energies and re-awakened the declining courage. Dear friends, these things ought not so to be. I can speak freely to you who have been far more generous with me than I deserve. Let us as temperance women be more thoughtful—all of us hereafter—lest we sing with sad regret some day above the wearied and unconscious forms of beloved workers fallen,

"Strange we never heed the music
Till the sweet voiced bird has flown."

—*Frances E. Williard in "Our Union."*

THE CRY OF THE CAPTIVE.—A letter from a lady to Miss F. E. Williard.—You asked me to write about my husband. His father kept a large country store which contained everything from "a pin to a plough point," including of course a barrel of whisky. There is where my husband learned to drink. Now he is 43 years old, and the appetite has become so strong that it comes over him like a mighty rushing flood, and there is no staying of it. He says he would give anything to be able to overcome it; yet I know that he does not realize that it turns a kind husband and father into a demon who causes his family to flee to the neighbours for the preservation of their lives. He is not near so kind though as he was years ago. I think it must be the intense craving for drink that causes his terrible temper even when not drinking. Three years ago I believe I received the inestimable blessing of purity of heart at one of dear Sister Palmer's meetings; but when I journeyed home and was met by the terrible liquor curse I seemed to let go of the Saviour's hand. My heart turned to lead; the heavens seemed made

of brass; I could not pray or look up, for the agony of despair held me down. Now in the night season when he threatens my life, all I can do is to silently, tremblingly pray, Lord protect me. While praying for my husband's conversion, will you not ask that I may be made wholly the Lord's? Do pray also that my four children may become Christians before they feel an inherited appetite for liquor. Dear sister in Christ, will you form a request from this note to present to the other dear sisters to remember at our loving father's throne?—R.

WHICH IS HEALTHIER, THE DRINKER OR ABSTAINER?
Let us briefly see how it affects the health of our people. For the following tables I am indebted to our esteemed townsman, Mr. T. Cunliffe, which clearly show the relative amount of sickness and death in societies which are conducted upon total abstinence principles (Rechabites), and in societies which are not conducted upon total abstinence principles (Oddfellows). In Blackburn, Bolton, and Manchester there are 3,400 Rechabites; their deaths in 1876 were 46, or a rate of 13.5 per 1000. In the Bolton district of Rechabites in the same year the death rate was only 11.2 per 1000. In Blackburn there are 3,500 Oddfellows, and in 1876 they had 76 deaths, or a death rate of 21.42 per 1000. In the Rechabites they had 554 members sick, or 16.2 per cent.; while the Oddfellows had 720 sick, or 20.53 per cent. The total number of weeks' sick pay in the Rechabites was 2,999, or an average for each member sick of 5 weeks, 2 days, and 21 hours. The Oddfellows had a total of 6,355 weeks' sickness, or an average for each member sick of 8 weeks, 5 days, and 8 hours. For every 100 Rechabites there were 16 sick. For every 100 Oddfellows there were 20 sick. In Bolton district of Rechabites for 10 years the death-rate was 13 per 1000, while in Blackburn district of Oddfellows for 10 years their death-rate was 19 per 1000. During the year 1874, when typhoid fever prevailed in Over Darwen, the Rechabites, out of 164 members, had 3 deaths, while the Darwen Oddfellows had 91 deaths out of 620 members, or Rechabite death-rate 18 per 1000, Oddfellows 31 per 1000. But the publicans in Over Darwen during the same fever year died at the rate of 150 per 1000. That is, for 1 Rechabite 8 publicans died. Again, during the fever year, the Rechabites, who pay a less contribution per member, in the Darwen tent alone received £111 19s. 1½d., and they paid for sickness and funerals £79 4s., thus leaving a surplus of £32 15s. 1½d.; the Oddfellows in Darwen in the same year, although they paid a larger weekly contribution, lost over £90. In 1873 the average sick pay in Darwen to Rechabites was 4s. 9½d., and the Oddfellows 10s. 10d. But we must not lose sight of the fact that in the Oddfellows there are a number of total abstainers, or these tables would have shown a wider difference still, as we shall see if we examine the statement of the Rev. Stanton Eardley, B.A., vicar of Streatham. He sums up the result of a seven year's balancing of the Forester's Lodge of Streatham, thus—In seven years the abstaining members of the lodge, supposing them to have no better health than their non-abstaining brothers, would have received £180 11s. as sick pay. What they did receive as sick money was £56 11s., so saving the funds to the amount of £124. In conclusion, we find that alcohol is not a food; it gives neither force, nourishment, nor warmth; we can work better without it; total abstainers live longer and enjoy better health than those who take it in so-called moderation; and what to some of us is not the least commendable, it is a means of saving our money, as well as improving our health and lengthening our days. And now, if what I have said has strengthened any weak or wavering mind upon this point—if I have convinced any who before had doubts, then I shall feel that my labour has not been in vain.—*Portion of Paper read at British Women's Temperance Association Annual Conference at Bolton, by Dr. Thornley.*

Some say whisky hardens the brain, others say it softens it. Meanwhile people without brain keep on drinking it as it don't make an atom of difference to them.

THE
Social Reformer.

MARCH, 1882.

THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO THE
TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

A GREAT Roman orator was once heard to exclaim, "Whatever concerns mankind concerns me," meaning thereby, that everything that was to aid in the betterment of the human race would find in him an active and steady friend; or on the other hand, everything that hindered the march of progress, or the purification of society, would find in him an uncompromising and determined foe. Such I think should be the position of the Church to every benevolent and truly patriotic movement, and its hostility should be expressed in earnest words and worthy deeds against every form of evil that would impede her work or neutralize her mission. The Church has been entrusted by her great Living Head, to proclaim the message of peace and mercy to a fallen world. She has been commissioned to preach good tidings of great joy to all people and to bring back the human race to the love of God and to the enjoyment of true happiness. The gospel in its design is co-extensive with all human relations; it has been adapted for men in all times and in all countries. Its aim is to destroy the enmity which exists in the human heart towards God, and to set men in a career of obedience to his will by purifying their affections and making them morally like himself. The Church may be designated the honoured trustee of heaven, and everything that would seek to smile upon the object of her trust should receive her commendation, and whatever would seek to sully it should be met by her frown. The Church of Christ has had a relation to all social and political movements in every age. She has inspired many of those movements, and led them through difficulties and trials to the land of triumph. The Church cannot be an idle spectator in the great theatre of human action. She is either sending her own spiritual impulses through the grand movements of the time, or by her inconsistencies and indolence she is clogging the wheels of progress. There is no such thing as a neutral Church. Of course when we speak of the Church and its relation to the temperance question, we mean the Church as it is popularly understood by the denominations of professing Christians around us. Well, is the Church hostile to the temperance movement? No one, I think, would say that she is. Is the Church, then, the bitter antagonist of the drink traffic? Now let us give an honest answer—she is not. What, then, is her position? It is a position of half-heartedness. The Church acknowledges the evil; the Church mourns over the evil; the Church says she would like to see the evil wholly removed and universal sobriety reigning instead of drunkenness, but then many men in the Church like the drink, many trade in the drink; and, then, the Church derives some of its revenue from this same source. Now, the problem is, How can we have a pure Church—a Church at war with drunkenness,

and yet a Church partially allied to the drink traffic?

No doubt it would be a solution of the question if every church member would become a total abstainer, and permit no drink trader into her membership. This would be a happy consummation. The world could not then say that there was any relation between Christ and Bacchus. Many have hope that the Church will yet put on her beautiful garments and throw off this stigma which all must say has hindered her work and operated against her success. A vast number of cases of discipline arise from the habit of drinking alcoholic drinks, by members connected with our churches. Well educated ministers often fall through the same cause, so that the Church's purity and usefulness suffer much through the drinking habits of her members.

Look at the drink traffic in the aggregate, and say if it is a help or a hindrance to the Church. Is it an ally of the Church or a foe of the Church? If we are to think of the Church as a living, acting organisation for the welfare of humanity and the glory of God, we must think of the liquor traffic as an institution or a system that destroys multitudes of our fellows. We must look at the fruits of the one and the fruits of the other, and by their fruits we must know them and judge them. The Church should have a care over the young, and if we are to believe those Sabbath school teachers who have investigated the matter, we find that drink is the great foe of Sabbath school work. Mr. T. B. Smithies, a zealous Sabbath school teacher, tells us that he found most of those prisoners whom he visited in the jails who had attended Sabbath schools had fallen through drink, and he was so overcome by what he saw and heard that he knelt down on the cold flags of York jail and made a solemn mental promise that he would urge entire abstinence from alcoholic drinks upon all Sabbath scholars in the future. Many of those prisoners told him, with tear-dimmed eyes, that they had attended Sabbath schools, but that the public-house had been their ruin. On one occasion he was in a ward with 17 young convicts, 15 of whom had been in Sunday schools connected with almost every religious denomination. On going carefully through the cases of the 15 who had been Sunday scholars, he found that 10 of them had committed the crimes (for which they were about to be transported) while under the influence of drink, while the others had been led into crime either through their own intemperance or the drinking habits of their parents. Mr. Smithies also made inquiries at prison chaplains in England, Scotland, and Wales, and he gave it as the result of his investigations, that 50 per cent. of our criminals have passed through our Sabbath schools for at least three years. There cannot be a doubt but that the drink system is striking a vital blow at the Church, and thus neutralising Sabbath school effort. It will be well if we awake to the realisation

of this in time. Fifty-nine out of sixty-two criminals in Glasgow jail admitted to Mr. W. Logan that drink and public-house company had not only led them from the Sabbath school, but had led them to break the laws of their country. It would be interesting to those who doubt these facts to make similar experiments. It would be easy to multiply testimonies from ministers at home and missionaries abroad regarding the evil wrought in connection with the Christian Church. Some of the most honoured names might be cited to prove these assertions. The late Rev. W. Arnot said he had had a struggle with the public-house for 22 years, and he gave up in *despair*. He found that his preaching did not produce the results he anticipated in consequence of the drink traffic.

There does not seem to be any room for rational doubt that the Church would feel a new inspiration and acquire a mighty power for good in the world if the intemperance of this country were removed. The conversion of the world to Christ depends very much upon a pure Church in our own land. Her spiritual life would be increased, her finances would be augmented, her sympathies would be broadened, and her influence would go forth to the ends of the earth. This is clearly seen from the testimonies of eminent men in our foreign missionary fields. Archdeacon Jeffreys, of Bombay, said that "God would not bless the cause of missions on that side of India till the missionaries took up the question of abstinence."

The Rev. Thomas Brotherton, missionary of the Gospel Propagation Society, says:—"We wish it to be known at home that the Hindoos, on becoming Christians, are, if possible, more liable to become drunkards than while they were surrounded by the barrier of superstition and caste." Intelligent heathens are not slow to detect the hypocrisy that often mingles with our efforts to Christianise them. Mr. Goldie states that a heathen king asked the Christians—"How do you condemn the use of rum when you make and sell such quantities." It is not putting the case too strongly to say that we have injured the cause of Christianity abroad by associating it with the use of intoxicating liquors. It matters not what department of the mission field we turn our attention to, the same melancholy report comes from all quarters, that British drinking retards the work of the foreign missionary. It may be interesting if I draw a comparison between the profits of a single brewing firm in England and the income of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1889. The income of the Church for all purposes was £304,670; the income of Bass & Co., brewers, for 1878 was £420,000. The sum of money realised by this single brewing firm, over and above the whole income of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland would give £200 for one year to 576 ministers, or it would give 1478 working men 30s. a week for one year. While the Church of Christ should bear in her hand the olive branch—symbol of peace to the nations—she should also carry the axe, which should be laid to the root of those trees which bear not good fruit, that they may be hewn down and cast into the fire.

EXCELSIOR.

A NIGHT WITH THE SALVATION ARMY.

HUGE placards, numerous newspaper advertisements, and a special invitation, brought us to a meeting in the City Hall on Monday 20th ult. Thinking that our presence a half hour previous to the taking of the chair would enable us to see the rise and progress of the meeting, we turned up at 7.30 to find the hall densely crowded, the platform with not an inch of standing room, and the people singing with their might

the songs of the army. Of the nearly 4000 present there might have been fully a third members of the corps, the others might have been equally divided into sympathisers and scoffers. With few exceptions all were of the working and lower classes, and a great many were women. The order was remarkable, the absorbing interest in the proceedings intense; and altogether nothing but praise could be awarded to the audience who, even when sneered at, exercised a rare forbearance. "We are here," all seemed to say, "to testify, not to snarl." Major Edmond, the chief of the army in Scotland, has a highly nervous temperament, great self-possession, unflinching humour, the power of inspiring confidence and obedience, a memory most retentive, and a knowledge full and ready. Near him was Captain Newton, passionately earnest. The women beside him were comely, neatly dressed English girls: modest, with none of that boldness we have seen too apparent in some of our women preachers. Those of them who spoke had rich full voices, although somewhat strained by the earnest appeals they have to put forth daily to the unsaved. The other captains were like the rest youthful, one extremely so. They were by no means cultured; indeed, we did not expect that, but it would commend them to those that persistently ally illiterateness with vulgarity. The object of the meeting was to parade reformed drunkards, and make them testify to their former and present condition; in short, to show a sample of the efforts of the army. These trophies mustered strongly, the largest portion on the platform, the next largest in the galleries: in the area there were not many. The proceedings began by singing a hymn to a catching melody, which was most lustily given. The army's banners waved, the army waved kerchiefs, the silver trumpet aided the joyous strain, and the people repeated the words again and again. Scarcely a book was used, every one taking their cue from the major, who, mounted on the seat of his chair, led the singing. Prayer followed, led by the Rev. Mr. Broadley, whose prayer was brief, pertinent, and incisive. Captain Newton followed, with an urgency and force that often trembled on the brink of extravagance. Just as in Methodist prayers, there were all sorts of responses—"Hallelujah," "Praise God," "Hear prayer," "Amen," "Save, Lord," and so on. The major was about to follow, when an old man in the area cried out "Mr. Chairman." Starting to his feet, the major struck up "The army will be ready when He comes." The effect was electrical: the air and the words combined to form a trumpet song, and the audience gave it volume, until the hall resounded with the strain. The old man was ejected, but long after the stirring words were vigorously repeated. After this there was no attempt at interruption, and the army had it all their own way. The next item on the programme was "fixing bayonets," that is, all who were of the army were to affirm their belief in Christ by raising their right hand; this was done, but not to the major's satisfaction. "Let us have both hands," and all on the platform, the majority in the side galleries, raised their hands, shouting "Hallelujah," "Lift up the banner," "Glory," "Amen," &c. In the area not many fixed bayonets. Then at about 8.30 came the event of the evening—the testimony of reformed drunkards. It was not altogether that, however. Some had never tasted, many have never been drunkards. These confessed their former sinful life, and praised God for their connection with the army. The reclaimed drunkards were there in force, however, and their testimonies, if a common thing, must on some natures have a bad effect, for many seeking an occasion to the flesh will lay the flattering unction to their poor souls that they can sin a little more, and, long before they reach the stage reached by some, they can turn. In the Methodist class and in less public meetings they may unbosom with the best results, but in our opinion the masses may suffer through such candour. Brevity in speaking was imperative, and on the whole characterised the several testimonies. "I am bound for glory, praise the Lord" (hallelujah). "I was a liar, thief, and drunkard." (Bless God.) "Saved from whisky drinking, saved from sin, saved from tobacco, and now

bound for glory." The converted cobbler, a "pretty" fellow, said he had not been to church for seventeen years. Went to the Salvation Army meeting in Anderson drunk: became impressed; went the next night, and never had from that night tasted liquor, and by God's grace never meant to do." (Hallelujah.) Another: "Eighteen years since I joined the church, yet all that time I was a confirmed drunkard. I joined the army and am bound for heaven. I thank God that ever the army came to Govan." Another: up to two years ago was a most wicked man, drinking and sinning, but the Salvation Army took him by the hand; glory to God he was saved. Another was a deep-dyed drunkard wandering the streets in Bridgeton, without a bite or without a friend, but he was now rejoicing in his Saviour. Another in the west gallery gave similar testimony, appealing to those in the hall to give up their sins. "You will never get to heaven unless you give up your sins." Here the major started a hymn, and again the hall was reverberating with the singing of the immense audience. The major then said that giving up drink was a condition of membership, for any found drinking with them would be deemed a hypocrite, and if he persisted would be expelled. There were 800 reformed drunkards among them in Glasgow, and 30,000 throughout the army. None of these "touch, taste, or handle the accursed thing." They showed no quarter to that which was sending thousands to hell. Ninety-nine out of every hundred who take drink curse it in their hearts. The army was not, however, a distinctively temperance organisation; it made war on every sin. Nearly all who join it are those who have been reclaimed from drink, and those who have spoken or may speak are raked from the streets, the gutters, and slums of this great city. Again leave was given to testify, and one said, My sins which are many are forgiven. Another was converted by a girl fifteen years of age. He could get no rest nor peace for three nights and days, but he threw himself on the mercy of God, and now was safe. Captain Newton now made a good confession. He was a drunkard, a great drunkard. His wife who was near could say that. He drunk the cursed drink till the devil must have felt that he had him hard and fast. "But Jesus is mine. He has saved me, and has come and taken away the desire even for the drink." (Hallelujah.) He had lost the taste for the drink. What a life he led. Why, he was derided for his evil ways, but when he turned, those who knew him could hardly believe it. Yet glory be to God, he was saved from sin and from drink; and oh, he said, come you who are still in your sins, come to Jesus, he will save you, he will make you happy, he will guide you and keep you in the way to heaven. (Praise God, lift up the banner.) Mrs. Steel, of Dundee, not as she said of the army, came from home to speak of the good work in Dundee. She spoke briefly in favour of women speaking, and made a good, if not a powerful impression. Captain Gideon David was introduced by the major, who said Gideon was nothing of himself, but the sword of the Lord and of Gideon conquered the enemies of the Lord. The effective sentence in the captain's address was "We must put in the sword of the Spirit into the core of the heart." The lady captain of Govan then spoke. She was a handsome and youthful woman, with a very rich voice. She never tasted drink, yet needed salvation. She was saved from sin. Christ would cleanse all from sin. Come, then, to him, and he will save you all. The lady captain of the Cowcaddens corps was a highly excitable and less pretty woman, but spoke with much more fervour. She declared that the army was resolved to have the darkest corners of the city at the feet of Jesus. (We will, praise God.) She seems eager for the salvation of our policemen. Captain Harvey, a beardless youth, was the next speaker. His address turned on the rescue of a drunkard, which was most effectively given. The ejaculations to the testimonies were innumerable, but pointed, showing that they were common in the army, and as they did not disturb the speakers, these must be used to them. Many a verse of some favourite hymn was sung which effectually relieved the speaking and kept up the excitement. The major then said they were now going to

put a resolution, not in the cold argumentative formal way it was commonly done, but in the way usual in the army. Now, the resolution is "Death to the public house, but salvation to the publican and his family." Here with a great shout and hands uplifted the resolution was passed with loud amens. "Down with the breweries." Another great shout and hands uplifted testified eloquently where the traffic would be were the army master of the situation. We were here informed by the major that it would be a good thing if these large brewery premises were closed, for they could open them as barracks for the Salvation Army. ("Praise God, hallelujah.") The army contemplated opening a place in the centre of the city, near the High Street, for a midnight mission. The officers would go out and roam the streets, getting the unhappy women to come in. They would need a hall capable of holding 900 people, and means of giving the poor street wanderer a cup of warm tea. And more; they had now four stations in Glasgow. They must have eighteen. ("Hallelujah.") Mr. Thomas Robinson, treasurer to the army, then came forward. He said they wanted to get hold of the people, and they were. They had no money just now, but they would get all they needed yet. Those belonging to them gave liberally. They saved that which they used to spend upon drink, and they gave of it that others might be saved like them. Rev. Messrs. Ewen and Broadley addressed the meeting. Then Sister Grabble of Bridgeton arose. She said she was thinking of the last great gathering of mankind at the Judgment Day, where none could plead excuse for absence. Don't rest on churches or sacraments, but on the word of God and the work of Christ, and give yourselves to Jesus. Mr. John Govan expressed his pleasure at being present, as the army owned Christ as King. He hoped all would yield up their hearts to him as their King where he would reign for ever. A gentleman on the platform gave a short address on the beginning of the army in Glasgow, and said he believed in the army for two things—1st, Every soldier had to believe in justification by faith, and 2nd, in sanctification by grace. By the first the power of sin was broken; by the second they cut up sinful desires by the roots. Bailie Selkirk said he cordially sympathised with the movement. He had attended the meetings from the beginning, which were the most refreshing meetings he knew. He was glad to know that in England the army was seriously affecting the business of the Police Courts, and he hoped that they would be equally successful with the Police Courts in Scotland. He thought that the army was really solving the question of how to deal with the masses, and he knew that it was prepared to heartily co-operate with all who have the glory of God at heart. After some singing and testimonies, what is called the Hallelujah Chorus was given. It was, of course, nothing like Handel's magnificent chorus. There was tremendous fervour manifest, all waving handkerchiefs and singing at the extreme pitch of their voice. Banners waved, and the trumpet and trombone accompanied the singing. Captain Catherine Sheppard, in a thoroughly business spirit, intimated a ninepenny tea in the Wellington Palace on Thursday at seven, and offered tickets for sale. There was more singing, a powerful appeal for funds, and a hymn, and then, with the benediction, the proceedings came to a close at ten o'clock. It is impossible to put down such a religious agency by sneers. It has a hold and a great one on the masses of the people, and it cultivates in the hearts of its soldiers an intense hatred and aversion to whatever is of the licensing system. It enlists the women, and the meetings have much of the emotional to affect them. The singing is extremely enlivening, and gives an impetus to the proceedings. On the whole, none who know human nature can withhold sympathy and tolerance from the Salvation Army. There are forms and expressions used which are neither proper nor becoming. The assurance so openly proclaimed grates on a pious ear, and the rollicking manner and excitable service may displease many a God-fearing Christian; but against all these put the great fact that there are, through the efforts put forth already, thirty thousand

reclaimed drunkards rejoicing in the knowledge of salvation; and "God speed them" must be every temperance reformer's prayer. M.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

WE have now reached a point in our political history when drunkenness has come to be regarded as a crime, and parties engaged in the liquor traffic are looked upon with a certain degree of disrespect. Our native country has long been desolated with the scourge of strong drink, but strenuous efforts are being made by many to overcome this great enemy to religion and morality. Many have come to see that the drink traffic is opposed to Christianity, and have been led to give up their connexion with it, and so prevent themselves becoming the actual slayers of many an unguarded soul.

There is another trade, however, in which Britain has for long been engaged, viz., the Opium Traffic. To our shame it must be confessed, that we are carrying on a traffic which is causing the death of thousands of human beings; and demoralising thousands, nay, millions more. Perhaps it may not be out of place to bring a few facts connected with Opium, and the Opium Traffic, before the readers of a journal which is actively engaged in the temperance movement.

Opium is the juice of the white poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), a plant of the order *Papaveraceae*, or poppy tribe. The word *opium* is derived from the Greek word *ὄπιοσ*, juice—in general, but it is now used as the name of the poppy extract.

Opium is obtained by incisions made in the green capsule when nearly at maturity, from which it exudes as a milky juice that gathers in a brownish mass, which is scraped off the capsules, and collected into lumps, which are carefully packed in large jars. About the end of March these jars are brought from the plantations to the workshops where they are weighed and valued. The contents of the different jars are mixed together in large vats, and then made up into balls for the market. The balls, when finished and dried, are packed with the stalks of the poppy-plant in two layers of six each in chests, and sent down to Calcutta. During the working season as many as 1,353,000 balls are manufactured at Patna for the China market alone. About the year 1812, the discovery was made by Seterner that opium was a compound substance; and subsequent research has brought to light the fact that traces of no fewer than sixteen ingredients may be discovered in opium, besides other matters. These are as follows:—

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Morphine. | 9. Papaverine. |
| 2. Narcotine. | 10. Brown Extract. |
| 3. Thebaine. | 11. Caoutchouc. |
| 4. Codeine. | 12. Resin. |
| 5. Narceine. | 13. Concrete Oil. |
| 6. Porphyroxine. | 14. Gum. |
| 7. Meconine. | 15. Bassorine. |
| 8. Meconic Acid. | 16. Lignine. |

The principal use which the Chinese make of opium is to smoke it with tobacco, when it produces a languor so pleasing and seductive as to almost take away the mind of the smoker. Mr. Archibald Fraser, speaking of the state of things in Java, says, "Let a native only once taste the alluring pipe, it is rare that he can stop—he goes on from bad to worse, neglects his family, seduces them to the same fatal vice, gradually incapacitates himself for work, sells every article he possesses, and ends generally in robbery, or, perhaps, murder, in order to get the means of indulging his insatiable craving." A writer in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says, "The effects of this vice are even more debasing than that of habitual intoxication by alcoholic liquors—enfeebling rapidly both the mental and bodily powers."

But the effects of smoking opium are mild in comparison to those of eating it. This is a vice which has been indulged in by many of our great literary men, among whom we may mention Coleridge, Dr. Isaac Milner, and the benevolent William Wilberforce; but the greatest sufferer by this vice was the learned

Thomas de Quincey. Who can read unmoved his "Confessions of an Opium Eater"? Every page is only, as it were, a fresh horror added to a list of unusual dimensions. Opium eaters generally begin with doses of from half a grain to two grains; but as the doses are increased both in quantity and frequency, an opium eater will sometimes consume two drachms and upwards per day. In fact, the passion becomes so great that to be without the means of gratifying it is to be in the greatest possible agony. De Quincey, who appears to have had an enormous appetite, used as much as 8,000 drops, about 8 teaspoonfuls, or 320 grains per day, to keep up the stimulation which at first he could obtain by merely swallowing a few drops. In his "Confessions," he says, "I do not readily believe that any man, having once tasted the divine luxuries of opium, will afterwards descend to the gross and mortal enjoyments of alcohol. I take it for granted

'That those eat now who never ate before;
And those who always ate now eat the more.'

These are the words of a man who sacrificed the happiness of his life to this horrible vice. So firm was the hold it had upon him that he would abandon anything to satisfy its cravings.

The effects of opium eating on the human body are, in themselves, horrible to contemplate. The digestive organs become shivelled and dried up, and all the evils of defective digestion become manifest; the saliva is also dried up, and to keep the throat and mouth moist, drink is resorted to, which is only adding misery to misery. In the year 1793 numerous experiments were conducted by Dr. Samuel Crumpe, M.D., to ascertain the effects of opium on the human body. To show the stimulating effect it has on the heart, he swallowed one grain of pure opium diffused in a tea-spoonful of water, his pulse beating at 70, its natural standard. In five minutes after partaking of the dose his pulse registered 74, and in fifteen minutes it registered 76, forty-five minutes elapsing before it again reached its natural standard. At another time he took $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains of opium dissolved in an ounce of water, his pulse beating at 70 as before, it gradually began to rise, and in thirty minutes after partaking of the dose it registered 80, being 10 above its natural maximum standard; 90 minutes elapsed before it had attained its natural state. When the stimulation had subsided a severe headache attended with drowsiness and nausea began to be felt. Similar experiments were performed on individuals of different temperaments with similar results.

Such is a brief outline of the nature of this dreadful vice, and its effects. Like all other vices, however, it does not come alone: drunkenness often follows, and the poor worn-out victim is hurried to the tomb. It is in China where the chief seat of this awful vice is to be found, and Britain, with shame be it owned, supplies the drug which every year sends thousands of our fellow-creatures to a premature grave. The progress of civilisation and Christianity is hindered by this monstrous evil. Christian missionaries have over and over again been told by the natives that they would not listen to men who came from the country which sent them the opium.

We must now, however, pass on to cast a hasty glance at the opium traffic itself, and here the giant nature of the evil will become more apparent. We will simply present the reader with a few statistics, space forbidding our dilating on the history of this baneful traffic. The opium trade brings annually to the East Indian treasury, an income of nearly four million pounds sterling (in 1855-6 it amounted to £3,714,353), and the trade is increasing. To show the enormous increase in the consumption of opium we have but to look at the following figures which show the amount of opium imported into China by the Indian Government:

In 1827-28 it amounted to	-	-	8,435 chests.
In 1829-30	"	-	7,565 "
In 1853-54	"	-	53,321 "
In 1863-64	"	-	64,000 "

These figures represent the total exports from India for the years specified. In 1871, the Government alone

exported 49,695 chests. These are but a few facts concerning this iniquitous traffic.

It may be asked, Is the Government aware of the immoral tendency of opium? To show that they are we quote from a despatch sent from the Government of Bengal to the Government of India, which shows that England protects and fosters a trade with whose direful results she is perfectly well acquainted. We make the following extract: "It is not professed that under the present system the quantity of opium is checked and limited by Government on any considerations of the injurious and demoralizing effects of the use of opium; and to claim for that system any superiority on this ground would be to set up, and set up unnecessarily, an unreal and unfair pretext." This is the language of Government officials in their own official organs, which, to us, looks very like a confession.

It has been asserted by some that the high import rates charged upon opium have a tendency to diminish its use, but, as Sir George Campbell said in the debate in 1875, "It (opium) was one of these things upon which the imposition of a heavy duty enabled us to serve God and Mammon at the same time—doing good to our neighbour by checking its consumption, and raising a large revenue for ourselves." A glance at the table we have given above will show that this is a fallacy, heavy duty does not check the consumption of opium, and therefore it follows that we are not serving God and Mammon, but Mammon only.

The question has often been asked, What would the Government do to make up the deficit in the Indian treasury if it abandoned the opium traffic. This appears to us to be a very thoughtless question; surely if the Government utilised the land at present taken up with growing opium, they would have as large if not a larger income. There might be a deficit for a few years, but we feel assured that it would soon be met if the ground was turned to a better use.

On the other hand, if this trade was abandoned, a great step would be made on the road to reform, and a great enemy to temperance would be removed. This, of course, could not be done at once, but what great reform was ever accomplished in a day? Let the Government abolish the traffic, or begin to do so, and we are contented to leave the results with God.

We earnestly hope the day will come when England will remove this blot on her escutcheon, and act consistent to her Christian profession. For, as Lowell says,

"He's true to God who's true to man; wherever wrong is done,
To the humblest and the weakest, 'neath the all beholding sun."

ROBERT F. GARDINER.

FRUITS.

BY ANNIE S. SWAN.

CHAPTER IX.

FRED.

"DIED at Temple Home, Grange, on the 17th, Frederick George Templeton, aged 26."

The above announcement James Taylor read out to his sister at the breakfast table next morning. Both were shocked and surprised; they did not even know he had been ill, but the same thought was in both minds, that his death must have been the result of an excessive drinking fit.

"I shall go out to the Grange this morning, James," said Alice after a while. "This will be a terrible blow to them."

"Stay there till afternoon then, dear, and I shall try and come for you," was the reply. "I shall be very busy, but I must steal an hour for that."

"I ought to have gone to see after Jennie Gibson, poor child. I don't think Mary would treat her very kindly on Monday when she came."

"Why, what is it James?" she asked, seeing her brother's face look changed as he turned his paper.

"There will be no need for you to go, Alice—Jennie is beyond all need of help. Listen—"

"On Tuesday morning one of the gardeners in Prince's Street Gardens found the body of a child crouched beneath a holly tree, almost buried in the snow; she was carried to the police station, and the doctor who attended said death resulted from exposure. Later in the day the body was identified as that of Janet Gibson, residing in Blair's Close, High Street. It seems her mother is at present undergoing a term of imprisonment for breach of the peace, of which she was convicted at the Police Court on Monday morning."

Alice Taylor leaned her arms on the table, and hid her face, bursting into tears.

"I shall never forgive myself, James, as long as I live, for my forgetfulness. If I had been more mindful she might have been saved."

"My darling, you must not blame yourself too much. Remember the fever you were in about Aunt Ellen. It was not sheer carelessness, Alice; you must not distress yourself so—and remember, she is in a far better home now than any you could ever have hoped to give her."

But it would be very long indeed before Alice Taylor would be able to think without regret or reproach about little Jennie. She did not know how much she had done for her already, but one day, when the books are opened, the poor little city waif will be set as a bright gem in Alice Taylor's crown.

The brother and sister left the house together, the latter taking a car for the Grange. Her heart was full of a great pity for the stricken house, and ached intolerably for Minnie, to whom this must be a terrible stroke.

As she passed through the great gates at the end of the avenue, the lodge keeper, seeing and recognising her, came out to the door to greet her; then Alice paused to ask a question here, it would save her the pain up at the house. The woman guessed what she wished to hear before the question was uttered, and answered in a low voice—

"He died on Sawbath nicht, Miss Taylor. It was delirium tremens, an' Jeanie—that's my lassie, the housemaid, ye ken—telt me it was awfu' to hear him. He was ill a' Setterday tae, though no as bad, an' afore he died it took fower men tae haud him doon. He thoct the devil was takin' him awa'; eh, Miss Taylor, it was an awfu' end for a braw young man; it's just the drink tae; I'm wae for his mither an' the young leddies." Alice could scarcely articulate her thanks, and hurried on, praying to be enabled to offer some slight comfort to those she loved, in their days of affliction. The blinds were drawn down, and the house looked mournful without as well as within, where the servants crept about on tiptoe, and talked in whispers. The one who admitted Miss Taylor silently pointed her to the drawing-room."

"The young ladies are there, Miss Taylor; the mistress is in her bed ill. The master and Mr. Walter are in town."

Alice nodded and slipped noiselessly upstairs. Opening the door very softly, she looked in, for both girls were there in their heavy crape dresses, Kate lying on a couch, and Minnie standing on the hearthrug looking into the fire. She turned at the opening of the door, and seeing who it was, smiled wintrily and held out her hand.

"Alice, I scarcely hoped you would be home from the north; come in."

"Oh, Alice, is that you? I am thankful to see you," said Kate, looking up, her eyes red with weeping. "I have not seen a soul these wretched days; a fearful business this, isn't it; have you heard?" Minnie turned her face to the fire again, while Kate went on—

"Everybody warned Fred of what the end would be, but he wouldn't be warned; and though we guessed he would kill himself in the end, it is none the less horrible when it comes. As long as I live I shall never forget that fearful Sunday; it was worse than being shut up in a mad house."

"Kate!" fell from Minnie's lips in a tone of intense pain.

"I must speak or die," said Kate recklessly, "and I can't pretend to be breaking my heart over Fred's loss; he was not very lovable at the best, and of late he has been a burden to us all. I don't know, I'm sure, what we have done that we should be shamed and afflicted like this. We are no worse than our neighbours who sail along quite smoothly. It's not right." There was a short silence, Alice took off her bonnet and gloves, then Kate rose. "You are getting a poor reception, Alice; it was kind of you to come to cheer our loneliness. I'll take your things upstairs, and look in upon mamma to tell her you have come." She gathered the things in her arms and swept out of the room, looking round to admire the graceful sweep of her train. Kate was a beauty, and knew her mourning became her delicate loveliness, and she was very vain besides.

When the door closed there was a brief silence in the room; the slight still figure leaning against the mantel never stirred, till Alice moved close to her, and laying a tender arm round the drooping shoulders, turned the wan, sad face to hers.

"Minnie, my darling, God comfort you! I want to, but I don't know how."

Then the slight figure swayed like a reed, and leaning her tired head on her friend's shoulder, Minnie Templeton gave way to a burst of weeping which almost frightened Alice. They were the first tears she had shed, and relieved the pent up heart wonderfully.

"You have done me good already, Alice," she said, by-and-bye. "I was longing for you to come; I have felt I can't tell you how, as if everything, even God had failed us in these sad days."

Alice was silent, passing her hand to and fro the brown head with infinite gentleness.

"You have been in a house of mourning too, Alice," said Minnie again; "your aunt is dead, I suppose—when did it happen?"

"Sunday afternoon just at sunset, Minnie, Aunt Ellen went home," answered Alice, her thoughts fleeing to that calm peaceful death-bed where suffering had been changed to victory, and dear Aunt Ellen had left her cross behind for ever and ever and gone to wear a crown.

"Fred died at six o'clock. None of us were present but papa and Walter. Papa would not let us come in; but we heard, oh, Alice, as Kate said, I can never forget that fearful Sunday!"

She paused again, and hid her face. "Walter feels it very deeply—more so, I believe, than Papa. I do not understand Papa," she said, with a great sigh. "Mamma is very much broken down. The funeral is to-morrow, you know. Will you come up and see Fred? the coffin is not screwed down yet. He looks quite peaceful and at rest. There are no marks of the struggle he had left upon his face."

"If you can bear it, Minnie," whispered Alice. Then they went upstairs to the chamber of death. Minnie drew up the blinds, and lifted the coffin lid. Death is a great smoother away of care, and Fred's face looked now as it used to be before the curse had fallen upon him. All that had been pure and noble and good in his nature seemed to be reflected in his face now. As Minnie said, there was no trace of the struggle left.

"You gave a loved one up to the grave on Sunday too, Alice," whispered Minnie, brokenly. "Sorrowfully, I know, but hopefully, for you have a sure hope of meeting her again; but oh, Alice, Alice, what is left to us?"

Ah! what indeed?

CHAPTER X.

CONCLUSION.

"I never heard of anything so annoying, so absurd, Taylor; and what is to become of the business I have toiled and fought to build up for one of my sons? I have a good mind to send the obstinate young rascal about his business, to see what his pair of hands can do for him."

So spake Mr. Templeton to James Taylor one afternoon, coming to the lawyer's office to vent his grievance, which was that Walter had firmly declined to have anything whatever to do with the Edinburgh Brewery, preferring, he said, to work with his hands, if need be, before he laid his conscience under such a burden. James Taylor sat silent for a moment, in almost painful surprise. To him it was a thing inexplicable that this man, who had lost one son through intemperance, should be aught but *thankful* that his sole remaining one had taken such a firm stand against it—had planted his foot securely in the right way.

"Such a business too," fumed the old gentleman, striding to and fro the office; "there isn't its equal in the Midlands, I know—worth a clear six thousand a year to anybody."

"Has Walter any business or profession in view?" enquired Mr. Taylor.

"Humph! he talks of wanting to be a doctor. I've a good mind to let him pull himself through college, see how he likes that. I told him so, and the young monkey said it was his intention to bring himself through by teaching in leisure hours, and writing for the magazines. A literary hack he means to be. Wish him much joy of the beggarly business. I suppose my lord considers my money contaminated because it proceeds from the brewing. Indeed, I don't know what the rising generation's coming to."

James Taylor lifted his head from his ledger, and looked straight into Mr. Templeton's angry face.

"Sir," he said, his voice grave to sternness, "Thank God for Walter's firmness. Would you like to see him come to an end like his brother?"

"No, of course I don't; but there is a medium. I never was drunk in my life. Minnie encourages him in it too. She looks quiet enough, but she can be obstinate as well as any woman. You will not get a very humble, pliant wife, Taylor."

James Taylor's lips parted in a smile, half amused, half tender. He had no fears about his wife's disposition, but he did not care to say so to his future father-in-law.

"Well, I see there isn't much sympathy to be got here. You're spoiled, Taylor, upon my word, by being such a bigot on the drink question. Talk of liberality and Christian charity! Your creed for everybody connected in the remotest degree with the trade is 'Down with them—no quarter.' Well, good day." And the old gentleman quitted the office as abruptly as he had entered it.

Walter Templeton nobly held to his decision, and in spite of strong opposition and much thoughtless pain inflicted by his father, he succeeded in owing his University course solely to his own exertions. His father held aloof, secretly amazed and proud of the unwavering application, the indomitable will and perseverance of his son. And when he closed his college course laden with honours, and went to pursue his chosen profession in a foreign land, the old man broke down utterly, and owned that he had misjudged and mis-doubted him, and asked forgiveness for what had gone before. It was freely accorded before it was asked.

Walter has prospered abroad; he has done, and is doing, incalculable good in the temperance cause. There is a close bond of union between him and his sister's husband (for James Taylor long since claimed his reward). They are one in heart on this great social question of the day. Alice Taylor, left comparatively alone in the world, save for the companionship of her brother's children, spends her life among the lowly, down-trodden ones of earth, and has been the means of leading many a wandering sheep back to the fold. The Edinburgh Brewery flourishes still, though it has now passed into other hands. Mr. Templeton is old and feeble, but sticks yet to his toddy and his wine, and is as prejudiced as of yore against total abstinence and all its votaries. He shuts his eyes wilfully to the fruits of the great curse.

But they will open by-and-bye, perhaps when it is too late.

THE END.

PUBLIC PRESS.

"UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR."—That blissful state defined by the expression under the influence of liquor, seems at last and very properly to be losing its charm in the eyes of judges and magistrates. A person described as a gentleman living at Putney had seated himself in a railway carriage and put his feet on the opposite seat. Upon being asked by the plaintiff to remove them to allow him to enter, he jumped from the carriage and knocked the plaintiff down, and behaved like a madman. The magistrate said it was a gross case, and sentenced him to a month's hard labour without the option of a fine.

TEMPERANCE MISSION AT ARBROATH.—Mr. Francis Murphy, the great American temperance orator, who has during the last two or three months been carrying on a "gospel temperance mission" in certain of the Forfarshire towns, concluded a successful series of meetings in Arbroath on Wednesday night, 8th ult. During the six days he was in the town meetings were held nightly in the public hall, which was crowded on each occasion, and overflowed into some of the neighbouring chambers. The number of persons who took the abstinence pledge is 4,295. The meetings are to be continued under the management of a committee.—*Daily Review*.

Miss M. A. Paul, author of *Tim's Troubles*, contributes a timely letter to the *Temperance Record*, touching "The Religious Aspect of the Temperance Movement," in which she says: "I have always been used to hear teetotalism spoken of as no light matter, but a solemn duty, and in this way it has been impressed upon the hearts of thousands from the first. I can never appreciate the beauty of the phrase 'Gospel Temperance;' to me all temperance is gospel temperance, and you may as well say gospel truth, gospel faith, gospel love. Temperance is a fruit of the Spirit of God—there is no such thing as secular temperance. Inasmuch as a man has temperance, he has a good thing, whether he be wise enough to class it amongst spiritual mercies or not."

As the State undertakes to protect certain interests against the vicious designs of evil men, we protect individuals and society at large, by prohibiting that which is fearfully prolific of crime, insanity, pauperism, disease, and death. It is impossible to imagine a reason for any kind of prohibitive, criminal or protective legislation, that if applied to the liquor traffic will not wipe it out of existence. Some deny the right. But as we have said, this right is included in the present license law; for if the State can prohibit at all it can prohibit entirely. If it has the power to license and regulate—to say that liquor shall not be sold by certain persons, on certain days, to certain parties, or that it shall not be sold, unless money is paid, and bonds given, then it has power to say that it shall not be sold at all. It is also argued that people are not prepared for prohibition. To this I say, they never will be prepared so long as they consent to license. A thousand years of tacit consent will never lead the way to prohibition. The way to be prepared for prohibition is to think it, talk it, pray it, vote it, preach it. Agitation will prepare the people and nothing else will. But it is my opinion that there is public sentiment enough now against the business, but there is not sufficient moral courage. The need is not more education but more back-bone. God pity the poor wretches who know that the liquor traffic is a great overshadowing evil but dare not say so. Of all species of slavery, moral cowardice is the most pitiable.—*Rescue*.

WHAT BARLEY IS.—Dr. Lees recently delivered a lecture in the Great Central Hall, Shoreditch, London, "On the worthlessness of beer as food," in which he thus referred to barley. "Now let us look at what barley is—and I am going to give you the very highest authority to-night—a page of the *Brewers' Guardian*. You cannot question the source of my information when I bring the *Brewers' Guardian* in to bear witness

upon this point. It is a very flattering thing to us that after forty years agitation the chemist of the brewers should come and do the teaching of the teetotaller! I refer you to No. 233 of a very respectable organ, published, I think, at a shilling a number. It contains one of a series of articles on "The Modern System of Brewing," by Herbert C. Wright, B.A., and I find this passage in the very first column:—Barley is not capricious as regards climate—and that is the reason why it would be a very useful grain if it were properly used in this capricious climate. Of the four more usual sorts of grain its time of growth is the shortest. Another reason:—In spite of this fact, certain climatic conditions are not favourable to the production of good brewing material. They may be favourable to the production of an excellent food, though. Thus we observe that in districts where the summer is hot, where a high temperature usually prevails, and drought sets in after the barley is in bloom, the formation of the fruit is hurried on, but the grains are small with a close texture, and are rich in nitrogen—in this very substance, which makes blood, bone, muscle, tissues, nerve, and brain. The very thing which renders them unfavourable to the brewer is that which renders them all the greater blessing to the man." It goes on to observe:—"A grain of barley is a much more complicated thing than persons of an unbotanical mind would suppose." I have been endeavouring to show you that that is so.

POETRY.

THE RIVULET.

LITTLE sparkling rivulet,
Thou art flowing, flowing yet;
I have seen thee years ago,
Thou wert flowing then as now;
Dancing through the valley sweet,
With thy fairy footsteps fleet.
Wilt thou stay and rest awhile?
Thou hast wandered many a mile,
Over bank and mossy green,
—Tell me now what thou hast seen,
Since, a little tiny rill,
Thou burst forth from yonder hill,

Thou hast seen the cottage maid,
Darling of the woodland shade,
Lingering by thy verdant side,
Casting flowers upon thy tide;
Thou hast seen the lovers stand,
Grasping tight each other's hand;
Thou hast fed the busy mill,
Working with an eager will;
Over cascades thou hast danced,
Then in quiet flow advanced.
Rivulet, wilt thou rest awhile,
Thou hast wandered many a mile?

Still the little rivulet,
It is flowing, flowing yet,
It will flow unceasingly,
Till its waters reach the sea,
Till it joins immensity.

Like this rivulet too we go,
With a swift unceasing flow,
Towards an unmeasured sea,
Towards vast eternity.
Onward flows our life's fair tide,
Over rough and smooth we glide,
In eternity so vast,
We are swallowed up at last.

ANDREW M. LANG.

A widow in the west, intending to succeed her husband in the management of a hotel, advertises that "the hotel will be kept by the widow of the former landlord, Mr. Brown, who died last summer on a new and improved plan."

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 112 Bath Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1882.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

MARCH, 1882.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

112 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW.

* * We have been compelled to leave over a large amount of matter—all our literary notices and reviews, several interesting papers, a valuable statistical table, etc., etc. We must content ourselves with the hope that next month we may find room for all these.

THE NEW LICENSING BILL FOR
SCOTLAND.

It will no doubt be within the remembrance of our readers that at the last annual public meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Sir W. Lawson, Bart., M.P., moved a vote of thanks to Lord Colin Campbell, M.P., for presiding. Sir Wilfrid, in doing so, said:—"There is no reason whatever, after the vote which your Scotch representatives gave last June, and after the Welsh and Irish Bill and the Scotch Sunday Closing Bill, why some Scotch member should not bring forward a Local Option Bill for Scotland. (Applause.) I do not know what his lordship will think of the suggestion, but I do know, after having heard him to-night, that if he should think well of it, there is no Scotch member more able to do justice to the question and to his fellow countrymen than the noble lord in the chair. (Cheers.)" His lordship only promised to put his name on the back of a Bill which should give to the people of Scotland "that for which they have pronounced in the most unmistakeable terms. (Cheers.)" His lordship has done more than that. He has brought forward a Licensing Bill far ahead of any scheme proposed for Scotland. His measure contemplates—1, a licensing authority in burghs; 2, one license for every 500 of the population; 3, ratepayers to vote for as many licenses as they please,

or for no licenses whatever: in no case can they vote for more than the maximum number; 4, they are to vote by wards or in School Board districts; 5, if the majority voting vote total prohibition, the minority may within three weeks get up a requisition praying for a license for every 300 ratepayers; 6, a licensing authority is to select and allocate premises and licenses; 7, applicants to be certified, and licenses to be disposed of by auction every ten years; 8, compensation to be granted to those whose claims are sustained. The rest of the Bill makes provision for transfers, steamers, licensing commissions, violations of the law, the adjudication of claims, and such like.

It is with the voting clause with which our readers will have to do. That clause gives power to every moral and social reformer to vote for no license whatever in his district; and it will stimulate all friends of the movement to educate all in their locality to vote for no public-houses. This clause will be the "Nileometer" of the agitation, showing what has been done and what may yet be to do to induce the ratepayers to vote solidly for prohibition. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association base their recommendation to their friends to give a vigorous support to the Bill on this voting clause. The passage of that clause into law will enable the ratepayers at once to give an opinion upon the liquor traffic, which will, we believe, in many cases, show that its presence is repugnant to the majority of the ratepayers.

There is a most objectionable provision to this clause—a provision which allows one hundred ratepayers within three weeks to ask one licence for every complete three hundred of the ratepayers. This provision is made in the interests of the ratepayers who now support the liquor traffic, and will have the most strenuous opposition of the Executive, who are hopeful that they will get that clause deleted, so as to allow the prohibitory clause to have ample room and verge enough to veto the issue or continuance of all licenses. They earnestly call on all their friends to enter upon the duty of giving that clause their combined support, at the same time memorializing their representatives to amend it by the removal of the objectionable provision it contains.

At this stage the Executive give no opinion on the other portions of the Bill, which fully provides for a most stringent limitation of the liquor traffic. When they know that the Bill is in itself not permissive, and that it comes into operation whenever it receives the Royal Assent, they will easily understand that, as an Act, it will inflict a blow upon the Burgh Licensing system of Scotland from which it is impossible it can recover.

We are compelled to go to press before the Bill has passed its first reading, but we understand that it is backed by the members for Glasgow—Mr. Anderson and Dr. Cameron, Messrs. M'Intosh, Bolton, Stewart, and Crum.

Many of our readers will rejoice to learn that the University of St. Andrews has conferred the degree of D.D. upon the Rev. John Kay, Edinburgh. We congratulate Dr. Kay upon his well-deserved honour, and we earnestly hope that he may be long spared to enjoy and adorn the high position in the world and in the church to which it raises him.

The School Board elections are drawing near. The temperance friends in Edinburgh are to run Rev. Drs. Adamson and Kay, and the Baptists, Congregationalists, and Evangelical Unionists in Glasgow have adopted the Rev. Dr. Fergus Ferguson as their candidate. By working hard and voting solidly, our friends may easily put these gentlemen at the head of the poll.

The National Trades' Guardian, the Scotch publican organ, has discovered a mare's nest. He sees "Friend" Abraham Sharman's subscription in the *Alliance News*, and thinking from his Christian name that the worthy "Friend" is a Jew, indignantly demands to know why he should largely subscribe for the overthrow of the drink trade while the nation is assisting the Jews in Russia? We have not come across such an egregious blunder for a long time. Our contemporary has been trying the boomerang, and suffers from the inevitable recoil.

The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has just issued a series of twelve leaflets. Their titles are:—"What is the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association?" "Law should not protect evil;" "Medical Testimonies;" "The Urgent Question of the Day;" "A Workman's Paradise;" "National Drink Facts;" "The Verdict of the Judges;" "Waste of Food;" "Opinions of eminent men;" "How we spend our money;" "The Nation's Drink Bill;" "Local Option." These are beautifully got up, and may be had at 112 Bath Street, at 2s. per thousand, exclusive of carriage. Committees can have notices of meetings printed on them, as they are only printed on one side of the paper.

The Rev. Newman Hall of London, lecturing in Edinburgh last month, informed his hearers that "he had been an advocate of moral suasion, but he had lately become a convert to asking the Government to do a little to help them. He had been forty years in coming to that conclusion, but he had come to it at last." Rev. Mr. Hall, it is true, only recognises the legal prohibition of Sunday traffic in alcoholic liquors, but it is satisfactory to find that so sturdy a champion of moral suasion as he has been constrained to approve of liquor legislation. Then look how difficult it is to educate people, and yet by an unwearied and undaunted educative effort, the aversion of the rev. gentleman to legislation has

been overcome. Keep at it; keep at it! We will win by and bye.

During the month the vigorous activity of the agitation in support of the policy of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has been fully sustained. Messrs. Semple and Blackwood have in the north and the far north had a most excellent series of meetings, extending over a fortnight. Their tour embraced Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Wick, and other places, and lecturers and friends have been having a good time. Mr. Waterston has been successfully holding conferences, followed by public meetings, in Jedburgh, Hawick, Ceres, St. Andrews, Cupar, Kelso, Anstruther, Dunse, etc. Large deputation meetings and the ordinary meetings have also given a vigorous impetus to the agitation. The effect of this upon the friends immediately engaged has been of the most encouraging nature, and the determination to concentrate efforts upon the prohibitory phase of the agitation has made itself signally apparent on the part of a great number of the friends. Working in the temperance cause without the power of veto is just like Sisyphus rolling a stone up a hill without the power to hold it there.

With the present issue the sixteenth volume of the *Social Reformer* closes, and the editor looks back upon the labours in connection with the volume with a considerable degree of satisfaction. He is aware how much the magazine has to contend with through its publication once a month, but that being meantime inevitable, he has tried to make the best of it. During the year his own labours have been sweetened by the kindly notices of his contemporaries, and by the congratulation of numerous friends. He has had the invaluable assistance of numerous pens, whose services for the future volumes he is glad to say are promised. To them he tenders his warmest acknowledgements. He believes that he will have the pleasure of welcoming to the circle of his esteemed contributors many new friends during the year, and that numerous improvements and several attractive features will still more strongly recommend the new volume to the constant reader. The circulation during the year has slightly increased, and might be largely added to by a little friendly effort on the part of friends who have never yet done anything in this direction. They might easily bring it under the notice of their friends and neighbours and thus extend its usefulness, while they rendered an important agency of the association more valuable and effective. The magazine is their own, and has a claim upon their good offices. Title-page and index to the volume now ended will appear with the new number.

A very instructive census of public-house attendance in Bristol last December revealed a public-

house traffic of the most appalling magnitude. It was clearly shown that a number—104,311—more than equal to a half of the entire population of that city—206,503—entered the public-houses between seven and eleven p.m. Of these, the men amounted to 50,723, the women 36,922, the children 16,666. Much has been written *pro* and *con* on this census. On the one hand it was looked on as a solitary fact, from which little practical could be gathered. Besides, the children went along with their parents, and not to get drink for themselves and others. On the other hand, the census afforded a striking confirmation of the shocking proneness of the men to spend like asses what they earned like horses, and the painful fact that the women are gradually drifting into habits of intemperance, while the dear little children were taken to these vile places to be initiated into a baneful indulgence in alcoholic liquors. Now we have another census, not in the west of England but in the north of it, for at Byker, near Newcastle, on the 19th ult. there was a census of church and chapel and public-house attendance that day taken. The attendance at the public-house was as follows:—Men 1584, women 634, and children 696; total, 2914. The numbers at church and chapel were:—588 men, 484 women, and 485 children—1557; majority for Bacchus over Christ, 1357! Drunkenness is coming in upon us like a flood, and the flow may alarm us no more than the flood alarmed the neighbours of Noah, but it will one day bring us face to face with the deplorable fact that the strength of our manhood, the purity and grace of womanhood, and the tender simplicity and docility of children have passed from us never to return. A few more of these censuses, with their dreadful revelations, and the nation must arise and suppress the traffic, or be for ever fallen—doing homage to Bacchus, and writing Ichabod on all that pertains to Christianity.

In the fourth part of the people's edition of the Life of the late Prince Consort, there is a vivid instance given of his Royal Highness's philanthropy. The ballast heavers of the port of London before 1853 "could only get work through a body of riverside publicans and middlemen, who made them drink before they would give them a job, made them drink while at it, kept them waiting for their wages and drinking after they had done their work, so that they could only take half their wages home to their families, and that half only reached them through a drunkard's hands. The consequence was that they were in a pitiable state; this truck-drink system was ruining them body and soul and their families too." Call up the remembrance of the worst forms of slavery, and you will find it paradise to that of these poor ballast heavers. It is hardly within the power of the mind to conceive the misery and injustice these men suffered at the hands of the publicans, or the corrupting power of the traffic over those that lived by its operations. More inhuman

relations between man and man than what existed between "the Bungs" and the ballast heavers never existed in any civilised country. Fortunately his Royal Highness was elected Master of the Trinity House, and, failing otherwise to throw off their chains, these drink slaves boldly appealed to him, and not in vain. He inquired into their grievances, and at length got a clause inserted into the Merchant Shipping Act, 1853, placing them under the control of the Corporation of the Trinity House. He did not spend his time in drawing them away from their oppressors, or in remonstrating with these sordid tyrants, but simply called in the aid of law, and dissolved the fraudulent connection between them and their unfeeling masters. As if by magic, "the law, by sweeping away the system that was ruining them, redressed their wrongs." Our readers may faintly imagine "what a change this was to them from the corrupting publicans and grasping middlemen, seeking their money at the cost of their lives, to Albert the Good and his generous brethren desiring only their good! At one dead lift they raised these men from the drunkard's life and the drunkard's fate to the comfort and respectability of the fairly-paid, hard-toiling English working man." You cannot make sober by Act of Parliament! What a libel on the law. It did so with these ballast heavers, and not with them only but with their descendants. The thousands who drink of the publicans' "swill," whose families eat only of the "husks" he allows them, would rejoice over the enactment of a law for Scotland that at one dead lift would raise them from a drunkard's life and a drunkard's fate to comfort and respectability. When the people of Scotland fully set their minds upon this, they will appeal to Parliament in a way with which it will be found dangerous to trifle, and the oppressor shall be deprived of his power, and the oppressed shall go free. We own our hearty obligation to his late Royal Highness for his truly philanthropic lesson, and we hope that all who read it will profit by it.

Ex-Provost Lindsay, of Leith, is putting himself into communication with the municipal authorities of Scotland with reference to the question of the propriety of amending the "Lindsay Act" of 1862, and in what way? Many of our readers will be surprised to learn that this is a Permissive Act which the worthy Provost in 1862, with the valuable assistance of Lord Advocate Moncrieff, got placed on the Statute, and that its object is to render the General Police (Scotland) Act of 1833, another Permissive Act, more easy of adoption by the ratepayers. The machinery of the earlier Act was so cumbrous, and the consequent expense of working it so great, that it threatened to break the back (financially we mean) of any burgh adopting it. It was directed against filth, darkness, bad roads, and disorder, and where the only grievance was filth or bad roads, all the machinery for darkness and disorder had likewise to

be established. Provost Lindsay's Act enabled any burgh to adopt the section that bore directly on any evil that annoyed it. Under it ratepayers might leave the section relating to water and adopt the other sections, or adopt all the sections save one. The wisdom of the promoters of the Act was seen in the great avidity with which the Act has been adopted, until at the present time there is hardly a burgh in Scotland outside its wise and beneficent control. All the benefits it has conferred, or offers, are just those of permissive legislation, which, when asked for to suppress the traffic in alcoholic liquors is so decried. Were we a magistrate or a town councillor, and our opinion asked, we would suggest that the public houses of any place be placed in the category of the local nuisances of which the Act takes cognizance. If this were done, and reason could not object, then in any burgh adopting the Act in this amended form it would be the duty of the authorities to deal with the drink shops as nuisances, closing them as they close open sewers, overcrowded graveyards, bad wells, or similar sources of disease. They would not remove them piece-meal, as some temperance reformers desire to do with public houses: they must be removed on the same lines as dungheaps are, altogether, and steps effectually taken to prevent their recurrence. Our readers can see from our remarks the inconsistency that marks the conduct of certain people: they laud the Lindsay Act, but they vituperate the Permissive Bill; they sternly suppress by Permissive Acts nuisances that slay their tens a week, and they obstruct the passage of a bill into law that would abolish the drink system that slays its thousands a week. We are willing to believe that many who thus oppose the suppressive veto do so ignorantly, and through unbelief, and therefore we labour to dispel ignorance, enlist sympathy, and invite the hearty co-operation of all citizens, that a law may soon be obtained for Scotland, which will fall upon the liquor traffic and grind it to powder.

Some of our friends "beyond the sea" have sent us a copy of the *Health Reform Colonist*, directing our attention to the prospectus of a new colony which it is expected will be established somewhere on the ever-advancing fringe of the American States. With the strong love for our native land which sways us, we never could think of crossing the ocean for a home. We hope that the same heather which has gladdened our hearts when living may sweetly bloom over us when we are dead. Moreover, we can hardly think that the maximum of happiness is to be found in comparative isolation from our fellows. The great Father of us all has framed us for society, and has made us so that the painful spectacle of misery and suffering, or contact with these, is a stimulus to a good man to make efforts for their alleviation or removal, and the best of mankind have endeared their memories to the generations that have followed them by their self-sacrificing efforts at Prison Reform, Freedom to the Slaves,

or the overthrow of those barriers that interposed between our appetite for food and an abundant supply. It seems to us to savour somewhat of mockery or misanthropy for a body of men and women, to abandon the abodes of civilization, in order that they might, in some distant location or solitude remote, live in strict commercial relations with nature; at any rate it is a kind of experiment whose failures have greatly outnumbered the successes of which it can boast. We prefer, on the whole, to think men will find their truest happiness in casting in their lot with those who are striving to raise humanity by direct appeals to the individual, or by the amelioration of the conditions that affect him, to a higher stage of civilization. Voyagers tell us of the *ennui* which overcomes them in the Arctic regions where the sun never sets for weeks, and travellers would gladly vary the monotony of the endless sunshine of the tropics with its enfeebling rays, with an occasional cooling breeze and a cloudy sky. Our colonists may find that the strength and expansion of being may only be attained amid the constant conflict of good with evil which goes on in the community they have forsaken.

Still, we who choose to remain in a state of society for which they have lost desire, may yet receive much benefit from the contemplation of a scheme which is framed, on the whole, so much in harmony with those laws imposed upon our being by our Maker. In the scheme we find democracy in all rule; freedom of conscience and conduct; education to all; the most ample provision for the conditions of knowledge and recreation and the absolute exclusion of all habits, customs, and occupations dangerous to the physical, mental, or moral health of individuals or the little colony as a whole. Those of our readers who can fully realize what these five points truly mean, will find food for reflection in thinking out the actuality of a society based upon them, and then of endeavouring to obtain a vivid idea of the changed condition of Scotland were such an order of existence enforced therein to-morrow and henceforth. Disease and insanity, in their most grossly induced forms, would be unknown; ignorance, a prurient minstrelsy and an obscene literature, would have disappeared; while whatever was true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, would flourish luxuriantly, pervading the thoughts, the speech, and the deed of all. The vicious of both sexes would find no field of action, but would be compelled to fall into line with the good, or seek in ungodly haunts that opportunity for sin which would be denied them in this happy state. It is, we frankly admit, given to but few to relieve themselves of all prejudice and false impressions, created and fostered by contact with our artificial existence, and to picture truly the more exalted life after which these home colonists yearn, and which would, in fact, in our opinion, bring them within measurable distance of paradise itself. All who adhere to the scheme are expected

to pledge themselves to conformity with certain things, and to an implacable enmity to some of the most desolating evils of society. The fifth pledge, for instance, involves a determination against raising or using tobacco; the sixth is against the use, manufacture, and sale of all alcoholic liquors; and not only so, but against the disposal of any produce which may be transmuted into such deadly drugs. There is no halting here, no trifling with evils so deplorable. The determination to exclude these poisonous substances is not exhausted by their exclusion, but the produce of the land is not to be sold to the brewer or the distiller. Their resolution to colonize is not a dream or a theory—their action is beyond debate. There are already such colonies, of which Vineland is the most signally and successfully conspicuous. Their anticipations of a heavenly state on earth may not be realized, but their attitude to Drink in all its forms is a gladdening reality. They have determined that their mental and moral capacity should not be diminished, their faculties not dulled, their consciences not seared, through the operation of alcohol on their brains, and their minds will have the healthiest conditions, amid which they may develop and exercise them. Should the scheme succeed, we may look forward with assured confidence to the progress and growth of a colony whose inhabitants enjoy, in fruitful exuberance, the most exalted earthly happiness possible to the human race.

A new member of the alcoholic tribe has been discovered—not in the breezy hill, the lovely valley, the flowery mead, or the boundless prairie. It comes, like all the family, from the rottenness and decay of the productions of nature, and, like the race to which it is allied, it is the enemy of mankind. This newly-discovered poison rejoices in the name of Sotal. It is limpid, colourless, and pungent, and it intoxicates. It springs from the decomposition and decay of a gigantic lily, which has its home in Western Texas and in South-Eastern New Mexico. This lily grows best at an elevation of 500 to 600 feet. It is perennial in growth, and has long green leaves, with a stout flower stem of some 12 feet high. It does not produce alcohol. We have bread trees, milk trees, but no alcoholic tree has yet been found in all the wide domain of nature. This lily yields most delicious food and drink. People who are wise, boil or bake its leaves, and the inner part of these is much sought after. So that if people would only use this lily as wise folks use corn or wheat, making it supply a delicious food and a delightful beverage Sotal would never have been heard of. But there are some people who, like the French duchess, have no desire for anything but forbidden fruit. "Ah," she said as she laid down a water pitcher one day, "what a pity that taking water is not a sin, it would be more delicious!" Such people there are in Texas who, caring more for the gratification of their propensities than the satisfaction of nature, steep

the lily till it decays, and from the steepings distil Sotal. Sotal will be heard of: it will, like all its deadly kindred, drive men and women mad, and hurl multitudes of them into premature graves. Between the lily as it blooms and as it is in its rottenness, there is as great a difference as there is between light and darkness; between the highest good and the vilest evil; between the brain nourished by food which strengthens and the brain maddened and overwhelmed. Men leave civilization with its pleasures to go forth as the pioneers of humanity: they forsake almost all comfort, but they carry with them supplies of deadly liquor, or, as in Texas, they seize on the vegetable productions around them and pervert them to a poisonous draught that dulls their sensitivity, darkens their understanding, weakens their will power, and hardens their heart. On how many a grave in Texas and Mexico may yet be fitly placed a tablet having this inscription,—“Here lies a settler, brave, courageous, daring and successful. But in the flower of his age he died of frenzied madness induced by that deadly and seductive poison, Sotal, He came here to find a fortune, but Sotal found for him an early and dishonoured grave.”

INTELLIGENCE.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—I.

NOTICES OF MOTION—SALE OF SPIRITS IN NATAL—IMPORT DUTIES IN JAMAICA—MR. GLADSTONE ON LICENSING LEGISLATION—WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING DIVISION—WELSH SUNDAY CLOSING EXPLANATION BILL.

The present Parliamentary session was begun on Tuesday, 7th ult. The occasion was wholly devoid of ceremony. Rarely has a session opened under more excitement. It is truly deplorable when there are so many grievances awaiting redress that there should be so much party fighting, and that the Government of the day of whatever party should not have a clear stage for the transaction of needful and urgent legislation. We are hopeful that this obstruction will work its own cure by the nation rousing itself and setting legislators aside whose nature it is to fall out by the way. The Queen's Speech made no reference to the licensing question, but a very large number of notices of bills and of questions were given. Among these were a notice of motion by Sir Wilfrid Lawson on Monday, to ask whether Her Majesty's Government contemplate an alteration of the licensing laws. By Mr. E. Clarke, on an early day, to move a resolution affirming the desirability of bills which had reached the stage of committee in one session, but not becoming law, being resumed at the same stage the next session. By Mr. Pease, to call attention to the relations of this country with China, with reference to the opium traffic. By Mr. Warton, Bill to amend the Welsh Sunday Closing Act of last session. (Laughter.) Mr. Stevenson asked leave to bring in a Bill for Sunday Closing in England. Mr. Carbutt asked leave to bring in a Bill to close public houses during the hours of polling at Parliamentary elections. Mr. O'Sullivan asked leave to bring in a Bill for the improvement of spirits before being allowed to be sent out of bond for consumption. Sir John St. Aubyn gave a similar notice for a Bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday in Cornwall. Mr. Lewis Fry gave notice that on Thursday "in committee of the whole House he would move that the Chairman be directed to move the House that leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to the granting of licenses for the sale by retail of intoxicating liquors not to be consumed on the

premises." Mr. Morgan Lloyd followed with the announcement that he proposed on February 21st, to reintroduce his "Bill to amend the laws relating to Parliamentary elections." This measure last session dealt with public-houses and committee-rooms. The Attorney-General intimated his intention of introducing on Thursday his "Bill for the better prevention of Corrupt and Illegal Practices at Parliamentary elections." This Bill as printed last year also contained provision to lessen the drink curse at elections.

Feb. 8th.—Colonel Barne asked leave to introduce a Bill to prevent the adulteration of beer. (Laughter.)

Feb. 9th.—Dr. Cameron gave notice that he would introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the traffic in excisable liquors in passenger vessels plying between Scotch ports.

Mr. Onslow gave notice that in consequence of the motion of the member for Whitby (Mr. Arthur Pease), regarding the opium trade between India and China, he would move an amendment thereon.

Lord Hartington in reply to Mr. Fowler, said that he was aware that by the law of Natal the sale of spirits to natives was forbidden. It was proposed by the Secretary of the Colonies to the Government of Natal in 1879 to extend this prohibition of the sale of spirits to coolies, and the Government of India were consulted on the subject, and they obtained the opinion of the Governments of Madras and Bengal, who were of opinion that the traffic in liquors did great and manifest harm, but said it appeared desirable that existing contracts should stand, and that the law should be applied prospectively. It would be for the Colonial authorities and the Secretary for the Colonies to say whether it was advisable to take the risk of diminishing the traffic as suggested by the reports of the Madras and Bengal Governments. These were communicated to the Colonial Offices, and he had recently heard that the Natal Government had resolved that no legislation for stopping the sale of liquor be attempted. It would seem from what he had heard stated that if this traffic did great and manifest harm to the natives, there was nothing in the advice given by the Government of India to preclude the Natal Government from extending their legislation. Mr. Fowler gave notice that on an early date he would move a resolution in terms of the question.

Mr. Courtenay in reply to Mr. Serjeant Simon admitted that an import duty often had been levied to meet a temporary deficit in the revenue of Jamaica, but this was only for one year. There had been also an increase on the duty of rum imported, and the hon. gentleman was understood to say the authorities at the Colonial Office had not thought it their duty to interfere.

Feb. 13th.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether Her Majesty's Government contemplated proposing any alteration in the licensing laws during the present session. Mr. Gladstone replied that Her Majesty's Government have no intention to propose to the House a measure which would be termed a measure for the alteration of the licensing laws during the present session, but they have already made known their intention to introduce a measure, at the earliest period in their power, with respect to Local Government, and that measure will have certain bearings upon the question of licensing. I hope that in the course of a short time—it must depend upon other circumstances when it can be introduced—the measure will be under the view of the hon. member, and then he will be able to judge how far he considers it an answer to the question.

Feb. 13th.—Mr. Warton asked leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act. The House divided—ayes 18, noes 51. The Scotch vote was as follows—ayes, Col. Alexander, A. Asher, J. B. Balfour (Lord-Advocate), E. Marjoribanks; noes, G. Anderson, T. R. Buchanan, Dr. Farquharson, P. McLagan, J. Heron Maxwell, E. Noel, J. D. Peddie. The first Scotch vote is as usual largely for Sunday closing.

Feb. 14th.—Mr. Warton gave notice to ask on Thurs-

day to introduce a Bill to amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act 1881 No. 2. (Laughter.)

Feb. 16th.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson drew the speaker's attention to the fact that Mr. Warton was defeated on Monday in his attempt to introduce a Bill to amend the Welsh Sunday Closing Act. As he (Sir Wilfrid) did not believe the function of the House to be the explanation of Acts of Parliament, he wanted to know whether the hon. member was in order in bringing in the same Bill under a different name. The Speaker could not call the proceeding of the hon. member in itself irregular. If the Bill is the same he is clearly irregular, but only he can answer that question. Mr. Warton said the Bill was totally different to the other. The first was an exemption bill, this one was to explain the legal effect of the Act itself. Sir Wilfrid said that was just the point. He wanted to know whether it was in order to bring forward a Bill to explain a legal question: that was not legislation.

Trinidad has adopted a Sunday Closing Act. All shops close at 9 a.m.

Wise, the Cork distiller, died lately worth £3,000,000 sterling. What "fools" he had for customers!

The London public-houses, placed end on end or side by side, would form a street thirty miles in length.

All clubs and co-operative stores selling liquors are being compelled to cease either to exist or to continue selling strong drink.

In the new year's copy of the "Licensed Victuallers' Almanack" for 1882, all the members of Parliament who voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., appear in black type.

A capital portrait of Mr. Joseph Livesey, now in his 88th year, adorned the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle* recently. We hope our readers have read Mr. Sherlock's "Joseph Livesey: a Life Story and its Lessons."

Mr. E. O. Greening, of Manchester, has been at Saltaire, and finds from his own observation that it is an artizan's paradise. Everything there that a working man can hope for, and not a public-house within the area in which 4500 happy working people live.

MR. JOSEPH COWEN AND THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS.—Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., in replying to a deputation of the Newcastle Branch of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, said he should be no party to inflicting injustice on licensed victuallers, or on any other class carrying on a legally recognised business.

A PRIZE OF £20.—A prize of twenty pounds stg. is offered by the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society for the best essay or essays "On the Secondary Effects of Alcohol on the System in Health and Disease." Open to the medical students of Edinburgh. For further particulars we refer inquirers to Dr. C. G. Miller, 11 Walker Street, Edinburgh, with whom essays must be lodged by 1st August, 1882.

The Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance has laid a declaration in favour of extending the benefits of Sunday closing to Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Dublin, and Belfast before Mr. W. E. Forster, Irish Chief Secretary. It is signed by 215 magistrates, 323 Protestant clergymen, 131 Roman Catholic clergymen, 303 medical men, 131 town councillors, and 171 poor law guardians. Mr. Forster characterised it as a "very important document."

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE LICENSING QUESTION.—The following letter has been received by the Bishop of Durham from Mr. Gladstone:—"My Lord,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acquaint you that he has received the resolution in favour of an amendment of the licensing laws passed at a recent meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which your lordship has done him the honour to forward. I am to say that Her Majesty's Government will be glad when an opportunity arrives, for making progress toward the settlement of this question.—(Signed), E. W. HAMILTON.

DRUNKENNESS IN DUNDEE.—It is a somewhat curious coincidence that the number of cases before the Dundee Police Court between the 1st and 31st January was the same this year as last—namely, 410. The temperance crusade has not had any effect in diminishing the drunks, as the list of incapables during the past month was one in excess of the same period in January, 1881. These numbers were:—In January this year, 132; last year, 131.—*Telegraph*.

UNFERMENTED WINE.—We are glad to learn that Mr. Matthew Waddell of the City and Commercial Dining Rooms, Union Street and 42 Argyle Street, Glasgow, has become agent for the sale of Mr. Frank Wright's Unfermented Wine. Mr. Waddell, from his extensive business connection, will give an increased stimulus to the sale of this, the only genuine fruit of the vine at present in the market. We wish him success enough to satisfy his business enterprise.

HEAVY DRINKING AT A BALL.—A writer in *Truth* says:—"I heard of a ball the other day in average middle-class society, at which less than 200 people were present, and the liquor consumed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. amounted to seventeen dozen of champagne, two dozen of sherry, twenty bottles of brandy, besides several dozen of claret. The scene at the *finale* was almost precisely similar to that described at the commencement of the first chapter of 'Harry Lorrequer.'"

A TEMPERANCE FIFTY.—A meeting of temperance delegates was held in the Temperance Hall, Port-Glasgow, on Tuesday night, 14th February, when an organisation called "The Port-Glasgow Temperance Representative Fifty" was formed. A constitution on the lines of "The Dundee Hundred" was formed. The office-bearers elected were:—President, Mr. Robert Duncan, shipbuilder; vice-presidents, Rev. Alexander Baird and Rev. Alexander D. Anderson; corresponding secretary, Mr. D. M. Main; minute secretary, Mr. James Rowan; treasurer, Mr. David Gemmell. The formation of this organisation is the direct fruit of the recent conference on local option.—*Daily Mail*, Thursday, 16th Feb., 1882.

CONFERENCE ON LOCAL OPTION AT JEDBURGH.—A conference of the friends of local option was held in Douglas' Temperance Hotel, Jedburgh, on Tuesday, 7th ult., Mr. John Curle in the chair. After a statement by Mr. J. H. Waterston, of Edinburgh, it was unanimously agreed to request the Executive of the Permissive Bill Association to urge upon the Government the desirability of introducing a bill for Scotland giving the people power to veto the liquor traffic in their various localities, and also that a similar resolution be sent to the members of Parliament for the burgh and county, urging them to support the same. The conference comprised representatives from Jedburgh, Anerum, Denholm, and surrounding districts.—*Daily Review*.

LOCAL OPTION CONFERENCE AT HAWICK.—A conference of the friends of local option was held in the Evangelical Union Church, Hawick, on Wednesday evening, 8th February.—Rev. R. Macpherson, of Yetholm, in the chair. After consideration, it was agreed to request the Executive of the Permissive Bill Association to approach the Government, and urge upon them the introduction of a bill for Scotland giving the ratepayers power to veto the liquor traffic in their respective localities. A public meeting was held in the same place after the conference. Bailie Inglis presided, and there was a large attendance. The various motions were unanimously adopted. Among the speakers were:—Rev. Dr. Hislop, Hawick; Councillor Gilroy, Hawick; Rev. N. M'Pherson, Yetholm; Rev. Mr. Orr, Hawick; Mr. David Gaylor, Hawick; Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh; Mr. M. Cameron, Hawick; Mr. William Simpson, Hawick; Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; and Mr. M. Muller, Hawick.

GOOD TRADE.—Mr. R. Power asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the other night in Parliament, if his attention had been called to the charge recently delivered by the Chairman of the Durham Quarter Sessions, in which he lamented the

terrible increase of crime in that county—crimes of assault upon women and children showing a proportionate increase; and if he intends to take any steps for the better protection of Her Majesty's subjects in the county of Durham. Sir W. Lawson asked if the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions attributed the increase of crime to the better condition of trade, and whether it could be stated what was the description of trade to which he referred. (Laughter.) Sir W. V. Harcourt said, in reply to these cross-questions, he was sorry to have to confess he had not seen the charge of the Durham Quarter Sessions; but no information had reached him, officially or otherwise, which led him to think that any exceptional measures were necessary for the county of Durham. (Hear, hear.)

LOCAL OPTION CONFERENCE AT KELSO.—A conference of the friends of local option in Kelso and district was held on Tuesday, 7th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Kelso—Rev. R. Inglis, M.A., St. Boswells, in the chair. After consultation, it was unanimously agreed to write to the directors of the Permissive Bill Association, calling upon them to memorialise the Government and Scotch members to introduce a bill for Scotland giving the people the power to veto the liquor traffic in their localities when so disposed. After the conference a public meeting was held in the same place. Bailie Slight presided, and there was a large attendance. The following motions were unanimously adopted:—(1) Moved by Rev. Mr. Kirkwood, Kelso, and seconded by Rev. R. Inglis, M.A., St. Boswells—"That, considering the vice, misery, crime, waste of food, increased taxation, and stagnation of trade caused by the traffic in intoxicating liquors, this meeting declares that no legislation will be satisfactory that does not confer the power of a popular veto on the liquor traffic." (2) Moved by Mr. A. Campbell, Kelso, and seconded by Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh—"That considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland on liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir W. Lawson's Resolution—this meeting calls upon the Government to introduce a measure for Scotland which shall enable ratepayers to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their various localities." (3) Moved by Mr. James Melrose, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Brown—"That copies of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and member of Parliament for the county." Several songs, &c., were given during the evening.

INCREASE OF DRUNKENNESS.—At a meeting held last night in the Free Church Hall, Stockbridge—the Rev. Mr. Keay in the chair—ex-Bailie Lewis delivered an address, in which he referred to the fact that, notwithstanding all the educational, philanthropic, and religious agencies which are at work, and the healthy temperance sentiment that exists, drunkenness is still on the increase. The last excise returns published proved that there has recently been a large increase in the consumption of intoxicating liquors, while the most recent police returns available demonstrate the increase of drunkenness and other offences. He referred to the police returns during New Year's week for the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow in proof. He found from these returns that in Edinburgh the number of drunk and incapables taken charge of by the police in 1880 was 101; in 1881, 115; and in 1882, 124. When, in addition to these, the apprehensions for disorderly assaults, crimes, and contraventions were taken into account, the numbers for the New Year's week in 1880 was 250; in 1881, 258; and in 1882, 337. Glasgow, he was sorry to find, afforded more conclusive evidence of the increase of drunkenness and social disorder. During the New Year's week in 1880 the number of drunk and incapable cases taken charge of by the Glasgow police was 459; for 1881, 603; and for 1882, 668. When to these were added the apprehensions for disorderly assaults, crimes, and contraventions, the increase was seen to be positively alarming. For the New Year's week in 1880 they numbered 1173; in 1881 they were 1632; and in 1882, 1755. It will thus

be seen that during the New Year's week of the present year upwards of 2000 persons had been before the police courts of two of the most famous and highly privileged of our Scottish cities. If these facts were not enough to arouse our Scottish Churches to aggressive and well-defined action against the drink curse, and to compel the Government of the country forthwith to introduce such a measure into Parliament as would arm the Scottish people with the power to veto the drink traffic, he knew not what would.—*Daily Review*.

LOCAL OPTION MEETINGS AT ST. ANDREWS.—A conference of the friends of local option was held in Baptist Church, St. Andrews, on Wednesday, 15th ult. Rev. R. Troup presided. After a statement from Mr. Waterston, Edinburgh, a resolution was moved by Councillor Hull, seconded by Mr. John Toye, and unanimously agreed to, calling upon the executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association to memorialise Government to introduce a bill for Scotland giving the ratepayers a popular veto upon the liquor traffic. After the conference a public meeting was held in the same place. Rev. J. G. Gibson occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. The following resolutions were agreed to:—(1) Moved by Mr. John Robertson, and seconded by Rev. M. Macgregor, of Dalkeith—"That, considering the vice, misery, crime, waste of food, increased taxation, and stagnation of trade caused by the traffic in intoxicating liquors, this meeting declares that no legislation will be satisfactory that does not confer the power of a popular veto upon the liquor traffic." (2) Moved by Rev. R. Troup, and seconded by Mr. J. H. Waterston—"That, considering the advanced position occupied by Scotland on liquor legislation, and its preparedness for still further advance—as shown by the Scotch vote on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution—this meeting calls upon Government to introduce a measure for Scotland in next session of Parliament which shall enable ratepayers to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors in their various localities." (3) Moved by Mr. John Wilson, and seconded by Mr. John Toye—"That copies of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, Lord Rosebery, and members of Parliament for the burgh and county." Mr. William Smith and others also took part in the proceedings. After the close of the meeting an opportunity was given to take the Blue Ribbon pledge, when 34 came forward and received the ribbon from Mr. Waterston.—*Daily Review*.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The following meetings have been addressed by the advocates and agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 16th Nov. 1881, to 11th February, 1882, inclusive. During that period 273 meetings were held, 98 being deputational, and 175 ordinary. At these meetings 530 addresses were given. The following is a summary of each speaker's work:—

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Prestonpans, Edinburgh, Cockenzie, Gateside, Newcastle, Gosforth, Scotswood, Chirnside, Glasgow, Dysart, Greenock, Leith, Roslin, Burntisland, Newton, Portobello, Grangemouth, Linlithgow, Peebles, Galashiels, Earlston, Ceres, Kirkcaldy, Jedburgh, Kelso, Hawick, and Blantyre, and addressed 68 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Prestwick, Glasgow, Montrose, Ferryden, Kirriemuir, Alyth, Arbroath, Cupar-Angus, Dunning, Whiteinch, Renfrew, Hamilton, Irvine, Barrhead, Port-Glasgow, Daily, Girvan, Maybole, Stranraer, Whithorn, and Creetown, and addressed 61 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Aberdeen, Woodside, New Leeds, Aberdour, Inverallochy, Inverurie, Slap, Ballater, Broxburn, Portsoy, Aboyne, Banchory, Gourdon, Bervie, and Johnshaven, and addressed 61 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has visited Glasgow, Dalry, Dum-

barton, Skelmorlie, Newmains, Stonehouse, Rothesay, Kilbarchan, Paisley, Kilmalcolm, Pollokshaws, Milngavie, Troon, and Leith, and addressed 24 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Edinburgh, Glasgow, Barrhead, Irvine, Nitshill, Paisley, Dumfries, Perth, and Peebles, and addressed 20 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Glasgow, Stonehouse, High Blantyre, Irvine, Rutherglen, and Aitkenhead, and addressed 18 meetings.

Mr. James Winning has addressed 13 meetings in Glasgow, Renfrew, Paisley, Dumfries, Port-Glasgow, Maybole, and Stranraer.

Rev. S. Harding has addressed 8 meetings in Barrhead, Hamilton, Irvine, Greenock, Grangemouth, and Whithorn.

Rev. Dr. Adamson has addressed 7 meetings in Edinburgh, Peebles, and Hawick.

Rev. W. C. M'Dougall has addressed 7 meetings in Hamilton, Maybole, Stranraer, Whithorn, and Blantyre.

Rev. W. Barker has addressed 6 meetings in Dumfries, Port-Glasgow, Perth, and Portobello.

Bailie Selkirk, J.P., has addressed 6 meetings in Barrhead, Irvine, Glasgow, and Perth.

Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., has addressed 6 meetings in Glasgow, Barrhead, Paisley, and Perth.

Captain Brochie has addressed 5 meetings in Alexandria, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and Portobello.

Rev. M. M'Gregor has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh, Portobello, and Kirkcaldy.

Rev. E. J. Boon has addressed 4 meetings in Peebles, Galashiels, and Kirkcaldy.

Mr. James Coutts, S.S.C., has addressed 4 meetings in Portobello and Peebles.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 4 meetings in Grangemouth, Galashiels, and Kirkcaldy.

Rev. A. Wilson has addressed 3 meetings in Renfrew and Greenock.

Ex-Bailie Lewis has addressed 3 meetings in Roslin, Peebles, and Edinburgh.

Mr. R. M'Callum has addressed 3 meetings in Hamilton and Glasgow.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has addressed 3 meetings in Whiteinch and Glasgow.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 3 meetings in Portobello and Peebles.

Rev. Principal Cairns has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Rev. R. J. Lynd has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Rev. W. Bell has addressed 2 meetings in Hamilton.

Rev. J. Kay has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Rev. J. Anderson has addressed 2 meetings in Grangemouth.

Rev. M. O. Shaughnessy has addressed 2 meetings in Maybole.

Rev. P. Richardson has addressed 2 meetings in Maybole.

Councillor Tainsh has addressed 2 meetings in Hamilton.

Councillor Cross has addressed 2 meetings in Hamilton.

Councillor Dow has addressed 2 meetings in Linlithgow.

Councillor Cross has addressed 2 meetings in Port-Glasgow.

Councillor Hay has addressed 2 meetings in Stranraer.

Mr. J. Sutherland has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. T. Robinson has addressed 2 meetings in Barrhead and Nitshill.

Mr. Houston has addressed 2 meetings in Hamilton.

Mr. J. W. Lindsay has addressed 2 meetings in Irvine.

Mr. A. Finlay has addressed 2 meetings in Irvine.

Mr. John Spence has addressed 2 meetings in Paisley.

Mr. J. Clark has addressed 2 meetings in Maybole.

Mr. M. Ballantyne has addressed 2 meetings in Whithorn.

Mr. J. M'Ilwrick has addressed 2 meetings in Whithorn.

Mr. M. M'William has addressed 2 meetings in Whithorn.

Mr. J. C. M'Donald has addressed 2 meetings in Kirkcaldy.

Mr. A. Bennett has addressed 2 meetings in Kirkcaldy.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., Edinburgh; Rev. Professors Blaikie, Edinburgh; Kirk, Edinburgh; and Johnstone, Edinburgh; Rev. Drs. Gray, Edinburgh; Stewart, Aberdeen; and Kennedy, Port-Glasgow; Revs. W. Halliday, Glasgow; S. Sleath, Edinburgh; W. Graham, Edinburgh; J. Young, Edinburgh; M. Galbraith, Aberdeen; G. Wallace, Hamilton; J. J. Kelly, Irvine; J. Connell, Irvine; A. Andrew, Glasgow; A. C. Henderson, Glasgow; J. Baird, Greenock; J. J. Cooper, Greenock; J. Douglas, Glasgow; W. C. Miller, Paisley; G. W. Cumming, Grangemouth; J. M'Queen, Dumfries; J. Cooper, Dumfries; J. Campbell, Port-Glasgow; A. Baird, Port-Glasgow; A. Sutherland, Perth; J. Symon, Perth; J. Barrow, Portobello; J. C. Nisbet, Galashiels; J. Crawford, Maybole; M. Mint, Maybole; G. Stewart, Stranraer; J. Kirkwood, Kelso; R. Inglis, Kelso; D. Hislop, Hawick; J. Orr, Hawick; and N. M'Pherson, Hawick; Sheriff Guthrie Smith, Edinburgh; John Wilson, Esq., J.P., Edinburgh; Ex-Provosts Dick, Barrhead; and Shortridge, Dumfries; Treasurer Russell, Peebles; Bailies Bell, Port-Glasgow; and Marshall, Stranraer; Ex-Bailies M'Bryde, Port-Glasgow; and Kemp, Portobello; Councillors Leishman, Grangemouth; Reid, Portobello; and Gilroy, Hawick; Ex-Councillor Fulton, Glasgow; Captain Hatfield, Glasgow; Drs. Bowie, Edinburgh; Richmond, Paisley; Young, Portobello; and Douglas, Whithorn; Messrs. T. Barclay, Glasgow; J. Hunter, Glasgow; G. Tait, Edinburgh; John Nisbet, Edinburgh; J. Jeffrey, Edinburgh; J. Blair, Renfrew; J. Vernal, Renfrew; R. Duncan, Renfrew; J. Hamilton, Renfrew; J. Tagg, Renfrew; T. Ivory, Edinburgh; T. M'Lellan, Barrhead; A. Shanks, Barrhead; A. Johnston, Barrhead; R. Patrick, Barrhead; D. Macfarlane, Barrhead; D. Ferguson, Barrhead; W. Craig, Barrhead; J. Stirling, Hamilton; W. Cowan, Hamilton; G. Pauline, Irvine; D. M'Neill, Irvine; J. Miller, Irvine; J. Yuille, Irvine; W. M'Cormack, Irvine; A. Adamson, Ceres; J. C. Adamson, Ceres; T. Honeyman, Ceres; D. Ramsay, Edinburgh; J. Thomson, Edinburgh; J. Smith, Edinburgh; J. Wood, Paisley; J. Tennant, Glasgow; T. Muir, Paisley; J. M. Cunningham, Paisley; A. Brown, Grangemouth; M. Gavin, Grangemouth; T. Lindsay, Grangemouth; J. Lyon, Grangemouth; J. W. Mackay, Glasgow; J. B. A. M'Kimmel, Dumfries; R. Duncan, Port-Glasgow; D. Gemmell, Port-Glasgow; D. Main, Port-Glasgow; J. Duguid, Port-Glasgow; J. Russell, Port-Glasgow; W. Laurie, Portobello; J. Easton, Portobello; E. Selway, Portobello; J. Pool, Portobello; R. Johnston, Portobello; B. James, Portobello; Bazandine, Portobello; R. Russell, Peebles; D. Nimmo, Peebles; T. Robertson, Peebles; Dunlop, Peebles; A. Smyth, Peebles; F. Lynn, Galashiels; A. Herbertson, Galashiels; J. Allan, Galashiels; J. Smith, Maybole; A. Goudie, Maybole; J. Nisbet, Maybole; M. M'Pherson, Maybole; J. Latta, Maybole; J. Limond, Maybole; J. Wood, Earlstoun; M. Tully, Stranraer; M. Hood, Stranraer; M. Begg, Whithorn; D. Niven, Whithorn; J. Allison, Kirkcaldy; J. Skinner, Kirkcaldy; A. Beattie, Kirkcaldy; J. Black, Kirkcaldy; J. Balfour, Kirkcaldy; A. Campbell, Kelso; J. Melrose, Kelso; T. Brown, Kelso; E. Wilson, Hawick; D. Taylor, Hawick; M. Cameron, Hawick; W. Simpson, Hawick; and M. Miller, Hawick.

We have been asked to acknowledge receipt of the subscription of Mr. W. Kelman, Glasgow, 5s.; also Walter M'Kinlay, 1879-80, 2s. 6d.; 1880-81, 2s. 6d., inadvertently omitted in annual report.

AN OPPONENT'S GENEROUS RECOGNITION.—“The Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association” is a record of

continued persevering effort in a good cause. We may and do differ from the modes proposed by the Permissive Bill of dealing with the evils of drunkenness, but the mass of facts, the earnest effort, the unwearied iteration of truth, the determination not to allow the community to become dead to the evil—all this sowing of good seed will in the end yield good fruit.—*Dundee Advertiser*.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Health Reform Colonist. A Radical Health Reform Journal. Aug. and Sep. 1881. J. O. Clark, Syke's Mills, Elmore County, Alabama. Six cents, or 25 cents for six months. This is a curiosity; first, it does not contain so much matter as two pages of the *Social Reformer*, yet the difficulty of getting it up was so great that the editor makes an elaborate apology to his readers. He thought to have the number before us out by 1st October, but it appears it was the 1st of November ere he could congratulate his readers on its appearance. A Radical, Dr. Graham Windsor, Maine, says he has lived for days on baked potatoes, for years on Graham rolls and apples, and all these years never but once an unwholesome thing, which was when he swallowed a little common salt, which left a blister on his tongue when on its way to his insulted stomach. Here is the result of his survey of humanity. Grain food is immensely on the increase, tea and coffee on the decrease, the liquor pest at a level, tobacco is alas on the increase too. Dead flesh with the spices and condiments are not so much in use. Clean ripe fruit has displaced pastry in some degree, yet on the whole the great stomach of humanity is not so badly used as formerly. “The world moves although very slowly. We must expect this; it may have been long ages in becoming perverted, and it certainly will take long years to be reformed.” We have been much edified by the perusal of this number, which apart from those we have not seen, contains for us much profitable reflection. We should be glad to welcome such a thoroughgoing publication as this is on this side of the Atlantic ferry.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. DUNCAN SMITH, GLASGOW.—On Wednesday, 8th ult. this truly amiable gentleman, one of the most valued of the Vice-presidents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, passed away in the 79th year of his age and in the 44th of his adhesion to the temperance cause. He enjoyed comparatively good health till about three months ago, since which time he gradually sank till his death. The last survivor of three brothers, he dies leaving a most enviable reputation behind him for commercial diligence and integrity, personal worth and Christian excellence. Born in Balfour in the beginning of this century, he left his home for many years to push his fortunes, and returned more than twenty years ago to his native village, where he spent the remainder of his working life. During that time he did much to advance the cause of total abstinence, to which he was most devotedly attached. The Total Abstinence Society was a special object of his praiseworthy efforts. We think, however, that the greatest service he did to the cause he loved so well, was the wide distribution of temperance and prohibition literature which he steadily followed. Week by week his order came, week by week came his inquiries for the newest issues and the best. It is impossible to measure, even if it were needful, the amount of good Mr. Smith accomplished in this way, and he would have been the last to have reckoned it up. He latterly lived in Glasgow, taking up to the last moment of his healthy existence an unabated interest in the cause. His remains were laid in the Balfour churchyard amid the greatest marks of respect, all feeling that a truly good man had passed away.



THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL

AND

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

VOLUME XV.

GLASGOW:
THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION,
30 HOPE STREET,
1881.

JOSEPH LIVESEY
LIBRARY.
SECTION L
NO. 3A

THE

SOCIAL REFORMER:

THE ORGAN OF

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL

AND

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

Volume XV.

GLASGOW:

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION,
30 HOPE STREET.

1881.

THE
SOCIAL REFORMER.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL.

ROBERT MACLEHOSE, PRINTER, GLASGOW.

Volume XV

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPORARY REGULATION
OF HONORABLE

I N D E X.

	PAGE		PAGE
Temperance and Social Reform:—			
Liquor Traffic, The, - - - - -	153	Sunday Closing in Ireland, - - - - -	183
Local Option, - - - - -	137	Supplement to <i>Whitaker's Almanack</i> , - - - - -	98
Moderate Drinking: Can it be a Safe Course? - - - - -	50	Temperance Landmarks, - - - - -	43
New Aspect of Licensing, A, - - - - -	33	Thorn Lodge, or the Wheel of Life, - - - - -	152
Principle and Expediency: Their place in the Temperance Enterprise, - - - - -	1, 17	Throne of Iniquity, The, - - - - -	16
Temperance in Relation to the Gospel, - - - - -	34, 49, 69	To d with a Purpose, - - - - -	31
Literary Articles:—			
Appearance of Evil, The, - - - - -	121	Twenty-second Annual Report of Irish Temp. League, - - - - -	83
Day with the Ivanhoe, A, - - - - -	51	Two Sides of the Question, The, - - - - -	99
Early Prohibitionists, - - - - -	18, 73	<i>Winsome Words</i> , - - - - -	98
"Every Man in his Place," - - - - -	22	Wheat Meal Bread, - - - - -	184
Individual Consecrations, - - - - -	155	Who Shall be England's Leader, - - - - -	31
"No Compromise," - - - - -	85	Woman's Medicinal Use of Alcohol, - - - - -	98
Notes from the Outer Hebrides, - - - - -	170	Word about Work, A, - - - - -	183
Open-Air Meetings, - - - - -	21	Leading Articles and Summaries:—	
Philosophy of Food, The, - - - - -	123	SUMMARIES:—	
"Right" or Expediency, - - - - -	119	American Female Temperance Reformers, - - - - -	194
Taxation, Imperial and Other, - - - - -	169	Annual Report, The, - - - - -	158
"The Price of Blood," - - - - -	122	Attitude of the Medical Profession to Temperance, - - - - -	76
Woman—The Girl, - - - - -	19	"Boycotting," - - - - -	157
" The Maiden, - - - - -	35	British Temperance League—Annual Meeting, - - - - -	76
" The Wife, - - - - -	70	Canadian Temperance Act, The, - - - - -	57
Worth of Woman, The, - - - - -	2	Church and the Temperance Reformation, The, - - - - -	159
Our Book Shelf:—			
<i>Adviser</i> , The, - - - - -	152	Coming Winter's Work, The, - - - - -	129
Alcohol at the Bar, - - - - -	31	Deputation to the Lord Advocate, - - - - -	159
Annual Report, Edinburgh T. A. Society, - - - - -	184	Division on the Local Option Resolution, The, - - - - -	58
Alcohol: Its Function and Place, - - - - -	32	Dunken, Prohibition Bill (Canada), The, - - - - -	194
Band of Hope Handbook, The, - - - - -	48	Duty of the Hour, - - - - -	144
Beacon Flashes, - - - - -	183	Gaiety's License, The, - - - - -	92
Birthdays of the Temp. Movement in Scotland, - - - - -	16	General Election, The, - - - - -	24
Books Received, - - - - -	16, 48, 167, 184	Glasgow School Board and Public Houses, - - - - -	178
Bonhill T. A. Society, Nineteenth Annual Report, - - - - -	167	Ladies' Local Option Fund, The, - - - - -	57
Children's Sunbeam, - - - - -	167	Late Liberal Government and Licensed Victuallers, - - - - -	8
Constitutional Liberty, - - - - -	68	Liquor Dealers' Resolution on Local Option, The, - - - - -	144
<i>Evans' Annual</i> , - - - - -	166	Licensing Boards, - - - - -	195
Famous Boy, A, - - - - -	84	London Temperance Hospital, The, - - - - -	179
Few Words to Women, A, - - - - -	16	Music Hall Licenses, - - - - -	180
<i>Fireside</i> , The, - - - - -	167	New-Year, The, - - - - -	157
Food and Feeding, - - - - -	99, 137, 176	Orkney and Shetland Election, The, - - - - -	24, 49
Fourth Annual Report of Paisley Women's Abstinence Society, - - - - -	167	Parliamentary Recess, The, - - - - -	123
God's Arm, - - - - -	98	Pestilence of Intemperance, - - - - -	129
Graham's Temperance Dialogues, - - - - -	152	Presentation to Mr. J. H. Raper, - - - - -	76
Half-Hour Temperance Reading, - - - - -	204	" Dr. Kerr, - - - - -	76
<i>Hand and Heart</i> , - - - - -	83, 167	Rejected Votes, - - - - -	57
Health Studies, - - - - -	167	Representation of Edinburgh, The, - - - - -	178, 179
Heroes in the Strife, - - - - -	152, 184	" Renfrewshire, - - - - -	145
<i>Home Words</i> , - - - - -	93, 166	Revised New Testament, The, - - - - -	178
<i>Home World</i> , The, - - - - -	16	Scotch Parliamentary Representatives, - - - - -	158
<i>House and Home</i> , - - - - -	152	Social Science Congress, The, - - - - -	123
Human Body and its Functions, The, - - - - -	83	" " and Temperance, - - - - -	130
Illustrious Abstainers, - - - - -	83	Social Reformer, The, - - - - -	195
Intemperance and the Licensing System, - - - - -	32	Solicitor General and the Local Option Question, The, - - - - -	145
<i>Leaflet Reciter</i> , The, - - - - -	83	Special Donation, A, - - - - -	40
Little Dears, The, - - - - -	98	Tanner's, Dr., Fast, - - - - -	92
<i>Longley's Illustrated Annual</i> , - - - - -	152	Taxation on Brewers and Distillers, - - - - -	40, 57
Martyrs' Tree, The, - - - - -	204	Temperance in Primary Schools, - - - - -	123
<i>Methodist Temperance Magazine</i> , - - - - -	204	Unfermented Wine Vigilance Committee, The, - - - - -	179
Mother's Prayer, The, - - - - -	183	Vagaries of Drunkenness, - - - - -	76
National Temperance Hymnal, The, - - - - -	83, 183	Wigton Burghs, The, - - - - -	40
" " Year Book, The, - - - - -	183	Zetland, Earl of, and the Grangemouth Public Houses, - - - - -	40, 145
<i>Onward Reciter</i> , The, - - - - -	32, 98, 152, 167	LEADERS:—	
Peeps at our Sunday Schools, - - - - -	32	"Chambers' Journal" in the Mist, - - - - -	85
Penny Testament, A, - - - - -	31, 152	General Election, The, - - - - -	8
Personal Work among our Blue Jackets, - - - - -	152	Licensing Boards, - - - - -	77, 93
Pictorial New Testament, The, - - - - -	68	Local Option Resolution, - - - - -	41
<i>Preston Temperance Teacher</i> , The, - - - - -	48	Our Annual Meetings, - - - - -	113
Right Hand Cut off, The, - - - - -	183	Tales, Sketches, &c.:—	
Right Sort of Prayer to Support, - - - - -	183	Dick Saunders' Error, - - - - -	3
Sacraments, The, - - - - -	14	Run to U. K. Alliance Meetings, - - - - -	135
Seventh Annual Report of Dale St. T. A. Society, - - - - -	167	Wanderer, The, - - - - -	74, 89, 125, 142, 175, 191
<i>Social Reformer</i> , The, - - - - -	39	Poetry:—	
Songs and Recitations for Bands of Hope, - - - - -	152	"Battle of the Bung," - - - - -	56
Studies in Life, - - - - -	84	Bung from the Beer, - - - - -	19
		Courage, - - - - -	139
		Creeping up the Stairs, - - - - -	39
		Grains' Vindication, - - - - -	120
		In Memoriam (Mr. John Smith of Bothwell), - - - - -	68

	PAGE		PAGE
My Rights, - - - - -	193	Election Days and Public Houses, - - - - -	42
Old Sad Tale, The, - - - - -	142	English <i>versus</i> American Operatives, - - - - -	133
"Only a Glass of Cider," - - - - -	23	Falkirk Temperance Electoral Union, - - - - -	204
"On the Towers of Life," - - - - -	23	"Feat of Endurance," A, - - - - -	79
Our Daily Life, - - - - -	156	Fourth General Union for Prayer, - - - - -	127
Till the Echo died away, - - - - -	91	Free Trade and Compensation, - - - - -	44
Widow to her Husband's Portrait, The, - - - - -	184	General Election, The, - - - - -	13, 25
"Wine is a Mocker," - - - - -	19	Gladstone, Right Hon. W. E., on Local Option, - - - - -	29
Work, - - - - -	168	Glasgow Abstainers' Union, - - - - -	44
Public Press:—		" Cross Hall Temperance Meeting, - - - - -	79
Abuse of the London Hospital System, - - - - -	56	" Good Templars' Harmonic Association, - - - - -	67
Alcohol <i>versus</i> Opium, - - - - -	82	" St. Luke's Branch Church of Scotland Temperance Association, - - - - -	133
Canvassing, - - - - -	30	Grand Lodge, I.O.G.T., Annual Sessions, - - - - -	79
Drink, a Great Enemy of Life, - - - - -	89	Grangemouth—Earl of Zetland and the Public Houses, - - - - -	66, 134, 150
Drinking Habits of the People, The, - - - - -	30	Greenock—Conference and Public Meeting, - - - - -	147
Festive Demoralization, - - - - -	87	Hawick—Temperance Social Meeting, - - - - -	66
Good Illustration, A, - - - - -	30	Highland Temperance League, The, - - - - -	28, 42, 203
Judge's Opinion, A, - - - - -	30	Kennedy, Dr., on the Drink Traffic, - - - - -	42
Notes of an Address to Women, - - - - -	37	Ladies' Local Option Fund, - - - - -	66
Overwork, - - - - -	83	Lanark—Temperance Meeting, - - - - -	96
Revenue Returns and the Budget, The, - - - - -	30	Lawson's, Sir Wilfrid, Latest, - - - - -	29
Unerring Marksman, An, - - - - -	30	Leadhills—Heather Bell Lodge (I.O.G.T.), - - - - -	164
Wesleyan Methodist Minister's Testimony, A, - - - - -	30	Leith—Total Abstinence Society, - - - - -	67
What is the Use of Spirits, - - - - -	56	Liquor in the United States, - - - - -	132
Work <i>versus</i> Poverty, - - - - -	141	Licensing Boards, - - - - -	79
Correspondence:—		Licensing Courts, The, - - - - -	28
Before and After, - - - - -	54	" Difficulties, - - - - -	29
Canadian Temperance Notes, - - - - -	55, 151	List of Successful Candidates for Scotland, - - - - -	27
Consideration that Should Weigh, The, - - - - -	30	Local Option, - - - - -	163
Correspondence on Local Option, - - - - -	174	Local Option Debate and Division, - - - - -	58
Discussion—Do Public Houses Condition Drunkenness; Mr. John Paton, - - - - -	172, 188	" Resolution, The, - - - - -	9
Do, do., Ex-Bailie Lewis, - - - - -	173, 189	" Victory, The, - - - - -	94
Dow, Hon. Neil, Post Card from, - - - - -	56	Lords on Intemperance, The, - - - - -	80
Elections and Public Houses, - - - - -	46	Manning, Mr. J. W., in Scotland, - - - - -	196
Explanation, An, - - - - -	47	Manufacture and Consumption of Spirits, - - - - -	203
For Conscience Sake, - - - - -	174	Montrose—Temperance Meeting, - - - - -	203
Highland Temperance League, The, - - - - -	31	National Drink Bill for 1879, - - - - -	47
Ireland, - - - - -	164	New Supporters, - - - - -	42
Movement in the Far North, The, 45, 55, 81, 88, - - - - -	166	New Zealand Champion Shot for 1880, The, - - - - -	66
Our Annual Meetings, - - - - -	150	No Danger in the Pledge, - - - - -	41
Political Corruption, - - - - -	136	Other Side of the Question, The, - - - - -	67
Real Philanthropy, - - - - -	151	Opening of Bridgeton Temperance Institute, - - - - -	42
Scotch Vote on the Permissive Bill, The, - - - - -	5	Origin of Bible Societies, The, - - - - -	67
Smoke Nuisance, - - - - -	166	Our New-Year's Tract, - - - - -	144, 128, 118
State Protection and High Duty on Liquors, - - - - -	171, 185	Paton, Mr. John, - - - - -	128, 144, 157
Temperance Annuity Fund, - - - - -	151	Parishes in Scotland without Public Houses, - - - - -	6
" Movement in Lerwick, - - - - -	5	Parker, Mr., M.P., and Local Option, - - - - -	146, 150
Our Monthly Letter:— 4, 22, 38, 53, 72, 86, 124, 140		Parliamentary Candidates' Opinions, - - - - -	6
Obituary:—		" News—Abstainers, - - - - -	42, 67
Anderson, The late Mr. Ebenezer, Glasgow, - - - - -	48	" Session, The, - - - - -	181, 193
Carswell, " " David, Paisley, - - - - -	168	Pereira, Rev. H. H., M.A., - - - - -	164
Grant, " " Jas. W. Calder, - - - - -	168	Presentation to Mr. A. Crawford, - - - - -	96
Kerr, " " Rev. Dr. A. M., Dunse, - - - - -	100	" to Councillor J. Hope, - - - - -	178, 182
Lamberton, " " Mr. Alex., Kilburnie, - - - - -	204	Press on the Debate, The, - - - - -	63
Muir, " " Col., M.P., - - - - -	152	Poisonous Unfermented Wine, - - - - -	46
Nicol, " " Mr. R. Russell, New Rattray, - - - - -	184	Prohibitory Village, A, - - - - -	79
Shaw, " " John, Kilsyth, - - - - -	168	Progress of the Work, - - - - -	31, 82, 98, 157, 190, 194
Smith, " " John, Glasgow, - - - - -	48	Raper, Mr. J. H., - - - - -	42
Intelligence:—		Representation of the Wigtown Burghs, - - - - -	79
Aberdeen—Conference of Temperance Reformers, - - - - -	80	Resolutions of U.P. Synod on Temperance, - - - - -	28
" Open Air Temperance Meeting, - - - - -	96	Revenue, The, - - - - -	133
Alliance Deputation, - - - - -	199	Rothesay—Prize Essay on the Permissive Bill, - - - - -	203
Analysis of Votes and Pairs on the Local Option Resolution, - - - - -	78	Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association—Office-Bearers, - - - - -	131
Annual Meeting, - - - - -	101	Scottish Per. Bill and T. Assoc. and the Discussion and Division on Sir W. Lawson's Resolution, - - - - -	12, 64
" Social Meeting, - - - - -	112	Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association and the General Election, - - - - -	24
" Public, - - - - -	113	Scottish Congregation T. A. Society, The, - - - - -	45
Assemblies, The, - - - - -	64	" Temperance League—Anniversary Meetings, - - - - -	43
Beer and Bribery, - - - - -	96	Sons of Temperance Friendly Society, - - - - -	43
" in Europe, - - - - -	96	Spirited Conduct of Ladies, - - - - -	134
Blackie, Professor, at the City Hall, Glasgow, - - - - -	29	Strathaven—Temperance Lectures, - - - - -	66
Brewers in the United Kingdom, - - - - -	67	Sunday Drunkenness in England, - - - - -	95
Buteshire Election, The, - - - - -	80	Temperance Act, The, - - - - -	78
Canadian Prohibitory Bill, - - - - -	96	" Electoral Action in Canada, - - - - -	80
" Temperance Act, 1878, - - - - -	42	Thurso—Temperance Meeting, - - - - -	42
Campbell, Sir G., Bart., M.P., at Kirkcaldy, - - - - -	134	U. P. Synod, - - - - -	43
Currie, Mr. D., M.P., on the Permissive Bill Reform, - - - - -	97	U. K. Temp. and General Provident Institution, - - - - -	67
Decrease in Liquor Consumption, - - - - -	28	Way to Conquer Appetite, The, - - - - -	183
Deputation to the Lord Advocate, - - - - -	161	Week's Work in Edinburgh, A, - - - - -	81
Drink and Insanity, - - - - -	133	Wolsey, Sir Garnet, and Total Abstinence, - - - - -	134
Dunse Auxiliary of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, - - - - -	187	Woman's Appeal to Women, - - - - -	156
Dutch Government and the Liquor Traffic, The, - - - - -	79	" Crusade, A, - - - - -	133
Edinburgh Café Company, The, - - - - -	97	Varieties:—	
" Election, - - - - -	178	3, 7, 20, 29, 39, 75, 76, 97, 100, 120, 141, 143, 167, 168	

THE
Social Reformer.

APRIL, 1880.

PRINCIPLE AND EXPEDIENCY: THEIR
TRUE PLACE IN THE TEMPERANCE
ENTERPRISE.

PRINCIPLE is lasting, eternal; expediency is temporary, changing,—changing in modes and forms of application. What is expedient to-day may be inexpedient to-morrow. Wise expediency in certain places and under certain circumstances, may be foolishness itself in other places and circumstances. There is a worldly expediency and there is a Christian expediency; but whether worldly or Christian, expediency is essentially temporary in character and varied in application. Principle is always the same, in all places, and at all times.

Under other circumstances the apostle Paul would have partaken both of flesh and wine (unfermented wine doubtless), while under the then existing circumstances, and while the same continued, he felt it to be his duty neither to eat the one nor drink the other. The Christian expediency practised by the apostle is undeniable. In the circumstances it possessed in his estimate the imperative of moral obligation, and the prompt, willing, and whole-hearted manner in which he applied it to the guidance of his own conduct is the most conclusive proof of his deep and abiding conviction and of leal-hearted loyalty "to Him whose he was and whom he was bound to serve." There is no mistaking the high Christian tone of the apostle's whole nature. He walked in fellowship with Christ, acted as under his eye, carried with him an abiding sense of His Master's presence,—the only true source of a holy, consecrated life.

Let us briefly examine into the surroundings of the great apostle Paul when he uttered the memorable words, "If meat make my brother to offend" (literally stumble), "I will eat no flesh while the world standeth." A number of the recent converts to Christ, were but yesterday the sincere but blind devotees of idols and idol-worship, babes in Christ, with their life-long associations in connection with idols—the meats and drinks offered thereto and partaken of expressive of their worship and service and vows to these dumb deities,—escaped, or rather escaping from the bewitching influences which had long held them in bondage to dark and darkening idolatry—still so little able to distinguish between things that differ, so little up, so to speak, in the light and liberty of the children of God, that flesh and wine once offered to idols, could not be partaken of by them, without the thick and depressing shades of idolatry once more creeping over their spirits, which but yesterday, as it were, had been gladdened and blessed by the light of the rays of the Sun of Righteousness that had arisen on their souls. Not only could these infant believers not personally partake of these meats and drinks offered to idols, but they could not see other believers partake thereof, without their consciences being thereby defiled.

These were the circumstances in view of which the apostle, as was ever his wont, stepped to the front manfully and as became a wholly consecrated and uncompromising follower of Christ Jesus, stood up for the weak brethren, and for their sakes presented, enforced, and exemplified in his own conduct that spirit of self-sacrifice which marks him off as without compeer in the illustrious land of Apostles. Were his self-sacrificing spirit copied, not simply admired, by all who follow Christ, the Church would speedily be revolutionised and the world blessed.

Personally considered, the flesh and wine, assuming that the wine was unfermented, Paul could have partaken of not only without injury, but to real advantage up to the point of enough. To him their having been offered to idols was a matter of supreme indifference; to him an idol was nothing. Not so, however, to many who, though weak in the faith, were nevertheless his brethren in the Lord; and for their sakes he willingly, at once, and for ever, renounced what might prove to them an occasion of stumbling. This was true Christian heroism which none can fail to admire, however few may practise.

In the conduct of the great Temperance enterprise, this grand Christian expediency taught, enforced, and exemplified by the apostle of the Gentiles, has been largely quoted, appealed to, and enforced as the chief reason for abstaining from intoxicating liquors. I not only admit the Christian expediency contended for, but deplore the lack of it in myself and others, and yet I cannot but regret, and that deeply, what has all along appeared to me the misapplication in the advocacy of the temperance movement of that Christian expediency which has already worked wonders, and which is destined yet to accomplish far greater achievements. Why, or wherein, has Christian expediency been misapplied in connection with the temperance enterprise? I answer in urging its application for the abandonment, the giving up of intoxicating liquors, as ordinary beverages, instead of urging its application to the devising and persistently carrying out the best and fittest measures for wholly displacing the germ of intemperance from our country, a consummation possible only by the people, old and young, rich and poor wholly abandoning the beverage availment of intoxicating liquors of all kinds, and that in the smallest possible quantities; for from its very nature alcoholic liquor injures the partakers precisely in proportion to the quantity partaken of, and begets imperceptibly, a craving for repeated gratification; for as intoxicants meet no normal requirement of the human organism, the human system does not possess any natural check, as it does in the case of water, which however much relished by a thirsty person, the system's requirements once fully meet, the relish ceases, and intemperance in water drinking is thereby rendered impossible on the part of all persons in sound health, and all cases of intemperance in water drinking are invariably traceable to abnormal

conditions in the subject. This being the case, does not principle require us one and all, to abstain, there being in consequence of the nature and effects of intoxicating drinks, no beverage availment thereof consistent with temperance. Principle, that is moral obligation, requires of us to abstain from that which does us injury; but intoxicating drink does injure us when in health, in proportion to the quantity partaken of; therefore on principle we are bound to abstain from intoxicating drink. But where moral obligation directly applies, expediency is excluded; and therefore expediency does not apply to *personal* abstinence from the beverage availment of intoxicating drinks. If, therefore, principle requires of us abstinence from intoxicating drink, our duty to do so is morally obligatory, and Christian expediency must operate upon and guide our action on other lines than that of abstaining ourselves, viz., on helping to devise and carry out the best and fittest means for persuading others to do as we have done. This is the true sphere and work of the temperance reformers, not to linger at and around the one solitary point of personal duty performed; but having got a firm footing there, to move forward, battling manfully with the foe, enabling others to get on to the solid rock for themselves, and to join in the noble crusade of wholly changing our habits and customs in connection with the beverage availment of intoxicant liquors, till as individuals and families, as communities and a nation, we banish intemperance from our shores.

Rosemount.

WM. CLARK.

(To be continued.)

THE WORTH OF WOMAN.

Not long ago we were told that the worth of a man after he had been educated, instructed, and trained, was between £150 and £160 stg., but that if we took the whole male and female population the value sank per head to £110 stg. Now, at first sight this might be a reflection upon our better halves. But the fact seems to be that they are not a wage-producing class like the men. This is self-evident; but it is not by that fact made clear that women should not be as positively profitable as they are negatively valuable to the community. Many a man owes his first advance to a good social position to his wife; and we could point out many men who move about in good society certainly doing nothing, and apparently not needing to, who, if truth were known, have found in their wives the patient drudge that supplies their wants fully and freely—such drudges, no doubt, thinking that they are only doing their duty by the partner of their bosoms. These women are as contented as the squaw that toils incessantly to please "the brave," who thinks labour beneath him, and is driven by sheer hunger to hunt or fish for sustenance. The hardy fisherman thinks that his duty begins and ends on the ocean wave and that his "squaw" should bait his lines and sell his "take" while he gossips and loiters at the pierhead with his like-minded fellows. The pretty female singer who draws down the praises of the "gods" is often secretly the bond-thrall of some lazy fellow who, having captured her affections, lives upon her earnings, and looks upon her as having no other or higher destiny than to spend her talents and energies that he may ruffle it with his set.

Viewed as patient drudges, women have a value, and a very marked one to those who own them, but has she not a value in an aesthetical sense? To the man who has been signally prosperous a beautiful wife is an acquisition, and if, in addition to her beauty, she is the happy possessor of accomplishments of no mean order—if she can dance, play,

sing, paint, carve, drive, ride with the hounds, she is a paragon, and crowns the grandeur of his "salon" or his seat in the country, with its hounds, its equipage, or other articles of vertu which he may have inherited or acquired.

Women are a great gain to society. They have been compelled to train themselves to be teachers, painters, governesses, clerks, authoresses, and even merchants. They have, through such training, become a valuable acquisition to the commonwealth. Docile, skilful, steady, and content with a moderate remuneration, they have proved themselves formidable competitors of the "other" sex. They are now indispensable in many walks of professional life, and it is conceded that they might, with great benefit to society and themselves, enter many other professions with the confident expectation that they would supply a felt want, and not only increase the national wealth but ameliorate in a high degree their own dependent condition.

But to our thinking these do not exhaust the valuable properties of the fair sex. There are aspects of value which will not submit to be measured by a money standard, and which, when realised, make the value of woman far transcend the calculations of the stock exchange or the quotations of the money market. The woman upon whom this higher estimate may be placed may be so much absorbed into her husband's personality that the fact that she exists may never enter into the thoughts of more than half a dozen of people outside the immediate circle in which she moves. Yet, as a mother, she may be forming the character of her children day by day—equipping her boys for the race in which they shall win the prize. Little as we know of Shakespeare, we know still less of his mother, but we cannot help thinking that to her the poet for all time must have been indebted for much of that character which he has stamped upon his works, and through which they themselves are destined to live as long as the English language endures. How little do we know of Mrs. William Burns, but this we know that to her, as much as to his father, Scotland's national poet owed much of that deep insight to nature and mankind that, like the unceasing fragrance of a perennial flower, delights and charms as much to-day as it has done for the past hundred years. Do not let it be said that these are extreme types. Every woman that devotes her waking hours to the culture of her children's minds in digging and draining and planting in their understandings is creating value that will produce incalculable and imperishable wealth that shall one day purchase man's redemption from all that debases and degrades. The work of a woman in this view of her influence and ability is immeasurable, and might be an inducement to her who is not already the fortunate possessor of a value so much to be desired, to labour for its acquisition, even though that labour might be for the time the sorest of all labour under the sun.

The elements that make up the value in this view of the subject are not by any means redundant. Women generally seem in their maiden days to be more solicitous to get a husband than about what to do with him when they have him. They learn the arts of dressing, of charming, of engrossing attention to perfection; they can present the more attractive phases of their character to their lovers with a persistency that suggests the inference that they are angelic; and many a "brummagem" piece of female attractiveness through this art captivates the seeker after a good wife. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that but for "gilding" or "venering" many women, of no value domestically whatever, could not palm themselves off upon men who deserve a

better fortune. Such women, after the excitement of courtship and marriage are over, seem to think that their destiny has been fulfilled, and that they have simply, like Alexander, to sigh for other worlds to conquer. After a brilliant courtship and a "fortunate" marriage to settle down to mend and darn and scrub and cook, to bear and nurse children, to sink at once out of sight, after dazzling the eyes and turning the heads of half of the smart young men of the circle in which they moved, is intolerable to such silly women, and, if not wise enough to avert it by reflection, they become truly an afflicted man's companion. Such women justify their fate; they laboured for the fleeting time of courtship and entirely neglected providing for the permanent period of marriage and motherhood; they triumphed, it is true, in the results of their labour to get a husband, but how could they succeed to keep him where they had neither sowed nor tilled to such an end? Not so, however, with the woman who reverses a training so fatal to the happiness of a household. While as eager for a mate as her more frivolous sisters, she cannot be diverted from her intention to perfect herself in all that is truly womanly. She can discharge all the varied duties of the household, and yet in no whit diminish her power to contribute to the delight of the society in which she moves. Whether at home or at market, whether cleaning or cooking, mending, making, darning, or knitting, she is labouring with a sincere desire to excel, and if one could know the inmost thoughts of her heart they would at such a moment gather that she had no ambition outside of such homely duties. Her heart is in her household work. There is as little waste of means as waste of energy. See her abroad, however, which is but seldom, and you find her as earnest in striving to please her friends and her lover as if she had no other design in life. When she is the mistress of a household of her own she brings to her high office the elements of enduring success, her husband praises her, her children bless her. She may not have brought him a rich marriage portion, but in her own person, in her affections, in her qualifications, in her sterling qualities, she brings wealth, compared with which the riches of Golconda and the abundance of a millionaire sink into insignificance. Such women show to us how poorly we estimate them if we do so by a standard of remuneration. It is in making and moulding the human race, whether girls or boys, for the respective duties they may be called upon to discharge; to restrain their propensities, to purify their desires, elevate their affections, render their conscience sensitive, strengthen their powers of will, build them up in an impregnable faith in goodness, that such a woman specially excels. Her girls have a man's firmness, her boys a woman's gentleness. Strong in their deep discernments of the moral perfections of God, and strong in their own moral perceptions, they, through what they have inherited from their mother or acquired through her watchful care, become the pride, the boast of society, at once its ornament and guard.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

The dentists in convention assembled, agreed to pull together for another year. Oh dear!

It is all nonsense talking about a well running dry. The only thing we ever noticed running when it was dry was a toper on a quick trot to the nearest public house.

An Englishman was boasting to a Yankee that they had a book in the British museum which was once owned by Cicero. "Oh, that's nothing," retorted the Yankee; "in the museum in Bosting they've got the lead-pencil that Noah used to check off the animals that went into the ark."

DICK SAUNDERS' ERROR.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Charlie Tasker's Hogwanay," etc., etc.

DICK SAUNDERS had an intemperate wife. She was the apple of his eye, but she had taken to drink too much as if she ever drank the real measure and no more. They had been as happy as the birds in spring till this misfortune had befallen them. The sting of Dick's sorrow lay in this, that he had himself contributed to his misfortune. He liked to see her enjoy a "drain" along with himself, but never thought that the social "drain" would be followed by a "drain on the quiet," and then that the "drain" would neither be a "social drain," nor a "quiet drain," but a drain openly and often indulged in. Dick at last remonstrated, and she laughed; Dick swore, and she drowned her humiliation through his profanity in liquor, and, I must confess, almost swamped herself in the interesting process. Dick made a bold resolution. He told her that he should drink no more, and was called a fool for his pains. But he adhered to his resolution, and stuck to home like a limpet to the rocks. He never lost his temper now, and his unvarying kindness helped in some degree to prevent matters from becoming worse. Still Sally tumbled away, and it was curious, though painful, to see her with a drunken smile on her face as she sat hardly able to move, and poor Dick smiling back at her while he was putting the baby to bed. But Dick "stuck in." Sally had not reached the quarrelling or "improper" stage of drinking yet. Every day, almost, saw the same unsteadiness—witnessed the tell-tale breath and the reckless indulgence. There were lucid intervals, and then the agonies of remorse and the desire to be sober crept up, and on such days the house was truly miserable. After a while, the drowning of care recommenced, and indulgence on her part, and a kind of despair on his, was the fate of both for days. One day Dick was startled by hearing her wish she was dead, and the very thought of this set him a-crying, and a tender scene ensued, during which she declared that she could poison herself for being so unworthy a wife to such a loving, faithful fellow. Dick had a new addition to his care, the fear that in some moment of self-accusation she might do herself harm. He scarcely dared to go out at nights, and his neighbours began to smile at the hot haste with which he arrived at home from his work. He mounted up stairs two steps at a time, and his hurried glance round would have been serio-comic to an observer. Even when he found her in her cups, it was a relief; better her maudlin smile as she sat in her chair, than her stiffening body on the floor. At length Dick's fears subsided, and Sally was just sinking into the condition of a confirmed tippler, when baby took ill. Dick watched over it in the evenings with the tenderest solicitude, nursed it incessantly, and Sally, a capital nurse, was a little less self-indulgent. One day, however, she forgot herself, just when the fever was "about the turn," and but for the steadiness of Dick, fatal consequences might have followed. As she slowly woke out of her deep and troubled sleep, Sally muttered that she would put an end for ever to this disgraceful state of things. Dick was in agony, and left for work in a state of great perplexity and fear. A day or two of abstinence on the part of Sally was followed by another, though slighter, slip, and there was again the muttered threat or resolution, Dick did not know which. Poor fellow! he adored her when she was sober, for no smarter, tidier, cleaner little wife ever blessed a fellow than Sally. She was a neat-handed, skilful body, whose only fault seemed to be this fearful desire for liquor. Dick could not bear to think that he should lose her, and he lived on day by day in terror lest she should do herself and the baby harm through her drinking, or take her own life through her remorse. One day matters came to a crisis. Dick was as usual hurrying up stairs and into the room. There was Sally

at the table seemingly in her best mood, and the baby crowing on her knee. Tea was set and all seemed well, and Dick's face lightened up. "Well, Dick," says Sally, rather resolute like, "I told you often I would do it, and I have done it at last." Dick's heart nearly stopped. His smile changed to horror, and with a loud "Oh, my God!" he was off like a shot. Down the stairs he went, three steps at a time. A cat was sunning herself on the door-step. Dick tramped on her tail; the yell and the spit was tremendous, but off Dick ran. Just as he turned round the corner, a butcher's boy was turning it in the opposite direction. There was a collision, but it was the boy that came to grief; Dick was off again. Trying to pilot his way through the crowd, he came into contact with a pair of steps on which a painter was standing lettering a sign. Over went the steps, and away went the painter, palette, pot, and all; and off, too, went Dick. People stood looking at him, as, bare-headed, breathless, and horrified, he tore along. Just as he rushed round another corner, he came into contact with an old woman's apple-stall, but fortunately only overthrew the old woman and not her wares. At last he reached the door of a surgery. Rat, tat, tat, tat, went the knocker. Rat, tat, tat, tat it went again. The cook, startled, overturned a delicious mess on the fire, and the housemaid did similar damage to some of the furniture upstairs; while the boy in the surgery nearly let a bottle of valuable medicine fall out of his hands, so startled was he with the tremendous and repeated knocking at the door. The doctor hurried to it, and there saw Dick dancing with downright impatience, biting his fingers, or using his arms as if he were disposed to punch somebody's head.

"What's to do, Richard, that you are looking and acting so wildly?"

"Oh, Sir, come on. My wife Oh, oh!"

"Well, your wife; what of her?"

"Oh, she has taken poison. Oh, come on; come on."

"Taken poison! Well, what kind of poison?"

"Oh, I don't know; but come and see."

"Well, how does she look? Is she stiffening with strychnine, or in a syncope with laudanum, or in agony with arsenic?"

"Oh, I can't tell. She was sitting in her chair. Oh dear, oh dear!"

"Well, I have some appliances here all ready, and we'll take the stomach pump along with us. I am ready."

So off they hurried, and only for the doctor's presence with Dick, that afflicted individual would have suffered somewhat at the hands of those that he collided with. At last the doctor and Dick burst upon the astonished Sally, who, after wondering what on earth kept Dick, and thinking that something had taken his head about his work, turned to her duties, and was busily engaged scrubbing away when she was so noisily interrupted.

The doctor was somewhat taken aback, as the sailors phrase it, at seeing her so different to what he had been led to expect, but putting down his things, he asked her to take a chair till he saw what could be done.

"What do you mean, sir?"

"Oh, there is no time to be lost, my good woman; the symptoms may immediately show themselves, and I have the pump here all right. Just lay down, and while your husband holds you, we will draw it off before it gets into the system to a deadly amount."

"Why, Dick, what's this?"

"Oh, Sarah! for my sake, for your baby's sake, do as the doctor wants you to do. Oh, darling, think of me and the baby."

Sally discerned the situation, and, holding her sides, burst into a loud guffaw. The doctor looked, bewildered, first to the one and then to the other, while Dick wrung his hands.

"Now, gentlemen," said she, "No more nonsense.

Tell me directly and distinctly, what you mean by your present conduct.

"Oh, Sarah! you told me you had taken poison at last."

"Yes, and I am here to relieve your system of it, if I can."

"Oh, Dick, you blunderer, I never intended nor threatened to take poison. I love you and the baby too well for that, but this day I went and TOOK THE PLEDGE!"

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—One has to pause sometimes and balance civilisation against barbarism, when he finds savagery manifesting the highest virtue and the strongest form of virtuous resolve. Why, there is the African kingdom of Boralong, where, although the males are adopting the garments of civilisation, the women cling to primeval dressing, the sovereign has sternly prohibited the importation of intoxicating liquor of every kind in the interest of his people's welfare. For some years, says the *Cape Argus*, there have been no attempts at smuggling, and, as a consequence, the inhabitants of the capital, Theba Nehu, are a sober, well-ordered, industrious, and prosperous community. Only think of the state of this great country if we could affirm the four adjectives qualifying the condition of the Boralongs as equally characteristic of ourselves. No country could be happier; sobriety, morality, religion possible to millions; rare occasion for police, poor-law officials, or prison wardens; no artizan loitering in enforced idleness on our streets or standing at our gates, imploring a job from his fellow-man; but abundance of wealth and satisfaction for all, not merely for accumulation, but for conferring the glorious privilege of independence. When the patriot thinks that the Borolongs will rise in judgment against our nation, can he be blamed if his heart gets sad?

We are told that we are spending at the rate of £400,000 a day in liquor, and of course people hold up their hands in incredulous amazement when you moot such an unwholesome fact. But it is no use; the figures are beyond dispute. Well, we find that the whole amount of the educational grants to Scotland for the year ending 31st August, 1879, was £433,436. Now, this vast sum, which has built and repaired schools, maintained 5,139 teachers, not to speak of pupil teachers and apparatus, and educated 385,108 children, would just suffice for one day and two hours of our national drinking. Is it not high time that such a leak should be stopped, and that a general election should be won or lost on local option?

It is curious at times to observe what an amount of good sense and truth you can get from people when they are not taking sides. The *Saturday Review* the other day was discussing the Post Office Money Order Bill; and, in doing so, printed as follows:—"In fairness, it should be borne in mind that the measure is only an experiment. If it prove successful, the charges [for postal notes] may be reduced, notes of other denominations issued, and in short any change may be made which experience may suggest. *It is no valid objection against a plan admitting of development that it does not accomplish everything at its very first introduction.*" Now this little apology has a two-fold application to the Permissive Bill. We should adopt the bill, and, watching its progress narrowly, learn through our experience, what, if any, changes should be made. Why should we demand perfection in a method to suppress the traffic when we don't get it elsewhere? Ah, the time may be near at hand when the press, like the *Saturday Review* with its bill, may be similarly apologising for our Local Option Bill.

There are some telling facts in the election manifesto of the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance. That there has been in Ireland, through Sunday closing, a decrease, in one year, of 800,000 gallons of spirits and 10,000,000 gallons of beer. Now these two facts tell in this way—1st, they show to what an

extent Sabbath desecration is fostered by open public-houses on the Lord's day, and 2nd, that the assertion, that if you shut them up as much drink and more will be sold illicitly, is baseless. Capt. McCall of Glasgow told the Lords' Committee that he only required one-fourth of the police force on Sabbaths which were required on week-days because public-houses were shut. So in Ireland, for every 100 arrests for drunkenness which happened before the Act, there are now under the Act only 30. This fact shows that prohibition can prohibit, and that shebeening does not thrive in the absence of drink shops. *

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

MR. EDITOR,—It is gratifying to realise, that Scotland has kept up to her high mark in the support she gave to Sir Wilfrid in his local option resolution on the 5th of March. But in maintaining this mark of active support, she fell below her mark of opposition from eleven to six votes. Twenty-nine votes to Sir Wilfrid, with only six against him, is good for Scotland. It is obvious that Scotland is restrained by England from having the Home Rule that comes of sobriety. Englishmen claim to be imbued with the sense of fair play, and, on the whole, the claim can be allowed. Well, here is a clear opportunity for its exercise. By this Home Rule in Scotland, Scotsmen will be greatly benefited, and the stability and unification of the United Kingdom maintained. Scotland, empowered to establish within her border the conditions of sobriety, would be a closer and stronger support to the whole of this great country than she is at present, stultified in all the qualities, mental, moral, and industrial, which drinking and drunkenness debase. The opportunity of allowing Scotland, now that she is ready, to help herself with sobriety, and benefit England, ought to be accepted by English statesmen, to give full scope to all this fair play. It must now be obvious to every one of them that public opinion in Scotland has been pronounced in favour of investing the people with power to prohibit the drink trade and foster sobriety when they are so disposed. Year after year our representatives have spoken out in Parliament, with a full national utterance, that the people should be invested with this power.

With this well-established fact before me, I cannot but think of the pledges which I have recorded by the hundred in various constituencies to abstain from voting, except for such candidates as would promise to vote for the principle of prohibition in Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill. When I commenced to record these pledges, first of all in the Wigtown Burghs, it was supposed, even by temperance reformers, that temperance electors were so indifferent to prohibition and national sobriety that they would not leave their political party and propagate the temperance reformation through the prohibition of the drink traffic. There is not now a man in broad Scotland, looking at what has happened in the constituencies, and in the House of Commons, who would venture to give expression to such an opinion. From the Wigtown Burghs, which were considered, at the time I commenced this canvass, hopeless in the temperance sense, Sir Wilfrid has now a steady vote. As if to put the canvass to the most severe test, I was sent to the St. Andrews Burghs, after I had pledged a seventh of the voting power in the Wigtown Burghs. The St. Andrews group were a wilderness in the sense of not having undergone much temperance culture, but I recorded a fifth of their voting power. And since then until now, the temperance movement, with its culturing advocacy, has in its old way marched on and left them to themselves. But notwithstanding, all the candidates who have approached the electors to be returned for the constituency have promised to vote with Sir Wilfrid,

with, perhaps, the exception of one, and there has been, in all, five or six of them. Then there was Perth, in which a fourth of the voting power was recorded, with a result equally if not more satisfactory. It is true that Mr. Parker would not promise to vote for the second reading of the Permissive Bill, as he objected to its details, but he stood by the right of the ratepayers to prohibit the traffic, and declared that he would vote for a measure containing that right when one was produced, with details reasonably and constitutionally fitted to carry it out. And now he votes with Sir Wilfrid for the Option Resolution. The list of constituencies canvassed to take this voting attitude also includes the county of Renfrew. Renfrew was canvassed when Lord Aberdare was its representative, and while nearly five hundred of the constituents signed a memorial, desiring him to vote with Sir Wilfrid, 340 signed a pledge, binding them to vote only for candidates in the future who would go furthest in supporting Sir Wilfrid. Col. Mure, the sitting member, was returned, by that pledge, not to vote against the Permissive Bill, and now he votes for the Local Option Resolution. Col. Mure was the temperance candidate and Col. Campbell was the publican's candidate. This pledging proved the preparedness of Scotland for prohibition, and the extent to which it has produced and maintained steady voting for the Permissive Bill and the Option Resolution is overwhelming evidence of its efficiency as an educative influence. In fact, the Wigtown Burghs, the St. Andrews Burghs, and Renfrewshire have really had no other culture worthy of the name, and until the Stirling and Montrose Burghs were canvassed, notwithstanding the usual soiree and temperance advocacy, their members had never really voted with Sir Wilfrid. But now they do vote. It would be unwarrantable to decry lecturing advocacy. It would, however, be very desirable if much of it were of a higher and more convincing order. But if now, in the present state of the movement, we were to be confined to lecturing or canvassing, unhesitatingly I would accept canvassing as the most culturing and practical power of the two. And when the canvass is sown broadcast over the whole country, and well followed up with all the other culturing influences, it will be demonstrated to the most sceptical that it has organised the men of temperance, patriotic, and religious REALNESS into an embodied moral and political force that society will have to respond to in the interest of temperance and all the virtues that flow from it.—I am, &c.,

JOHN PATON.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN LERWICK.

(To the Editor of the Social Reformer.)

DEAR SIR,—Having paid a visit to Lerwick, Shetland, during the first week of the present month, I believe you will be desirous to know how matters stand in that interesting town. I communicated with several of the friends previous to going north, and, being assured of a cordial reception, I sailed with very pleasant feelings. Lerwick is distant from Aberdeen about 240 miles. The steamers which run between Aberdeen and the Northern Isles are powerful, and fitted with good accommodation for passengers, so that the passage, though frequently rough, is generally deemed pretty safe.

On arriving in Lerwick Bay on Monday morning the 1st inst., I was welcomed by Mr. Hector Morrison, the District Deputy of the Good Templars, who kindly conducted me to the excellent lodgings which had been taken for me. I lost no time in getting into contact with the friends of the movement, and, as I had opportunity of addressing meetings, and of holding daily personal intercourse with the people, I found that the good opinion which I had previously been led to form regarding them had been in no way exaggerated. There are two Good Templar lodges in the town, led by men of earnestness and ability. There is also a Degree Temple, and the manner in which its business is conducted reflects the highest credit upon the officers and members. All the ministers of the town are favourable to the temperance cause, and two of them—

the Rev. W. Farquhar and Rev. A. Yeats—are active members of the lodges. I was specially pleased to find not a few of the friends in Lerwick thoroughly sound in their political ideas in our question. The scrambles of Whigs and Tories over their bones of contention do not raise sufficient dust to blind their eyes to the reality of the situation. The suppression of the drink trade, and a “scientific frontier” around their dwellings, would be dearer to them than all the petty triumphs of party politicians. I found a considerable interest manifested in the debate on Sir Wilfrid Lawson’s Local Option Resolution, so I telegraphed for the result of the debate. I need not say that the adverse vote of Lord Hartington, and the neutral attitude of Mr. Gladstone, produced some disagreeable sensations. The action of these statesmen need not, however, much disturb us just now, for the solid vote of the drink monopoly, thrown on the interests of “the trade,” will open the eyes of great statesmen, and some great temperance men too, and that ere very long. I stayed in Lerwick from the 1st to 8th of March. During that time I addressed nine meetings. Most of my speeches were bearing upon the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic, for, after all, if we are not to have power through the principle of local option to prohibit it, it is not worth fighting for. I should state that there is a good juvenile lodge, under the able superintendence of Mr. George Morrison, a brother who throws much energy and intelligence into the movement, and to whom I was much indebted for his kindness. With the Rev. W. Farquhar and Rev. A. Yeats I had rambles on the hills around Lerwick. Tea-drinking is considerably indulged in in the island, and I was several times invited to parties to partake of “the cup which cheers but not inebriates.” These entertainments added much to the pleasure of my visit. Bailie Robertson took the chair at one of my meetings, and by his genial manner and hearty sympathy showed he was entirely with us in our agitation. The subscription list from Lerwick in our next report will show the readiness with which the friends responded in this direction. I shook hands and parted with them on Monday evening, and sailed for Kirkwall, where I arrived on Tuesday morning. Here I heard the first rumours of the dissolution of Parliament, and a telegram from our esteemed Secretary sent north on the afternoon of that day broke down my tour rather abruptly for the present.—Yours faithfully,

W. BLACKWOOD.

PARISHES IN SCOTLAND WITHOUT PUBLIC HOUSES.

(To the Editor of the “Social Reformer.”)

THE MANSE, CROSSHILL,
By MAYBOLE, 5th March, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—I am very much pleased and gratified to find you have inserted the parishes in Scotland in which there are no public-houses, but the complete parishes are only 141 instead of 151. The following ought to have been in *italics*.

	Pop. in 1871.	Return. p. 14 to 16.
Ayr.—1. Newton-on-Ayr,.....	4,877	200
Elgin.—2. Forres,.....	4,562	603
3. New Spynie,.....	1,612	573
Fife.—4. St. Leonards,.....	741	92
5. May Island (in Crail parish),		
Kircudbright.—6. Kells,.....	1,007	742
Perth.—7. Kinnoull,.....	3,108	723
Roxburgh.—8. Wilton,.....	3,936	950
Wigtown.—9. Wigtown,.....	2,306	447
10. Whithorn,.....	2,906	1,329

In the great majority of these parishes there is not a single farthing of *Poor's Rates* to pay, the poor being so few that they are supported from the church-door collections. If this fact could be brought out, it would do great good in advancing our cause.—Yours faithfully,

JAMES CRAWFORD.

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES' OPINIONS.

“I am in favour of regulation, not of prohibition or suppression of the traffic. I desire to see means provided for bringing to bear on this regulation the opinion of the ratepayers in each locality.”—*Hon. Preston Bruce, County of Fife.*

Mr. Shepherd—The hon. candidate, says in his address, in regard to the liquor traffic, “I desire to see means provided for bringing to bear the opinion of the ratepayers in localities.” Does he mean local option as interpreted by Sir Wilfrid Lawson?—The Hon. Mr. Bruce said he did “not go in for local option as interpreted by Sir Wilfrid Lawson.”—*Meeting at Burnt Island.*

Mr. Barr asked if Mr. Bruce would support local option. Mr. Bruce—“I am in favour of the general principle of local option, but cannot say that I have yet seen it applied in the satisfactory and practical form I would pledge myself to support.”

“I approve of and will vote for the principle of Local Option and control, and would be glad to support any well-considered measure carrying out that principle, but protecting existing interests.”—*R. F. F. Campbell, Ayr Burghs.*

“Wider and more popular representation on our County Boards is a measure of reform most urgently needed; and on this principle I am quite prepared to advocate that form of local option by which the drink traffic of a district would be regulated by a Board elected by the ratepayers.”—*Dr. Farquharson, West Aberdeenshire.*

“I am in favour of an amendment of the licensing system founded on the principle of the representation of ratepayers.”—*J. M'Laren, Wigtown Burghs.*

“I deeply sympathise with the efforts of those who desire the suppression of intemperance, and I am of opinion that a better system of licensing laws than is at present in force may be devised.”—*D. Currie, Perthshire.*

In reply to Mr. Thomas Snodgrass, grain merchant, Mr. Balfour said he held “there ought to be a change in the law, which would remove from the Licensing Justices to Local Boards the power of regulating the liquor traffic. The localities which would elect the Boards ought to be of such a size as would really make them in a reasonable sense a neighbourhood. Being of that opinion, he was prepared to vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson’s Local Option Resolution, which was directed to affirm that proposition. That being a general proposition affirming a principle might result in bills of various kinds. It might be proposed under it to pass a bill going the length of total prohibition, or it might be that bills would be proposed under it not going the length of total prohibition, but giving a large power of regulation. At this moment he should not be prepared to vest in a majority of ratepayers the power to totally prohibit the means of obtaining liquor against a minority. Therefore he should not be prepared to vote for the Permissive Bill, though he should be prepared to vote for the Local Option Resolution as directed to affirm a principle to be followed by legislation.”—*Meeting at Stewarton.*

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone on Local Option.—“When I was here, gentlemen, in November, I said a word upon a very practical, and, in a social point of view, a very important subject—the subject of what is called Local Option; and a gentleman who is a freeholder in the county has written to me expressing, in terms of great propriety and courtesy, his regret that I did not vote the other night for the resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Gentlemen, what I stated to you in November was, that to the principle of local option I took no preliminary objection, but that I must consider many matters in regard to its application—among which would be a strict justice to the interests which possibly the exercise of the local option might injuriously affect. Now, gentlemen, I could not support the resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, however much I respect his high patriotic motives and his high

moral purpose, and however much I admire his abilities and character, for these two reasons:—one of them, that it contained no recognition of the fair and equitable title of those interests to be heard and allowed the opportunity of making their case for an equitable compensation, if new principles—fundamentally new principles—were introduced into our legislation which might bear injuriously upon their interests. We have little reason, gentlemen, for gratitude, undoubtedly, to that particular interest in England, but no man is entitled, because he does not think there is a case for gratitude—no man is entitled on that account—to deny or stint a full measure of justice. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) But, gentlemen, there is another reason which I am wishful to explain to you, because it affects my general conduct. I have never been in the habit, gentlemen, of voting for what are called abstract resolutions in the House of Commons until I am prepared with a plan to give them effect. I do not blame those who do. Those abstract resolutions are, I am aware, among the means of maturing and forming public opinion. But a person in my situation, who has served in so many Governments, who has passed twenty years of his life as a responsible servant of the Crown, who has even had the honour of filling the office of first minister of this great country—(cheers)—during a period exceeding five years, stands in a peculiar position. And when a man so situated votes for an abstract resolution, those who feel an interest in the subject are entitled to say to him, 'In what way will you now proceed to give effect to that abstract resolution?' (Cheers.) Therefore, gentlemen, until I am prepared with a plan, and until I see public opinion reaching such a point that I can make myself responsible for the proposal and support of the plan, I decline to raise false expectations by committing myself to an abstract resolution. (Cheers.) . . . I will do my best, gentlemen, upon every occasion, as I have done upon every occasion, to join in any fair, and rational, and practicable scheme for the amendment of the liquor laws, and for the mitigation of the curse of intemperance. (Hear, hear.) But I will neither upon that nor any other subject give a promise to this gentleman or to any other man, except such a promise as I am prepared, and I believe able, to redeem." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)—*Speech at Dalkeith.*

"The abuse of the liquor traffic is a question that has engaged, and will no doubt continue to engage the attention of parliament. The diversity of opinion as to the best means of regulating this traffic without prohibiting it, seems to me to point to the desirability of dealing with this subject—by experimental legislation in various centres throughout the country, and under some form of 'local option.' Such experiments would, I conceive, be best carried out."—*K. S. McKenzie, for County of Inverness.*

"He was put in the same difficult position on the question of 'local option' as Lord Hartington and Mr. Gladstone were on the recent debate on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution. He was not in favour of the resolution if it meant the Permissive Bill. He would, however, give his support to any bill for the alteration of the liquor laws which embodied these two principles, viz.:—the extension of the powers of the ratepayers over the control of the licenses, and care that the vested interests of those who were engaged in an honourable trade should be respected. (Applause.)—*Mr. Buchanan, candidate for Haddingtonshire.*

"It is a common error to confound 'local option' with the Permissive Bill. They are entirely different. Sir Wilfrid Lawson has said so, Mr. Bright has said so, and our member Mr. Anderson said it would take half an hour to explain the difference. I daresay he was right, but I shall take much less time to explain a few points of difference. By the Permissive Bill only two courses were open—either to allow public-houses to remain as they are, or to abolish them altogether. It is not so with 'local option.' It permits of the two courses possible under the Permissive Bill; but it also permits of the ratepayers restricting the traffic if they don't choose to abolish it. It will also admit of the

trying of the Gothenburg system, or even of the one advocated by Mr. Gladstone, and which I saw in America and didn't approve—free trade in drink, with a high license duty and strict police supervision. In other words, 'local option' will permit of the ratepayers in each district abolishing or regulating the drink traffic as they may deem best for the interests of the community. I think that is a just and right power to place in the hands of the ratepayers. I have heard there are 2,000 parishes in Great Britain and Ireland, where, by the will of the proprietors, no public-houses are allowed, and I am assured this prohibition has produced good moral effects; but I confess I would rather see the power in the hands of the ratepayers than in those of any one man. To my mind it would savour more of a free country. As a magistrate I have always voted for the refusal of a license in any district where the population were opposed to its being granted, and I think the people themselves can be safely trusted to the exercise of the power of local option. We already have it in other things—such as the Libraries Act, which the people of Glasgow, in right of their local option, refused to adopt; also in the School Board elections. Another thing in which local option differs from the Permissive Bill is that all the advocates of local option in parliament—including Sir Wilfrid Lawson himself—said that fair compensation must be given to those who, by a popular vote, without any fault of their own, might be deprived of their licences. What that compensation ought to be—its nature, character, and extent, and from whence the funds are to be derived, will be a matter for the consideration and decision of parliament—a body that has always a jealous respect for vested interests of every kind. We have all heard of the proverb, 'They that bode for a silk gown may get the sleeve of it.' So the advocates of total suppression, if in advance of the public opinion of the day, may do good service in obtaining valuable restrictive measures which may be beneficial to the community and to the publicans themselves."—*Sir James Bain at Glasgow.*

"I allude, further, to the popular control of the liquor traffic. (Cheers.) I believe that all shades of political opinion recognise the evils caused by intemperance, and I need not harass your feelings by describing them. The case is recognised, and the cure is the difficulty. (Hear, hear.) No doubt much has been done by example, or moral suasion as it is called, and by counteracting agencies which appeal to the better and higher nature. Legislation has also done its part, but withal there is a necessity for something more; and I have no hesitation in saying, that as it is a question eminently affecting the people, their voice should be heard, and they should have the powers of practically legislating in the matter; and as a right step in this direction, I would support Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution." (Loud cheers.)—*R. T. Middleton at Glasgow.*

"This," said an agricultural implement dealer, expatiating to an old farmer on the merits of a new machine, "this is a corn planter." And putting it down, he planted it on the old man's toe and raised an *acher* on the spot.

CARRYING IT INTO POLITICS.—The Ohio Liquor Dealers' Protection Association at their meeting a few weeks ago, adopted the following resolution—"Resolved that we, the Liquor Dealers of Ohio, in convention assembled at Akron, do hereby pledge and affirm that in the future we shall not support any but outspoken, honest, and just acting and thinking men, in behalf of liberal legislation on the liquor traffic." The Newark (New Jersey) liquor dealers also resolved to "vote only" for such men for the legislature as would give them their "rights." Let those politicians who are just now advising temperance men not to carry their principles "into politics," change their tune a little and try their hands on the liquor dealers, and get them to "keep it out of politics." It is a poor rule that won't work both ways.—*New York Temperance Advocate.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, APRIL, 1880.

. WE have been obliged to leave over a deal of matter in type and in copy. We hope to make up for arrears next month.

WE present our readers with title page and index to volume XIV., and respectfully recommend their own magazine to their continued favour. May we venture to express the earnest hope that they will help us in further extending its circulation.

Two members of the late Liberal Government have taken to warning the licensed victuallers about their electioneering tactics. The reason for this interesting and instructive proceeding on their part is the approach of the trade demanding to know if they will stand by the victuallers if they should stand by them. The first honourable gentleman—Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen—frankly gives them a bit of his mind, and he does so with pleasure. He tells them that they united “too much” against the Liberal party in 1874; indeed, they went the length of merely putting him, a Liberal and their friend, on a level with two new Tory candidates, although he was recognised as deserving of support by “the trade.” Indeed, in his opinion, the trade then took a “very complete revenge” by playing into the hands of the Tory party in a great number of constituencies. But he goes on to state that he feels that a repetition of the course taken in 1874 will be a great mistake. He thinks that the danger to the liquor traffic lies in these facts:—(1) The identification by the country of the trade with the evils of intemperance, and (2) the possibility of the Liberal party being compelled, through the hostility of the trade, to side with the public opinion that so identifies them. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen counsels them to keep on good terms with that party lest it become exasperated and do their interests irreparable mischief. He advises them to vote the political and not “the trade” ticket, because they may not profit as they hope to do by acting again against the Liberal party. The Tory party may not keep faith with them; for they should know that that party will scarcely hesitate to throw them over in order to meet the demands of a public opinion for the restriction or even suppression of their interests. Such is the advice of the Right Hon. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., to “the trade.” In effect he tells them that they are in a perilous condition, they are open to three dangers—1st, From the public opinion growing against them; 2nd, from their avowed hostility to the Liberal party; and 3rd, from the expectations they have built on the gratitude of the Tory party. Their real danger lies, we believe, in the growing public opinion of which both parties in the State are but the unresisting ministers. No party can keep the trade safe should that public opinion decide

upon their suppression. Their fate is simply a question of one or two Parliaments, and no attempt on their part to propitiate the one party or the other will shield them from the fatal scourge of public opinion when it has once clearly identified their operations with the abounding evils of the national intemperance.

The second right hon. gentleman is the Right Hon. Mr. Bright. He is the Cassandra of the licensed victuallers. They always approach him although he has nothing but gloomy warnings and darker prophecies to offer them. It is within ten years since he told them that by their refusal to make any concessions to the public opinion that was slowly but surely gathering in volume they were inviting the wrath of all good men, and he added the memorable words, “That in the long run they were sure to be beaten.” No one who is able to take in an intelligent view of the growth and progress of the temperance reformation but must see the extreme likelihood of the early fulfilment of these remarkable words. On this occasion to which we more especially refer Mr. Bright laughed at publican fears, which he said were those of monopolists apprehensive of their interest, rebuked them for their ingratitude to the temperance party, whose agitation had forced them to purge their trade of numerous abuses, and counselled them not to go to war with society for the sake of the bad houses which they themselves declared they would gladly see suppressed. He told them he would vote if returned for the local option resolution, and he hoped that they would be better guided than to maintain any hostility to the Liberal party. No “rest and be thankful” for these poor men. No one scarcely thinks of leaving them as they are. The very action of the public opinion they fear compels them to set their houses in order so that they may be tolerated. Mr. Bright held out no hope of permanence to their interests. He spoke as if their capitulation to public opinion was an accomplished fact, and as if the terms of their surrender were under discussion. As for these terms we will have something to say about them at the proper time, but whether it be Sir Wilfrid Lawson, or Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, or Mr. Bright, or Mr. Chamberlain, the knell of the doom of the liquor interest is being widely sounded, and the fulfilment of that doom is simply a question of time.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE General Election so long expected has unexpectedly arrived. Parliament, which was opened with all the pomp and circumstances of state and promise of length of days, has been summarily dissolved, dying almost ere it sickened. Permissive Prohibitionists will think of it kindly, for though it was adverse to their just demands it gave repeated proofs of the progress of their great principles, and it gave equal proof that anybody that has to do with “Beer” is of a quarrelsome, do-nothing disposition.

We rest in the hope however that we shall never see its like in this respect again. We are now in the heat of a contested election; speaking for Scotland, it seems as if all its parliamentary seats were to be contested. This General Election gives indications already of the prominent place which local option has taken, notwithstanding the aggressive enthusiasm of Liberalism and the stubborn resistance of Conservatism. Every candidate up to the moment at which we write has had to give his views on local option, and upon his answer will depend in a great measure the popularity or the reverse of his candidature. It is as difficult as it would be unwise to forecast the result of the Scottish elections so far as our principles are concerned, and it will be more satisfactory we believe to our readers to receive a careful summary of the result when all is over. But without speaking by the card we anticipate a greatly improved vote from Scotland in favour of local option: not merely of local option in the restrictive, but of local option in its suppressive and truly Scottish sense. Its friends have a glorious opportunity before them. They may not succeed in every case, but they can at least make every candidate aware of their existence: of their capacity for organization, and of their resolute determination to vote straight for the great national principle they have so much at heart. They may find that party politics are too strong for them, that because of the vehemence with which these are urged they may be unable to sufficiently assert their principles. In that case both candidates, all the candidates before them, should know fully what they want; and that they have determined that from that hour the education of each shall begin. To those friends who have a choice we say, choose the right man at all hazards, and give him that energetic support which will more than anything impress him with your power as a party. The friends in many constituencies are to be congratulated on their promptitude, their good temper, and their firmness, which have been so conspicuous in their interviews with candidates and the results of which will redound to the advantage of the movement. Those friends who have taken time by the forelock and waited upon representatives and prospective candidates, will at this moment enjoy the satisfaction which flows from duty done at the right time and in the right way. Now that meetings and committees have to be attended to, and the energetic measures necessary in the interests of the candidate they favour have to be taken, they are not distracted. They know their man and have only to place him where he can give effective support to their great principle by his voice and vote. We hope that all our friends will have by this time fully realised their position as electors of some one or other of the constituencies of their great country who have assigned the first place on their political programme to the suppression of the liquor traffic by the vote of the ratepayers. The interest of this vital question should be their supreme concern. If they play the man now they will feel abundant satisfaction in the fact

that they proved equal to the duty imposed upon them at this General Election, and have discharged it to the best of their ability. The result of their stern adherence to their resolution to vote only for a candidate who pledges himself to vote for the object that lies so close to their heart, may be that as the hour is come when attempts should be made to free our beloved Scotland from the yoke of the liquor trade, it has been their ballot which has assisted in procuring the man. Of the issue we entertain no apprehensions. We have urged upon our readers the supreme importance of preparation for this signal opportunity, and we rejoice to witness how generally and fully our counsels have been followed. Regarding the result we have no fears. We have asked parliament to place confidence in the judgment and ability of the ratepayers: and in this critical moment on their judgment, ability, and patriotism, we firmly rely.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, Bart., having, with his usual good fortune, obtained a first place for his resolution, its discussion came off on Friday, 5th ult. The national organisations with ready alacrity appealed to the country in its behalf. Conspicuous amongst these were those belonging to Scotland. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association asked, and was cordially promised the co-operation of the Scottish Temperance League, both sections of the Independent Order of Good Templars, United Temperance Association, St. Andrew's Order of Good Templars, Crusaders, Sons of Temperance, Rechabites, as well as Total Abstinence Societies, as the very satisfactory result of the voting affords ample proof. Petitions, electoral memorials, letters, &c., thickly as the leaves in Vallambrosa, found their way to the addresses of honorable members, who frankly confessed that on no other question had they received so many communications from their constituents. Not content with their appeal to the friends of temperance all over the country, the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association sent a deputation to London, inclusive of the following gentlemen:—Ex-Councillor Paterson, Aberdeen, Mr. John Steel, Edinburgh, Messrs. R. C. Murray, T. L. Selkirk, and R. Mackay, Glasgow, who, during the brief time at their disposal, saw nearly all the honourable members who were in town. The interviews were, on the whole, satisfactory, and conducted materially to the state of the vote. Mr. D. Brown of Glasgow, being in London, kindly offered his services, of which the deputation gladly availed themselves. Every member of Parliament for Scotland had a special circular reminding him of the discussion, and respectfully requesting his support. When the House met on Friday, 5th ult., for the consideration of the resolution, the deputation found themselves in the speaker's gallery, crowded with tipplers, abstainers, publicans, and prohibitionists. Whether ever the ashes of the physical corporations present in that gallery mix, certain it is that the corporations themselves that afternoon were wedged together in a way that was as far apart from ease as "Yes" from "No." The speaker's gallery overflowed into the peer's gallery, and at the opposite end of the chamber, the ladies' gallery, or, more appropriately, "cage," seemed inconveniently filled, but in the dim twilight one could only distinguish the flutter of a dress, the sparkle of a gem, or the almost viewless movement of a figure. The speaker was in his place, the clerks of the House in theirs, and a fair sprinkling of members were listening with more or less interest, or with more or less pleasure to the answers returned by members of the Government to the questions on the notice-paper for the day.

THE DISCUSSION.

At a quarter after five Sir Wilfrid Lawson rose to move his resolution. He was warmly welcomed by a good attendance on both sides of the House, and as soon as it was known in the lobbies that he was "up," honourable members trooped in till the House was fuller than ever we remember to have seen it. He began by saying that had he no excuse for bringing forward his resolution, he could find it in the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Exeter during the recess. He is reported to have said—"The evils of drunkenness become more and more patent every day. If we examine into the matter, we are more and more impressed with the frightful evils which arise from it." The evil is a national one, and demanded the serious attention of this House. The laws that regulate the sale of liquor do not work well, they could be improved. Some thought free trade would answer, but he need not take up the time of the House to argue on free trade on drink. They could not allow the sale of drink in the same way that they allowed the sale of other commodities. The Government had to resort to regulation. Adverting adversely to the Beer Bill, the Wine Bill of Mr. Gladstone, and the licensed grocers, Sir Wilfrid entered upon the consideration of the how, when, and where they were to supply drink to the people, and successfully exposed the futility of using any means of doing so that did not increase the misery and burdens of the people. He then entered upon an interesting criticism of the various amendments to his resolution. These were six in number. There was the well-known one of Mr. Wheelhouse, declaring the undesirability and inopportunateness of changing the arrangements now provided for the regulation of the liquor trade. One by Lord Fitzmaurice in favour of making the sanitary authorities, or their committees, the licensing authority. One by Mr. Serjeant Simon to the effect that sworn evidence must be tendered to the licensing authorities in favour of licenses being granted before they are conferred. Sir Harcourt Johnstone wanted to amend the resolution so that the licensing authority might consist of an equal number of magistrates and ratepayers' representatives elected triennially to grant and renew licenses, who might acquire by agreement, or by compulsion, the interests of the publicans, the purchase money to be raised by a license duty. The last amendment was that of Mr. Norwood, which was a condensation of the Local Option Resolution. With the exception of the first, which he would never accept, the others were in reality amendments only in name. Sir Wilfrid at this point finished a most telling speech with reading the following sentences from the report of the Lords' Committee:—"When great communities, deeply sensible of the miseries caused by intemperance; witnesses of the crime and pauperism which directly spring from it; conscious of the contamination to which their younger citizens are exposed; watching with grave anxiety the growth of female intemperance on a scale so vast, and at a rate of progression so rapid, as to constitute a new reproach and danger"—those were not his words; he was not exaggerating—"believing that not only the morality of their citizens, but their commercial prosperity, is dependent on the diminution of these evils; seeing also that all that general legislation has been hitherto able to effect has been some improvement in public order, while it has been powerless to produce any perceptible decrease of intemperance; it would seem somewhat hard, when such communities are willing, at their own cost and hazard, to grapple with the difficulty, and undertake their own purification, that the Legislature should refuse to create for them the necessary machinery, or to entrust them with the requisite powers." Such was his case, and that case he would now very respectfully leave to the consideration and decision of the House. (Cheers.)

Mr. Burt seconded the motion in a speech in which he, notwithstanding the rusticity of the style of his address, commanded the deep attention of the House. He quoted Buxton's famous impeachment of the traffic; affirmed that 400 Acts of Parliament had been passed to regulate it without satisfaction or success. The Magistrates were, from the nature of the case, unable to know the wants of the neighbourhood so well as the

neighbours themselves. This was not a teetotal question, though he was a teetotaler. If he ceased to abstain, he would not cease to hold his present views on the traffic. He adverted to the manner in which the House dealt with it in 1835, showing that they were more favourable to grappling with it than now. He then attacked the amendment of Mr. Wheelhouse, and exposed his inconsistency. He seemed anxious that ample facilities should be afforded to the working man, and yet, although he knew that there were nearly 1400 parishes with no means of getting drink through the intervention of the landlords, yet he (Mr. Wheelhouse) has never drawn the attention of the House to this arbitrary use of power. He hoped that the House would earnestly take this Resolution up. At present, he thought the House was behind public opinion. He did not advocate this question from an exaggerated notion that the people can do no wrong. It is an old saying that "the voice of the people is the voice of God," but, democrat as he was, he did not believe that. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the voice of the people was always an honest voice, though it was often mistaken. He believed it was often the voice of ignorance or of passion rather than that of reason and ripe wisdom, but this he would say, if ever the voice of the people deserves to be called the voice of God, it will be when it speaks the doom of that greatest of social curses—the traffic of intoxicating liquors. (Cheers.)

Mr. GLADSTONE, who, during the delivery of the previous speeches, was busy taking notes, then advanced to the table and, after extolling the mover and seconder of the resolution, declared his inability to follow them to their conclusion. The mover meant by the resolution the Permissive Bill; he held that there was not national unanimity enough on this question to justify, as in the case of the Irish Sunday closing resolution, the passage of this resolution. He could not vote for suppressive local option, and he would not vote for things as they are, so he would not vote at all. He had no plan himself. He thought that the question of compensation ought to be faced. He then adverted to the free trade scheme recommended by the Parliamentary Committee of 1854, and felt a regret that the scheme had not had a trial. He also regretted the rejection of Mr. Chamberlain's modified Gothenburg scheme, and he earnestly called on the Government to declare their intention with regard to the report of the Lords' Committee on Intemperance. (Cheers.)

Mr. WHEELHOUSE followed Mr. Gladstone. When he rose the House rapidly emptied until the Right Hon. John Bright and Sir D. Wedderburn were the sole occupants of the Opposition benches, and Sir W. Edmonstone, Mr. Kavanagh, and Mr. Cross of the Ministerial benches. The hon. and learned member, nothing daunted, talked on well through the dinner hour. He lauded the licensing magistrates, and to do so disparaged the popular vote, querulously demanded of the mover of the resolution why he did not bring in a bill rather than a resolution, and specially why he did not look with favour on the vested interests of the publicans. He admitted the failures of the licensing system, underrated the Gothenburg system, and intimated his intention to oppose the resolution.

Mr. LEATHAM, formerly a strong opponent of the Permissive Bill, warmly approved and supported the resolution. He said that Sir Wilfred was not the best member for bringing in such a resolution, as his opinions on the Permissive Bill were so well known, and he had never given them up. (Hear.)

Mr. RODWELL, a prohibitory landowner, spoke against the resolution.

Mr. MARK STEWART (the only Scotch representative who took part in the discussion) expressed his hope that a good measure would be placed before the House. He succinctly explained the difference between the Scotch and English licensing authorities, and expressed his belief that the assimilation of the English to the Scotch system would be a signal benefit to England. (Hear.)

Mr. COLMAN said, in voting for the resolution he would be supporting the principle that communities should have the same rights as individuals. Ratepayers

should have the same power of self-protection from the evils of the liquor traffic as owners of estates.

Messrs. Bulwar, Muntz, and Ritchie all spoke against the resolution, the first on the ground that for the mover to ask Parliament to pass a resolution or act to make men sober was simply a waste of time; the second gentleman would vote for the resolution if it was to commit the House to do away with its own refreshment-room. He could not understand why they (hon. members), with all the comforts of their mansions and clubs, should wish to put down the poor man's beer-shop, which was the only club he had. (Hear!) He would support a bill giving the town councils power to license the traffic in intoxicating liquors. The third gentleman, Mr. Ritchie, would vote against it because it did not go to the root of the evil and stop the manufacture and importation. He was afraid when the hon. member got local option for drink he would ask it for tobacco. (Laughter.) He was not prepared to vote for a measure that would remove from those using it an article of legitimate consumption.

The Right Hon. Mr. BRIGHT was the next speaker. On rising he warmly defended Sir Wilfrid Lawson from the insinuations that he was inconsistent and strategic. Stated his insuperable objections to the Permissive Bill, which he hoped had disappeared from the House. He was in favour of the principle of local option and would vote for it, leaving himself free to deal with any measure that might be brought before that House. There must be compensation. He wished the resolution passed, as then it would be the duty of Government to deal with the liquor question; advocated the right of the ratepayers to protection against the liquor traffic; expressed his opinion that corporations might prove the best licensing authority, and he would confine dealing with this matter to the boroughs. Those, therefore, that voted against this resolution voted for things as they are—(no, no)—and they were most unsatisfactory; those that voted for it merely expressed their opinion that a change was desirable. No fewer than 20,000 ministers of the Gospel were praying the House to make a change, and, more than that, the great majority of the sober and industrious working men and their wives and families in every part of the United Kingdom would ask them to support such a resolution as this. (No, no, and hear, hear.) And a good many working men who were not always sober would, in their moments of soberness, add their penitent voices to the appeal. (Hear, hear.) The national intellect had been stimulated and enlightened on this question; the national conscience had been awakened, and he believed it would never sleep again until a great and substantial change had been effected. The facts of the case were overpowering; they were uncontested; everyone spoke in the strongest terms about the deplorable consequences of drunkenness. In addition, we knew that science, education, morality, and religion—all the great forces which moved good and wise men to action—were gathering about this conflict. The cries from our work-houses, the moans from the sufferers in our prisons—these all joined in one voice asking them to deal with this question. They knew the gravity of the evil. They had some difficulty as to the remedy; and they had before them a proposition of a most moderate character, which would only lead to one short step further. Listening to this great cry, nobody could say that the consciences of the members of the House of Commons would not be touched by the consideration of this great and solemn question. He would vote for the resolution most cordially. He propounded no scheme of his own that should follow it, but he thought he could propound a scheme very much better than that which was now at work. That, however, he deferred until the House gave its consideration to the proposition to be made. At present, at any rate, let them manifest their concern in the highest interests of the country for the moderate and reasonable proposal of the hon. member for Carlisle. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. CLARKE, the newly-elected member for Southwark, rose, and was more fortunate than Mr. Wheelhouse, for the House, which filled when Mr. Bright was addressing it, remained to hear the member for Southwark's maiden speech. His first appearance

was a splendid triumph. In the maturity of his years and powers, with a clear and resonant voice, fitting gesture, skilled in the art of persuasion and powerful appeal, he was furnished with the means of making a deep impression on the House, and he made it, for he is now deemed a powerful acquisition to the ranks of the ministerialists. He scouted the wisdom of bringing forward an abstract resolution on the evils of the liquor traffic, especially by a private member. The organisation with which the mover was connected had surely means of making enquiries and devising remedies, but all that they could offer was an abstract resolution which there were not grounds for asking that House to accept. There were two minds and two purposes. One desired to suppress the traffic as a nuisance, the other to take sureties for its proper regulation, but the understood purpose of the resolution was the Permissive Bill and meant to be the Permissive Bill. He wanted legislation on the question too, but legislation founded on right principles. There was no discernible relation between the number of public-houses and the temperance of a district. He thought it had been unnecessarily assumed that there were serious defects in the present licensing authority. He was of opinion that they could not invent any better tribunal than the one now existing. They were gentlemen who, as justices of the peace, had seen the sad effects which occurred through intemperance. They were interested in property, they were interested in the peace and good order of the district, they were absolutely free from any suspicion of improper influence, and he did not believe that the same could be said of any tribunal elected by the ratepayers. It would not be easy to introduce a better and more independent tribunal. (Hear, hear.) The Permissive Bill was frankly put forward by the honourable baronet. There could be no mistake about his meaning. He had said that he knew of landowners who refused altogether to allow licensed houses in their district, and he wished to give the same power to other localities. That was the Permissive Bill without a compensation clause. He went on to explain the difficulties attending compensation which might be awarded in a district where the public-house had been voted down. Yet if that district chose to have a trade again compensation would have been given for nothing. Then where drink-selling had been suppressed drinking would not cease, and working men would join their clubs, and, for 5s. a year, have the privilege of enjoying themselves just as if they were members of the Reform or the Carlton. Nobody forced drink on the people. They were not compelled to go into public-houses. But the public-house was the poor man's cellar. He denied that drunkenness was prevalent, a very different thing from denying that drunkenness produced great evils, and he protested against ministers interfering with the material enjoyments of the working man. But he must refer to the hon. baronet the member for Carlisle, who referred to him as having obtained entrance to Parliament by the influence of a particular trade. He was not ashamed to acknowledge his obligations in that respect. He had been reading observations of hon. gentlemen, and even of right hon. gentlemen, on the other side of the House to the effect that it was a great misfortune to have obtained his entry into that House in such a way. He was bound to say that he was quite content with the distribution of parts. (Cheers.) While he was there he was entitled to speak for one of the largest constituencies in the country, and for a larger proportion of that constituency than had ever been polled before. He was not ashamed of the services rendered to him by the class referred to and other classes and trades; he fully avowed his acknowledgments. But those services were not bought; they were not purchased in any way. They were obtained by the expression of the opinions which he expressed before the members of that House, opinions which he deemed it important should prevail in that House. He regretted that that question had ever been made a political question. (Hear, hear.) It had never been made so on that side of the House. The evil arose when members were tried with cajolments and candidates were induced to take pledges in order to obtain the support of a particular class of the

constituency. The hon. baronet the member for Carlisle had spoken of the question as if it was the only question to which it was allowable to subordinate all others. If such was the attitude of the hon. baronet and his friends, the publicans were certainly entitled to band themselves together to protect their threatened interests. He was very sensitive of the indulgence which the House had shown him, and while thanking the House for its kindness, he hoped that it would, by a decisive majority, reject a proposal which could not be carried into practical legislation. (Cheers.)

The Marquis of HARTINGTON followed at five minutes past eleven, and spoke very much as he did last year. Whilst in favour of some measure of local option, he was not able to go for the resolution, behind which he saw the Permissive Bill. He concluded his remarks by announcing that he should vote against the resolution.

Mr. CROSS, on behalf of the Government, intimated that they did not see their way to take up the recommendations of the Lords' Committee on Intemperance, with which he confessed himself somewhat disappointed.

It was now past twelve o'clock, and after a brief but earnest address from Sir Harcourt Johnstone in favour of local option on the basis of his own amendment, whilst giving his support to Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution,

The SPEAKER stated that the motion before the House was, "that the Speaker do now leave the chair," and that Sir Wilfrid Lawson propose to amend the motion by leaving out from the word "that" to the end of the question, in order to add the words of his resolution. He then put the question thus, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question." The House divided:—Ayes, 248; noes, 134; majority in favour of the House going into Committee of Supply, 114. As the resolution was lost, the amendments to it on the notice paper fell to the ground. So again, as last year, Mr. Wheelhouse did not succeed in getting the House to express its opinion upon his resolution.

THE DIVISION LIST.

On the former division on the resolution the voting and pairing was as follows:—For, 183; against, 271; majority against the resolution, 88. On this occasion the voting shows a decrease on the votes of 4 against and of 30 in favour of the resolution—the decrease in the support this year amounting to 26 votes. The Scotch vote was:—For—29 votes and 3 pairs = 32; Against—6 votes and 1 pair = 7; majority in favour of the resolution of 25 votes. It will be seen that again a majority of the members of Parliament for Scotland are in favour of local option. We will analyse the voting and pairing so as to institute a comparison between the two votings on the resolution:—

COUNTIES:—For—Sir George Balfour (Kincardineshire), Lord Colin Campbell (Argyleshire), C. Dalrymple (Buteshire), Sir Geo. Douglas (Roxburghshire), Sir Alex. Gordon (Aberdeenshire, E), Samuel Laing (Orkney and Shetland), Sir J. G. T. Sinclair (Caithness-shire)—7. Paired for—J. W. Barclay (Forfarshire), P. M'Lagan (Linlithgowshire)—2. Total—9. Against—R. V. Agnew (Wigtownshire), Sir W. Edmonstone (Stirlingshire), Lord Elcho (Haddingtonshire), Hon. R. B. Hamilton (Berwickshire), Capt. J. H. Johnstone (Dumfriesshire), Sir G. G. Montgomery (Peebles and Selkirkshires). Paired against—A. O. Ewing (Dumbartonshire). Total—7. Majority for the Counties—2.

BURGHs:—For—G. Anderson (Glasgow), Right Hon. W. E. Baxter (Montrose, &c.), C. Cameron (Glasgow), Sir George Campbell (Kirkcaldy, &c.), Henry Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling, &c.), J. Cowan (Edinburgh), M. E. Grant Duff (Elgin, &c.), Andrew Grant (Leith), J. F. Harrison (Kilmarnock, &c.), W. Holms (Paisley), E. Jenkins (Dundee), John F. Leith (Aberdeen), C. E. Macintosh (Inverness, &c.), D. M'Laren (Edinburgh), Ernest Noel (Dumfries, &c.), C. S. Parker (Perth), James Stewart (Greenock), Mark J. Stewart (Wigtown, &c.), Charles Tennant (Glasgow), G. O. Trevel-

yan (Hawick, &c.), Sir David Wedderburn (Haddington, &c.)—21. Paired for—John Pender (Wick, &c.)—1. Total—22. Against—NOT ONE. Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities—Dr. Lyon Playfair—1. The whole vote being, as stated, 32 for and 7 against.

Not only is there a majority of the Parliamentary representation of Scotland for the resolution, but there is also a majority of the county population. The population of counties voting in favour is 807,269; that of those voting against, only 371,307. This was not the case last year. Then the valuation of those counties voting favourably is in excess of those voting adversely. The first have a valuation roll of £2,857,055, the second one of £2,249,619, so that the majority of 1880 embraces the valuation, the population, and the county Parliamentary representation.

In the case of the burghs no such comparison is required, as their vote is practically unanimous.

There are other interesting facts connected with this division.

No Scotch Liberal M.P. voted against the resolution.

The voting in its favour has no party significance, as Liberal and Conservative alike voted for it.

Four of those who voted for it last year—Col. Mure, A. Mathieson, P. M'Lagan, and J. Pender—did not vote this year. The first was on leave through domestic affliction, and could neither vote nor pair. The second was seriously indisposed, the third was abroad, and the fourth was, it is believed, shut out from the division. The two last mentioned paired for the resolution. Mr. Barclay, who has paired for it both years, but for indisposition, would have voted for the resolution this time. Three honourable members who have not hitherto voted on the resolution voted in its favour:—Rt. Hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair, Sir G. S. Douglas, and C. Tennant.

None who have voted for the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill or the Local Option Resolution have ever recorded their vote against it.

Twelve members of the late Government voted with Sir W. Lawson. Of these, five represent Scotch constituencies, namely:—Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, Right Hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair, H. Campbell-Bannerman, M. E. Grant Duff, and G. O. Trevelyan.

The hostile vote continues to decrease. Last year ten Scotch votes were polled against the resolution. Of those then voting, R. Montgomery, Lord Dalkeith, D. Cameron, Sir T. E. Colebrooke, and A. Orr Ewing did not vote on this occasion. A. O. Ewing, however, paired against it; and R. B. Hamilton recorded his vote against it for the first time.

This is the sixth time that Scotland, through her representatives' voting, has affirmed the principle that her people should have a right to protect themselves against the grievance of having public houses forced upon them against their will—four times for the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill; twice for the Local Option Resolution. The votes on the resolution included a decided majority of her Parliamentary representation.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE DISCUSSION AND DIVISION ON THE INTOXICATING LIQUOR (LICENSES) RESOLUTION.

The following resolutions have been unanimously adopted by the Executive of this association:—

I. That the most grateful thanks of the social and moral reformers of Scotland are due to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and the thirty-two members of parliament for Scotland—being a clear majority of its representation—who voted or paired in favour of the Intoxicating Liquors (Licenses) Resolution on 5th ult.

II. That the Executive tender their warmest thanks to the various organizations in Scotland which so energetically supported the Resolution; to the deputation that went to London, at their request, to promote its interests; and to all who in any way contributed to the very satisfactory Scotch vote in its favour.

III. That, having regard to the marked advance in the state of public opinion in Scotland in favour of the legal suppression of the liquor traffic by the majority vote of the ratepayers affected, of which the voting by Scotch parliamentary representatives on the recent division affords such abundant evidence, the Executive earnestly calls upon the electors in the various constituencies to press the claims of the Local Option Resolution upon the attention and acceptance of all candidates soliciting their vote and influence during the General Election, and urges them to support those candidates only who promise, if elected, to vote in favour of the Resolution, or of an efficient measure of local option for Scotland.

30 Hope St., Glasgow.

R. MACKAY, *Secy.*

A circular, of which the following is a copy, was sent to every Member of Parliament in view of the debate and division on the resolution:—"Intoxicating Liquors (Licenses) Resolution.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion on Friday, 5th March, 1880.—Honourable Members are respectfully reminded that on Friday first the following resolution will, in pursuance of notice, be moved by Sir Wilfrid Lawson:—"That inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of the licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of local option." The resolution embodies the principle of conferring upon the ratepayers the power to deal effectively with a system that has admittedly a deep personal interest for them, and in relation to which all merely class interests must hold a secondary place. The existing Licensing Laws are acknowledged on all hands to be in an unsatisfactory state. Their defects and anomalies tend to destroy much of the good they were designed to accomplish. What is obviously required is chiefly a direct and popular voice in 'restraining the issue or renewal of licenses,' and this involves transferring the responsibility from the present authorities—who have confessedly found their position to be a most difficult, not to say disagreeable one—to those who are, in every view of the case, entitled to bear it. The progress of this question in public opinion has been most marked, particularly during the last year, and its settlement can only be a matter of time. When Sir Wilfrid Lawson divided the House last session on his resolution, thirty-two Scotch members voted and paired in its favour, and only ten against it. It is confidently hoped that, on this occasion, the vote will be still more favourable. Honourable Members are earnestly requested to be in their places on Friday first, and to give the resolution their cordial support and vote.—James Hamilton, J.P., City Treasurer, Glasgow, President; James Torrens, J.P., Glasgow, Chairman of Executive; Thos. Dick, Ex-Chief Magistrate, Kinning Park, Vice-Chairman of Executive; James L. Selkirk, T.C., Glasgow, Honorary Secretary; Robert McCallum, Glasgow, Treasurer; Robert Mackay, Secretary.—Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow, 3rd March, 1880."

The following is the summary of reasons advanced by the U. K. Alliance why honourable members should vote in favour of the Local Option Resolution:—

1.—It affirms the only principle upon which the licensing system, as one of control, can be justified, viz.:—that the public protection is the primary consideration in regard to the issue of licenses. But for this principle there is no reason why the traffic in intoxicating liquors should not be as unrestricted as the sale of bread, sugar, tea, &c.

2.—The principle of Local Protection would be best applied by means of Local Option. It cannot be pretended that the people are unworthy to be trusted upon this question when they are held worthy to elect mem-

bers of Parliament, municipal and other bodies, and to exercise a general control over their local affairs.

3.—Licenses are always professedly issued and renewed for the good of the local residents: but the evils resulting are of every kind and degree, lowering the state of morals, impeding and crippling all local social reform, depreciating the adjoining property, and imposing the heaviest burdens upon the local public. There is no parallel to this state of things, and it is intolerable that localities should be powerless to deal with a system which is found to contravene its ostensible objects.

4.—The fact, which is indisputable, that wherever localities have been freed from the liquor traffic, they have been satisfied with this condition, and have benefited by it, in every respect, is the strongest reason why, on this local question, the locality should be enabled by Parliament to declare its wishes and act for itself. By lengthened experience in thousands of places, as testified by the Reports of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, the theoretical objections brought against such a change are disproved, and it is invariably found that the poorer class, on whose special behalf exception is taken to complete Local Option, are the first to appreciate the value of an arrangement, which, while it shields them from temptation, encourages economy, sobriety, and all the domestic virtues.

5.—The House of Commons has already entertained a modified form of Local Option, and Right Hon. and Hon. Members are respectfully requested to pronounce by voting in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution that the people are entitled to a measure of Local Option, which shall be effective and complete; and calculated to foster that national sobriety, which it is the sincere wish of all classes, creeds, and parties to promote.

GENERAL ELECTION.

TO THE TEMPERANCE AND SOCIAL REFORMERS OF SCOTLAND.

A DISSOLUTION of Parliament having been announced, a most important opportunity is furnished to all true temperance reformers for the exercise of their political influence in favour of those principles of moral and social reform which they have so long and so earnestly advocated.

There is no graver question of domestic politics before the country at the present moment than how most effectively to grapple with the evils of intemperance, and its paramount importance is being felt and admitted much more widely than ever before. Indeed, the persistent manner in which the permissive prohibitory agitation has been prosecuted during the past few years, has produced a most marked impression both in the country and in Parliament. There is now a very general concurrence of public opinion that the ratepayers must, ere long, have a direct and potent voice in the question of licensing public-houses.

On the occasion of the recent division in the House of Commons on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution, 32 Scotch members voted and paired in its favour, while only 7 voted and paired against it. On no question of national interest has there been so decided an expression of opinion on the part of the Scotch representatives. It only remains for the friends of the cause throughout the country in their various constituencies to unite in pressing the claims of our movement and the principles of the Association upon the consideration of all candidates. An opportunity like the present occurs but seldom, and it behoves that the fullest advantage be taken of it. Members of Parliament who have voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson in the past, and who are seeking re-election, should be strenuously supported, as well as all other candidates who are prepared, if elected, to act in a similar way; and, in the case of all new candidates, immediate steps should be taken to ascertain their views on temperance legislation before any pledge of support is given. Of course it must be left to the friends in each constituency to adopt the plan for giving effect to this recommendation that may best commend itself to them in their local circumstances.

The Executive will be prepared promptly to render every advice and assistance in their power on being applied to.—By order of the Executive, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association,

R. MACKAY, Secy.

Offices—30 Hope Street,
Glasgow, 16th March, 1880.

About five million persons visit the London coffee taverns yearly, or about 14,000 a day, and the company, after allowing for depreciation, declare a dividend of five per cent.

They say that Mr. E. Clarke, M.P. for Southwark, has got his silk gown, that is, made a Queen's Counsellor, for his splendid speech against local option, and that he is to be the Attorney General should the Tories return to office. What a pity he has lost his voice when such a chance of returning thanks offers itself!

Our readers will, we are sure, regret to hear of the death of Mr. S. Foley, of Dublin, the wise counsellor and the generous giver of the Irish temperance movement. Mr. Foley will be remembered as one of the representatives of the Irish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association at the annual meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

At last that urgent need for Clyde pleasure-seekers, a temperance steamer, that is, a steamer conducted on temperance principles, seems not far from realisation. The "Ivanhoe" is to be fitted up with every requisite and convenience for the comfort of her passengers, but she is not to have a "bar." As Mr. Alex. Allan said, this will be no bar to the enjoyment of those sailing with her. When she leaves the Broomielaw on her first trip may we have the pleasure of being there.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Sacraments: by Professor Candlish. (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark.) About two years ago a scheme was set on foot in the Free Church for securing the higher education of the youth connected with the Church in Bible and religious knowledge. All over the country, and in foreign lands where the Church has stations, examinations were held last spring, and the results were declared at the meeting of last Assembly. Then it was resolved to continue the scheme, and consequently we have now several volumes published suited to the requirements of the scheme. One of these now lies before us from the pen of Professor Candlish. We have no doubt that the author found his task more difficult than if he had undertaken to write a theological treatise on the same subject for the use of students or ministers. He has, however, happily succeeded in giving the fruits of his study in plain intelligible language, suitable to the class for whom the treatise is intended. His subject is the Sacraments, and he has taken the questions of the Shorter Catechism as the basis of his exposition. The volume is divided naturally into three parts. In the first he expounds the nature of the Sacraments generally, and points out wherein they differ from the other means of grace, which leads to the determination of the number of the divine ordinances to which the term properly applies. He then proceeds to show how the Sacraments are signs or symbolical ordinances. Under this head we could have desiderated a fuller exposition of the nature of a symbol, and a clear exposition of the fact that there must be a suitability of the sign, or harmony or analogy between the sign and the thing signified. It proceeds very possibly from oversight that this has not been more fully and clearly done. It is, however, of great importance to bear this in mind, that there must be a naturalness, a suitability, a harmony existing between the symbol and the thing symbolized, else false ideas and wrong impressions are apt to be conveyed to the simple mind by the signs used. The symbols used by the Saviour, in the Sacraments he has appointed, are peculiarly well fitted to convey truth to the mind. In the second part the subject of baptism is handled, its character unfolded, the mode of application explained, the subjects of it defined, and its efficacy and practical use expounded. In this part of the

subject we have been much pleased with the liberality of sentiment, the catholicity of sympathy which the author displays. Many old, straight-laced Presbyterians might be inclined to find fault with the Professor for some of the admissions which he candidly makes in regard to the administration of this Sacrament, though we are satisfied that he has confined himself to the simple Scriptural exposition of the doctrine of the ordinance. In the third part he discusses the Sacrament of the Supper. There is the point which we are most concerned with. Our journal does not pretend to discuss theological subjects generally, nor even general literary questions. It is only when these come into contact with the great temperance reformation that we feel called upon to deal with, or criticise any work, which issues from the press. No one can discuss the nature and mode of administration of the Supper without coming in contact with this great question. On reading very carefully what the Professor has written on this subject, we have to note in the outset that there is in his sentiments a very great advance on those of many other divines with whom we have met, personally or in their writings. With the teaching of the book, as a whole, we cordially agree. The exposition, in general, is in perfect harmony with all that we have been accustomed to believe as to the teaching of Scripture on the subject. The divisions under the third part are, the institution and form of the Supper; the things represented; the pledges given; the persons for whom it is intended; its efficacy, and the practical use of the Supper. The whole of these are well and skilfully explained, in language which is quite easily understood by such as those for whom the work has been prepared. But while we have thorough sympathy with the general tenor of the book, we are compelled to dissent from the statements made in the book in regard to the wine of the Supper. There is, however, a cheering want of dogmatism in dealing with the question of the elements, and what we have to complain of is rather a looseness of expression, and want of precision, than any positive contrary doctrine. Virtually all that we contend for is conceded, while at the same time expressions are used which show that something has yet to be learned on the question. In discussing the institution of the Supper, he says, speaking of the time when the ordinance was appointed:—"It is not quite certain whether the last supper of our Lord and His disciples was on the very day when the Paschal feast was observed by the Jews, or on the evening before it," &c. And, again, in reference to the lessons taught us by Paul's address to the Corinthian Church, he says:—"The uncertainty whether our Lord's last supper with His disciples was on the Passover evening, or on the preceding one, makes it impossible to be sure whether they used unleavened or leavened bread;" and the wine is described merely as 'the cup,' 'the fruit of the vine.' Christ clearly used as the symbols in this ordinance simply the bread and wine that happened to be before Him at the time, and we must follow His example by taking those in common use." There we must demur to the Professor's teaching. We know that it has been disputed whether the last supper was held on the night of the Paschal feast or not. But let any one read the narratives contained in the Synoptic gospels, and study the expressions used there; let him read of the disciples sent to prepare the Passover, and their executing their commission; let him read what is said of the actual celebration, and come to any other conclusion than the common one, that the feast was held at the right and legally-appointed time, if he can, consistently with a common sense interpretation of the narratives of the three evangelists. If they are not to be trusted on this point they may be as little trusted on any other. Their narratives are consistent with each other, and with what we should naturally expect, and strong reasons must be shown before we can believe that they are not consistent with fact. True, a difficulty arises from one or two expressions found in the Gospel of John. But these may be explained and the difficulty avoided without throwing any discredit on the three other accounts. We are quite satisfied that the feast held by the band in that upper room was at the legally appointed time, and conducted in perfect accordance with the Divinely ap-

pointed rules. But even if we admit the feast to have been held the previous evening, would the priests have been ready to sacrifice the lamb for them the day before. We suspect not; and, besides, grant that Christ as lawgiver could have legitimately changed the day, He was not here as law-giver but as law-keeper. He was under the law to give it obedience in every point, and if He had proposed to antedate the celebration, would His disciples not have raised an objection, which we do not read that they did? Had there been anything irregular or uncommon it is likely that neither friends nor foes should ever have hinted at any such a thing or given any reason or explanation for their irregularity. And even if all this were got over it would not rid us of the other supposed difficulty in regard to the kind of bread and wine used. The kind of bread and liquid, the prohibition of everything that was leavened, the presence of the lamb slain and roasted, were all clearly defined; and even if the evening had been that before the regular period, the other rules must have still been in force, and so the difficulty is not one whit greater in fixing the elementary symbols in the one case than in the other. At this feast all ferment and all fermented things were absolutely prohibited. The bread on the table must have been unfermented (this is universally admitted), and the beverage, whatever it was, must have been of the same character. But it must be borne in mind that nowhere and at no time is any beverage ordered or specified. The beverage may have been present or not; wine, milk, water, palm-juice, or any other liquid may have been used, only, however, with the proviso that there was no element of leaven in it. It is a tradition among the Jews that wine of grapes will not ferment. But unless we allow that all the Jews were ignorant of the fermenting of wine, and especially that Christ, who knows all things, and who was the lawgiver, and knew what was meant by His own command, was ignorant of what modern science has now revealed, that fermentation in wine and fermentation in bread are the very same process in reality, then we must adhere to the belief that Christ and His disciples celebrated this Paschal feast with unfermented things (bread, and wine, and everything else). So far, therefore, as there is any dubiety as to the day of the feast, and consequent institution of the new ordinance, and so far as this determines the nature of the symbols, we think the clause might have been spared. Accepting as we do most cordially the statement "that Jesus gave no minute and specific instructions as to the forms and rites to be observed in the Lord's Supper," we believe that the details have been purposely left thus open just because they had to be carried to all quarters of the globe, where some things that might be easily enough carried out in some places, would become utterly impossible in others. Since then there is such liberty of detail left to the Church why does the Church cling so pertinaciously to what is productive of so much evil? She has not always been so persistent in attending to the minute details. In this very ordinance, while admitting that at first our Lord used unfermented bread, the Church has now and for long used fermented bread, because it was commonly in use, and most convenient. Now even if we grant, as we may do for argument's sake, that the liquor used as a beverage on that memorable night when our Saviour was betrayed, was fermented, can any greater divergence from that example be found in changing the wine that there has been and is in the change in the symbol of the bread. Those who try to make out a conscientious objection to the use of wine unfermented, are bound to go back to unfermented bread and raise the question in all our Churches. If the Professor is right that no specific rule has been laid down, then there can be no objection to the Church or any congregation adopting grape juice rather than the fermented stuff presented at the table so generally, not only fermented grape juice but often with grape juice or wine produce completely wanting. If the Saviour used, as we are convinced He did, this grape juice, we cannot do better than follow His example. If he used something else, He has not prescribed what we are to use, but it is only called fruit of the vine, or cup, and therefore in accordance with this freedom which He has left us, we can use what is most

convenient and most suitable. But these elements are symbols, and they are appointed to represent and shadow forth the death of Christ, and the feeding and nourishing power of His body and blood to the soul when received by faith. The symbols must be suitable. Bread does nourish and strengthen and support the body. So does the fruit of the vine in its natural state as it comes from the vine. But when the process of fermentation has supervened, all, or very nearly all, the nutritive property is destroyed, and in its place comes a substance which tends to pervert the whole faculties both of body and mind. It would be at the same time somewhat out of the ordinary course that the same substance should be used as alcoholized wine is, both in the Old Testament and in the New, as the symbol of the wrath of God, and also as the emblem of the greatest of all the blessings God can or has ever given to man. If there is then no positive command requiring this to be used as the symbol of redeeming love, why should it be continued; or rather why should so many resist a change which is perfectly in harmony with all that Scripture says about this emblem? It must be noted that it is never called wine—only the fruit of the vine. Grape juice answers this description—is one of the most nutritious of beverages, and is easily got. It is regularly sold under the name of unfermented wine. *A priori* we could scarcely expect to find Jesus, who well knew what dire evils alcoholic wine would bring upon the world, would select what He knew could not nourish, but which could destroy; which could not support, but could kill, as the element to represent His blood shed for the remission of sin, and for the everlasting salvation of all who by faith receive and rest on Him for salvation.

One other point connected with this subject demands notice. Professor Candlish refers to the case of the Corinthian Church, as indicating that in early times some people used the fermented grape juice. He says—"Paul delicately hints at the possibility of even grosser sensual abuses—that is, than breaking up into sects and parties. The word *methuei* in the Greek of this passage has been a sad stumbling block to many. The proper meaning of the word is admirably represented by the Scotch expression *to be fou*. Everybody knows that this expression has a double meaning—say of a person who has just risen from a meal that he is *fou*, you convey the idea, and correctly, that he has had sufficient to meet all the cravings of nature—that his hunger is completely appeased. But tell us that a man has just come out of a drink-shop, and that he is *fou*, and a totally different idea is at once formed of his condition. The word *methuei* has exactly the same applications, and we require to know what has been consumed before we can state definitely which of these applications of the word must be used in the text before us. Paul, in finding fault with these Corinthian Christians, challenges them for violation of Christian duty at their love-feasts, which were very commonly held just before they celebrated the supper. He says they did not wait for one another, that the rich brought of their abundance, while many of the poor were but scantily provided for, and that they used what they had brought, keeping it to themselves, so that they were abundantly satisfied, while some of their poorer brethren were hungry, or but poorly supplied with food. This he condemns as uncharitable, and says that if they were hungry and were not willing to share their abundance with their poorer brethren they might eat at home, where such conduct would not be so blameworthy.

Note here 1. Not one word except the ambiguous *methuei* appears in the whole passage to indicate the presence in these *agapae* of any wine at all. That some beverage was present is very probable, but we have no evidence of its nature.

2. The presence of any intoxicating wine at the *agapae* does not necessarily imply the presence of the same kind at the Supper of the Lord, held immediately afterwards. The element used, then, may have been entirely different, and even the use of alcoholic wine by this branch of the church would not prove that in the use thereof they were acting in perfect accordance with general practice and apostolic example.

3. The fact of drunkenness appearing at these feasts is very unlikely, and, from the terms of the narrative, not admissible. The Apostle challenges their conduct and says he praises them not, because of the want of reverence, liberality, and orderly behaviour at these feasts, which, though not the Supper, were in close and intimate connection therewith. Hence he says of them, "One is hungry, and the other is *fou*," to use the expressive word of the Scotch language. The antithesis in the clause has a reference to the previous part of the sentence, where we are told that everyone taketh before other his own supper; or as the reading is in another MS., every one takes to himself, or snatches up, his own supper, or what he had brought with him. Hence there were who had very humble supply—some were hungry while others were well fed. Drink is not the antithesis to hungry. But suppose that some of them had been drunk, can we suppose that one so alive to the honour of his Master, and so sensitive to any disgrace brought on the religion he preached, would have failed to expose in the most severe terms the conduct of such persons as got drunk as a preparation for the solemn feast, and who either came to the feast in that condition or became such at the Lord's table? Nay, indeed. Had drunkenness been found in their feasts, Paul would have spoken in much stronger terms than he did. What they did was bad enough, but this would have been worse still—much worse.

4. It must be a bad case that needs the support of the Corinthian church to support it. If they were right, then no fault would have been found with them, if wrong, then their example cannot much avail, except as it is a beacon to warn of danger to be avoided.

Again we fall back on the broad ground, so well stated by Dr. Candlish, that no specific rule has been laid down, regulating the kind either of the bread or the fruit of the vine. We may use what is most convenient without violating the ordinance, and we are safest when we follow the example, as we believe, of our Saviour in using grape juice as the fruit of the vine, rather than any artificial, dangerous, destructive compound which has done, is doing, and, so long as used, will continue to do incalculable harm to the world and to the church. We prefer a substance which will feed and nourish and cheer the body as the symbol of that blood which is drink indeed, and which saves and strengthens the soul, to any other that is used as a symbol of wrath, and which destroys and kills.

On looking at the whole subject, we hope the author may see his way when a second edition is called for, as we hope will soon be done, to modify his expressions a little, and put himself on surer ground on these points. We rejoice to find him so liberal in his views, and so free from dogmatism. The book, though written for the youth, may be, and we have no doubt will be, read with much pleasure, as it may be with great profit by the older members of our churches. We cordially thank him for his able contribution to the education in religious knowledge of our young men and young women. Had we more such liberal and Christian expositions, we might have more general charity and greater religious life and energy among us.

The Home World, with which is incorporated *Our Children*, *Sunday School World*, and *The Children's Visitor*. An illustrated religious family paper. Conducted by F. E. Longley. London: Longley, 59 Warwick Lane, E.C. This volume is a treasury of amusement, instruction, and art, to boys and girls. Many volumes and not a few libraries have been searched in order to enable the talented editor to weekly spread his precious freight before his readers. *Home World* appeals to our common sense; offers us Golden Thoughts; peeps at our Sunday-schools; sets blackboard lessons; culls choice poetry; tells stories; reviews choice books; advocates temperance; keeps a well filled page of puzzles; offers prizes, and presents printed music and illustrations which merit high praise. To those who can only afford one good magazine for the household we cordially recommend *Home World*: they will secure in it the essence of scores of journals for home reading.

Loose Bricks for Temperance and Social Workers; by Amos Scholfield. (London: National Temperance Publication Depot.) Price 6d. We believe that these "Loose Bricks" will give stability to the principles of total abstinence and prohibition cherished by all who read this little book.

The Throne of Iniquity, or Sustaining Evil by Law. A Sermon by the Rev. Albert Barnes. Tenth thousand. Selkirk: George Lewis. One penny. We are exceedingly pleased to find that this admirable sermon has reached a circulation of ten thousand copies. Merely reckoning each copy as finding three readers there are thirty thousand minds brought into contact with this sermon, which has rarely been equalled and never in our opinion surpassed. Let our friends get a supply and they will find that the giving of one to an inquiring mind will do more to convince and persuade it than bulky packets of literature or a lengthened series of lectures. In republishing this sermon, Mr. George Lewis has placed the temperance movement in Scotland under deep obligation, an obligation they can easily discharge by liberal orders for his valuable reprint.

The Birthdays of the Temperance and Total Abstinence Movements in Scotland; by James M'Nair. (Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 30 Hope Street.) Threepence. This is a model historiette. A marvel of clear condensation. Within the compass of 32 pages we have an excellent history of the rise of both movements. Mr. M'Nair conceals his own large share in the advancement of total abstinence movement, but it is greatly indebted to his persistent efforts to get at facts and to his untiring energy in upholding the true principles of total abstinence against a spurious and happily almost exploded theory of temperance. He has brought down the history of the movement to within the knowledge of those now living, and has rendered a service to the cause which he has so long and faithfully served as is not likely to be forgotten. We cordially recommend his pamphlet to the perusal of all who hold their principles dear, and also to all who feel a pleasure in finding truth grappling successfully with error.

A Few Words to Women; by a woman (Miss Jessie Craigen). Being a plea for the temperance movement. (Retford, Notts: Miss Craigen, Victoria Place, London Road. Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.) Price threepence. All who have had the pleasure of listening to Miss Craigen's eloquent appeals on behalf of those movements which are calculated to elevate the men and women of the present day will, should they purchase this lecture, we venture to believe, peruse it with unmingled satisfaction. They may miss the lady's earnest tones and energetic gesture, but they will have the womanly thoughts enshrined in chaste and elegant language. Miss Craigen is able, from her long experience among women and men, to form a vivid idea of the relations that do exist and should exist between them. She draws a painful contrast between them; the thoughtless man too often oblivious of his moral obligations when too confiding girls are concerned, or as permitted by law to inflict injuries where a wife is concerned. Then women themselves are too ignorantly brought up, too poorly paid, too much subjected to temptation. On both sides there is danger from the other, and that danger is intensified by the drinking customs of society. We must leave Miss Craigen's farther exposition of the evil and the remedies she suggests to the reader of her pamphlet with the belief that it will thoroughly enlist their sympathies with those for whom she eloquently pleads.

BOOKS RECEIVED:—*Studies in Life, Social Rights, Britain and Bacchus, Annual Report of the Dundee Society, &c.*

OBSERVE!—LAMOND'S LECTURES.—Now publishing, No. I., "Light and Shade;" No. II., "Success in Life;" No. III., "Our Mission." Order through any bookseller, or write direct to J. WILKIE, 22 Howe Street, Edinburgh. 5s. 6d. per 1000, Carriage paid.

THE Social Reformer.

MAY, 1880.

PRINCIPLE AND EXPEDIENCY: THEIR TRUE PLACE IN THE TEMPERANCE ENTERPRISE.—II.

THE Apostle Paul abstained from flesh and wine simply and only because of the sacredness with which he regarded the conscience of a weak brother in Christ, furnishing incontrovertible proof of the supreme estimate he had of his own conscience, seeing he "strove to have his conscience void of offence both toward God and toward man." Assuming that the wine spoken of was unfermented, it was therefore pleasant, wholesome, and nutritious, which all wine is before it is allowed to ferment, for all fermentation is decay, rottenness, corruption, and grape juice is no exception. Flesh could have produced no more physical injury than than now, unless partaken of immoderately, and precisely so with respect to unfermented wine, which is both food and drink—drink in exact proportion to the water it contains (*for there is nothing drink but water*), and food in exact proportion to the solid matter it contains, and on those who say the wine spoken of was fermented, and therefore intoxicating, rests the onus of proof on this point, for in the absence of proof the assertion goes for nothing.

To personal abstinence from intoxicating liquor Christian expediency never did and never can intelligently apply; all such liquors partaken of as beverages, being, as we have already seen, injurious to the partaker in exact proportion to the quantity partaken of. But Christian expediency does apply to the temperance enterprise, and when set on right lines, guided to right issues, fed and strengthened by Christ reigning in the heart and directing the life of His people, Christian expediency will take us out of the wilderness of social disorder, pauperism, crime, and lunacy, in which we are now wandering, and place us in the land of promise, "a land flowing with milk and honey." We look at the gigantic liquor traffic and, like ten of the twelve spies who were sent out by Moses to spy out the promised land, we are faithless and faint-hearted in view of the apparently insurmountable obstacles around and before us. But our God and Father is with us, and we need not be afraid. Our fear but hinders our progress, retards our march, and dishonours our God.

In our war with national intemperance we have already exceeded by ten years the time of Israel's wilderness wanderings, and we are far from the end of our journey yet. How can it be otherwise? The marching powers of our leaders we have spent in and around a selfish centre, personal abstinence from vile intoxicants; whereas we ought by personal duty first to have set our feet in the way of His commandments and, impelled by the exhaustless and permanent power of Christian expediency, marched with stout heart and unswerving purpose in the path of conquest.

But instead of this onward march to final triumph we have largely been engaged with our so-called expediency, circulating round and round a purely selfish centre. Is it any wonder, then, that our stationary Christian expediency is sadly deficient in stalwart, sturdy vigour, of these fine colossal proportions which were so conspicuous in the Christian expediency, which was so marked a feature in the character and life of the Apostle Paul? It may require courage to refuse compliance with pernicious custom and vicious habit, but it will never do to call such courage Christian expediency. Christian expediency operates *outside* ourselves, labours *for others* in the spirit of self-sacrifice, the highest and purest of all sacrifice, fed from a source pure as purity itself, expansive as righteousness, and in its action and results all-conquering as love, justice, and truth.

The erroneous application of Christian expediency to the one act of personally abstaining from the beverage availment of all intoxicating liquor, instead of continuously applying it to the noble and imperative task of banishing intemperance from our homes, our communities, our land, from the earth, is mainly, if not wholly, due to the erroneous idea long entertained that in small quantities intoxicating liquors were right and proper articles to be partaken of; but this false and fatal error by patient and exhaustive experiments on the part of competent and undeniable authorities, has been exploded, and all temperance reformers who are yet ignorant of this all-important fact are culpable to a lamentable extent, are weak-kneed apologists, when by this hour of the day in the grand temperance enterprise they ought to have been proof against all attacks and strong to assail and bear down all opposition. But the false notion which is here combated originated in ignorance of the precise, generic nature, and absolutely pernicious effects of all alcoholic liquors upon the human organism, a false notion which, I profoundly regret to say, still permeates the public mind to an extent we little dream of, and hinders the cause of temperance in relation to intoxicants to a degree we can scarcely imagine; and all this is mainly due to the foolish, I had almost said wicked, retention of *extreme* terms applied to our movement in its infancy. Ask the bulk of good men and women who in sympathy are with us, but in practice are against us, Is "temperance" and "teetotalism" (or "total abstinence") the same thing? and they will tell you they are not. Mr. Maxwell, chairman of the Urr School Board, in reply to a deputation of abstainers only a few weeks ago said "he was as strong an advocate for temperance as any man, but not for total abstinence." Does not Mr. Maxwell, and do not thousands more, look upon temperance and total abstinence as *different* things? And, pray, who has taught them to do so? On whom rests the blame? Trace this sad and saddening state of things to its source and you will find that the terms "teetotalism" and

"total abstinence," terms which expressed exactly what the founders of the temperance enterprise knew and believed, but which no more expresses what is now known and believed by all who do know, than the foolish notion that the earth is stationary, the sun, moon, and stars move round about it, correspond with scientifically demonstrated facts. If temperance, properly defined and correctly understood, does not sanction our practice of repudiating all beverage availment of intoxicating liquors, our case is hopeless. Continue to plant the acorn of the one glass of intoxicants and you are sure by and by to have the firmly-rooted oak of intemperance. It is the merest folly to expect the boy to grow up into the full stature of physical manhood, hampered by wearing the clothes of his boyhood. Parent and child may have a liking for the clothes of boyhood. If so, lay them aside, look at them as frequently as proper attention to immediate and more important duties will allow, but let the growing lad have clothes suitable to his advancing stature. Mr. Maxwell's idea that "temperance" and "total abstinence" are not one and the same is an exceedingly prevalent one, and our retention of the terms I have indicated in the advocacy of our movement helps to deepen, not to displace, this erroneous idea which is working a world of mischief. Temperance covers the ground we occupy, lends the imperative of moral obligation to the practice for which we contend. What more or else do we require? With the knowledge we possess, principle requires of us that we personally abstain from all beverage availment of intoxicating liquor, and Christian expediency demands of us the adoption and untiring carrying forward of all the agencies and instrumentalities necessary for the final displacement of that many-headed monster—intemperance.

The true place of principle in the temperance enterprise is personal abstinence from all beverage availment of intoxicating liquor, be the quantity ever so small; and the true place of Christian expediency is to work untiringly till the issue is gained, the complete emancipation of our country and the world from the galling bondage and polluting influence of intemperance.

"And come what there may
To stand in the way
That day the world shall see."

"For every plant which my Father hath not planted shall be rooted up." And how shall the liquor traffic escape? Impossible.

Rosemount.

WM. CLARK.

EARLY PROHIBITIONISTS.

AMONG the younger abstainers whose knowledge of temperance literature is confined to modern publications, there prevails an opinion that the agitation for the prohibition of the liquor traffic is of modern growth. They are of the opinion that the early abstainers never dreamt of invoking the aid of the legislature to help forward the temperance enterprise. This opinion has been strengthened by some recent utterances by those who ought to know better. The very reverse of this was the fact. Hardly had the pioneers begun to advocate the principles of total abstinence than they also pleaded with the legislature the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. The early abstainers were unanimous in favour of legislative interference. While they based their appeals on human brotherhood and Christian law, they also appealed to the magistrate and to Parliament for aid in their noble work. It was the hope that Government would prohibit the traffic that sustained

them in their arduous labours. In reading the other day the "Birthdays of the Temperance and Total Abstinence Movements," we were delighted to meet with the statement that the agitation for prohibition had marked the earliest effort of those who maintained the abstinence cause in opposition to what is termed the "Old Temperance Movement." This statement is fully confirmed by the early history of the abstinence movement. The Home Drummond Act was passed in 1828. It was an Act to render it more difficult to procure licenses. The magistrates had the power to limit the number of licenses to what was considered "meet and convenient for the community." The magistrates were endowed with almost unlimited powers in granting or refusing certificates, without which no licenses were obtained. The publican groaned under the restrictions placed upon them, and laboured for their removal. In the session of Parliament for 1838, there were two bills introduced into the House with the view of releasing the publicans from certain grievances under which they laboured.

The special object of the first of these was to enable publicans who have once obtained a license for the sale of excisable liquors to have the same renewed by the excise, without an annual renewal of certificates from the magistrates. The second bill was intended—1st, to repeal the existing laws which prohibit actions for tipping debts; 2nd, to repeal certain other enactments which prevent publicans from taking a pawn or pledge in payment of intoxicating liquors. This bill would have permitted the publican—after the poor drunkard had spent his last coin—to have taken the shirt off his back, or the blanket off his bed, as payment for drink.

A number of leading abstainers—opposed to these enactments—men who believed and taught that the whole traffic in intoxicating liquors was not only morally wrong, but was in direct collision with, and in opposition to the physical laws of our nature, and the general well-being of the community, exerted themselves, and on the 28th April, 1838, a meeting was called, on a respectable requisition by the Lord Provost, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament against the said bills. The meeting was held in the Town Hall. In the absence of the Lord Provost, the chair was occupied by Bailie Paul. Long before the hour of meeting the hall was filled, principally with the publicans and their dupes. A stormy meeting ensued. A motion was submitted to petition against the bills. Dr. Weir, editor of the *Glasgow Argus*, who led the host of publicans, moved an amendment to the effect that the meeting petition in favour of the bills. After a long and boisterous time the chairman declared the amendment carried. A vote of thanks having been awarded to Bailie Paul, the meeting separated.

The Glasgow Total Abstinence Societies, under the presidency of James Mc'Nair, resolved to hold another meeting in North Albion Street Chapel on the 8th May following. In the absence of the President, Jas. Dawson presided. On the motion of Robt. Reid, the following petition was adopted, and it was agreed to present copies to both Houses of Parliament. The petition was submitted to the public, and was extensively signed by citizens—

"To the Commons, &c., &c.

"The petition of the members of Total Abstinence Societies in Glasgow, and other persons in that city,

"Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners deeply lament the great and increasing prevalence of intemperance in the British Empire; and that they consider the traffic in intoxicating liquors, which is sanctioned by the Government, to be its principal cause. They consider the permission to trade in those articles to be

inexpedient and impolitic as no good except so far as the liquors are used as medicine is derived from it by the community; and they consider it to be sinful and injurious, as the intemperance which necessarily results from it is the source of the ignorance, irreligion, crime, poverty, disease, and premature death which abound to such an alarming extent.

"As all intoxicating liquors contain a greater or less proportion of alcohol, which all physicians and chemists declare to be a poison; and that though it may be useful to the human constitution when diseased, it is most pernicious to it when in health, your petitioners are convinced that to permit a traffic in such an article is inconsistent with that regard for the welfare of a people which every Government ought to manifest.

"The vast quantity of alcoholic liquors annually manufactured in the United Kingdom is derived from grain, which has been given by God that his creatures might use it for their food as it has come from himself, and not that it might be converted into an instrument fitted only for their destruction. To legalise such a waste of the bounties of Providence is surely most offensive to the Giver of all good, and is a direct violation of the laws of justice and benevolence, which He has appointed to regulate our conduct towards our fellowmen.

"Your petitioners beg finally to state their conviction that were the trade in intoxicating liquors to be declared unlawful, the revenue, which at present flows from the manufacture and the sale of these articles, would be supplied by the amount of taxes derived from other commodities which are necessary to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of these realms, an increased demand for which would immediately take place, by the saving of all the expenditure for the support of Government servants to overlook the trade, and by the limited number of jails, bridewells, and convict transports which would be required. And even though the Exchequer should suffer, the deliverance of the nation from the guilt which attended such a traffic, and by the physical, intellectual, and moral improvement of the community ought, by an enlightened Government, to be reckoned full compensation for any pecuniary loss which, by a righteous enactment, it might sustain.

"May it therefore please your Honourable House speedily to take this subject into your consideration, and to abolish the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and your petitioners will ever pray."

The petition was entrusted to Joseph Brotherton, M.P., for presentation in the Commons, and to the Right Hon. Earl Stanhope in the Lords.

An earnest appeal was made to all abstainers and philanthropists in the empire to unite their efforts to effect the overthrow of the whole traffic.

We hope that the above may prove interesting to your readers, and help to enlighten them as to the opinions and actions of the early pioneers of our movement.

AN OLD ABSTAINER.

"BUNG FROM HIS BEER."

(From "Punch.")

Here lies one
Who, if Froth had been Fact,
And Excise-license English Liberty,
Would have Saved the Country;
As it was,
He expended a great flow of Language,
And a greater of Liquor.
He gained nothing to speak of,
And he lost three-fourths of the Elections.

WINE IS A MOCKER.

"Wine is a mocker," Scripture tells;
An adder's sting within it dwells;
Like serpent's bite, 'tis killing.
Let's strive, with all the power we have,
To close the open, yawning grave
That drink so fast is filling.

WOMAN—THE GIRL.

FROM the first moment in which they step across the threshold of this world women are looked upon as inferior. Their advent is not heralded with any such extravagance as is manifest when a man child is born into the world. Too often the baby girl who, because she is the first-born, has had some extra attention paid to her, is thrust aside because the second-born is a boy. All through it is the same. "She is only a lassie." The feeling of commiseration with which this is often said tells how deeply rooted in humanity is the idea that women are the "weaker" vessels. Instead of always continuing, so to speak, to live tolerated, women might gauge the capacities of their sex, and having ascertained where their true strength does lie, devote their attention to its development. At least they should not become the product of a sickly civilization. Travellers often notice how graceful savage women are, how free in their action, how natural in their carriage. They excel in fleetness, are often excellent swimmers, and, in short, have a physical culture which women in this highly favoured isle might envy. No doubt there are efforts being made by strong-minded women in this country to develop women into something more than dolls—to make them graceful, intelligent, and independent, but, alas, these efforts are chiefly put forth among the "upper crust." To carry them out among the working classes would require appliances whose name would be legion. But were these philanthropic women to make this kind of development fashionable their work would proceed by leaps and bounds, and, like the kindling of a sunlight, each fair one so trained would communicate an upward and elevating influence to her fair neighbours.

During the early years of a girl there should be no difference made between her and boys. She is easier brought up than boys are, and if her physical growth was as freely allowed as in the case of her brothers she would attain to a condition of superior physical health. She should be taught to run, to swim, to play not only at skipping-rope but at cricket, to ply the oar, to swing, in short, to go through, as it is termed, the elements of a thorough physical education. She should never be bound up in stays, nor wear garters, but in a more extended freedom continue to grow in stature and in grace. Lady Hamilton, the mistress of Lord Nelson, was at first a servant girl, but having a strong faculty for the imitation of the manners of the great, she set about training herself to have a most elegant shape, and a most graceful carriage. Daily she went through drill in her bed-room, marching backwards and forwards with a large book on her head or on her shoulder. This, she said, gave her the rudiments of a most graceful style of walking. Dancing gave her agility, and the skipping-rope that easy balance of figure so essential to elegance. She fenced also, her object being to perfect her physical condition. The consequence was that she was not excelled for either beauty or grace. Mothers should look forward a little and not merely let their girls grow any way; they need no care to do that, and sometimes very rank and troublesome growths they become, acquiring many habits of which they strive in vain to rid themselves when these have become part of their second selves. By following such a plan as we have indicated, children will soon attain to a grace and health of which they will never be deprived. Some will, no doubt, sneer at this way of bringing their daughters up as being unfeminine. Such trained girls may do for bondagers or field workers, but never for ladies. They are simply in error and are the victims of a prejudice. Girls thus

developed will not be corpulent or frowsy, they will be lithe, muscular, graceful, and agile, models of easy elegance, buoyant spirits, and constant good health, capable of entering upon employment with the needful vigour and energy, and following it up with a persistency which will cost them scarcely an effort of will.

It is by mothers, however, the initiative should be taken. From their girl's earliest years there should be daily bathing, drill, and dancing, a moderate supply of homely food, and plenty of good and regular sleep. In winter indoor exercise may consist of drill, and even on stormy days a well-drilled girl will derive pleasure and add to her stock of health by going out for a vigorous walk. In summer swimming should take the place of bathing, rowing the place of drill, and excursions on foot the place of the skipping-rope and the dance. If her mother demand "a full, true, and particular account" of all that she has observed in these lengthened walks she will, by doing so, be educating the observing faculties of her girls to a higher degree than she is probably aware of. A girl trained in this manner is not necessarily unfeminine. She is a vigorous, rather than a sickly plant, the hue of good health will lend an additional charm to her interesting or, it may be, pretty face, and her constant and happy flow of spirits will make her the perennial joy of the household.

But if we did not do more than this we might have to meet the charge that after all we had made her a noble or graceful savage, and it might be difficult to meet it successfully. We believe, however, that a sound mind can only manifest itself in a sound body; the sound body once attained, we can easily see after the sound mind. In the present day ignorance is a crime, and the law is persistently compelling the education of all. But the education is hardly yet of an adequate kind. There is no systematic physical training, no moral training, religious training is optional, so that the training is merely intellectual. It consists of "the three R's," with a subject or two added, such as music or geography, or something of that sort. Perhaps girls get a little sewing, but the whole catalogue of girls' education is singularly defective. To supplement what is deficient, to ever keep the girl's future life in view, and adopt her education to that life, should be the care of the mother. If she fails she will find things sadly amiss when the stages of maidenhood, wifehood, and motherhood, are reached. From her earliest years the girl's memory should be exercised. It should be filled with the choicest flowers of poetry and song,* and great pains taken with her singing lessons. The mother should exercise a watchful care over her temper, her habits, and her good breeding; the first should never be broken by harshness, the second should be formed with steady method day by day, the third should increase and extend even as her days do grow. Then a constant share of house work should be allotted to her, the quantity proportioned to her strength and her years. It is one of the saddest phases of modern life that women should think house work beneath them. In such cases girls have not been trained to such work, they have seen that the house affairs have been carried on without any responsibility resting upon them, and when they have had to enter upon it it has been found to be so odiously irksome to them, that it is to be shirked as often as possible. A good, indulgent mother calls in some help, and continues, though at some risk of failing health and some sacrifice, to perform her usual tasks. An energetic one, crying out that she cannot bear to see her girls in her way,

* We believe that no collection of sacred poetry can surpass the collection of Paraphrases in the Scottish Bible.

does the work herself, but the wrong done to girls in such cases is irreparable. Now, this wrong can be best averted by setting the girl to do something from her earliest years, and by kind, encouraging praise inciting her to do her house work tidily and deftly, she soon has the estimable blessing of a little girl who delights to lighten her labours by sweeping and dusting rooms, cleaning brass, polishing mirrors and windows, making markets, and in many other little matters. Then a wise mother will set her knitting and hemming as early as she can; it is delightful to see girls sitting with their mother darning in the evening after tasks are over, repeating little scraps of poetry, or describing somewhere they have visited that day. A mother with such girls is never alone. It may have cost her much trouble, much care, to make them so useful, so healthy, so strong, but every day the trouble of their education is lessening, while its fruits are becoming more plentiful, and as she looks at them she fondly declares that they are "the very apple of her eye."

Then she sees that they are kept at school, that they learn to write. Of all the slatternly habits chargeable to the average girl of the period that of writing is the worst. Girls in nothing show themselves so far behind the age than in their writing. They are like the people "of ton"—a few years ago who believed that the more illegible their writing was the higher a mark of good breeding it showed. They never made a greater mistake. Sensible women are beginning to perceive that it is so, and are showing signs of careful attention to their writing, the result is that we are meeting with letters written by women which cannot be surpassed by men. Mothers should not allow their girls to correspond or to write out their school exercise in a slovenly fashion, but insist on neatness and cleanliness, rapidity will come in due time. Reading and recitation are supposed to be taught at school, but mothers should always make their children read aloud to them some beautiful story, it will afford the darlings pleasure and her an opportunity of seeing whether they are contracting any of the vices of reading or reciting which is so frequent in society. Let them be guarded from reading the newspaper with a Bible "twang." Then arithmetic should have attention, and book-keeping should not be neglected, nor the rudiments of music and drawing.

The training of a girl to such a point may seem a formidable undertaking, but it is only seeming. The farmer that could take his bull by the fore-foot and lift him up could not have done so had he not begun with him when he was quite a calf. The mother who realises her responsibility for her daughters will not loiter over its discharge. She will begin betimes and mould the little plastic being which God has committed to her care. She will see of the travail of her soul and be satisfied.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS ABSTAINER.—A correspondent sends in an extract from the *Wexford Recorder*: "At the weekly meeting of the Gorey Board of Guardians Mr. Palmer reported having admitted an old woman, 112 years of age, to the infirmary, named Mary Byrne, who never carried a stick, and was strong, healthy, and active until a few weeks since, when she got something like paralysis. When sending her to the workhouse the medical officer ordered her a glass of wine to help her on the journey, but, when offered, she said she was too well able to go without it—that she never tasted wine or drink in her life. She came from Aske, Inch, Gorey. Dr. Allen said he offered her wine in the infirmary. She replied, "Do you want to poison me?" and would not take it." We commend Mary Byrne to Mr. Sherlock for his next volume of "Illustrious Abstainers."—*Hand and Heart*.

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

Now that summer with its loveliness is almost upon us, and singing birds, budding trees, opening flowers, clear skies, and sunny days are inviting to enjoyment, temperance reformers can with pleasure transfer their efforts from the hall to the open air. The open air affords rather an extensive area for their advocacy, and is inclusive of a great variety of meeting places from the sea shore to the mountain side—from the park or lawn to the crowded thoroughfare or the churchyard gate. Rightly used, there is nothing to rival open-air meetings as a mode of propagating the principles and practice of the temperance reformation in their personal, social, or legal aspects. Hence it is a matter for keen regret that such an advocacy should be so much neglected by the committees of our temperance societies.

Unfortunately the temperance movement has suffered from its very success. At the beginning of it we had a cheesemonger, a shoemaker, a raw factory lad, a butcher, a gauger, and a painter as leaders of the national enterprise. These wrought with a will. They came face to face with the havoc of drink in their own one and two-roomed houses, where one drunkard could make home as bad as hell itself, and they reasoned with the wretched drunkard when sober, and went boldly before the public, imploring men and women to band themselves together to resist the contact and encroachments of the liquor demon. They set the heart of the country on fire, and they drew towards the movement the sympathy, the assistance, the power of the community, till all that moral suasion could accomplish was disclosed. Day by day their numbers augmented, but the enthusiasm, the self-sacrifice of the early temperance reformers did not augment in proportion. False pride, the first-born of a quasi-respectability, has injured the movement in many aspects, but in none so much as in open-air advocacy. There are too many temperance reformers who hide their light in a poorly-furnished hall, in an unfrequented back street, where it sheds its murky glare in the faces of a shivering audience, whose presence is begged by the Bible-woman, and who are only looked after in the dark days of winter. Such Reformers never seem to think that the warm days of summer increase the demands of thirst, and cause so many to fall away from their vow of abstinence. If they were to let their light shine, they would throw aside false pride, confer upon the best way of making open-air advocacy available, and be found signal examples of an out-door, well-arranged, high-class temperance propaganda.

Once resolved on this duty, a Committee might easily light upon a conspicuous place in their district which they would have little difficulty in making attractive to those they desired to elevate by a series of addresses on temperance, cleanliness, thrift, and the other minor virtues. Pledges could also be dispensed, literature sold, and even little musical entertainments held.

It is objected that such a mode of spreading temperance truth is vulgar. Yes, just as much as undressing before you jump into the river to save a drowning man; but in the one case so in the other, the offence may be pardoned because of the good that is to be done. Just think of the vulgarity of the man that rushes after a runaway carriage, shouting for help; or of a fellow that rolls up his trousers and his cuffs and manfully becomes one of an impromptu fire brigade, and passes buckets of water along to extinguish a burning house, and then measure the enormity of that vulgarity of which the temperance reformer is guilty that, in the strength of God, goes out to the highways, the lanes, and market-places to rescue the perishing through indulgence in alcohol. The two-fold objection of trouble and fear of Mrs. Grundy has no real weight for the staunch temperance reformer. He will cheerfully undergo the first, and resolutely overcome the second, and join with similarly brave, self-sacrificing lovers of his kind in making the summer out-of-door advocacy redound to the credit and advantage of the movement.

It is said that as very few can speak easily and effectively out of doors, the appearance of the same speakers palls on the interest of the people. This objection may be easily met. The hardy few that tenaciously follow up this mode of advocacy wherever and whenever an opportunity presents itself, do so in the face of discouragements which few will endure. Let committees work as heartily, arrange as creditably for their summer as they do for their winter advocacy, and plenty of talented speakers will willingly comply with their invitation. True, there are many favourite advocates who cannot venture on open-air speaking, either from a weak chest or because they cannot speak extemporaneously; but there are many others who, if they had reasonable prospects of an audience, would gladly lend their assistance from time to time. Indeed the failure has been oftener with the audience than with the speakers. If committees who have made any attempts in this direction were to sum up their experience, it would amount to something like this—that the same speaker at a small and at a large out-door gathering was a totally dissimilar person. He appears at the first, and finds two or three shame-faced individuals, with their heads close together, whispering their fears that there will be no meeting. Some fifty yards away there are two or three groups waiting, like Micawber, to see what will "turn up." No platform, no table, no tracts, no placards, no choir, no secretary, and no chairman. A speaker would, we think, be more than mortal if, under such circumstances, his courage, like Bob Acres', did not ooze out at his finger ends. But it is now five or ten minutes past the hour, and faith with the public must be kept. Those representing the society will not take the chair and introduce the speaker, so he takes it himself; talks low to incite the curiosity of those the breadth of the street away, and draw them nearer; retails a few jokes to create a laugh, and so, when his audience is gathered, he finds that he has committed himself, and cannot commence his prepared address, because twenty minutes or thereby of his time has been spent in drawing the audience together. His object is now to get through, and he gets through something after the way in which a fellow gets out of a labyrinth—with little encouragement on the part of his hearers and a great loss of self-respect on his own. The whole affair is most depressing; it is certainly distressing to the speaker, and is not creditable to the committee, who might easily have made better arrangements. But that same speaker finds himself at a meeting of a very different kind. At the place of meeting there is a large placard displayed intimating the object of the meeting, the name of the speaker and his subject, and challenging discussion. The members of the Band of Hope have been for an hour previously distributing tracts, leaving one in every house in the district, and inviting the inmates to the meeting. A choir is present, singing some beautiful temperance melodies. There is a platform, and chairs for chairman and speaker. Fifty members of the society are there to constitute the meeting, and the secretary and the members of committee are ready to welcome him. Let our readers pause for a moment and measure the effect of such careful preparations on the part of the committee on the feelings of the speaker. Of course his reputation is at stake: he must vindicate his claim to be worthy of such elaborate arrangements. But he knows what to expect from the committee; they are known and read among all open-air speakers, and these feel bound to make careful preparation. Our speaker, therefore, feels the stimulus of such an occasion, and ascends the platform under its power, and of course succeeds. The attention of his audience is rivetted from the first, he requires no forced jokes to attract their presence, and between speaker and audience the heartiest sympathy is manifest. They mark his points, and admire the beauty and wonder at the fertility of his illustrations, and applaud his eloquence to the very echo that doth applaud again. At the small meeting he made a double failure—failed to satisfy either his audience or himself; at the larger meeting his exertions culminated in a great oratorical triumph, in which the committee, no less than himself, had a share.

This is no fancy sketch—it is a pity that it is not. We could almost set down the names of those places where, if there is no change for the better, the same discouraging results will follow, and those other places where similar success may be expected. We will not. We hope that this summer there will be a heartier appreciation of open-air temperance advocacy, and that many a trophy will reward the efforts of those who engage in so laudable an enterprise.

In the hope and belief that there are many earnest temperance friends who would gladly be advised on the best way of making open-air meetings effective, we submit a general plan of arrangement which committees may adapt to suit their special circumstances, we believe that open-air meetings arranged for in harmony with it will rarely or ever fail. Of course as the weather is not under our control, we make our scheme quite independent of it.

When a talented speaker, or better still, a talented deputation, is invited or accepted, the arrangements should be, as nearly as possible, as follows:—

I. The meeting should be well advertised by posters, by drum, or by bell, and through the local newspaper.

II. The bills for the meeting should be widely posted, and a suitable tract left in every household in the district by the members of the Band of Hope.

III. If possible, the services of a choir should be obtained. Their programme should be confined to temperance songs.

IV. The reporters for the press should be invited to attend.

V. Let the meeting be held in the market or chief square, or some other equally conspicuous place, such as quay head or public park. A small movable platform, with a skeleton reading-desk, might gracefully supersede the antiquated kitchen chair. It might be large enough to hold a chair, which the chairman might occupy. The front might be formed of a board handsomely painted, and lettered with the name and objects of the society. If the platform was set out about two hours before the hour of meeting, it would attract and insure a large attendance.

VI. Let there be an attractive programme, speeches and music alternating.

VII. If the meeting is to be addressed by a deputation, three speeches of half an hour each will afford abundant material for thought. If there be one chief speaker, give him forty-five minutes; and the chairman's speech and another of fifteen minutes from a local celebrity will answer best.

VIII. Let there be at least fifty members of the society present at the opening of the meeting. This gives the meeting a standing at once.

IX. The secretary or a substitute should be present to take the names of any disposed there and then to take the pledge. He should furnish them with pledge cards at a moderate price.

Some friend should be enlisted to sell temperance literature; and should the speaker or the deputation bring literature to sell, the committee should pay them the graceful compliment of disposing of it for them, and settling up at the close of the proceedings.

We leave our subject and our scheme to the thoughtful consideration of our readers

“EVERY MAN IN HIS PLACE.”

THERE is a disposition on the part of the leaders of a movement to “rest and be thankful” after the achievement of a great victory and congratulate themselves upon their successful stratagems. This course would be all right were the enemy completely routed, every stronghold demolished, and all danger for the future averted.

We fear that many who distinguished themselves at the late parliamentary elections in connection with the temperance movement will be congratulating themselves upon the results obtained, and so far become satisfied that they will retire into the quiet of domestic life, forgetting that what has been done is simply the election of representatives to Parliament—to tabulate our strength, and place ourselves in a position to enter

upon one of the most glorious crusades the world ever witnessed. The old war cry, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon,” will have to be sounded throughout the temperance camp, and every true reformer must take his place and perform his duty to God, his country, and his fellows. It is only by determined and united action that our legislators will believe in our principles and policy. We expect those who have given their promise to vote on our side will be in their place, and do their duty, and they have an equal right to expect and demand that every temperance man will be in his place, and do his duty. Members of Parliament will only succeed when supported by temperance men outside. To retire at this critical juncture will be to betray our trust, weaken the powers of Members of Parliament, and play into the hands of the enemy. The traffickers have no idea of retiring from the field. They are formed into leagues and defence associations, and have proclaimed their policy in their *Guardian* “that with them it will be war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt.” Those who are time-servers—who veer round as the political, social, or ecclesiastical wind blows—who can accommodate themselves to any position or circumstance—who are able to bend or twist, ascend or descend just to suit the times, these persons had better retire, for the battle will be long and severe, and no quarter will be given to the enemy. Some cautious brother may remind us to be careful of our utterances and guarded in our movements. Another will offer the same advice as the town clerk at Ephesus, “Do nothing rashly.” To calm the fears of these timid souls, who are afraid of our revolutionary proclivities, we beg to say that we have no sympathy with mob-law or illegal measures; but we have sympathy with earnest, enthusiastic, devoted men. Do these cautious ones reason thus on any other subject? Some of them were running themselves almost out of breath the other day, to the astonishment of friends and foes, in their anxiety to secure the return of their favourite member to Parliament. Have they so soon outlived their usefulness that henceforth they are to be drags upon the wheels of our glorious car?

“Every man in his place” is the desideratum at the present time. Many persons hide themselves behind an organization, and by their membership and contributions believe they are doing all that is necessary for the overthrow of the liquor traffic. Their time and talents are employed in other directions, or they fritter away their precious lives in the pursuits of the pleasures of the world. Organizations are grand and powerful for consolidating and co-ordinating forces which might otherwise be incoherent and conflicting. But it is not numbers, influence, or wealth that is the strength of an organization, but the persistent efforts of each individual member.

SAMUEL HARDING.

Paisley.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

The march of the Temperance Reformation has given no clearer indication of its leavening power than that recently furnished by the *Times*. In writing on the general elections, past and present, it prints:—“One comforting circumstance is pretty sure—if business will be impeded for a fortnight throughout the kingdom, the whole land will not be a scene of bacchanalian riot. That was the necessary accompaniment of a general election of the old type. Respectable people in every town drew 'bated breath until all was over, for they knew that a carnival had come in, in which, by established usage, rogues were free to do as they liked. Moralists looked forward to such a time with sorrow and distress, for they knew that drunkenness and debauchery would abound, and that the country paid a heavy price for the privilege of self-government. It is some satisfaction to know that such fears are now impossible.” How has such a gratifying anticipation on the part of the *Times* become possible? Our readers, we think, will agree with our answer, which simply is, that the law has backed up the temperance conviction that such drunken rowdyism was a disgrace to our free institutions.

The recent report of the Inland Revenue Commissioners informs us that in Ireland not fewer than 6,048 of the licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors are six-day licenses. In this respect Ireland compares favourably with England, where for a population nearly five times greater, only 6,866 licenses were of that character. While we have always held that the mere number of licenses does not measure the drunkenness of a neighbourhood, we just as strongly hold that the prohibition of the facilities for the sale and consumption of alcoholics measure the extent of suppression. In Ireland we anticipated great results from Sunday prohibition, and these results are known to the intelligent everywhere. But there is an important point in connection with the legal limitation of these facilities—that is that the arguments of the prohibitionists become greatly modified. The facts and figures which they were able to place before the community when they first drew attention to the evil are not sustained. "The Trade" sets its house in order. Many measures dealing with one or other of the salient evils of the traffic become law, and were it not that public opinion is grounded on immutable right and moral obligation, it might happen that the agitation might die, just because the wrong connected with the traffic was so greatly redressed as to render it unnecessary to continue it against evils which had become apparently so trifling. Mankind, however, when an evil has reached such a restricted stage look upon it as they do upon the annoyance of a gnat, and crush it altogether.

The Rev. Mr. Wagstaff, of the *Temperance Worker*, who writes occasionally for the *Social Reformer*, draws attention to an important provident fact, namely, the great sum wasted by abstainers who are members of provident clubs or friendly societies. In the famous instance of the Streatham Forrester's Lodge, he shows that during the years 1869 to 1875, in a membership of 1,080 there were 264 abstainers. On summing up the respective shares of the abstaining and non-abstaining members' drawings for sick pay, it was found that the abstainers contributed £124 11s. 2d. more to sick pay than they would have required to do had all in the club been abstainers. If this applies to every similar club in the kingdom, and we have no doubt it will, the amount sacrificed by abstainers to the drinking customs must be enormous. As regards insurance offices the same must hold good also, so that if there is to be reform in this direction it cannot happen too soon. If our Sons of Temperance and our Rechabites had more enterprise they might greatly accelerate such a reform.

That was an extraordinary purchase by Dr. Brodie of Liberton, near Edinburgh, the other day. He bought three dozen of unfermented wine by auction. The wine bears the name of Kramer & Strauss, a Rhine firm, and is certified by Dr. Stevenson M'Adam as being the pure and genuine juice of the grape. Dr. N. S. Kerr certifies that it is a genuine, pure, high-class wine, and that it is the finest and pleasantest wine he ever tasted. This is truly gratifying intelligence. We need to have a standard foreign wine of this kind. If once the public could believe that a pure, genuine, non-alcoholic and at the same time nutritious wine was purchasable; and if once the medical faculty lent their influence in its favour, and recommended it to their patients, I venture to believe that the liking of Britons for "fortified" wines would cease, and that, happily for the country, alcoholic wine tasting, with all its delusion and all its boasting, would be soon one of the unregretted lost arts of the age.

The publican is the same all the world over—generally characterised by a burning desire to feather his own nest. In Dunedin recently, when times were bad, an enterprising member of the trade conceived the business-like idea of reducing the price of his drinks, and thus having a large business and small profits rather than a small business and large profits that came so seldom as to barely pay expenses. Conceive of the disgust of the trade. It was as strong at this member as it was when grocers took to selling liquors, or when Gilbey & Co. announced that they were going in for an honest trade. First they ignored our enterprising

friend; then they interviewed him, and were told to make the acquaintance of a certain gentleman who enjoys the hate and fear of the human race; then they asked the brewers to concuss him into the old prices; then they sulked, and said it would not do to sell four-penny drinks, forgetting that if it would not do the offender would soon have to stop. He is holding on, however; and though we cannot, and shall not, wish him success, yet his conduct lets in the light into that plundering of their customers which is so true of the liquor trade, which not only empties the purse, but often ruins both body and soul of their deluded customers.

It is about time that we had an amendment of the Poor Law, to the extent, at least, of popular election. The poor law guardians are not elected on proper grounds. They seem to be elected to grind the faces of the honest poor, and superintend the drifting scum of the liquor traffic. It was resolved the other day that the chairman of the Chesterfield Board of Guardians do sign a petition in favour of the Sunday closing of public-houses. A Mr. Linaere objected, as petitioning on such a subject was outwith the Board's consideration, but the Rev. Mr. Bolton reminded him that the public house question involved about three-quarters of the rates paid for the police and the poor. Just let each of 820 poor law boards in Scotland combine for the suppression of all traffic in alcoholic liquors, and with the consequent disappearance of the drink-caused pauper and the harshness of poor law administration, so far as the poor by the dispensation of providence is concerned, would pass away for ever.

"ONLY A GLASS OF CIDER."

It was only a glass of cider,
From the hands of a fair young girl!
How could he decline the kindness?
She would deem him a mannerless churl.
It was only a glass of cider,
But it kindled anew the flame
Which had burned up his noble manhood,
And left him in grief and shame.
He had broken away from the tempter;
He stood on the rock again;
No longer the penniless drunkard;
He stood a man among men,
When "only a glass of cider"
Threw open the gates again,
To a pathway of pain and sorrow—
To a death of hopeless pain.
MRS. E. J. RICHMOND, in *Our Union*.

"ON THE TOWERS OF LIFE."

BY REV. CHARLES WHEELER DENISON.
ON the towers of life, slow knelling,
Peals a solemn sound,
To the world in sadness telling
Of thousands in the cold, cold ground—
Telling of the hosts who perished
In the prime of day,
Hopes and joys once fondly cherished,
Swept like smoke away.
Peal, O mournful bells of childhood!
Peal the departed dear;
Yonder in the burial wild-wood
Sleep they many a year.
The tyrant of the cup betrayed them
With his cruel chains—
A pile of dust where pity laid them
All that now remains.
Life was theirs—its strength, its treasure,
Beaming bright and fair;
In the cup of sensual pleasure
They drank deep despair.
Near their tangled graves dark billows
Roll; death-murmurs by;
Dank above them weeping willows
For the lost ones sigh.

National Temperance Advocate.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, MAY, 1880.

* * We have been compelled to leave over our usual summaries and other matter, but hope to overtake arrears next issue.

ELECTION literature is strewing the country like snow flakes the surface of some solitary path. The financial portion is quite a feast for reflection. How severely the politicians, from Gladstone at the top to some mere retailer of financial statistics at the bottom, treat the Government of Lord Beaconsfield for entering office with a surplus of six millions and leaving it with a deficit of eight millions sterling. Mr. Lowe informs us that the Liberal Government took off thirteen millions of taxation, paid thirty millions of debt, and left its successors a legacy of six millions to spend as they pleased. All this they did with a revenue of not more than seventy-two millions. But the Beaconsfield Government have raised the expenditure to eighty-three millions a year, imposed taxation to the extent of twenty millions stg., and left to its successors a legacy of debt of fully eight millions stg. The contrast is striking and painful, but, after all, what is the Beaconsfield Government extravagance to the terrible misexpenditure on drink? Take the figures as they stand, and they may be stated thus:—Ten millions extra yearly, twenty millions debt, or $10 \times 6 + 20 = \text{£}80,000,000$, or not nearly two-thirds of Britain's yearly drink bill. The nation has been spending on an average one hundred and forty millions yearly during the same period, or $140 \times 6 = \text{£}840,000,000$. We have no opinion here on the Beaconsfield expenditure. It may be gross or it may be just, but when we compare it with the nation's drink misexpenditure and compare the loud cry against the one resounding through the land with the culpable silence on the other, we are reminded of the expressive text about "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

With one exception—that of Orkney and Shetland—the elections of members of Parliament for Scotland are all over. The most ardent friends of temperance amongst us could hardly have anticipated anything like the results which have been attained. The hostile representation of Scotland has been diminished to six votes, while the favourable representation has been increased from 32 to 46: showing an increase of no less than 15 votes on a division. While the support to local option can rely on 46 votes, or fully three-fourths of the total Scotch parliamentary vote, the votes of those opposed to that principle and those who are neutral, taken together, only amount to 14 votes, not a third of the number returned as favourable, and less than a fourth of the whole parliamentary representation of Scotland. The general prospects of the agitation

are exceedingly favourable: no less than about 250 active supporters and nearly 60 sympathisers being returned by the various constituencies in the three kingdoms to the new Parliament. If it has been possible to show progress in a Parliament under obligations to the intoxicating interest, what may not be expected from a Parliament pledged to peace retrenchment, and reform? We heartily congratulate the friends of the movement upon their arrival at the present advanced stage of the agitation, but we would at the same time urge upon them the necessity of continued efforts until the Government shall be compelled, by the growing power of their organized numbers, to enact a law calculated to suppress all traffic in those districts which show that a majority of the ratepayers and householders have decided against the sale of alcoholic liquors being longer carried on in their locality. That is our aim, that is only what can content us, and until we have that satisfaction there is no discharge from our patriotic warfare. We believe that the splendid results of the general election will nerve us all to yet greater labours until, at no distant day, our warfare shall be accomplished, and peace and plenty will shed their choicest blessings on our beloved people, no longer injured and endangered by either the sale or the consumption of alcoholic drugs.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE following resolutions have been adopted by the Executive of this Association:—

I.—That the Executive hail with feelings of profound satisfaction the gratifying results of the general election, which has terminated so signally in favour of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement as to justify the anticipation that special legislation for the evils of the liquor traffic in Scotland may be reasonably looked for from the Parliament now elected.

II.—That the Executive record their high appreciation of the efforts put forth by the various Scottish Temperance Organizations to promote the return of Parliamentary candidates favourable to Local Option; and tender them, and also all who individually laboured for the same end, their most grateful thanks for their invaluable services.

III. That the Executive, convinced that the substantial results to the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement accruing from the general election are due to vigorous efforts at electoral organization on the part of friends of that movement, would most earnestly urge the continuance of these efforts, so that in future electoral contests, only those candidates in full sympathy with their views may be returned to Parliament.

IV.—That the Executive cordially congratulate Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., upon his return to Parliament, and on the election of so many members

to the House of Commons pledged to support him in his philanthropic efforts to secure the passage of a law vesting ratepayers with the efficient control of the liquor traffic.

V.—That the Executive thankfully acknowledge the blessing of Almighty God on their labours, and record their deep conviction that he has been graciously pleased to overrule the recent general election for the present advantage and speedy triumph of the great temperance reformation.

ROBERT MACKAY, *Secy.*

30 Hope Street, Glasgow,
April, 1880.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE Scottish people are not aroused on frivolous pretexts. They have, on the contrary, laid themselves open on many occasions to the charges of stolidity and want of enthusiasm. When once they are aroused, they keep so a long time. During the political ferment, now at length at a close, they seem to have been at fever heat. They have scarcely had room in these capacious brains of theirs for aught save the general election, and I fear that even Sabbath, for which they have justly so great a regard, has not always been given up to the services of the sanctuary, to devout meditation, or to the catechising of the household. There is no disguising the fact that on some one or other of the byepast Sabbath days in Scotland, election intelligence was being circulated with the celerity and the vehemence which characterised "the fiery cross." They were terribly in earnest. Men on the verge of the grave crept to the polling booth, and died marking their ballot paper; the sick, the halt, the maimed were carried from their couches to record their votes; the very deaf and dumb exercised their franchise; the Jew, notwithstanding the great sanctity of the passover, came to the booth to add one vote at least to the great Liberal majority, the Gentile gladly marking his voting slip for him. Women wore party colours, the red and blue, or blue and buff, setting off the charms of many a pretty face, looking none the worse for the excitement that marked the play of their handsome and interesting features. The children were going about with party favours, in procession, with extemporised bands of musicians, whose discordant sounds might well be excused, seeing that even Handel himself might fail to draw harmony and melody from brass whistles, bones, and tin pans. The dogs themselves took sides. We have seen a dog painted red, and having to all appearance great pride in the distinction. At one of the polling booths, two dogs, whose masters happened to be on different sides, came to close quarters, and had at length to be separated by the police, not, however, until it was obvious that blue had come to grief. The mind of Scotland was fairly roused, her blood was fairly up, and a long time will elapse before the most memorable of general elections will be forgotten.

THE DISSOLUTION.

It is not in our province, and certainly far from our intention, to chronicle the conflict between Liberal and Conservative. We leave that to the party journals; the *Social Reformer* must not be involved in the complications or implications of party politicians. The appeal to the country came upon the country with something of a surprise; but as both parties had been expecting a dissolution for some time, they were not unprepared: both were looking forward to being called upon to express at the polling their verdict on the Beaconsfield administration. The Government supporters pointed to the compact majority which they could always command on a division, to the tone of the London press and to the bye-elections, which seemed on the whole in their favour. The Opposition maintained that the country and the Government were at variance on the latter's foreign policy, its neglect of domestic legislation, and financial extravagance. Yet

contrary to general expectation, the Parliament had been opened, and Her Majesty's speech led to the belief that there would be a busy session; but hardly had Her Majesty's faithful Commons set themselves earnestly to work, ere the Premier announced a dissolution. The ninth Parliament of our Sovereign Lady came therefore to a somewhat inglorious end. It has been said of it that it came in with beer, and that it has gone out with water. The verdict of the country, which Lord Beaconsfield asked for, has gone against him, and as we write, office and power are in the hands of the Liberals. We hope that that power will enable the new Government to deal vigorously with the evils of the liquor traffic.

AT THE DISSOLUTION.

It may interest our readers to be reminded of the attitude of honourable members representing Scotland at the dissolution. Scotland, for Parliamentary purposes, is divided into fifty-six constituencies. The counties return 32 members, the burghs 26, and the universities 2—total, 60 members. On 5th March last, one-half the county representation voted and paired on the Local Option resolution, 9 for and 7 against; 22 of the 26 burgh members voted for it, and not one against it; the universities gave 1 vote in favour, and none against it, so that we had 9 county and 22 burgh members, and 1 university member, being 32 in all in favour of Local Option; 7 county members voted against, and 1 university, 16 county and 4 burgh, members were absent. Of the 60 members at the dissolution, 11 retired, and, with one exception, did not seek re-election:—Lord Douglas Gordon, since elected for an English constituency; J. F. Leith, E. Jenkins, J. F. Harrison, J. Maitland, R. Vaas Agnew, R. Montgomerie, Captain J. Hope Johnston, Hon. W. Watson (Lord Advocate), Sir R. Anstruther, and E. Ellice. Our grateful wishes, which we firmly believe our readers share, go with Messrs. Leith, Jenkins, and Maitland on their retirement. Their services, both in Parliament and in the country will not be readily forgotten. As to those who opposed our movement, or stood aloof, and left its supporters to struggle on against the beer interest when they might have afforded valuable aid, we have frankly to express our gratification that the House of Commons, that knew them once, is to know them again no more.

There are those who have been rejected now to account for. We heartily rejoice that the Hon. R. B. Hamilton, Sir William Cunningham, Bart.; Sir G. G. Montgomery, Bart.; Sir W. Edmonstone, Bart.; and Mr. James Yeaman, have been, to use a sea phrase well known to the Admiral, condemned "to walk the plank." It must have added bitterness to their defeat to find how impotent the beer interest was on their behalf. Lord Dalkeith, Sir Wyndham Anstruther, Bart., and Colonel Moray, would not assist the interest of Local Option, although professing as ardent desires for its success as any of its adherents. They claimed, in short, to be temperance reformers, yet they did not think the sphere for showing their sympathy for it was the House of Commons. Well, let them use their enforced leisure in behalf of the great temperance reform; the harvest is truly great, and the labourers few. We express our hearty sorrow at the exclusion of Mark J. Stewart, C. Dalrymple, and Sir G. S. Douglas, who shared the general defeat of their party. They voted for us, and have a claim on our sympathy and regret. It will be seen then that 11 retired and 11 were rejected, making 22; 38 have been re-elected or returned unopposed. Four members have been returned with no change in their hostile attitude to Local Option; these are Lord Elcho, D. Cameron, R. W. Duff, and A. Orr Ewing. They are reinforced by Dr. Campbell and Sir H. Maxwell, the newly-elected members for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and Wigtownshire respectively. All told these will but fill a first-class railway carriage, and only amount to one-tenth of the Parliamentary representation of Scotland. There are also four representatives who meantime intend to maintain a neutral attitude:—Marquis of Stafford, Sir G. M. Grant, Bart., Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart.,

and Col. Alexander. Still these groups of retired, rejected, hostile, and neutral representatives only amount to the one-half of the representation. The other half, we rejoice to state, have been returned, some unopposed, the rest by considerable majorities. The following were unopposed:—Sir A. H. Gordon, Bart., D. M'Laren, J. Cowan, J. W. Barclay, C. F. M'Intosh, A. Grant, Rt. Hon. W. E. Baxter, W. Holms, A. Mathieson, and J. Pender. The solitary member who was, although hostile to Local Option, returned unopposed is R. W. Duff.

We welcome with pleasure the entrance of several new members whose views are in harmony with the objects of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Dr. Farquharson, representing West Aberdeenshire; Capt. Campbell of Craigie, the chosen of the Ayr burghs; E. Marjoribanks, for Berwickshire; T. Russell, for Buteshire; R. Jardine, for Dumfriesshire; F. Henderson and G. Armitstead, for Dundee; R. T. Middleton, for the City of Glasgow; J. Dick Peddie, for the Kilmarnock burghs; Capt. Maxwell, for the Stewartry; Major Hamilton, for South Lanarkshire; D. Currie, for Perthshire; Hon. A. Elliot, for Roxburghshire; S. Williamson, for the St. Andrew burghs; J. C. Bolton, for Stirlingshire; and J. M'Laren, for the Wigtown burghs.

We have to express our regret that a number of friends who would have gladly voted for us in Parliament, failed to succeed. There was J. W. Burns, who failed to oust A. O. Ewing, J. B. Balfour, who was unsuccessful in North Ayrshire; Viscount Dalrymple, who did not succeed in Wigtownshire; and his brother, the Hon. N. de C. Dalrymple, who was defeated in South Ayrshire; T. R. Buchanan, who did not succeed in Haddingtonshire; and the same has to be said of Sir T. M'Kenzie, who contested Inverness-shire. Mr. Cuthbertson owed it more to his politics than to Local Option that he is not the elected of the Kilmarnock Burghs, and this is what may be said of Sir James Bain, who failed to secure a seat for Glasgow.

We rejoice to add that all the 5 members of Mr. Gladstone's Government who held Scotch seats—Rt. Hon. W. E. Baxter, H. Campbell-Bannerman, M. E. G. Duff, Dr. Lyon Playfair, and G. O. Trevelyan, have been again returned.

One of the best features in this election was, to our mind, the number of constituencies where there was no local option issue before the electors, owing to both parties having brought forward local option candidates. The following constituencies were in this position:—Wigtown burghs, with J. M'Laren and Mr. J. Stewart; Kilmarnock burghs, with J. Dick Peddie and J. N. Cuthbertson; Buteshire, with T. Russell and C. Dalrymple; Roxburghshire, with Hon. A. Elliot and Sir G. S. Douglas; Falkirk burghs, with J. Ramsay and Capt. M'Aggart; Kincardineshire, with Sir G. Balfour, K.C.B., and D. Sinclair; Kirkcaldy burghs, with Sir G. Campbell and C. Scott; and Kirkcudbrightshire, with Capt. H. Maxwell and Murray Stewart. In these eight constituencies the publicans were ignored by the agents of both political parties, while the candidates were equally eager to represent the great drink prohibitory interest. This is as it should be, and as we firmly believe it will be, when our friends are prepared to assign the first place on their political programme to our question. It is highly important that when they are put to it, local optionists should make a vigorous and successful effort to return a candidate in favour of the local option veto; but it is supremely so that they should be victorious in any event by manifesting such numbers and organisations as will determine party agents to bring no candidate into the field who is adverse to, or unsympathetic with local option. Having all candidates right on their question, they can fight out the battle on any other issue they please, knowing that success will in any result perch upon their banners. These eight constituencies are, to our minds, the premier constituencies in the recent general election, and we hope will be an example which every constituency will be eager to follow.

We append a list of all the successful candidates for

Scotch Parliamentary seats with their attitude to the local option veto. (See next page.)

From a comparison with that table, and the tables recently published in the *Social Reformer*, the following summary is drawn. It appears that as regards honourable members there—

Retired,	5 F.	3 N.	and 3 O.	11
Rejected,	3	3	6	11
Elected, {	Unopposed, 10	3	1	14
	Opposed, 20	1	4	24
New Members,	16	4	2	22
New Parliament,	46	8	6	60

THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The *Alliance News* furnishes a gratifying list of members elected to the new Parliament, amounting to 248 honourable members, who will follow Sir Wilfrid Lawson to the lobby on the next division he takes on his Local Option Resolution. Of these 148 have already been there with him, and, having been returned, are prepared for a second excursion there. In addition to the 248 we have 57 who are in sympathy with the principle embodied in the resolution, making 305, or within 21 only of the half of the Commons Parliamentary representation.

THE PUBLICANS.

How does the publicans stand at this election? They do not stand—they have been overthrown. Their great chief, Mr. Wheelhouse, has been rejected by nearly 12,000 votes. No less than 80 of his followers, the friends of beer interest, bite the dust. Among them, all brewers, are:—S. C. Allsopp, Stafford East; Henry Allsopp, Worcester East; Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., Warrington; J. T. Agg Gardner, Cheltenham; Sir A. E. Guinness, Dublin City; A. W. Hall, Oxford; Pickering Phipps, Northampton; W. B. Simonds, Winchester; Daniel Thwaites, Blackburn; Robert Tennant, Peterborough; Edward Wells, Wallingford; T. K. Sanderson, Wakefield, maltster. The following failed to get seats:—G. H. Allsopp, Droitwich, brewer; H. Bell, Stockport, brewer; J. R. Haig, Blackmannan, distiller; F. Seager Hunt, Marylebone, brewer; A. G. Sandeman, Reading, wine merchant; W. H. Worthington, Tamworth, brewer, and many others.

The public press have been keen observers of the conduct of the "trade," and have weighed their influence with scrupulous exactness. The result is damaging to the "great" intoxicating interest. They put in the late Government, and never fowl cackled over its egg as they cackled over that political achievement, and despite the warnings of some of their best friends they tried their little game once more, and as it has proved once too often, the Press has set itself to examine into their real weight and influence, and it gives us pleasure to lay the opinions as to the result of one or two influential journals before our readers:—

Not the least satisfactory feature of this election is that the Liberals have triumphed in the teeth of the fiercest opposition of the publicans. There seemed at one time a danger of the political life of England being dominated by the influences which emanate from the pothouse. That fear no longer exists. The publicans have done their worst, and have been smitten hip and thigh. The Liberals will now be in a position to grapple firmly with the licensing and kindred questions.—*Christian World*.

THE PUBLICANS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

One thing is clear, and that is that the "interests" which affected to be "harrassed" in 1874, and still hold themselves aggrieved, have less influence on the popular vote than they seemed disposed to credit themselves with. It was confidently said that the publicans would control the elections, and that the publicans were on the side of the Conservatives. It is now clear either that the publicans were not united, or were not Conservative, or that they had far less influence than has hitherto been supposed. The fact is that interests, whether harrassed or not, are commonly weakened by division, even where they are not swamped in the numbers of those who do not share them, or do not care for them. A coalition of interests may control an

A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR SCOTCH PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, WITH THE ATTITUDE OF EACH TO THE LOCAL OPTION VETO.

CONSTITUENCY.	NAME.	PARTY.	ATTITUDE TO LOCAL OPTION.					CONSTITUENCY.	NAME.	PARTY.	ATTITUDE TO LOCAL OPTION.				
			L.	C.	F.	N.	O.				L.	C.	F.	N.	O.
							Brought over, - - -				27	4	22	6	3
Aberdeenshire, East, - - -	Gen. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.B., -	1	...	1			Haddingtonshire, - - -	Lord Elcho, - - -	- - -	...	1	...	...	...	1
Aberdeenshire, West, - - -	Dr. Farquharson, - - -	1	...	1			Haddington District, - - -	Sir D. Wedderburn, Bart., - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Aberdeen,</i> - - -	John Webster, - - -	1	...	...	1		<i>Hawick District,</i> - - -	G. O. Trevelyan, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Argyllshire, - - -	Lord Colin Campbell, - - -	1	...	1			Inverness-shire, - - -	D. Cameron, - - -	- - -	...	1	...	...	...	1
Ayrshire, North, - - -	R. W. Cochrane-Patrick, - - -	...	1	...	1		<i>Inverness District,</i> - - -	C. Fraser-M'Intosh, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Ayrshire, South, - - -	Colonel Alexander, - - -	...	1	...	1		<i>Kilmarnock District,</i> - - -	J. Dick Peddie, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Ayr District,</i> - - -	R. F. F. Campbell, - - -	1	...	...	1		Kincardineshire, - - -	Sir G. Balfour, K.C.B., - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Banffshire, - - -	R. W. Duff, - - -	1	...	...	...	1	<i>Kirkcaldy District,</i> - - -	Sir G. Campbell, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Berwickshire, - - -	E. Marjoribanks, - - -	1	...	1			Kirkcudbrightshire, - - -	Captain H. Maxwell, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Buteshire, - - -	T. Russell, - - -	1	...	1			Lanarkshire, North, - - -	Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart., - - -	- - -	1	...	...	1		
Caithness-shire, - - -	Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, - - -	1	...	1			Lanarkshire, South, - - -	Major Hamilton, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Clackmannan and Kinross, - - -	Right Hon. W. P. Adam, - - -	1	...	...	1		<i>Leith District,</i> - - -	Andrew Grant, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Dumbartonshire, - - -	A. Orr Ewing, - - -	...	1	...	...	1	Linlithgowshire, - - -	P. M'Lagan, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Dumfriesshire, - - -	R. Jardine, - - -	1	...	1			<i>Montrose District,</i> - - -	Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Dumfries District,</i> - - -	Ernest Noel, - - -	1	...	1			<i>Paisley,</i> - - -	W. Holms, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Dundee,</i> - - -	F. Henderson, - - -	1	...	1			Peebles and Selkirkshires, - - -	Charles Tennant, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
	E. Armitstead, - - -	1	...	1			Perthshire, - - -	Donald Currie, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Edinburghshire, - - -	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, - - -	1	...	...	1		<i>Perth,</i> - - -	C. S. Parker, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Edinburgh,</i> - - -	D. M'Laren, - - -	1	...	1			Renfrewshire, - - -	Colonel Mure, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
	J. Cowan, - - -	1	...	1			Ross and Cromartyshires, - - -	A. Mathieson, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Edin. & St. Andrews Universities, - - -	Dr. Lyon Playfair, - - -	1	...	1			Roxburghshire, - - -	Hon. A. Elliot, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Elgin and Nairnshires, - - -	Sir G. M. Grant, - - -	1	...	...	1		<i>St. Andrews District,</i> - - -	S. Williamson, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Elgin District,</i> - - -	M. E. G. Duff, - - -	1	...	1			Stirlingshire, - - -	J. C. Bolton, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Falkirk District,</i> - - -	J. Ramsay, - - -	1	...	1			<i>Stirling District,</i> - - -	H. Campbell-Bannerman, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
Fifeshire, - - -	Hon. E. Preston Bruce, - - -	1	...	1			Sutherlandshire, - - -	Marquess of Stafford, - - -	- - -	1	...	...	1		
Forfarshire, - - -	J. W. Barclay, - - -	1	...	1			<i>Wick District,</i> - - -	J. Pender, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
	G. Anderson, - - -	1	...	1			<i>Wigtown District,</i> - - -	J. M'Laren, - - -	- - -	1	...	1			
<i>Glasgow,</i> - - -	Dr. Cameron, - - -	1	...	1			Wigtownshire, - - -	Sir H. Maxwell - - -	- - -	...	1	...	...	1	
	R. T. Middleton, - - -	1	...	1						52	7	45	8	6	
Glasgow & Aberdeen Universities, - - -	Dr. Campbell, - - -	...	1	...	...	1				1	...	1			
<i>Greenock,</i> - - -	J. Stewart, - - -	1	...	1			Orkney and Shetland,* - - -	Samuel Laing, - - -	- - -	...	...	...	...	...
Carry over, - - -		27	4	22	6	3		Total, - - -	- - -	53	7	46	8	6	

* * Burghs are printed in Italics.

* The polling in Orkney and Shetland was fixed for 26th and 27th. The result was not to hand at the time of our going to press : we are so certain of the return of Mr. Laing that we have included him in our List.

election, but a single interest, even that of the publicans, is clearly much less formidable than it claims to be. All reasonable men must rejoice that this should be the case. A publican's vote in itself is, of course, as good as that of any other citizen, whether it is given on one side or the other; but if it is given in defence of a supposed interest, and irrespective of political sympathies, it is not amiss that he who gives it should learn that, however powerful his class may be, the people at large is more powerful than any class whatever.—*Times*, April 5.

The friends of the temperance cause, for example, are largely reinforced in the new House of Commons, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson will have no mean following in future at his back. It is calculated that very nearly one-half of the members elected on this occasion are favourable to the principle of Local Option. The brewing interest, on the other hand, has sustained about as grave a repulse at the polling booth as the fighting interest. The "three jolly Allsopps," whom Mr. Gladstone has immortalised, have all disappeared into obscurity, in company with Sir Arthur Guinness, the prince of Dublin brewers; Sir G. Greenall, of Warrington; Mr. Daniel Thwaites, of Blackburn; and that voluble advocate of the interests of "the trade," Mr. Wheelhouse, of Leeds. Never, probably, has a greater mistake been made by those who pretend to gauge the temper of the nation by the feeling of a section of the people of London than when they came to the conclusion that the country would submit to be dictated to by the beer interest. Jingo was a bad pilot to be guided by, but Bang was still worse, and when the two allied their forces their overthrow was only a question of time and opportunity.—*North British Daily Mail*.

THE LIQUOR TRADE AND THE ELECTIONS.

The officials of the liquor trade are anxious to explain their recent action, and to deprecate any restrictive legislative action. Mr. Copeman, of the Beer and Wine Trade Defence Association, protests that they did not blindly advise an undivided support to the Conservative party, and that if the prominent leaders of the Liberal party will discountenance fresh onslaughts upon "the trade," they will be glad to get rid of the necessity for combining in electoral matters. Mr. George Candlet, the Parliamentary agent of the Licensed Victuallers' National Defence League, who certainly did much in some northern towns to restrain "the trade" from doing as they did in London, also comes forward to make it appear that "the trade" combination was not nearly so general as the public suppose. He points to Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's letter of advice to the publicans, which advice he declared was largely adopted and acted upon, and he ventures to hope that the Liberal party will avoid legislation of an extreme and hostile character. We gladly note the sobered tone of the official representatives of the trade. When Mr. E. Clarke, ex-M.P. for Southwark, was returned, the licensed victuallers exulted over it as a trade victory. They threatened to produce like results in every metropolitan constituency. They met in each burgh some hundreds strong, and in every case they resolved to use their utmost exertions in support of the Tory candidates, though, as in Hackney and Finsbury there were only single Tory candidates, they were sufficiently impartial to determine which of the two Liberal candidates should be allowed to occupy the second seat. They did their worst and they failed. We doubt if there were fifty public-houses or beer shops in all London that even exhibited a Liberal placard. In most of the principal constituencies the great majority of the trade went for the Tories. The trade staked everything upon the success of the Tories, and the Tories have failed. We warned them against this months ago.—*The Echo*.

N.B.—We would venture to suggest to our readers that they carefully look over the Advertising Columns of the *Social Reformer* month by month. We believe these will repay a careful examination, as many excellent articles are always being offered through them to their notice.

INTELLIGENCE.

AN AID TO TEMPERANCE.—249 of the 1,009 members who joined the Victoria Assurance Society have joined its temperance section.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS' ACT.—The Gloucester Quarter Sessions granted a license to a retreat for habitual drunkards at Stroud last month. This is the first license of the kind granted.

A bill to provide for levying a £1 license on tobacconists for the closing of their shops on Sunday has been laid before the St. Heliers' States, Jersey. Will the English Chancellor of the Exchequer take the hint about the license duty?

SCOTTISH RAILWAYS TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The first annual soiree of this Society took place in Glasgow on 26th March, under the presidency of Mr. John McGavin, and was a great success. Two hundred and forty members had been enrolled, inclusive of 46 clerks, 33 engine-drivers, 25 firemen, 15 station-masters, 16 porters, 8 signalmen, 6 pointsmen, and 6 goods guards.

TEMPERANCE BEVERAGES.—The principal of the laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department believes that there is a growing demand for these drinks, but does not think that they will ever come into anything like general use. Perhaps that is because there is nothing in them to create thirst, which is the secret of the popularity and success of alcoholic liquors.

"THE SOCIAL REFORMER." Glasgow: R. Mackay, 30 Hope Street.—This monthly number concludes the fourteenth volume of this publication. It is well conducted in every respect, and the promoters of the temperance cause have in it a most faithful organ. We observe from an article in it that there are nine parishes in the Stewartry where the liquor traffic in the shape of a public-house does not exist.—*Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*.

DECREASE IN LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.—It seems that bad times and temperance combined are decreasing the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors. The following information will gratify our readers:—There was a decrease in spirits of 1,422,064 gallons, a decrease of 897,786 gallons of foreign spirits, a decrease of 1,327,202 gallons of foreign wines, and a decrease of 7,323,467 bushels of malt, or of 14,646,934 barrels of beer in 1879, as compared with 1878. This is good news.

THE LICENSING COURTS.—The Spring Licensing Sessions took place last month. There was the same diversity of action. In some places there was a decrease. This appears to have been the case in Greenock, Aberdeen, Forfar, Hamilton, Hawick, Irvine, &c. In most other places the number of licenses are about the same, or there is a slight increase. Those who have faith in the Licensing Magistrates becoming temperance reformers should have had their faith shaken as year by year nothing materially is done in the way of reduction.

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—Messrs. S. Finlayson and J. Spence have been holding largely attended meetings, under the auspices of the League, in South Uist, Beubecla, and North Uist. Much good is expected to result from these meetings. The temperance movement is in a most flourishing state in North Uist, where Mr. Donald Stewart, evangelist, one of the directors of the League, labours with much success. Between 300 and 400 persons are said to have signed the pledge. There are also very encouraging signs of spiritual growth under Mr. Stewart's preaching.—*Ross-shire Journal*.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD'S COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE AND PUBLIC MORALS.—1. That, in the judgment of the Committee it is the duty of the members of the church, in view of a General Election, to ascertain the opinion of candidates on such measures as may tend to abate the evils of intemperance, from which the country is suffering to a lamentable extent, and to support the candidates favourable to such measures. 2. That, while admit-

ting the importance and desirableness of proposals for amending the liquor laws and conferring on the ratepayers a greater measure of control over the whole licensing system, the Committee is desirous of fixing the earnest attention of the church on two practical measures, which, in their opinion, may be secured through the hearty co-operation of temperance reformers. These are the closing of public-houses at an hour earlier than eleven o'clock P.M.—say ten o'clock meantime—and the extension to England and Wales of a Sunday Closing Act. 3. That, in the matter of the "Contagious Diseases Acts (Women)" of 1866 and 1869, the only proposal that can be entertained by the church is total and immediate repeal, and on this ground the Committee recommends that prudent measures should be taken for securing the election of members of Parliament favourable to the repeal of said Acts.—By order of Committee, JOHN RANKINE, Convener. United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh, March 24th, 1880.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S LATEST.—"He had nothing whatever to say to his Tory competitor, Mr. Mattinson. He hoped they would give him a fair hearing; he is an able and rising young man. He (Sir Wilfrid) had been told that he has a legitimate and laudable aspiration some day to attain to the woolsack. (Laughter.) His advice to those that listened to him was to let him go somewhere else for his wool and you the electors of Carlisle can give him the sack." (Much laughter and loud cheers.) They did that right heartily by putting him at the bottom of the poll, the numbers being—Ferguson, 2,802; Lawson, 2,691; Mattinson, 1,968.

LICENSING DIFFICULTIES.—Baillie Scott, as senior magistrate of Glasgow, presided at the Licensing Sessions there on 13th ultimo, and thus tersely summed up the work that had to be done:—The court would then adjourn for a week, and the parties who would be desired to be then present would be warned by the police. The adjourned cases would include persons who already held licenses and had applied for other licensed houses; of that class there were 5 public-houses and 1 grocer—6 in all. Of presently unlicensed applicants for licensed houses there were 47—2 hotels, 32 public-houses, and 13 grocers. There were also 6 public-house dealers and 2 grocers to be dealt with, who had been fined. Besides there were a great many who came under the miscellaneous category—those who had received permission, or been instructed to make alterations on their premises; those who had made alterations without permission; those who had a door or doors to their premises without permission; those who had badly conducted their business, although they had not been convicted; those who were intemperate, and who should not be licensed to conduct spirit-dealing licenses; those hotel-keepers who had not conducted their business properly on the Sundays, though no convictions had been obtained; those who kept objectionable "free and easies," and who had rooms unfit for accommodation of a number of persons; those who kept billiard-tables, and the conduct of whose houses was objectionable; and those who had received intimation from the Procurator-Fiscal that intoxicated persons had been seen leaving their premises.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE AT THE CITY HALL, GLASGOW.—On Saturday, the 10th ultimo, the Glasgow Abstainers' Union concert was under the immediate patronage of this distinguished Scotchman, and was crowded in every part. Mr. Lindsay, the president, having appropriately introduced him, he was, on rising, loudly cheered. Silence being restored, he said:—I came here because I don't like to be out of the element of Scottish song. Neither have I any objection to the element of cold water. Whether taken inside, as by total abstainers, or outside, I believe it to be most healthy, a most strengthening, and a most robust institution. (Laughter and cheers.) But I am not here to say anything about total abstainers. I can only say I have a great admiration for all who practice that transcendental virtue—(hear, hear)—though I am too weak and too human to practice it myself. I may say,

however, it is a most orthodox virtue, and founded upon that text—"If thy right eye offend thee pluck it out and cast it from thee, and if thy right hand offend thee, pluck it off and cast it from thee; it is better to lose your one eye and one hand than that your whole body should be cast into hell fire." Now, I say nothing more utterly ruins both soul and body than drink—(cheers)—and it is far better to deny yourself wine, or a thousand other things, than fall a victim to that most beastly of all beastly and truly contemptible vices which is the disgrace of Scotland. (Great cheering.)

RIGHT HON. MR. GLADSTONE ON LOCAL OPTION.—Great dissatisfaction was felt by certain earnest Prohibitionists in Midlothian with the right hon. gentleman's speech. The result was a meeting on 31st March, when it was decided to memorialize him on his attitude to local option, and meanwhile recommend him to the vote and support of the electors. The memorial is a somewhat lengthy document, but we reproduce the following most pertinent portion:—"Without entering into details, may I ask you to say whether you would promote or support such a provision as the appointment of county boards, embracing representations of the ratepayers who should be entrusted with the necessary power for enabling them to deal effectively with the liquor traffic. May I request the favour of a reply at your earliest convenience.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"JAMES BUCHANAN, Chairman.

"To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone."

The following is Mr. Gladstone's reply:—

"Dalmany Park, Edinburgh, April 2, 1880.

"Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your considerate letter. You will I am sure bear in mind my declaration in November at Dalkeith, covering all questions alike, without special reference to any, that I could give no pledges as to what I should do, without knowing the circumstances under which I might be called upon to do it; but could only state the principles on which I should proceed, and point by way of interpretation to acts which I had done. In the important instance of the subject you bring before me, I adhere, without qualification, to my declaration at Dalkeith, and to show that I have no aversion to legislative provision for granting under suitable considerations a control in inhabitants over the action of the liquor laws, I point unhesitatingly to the bill introduced by Mr. Bruce, now Lord Aberdare, on behalf of the late Cabinet, and therefore on my behalf. As to the particular form of applying a principle, I must, of course, take advantage of all experience since obtained, but as to the principle itself I think you will find this reference perfectly unequivocal.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"W. E. GLADSTONE.

"To James Buchanan, Esq."

This letter was immediately submitted to the friends, who, after consideration, accepted it as satisfactory, and resolved that Mr. Gladstone should now receive the undivided support of the temperance party, and Mr. J. H. Waterston was instructed at once to visit the various districts of the county, so as to secure early and united action. The polling took place on Monday—our friends all over working with a will. The result was as follows:—

Gladstone,	1,579
Dalkeith,	1,368

Majority for Gladstone, ... 211

A QUERY.—What is it that has three feet but no legs, is all body but no limbs, has no toes on its feet, no head, moves a great deal, but never uses its feet for the purpose, has one foot at each end and the other in the centre of its body? This is a queer creature in some respects, and is very popular with all the ladies, and some men. It never walks out, but goes with one foot where its head might be, dragging the farther end behind. These feet have nails but no toes, no heels and no bones in the foot? A yard measure.

PUBLIC PRESS.

The Rev. J. Colwell states that he began his work as a Wesleyan minister at Ashton. He entered the ministry not as an abstainer but as one of those more respectable individuals—a moderate drinker—but the moment he became engaged in his work in this district he found it was impossible for him to do it consistently and effectually without washing his hands of all participation in the drinking customs of the country, and before he had been in this circuit six months he signed the temperance pledge, and had kept it from that time until now. (Cheers.)

The great curse of the drinking habits of our people is the havoc they make with homes. They make a husband's arm a weapon to strike instead of a shield to protect, and a father's knee a place for outraged purity to shun instead of a throne for happy infancy to climb. They destroy the sweet relationships of life and make women into widows while their husbands live, and children orphans though their sires survive. Every movement to make and keep men sober is a demonstration to drown the yell of the beast in the voice that is human, and to bring back its sanctity to the altar, its beauty to the home, her joy to the wife, her support to the mother, its hope to the child, his truth to the husband, his love to the father, and his honour to the man.—*From Arthur Mursell's Lecture on "Cups and Saucers."*

THE REVENUE RETURNS AND THE BUDGET.—The remarks of the *Daily News* on the temperance phase are worthy of remembrance. One great falling off in revenue will be read of with various feelings by different classes of persons. The income derived from the duty on spirits has been greatly reduced. It is probable that the reduction is partly owing to the general depression among the employing classes, and the consequent distress among the employed. But we may surely hope also, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested, that it is in some manner to be attributed to the growth of habits of sobriety. This would seem to be the more probable, seeing that, although the returns from the malt duty have fallen off, there has been no decrease in the consumption of tea and coffee. We do not wish to appear sanguine, but it does perhaps appear not wholly impossible that a time may be coming when it will be less necessary to quarrel over Permissive Bills, and to endeavour to define the meaning of Local Option. Lord Derby said that we drank ourselves out of the Alabama difficulty. The increase in the spirit duties soon paid off the claims. We have not drunk ourselves out of the cost of the Zulu War. That expense remains to be met out of other sources. The *Morning Advertiser*, which is the special organ of the licensed victuallers, makes the following remarks on the subject of the Grocers' Wine and Spirit Bill, as quoted in the case of the death of the late Fanny M'Lean:—"These figures speak for themselves. This we do not hesitate to say, that private drinking, which has been stimulated to an enormous extent by the facilities afforded by the grocers' licenses, and which is now absolutely unchecked, that calls most loudly for more perfect regulations; and these it is in Lord Hartington's power to aid in passing through Parliament without damaging a trade, and with great advantage to the public."

ON CANVASSING.—The *Saturday Review*, on writing down this political mode, prints:—"Another difficulty to be contended with, and one against which it will be well to be prepared, is the man with a crotchet. He is a teetotaler, or an anti-vaccinator, or flogging in the army is his particular antipathy, and upon one or other of these hobbies his entire political energies are concentrated. Your feeble protestations in favour of temperance, or your general declarations against persecution and cruelty, serve rather to excite than appease him. He will have a pledge or nothing; he demands the immediate suppression of the class or practice to which he objects, and unless you are prepared to join him in a Parliamentary crusade against publicans, or doctors, or the cat, your eloquent remarks on Imperial interests and European policy are wholly lost."

AN ILLUSTRATION.—A working-man at Manchester recently made a very effective temperance address in the public square. In his hands he held a loaf of bread and a knife. The loaf of bread represented the wages of the working-man. After a few introductory remarks he cut off a moderate slice. "This," he said, "is what you give to the city government;" then, with a vigorous flourish of his carving-knife, he cut off three-quarters of the whole loaf. "This," he said, "you give to the brewer." By this time only a thin slice remained. He set aside the greater portion of this to the "Public House," and left only a few crumbs; "and this you keep to support yourselves and your family."—*Advance.*

AN UNERRING MARKSMAN.—"Whisky never misses fire," said a man to us the other day. No; it never does. It is sure to bring down its victim sooner or later, whether he be high or low in the social or intellectual scale. And fluttering all about him will always be the wounded hearts of mother, father, wife, children, sisters, brothers, and friends, while behind and beyond all this is too often a trail of ruined virtue and contaminating influences. At least six hearts on an average carry a life-long, overshadowing, dreary sorrow for every victim alcohol brings down. The undertone of all family and social life is largely silent sorrow and dreary heartache over the victims of alcohol. No; whisky never misses fire, never.—*Advance.*

A JUDGE'S OPINION.—The *Emerson (Manitoba) News* of the 13th March says—"Chief-Justice Wood would make a good temperance lecturer. In his charge to the Grand Jury he said—"I shall not dwell upon the evils flowing from the use of intoxicating liquors. It has destroyed—is destroying—more lives than war, pestilence, and famine. It not only shatters the casket, it destroys the jewel within. It kills beyond the tomb! The slimy trail of the serpent may be traced even over the virgin soil of Manitoba. It not only disrobes its victims of manhood, but demoralises and brutalises his whole nature. It casts over the land a dark and sinister shadow, it spreads over the face of the country a dark flood, on the turbid bosom of which float in wild confusion, ruined fortunes, wrecked hopes, blasted reputations, bursting sighs, and broken hearts."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD WEIGH.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

SIR,—We are told that as often as a jug is taken to the public-house to carry a pint of beer home, twopence is spent. Twopence a day in a year amounts to £3 6s. 10d., which, with compound interest, would in twenty years come to £100 6s. If the jug is filled twice a day with a pint of beer, fourpence is spent. Fourpence a day is equal to £6 1s. 8d. a year, which, with interest, would in twenty years amount to £200 12s. But supposing that the jug is sent three times a day for a pint of beer, costing twopence each visit, we are told that the 6d. a day would amount to £9 2s. 6d. a year, which, in twenty years, would reach, with compound interest, to £300 18s. This sum would buy many a working man a tidy two-room-and-kitchen house to stay in. This is a good economical argument, but it might easily be met in England, though rarely in Scotland, by the statement that, though costly, beer was indispensable to the health and comfort of the drinker. Now, let me add to this argument a consideration that should weigh with the drinker. If he reflected that every time he drinks his pint of table-beer he pours a teaspoonful of poisonous spirit into his blood; that every time he drank a pint of ale he pours two tablespoonfuls of alcohol into his blood; that every time he consumes four glasses of "fortified" wine, he pours one glass of alcoholic poison

into his blood; that every time he takes two glasses of rum, brandy, or gin into his system, he is simply contaminating his blood with a glassful of alcohol—he must feel, if the instinct of self-preservation belongs to him, that he is in danger of doing an irretrievable injury to his frame, so fearfully and wonderfully made. These are the considerations that should weigh, and will weigh, with every man and woman of judgment. The drink, whether ignorantly or deliberately partaken, will work according to its own laws, and the mode of its operation is always tending to the injury and, if persisted in, to the destruction of the subject of its action. He who persists, in the light of its nature, which is in the present day so clear and so greatly diffused, sins against his own soul, and the soul that sinneth it shall die.—I am, &c.,

MELIORA.

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

(To the Editor of the Social Reformer.)

360 DUMBARTON ROAD,
GLASGOW, April 16th, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—At our first quarterly business meeting we shall, funds permitting, engage one or two Gaelic-speaking lecturers. This is absolutely necessary if Highlanders are to have the benefit and blessing of temperance. I regret to say, however, that our funds are anything but encouraging; but believing that many friends of the good cause in which we are engaged need only a hint, we appeal to such to aid us financially, so that we may be enabled to prosecute the work with energy and success. Apologizing for thus troubling you, I am, yours faithfully,

S. FINLAYSON, Secy.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1880.*

THE following meetings have been addressed by the representatives of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 15th Feb. to 10th April inclusive. During that period 136 meetings took place—19 being deputational and 117 ordinary. At these meetings 176 addresses were given.

The following is a summary of each speaker's work: Mr. William Blackwood has been at Lerwick, Kirkwall, Inverness, Aberdeen, Gourdon, and Stonehaven, and delivered 34 addresses.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has been at Stow, Melrose, Denholm, Edinburgh, Leith, Dunse, Kinross, Milnathort, Darnick, Hawick, Langholm, Polmont, Avonbridge, Gorebridge, and Selkirk, and delivered 33 addresses.

Mr. R. Stevenson has been at Lanark, Cumbernauld, Mearns, Paisley, Largs, Glasgow, Cardsyke, Stenhousemuir, Dailly, Maybole, Girvan, and Hamilton, and delivered 27 addresses.

Mr. R. Dransfield has been at Largs, Campbeltown, Glasgow, and Paisley, and delivered 17 addresses.

Mr. Charles Bent has been at Kilsyth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Barrhead, Campbeltown, and Bonhill, and delivered 14 addresses.

Mr. R. Mackay has delivered 10 addresses in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Greenock.

James Torrens, Esq., J.P., has given 5 addresses in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Kinross.

Baillie Selkirk has given 4 addresses in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Kinross.

Mr. James Winning has given 2 addresses in Aberdeen.

Captain Brochie has given 2 addresses at Hamilton and Greenock.

Mr. R. Adams has given 2 addresses in Aberdeen.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has given 2 addresses in Glasgow.

The following gentlemen have each delivered one address in the places following their names:—John M'Donald, James Paterson, David Burge, Wm. Clark—Aberdeen; R. C. Murray, ex-Provost Lyle, Tainsh, Henderson, and Miller—Greenock; Rev. Drs. Adamson, Ritchie, and Stewart—Dunse; John Paton, Dollar; Gilbert Archer, Leith; Rev. A. Yeatts, Lerwick; Rev. Mr. Rose, Dr. Bowie, and J. P. Lossock—Edinburgh; Rev. Wm. Crombie and Peter Campbell, Darnick; Dr. Bruce and R. M'Callum, Glasgow; John Steel, Liberton; Rev. H. M'Millan and J. Melvin, Avonbridge.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for REVIEW, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

A Penny Testament: Mr. Elliot Stock is about to issue a pocket English Testament, with copious notes, references, and introductions, three maps, and twenty-four illustrations, for one penny. The object of the issue of the Sacred Book at this exceptionally low price is to give Christian people the opportunity of circulating the Word of God throughout the length and breadth of the land at the slightest possible cost.

Alcohol at the Bar: The Highest Medical and Scientific Testimony concerning its Use. (Compiled by G. W. Bacon, F.R.G.S.) London: G. W. Bacon & Co., 127 Strand. One Shilling. This is an admirable compilation. It consists of Eighteen Chapters, and refers to Alcohol as food, as medicine, as a luxury, and shows its relation to manual labour, brain work, longevity, and legislation. We cordially recommend it.

Told with a Purpose: Temperance Papers for the People. (By Rev. James Yeames.) London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. One Shilling. We have here twelve stories, of which it may be emphatically written, that better practical ones are not to be had. Graphic, brief, incisive, they will afford pleasure and instruction to all who provide themselves with a copy. Each story is illustrated by a spirited engraving, and in get up, in blue and gold, the book is a gem.

Who shall be England's Leader? (By a Cornish Woman, author of *Peace or War*, etc.) London: E. Stock, 62 Paternoster Row, E.C. One Penny. One of the main arguments on which we base our favour for the removal of the disabilities of women is our conviction that they would devote the exercise of their franchise to the protection of their homes from drink, and of their country from war. We have just an excellent instance in the lady's tract before us. Her tract is not a piece of mere declamation. She is intelligent upon her subject. She draws attention to the great fact that at present "the peace armies of Europe number two millions of men, five times the largest army Imperial Rome ever maintained. Already the expenditure exceeds £120,000,000, without counting loss of labour. Wise statesmen could cover Europe with railways, or make enlightenment universal, or extinguish the horrors of pauperism for the cost of the armies only." On this she pertinently remarks: "It is the special aggravation of this new waste of human energies that it is interminable, that it settles nothing finally, that the consequences of war is not peace, but a condition of further preparation, in which victory or defeat alike are used as agents for further preparation." A finer appeal in favour of Christ and His loving law, as who should lead England, has never come under our notice.

The Onward Reciter, 103, April, 1880. (London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row.) One penny. As usual, excellent in its choice of subject. The present issue will bear comparison with all that have gone before it.

Intemperance and the Licensing System: By Alex. Balfour, Liverpool. In this pamphlet Mr. Balfour confines himself to the point that alcohol should only be vended after taking all reasonable guarantees against its abuse; and the reason is that the article is dangerous alike to the welfare of the individual and to society. Well, he proceeds to discuss what these guarantees should be. He generally desires a reform of the licensing laws on the principle of local and imperial control. He would allow the ratepayers to control the traffic and set the state to oversee them in the doing of it. To anyone wishful of having a sound view of the numerous proposals which are competing for public favour with the local option of Sir Wilfrid Lawson we cordially recommend this pamphlet.

Peeps at our Sunday Schools. (By the Rev. Alfred Taylor.) London: F. E. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. Price, Two Shillings. Our first motion after reading over this keenly interesting book was to sigh because that we were a Sabbath School superintendent long before we had the pleasure of meeting with such a delightful monitor. We have here a series of twenty peeps at our Sunday Schools, and nothing like them has ever come under our notice. Mr. Taylor lets us peep at various Sunday Schools—the parsimonious, high pressure, gloomy, hotel, frost-bitten, inharmonious, sunshiny, and other Sunday Schools, and never scalpel laid so bare the object of dissection as he does the defects of our average Sunday Schools. There is no bitterness whatever displayed, however, rather a quiet vein of humorous sarcasm pervades the book. A wise superintendent would never feel rebuke in reading it, rather be incited at once to reform altogether whatever has been shown by Mr. Taylor to be amiss. We congratulate Mr. Taylor on the issue of a most indispensable mirror for Sunday School teachers, and we urge all earnest ones to possess themselves of *Peeps at our Sunday Schools* without delay. Mr. Longley deserves a word of praise for the tasteful form in which the book appears.

Alcohol: Its Function and Place. A Lecture. (By Thos. R. Fraser, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of *Materia Medica* in the University of Edinburgh.) Edinburgh: D. Douglas. One Shilling. The occasion of the delivery of this lecture was an invitation from the Edinburgh University Temperance Society to the learned Professor. The result has been a double mistake. The lecturer did not know that the Society was one having total abstinence as its object, and the Committee have adopted Temperance, without reflecting that their opponents lower the word to mean a moderate-governed use of a seductive poison. The lecturer frankly avows that he is not an abstainer, but is equally candid in acknowledging that that is a serious blot in his character. He, however, recognises the evils of immoderation, and he assumes that his greater knowledge of that which the members shun might justify him in venturing to address them. Professor Fraser, after informing us that there are many symptoms of alcoholic disturbance, and that the explanation of each symptom may be found in a number of possible actions of alcohol, goes on to show that these apparent various actions may be eliminated till the real cause of the symptom is disclosed. He gives an instance, that of the remarkable power of alcohol to modify the ability to walk steadily—the motor function of the individual. "This impairment of motor function is the result of any one of at least five possible and different actions—an action upon the sensory nerves, upon the spinal cord, upon the brain, upon the organ of seeing or hearing." Now we are not too curious about these fine distinctions. It is sufficient, we think, for reasonable people to know that the action of alcohol is the cause of impaired function, and that being the case, total abstinence from its use ought to follow. He says if it were an action on the brain: we say there is no if in the investigation. The actions he endeavours to discriminate have all

their spring and source in the brain, and hence the duty to avoid the source of danger is greatly increased. He says, "Unfortunately the most careful scrutiny of the individual presenting unsteadiness of gait will not lead us to the solution of this or similar problems." This may be quite true, but it cannot be denied that the individual is injured by alcohol, and it does not much matter how when the fact itself is patent to the meanest capacity. A poor fellow is shot: must we discuss whether it is with Harvey's, canister, or grape, or swan, or small shot, before we determine that he is dead. He is fatally injured: the duty that lies nearest our hands is to prepare him for his last low resting place, and arrest his slayer. The learned Professor marshals a variety of facts before his audience which have been ascertained, although many problems still remain for further investigation. We do not quarrel with the facts, but we denour emphatically to his explanations. The first fact is that there is not merely a difference of degree but different kinds of action flowing from the use of alcohol. In small quantities it is beneficial, in large injurious. Like the late Dr. Anstie and others of his school, Professor Fraser tries to demarcate between beneficial and injurious quantities of alcohol. The alcohol must be diluted with something, at least 50 per cent. of the alcohol. If not so the effects are very different from beneficial. Dr. Anstie made a distinction on account of sex, the sterner being allowed 1½ oz. of absolute alcohol a day, and the fair only ¾ oz., so that the old indefiniteness crops up, and we are without a true compass by which to steer. But the learned Professor does not meet the other difficulty. Alcohol comes under the law of narcotics, and hence the dose must be increased in time and measure. So that his line of demarcation will not stand. On page 13 he tells us "with repeated quantities, not necessarily excessive in amount, the dilatation of some of the vessels becomes permanent, and it may be that the frequent repetition of the dose prevents an opportunity being given them to contract, and the result is that tell-tale rubicund complexion which one occasionally sees." The Professor cannot save the moderate drinker; for while he would guard him from the Charybdis of excess, he lands him in the Scylla of injury from repeated though not excessive drugging. This is virtually the fallacy of the paper, and it runs through all his treatment of the action of alcohol on the stomach, circulation, respiration, nervous system, temperature, and also its value as a food. The testimony borne by the lecture to the advantages of total abstinence far outweighs the Professor's painfully apologetic defence of moderation. On page 26 we find the following: "Men undergoing great and prolonged physical exertion work as well without alcohol as with it. The experience of recent campaigns which have been successfully conducted on total abstinence principles have proved that men in a healthy condition, and supplied with a sufficient amount of food, retain their health and are capable of performing the most arduous labour in every variety of climate without alcohol; and further, in some of these campaigns opportunities were afforded for observing that the addition of alcohol to the diet may actually diminish the capability for prolonged physical exertion. When we direct our attention to mental work I believe the same conclusion must be arrived at. Mental work may seem to be rendered more easy, but facility is gained at the expense of quality. . . . This consideration appears to me to clearly confirm experience derived from many sources, that alcohol is not necessary to enable a healthy individual to lead a useful and happy existence." The learned Professor in these words settles the question for every healthy man and woman. When once the publican has only invalids for customers he will soon leave the sale of alcohol to the druggist, thus relieving society of a most seductive temptation.

OBSEVE!—LAMOND'S LECTURES.—Now publishing, No. I., "Light and Shade;" No. II., "Success in Life;" No. III., "Our Mission." Order through any bookseller, or write direct to J. WILKIE, 22 Howe Street, Edinburgh. 5s. 6d. per 1000, Carriage paid.

THE
Social Reformer.

JUNE, 1880.

A NEW ASPECT OF LICENSING.

It has been reserved for Possil Park, a recently formed suburb of Glasgow, to show a new and we may say encouraging aspect of licensing administration. That suburb lies to the north of Glasgow, between the villages of Maryhill and Springburn. It was once an estate, and the mansion-house was tenanted by the late Sir Archibald Alison, the historian of Europe. It consists of a large foundry known as the Saracen Foundry, and about fourteen streets, partly built upon. It has several missions, a Good Templar Lodge, and the foundation-stone of a Free Church was laid the other day by the Superior, Mr. Macfarlane, J.P., the chief partner of the Saracen Foundry.

There are about five thousand inhabitants congregated here, many of them well-to-do working men who have betaken themselves to this rural spot to enjoy the advantages of retirement and country life, and especially to be safe from the dangers and peril of the public house. But their worthy intentions are in danger of being frustrated. The danger is of a kind which, whether suspected or not, has hardly ever been clearly recognised. Hitherto it has been believed that the public house was the consequence of a demand for liquor: that the liquor vendor never turned up until after the denizens of such places as Possil Park had been suffering the acute agonies of thirst. No use of pointing to the actual resistance offered to publican aggressions by the dwellers in such places. Some publican landlord or drunken family raised an outcry for liquor, and sooner or later an entrance for the odious drink institution was forced, and the amenity of a place attacked, injured, or destroyed. All along the course of time this has been the case. The aggression of the liquor vendor was a fact, the invitation to him to come and settle was the delusion. That delusion is not yet dispelled. But the painful fact remains. Hillhead and West Pollokshields have up till now debarred public houses from a footing there, but Polmadie, Crosshill, and East Pollokshields have had to succumb to the aggression of the liquor seller who has secured a footing through the connivance of the licensing authorities. We have been told that the publican follows in the wake of civilization. Precisely so: but it is like the shark after the ship to seize the weak: the vulture after the diseased camel to profit by the carrion of society. If he did not make enormous profits he would perforce turn to other creditable if less lucrative sources for a living. Of this we are assured, that there is no spot sacred from his profanation: he will destroy the amenity of every place not legally secured against his aggressions.

Mr. Macfarlane, the superior of Possil Park, did not foresee this danger, and let his feus without any restriction at all. Some builders procured feus and built houses, and it needed no artificial help to see that many shops in these buildings were destined

for public houses. There was an outcry in the place about having a beer license, for how can a working man do without his beer? Mr. Macfarlane did not oppose the skilfully-laid attempt to gain a footing. The grocer took out a porter and ale license, plied it for a year, and then at next licensing term turned it into a grocer's license. Very soon, however, his customers began to complain of his wares: they were not of the right sort, but the nearest alternative shop was at least half a mile away, so instead of abstaining they grumbled and continued to buy. In the meantime the property holders found plenty of speculative publicans ready to take their shops provided a license could be secured, and in consequence about a dozen of license applications were made to the justices of the lower ward of Lanarkshire. The friends of temperance, on seeing the list of applications in the newspapers, took steps to convene a meeting, but having only asked the presence of all friendly to the exclusion of public-house traffic they fell into a blunder by which their wily opponents profited. However, they adopted a memorial against the existing licenses, and of course against all that were applied for. Their opponents called a meeting of the inhabitants, but called it in the forenoon of the day their meeting was to take place, thus placing the friends of temperance at a disadvantage. A memorial was adopted and duly signed. It prayed for a grocer's license to allow of healthy competition, and thus secure good liquor to the lieges, and for one public house that the wearied working man might have a place where he might have a glass of beer with his friend. The two memorials put their honours the licensing justices into a corner. Which memorial was really the voice of the people. There was no reply to the question. Happily at this critical moment a bright idea darted into the magisterial brain. *It was to ask the people themselves to signify their pleasure on the matter.* A committee was appointed and it went to Possil Park. As the result of consulting the ratepayers, it decreed that no public houses were required, but that for the sake of better liquor an additional grocer's license should be granted. So decreed, it so came to pass. All the applications for licenses were withdrawn for the time.

This year, in view of reviving trade and expanding commerce, numerous applications for licenses were presented to the justices, who again appointed a committee to go down to the ratepayers and *consult them about having or not having licenses.* That committee reported on Thursday last through its chairman, Mr. J. C. Wakefield, J.P., that the committee appointed this day week to inquire into the licensing necessities of Possil Park had consisted of Messrs. Miller, Davidson, Christie, Dunlop, Kidston, M'Farlane, Graham, and himself. They went to Possil Park, and drove to Mr. Macfarlane's office. They had a very long interview with him, and he was quite opposed to any licenses being

granted in that neighbourhood, he being a large employer of labour. Further than that, they saw a petition subscribed by the only other five employers in that neighbourhood, protesting against any public-houses being put down in Possilpark. The committee also examined the policemen in the district. They came to the almost unanimous conclusion that no houses were required in that neighbourhood. Mr. Wakefield had objected to this finding, but he gave in to the opinion of the committee in this instance, reserving to himself freedom to act next year as he might see fit. *He did not think it was contemplated by the Act that a population of 6,000 people should be without one or two public-houses.*

In view of the statement made by Mr. Wakefield, all the applicants for licenses in this district withdrew their applications.

Was there ever a more transparent proof of the advantage of consulting the ratepayers? When they are not consulted, and they have not been consulted for centuries, public houses have been thrust upon them till they have become debased; crimes have become rampant, madness, murder, disease and poverty so common as scarcely to provoke comment. When they have been consulted they have with scarcely an exception declared against the public house as they would against the plague. But the Possil Park relief from publican aggression has too much of the *ex gratia* element in it to suit our taste. Had the committee been all like Mr. Wakefield the old leaven of the licensing authority would have once more exhibited itself, and by this time some publican would have been legally installed to poison Her Majesty's subjects in this rural village wholesale. The present administration of the licensing authority must yield to the claims of justice and fairness. The people *must have* a legal power to sustain their veto of all liquor traffic in their midst. The last appeal of the publican must be made to them: from them he must ask permission to destroy the infants and their mothers; bring the son to crime and the daughter to the streets; confine the husband as a hopeless maniac and doom the father to the gallows. If such a permission be denied him, there being no power superior to them so far as their own affairs are concerned, the denial is absolute, and they may live on not even haunted by a fear of the publican's hateful settlement among them. To that happy and we may venture to affirm natural state Possil Park has not attained: far from it. Mr. J. C. Wakefield threatens to force public houses upon its residents, and what is most intolerable he is to do it in the name of the law. "He did not think that it was contemplated by the Act that a population of 6,000 people should be without one or two public houses." Perish that law and perish Mr. Wakefield's functions! The spirit he manifests belongs rather to the worst days of the Stuarts than to the latter end of the reign of Victoria: and it must be opposed to the utmost. It is an insult to the residents in Possil Park, a challenge to the enlightened social and moral reformers of Scotland. The interest of Possil Park is unspeakably greater and of far more importance than the interests of the publican, the publican landlord, and the drinker: immeasurably superior to the dictation of Mr. Wakefield, and when the good people of Possil Park recognise the relation in which they stand to these interested parties and to Mr. Wakefield, these sinister interests and that painful intention of tyrannical dictation must surrender to the social, moral, and religious interests of Possil Park.

THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.—A gentleman, seeing a violent battle in front of a gin palace, facetiously termed it "The battle of a-gin-court."

TEMPERANCE IN RELATION TO THE GOSPEL.—I.

We are told by professing Christians who oppose our movement, that *temperance will not save souls*. And what, we are asked, will be the sum total of ultimate good resulting from all this expenditure of teetotal zeal, fiery eloquence, time, and money? If it be only to help mankind to feel themselves slightly happier, by saving them from the evils of intemperance in this present life, and make no provision for the life to come, is it worthy of the price that is being paid for it? Moreover, they say, it does not appear, to us, that you are even managing to do as much as that. Now, we hold that if, instead of your temperance societies, you would organize evangelistic associations and set about praying and working as zealously for the *salvation* of souls, we could then have hope of, and sympathy for, your movement—we could then hope to have some real work done for eternity—done for God; and

"Whate'er may die or be forgot,
Work done for God it dieth not."

If you would aim at doing evangelistic work, we could then see our way to join you, and to mingle our tears, and our prayers, and our burning words with yours, that men and women perish not, but live with Him who died for them, and sing throughout the endless ages of eternity to his praise and glory their rapturous song of redeeming love. In a work like that, they say, we could join you. That would be *real work*—work that would entirely supersede your total abstinence pledge, for there is no need of a total abstinence pledge where the grace of God is. Hold, we say, good friends; you have said too much at one time, as we shall presently show you. We admire your evangelical spirit. Our hearts accord with yours in regard to that great question; yea, our souls travail with yours that all Christ's blood-bought ones may be brought home in triumph amid the joyous acclamations of the angelic throng, to sparkle for ever as gems in our Saviour's kingly crown. We admit that any reform that is not more or less tributary to that great end is scarcely worth while engaging in. But we too, like you, have been trying to advance Christ's kingdom in that way, and we have found that it cannot be done very well in the way you propose. We have spoken of Christ and redeeming love to the followers of Bacchus, and what do you think was the result? They laughed a fiendish laugh, and passed on in their giddy excitement unmoved—quite unaffected by our entreaties—down the fatal slippery ways of death, where the arch-fiend leads. Bacchus laughed at our efforts. The intoxicating cup was his shield. The intoxicating cup, with its horrid enchantments, stood between Christ and those for whom He died! We looked on with deep sorrow. We felt that something must be done to remove this ponderous Juggernaut. We remembered the mighty power and many promises of God, and took courage. We remembered that Jesus Christ himself said—"Take ye away the stone" (John xi. 39). We looked on the intoxicating cup as a stone of stumbling and rock of offence. It lay heavily against the mouth of the sepulchre, enclosing those who were "dead in trespasses and sins." We resolved that by the help of God we should roll back that stone. We admit that we have found the task difficult. We have, however, succeeded in moving it slightly, and some faint streaks of light are now darting through; but those who ought to help us are standing by and refusing their assistance. They are declaring that we are wrong, that our position is unscriptural, and that all our enthusiasm is being spent for naught. Speak to the dead, they say, that they may arise and

for ever go free. How impossible, we answer, while that huge stone of intemperance lies at the mouth of the sepulchre.

We have been misunderstood, misrepresented, and falsely accused. Among other things we have been accused of having put temperance before the gospel. We do not deny this. We admit it frankly. We have put temperance before the gospel *in point of time*. In point of time, but not in point of importance. And why have we put temperance before the gospel in point of time? Because the stone must be rolled away before Lazarus can come forth.

We remember that John the Baptist came before Christ in point of time. Are we to infer from this that John the Baptist was greater than Christ? Let John the Baptist himself answer—"He it is who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose" (John i. 27). The temperance cause says the same thing of the gospel to-day. But did John the Baptist think that his was a work of supererogation? Did Jesus Christ himself think so? Let Christ answer—"But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee" (Matt. xi. 9, 10). We need no further testimony as to the greatness of the work of John the Baptist. Though he was but "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,'" his mission was an urgent necessity. So great a mission was it, that it was greater than the mission of any of the other prophets who had gone before him. He had come not only as a prophet, but as the herald of Christ, and, after calling the people to repentance, it was his infinitely high duty and privilege to point out to penitent sinners for the first time, "The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world."

Temperance then, we say, is the precursor of the gospel. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness—"Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah xl. 3, 4).

See John with his raiment of camel's hair, his plain, blunt address, his plainer ways of living, his strictly abstinent principles, his whole life a protest against indulgence, vice, and extravagance of every sort. The Jewish nation, at the time of his coming, had great need of such a reformer. The people at that time had become very wicked, and there was a twofold necessity for such a man as John the Baptist to call them to repentance.

This British nation of ours has become degraded to a degree that from our high fame as a Christian nation one would scarcely think possible. This thing alcohol has come amongst us like a serpent, poisoning our moral and religious life, blunting and destroying all our finer sensibilities, until myriads of those who promised to be noble specimens of Christian manhood and Christian womanhood have become degraded below the level of the brute creation. Yea, this nation has become degraded until we have many thousands passing yearly into drunkards' graves—taking their final leap into the dark unknown without a single spark of kindly light to guide their wayward feet, without one single promise of God wherein to trust, with no kind Saviour's arm on which to lean. Every week sees its hundreds passing away in this state. The

pictures that could be drawn from real life are, many of them, by far too horrible for reproduction. Who could make a week's tour of the death-places (we cannot always say death-beds, for many of them have no beds) of such; who, we ask, could witness the last look of wild despair in the bloodshot eyes of the drunkard—a look seeming to say more emphatically than words could—"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved." Who could witness that terrible wreck of human life; who could stand by and witness one of those poor suicides, at the last moment, despairing for the light where there was no light, nothing but impenetrable gloom, and God had said—"I will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh." What Christian man or woman could witness such a scene and not feel that God was calling loudly upon him or her to do something towards saving others from coming to that sad and terrible end? Sweet echo, bearest thou not on the wind from pole to pole from every Christian reader the answer "Not I"? Say, sweet echo, has that noble answer not gone in a chariot of light to the eternal throne as sweet incense offered to Him who died for them? When we reflect upon the terrible thought that perhaps in one week a thousand such scenes have taken place within these Isles—that a thousand of our fellow-creatures, with their lives wrecked for time and for eternity, may have gone down in one week into drunkards' graves, "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung"—we cannot believe that the Christian church will remain indifferent. We cannot believe that the Christian church could be fully aware of such a state of things, and not feel duty-bound to stretch forth a loving hand to save the dying. We cannot even believe that in this nineteenth century of the gospel of the grace of God in Christ, under the full noontide glare of Christian light, it is possible in one week for a thousand of our fellows so to pass away without tears of Christian pity being dropt upon their graves. Unhonoured they may be, but Zion, to-day, weeps over her slain. The winds are forbidden to publish the tale, and soon the kindly grass over all grows thick and green to hide their shame. Will flowers grow over the grave of vice and folly? Yea, on what uncongenial soil will they not spring, if it be for the healing of broken hearts!

(To be continued.)

WOMAN—THE MAIDEN.

It is difficult in the present day to say where girlhood ends and maidenhood begins. Some girls have all the maturity of maidenhood; some maidens never seem to have been able to pass the stage of girlhood. We will set the boundary line between the two at eighteen, by which time there should be little doubt on the matter. At that age a maiden's character should be manifest. Physically she should be the embodiment of physical health and vigour, and in possession of those habits which sustain them. These include early rising, bathing, suitable dress, moderate household labour, healthful exercise, temperate living, an abundant flow of spirits, and a cheerful temper. We might fairly anticipate that she should be animated by feelings the object of which is not simply her own but her family's happiness. By no means selfish or self-regarding, she should be able to discriminate, and have realized that self love and social are the same. Gay as the lark, her very presence should have music in it, and happiness should be shed from it as the fragrance from the rose. We have seen such women, and what lent a charm to this faculty of inspiring happiness was the unconsciousness on their part of its

exercise; it was their very nature to make those around them happy. If ever they were grave, it was at another's failings; if sad, it was at another's sorrow; if ever a frown darkened their sweet face, it was when vice or malevolence roused itself to strike; and if ever joy beamed more brightly from their features, it was when they witnessed another with their cup of joy brimming over. This is the lofty altitude to which every woman ought to aspire, but it is not acquired—it cannot be put on. It must grow, and where its germs are it will grow if it is cultivated as it ought to be. A woman of high-toned feeling, deeply conscientious, sympathetic, and social is a treasure beyond all price. She is the depository of an accumulation of happiness which never fails, and in the darkest hour of human experience pours forth its richest treasures. If her affections are pure, her hopes high; if veneration of all that is venerable is active, and if she is gifted with firmness, and is free from vacillation, she may look calmly forward to all the vicissitudes of human life; she will be found prepared for them all. Her bitter cup will never be without consolation, her sweetest never unshared by those less happy and fortunate than herself. In her atmosphere the great and the excellent will be revered, the mean and the base abhorred. She will teach by her example what is right and true and good, and inspire all around her to "make life death, and the vast forever a grand, sweet song."

A true maiden will not merely have these high moral impulses under reason's firm control, but she will also recognise the grand truth that in all that she has acquired hitherto her co-operation was merely that of a task, and that now her farther excellencies in maidenhood and wifelyhood will not be done for her, but largely, if not altogether, by her: she must voluntarily engage in that education which means the perfecting of her feelings, will, and intellect. Thus realizing her responsibility, she will easily find means and opportunity for its rightful and ample discharge. The continued unfolding of her intellect should be her supreme object at this stage. One of the delusions of men of the narrow view is that women have little if any real intellectual ability, and they do all they can to discourage attempts made by them to acquire sound and useful knowledge. These wisecracks gravely assert that intellectual women are the most disagreeable and intractable of their sex, and that the acquisition of knowledge on their part results in their assumption of masculine airs and in the loss of their womanly grace. That this is generally the case we most emphatically deny. Let any one think over the names of his female relations and acquaintances, and he will find as he recalls the individual characteristics of each that intelligence gives firmness and tone to women, that their womanly sympathies are not merely the impulses of a blind caprice, but the regulated outflow of a loving heart that not only feels but knows why it feels. That a woman should have, during her whole existence, to grope in the dark as it were in regard to all that she sets about, while men are carefully trained in the knowledge of the processes of nature and of reason, should, we think, arouse a suspicion of an inequality for which the mere fact of sex will not account. There must be the unfolding of her intellect. Every maiden should diligently inquire into her own constitution, so as to know what duties are demanded of her, what laws she ought to obey, what habits she ought to form, and for what end she was made. She should deeply investigate the nature and distinctions of morality. There is a fearful lack of morality among all classes, but notwithstanding that, no maiden should shrink from forming her moral cha-

acter because conventional morality may be lax, and the sense of moral distinctions on the part of too many obscure. Failure here is to fail all through life, for without healthy moral habits life is shorn of progress and happiness. She should not take up prejudices on this vital part of her education. Rather, it will be most profitable for her to investigate the claims of all the systems, and adopt that as the best which is found by her to be most in harmony with the revealed will of God. In utilitarian morality—where pleasure is the end—she will find that the quantity and quality of pleasure is set forth in a way that will largely add to her happiness to know; and in intuitional morality the universality of the moral sense will confirm her in her idea of the high dignity and destiny of the race. While her powers of moral discrimination are developed her moral impulses will be strengthened, and duty in its most exalted sense become the keynote of her character.

She will have recognised by the time that her education has reached this stage how frail she is, how liable to temptation, how prone to sin. She will see her need of grace, her need of a Saviour. It may be quite true that women as a rule are more religious than men, that they are more in harmony with the attributes of God than men are, that they have more of truth, gentleness, temperance, purity and love, but these qualities require to be developed by study and meditation, and sustained by constant prayer and practice. Maidens should cultivate a devotional spirit and be rigidly tenacious of attention to their religious duties. They need not be less loving, less cheerful, less buoyant, less hopeful. That form of religion may be justly suspected that is ever obtruding itself and wrapping those that manifest it in gloom. It is preposterous that His children should never find joy and happiness unless they stray from God; that in places where temptations are rank and pleasures gross, joy is only to be found. This fatal delusion has been the ruin of many youths and maidens, and has sensibly diminished the happiness of multitudes. Were young women only to bear in mind that they are ever in the presence of God they would never fall into this mischievous error. With a sense of his all-seeing eye continually looking down upon them pleasure would never become folly, liberty never become license, joy never become levity. The innocent gaiety of their nature, their rippling laughter, their sweet simplicity would enhance their natural charms, and keep their cup of joy mantling to the brim. They should be daily readers of the Word of God; daily feeders in His pastures; as the hart panteth after the water brook so should their soul pant after the living God. In a word they should taste and see that God is good, and have the delightful experience that it is well with them that fear Him. As Christ has shown mankind the Father so they should make Him the pattern of the Father of their Spirits, and fashion themselves according to his glorious likeness, so that as He has saved and cleansed them by His blood, they should be like Him in the light of His resurrection. If they use the Bible and the other means of grace to secure this lofty ideal of the Christian, they will easily find out the best method of using them all. Let them store their memory with the precious words of the Bible, commit the Psalms, the Proverbs, and the Sermon on the Mount to memory, and they will have a treasury of Scripture that will ever flow and fail not. A maiden thus divinely nurtured is supreme over all the changes of time or fortune; to her nothing can come amiss. She will ever be found where the channels of Divine Grace are, ever on the spot upon which the precious blessings of our common Father descend.

Next to the knowledge of her own being, the notions of duty, and her dependence on God, should be the knowledge of mankind, in society, under God's providential rule, and under earthly law and government. The knowledge of her own country is most important and cannot be safely neglected. There she will find that there is a providence that shapes our ends rough-hew them how we will. She will easily learn philosophy as she acquires history, for history is simply philosophy teaching by example.

Her fine taste should be cultivated in the direction of either painting, sculpture, or music. Many women earn an honourable independence by their prosecution of some one of these arts; to his wife's accomplishments many a man has owed his ability to tide over adversity, nay, his second rise in the world. No maiden should despise the acquisition of a really thorough practical acquaintance with this or some similar art. The present Countess of Roseberry—a lady whom wealth has, one would think, removed for ever from penury—is a trained school-mistress, and not less fit for her station. It is always a barrier against poverty, or what is nearly as bad, dependence on friends for support. But apart from these considerations, the possession of such invaluable accomplishments has a highly elevating influence on the receptive mind of women, and tends still more to endear her to all who share her society. The choicest gems of literature should also form a part of her mental acquisitions. The pleasures of reading are among the most solid and satisfactory of all. We find ourselves in the society of the wisest and best of mankind; we travel in their company and view the beautiful and sublime in nature, the march of the seasons, the luxuriance of the forest, the effulgence of the garden, and the treasures of the field, until our soul recognises the grand truth that the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. We wander with the historian down the stream of time from the moment when his first faint records chronicled the doings of mankind. We pass on, leaving behind us the empires that have been founded, have flourished, and passed away, past systems of philosophy and of society that now serve to absorb the attention and the research only of the antiquary. As we wander on, poesy, song arrest our attention, as they sing of the seasons as they roll; of the exploits of kings of Troy, of the death of Arthur, of Paradise Lost, of Jerusalem Delivered, the Vision of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, of the human heart with its tens of thousands of chords vibrating to the music of the spheres.

By a spirit so attuned to all that is true, and beautiful, and good, filial obedience will be lovingly paid, the home ties lovingly respected, her elders revered, her youngers caressed and encouraged, her dependants cherished, and all the relations of life faithfully upheld.

And when the time comes when she receives the attention of lovers, she will be able to bear herself with true maidenly affection and modesty; she will be able to discriminate and choose, not for wealth, display, or even for position, but for genuine worth. The husk may charm others, but it cannot deceive her. She has weighed well the gold and the glitter, ascertained the value of the dust and the diamond, and she fixes her warm, honest, constant affection upon one who values her for the sterling qualities she possesses, and feels in gaining her unchanging love that he is the happiest of men and that the object of his life must be to make her the happiest of women.

The young lady who tempts a young man with a glass of wine, deserves a drunkard for a husband.

NOTES OF AN ADDRESS TO WOMEN,

Delivered by the Rev. J. W. Horsley, at a Drawing-room Meeting at the Rev. J. Haslock Potter's, Streatham.

ALL lovers of mankind and of manliness, all true citizens and patriots, jealous for the fair fame of their native land, all Christians, above all, grieving over the insults to God, the hindrances to the full advent of His kingdom, and the irreparable loss of myriad souls, must vindicate their right to the noble titles they claim by striving with all their powers, and with their varying talents and opportunities, to roll away from England the reproach of intemperance.

There seem, moreover, some special reasons for women engaging actively in this work.

1. *They have more leisure*, at any rate, in the day time. Not unconscious of their many pressing and holy duties at home, we are yet mindful of the work they already do in district visiting and mothers' meetings, which are most conveniently at hours when their husbands and brothers must be elsewhere and otherwise occupied.

2. *To them chiefly God seems to have given the gift of influence.* "Who is she?" a judge used to ask, thinking that in every quarrel a woman will be found the proximate or remote cause. But this influence is more for good than for evil. Moreover, they, by their very weakness, it may be, have an influence over men, and rough men. Witness the labours of Miss Weston, Miss Nightingale, and many more honoured in every town and village. "As unto the bow the cord is, so unto the man is woman: though she bends him, she obeys him, useless each without the other." Eve made Adam to eat, and many another Eve has persuaded another Adam to drink. But, on the other hand, how many an Eleanor has, with self-sacrificing love, withdrawn the poison from her wounded and weakened spouse.

3. *They have the training of children and of servants.* "She who rocks the cradle rules the world," said the great Napoleon, and how much of St. Timothy's virtue was due to Lois and Eunice? The memory of a mother's words and example preserves many from some sinful lusts of the body, why should not this same power preserve from the defilement of intemperance? And how the habits of the mistress are reproduced in the artisan's wife who has been in service. The liberty of the one becomes too often the license of the other. "Why should I abstain? My old mistress was a religious woman, but saw no harm in her glass or two." N.B., of 3,976 fallen women in Westminster Prison, 1,589 had been in domestic service, and of the same number 2,524 were brought in directly or indirectly by drink. Had some of them had better mistresses they would have known a better fate. The mistress, above all others, is a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

4. *Women are specially liable to the temptation.* I quote from the Health Primer on Alcohol by Dr. Greenfield (not a total abstainer). "At some periods of life there is an especial tendency to drinking. One of the most dangerous of these is middle life in women, and it is at this period that many previously sober and moral women become addicted to drinking, often in secret at first, and lay the foundation of habits which shorten the life and degrade the character. No doubt this tendency is encouraged by custom and the influence of bad advice, but, in many cases, there is a very strong inclination towards drinking which needs nothing but the possibility of secret gratification to cause it to be indulged in. Those who have not had the opportunities which doctors unfortunately enjoy of hearing the sad revelations which are sometimes made on this subject, would be astonished at the amount of secret drinking amongst apparently respectable and sober middle-aged women."

5. *Intemperance is much caused by women.* I quote the same writer, "In the state of maternity and child-birth, the same is true to an enormous extent. The amount of drinking which is carried on, both at these times, and by nursing mothers, under a wrong idea of the necessity for alcohol, and an entire misconception of its true action, is almost beyond belief. On no sub-

ject connected with drinking is it more necessary to speak emphatically, for the direct and indirect efforts of such a misuse are evils of incalculable extent. It seems to have become one of the doctrines and tenets of the female world that alcohol is essential to women who are nursing, and that it is not only a benefit to them, but their duty to take a considerable quantity. If this error were confined to the lower classes we might not be surprised, but unfortunately it is equally common in the higher. Monthly nurses are probably more chargeable with spreading drunkenness among married women than any other class. Their position and supposed experience as 'wise women,' enable them to insinuate the temptation, and propagate the error, in spite of all the efforts of doctors and moralists. Young mothers especially are led by their advice, as if they were bound hand and foot; and, in spite of their better judgment, they give way to their leaders in a hitherto unknown land, and blindly follow their blind guides. There is no evidence that alcohol is more necessary or beneficial to mothers, as such, and all experience points strongly in the opposite direction."

Add, that the want of restraint caused by the sight of the mother's perennial teapot, and the being allowed to drink (albeit milk or water) between meal, and at the first desire, makes often the nursery the ante-chamber of the public house.

6. *Heredity in this matter is mainly from the mother's side.* An unbelieving doctor said, "At any rate one text is true—the sins of the parents are visited upon the children." Freewill and grace may avert the curse spiritually and morally, but physically the taint remains. So Dr. Greenfield again—"The habit tells upon the offspring it is intended to benefit. There is the strongest probability that the moral and mental character of children is influenced by the action of alcohol in the mother, a greater misery is thus caused than even by crippling or fatal disease." Will you transmit to children the colour of your eyebrows and not the tendency to intemperance, or the inability of self-control. So Dr. Brunton before the Lord's Committee, "There is a distinct transmission of both the propensity to drink, and also the bad effects of it, mental qualities and tastes, as well as bodily, being very often transmitted." And the spark in the mother may be the flame in the child. One day in Westminster Prison there were four generations of the women of one family brought in from drink; might not the youngest, a baby at the breast, be said to have been born drunk?

7. *Women are especially interested in the prevention of infant mortality*—and how many babes are drowned in beer? Eight of 100 babes in the upper classes, 32 per cent. in the lower, die in their first year. But note the proportion among the intemperate. From one page of my prison note book I find that 20 men had 204 children, of whom 128 were dead. One (aged 50) had 11 of 13 dead; why? "I am one of the worst drunkards in the world; my wife don't drink so regularly, but very hard when she goes about it." A woman, 38, had 9 children, all dead, both parents drink. A woman, 44, had 1 of 12 alive, husband died of paralysis of the brain, from a "gay" life; she drinks hard when out of prison. A woman, 31, had 9 children, "all dead, thank God," the ninth conviction for drunkenness.

8. *The extent of female intemperance.* The ordinary proportion of crime ought to be, and has been, 1 woman to 7 men, but London imprisons 16,525 women to 18,883 men for drunkenness. One day at Marylebone, of 22 cases 21 were for drunkenness, and 14 of these were women. In one week 146 female offenders entered Westminster Prison, 126 for drunkenness. In Liverpool the women have even outstripped the men in the hideous race, 6,276 females to 5,537 males being apprehended for drunkenness in one year. Satan seems to have changed his policy since the days of Pharaoh and Herod.

9. *The almost hopelessness of reclaiming female drunkards.* Five men for one woman may be permanently reclaimed, the loss of shame being more fatal with women. They will steal for drink and prostitute themselves for drink. In Manchester Gaol, in 1877, there

were 3 women in respectively for the 146th, 133rd, and 108th time. In York, 1 for the 150th time. One I have myself known in for the 150th time. One came in for drunkenness the same day as she was discharged from a month for drink, leaving her husband a corpse at home. An artisan came to pay a fine for his wife who had been in innumerable times; he was 2½d. short in the amount: "Never mind," said the inspector, "as you're a regular customer, she'll be in again to-morrow." Another entreats the magistrate to send her to Clerkenwell for some months as her only chance. H. R., aged 64, amassed a large sum, but lost all by drink; went to live with total abstiners and seemed cured; ordered brandy in St. Bartholomew's, took to old habits, bought two bottles of gin one evening and drank one before going to bed, in which she was found dead. A tradesman's wife, on whom an inquest was held, had for weeks drunk nothing but neat brandy, of which she had taken as much as three pints in a day. When found dead she had in her pocket a bottle of brandy obtained on credit.

10. *The increase of female intemperance.* See this table of apprehensions for drunkenness.

	1868	1869	1872	1873	1876
Swansea	71		103	176	206
Durham		370			1048
Salford		342			864
Newcastle		357		564	1,024
				1,140	3,142

Add the testimony of clergy, doctors, leaders of society, owners of laundries and register offices, and pastry cooks.

Let, then, womanly shame, jealousy for the honour of your sex, sisterly sympathy, Christ-like love for the perishing and lost, animate your especial powers of patience, winning gentleness and self-sacrificing love.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE number of marriages in Scotland last year was 23,462, being the lowest for the last twenty-five years. "Of course," says the press, "it becomes natural to seek an explanation of this reduced marriage rate by connecting it with the period of dull trade and financial disaster that has recently prevailed throughout the land." And there has been less drinking just for the same reason. We wish that we could say that there was really an increased desire for prudent marriages, and also a lessened desire to spend so much on drink, when times improved; but we fear with good times there will be hasty marriages and heavy drinking. The first will only yield to the efforts of intelligence and education, the last will certainly yield to nothing short of a prohibitory law.

The publicans can't do the impossible. At any rate they cannot reconcile their interests with their duty to society. They undertake to sell excellent drink, excellent victuals, to have no dealings with boys or girls who want drink for themselves, or trade with "a drunk." They may give "tick," but it is at their own risk; they may take their customer's belongings in pledge, but they do so at their peril. A Dumfries publican the other day, however, looked so closely to his own interest that he forgot what was due to the law—he took his customer's Bible in pawn for his spirits, and has lost his good name and six pounds by the transaction: he speculated and, as is the fashion on 'change at present, he lost heavily. If the law had any bowels of mercy it might have some compunction for the subject of so heavy a fine. It may have a bad effect on him; he might have a strong aversion to the Holy Book, so strong that he may rarely or never open it. But what about his customer? Dr. Chalmers used to speak of the "expulsive force of a new affection," but it was in a divine sense. Here we see the expulsive force of a malevolent affection for drink. The customer imbibes the poison and expels the Word. When the people are wise they will spread the Word and expel the liquor.

We are often treated to glowing pictures of America as the home of the free—our sons and daughters whom we have reared crowd to the emigrant ship, bid farewell to the land of their birth, and cross the seas to the new world. Yet, even in this land of liberty, independence, competence—the very paradise of the working man—we find that drink, by law protected, is the same deadly enemy to all that directly or indirectly come under the sweep of its terrible power. In New York they have a "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children." The *New York Herald* gives us two instances of the Society's operations. Minnie Green, a coloured girl, of 11 years, is rescued from the brutality of a stepfather, who compels her to drink till she is intoxicated, and beats her savagely if she refuses. The girl is in the police office under a matron's care. The other is that of a girl, Minnie Hughes, of 6 years, discovered in a room amidst the greatest filth, and without food. Beside her is a Mrs. Harrington, in a beastly state of intoxication. As the girl was nude clothes were begged for her, and she is, like Minnie Green, under the police matron's care. The *National Temperance Advocate* draws attention to the fact that these children were not in starving Ireland or heathen Africa, but in the so-called Christian city of New York. In Britain I believe that thousands of equally hapless children, through drink, could be found were there a similar society instituted to discover them.

There is often in the *Lancet* incontestable proofs of the doctrine you and I hold in common. During the past month we find that Professor Cameron, of Dublin, read a paper upon the quality of whisky on sale in Ireland. It appears that the constabulary had collected for him samples of whisky at fairs, race courses, and wayside public-houses. *All these were of very bad quality.* The greater proportion consisted of what was called patent still whisky, having nothing save alcohol and a little flavouring matter. Much of the whisky consisted of new whisky containing fusel oil (amyl alcohol), and aldehyde. Aldehyde is a substance formed by the oxidation of alcohol, and is intermediate between alcohol and acetic acid. Dr. Cameron regards it as the toxic ingredient of new whisky. It disappears when whisky is stored for a couple of years. He stated the case of a whole family poisoned by drinking for some months "poten," or illicit whisky, containing 23 per cent of amyl alcohol—father and mother had become insane. The infatuation for drinking in no way manifests itself more strikingly than at fairs, race courses, cricket and football matches, regattas, &c., for which special licenses have been obtained, and liquor vendors having got an idea that men are only silly geese or sheep furnished by a benignant providence for them to pluck or fleece, have no scruples at doing so effectually. They do not minister to the vicious propensities of their customers without regard to a consideration for doing so, and the terrible consequences that follow drinking are intensified through their relentless rapacity.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER, Vol. XIV. Glasgow: 30 Hope Street.—Although the organ of the United Kingdom Alliance Movement in Scotland, the *Social Reformer* contains much useful matter upon other than prohibition topics, while the temperance news is selected with care, and condensed so as to preserve all really useful information within as small a compass as possible, no slight recommendation in these days of organisational verbosity.—*House and Home.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER.—The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association publishes this useful monthly, and the fourteenth yearly volume, in paper binding, is now before us. Each number usually contains several able leading articles on current temperance topics, in addition to reports of meetings and of other temperance work, and to well-selected information specially valuable to advocates. Permissive prohibition is stoutly upheld, and total abstinence receives effective aid. We wish all possible prosperity to this well-conducted organ of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.—*Alliance News, 5th ult.*

POETRY.

CREEPING UP THE STAIRS.

IN the softly-falling twilight
Of a weary, weary day,
With a quiet step I entered
Where the children were at play;
I was brooding o'er some trouble
That had met me unawares,
When a little voice came ringing,
"Me is creepin' up a stairs."
Ah! it touched the tenderest heart-string
With a breath and force divine,
And such melodies awakened
As words can ne'er define;
And I turned to see our darling,
All forgetful of my cares,
When I saw the little creature
Slowly creeping up the stairs.
Step by step she bravely clambered
On her little hands and knees,
Keeping up a constant chattering,
Like a magpie in the trees;
Till at last she reached the topmost
When o'er all her world's affairs
She, delighted, stood a victor,
After creeping up the stairs.
Fainting heart, behold an image
Of man's brief and struggling life,
Whose best prizes must be captured
With noble earnest strife;
Onward, upward reaching ever,
Bending to the weight of cares,
Hoping, fearing, still expecting,
We go creeping up the stairs.
On their steps may be no carpet,
By their side may be no rail,
Hands and knees may often pain us,
And the heart may almost fail;
Still above there is the glory
Which no sinfulness impairs,
With its rest and joy for ever,
After creeping up the stairs.

Happiness is the gay to-morrow of the mind that never comes.

A tipsy boy is a shame to his father, and a ten-year-old smoker is a disgrace to his mother.

"Help the sweeper, please, sir." "Can't, my man, I wasn't brought up to the business; besides, I have no broom."

An Irishman, who had a very ragged coat, was asked of what stuff it was made. "Bedad if I know," says he, "but I think the most of it is made of fresh air."

"Do you see any grapes, Bob?" "Yes; but there are dogs." "Big dogs, Bob?" "Yes, very big." "Then come along—these grapes are not ours, you know."

When Charles V. read upon the tomb of a Spanish nobleman, "Here lies one who never knew fear," he wittily replied, "Then he never snuffed a candle with his fingers."

Apples, grapes, and grain are excellent articles of food, but cider, wine, and beer afford no nourishment to speak of. Their value as food is destroyed by fermentation.

AYR BURGHS ELECTION.—A little fellow, going along Newmarket Street with a red rosette pinned to his jacket, snatched a blue rosette worn by a bigger boy. The latter retaliated, plucking the red rosette from the other's jacket and trampling it upon the ground. A scuffle ensued, out of which the smaller boy came to grief, but his spirit was big if his body was small. Standing with his hands and face smeared with blood, which issued from his nose, and looking at his antagonist, he triumphantly exclaimed, "Ah, man, I ha'e my colours yet!"

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, JUNE, 1880.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1880.

* * WE have received several excellent articles—"Righteousness and convenience (expediency);" "How can what is called the moderate drinking of alcoholic liquors be a right and safe course of action?" "Fulfilling Conditions—Nos. I. and II.;" "Early Prohibitionists." We reiterate our intention to prefer those articles that are brief, vivacious in their treatment, and crisp in their style. Too many writers do not take time, else their articles would be very much briefer and better. Let them take more pains, else our readers will care less for their communications. To those contributors who earnestly desire to assist us we tender our warmest thanks. To those friends who send us a newspaper occasionally we are truly grateful. May we hope that all sending us newspapers will cut the paper at the portion to which they wish specially to direct our attention.

A SPECIAL DONATION.

It affords us much pleasure to acknowledge, per James Torreus, Esq., J.P., a special donation of £100 sterling from a friend who will not allow us to publish his name. He is a staunch friend of the movement, and has been a generous supporter of the funds of this Association for more than twenty years. At a trying time like the present, such a donation is peculiarly acceptable. We earnestly hope that others of our friends may emulate the example set them by this truly liberal donor.

WE regret that our early going to press prevents us having the pleasure to chronicle the results of the intention expressed by the Earl of Zetland to enforce his feu rights on and after the 15th May, the consequence of which would be the suppression of all liquor traffic in Grangemouth after that date. We know two facts, however. The Commissioners are of opinion that there is no hope that his lordship will change his mind on the subject; and that the Crown Hotel, of which his lordship is proprietor, is already closed. Should his lordship carry out his intention he will find none more loud in his praise than those—apart from the publicans—who are meantime apprehensive of the consequence of such an apparently sweeping change.

IN the tabular statement given in last month's *Social Reformer* we expressed a pretty confident anticipation that Mr. Samuel Laing, M.P., would be re-elected for Orkney and Shetland. Our anticipation has been realised, Mr. Laing being elected by 896 to 518 polled for his opponent, Dr. Badenoch. Mr. Laing has been one of the staunchest supporters Sir Wilfrid Lawson has had, having voted constantly with the hon. baronet. He has voted five times in favour of the second reading of the Permissive Bill and twice in favour of the local option resolution. The electors of his constituency, judging by the overwhelming majority by which he was returned, appear proud of him. It would have been better for our cause and perhaps for other burning questions if southern constituencies had acted as patriotically and intelligently as the electors of Orkney and Shetland have done.

THE contest for the representation of the Wigtown Burghs—Stranraer, Wigtown, Whithorn, and New Galloway—has terminated in the rejection of the Lord Advocate, and the election of M. J. Stewart, Esq., who was rejected only last month by the election of the Lord Advocate. At that time his lordship gained by twelve votes, this time he has lost by twenty-three. We are sorry at this result, not that we have any aversion to Mr. M. J. Stewart, M.P.—far from it; he voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and will likely do so again; but simply because his lordship held more advanced views on our question than Mr. Stewart, and because he is Lord Advocate. He might have exerted a powerful influence in our favour when the Local Option Liquor Bill for Scotland was brought before the Legislature. Even Mr. Stewart must see that in this light the Lord Advocate was much the superior man for the temperance party. However, the electors of the Wigtown Burghs evidently do not know their own mind. We do not envy them their preference of an ordinary member of the House to a member of the Government. The preference is absurd on the face of it. We earnestly trust his lordship, in his next attempt to secure a seat, may meet with better fortune.

IT seems that the brewers have been comparing notes, and find that excise officers have been paying visits to various breweries of a nature to suggest to their owners the imposition of additional taxation. This is a singular inference. No merchant or manufacturer in the kingdom would draw the same conclusion, but no one is in partnership with a guilty Government except the brewers and distillers, and the partnership is one that, if broken, must result in the ruin of Bung, Tap & Co., and not of the Government that protects them. The question of the brewer then, when he sees his partner's officer prowling about his premises, is not what does he want, but how much taxes does he mean to impose? With the public another view can be taken. Is not

the liquor traffic taxed heavily enough? Well, as we are against deriving taxation from vice and public immorality, we will not stop to discuss that question. But if the question put was, Are the distillers and brewers taxed unequally? we would say, very unequally; and so long as taxes are to be imposed on a system for promoting vice, poverty, and crime, it is scarcely fair to compel one branch of this system to disgorge more than the other. The distillers will tell you that previous to 1860, when the duty on spirits was 8s. in England and Scotland, and 6s. 2d. in Ireland, was the golden age of the spirit trade. It got on splendidly—"the 8s. duty had so adapted itself to the peculiarities of the retail trade that neither those engaged in it nor the consumers felt the tax to be oppressive." Mr. Gladstone, however, equalised and raised the duty to 10s. for the three kingdoms in 1860, and from that hour the distiller has been in a declining trade, not merely from the high duty, but from the fact that the brewer has not been taxed so heavily as him. It will be best to show this by an example. A distiller from a quarter of malt produces 18 gallons of proof spirit, on which of course, at 10s. per gallon, the duty is £9. The brewer, from the same quantity, extracts 12 gallons of spirit, on which the duty would be, at 10s., £6. He only pays £1 1s. 8d. Why this unequal tax, this seeming favouritism to the brewer? Simply because the Government has been pleased, in the case of the distiller, to tax the manufactured product, and in the case of the brewer the raw material. No wonder that the beery dovescots have been fluttered by the visits of the excise officers. If Mr. Gladstone succeeds in equalising the spirit and beer duties by as heavily taxing the latter, as it is roundly asserted he has the former, we may soon find a vast accession to the ranks of the abstainers, and an increased determination on the part of the great nation to no longer poison itself by alcohol for the sake of the revenue, or, as we fear, the poor dupe of a customer will pay his additional penny with rather a proud consciousness that he is patriot; and that in the case of the Alabama Claims and the Abyssinian war, so in the case of the Indian deficit, he is drinking the nation out of a difficulty.

LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION.

By the time that our issue is in the hands of our readers the exact date on which Sir Wilfrid Lawson will submit his local option resolution to Parliament will be announced. Now our friends may, looking to the credit they deservedly received for their efforts all through the late beer Parliament, consider that less strenuous efforts may suffice to impress a Liberal House of Commons. There never was a greater mistake. They require to remind honourable members of the promises made by them during their candidature, and to urge them to fulfil them. Hence the efforts they have so patriotically made in previous sessions are still required. Honourable members have no means wherewith to measure the deter-

mination of the supporters of prohibition to secure power to veto the liquor traffic but by the number and the respectful urgency of their communications. Friends can—in cases where they are in ignorance of the private address of their representative—address him at the "House of Commons, London, S.W." We earnestly advise them, when they have written him, to intimate to the Secretary of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow, that they have done so, so that should a deputation in London be necessary its members may know that they have done so. If they follow the course of action here suggested they may have the proud satisfaction of seeing the local option resolution carried this session. If this be the case, then, the Government will find it necessary to take up the matter by bringing in a bill to give effect to the action of the House. In the event of their doing so we may fully anticipate a stronger bill than the Licensing Bill of 1871. Truly our movement will be a power when the strongest Liberal Government yet seen in Britain has to legislate in accordance with its aims.

INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. F. R. Lees ruptured a blood-vessel while in a bath near Regent's Park, on the 20th April. Dr. N. S. Kerr, who was called in, has enjoined absolute rest for a time.

The Queen has granted Mr. S. C. Hall, the author of "Sir Jasper" and "The Old Story," editor of the *Art Journal*, &c., a pension of £150, in recognition of his long services to art and literature.

MEMORANDUM FOR RATEPAYERS.—Less drunkenness means less drinking. Less drinking means less publicans' profits. Less publicans' profits means less crime, misery, pauperism, rates, and taxes.

As a check upon "Temperance Tramps" the Red Ribbon State Central Committee of Michigan advise all Red Ribbon Clubs in that State not to employ any strangers to address them who do not possess the Committee's certificate.

CURE OF INEBRIATES.—I am informed by an ancient physician that the customary treatment of gradually reducing the alcoholic doses of an habitual drunkard is an entire mistake. The only real cure is to knock drink off altogether.—*Old Parr* in "Life."

Fun says:—"There is not the slightest doubt that the Conservatives did themselves harm by going in for the publicans. Had they showed themselves equal to public interests that have no connection with taverns, it is possible they might not have been bunged up."

About 20,000 gallons of beer were very appropriately and usefully employed in extinguishing a fire in a German brewery in Monte Video some time ago. The beer was not, however, resorted to until the water supply was entirely exhausted. What a pity that taking it into the human constitution generates instead of quenching thirst.

NO DANGER IN THE PLEDGE.—Dr. Richardson and Dr. Gull assure us that there is no danger in cutting off the liquor: no need of tapering off—cutting off a dog's tail an inch at a time to make it easier. And here is a pregnant fact. Of several hundred women in the Wandsworth Workhouse, five hundred had been drunkards, but no harm came to any one of them from sudden and total abstinence. This fact is conclusive. If alcohol were suddenly to vanish out of the world, and there were no means of making any more, no human being would be the worse for its disappearance, and millions would be the better.

SPREAD OF TEMPERANCE.—A curious instance of the spread of temperance is to be found in the fact of the publication of a weekly paper in Shanghai, China, called *The Temperance Union*, which advocates the movement in a thoroughgoing style. It is printed in the Chinese characters.

The friends of the United Kingdom Alliance in London are to hold a Bazaar in behalf of its funds in the Canon St. Hotel on the 7th, 8th, and 9th curt. The treasurer is Mrs. Ellis, 51 Jewin St., E.C. The secretaries are Miss Stuchberry, 60 West Smithfield, E.C., and Miss Hilton, 234 Burdett Road, E. Goods may be sent to Alliance Offices, 52 Parliament Street, S.W.

ELECTION DAYS AND PUBLIC HOUSES.—A letter to the *Times* calls attention to, and advocates the adoption of, the system which almost universally prevails throughout the United States—namely, that on every election day—whether for Federal, State, or municipal purposes—all bars and refreshment rooms where liquor is sold, are by law compelled to remain closed during polling hours.

At a charity dinner given recently in London the chairman, a distinguished member of the Corporation of the City of London, asked for Apollinaris. A bottle was produced, and about three-fourths of a tumbler drank. Being compelled abruptly to retire, it was discovered that Hunyadi Jairos had been given him instead of what he asked. By and by the perils of drinking at public dinners will be as great as those of railway travelling.

Mr. Kegan Paul, at the meeting of the National Temperance League on 3rd ult., said "he took exception to the view that the temperance movement was a leaven from above to below. He believed it was the reverse, and that this movement was from the working-men who felt their own great needs. The movement was reaching the upper classes, who were engulfed in the evil to the neck. He objected to the view that total abstinence was self-denial—he regarded it as self-benefit."

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS—ABSTAINERS.—In the Parliament of 1874 there were eleven abstainers; in the present Parliament we can count twenty-three, viz.: Sir W. Lawson, Sir Charles Dilke, Sir Charles Reed, Right Hon. John Bright, W. S. Allen, Samuel Morley, A. J. Mundella, W. S. Caine, Joseph Cowen, Thomas Burt, W. Fowler, A. Pease, G. Palmer, Hugh Mason, Saml. Plimsoll, D. Davies, J. P. Corry, M. Richardson, Thos. Greer, John Givan, B. Whitworth, A. M. Sullivan, and J. L. Finnegan.

NEW SUPPORTERS.—We are glad to note among the new supporters of Sir Wilfrid Lawson the following gentlemen: Lord Ramsay, Sir Charles Reed, Hon. L. Stanley, R. Jardine, F. Henderson, R. T. Middleton, J. Dick-Peddie, Capt. H. Maxwell, Major Hamilton, S. Williamson, J. C. Boiton, Hugh Mason, Hon. A. Elliot, Prof. Bryce, Prof. Rogers, Firth, Thomasson, Tillet, W. Fowler, Wren, A. Pease, J. A. Blake, Hillingworth, Armitage, J. Stagg, A. Arnold, W. S. Caine, A. Leitke, and F. G. Richardson.

DR. KENNEDY ON THE DRINK TRAFFIC.—Dr. Kennedy, at the Synod of Ross last month, is reported to have spoken as follows on the report on temperance given in by Mr. Grant, Tain:—Dr. Kennedy expressed in general terms his approval of the report. There were, he remarked, some things stated which he perhaps did not entirely agree with, but they were all of one mind as to the extreme desirability of reducing the temptations to drunkenness within the bounds of the Synod. A mere dram-shop—a shop in which neither lodging, accommodation, nor food was supplied, but a shop in which merely drams or intoxicating drinks were supplied—was, in all places, under all conditions, and in all circumstances, unnecessary, and the Synod should use all legitimate means to reduce their number. Dr. Kennedy concluded by complimenting the convener of the committee, Mr. Grant, on his zeal and earnestness in this important matter, and submitted a formal motion for the approval of the report. — *Caithness Courier*.

Mr. William Blackwood, temperance lecturer, gave a sermon on total abstinence in the Benevolent Institution, Thurso, last month. There was a large attendance of young people present, who seemed much interested in the cause of temperance. He also delivered a lecture in the West Free Church. The subject was, "Our Political Prospects regarding the Temperance Movement." His references and illustrations were well chosen, and much admired by the audience. The Thurso folk are seemingly alive to the evils of the drink traffic, and desirous for the suppression of dram-taking customs. — *Caithness Courier*.

OPENING OF BRIDGETON TEMPERANCE INSTITUTE.—On Saturday, 17th April, the "Bridgeton Temperance Institute" was formally opened. A large gathering participated in the opening ceremony. The Hon. Lord Provost Collins presided; and along with him on the platform were Mr. R. T. Middleton, M.P.; Rev. Messrs. Edgar, Howie, and Campbell; Bailies Waddell and Thomson; ex-Bailie Torrens; Councillors Stuart and Moncur; ex-Councillor Ure, &c. The Rev. Mr. Wilson opened the meeting with prayer; and speeches were delivered by the Lord Provost; Mr. R. T. Middleton, M.P.; Rev. Mr. Howie, Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Bailie Waddell, and others. The proceedings, which were highly successful, were enlivened by a choir under the leadership of Mr. W. M. Miller, and terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

MR. J. H. RAPER.—This highly-esteemed reformer and prohibitionist is expected from France early in June with his newly-wedded wife. Sir Wilfrid Lawson has found in Mr. Raper a *files Achates*, and desirous of seizing an apt occasion to honour him, has suggested the institution of a fund to purchase a marriage present for the happy couple. He has asked Mr. Caine, M.P., of Scarborough, to manage the little affair, and promised a contribution of £200 towards it. Mr. Caine is already able to announce that, up to 20th April, subscriptions to the amount of £1332 14s. have been received. Not one word is required on our part to recommend the claims of Mr. Raper to such an appropriate recognition of his services. He has been known, read, and heard of all men, and is the right man in the right place.

THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT, 1878.—The *Canada Casket* says: "On Tuesday last the long expected judgment of the Supreme Court was given at Ottawa in regard to the constitutionality of the Canada Temperance Act, and we are glad to say that the judgment sustains the constitutionality of the law as it now stands. It will be remembered that, last year, the Supreme Court of New Brunswick gave a judgment declaring the Act unconstitutional, as it was beyond the prerogative of the Dominion Parliament to enact such a law. It was from this decision that the appeal was made to the Supreme Court—our highest legal jurisdiction,—and the decision this week therefore settles the question so far as its constitutionality is concerned. The way is now clear for the friends of temperance and prohibition throughout the Dominion. For years such a law as we now possess has been agitated for, and now that we have it there should be a general move all along the line to secure its adoption in the largest possible number of counties. Already the Act has been adopted in 15 counties in the various Provinces, and there is good reason to hope, during this year, that it will be submitted and carried in many others. Let the necessary petitions be put in circulation at once, let meetings or conventions be held in each county or city if necessary, and let us have definite, united, and successful action in the cause of right and humanity. 'Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward.'"

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The quarterly meeting of the Managing Committee of this recently formed organisation was held in Glasgow on the 15th ultimo. Captain Hatfield presided. Resolutions to the effect—(1) That as out of 25 ministers and elders present at the Free Synod of Glenelg, only three or four were not pledged abstainers, the League rejoices at the fact, and expresses its earnest trust that other Highland Presbyteries and Synods may be soon found

in the same gratifying relation to the temperance cause. (2.) That the best thanks of the League is heartily tendered to all rendering assistance to the cause of temperance in the Highlands by means of sermons, lectures, and personal example. (3.) That in order that efficient and permanent Gaelic lecturers and speakers may be engaged without farther delay, a guarantee fund be raised, independent of the ordinary subscriptions, and the Committee urgently recommend friends of the cause to co-operate in carrying out this laudable scheme. The resolutions were cordially adopted. The Secretary, Mr. Simon Finlayson, submitted the quarterly report, which bore that although only three months in existence 179 members are on the roll; 1216 pledge cards had been sold; subscriptions and donations to the amount of £35 14s. received; and £10 1s. 5d. collected at public meetings. As some promised subscriptions are still unpaid, the Committee would be glad if the friends who promised them would kindly send them to the Secretary, at 360 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—The twenty-first annual session of this society opened in the Oddfellows' Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday, 17th ult. There was a very large attendance of representatives. The Most Worthy Patriarch, M. McLeod, in his address stated that notwithstanding the trying character of the past year there had been an increase in numbers and funds. The society had not succeeded in introducing the order into Ireland. The officers had been, like most of the members, active in burying the "publican's" Parliament and bringing into existence one practically pledged to local option as understood by Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The Most Worthy Scribe, Brother Clarke, submitted the statistics of the Order, showing:—Married members, 10,236; single, 3,873; half members, 370; total adult membership, 14,479. The death rate was 8.84 per 1000 during the year. The total income was £43,333 9s. 9d., being an increase of £1,036 16s. on the year. On Tuesday a memorial to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone in favour of Sunday closing for England and Wales, and also in favour of local option as understood by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, was heartily adopted. This latter subject was to be brought before the members for Edinburgh by memorial. On Wednesday a resolution was carried declaring that the brother who should apply for absence on his own or another's behalf violated his obligation. A proposal to eliminate smoking from the cadet's pledge was rejected. The session closed with the usual formalities.

SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The anniversary meetings of this organization took place in the beginning of May, and were characterised by a fair amount of success. The first of the series was the usual City Bands of Hope demonstration on Saturday, 1st May. The City Hall was crowded. Alex. Allan, Esq., presided, and addresses were delivered by the chairman and Rev. James Scott. The Springvale band played at intervals, and the young evidently fully enjoyed their May-day outing. The annual sermon was preached in the City Hall by Rev. Dr. Wallace. Mr. Lambeth presided at the organ, and the choir of the rev. doctor's congregation led the praise. The annual meeting was held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd ult., and we regretted to find the attendance only fair. Lord Provost Collins, president of the League, occupied the chair. His Lordship gave a statement embracing a summary of the annual report, and was very effective. Addresses were then delivered by Rev. J. A. Johnston, J. McCredy, Thomas Evans, ex-Bailie Lewis, and D. Crossley, and the proceedings terminated with the benediction. On Tuesday, 4th, the members and friends breakfasted together in the Trades' Hall under the genial presidency of Bailie Lamberton. Grace was said by Rev. Mr. Macphail, and addresses delivered by the chairman, Rev. J. McCredy, Rev. William Halliday, J. Torrens, Esq., J.P., representative Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association; Rev. Mr. Evans, Rev. J. McLean, Rev. W. Ross, Messrs. R. Simpson and D. Crossley. The proceedings were of the most cheering character. The business meeting

was held in the Trades' Hall at 11 A.M. A. Allan, in the absence of the Lord Provost, in the chair. The thirty-sixth annual report was then submitted. From it we gather that the League has made marked progress in all its departments. The jubilee celebration was a great success; the conversazioni in Glasgow were very interesting and successful. Eulogistic reference is made to the Lord Provost's temperance entertainments, and to special deputations, occasional advocacy, and the travelling agents. The Register soirees amply fulfilled their object. The publication department was as usual active, 40,000 volumes being issued during the year. The joint-executive's action about a Local Option Bill for Scotland receives laudatory notice, as does Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, which had the energetic support of the League, &c. The report was adopted. The Treasurer's statement showed that the income was £8115 11s. 9d., the total expenditure £8062 19s. 11d., leaving a balance to carry forward of £52 11s. 10d. The income showed an increase of £290 7s. 9d. The statement was adopted. Resolutions thanking ministers who delivered anniversary sermons, representatives of kindred associations, the directors, and the officials. Mr. Macnair's annual motion in favour of the total suppression of the whole liquor traffic was negatived. This meeting concluded with the usual formalities. A most enjoyable social meeting concluded the anniversary proceedings.

U. P. SYNOD.—This reverend body met on the 3rd ult., in the new buildings of the Synod in Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, formerly the Edinburgh Theatre. On the 4th, for the first time, a complete statistical statement was submitted. There are 550 congregations in the 39 presbyteries; 10,630 baptisms, being a decrease of 179; this is an average of 19 for each congregation. Among these were 109 adults. There are 352 Sabbath schools, with 10,805 teachers, and 84,075 scholars; 172,170 persons are in full communion with the church, being an increase of 1,964. There are 101 students at the classes in the Theological Hall. The congregational income is £255,402, 17s., being a decrease of £14,352, 0s. 4d. The average membership is 317; the average contribution for each congregation being £409, 16s. 6d., a decrease in the latter of £30, 8s. The missionary income is £79,268, 19s. 9d., a decrease of £5,641, 11s. 2d. The average contribution per member is £1, 15s., which shows a decrease of 2s. 3d per member. The legacies received during the year amounted to £32,649, 12s. 3d., or £11,378, 17s. 7d. less than the previous year. The total amount received by the church in 36½ years has been £8,535,966. On the 7th a conference on temperance took place, Professor Calderwood, Moderator, in the chair. Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown said that the prestige of the ministers was being lowered, and he thought that blame might attach to them from their apathy to the temperance movement. He had abstained for 45 years. If only £1 a head was spent by the membership of the church, that would be £174,000, and one-fourth of that would relieve them from their difficulties, and fill their treasury to overflowing. Rev. Dr. Ritchie recommended the formation of Bands of Hope. Rev. Mr. Goldie condemned the frightful havoc among missions by alcoholic liquors. Dr. Wallace pointed to the triumph of Local Option at the General Election. The conference then closed. Mr. Rankine, Cupar Fife, laid on the table the report on temperance and morals. He indicated the healthy progress of the temperance movement by (1.) the attention paid to inculcating temperance principles and practice on the young; (2.) the advance of medical testimony in favour of abstinence; (3.) Organization of sectional effort in the army, navy, among railway servants and women; (4.) public-houses without intoxicating liquor. Various overtures in favour of Bands of Hope, early closing, &c., were submitted—Mr. Watson submitting that the drinking customs led many to fall from church membership; Dr. A. Thomson submitted, 1st, that the church discourage drinking customs at funeral, induction, and ordination dinners; 2nd, that a sermon be preached on some Sabbath of December; 3rd, that liberty be given to the committee to petition in favour of any parliamentary bill for the restriction of the liquor traffic;

and 4th, that the committee petition in favour of the closing public-houses at an earlier hour than eleven o'clock. Rev. J. Kay proposed to enjoin the committee to petition in favour of all the measures that might be brought before parliament, especially in behalf of a Local Option Bill for Scotland. Rev. J. A. Johnston moved a resolution far short of Rev. Mr. Kay's, seeing that it excluded all reference to the Local Option Bill for Scotland. Dr. Thomson's motion was carried. Later on Dr. Thomson moved that the Public Morals Committee deal exclusively with temperance, and the public morals would be otherwise provided for. Agreed to. The United Presbyterian Ministers' Abstinence Society's Breakfast Party was held in the New College Buildings on the 5th ult., Rev. Principal Cairns in the chair. Rev. Mr. M'Kerrow having asked a blessing, the chairman introduced the proceedings in a brief but able address. Rev. Dr. Reid reported a loss of 6 members, the adhesion of 17, giving a present membership of 212 ministers, being an addition of 11 in the course of one year. Addresses were delivered by Bailie Selkirk, Rev. Dr. Hutton, Rev. Dr. Wallace, Prof. Calderwood, Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown, and Rev. W. Ross. There was also an overflow meeting, which too was largely attended.

FREE TRADE AND COMPENSATION.

A LECTURE on the above subject was delivered in North Public School, Dysart, on Monday evening, 26th April, by Mr. J. H. Waterston. The lecture was under the auspices of the Dysart Temperance Society, and the chair was occupied by Rev. Mr. Guthrie, president of the society, who briefly introduced the lecturer.

Mr. Waterston said his reasons for taking the subject of free trade and compensation was because these subjects had been raised by their political leaders, and considerable importance was attached to their views on the question. He admitted the licensing question was beset with difficulties. Since it first began in 1504, in the reign of Henry Seventh, it had been a source of perpetual annoyance. Lord Hartington had said that free trade in drink had never had a fair trial in this country. This, however, could not be said to be true. The retail sale of spirits was absolutely free until the year 1736, when the first license duty was imposed. The excise duty from 1684 to 1741 varied from 2d. to 6d. per gallon, a tax so very small that we may say both the production and sale of spirits were carried on in England from 1684 to 1736 on the principle of free trade, and what was the result? The consumption of spirits increased from 527,000 gallons in 1684 to 5,394,000 gallons in 1735, the year in which the first license duty was imposed. The effects of the free trade system on the morals of the people was still more marked: their habits became such that in 1751 very stringent measures had to be passed. These restrictive measures proved powerful restraints to excessive drinking, and the consumption of spirits steadily diminished till in 1761 it had fallen from 5,394,000 to 3,181,000 gallons, and continued to decrease till in 1781 it had fallen to 2,000,000 gallons. Then it was argued by Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington that the free trade experiment tried in Liverpool from 1862 to 1866 had the effect of reducing the number of criminal apprehensions even with an increase in the number of licensed houses, whereas when the restriction system was again adopted the apprehensions were considerably increased. He admitted the correctness of the figures quoted, but was the decrease owing solely or partly to the adoption of the free trade system? He thought not. They all knew that a committee of the House of Lords had sat on the question of intemperance, and had examined witnesses from all parts of the United Kingdom—and it happened that these witnesses included the Mayor, Chief Constable, and two Justices of Liverpool, who were in office while the experiment was tried. These pointed out that in 1864, the year when the number of arrests showed the first decrease, a night closing Act was passed, which produced the best effect, and in 1866 a fearful depression of trade prevailed, which had the effect of further reducing the number of apprehensions. Then in 1869 the flood of commercial

prosperity set in and continued till 1874. Wages rose extremely high, more money was spent in drink, and while the shops were reduced in number they were greatly augmented in size—drunkenness prevailed to an alarming extent, and the arrests were considerably increased thereby. Mr. Waterston regretted that this free trade was not continued as it might have proved a better argument. Touching the question of compensation, he said the statements of Mr. Gladstone were greatly misunderstood. All the Premier had said on this was that if vested interests had grown up under the present system compensation would have to be considered. So say we. But had vested interests grown up; he thought not. The liquor dealer had only a privilege, he had no legal right. The question of compensation was a mere ghost to try and frighten them. The certificate of a publican was only endorsed for twelve months, and at the expiry of his term he could be deprived of his license by the action of the magistrates and no compensation allowed, and he saw no reason why a publican should be compensated if he lost his license by a popular vote. Mr. Waterston concluded his lecture by enforcing the claims of local popular control as the only effective method of at present dealing with the difficulty. On the motion of the Chairman a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Waterston for his able and instructive lecture, and a similar compliment to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

GLASGOW ABSTAINERS' UNION.

THE annual meeting of the Glasgow Abstainers' Union was held on the 5th ult., in the Religious Institution Rooms—Mr. John Lindsay presiding. Mr. Airlie, secretary, read the report for the past year. It referred to the domestic mission in Calton and Gorbals districts, to the cookery classes, the public-houses without the drink, the street coffee-stands, and to the Kilmun Seaside Homes. Regarding the last institution, the report says:—"Of the 1009 patients during the past year—of whom 497 were males and 512 were females—193 were under fourteen years of age, 367 above fourteen and under twenty-five, 375 above twenty-five and under fifty-five, and 74 above fifty-five. It will thus be seen that the great bulk of the patients were within the more active and useful period of their lives. The length of stay at the Home for each patient was from two to four and five weeks, and in special cases for a longer period. As regards results, Miss Blair, the esteemed matron, reports that 737 left able for work, 178 improved, and 94 no better. She also adds—'During the past year we have had a larger number of respectable working men and women in the Home than at any former time, a class usually able to save something to help in times of sickness, but the long-continued depression of trade, want of work, and bad health have reduced many of them to a very sad condition, and for the first time in the lives of some of them, they were thankful to receive in the Home the comforts they need but can no longer provide for themselves. We can gather from some of them that they have had a hard battle to fight with poverty and sickness before coming here.' The ordinary income from subscriptions and otherwise for the support of the Home during the year has been £956 12s. 9d. There have also been two legacies, viz. :—£500 (less legacy duty) from the Trustees of the late John Ross, jun., Esq., and £20 from the Trustees of the late Major Robert Walkinshaw Young. In order to meet the annual estimated expenditure a sum of not less than £1200 is required. The ordinary income for the past year having fallen short of this, the directors were under the necessity of drawing somewhat freely upon the legacy fund, which they regret." The report also referred to the fact that the City Hall Concerts had been financially prosperous, and that, on the whole, the funds of the Union were in a much more favourable position than they were last year. The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. W. Fife, seconded by Mr. Hector. Office-bearers were appointed, and the proceedings concluded with thanks to the chairman.

THE SCOTTISH CONGREGATIONAL TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday, 13th April, in connection with the annual meetings of the Congregational Union of Scotland, in Ewing Place Church, Glasgow. The Rev. G. Rutherford, in absence of the president, occupied the chair. After the meeting was opened with prayer, the secretary, Rev. James McLean, Glasgow, read the Thirteenth Annual Report, from which we make a few interesting extracts:—"When we go down beneath the surface, many and striking facts are soon discovered to prove that, in reference to the drink system of the land, these are better days than those in which the temperance movement originated. But while the history of those fifty years justified the jubilation of the last few months, there are abundant reasons all around us why temperance people should review the whole line of action, and, if possible, adopt wiser methods and seek a livelier inspiration to enable them to reach the end, which, alas! is yet too far in the future. As long as the enemy is at the gate there is no time for rest. . . . The annual conference with the students took place in the Hall of Hope Park Congregational Church, Edinburgh, and our respected president, Mr. Watt, occupying the chair. A number of temperance friends resident in Edinburgh and neighbourhood were present, some of whom took part in the proceedings. . . . At the beginning of winter your committee issued a circular to all the pastors of our churches requesting them to preach on intemperance on Sabbath, 28th December, or a Sabbath as near to that as convenient. We are not in a position to say how far this request was acceded to, but we know that a number of our pastors did so, and, no doubt, with good results. It would be of great advantage to the cause of temperance if arrangements could be made to have one Sabbath in the year which would be known throughout the churches as *Temperance Sunday*. . . . Agreeably with the practice of the last few years, the secretary wrote to the convener of the local committee of the Congregational Union expressing the hope that no alcoholic liquor would be found in the refreshment room connected with the forthcoming meetings of the Union in this city, and also suggesting that the *joint-communion* service should be observed with non-alcoholic wine. As regards this latter point, 'use and wont' have decided against us. . . . Your committee, fully alive to the need of farther legislative action in relation to the traffic in intoxicating drinks, prepared and forwarded a petition to the House of Commons in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution. A similar petition was also forwarded from the Edinburgh Conference, signed by Dr. Lowe, as chairman of the meeting. . . . The committee close their report by earnestly urging all the friends of sobriety in our churches to earnest, persistent, prayerful efforts—for intemperance and its accompanying evils can only be effectively grappled with by the devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ." The financial statement showed that the income of the society was steadily improving. The reports were adopted, workers thanked, and a resolution in favour of the formation of Bands of Hope unanimously passed. The proceedings terminated with the benediction.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE FAR NORTH.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

SIR,—As I understand that a little information regarding the progress of the movement in the various localities of the operations of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which one visits, is generally acceptable to your readers, I do not hesitate to proffer mine. My last epistle to the *Social Reformer* related to Lerwick, where I spent eight days among the temperance friends, and experienced much pleasure from my sojourn. Since that time I have visited Kirkwall, in Orkney, and it is gratifying to tell of that northern burgh, that the temperance cause is in a healthy state. There are two Good Templar Lodges

in the town and a temperance society. They have an excellent hall in connection with the order, for which the members are largely indebted to Mr. James Walls, a gentleman who takes a marked interest in the temperance reformation. You will be pleased to see that Kirkwall will not be unrepresented in our lists this year. The Rev. Mr. Pirie and others assisted me; and while I had the satisfaction of addressing two good meetings, my enjoyment was enhanced by spending an evening with Mr. J. Phillips, of the Scottish Temperance League, and in listening to a lecture by our talented brother, the Rev. J. J. Cooper, of the Independent Order of Good Templars. From Kirkwall I went to Shapinshay—an island a short distance north of the mainland of Orkney. I spoke three times in the Rev. Mr. Tiplady's church on the Sabbath day, and found a comfortable home in his manse, where I tasted of the pleasures of his hospitality and those of his goodwife. Shapinshay contains a thousand of a population, and no public-house threatens the amenity of the island. If the editor of the *Scotsman* was north there, he would hear no complaint about "the liberty of the subject," and no clamour about the absence of "refreshments," unless he himself felt disposed to raise the vulgar cry. The distance from Kirkwall to Stromness is fifteen miles, and you get an easy drive, along a good road, by the mail gig. Mrs. Rendall's lodgings are most comfortable—there, indeed, the weary find themselves at rest. My meetings were fairly attended. In this town I formed several agreeable connections, which I hope will be lasting. The principles of prohibition, which I advocated, did not fail to give us a respectable list of subscribers. Captain Robertson, of Stromness, maintains a steady loyalty to our association. I crossed the Pentland Firth on a somewhat stormy morning. The sea is frequently rough. The steamer rolled and pitched very much, and the waves broke over her deck; and as I had to hold on by a post, there was no leisure to survey the old Man of Hoy, or watch the waves dashing in surges of foam on the rocks of Dunnet Head. However, I arrived safely at Thurso. Here I met some very kind friends, who interested themselves in getting up meetings for me, and through their influence, I am glad to say we were pretty successful. I was delighted with the number of young men who attended my meeting on the Monday evening. One cannot feel too grateful when he is privileged to speak to a number of young men on the principles of popular prohibition. Most people believe now that the liquor traffic is not righteous, and the thoughts of young men especially should be directed to its removal. It is a corrupt social institution licensed by the State, and it can only be broken down by the same means by which it has been set up. It is the creature of law and must be destroyed by law. Never did the drink trade feel alarmed till the United Kingdom Alliance unfurled the banner of prohibitory law. The Messrs. Waters, Mr. Bain, and others showed me many kind attentions. Mr. Campbell, librarian, conducted me through the museum, and showed me a number of curiosities, amongst which were the beetles and botanical specimens of Mr. Robert Dick, the Thurso philosopher and naturalist. Altogether it was a pleasure for me to be at Thurso, and I don't mind how soon I return to that town. Thurso will not be out of our register this year. There are two lodges in Thurso, one of the I.O.G.T., and one of the U.T.A. The next town I visited was Wick. There is a splendid Temperance Hall in Wick, which is generously placed at the disposal of temperance reformers by the committee of the temperance society. I availed myself of the opportunity afforded and held two meetings, but I regret that they were not largely attended. However, I managed to secure the adhesion of some first-rate men, and spent a happy night with the members of the Pultneytown Lodge U.T.A., getting them to give us their support. I must arrange to visit Wick again about the beginning of winter. Helmsdale is a nice little town about thirty-seven miles south of Wick. A temperance association has sprung up here under the able presidency of the Rev. D. Macrae, F.C. minister. About 200 were

present at my meeting, and at the close 8 men, I think, took the pledge. There was an air of sociality and friendliness about the gathering which contrasted greatly with the formality and stiffness which are occasionally seen at temperance meetings. This is no doubt principally due to the genial spirit breathed into the association by the kindly words and animating presence of Mr. Macrae. I was pleased with the association, and if it is not presumptuous in me to say so, I must candidly confess that I think that many ministers have not yet learned the good which they might do in this present world, if they would shed the fragrance of their sympathy oftener among the people. There is a fine instance of this in Helmsdale. The Highland Railway skirts the coast from Helmsdale to Golspie, a distance of seventeen miles. I got to the latter town early in the morning. I went and meditated among the tombs for nearly an hour till the Post-office opened. I cannot tell you how joyful I felt when I read in the *Alliance News* the declared constitutionality of the "Canada Temperance Act." You know that this Act is almost identical with the Permissive Bill, and you see how it has sent the liquor traffic of the Dominion into consternation. I like to see a poor dissipated fellow brought into a lodge or a temperance society and induced to sign the total abstinence pledge, but my faith rests much more in changing the law in order to make prohibition possible. At Golspie I had my first open-air meeting for the season. It was an experiment in the village, but the friends thought it should be tried. Considering that we had no advertisement, it was moderately successful. There is a lodge of the I.O.G.T. in the village, with a number of earnest men doing their best to promote the cause. Both the ministers of the village entered their names on our list, and a number of others gave me cheering evidences of their appreciation of our movement. So you will observe Golspie is not to be behind in assisting to bring round the day of triumph. Truly Sir Willfrid Lawson is gaining many friends. I hear his name spoken of with admiration, and one cannot help feeling a justifiable pride in having him for a leader in the country and in the House of Commons. Dornoch is seven miles south from Golspie. It is one of the burghs of the Wick group, and is pleasantly situated on the north shore of the Dornoch Firth. It was quite unusual for a Permissive Bill agent or an Optional Prohibitionist to enter within its quiet precincts. I found a good friend in Councillor Frazer and another in the Rev. George R. Kennedy, of the Free Church. One meets with sweet surprises sometimes in this transitory world, and I was destined to meet with an agreeable one in Dornoch. Being informed that the tutor of Mr. Kennedy's sons was a Mr. Hunter, son of the late Rev. George Hunter of the U.P. Church, Tilliecultry, I replied that I knew his father. In a few minutes I had the pleasure of shaking hands with Mr. John L. Hunter. Oh, how our interview recalled the old Ochil hills and the clear winding Devon. Many of your readers will be aware that the Rev. George Hunter was a sound temperance reformer, a man of public spirit, and an eloquent preacher of the gospel. The son is following in his father's footsteps. From Dornoch I went to Tain, but meantime I was compelled to make a short stay. I, however, met several of the warm friends of the temperance movement. I wanted to get on to Dingwall. This burgh sits snugly between two hills at the western extremity of the Cromarty Firth. When the history of the temperance reformation comes to be written, the careful historian will certainly not exclude Dingwall from his pages. Here is one of the best lodges of the Good Templar Order I have seen in Scotland. It thrives, although some people might think that it does not breathe the most congenial atmosphere for cultivating the virtues of total abstinence; still, I think, we may rest assured that many social and moral reformers will emanate from Dingwall, and if all our lodges could show a front like this one they would hasten the day of Scotland's emancipation from the bondage of the drink curse. I hope to have a few interesting things to tell you of next month.—Yours truly,

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD.

POISONOUS UNFERMENTED WINE.

68 Kensington High Street,
London, May, 1880.

SIR,—The enclosed paragraph from the *Manchester Examiner and Times* has had a very wide circulation, and is calculated not only to do me a great personal injury, but to seriously prejudice the discussion of the Sacramental Wine question. You will, therefore, greatly oblige me by publishing the following correspondence relating thereto, as the best corrective I can devise for so unfortunate a publication.—I am, very truly yours,

FRANK WRIGHT.

"To the Chairman of the Health Committee,
Salford, April 27th, 1880.

"SIR,—The following paragraph from the *Manchester Examiner and Times*, and quoted therefrom into other widely-circulating newspapers, has been brought to my notice:—

PUBLIC ANALYST'S REPORT.—A DANGEROUS NON-ALCOHOLIC WINE.

Mr. J. Carter Bell, the borough analyst, reported that during the last quarter he had analysed 138 samples, including 90 of milk and 26 of beer. He found 43 samples adulterated, viz., 38 of milk, one of unfermented wine, one of oatcake, one of whisky, and two of beer. The sample of unfermented wine contained a considerable amount of copper, which might be seriously detrimental to health. In warm weather a person might be inclined to drink a large quantity of that acid, sugary compound, which contained a very dangerous dose of copper salt, a proof that it had been prepared in a careless and ignorant manner.

You may not be aware that I am the principal maker of unfermented wine in this country, and that besides me the only manufacturer whose wine is now in the British market is the Liverpool firm recently prosecuted under the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Act. It is obvious that the circulation of such a statement as this is calculated to do me a serious injury unless explained more definitely than in this paragraph. Allow me, therefore, to ask that you will place it in my power to correct any false impressions which may have been produced by the circulation of this 'Report,' by informing when and where the sample of unfermented wine in question was purchased, and by whom it was stated upon the label to have been manufactured.—I am, sir, very truly yours,

FRANK WRIGHT."

"12 Radford Street, Higher Broughton,
Manchester, April 29th, 1880.

"SIR,—The chairman of our Health Committee has handed to me your letter, in which you have asked for some information in regard to my last 'Quarterly Report,' containing an account of an unfermented wine which contained a considerable amount of copper. I cannot give you the maker's name, as it was not upon the bottle. The label upon the bottle was the following:—'Unfermented Wine.—Port, for family and sacramental purposes, manufactured from the juice of the grape. Wholesale depot, 104 Breck Road, and 52 Brunel Street, Liverpool.'—I remain, yours truly,

"J. CARTER BELL, F.C.S., F.I.C., &c."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

ELECTIONS AND PUBLIC-HOUSES.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Orillia, 25th April, 1880.

SIR,—Judging from what I see in your illustrated and other newspapers, the dear old Motherland might learn a lesson in the conduct of elections from this young dominion. Here, taverns, and all places where liquors are sold, must be closed during the polling. "Treating" by candidates or agents during the canvass voids an election; hiring of vehicles to convey voters to the polls is prohibited, and no vehicle is permitted to dis-

play any flag, streamer, or placard in the interest of any candidate. Betting on elections is forbidden, and other precautions taken to prevent "undue influences," particularly on the part of the publicans or other powerful interests. "Open houses" are a thing of the past, and publicans are anxious rather to avoid the undue display of partisanship and placards likely to give offence to either party which might prove successful. This all helps to lessen the influence of "the Trade" in politics, and also prevents much of the excitement which characterised election contests in the olden time.—Faithfully yours,

G. H. HALL.

AN EXPLANATION.

30 South Mount Street,
Aberdeen, 20th April, 1880.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

MY DEAR SIR,—Kindly insert the enclosed note as my reply to "Delta," whose note I also return herewith.—Very truly yours,

WM. CLARK.

Glasgow, 19th April, 1880.

MR. WM. CLARK.—Sir,—I observe in this month's number of the *Social Reformer* in your article entitled "Principle and Expediency: their true place in the Temperance Enterprise" a quotation, viz., "To Him whose he was, and whom he was bound to serve." Will you kindly mention in next month's number of the *Social Reformer* from whose writings the quotation is taken, especially the words in the quotation "was bound," and you will greatly oblige yours, DELTA.

P.S.—As this article is to be continued, a reply is looked for.

"W. C." begs to convey his best thanks to "Delta," who very properly calls attention to a quotation in No. 1 of last month's issue—"To Him whose he was, and whom he was bound to serve." In the indirect form this quotation should have read, "Whose he was and whom he served." The idea wished to be conveyed—entire consecration to Christ—remains intact, but correct quotation ought to have had place. The Apostle's own words, as rendered in our authorised version, are, "Whose I am, and whom I serve," Acts xxvii. 23.

THE NATIONAL DRINK BILL FOR 1879.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

DEAR SIR,—The Excise Returns giving the consumption of intoxicating liquors for 1879 have been published, and now that the excitement of the election is passing away, it may not be unacceptable to your readers to have placed before them a statement showing the amount of money expended upon intoxicating liquors during the year 1879.

The following table gives particulars of the various kinds of intoxicating liquors consumed, together with the money expended thereon. It also gives the consumption for 1878:—

	1879.	1878.
Gallons.	£	£
British Spirits } (a) 27,936,651, at 20s	27,936,651	29,358,715
Foreign Spirits } (b) 9,540,851, at 24s	11,449,021	12,636,364
Wine } (c) 14,945,093, at 18s	13,450,583	14,045,065
Beer. Cwt. Bsls. malt.		
Sugar used } (d) 1,066,687 = 4,551,192		
Malt used } (e) . . . 49,935,926		
Total.	54,487,118	
Equal to 980,768,124 gls. beer at 1s. 6d.	73,557,609	83,798,756
British Wines (estimate): Gals. at 2s.	1,750,000	1,750,000

£128,143,864 £142,188,900

Showing a falling-off in the consumption of £14,045,036, or 9.8 per cent.

(a) Sec Trade and Navigations Returns Feb., 1880, p. 72	
(b) " " " Dec., 1879, p. 12	
(c) " " " Dec., 1879, p. 14	
(d) " " " Feb., 1880, p. 71	
(e) " " " Feb., 1880, p. 71	

It will be a source of much gratification to all who are concerned for the national well-being to observe the great falling-off which there has been in the consumption of intoxicating liquors in 1879, as compared with 1878, reducing the drink bill to an amount below that of any year since 1871. That year it amounted to £118,906,066; in 1872 it rose to £131,601,400; 1873, £140,014,712; 1874, £141,342,997; 1875, £142,876,669; 1876, £147,288,760; in 1877 it fell to £142,007,231; in 1878 it rose a little, being £142,188,900; and in 1879 it had fallen to £128,143,864, being, as I have said, less than any year since 1871, and *Nineteen Millions* less than in 1876.

Perhaps it may be said that a considerable proportion of the falling off has arisen from the diminution of the people's means owing to the depression in trade. Doubtless some of it may have arisen from this cause; but if the falling off were wholly attributable to the badness of the times, we should find the same cause affecting the consumption of other things, such as tea, coffee, &c.; but this has not been the case, as the following table will show:—

Table showing the consumption of tea, coffee, and cocoa during the years 1878 and 1879:—

	1878.	1879.	Increase.
Tea.....	157,692,762 lb.	160,652,187 lb.	= 1.9 per cent.
Coffee...	33,393,248 lb.	34,696,256 lb.	= 3.9 "
Cocoa...	9,980,162 lb.	10,111,526 lb.	= 1.3 "

Giving an average increase of 2.3 per cent.

From the tables which I have given it will be seen that whilst the consumption of intoxicating liquors fell off to the extent of 9.8 per cent., the consumption of tea, &c., increased 2.3 per cent. clearly proving that the reduction in the former case did not arise entirely from the crippled resources of the people, but partly from a change in their habits, due to the spread of temperance truth, to the establishment of coffee-houses, &c., and to improvement in the general legislation of the country.

It will no doubt also be interesting to your readers to know in what proportion the drink expenditure is spread over the United Kingdom. The following table will show this, so far as concerns the consumption of beer and British spirits, which are the main items of expenditure. The particulars for wine and foreign spirits are not given in the returns.

Table showing the consumption of beer and British spirits in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, for the two years 1878 and 1879:—

Beer.	1878.	1879.	Decrease.
England.....	£74,951,769	£66,179,066	= 10.4 per cent.
Scotland.....	3,996,562	3,337,792	= 16.7 "
Ireland.....	4,850,424	4,040,695	= 16.7 "
Spirits.			
England.....	16,697,663	16,314,174	= 2.3 "
Scotland.....	6,559,147	6,287,477	= 4.1 "
Ireland.....	6,101,905	5,335,000	= 12.5 "

From the above figures it will be seen that whilst the falling off in the consumption of intoxicating liquors has been considerable all round, it has been much greater in Ireland, where Sunday closing had recently come into operation, than in England or Scotland, and there can be no doubt that the good resulting from Sunday closing in Ireland would have been still more marked had it not been that five of the large towns, viz., Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Limerick, and Waterford, are exempted from the operations of the Sunday Closing Act.

On taking a general survey of the position of matters relating to the nation's intemperance, there will everywhere be a feeling of great satisfaction, if not of relief, at the rapid progress which has taken place in favour of temperance during the past few years. During the height of our prosperity, six or seven years ago, whilst

the evils of intemperance were universally admitted and by many deplored, there yet appeared on the part of the public to be an indifference and an apathy that filled with gloom the hearts of good men, and the fear arose in many minds that the nation had become so greatly debased and enslaved by drink as to have become callous to its vital interests. The continued spread of temperance truth, coupled with the severe distress which has existed, and which has largely been the result of this intemperance, has at length not only enlightened the understandings of the people, but has roused them to such a sense of personal obligation as has borne the wholesome fruits to which I have referred.

This growth of opinion has been largely manifested during the recent elections. For the first time, perhaps, in the history of electioneering, politicians have taken little or no account of the publican power; the conscience of the nation has been too much aroused to permit of its lending its influence in support of an interest which is so antagonistic to the commercial, moral, physical, and social well-being of the people, and the result is, we have a Parliament more in sympathy with questions of social reform than any previous Parliament during the present generation, and if the new House of Commons succeeds in dealing with the licensing system in such a manner as will redeem the country from the fearful evils resulting therefrom, it will earn the gratitude, not only of the nation, but of the whole civilised world.—I remain, yours truly,

WILLIAM HOYLE.

Claremont, Tottington, near Bury,
Lancashire.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, &c., for REVIEW, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

Temperance Landmarks: A Narrative of the Work and the Workers. (By the Rev. R. Maguire, D.D.) London: "Hand and Heart" Publishing Office, 1 Paternoster Buildings, E.C. The year of Jubilee has impelled many to offer material to the history of the temperance reformation. Dr. Maguire contributed a series of papers on "Temperance Landmarks," to *Home Words*. In their serial form they met with high approval. They are now reprinted, and appear in the form of an excellent handy book which an advocate of temperance may easily put in his pocket, making each chapter serve as a reading to some temperance meeting. Dr. Maguire has done his work with singular fidelity and success, and we specially commend the last chapter to our readers, as one well fitted to supply them with the most powerful motives for engaging in the urgent work of temperance reform.

The Band of Hope Handbook, &c. Prepared under the direction of the Committee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union. (London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row.) While heartily sympathising with the Band of Hope movement, and when and where we can stamping our sympathy with willing help, we demur to the statement with which this handbook begins, that this movement has developed more and is more hopeful than any other phase of the temperance question. Comparisons are deemed odious, certainly they are so in this case, and it serves no good purpose whatever to make them. The handbook has many and singular excellences, and it is fitted to enable any committee to easily surmount those difficulties they may meet with in their attempts at forming Bands of Hope. The various suggestions it contains are based upon a widely extended and observant experience. It aims most wisely to make the children workers, in entertaining each other, in distributing temperance literature and otherwise. This is the true way, and faithfully followed will make the Band of Hope which adopts it flourish and grow as it flourishes. We cordially recommend this handy handbook.

The Preston Temperance Teacher; by Joseph Livesey, Preston, (the Author, 13 Bank Street). Price 8d. per 100. The venerable patriarch of the temperance reformation, Mr. Livesey, "is always at it." "The Preston Temperance Teacher" is a monument to his sterling enterprise. Admirably clear and plain and sensible, each issue is well fitted to do abundant good. Curiously enough, like the latter issues of the old man, it is addressed more to temperance reformers than to drunkards. No. 1 furnishes a speech of Mr. B. Whitworth's and an article named "What should be Done?" No. 2 is more varied than its predecessor, and is a striking issue. No. 3 is also an excellent number. On the whole, we heartily can and do wish success to Mr. Livesey's latest venture, which we hope will be scattered widely and continually over the land.

BOOKS RECEIVED:—Elliot Stock's marvellous Penny Testament (three sorts); The Princess, Dupay's Magazine of Fashion; Evidence on the Closing of Public Houses on Sunday, by E. Whitwell; The Missionary Juvenile, No. 1; Notes on Prisons; Studies in Life, by Dr. H. S. Paterson; The Human Body, by Dr. H. S. Paterson, &c., &c.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. EBENEZER ANDERSON, GLASGOW.—This staunch temperance reformer has passed away at a good old age, having departed on the 4th ultimo, aged seventy years. As long as health and age would allow Mr. Anderson devoted his efforts to the promotion of the movement in its personal, political, but specially in its gospel aspect. His presence will be missed at the meetings of the Dale Street and Plantation Street Total Abstinence Societies.

THE LATE MR. JOHN SMITH, GLASGOW.—We deeply regret to have to record the decease of this estimable gentleman and steadfast friend of the temperance movement, who died at his residence, Fairmount, Bothwell, on the 10th ultimo, in the seventieth year of his age. Mr. Smith, although of a retiring and unassuming disposition, was deeply interested in the temperance reformation in all its phases, and was one of its earliest and most attached supporters. He has for many years been one of the esteemed vice-presidents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, to which he has ever proved an unfailing and generous friend. It was always a pleasure to him to receive friends coming from a distance on the business of the Association, who at his hospitable fireside never missed the comforts of their own homes. Mr. Smith had in Mrs. Smith one as warmly attached to the movement and as devoted to its interests as himself. She co-operated vigorously with the leaders on all possible occasions. A widow, a son, and two daughters are left behind to mourn their irreparable bereavement. The Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association have minuted their deep sense of the loss sustained by Mr. Smith's decease, and their sincere sympathy and condolence with his mourning relatives. They were represented on the occasion of his funeral by J. Torrens, Esq., J.P.; Bailie Selkirk; R. C. Murray, Esq.; and R. Mackay, Secretary. His remains were interred in the Glasgow Necropolis on the 14th ultimo, in presence of a large company of mourning friends.

LAMOND'S NEW LECTURES.

No. IV.—OUR HOME LIFE.

" V.—HOW IT MAY BE DONE.

Price 5s. 6d. per 100.

Order through

EDINBURGH PUBLISHING CO.,

J. MENZIES & CO., or SCOTTISH LEAGUE, GLASGOW.

THE
Social Reformer.

JULY, 1880.

TEMPERANCE IN RELATION TO THE
GOSPEL.—II.

WE have been speaking of those who die *directly* by drink. Our heart's blood almost freezes when we think of the almost incredible number of young children who are suffocated by their drunken parents by being overlaid, poisoned by foul air and bad food and drink, or dying by starvation—all ills that the drunkard's children are subject to; the number of wives broken-hearted, dying before their time; the number of young lives blighted and shortened; the number of grey heads brought down with sorrow to the grave. These form another awful indictment against the destroyer, alcohol. This goes on in this our "Home of Christian liberty," and perhaps far more than 300 lives are sacrificed daily at Bacchus' brutal shrine. The thing is appalling—too great for our conception—and we can but stare blankly at the figures, and pass on. The angel of temperance, clear-sighted and sympathetic, looks in on the terrible naked reality, wrings her hands in bitter sorrow, and begins to preach her gospel of repentance and temperance reform. She has found an effectual cure, which she calls **TOTAL ABSTINENCE**, and holds it up like a "serpent in the wilderness." Many have embraced her teaching, and borne testimony to its soundness. Science has come forward and given her passionless, unprejudiced testimony in its favour. Yet Churchmen who have got tired of hearing the bare, uninviting doctrine of self-denial for the good of others preached, cry, "Away with your total abstinence, your narrow-mindedness, and your sectarianism; we want none of them here! Preach the gospel to the people, and there will be no need of your total abstinence pledge. Down with your 'pledge' and up with Christ, and teach the people true self-control by the grace of God, and such teaching will be honourable to you." The reply to this is always ready. These well nigh nineteen centuries you have, in your own way, been preaching the gospel; and while this strong drink has been eating the heart out of our nation, and bringing her down to this terrible condition, you have been saying the same things. We cannot, therefore, listen any longer to such meaningless babble. We find that the gospel *does not* prevent alcohol from working its deadly course with those who take it. We find there is no temperance in the use of, but only in entire abstinence from it. We find this thing alcohol to be deleterious in the smallest doses. We find also that the Bible, whose teaching you say rules your conduct, says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." We find this thing alcohol to be a cerebral poison. It has a special affinity for the brain, and, consequently, when a man is under its influence, as the late Professor Miller well says, "reason is at a discount, and voluntary control placed more and more in

abeyance. What is specially human is lessened, what is merely animal is intensified; the passions rise rebelliously, and defy all moral control; and the man becomes, under his own act, what the law has quaintly termed him, *voluntarius demon*. He is temporarily *insane*, and fitted for any act of violence to himself or others." "And this condition of insanity," he remarks, "may not prove temporary, but may be prolonged. The man, though become sober, is mad, and may remain so for some time." We do not argue that what doctors are pleased to name insanity is usually induced by small doses of alcohol, but we maintain that if it be a brain poison and an impairer of reason in large doses, it must be the same in small doses. That which is *water* in a gallon does not become *milk* in a drop; it is still water. The question, clearly, is only one of degree; and we hold that as long as people continue to imbibe a drug that destroys their reason and sense of responsibility to God and their fellows, preaching the gospel will be little more than fighting the air. Man was created a rational being, with the power of choice. God entered into a covenant with him as a rational, responsible, free agent. Man, by the exercise of his own free will and choice, violated the conditions of that covenant. The penalty of this was death. Man could not save himself. God provided means by which, on the acceptance of certain conditions, man would be saved. Those conditions are set forth in the gospel we are told to preach as the antidote of intemperance. Man cannot and will not accept the conditions unless he feel responsible. This thing alcohol destroys his sense of responsibility. Man cannot understand, much less accept, any conditions, without the exercise of his reason. Alcohol destroys his reasoning faculties. Nor is this all; it blunts his moral sense, inflames his lower passions, "the lusts of the flesh that war against the soul." It not only impairs or destroys his reasoning faculties—it goes further, and eats out of him, like a cancer, all that is good and Godlike, all that is manlike, and renders him lower than the brutes because self-debased, and soon places him beyond the reach of every better influence, human or divine.

The gospel, therefore, having no power over the physiological effects of this or any such drug, can do absolutely nothing for a person who is under its influence and power. The "moderation" party say they do not contend that the gospel may be preached with permanent effect to a person in a state of intoxication, but they would speak to the person when sober, and then the gospel would be understood and accepted, and all would be well. If the gospel, they say, cannot be accepted when a person is in a state of intoxication, neither can the total abstinence pledge. True, we say, but the more the sense of responsibility is abused by the use of alcohol the weaker it becomes. The brain becomes clouded, and the moral perceptions are partially destroyed.

He knows that the demon alcohol has got him in his relentless grip. He knows the torture he daily receives at his hands, through that burning, quenchless thirst. Begin to preach the gospel to that man and tell him to accept Christ, and He will give grace to enable him to drink in moderation as you do. You will no more get him to believe it than you would get him to believe that the grace of God would enable him to jump over the moon. He will tell you you do not understand his case, or you would not talk to him of moderation. He will tell you you know nothing of the flame that is kindled by the first drop he takes. He will tell you that the grace you speak of is too high for him—he cannot attain to it. He will have difficulty in understanding a Christianity that tampers with a thing that he has found to be a destroying devil. Such a man will never be able to understand your Christianity apart from total abstinence; and if you do not believe in total abstinence he will have great difficulty in believing in you or your teaching. He will tell you you are quite mistaken, that 'the harvest is past,' and there is no salvation for such as he, and you will probably fail to make a single beneficial impression on him. And why? Because you have not met his case. He knows that strong drink is his soul's greatest enemy; and when he is told to drink "moderately," this question presents itself to his mind—How is he to give up all his evil ways unless he also give up the vile thing that induced them all? The thing is impossible, and he can go no further. On the other hand, if you invite him to follow your example and abstain, shake him warmly by the hand, and promise him your kind Christian sympathy and help, promise him that, as far as you can by your prayers and your practical brotherly sympathy, you will help him to fight the great enemy of his soul, he will promise, with a tear in his eye, that with your help and God's he will try.

This basis is sound, and, if reform be possible, you will reform your man in this way. Indulgence in intoxicating drinks is a practice condemned by scripture, and not only out of harmony with, but opposed to the gospel of Christ. Our total abstinence, then, is a part of the doctrine of repentance, as taught by John the Baptist. Repentance must always go first (Acts iii. 19). Repentance must be characterised by a change of practice (Matthew iii. 8; Acts xxvi. 20). Drunkenness is not only a sin in itself, but it leads to innumerable other sins. This the drunkard knows very well, and hence he knows that true repentance is impossible without the giving up of his drinking habits entirely. There is no other single vice known that induces so many others as drunkenness, and therefore in the call to repentance at the present time the question of temperance must be a prominent doctrine. The Church in times past has been ignoring this fact. In this important particular her "orthodoxy" has been rather heterodoxy. She has, in great part, been oblivious to the highest Christian law of love—the law of self-sacrifice for the good of others. This being so, we who are of clearer vision, and are alive to the fact, are obliged to have a society organised for the purpose of preaching this essential but neglected part of the gospel of repentance. Our temperance societies would not have been necessary if the Church had not gone off the straight in the matter. It would have been the Church's work, as it is the Church's duty, to teach that indulgence in a drink that destroys that highest of man's faculties—reason—and his sense of responsibility, is a great sin, and in direct opposition to the cardinal doctrines of Scripture.

(To be continued.)

MODERATE DRINKING: CAN IT BE A RIGHT OR SAFE COURSE?

It is a belief shared by many, that there are both women and men so constituted that they can take a moderate quantity of alcoholic liquor, and never appear to approach intoxication, and can continue in this moderate way all their lives. Again, it is no less certainly believed that there are others, also for constitutional reasons, who cannot habitually take intoxicating drink without being in danger of going at times a little too far from the path of sobriety. While regarding others, it is universally admitted that their feeble power of self-control ought to be sufficient reason for not touching intoxicating drink at all.

Now, supposing there are men and women so constituted that they can habitually take intoxicating drink, and perhaps they may never be seen by outsiders to be in the slightest degree approaching intoxication, who is there to say that they never are, let it be ever so little, a little beyond what could with truth be called soberness. Are they to speak for themselves, because they are not, as a rule, the working men whose general conduct is open to the observation of the community, that they are easily known as steady men or otherwise? Now, if they are to speak for themselves—I mean, if simply their word is to settle the question as to whether they ever exceed the strictest bounds of moderation—I believe if they were asked such a question, which they would of course consider a very impertinent question indeed, but which I should not consider to be an impertinent question, as in conversation with a total abstainer they would ask what questions they thought fit, and also criticise severely enough—I say, if they were asked such a question, they would deny, with the greatest of imaginable indignation, that they ever were, or that they ever should be, in the slightest degree intoxicated. But I say that, let them answer with all the vehemence they like, still we are not sure that they either never have, or never will take what might be termed just a little too much, or be, as an observer might say that they had had a little. Of course I mean, that though it might be said a little, the little would be quite sufficient for an ordinary observer to see that that little had been had, and necessarily made an alteration in the appearance of the individual from what was the appearance of the individual before that little had been taken.

Now, as I think that at present we cannot very easily ascertain for a certainty that some of this class of people ever do go as far as I have intimated, let us look at those of whom it might be remarked by their acquaintance, that sometimes they really do get a little too much, but that it is very seldom, and of no importance, as they go off quietly, and very few know anything about it. Suppose you were to ask one of this class if he ever got a little too much, you would sharply be told that he never did. O no, not he; he could take his glass or two with a friend, and leave it without any desire for more. Well now, I know of many whose answers to such a question would be something similar—namely, that they never took too much, and that they did not care much for it, but took it to be sociable; or that they took it because they thought it did them good; or often, perhaps, that they were ordered by their doctor to take a little. I know the case of an old man. He gets too much sometimes, and he says a little overcomes him; but if a little does overcome him, he seems to take more after he is overcome. He would say young folks don't require it, but that old folks do, and that doctors say so. But I think that it looks a deal better,

and is a deal better, for a man to be a sober man in his later days, even if he has gone a little wrong in his younger days, than for him to have been very steady and industrious as a young man, and then in after life to take to the use of intoxicating drink, and sometimes get beyond the mark.

And of the class of whom there is no mistake but that they do get intoxicated, I do not know whether it is simply for the sake of argument, or whether they believe they are speaking the truth, when, if you had seen them intoxicated, and you were remonstrating with them afterwards, they would say that they had not been so. But there are plenty of that sort; for you may often hear a drunken man, if spoken to about being drunk, saying that he is not, and that he has only had so much. I have seen a man hardly able to stand, and heard him say, "I'll go and get drunk." It seems if they can manage to get home somehow without being carried they consider they were not drunk, but only had had a little, and were just fresh.

So we see the man in a high position or station in life seems to consider himself quite out of danger in taking intoxicating drink to excess; but I fancy when those who are in a lower station know that such a person takes his wine, or what not, in that line, regularly, they think it very likely that he sometimes goes farther from the unmistakably sober point than he would care for them seeing or knowing; and though there might not be the least whisper of anything of the sort from any quarter likely to know if it were so, still the doubt would be there if they knew he took it at all; and if such a man was to speak to a working man respecting his conduct, it would have a deal less good effect upon that man to what it would have had if he, the reprover, was known never to err in like manner.

The Bible speaks strongly against the drunkard, and a man may be a drunkard without necessarily exposing himself to the gaze of the people. And now comes a very difficult question, When is a man to be considered sober, and when is he to be considered drunk? The other day I saw two men considered gentlemen; now, if I were asked to say whether they were sober or drunk, I should hardly like to say that they were drunk, but I certainly could not say they were sober. But it is my belief that if any one were to have asked them (I mean any one not given to taking intoxicating drinks—I won't say for any of their own sort) the next day, if they were sober last night, they (the querists) would come in for a good share of abuse, though I doubt not but that after I saw them there would be more drink consumed.

Now, my idea of when a man is sober is when he has tasted no intoxicating drink, but as soon as ever he takes a little, he is so far on the road to intoxication, and not quite sober, though he may not be altered to outward appearance, or very little. It won't do to say that, as it is such a small quantity, it has produced so little change in the system that it may be said to have made no alteration at all. It must of necessity have made as much difference as it was capable of, according to the quantity consumed. If it is a small quantity, and that small quantity is repeated, the results will soon show, or at least there will soon be signs of what has been going on. It is similar in some ways to poison (and I think it is considered a poison by medical men)—a little might be taken, and not be sufficient to kill, but for all that it would have effect as far as its power went.

And why should people take it at all? A man naturally has no desire for it, but a dislike, something similar to what he has to smoking. When a

beginner has his pipe it makes him bad; but he intends if possible to get over that, and be a smoker; and after a while it gets such a habit that it seems difficult for him to leave it off. We have the first physicians of the day saying that alcohol is not necessary to support life, or to in any way assist in the support of life, but that it is injurious to the system.

Is it not a great pity that people should take it at all, when the least to be said against it would be that it does no good, and we know very well that it does a great deal of harm? Many people are still under the delusion that there is strength in what they call "good home brewed" ale, and as it seems to be a deal stronger, in having greater intoxicating power than the general ale-house stuff, they seem to think that it must give strength to the body; and good old port, nourishing stout, porter, &c., are all believed to have a wonderful amount of nourishment and other good qualities. Dr. Norman Kerr says, "The every-day prescription of nourishing stout to nursing mothers is not scientific medicine, but is the grossest quackery, and is but too often productive of most lamentable results to both mother and child." How can it be safe for a nursing mother to be continually taking alcohol in some form or other? May it not give an artificial thirst to the child? Is it not a very great pity that a child should be so brought up? Who can say what the effects of such bringing up may be upon the poor child? When he gets big enough to understand things a little, he will naturally want to imitate his mother; and then if he takes alcohol, the appetite very likely will soon be created, and be a source of unhappiness, perhaps for his life. Example is better than precept.

H. R., Jr.

A DAY WITH THE "IVANHOE."

On a raw and gusty Saturday of last month, on which, as Cato would have said, the dawn was overcast, the morning lowered and heavily in clouds brought on the day, we found ourselves on our way by train to join the *Ivanhoe* at Greenock. Pope sings of "Hope eternal, that springs triumphant from the human breast." This day we furnished a signal instance of his theme. We hoped the day would be fine. Our hopes and fears collided, but hope had her way, and we let her soar. Amid a weeping rain, we went on board the namesake of "the disinherited knight," and found her decks from stem to stern all before us where to choose our place of rest or our coigne of vantage. A glance at her beautiful proportions and her handsome appearance, evoked our admiration; and we anticipated great pleasure from a tour of investigation during some part of the voyage. The rain ceased, but the sun sulked in his tent, and the troubled waters only reflected a leaden sky. Stepping below, we found all in first-class style—a confectioner's tiny shop, bookstall, a dairy, with its dairymaid dispensing the famous milk which Dr. Fergus warrants free from "Simpson" and typhoid germs. We invested in a glass, which cost us the moderate sum of three halfpence. The fore cabin had stores of milk, but did not seem, in purveying, enterprising enough to our taste: it was difficult to get a moderate refreshment. We were informed that the after cabin was the place for "gents," engineers and such like being provided for here. We sauntered to the dining saloon, below the saloon cabin, but we must frankly express our opinion that the tariff is a mistake: breakfast, lunch, or tea, 2s.; dinner, 3s.; plain tea, 1s. 6d.; cup of tea for 6d.; and temperance drinks, in almost every case, 4d. per bottle, are, as charges, far too high. No doubt all is sumptuous.

ous and plentiful, but with the remembrance that dinner can be had in Glasgow at 1s. for the three courses, and tea and lunch at half this figure, it is useless to expect that such extreme charges will be met by passengers in general. If a moderate figure for less costly diets were adopted in the fore cabin, we feel sure that the owners would, in the long run, reap richly by their enterprise. The dining saloon is finished in the most elegant style, and the service of meals, as we can testify, is expeditious and efficient. We sauntered into the upper saloon, and found it pretty well filled with both sexes. The seats are in striking contrast to those to which we have been accustomed. The old style of seats reminded you of a gigantic omnibus or tram-car, or a room cleared for dancing, with a table or two in the centre. Here they were on the compartment principle, seated for little parties, who could, by themselves, enjoy a pleasant chat; or, with their back to the engine, or with their face looking ahead, enjoy all the pleasure of railway travelling by gazing on the varied aspects of sea and sky and shore, as each severally flitted past: or even, with a well-filled stationery box at their elbow, amuse themselves by inditing an epistle to absent friends. We tried, on this special day, to write, but, with wind and sea combined, to do so was impossible, so we, perforce, desisted. Everything in this saloon was characterised by a chaste, rather than an ornate elegance: carpets, curtains, seats, bearing strong testimony to the æsthetic merits of those who decked out this elegant resort with so much good taste. The passengers, notwithstanding the dull day, were, like ourselves, manifestly enjoying themselves. Calling at Dunoon and Kilm, our steamer soon shot over to Wemyss Bay; then we steered for Bute, with weather still unpropitious. The island looked sombre-like in the absence of the sun. At Rothesay we shipped the happiest group the *Ivanhoe* carried that day. The ladies, two in number, were evidently sisters, they resembled each other so much. Their swains had fallen deeply in love with them—so deeply that it would almost seem as if they could never reach the bottom. All through the stormy day they sat cosily at the base of the forward chimney, and their rippling laughter and merry sallies were like medicine to a sick man, or like the oasis in the desert to the weary traveller. There were no others that attracted our notice, save it might be a girl dressed like a duchess, but as swarthy as a Spaniard, and another, like Eve, most divinely fair. The most of those on board were husbands and wives, with their bairns, out for a holiday, or on a visit to their friends at the coast. In their several spheres, many of them are influential, and sway those around them on political and ecclesiastical affairs. We could easily have roused our readers' interest by naming several who were on board the *Ivanhoe* that day; but as it would merely gratify a curiosity which is not laudable, we shall forbear. The Kyles of Bute, which present so many charming features, looked lovely, notwithstanding that the sun never appeared to lighten them up. The rain had freshened the vegetation and vivified the grass, so that the little cottages with which the Argyllshire shore is dotted, contrasted finely in their snow-like whiteness with the hills and trees, and also with the ruggedness that was so evident in the opposite shores of Bute. Tighnabruich did not please us as it had often done before, and, for the first time during the day, we heaved a sigh at the continued absence of the sun. The mist-like showers swept across the decks, adding to the regret we felt at the gloomy weather. The wind was rising too, and the sea, more troubled than ever, made our vessel pitch and occasionally ship a sea. As we were passing the "drunken"

island, I thought of how much misnamed it was. It is an island where the diseased inebriate may, free from sight and smell of alcoholic liquors, regain his health through the withdrawal of the drug, and restore the tone of his mind, which the liquor has debased: there at least the man is out-with the powerful influence of the brain poison, and it will be a happy day for countless thousands of our countrymen and women when the same can be said of the "adjacent islands of Great Britain and Ireland." Crossing Lochfyne, we soon reached Arran. Passing gloomy Glen Sannox, which lay shrouded in such murky darkness as might have been felt, we stopped at Corrie, a charming little spot, with its twenty to thirty cottages whiter than marble, and as prettily situated as one could desire. All along the Arran shore we found new cause for pleasure and delight. We never had before seen its lovely villages, looking to the sunny south; and we thought, if they so please the eye now, they must delight it when kindled up with the glory of the sun. Leaving Whiting Bay, we stood over to Ailsa Craig, which appeared far out at sea, half shrouded in mist. There was a scowl on the sky, the water, in yeasty waves, dashed on our vessel, and, aided by the tempestuous wind, broke over the *Ivanhoe* until she quivered with the strain. The temperature was low, and many, feeling cold, sheltered themselves as they best could about the deck. Many of the women grew sick, and had to go below—children, too, were overtaken, and rapidly succumbed; and when mothers and children were prostrate and helpless, other women lent their aid to assuage their misery. The men, to a man, resisted the nausea, and did their best to assist their poor wives. On went the *Ivanhoe*, and certainly she stood the test of her seaworthiness bravely. We were soon alongside the Craig, whose huge dimensions grew slowly on the perceptions of those on board. The rock, basaltic, seemed covered with sea-fowl at rest. Suddenly, the firing of a small cannon, whose report was multiplied by numerous echoes, created an extraordinary spectacle. Countless wildfowl burst into the air, and in wild confusion gyrated over our heads. A second cannon was fired, and with its multiplied report startled the fowl even more so than at first. Some flew far out to sea, others rested on the careering waves. After a while the greater portion returned to roost upon the rocks. We were unable to see the rock fully, as the rain-burdened clouds would not rise from its summit. One solitary man was all we saw of human kind upon this solitary isle, but several boats, drawn up on its stony shore, seemed to betoken much intercourse on the part of its inmates with places around them. The wind was now a gale, the sea lashed into foam, made our stout steamer roll and pitch so heavily that it was with difficulty that one could pace the deck, or even stand without laying hold of something for support. She shipped sea after sea, some of them sweeping the fore saloon deck, and drenching its occupants. This damped the dress, but not the spirits, of the mirth-indulging youngsters. We soon rapidly passed along the Arran shore, called at all the places on it, and then, making for Bute, skirted its southern shore, which formed a striking contrast to its northern limits in the Kyles. Once at Rothesay, our interest in the voyage ceased. At half-past eight we stepped ashore at Greenock, fully satisfied with the *Ivanhoe*. She proved a splendid boat in rough or smooth water. Finely appointed, affording most capacious accommodation, and providing an excursion which no other of the Clyde steamers exceeds, she offers advantages of which every lover of the beauties of the West coast should eagerly avail themselves. The extent of the trip is wonderful—the very names of

the ports of call is proof of the assertion :—Greenock, Kilm, Dunoon, Wemyss Bay, Rothesay, Tighnabruich, Corrie, Brodick, Lamlash, and Whiting Bay, not to speak of the sail around Ailsa Craig. Such a run ought to satisfy the most exacting. Besides she sails on temperance principles—no intoxicating liquor is sold on board—none. And what is still more interesting, on the day we were on her, no drink was taken on board, unless it was in the stomachs of the passengers themselves. Many had brought food with them, but they had left the *cut-ter* at home, for although we kept our eye wandering warily, we never saw, nor even felt the smell of liquor. The quiet aboard was signally conspicuous, no drinking, no brawling, wrangling, swearing, fighting; but the lively conversation of talking age, the joyous chit-chat of happy lovers, mingled with the prattle of infancy and childhood. The absence of all that is so conspicuously offensive in river steamers, which are merely floating public-houses, was as marked as we believe it was unregretted. We were glad to learn she had been fully patronised, and we felt as we walked ashore that we must go with her again when the sun shines, when the waves sparkle in his beams, when the balmy air kisses the cheek as it dances along, when nature, as regards sea, sky, and shore, is in her gayest mood—then we must have another day with the *Ivanhoe*. M.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

LAST month there was a scene and some excitement at University College, Oxford. Both had their source in the "Bump" Supper. The young graduates "got jolly," and went out for "a lark." In this boisterous recreation some of them audaciously "screwed" up the door of the senior Proctor, and that gentleman had to enter his rooms from the window by means of a ladder. This insult to his dignity could not be passed over, and it was not. All the students were charged to point out the author or authors of the outrage, and all refused. Authority must be maintained, and as in this instance it was defied the decree went forth that the whole body of undergraduates, with a few exceptions, be "rusticated," and so they were. Happily, however, the banishment was of brief duration, for one of the principal participators confessed, and all were invited to return. We believe that "rustication" is the most dreaded of all college punishments, as the discredit which attaches to it endures. The newspapers discuss the matter at great length, yet not a word escapes them about the cause of this compound of folly and severity, the *Standard*—the publicans' organ—excepted. It says, with charming frankness—"It is no doubt most disgraceful that a Proctor should be 'screwed out' of his room, but 'bump' suppers were not invented yesterday, and their traditions were never altogether decorous. The Dons who permit them should either carry pocket screw-drivers or be prepared to encounter in some dignified way an unwelcome stubbornness in their doors." The real cause after all of the rustication of these eighty students is their drinking heavily at their "bump" suppers, and the tricky spirit of alcohol once entered into their frame, the spirit of unreason and misrule speedily follows. Were the Proctors to use their screw-drivers to screw up the public-house as effectually as the students screwed up the room of the senior Proctor, we should never hear from the academic groves of Oxford of drunken revelry with its severe consequence of 'rustication.' Ah! if alcohol can upset the order of our halls of learning, why should we stand surprised when it plays similar pranks in our slums of ignorance?

We have from the *Lancet* of last month one of those little homilies similar to what we have had from our medical attendant when he had to be called in to "set us to rights" after some wide departure from the right. Hear it. "It cannot be disguised that there are great practical difficulties in dealing with the use and abuse of poisonous drugs." "It is not easy to control the sale of these 'medicines,' and it is obviously impossible to restrain those who once have them in their possession from employing them in excess or improperly, either intentionally or by accident." Now, we readily admit that the *Lancet* is writing of poisons generally; but we ask in all earnestness if these two sentences are not singularly applicable to alcoholic liquors? Is there not great practical difficulties in dealing with alcoholic beverages? Every one but an abstainer will admit as much, and tell you that one and all are at their wit's end on the subject. The abstainer, having put himself into a right relation with the seductive liquor—a relation of deadly aversion—is relieved from all difficulty on the matter. The difficulty rests with the liquor. It finds it too difficult to get within the frame of the abstainer, who is saved the difficulty of controlling it when there. It is as equally difficult to control the sale as to control the action of alcoholic beverages, for the *Lancet* boldly affirms that it is impossible to prevent their uncontrolled use. The writer claims for these poisons the power to overcome the self-control of those who use them. Now, why should not that power be also claimed in a high degree for the special poison of alcohol? The writer goes on to say—"There are always in any large number of persons some who are especially sensitive to the action of particular drugs." And again, "A class of persons, to which any individual may for aught he can tell belong, are so constituted in respect to the nervous system that almost any potent drug acting in a particular way will prove dangerous." Does not the dipsomaniac occur to the mind of every reader on reading this sentence? Has he not a dangerous, not seldom a fatal, susceptibility to the potent drug, alcohol? He begins to use it, and the use, owing to his sensitiveness, engenders the use which all are ready to admit is an abuse, but it is a frightful physical disease which in the presence of the liquor defies regulation and mocks control. The *Lancet* says we ought to teach people that the man who does take doses of these potent drugs does so at his peril. So we do, but they drink and die, and will do till law suppresses the sale of the dose.

There was one minister deposed by the Free Church Assembly for drunkenness or drugging, although he got into a low condition through hard work in behalf of the Church. There was one reponed who had fallen through intemperance, because he is now in Canada, and wishful once more to be in the service of the Master. Well, I think Rev. A. C. Kay, the deposed one, should go to Canada. There are plenty of places where it is illegal to purchase drink, and where practically drink is never used. He will be there without being in a constant state of resistance to one temptation. Curiously enough Principal Rainy grants the reponed minister, Rev. A. Mackenzie, liberty to preach in Canada so far as the Free Church of Scotland is concerned, but he will not grant him liberty to preach in Scotland. Now in Scotland he fell by the publican's strong ones, and may again; in Canada he has already recovered his balance in some Canadian prohibitory town, and need never lose it again through drink. God hasten the time when the temptation to drunkenness in this land of brown heath and shaggy wood may have as entirely disappeared as it has done in Maine and many parts of the Dominion, and the gospel find abundant entrance

into hearts from which, through drink, the light and law of heaven are at present quite shut out.

A correspondent of the *Scotsman* writing from Athens expatiates on the state of "the eye of Greece." He describes its progress in population, in public buildings, and in character. Here is one of his points of comparison. "The Greeks, as they seem to me, are a hard-working, energetic, frugal race, sober beyond anything I have ever witnessed in any other city; hospitable and polite to strangers, and having gone through almost every street and alley alone, and at all hours of day and night, I can truly say that I have met with nothing I could call offensive, seen no quarrelling and never come across a drunken and disorderly person, male or female. I do not say that Athens is a paradise of all the virtues, but it is singularly exempt from many of the vices which disfigure and disgrace other capitals. If this city be not overflowing with wealth, it is certainly not cursed with drunkenness and its natural accompaniment, beggary. I was so struck by this outward aspect of things that I asked one of the leading citizens, 'Where were the poor and what assessment was levied for their support?' 'No assessment,' was the answer, 'we have no poor; it is believed that no one goes to bed without a dinner.' . . . Another pleasing characteristic of this city, which a stranger cannot help noticing is the free mode in which females of all classes of society move about by themselves at all hours of the day, as freely as in any town in England or Scotland, and with much less liability of being insulted by some disgusting man, or what is worse, some coarse half-drunken woman, hanging about corners, filthy in their language, and filthier still in their appearance and demeanour." There is a contrast for your readers to ponder over. Greece rising from the torpor of slavery and oppression, has dashed down her cup of Samian wine, and shows forth to observant Britons those virtues that languish in our drink-sodden country. Already her academy gives forth indications that its scholars will soon appear in the front rank of the philosophers of the world, as already her builders are showing in the magnificent public buildings, that neither the Greek nation nor Greek art is dead. Sweden, France, Italy, Canada, the United States, and Greece are by their progress in the virtue of sobriety, and its attendant blessings, shaming this great nation of Britain, which has not virtue sufficient to expel the liquor traffic from its own hearths, and is in the vacuous mission fields and in India sowing the seeds of intemperance which will one day yield a harvest of sin and infamy that will recoil on its influence and rule, and indefinitely delay the triumph of His kingdom who is the "desire of all nations."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

BEFORE AND AFTER.

SIR,—All the recent exhibitions of cool audacity pale before that of Mr. George Candelet, the parliamentary agent of the licensed victuallers. The publicans, during the general election, were conspicuous for their strenuous and unavailing opposition to the Liberal party. When the elections are over, and it is found that large numbers of the "bungs" have fallen at the polls, that Whelhouse and Guinness, Lowther and Greenall, and the three jolly Allsopps, are numbered among the vanquished, and that a rout all along the line has extinguished the hopes of the "vitlers," Mr. Candelet turns round and tells the victors that all these

fell fighting on their side! You, Sir, drew your readers' attention to the subject in April *Social Reformer* by quoting the gist of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's warning to the licensed victuallers on the eve of the general election. That firm friend of the publicans told them not to oppose the return of the Liberals to power else they might live to regret it. Mr. Candelet, to whom that letter was addressed, openly disregarded its warning at Carlisle, where he hounded on his men by haranguing in the following "spread-eagle" vein:—

"United you Stand, Divided you Fall."

CARLISLE ELECTION.

Carlisle, 30th March, 1880.

TO LICENSED VICTUALLERS, BREWERS, BEERSSELLERS,
AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE TRADE.

Gentlemen,—The struggle in which you are at present involved is not one of mere local interest, but one of national importance. The eyes of all England are turned towards you, and the result of the election in this city will be anxiously looked for by your fellow-tradesmen in all parts of the country on Thursday next, the first of April.

For upwards of 25 years Sir Wilfrid Lawson has sought through Parliament to suppress your trade without compensation, and on these grounds his proposal has been rejected over and over again.

In 1878 he withdrew the obnoxious "Permissive Bill," but in 1879, he, for the first time, proposed the same measure under the name of "Local Option," and again, in 1880, but on both occasions Parliament ignominiously rejected it as being impracticable.

In this way, year after year, he obstinately perseveres with *one idea*. To reason with him is folly. Under these circumstances, is it not time there was a change in the representation of this city.

The man who would drive the population of England by force from open to the secret consumption of drink, though he cannot see or believe it, is an enemy to the future of his country, and his hand in legislation is to be dreaded, because he at the same time would render capital unsafe, inflict inconvenience on the public, and he mischievously diverts the electors from their political convictions. The object of Sir Wilfrid Lawson is not only to prevent new licenses from being granted, but also the *renewal* of existing licenses.

Should he again be elected for this city, you will admit his rash principles, and encourage him to persevere with his crotchets; but you will best serve the interests of yourselves and that of the Trade in general by rejecting him. I therefore beg to suggest that you "Plump for Mr. Mattinson," and canvass for him as if though the success of his election depended upon your own individual exertions, and by doing so you will prevent much mischief from being inflicted on the trade and people in general, and which will in all probability take years to undo, or before such another opportunity will present itself such as the present.—
Yours truly,
GEO. CANDELET."

Here we find him as a bully before the election, but, after it, as may be expected, he is a sneak, a crouching "Uriah Heep," at whom one's gorge rises. Listen to the "fawning publican"—

"We are therefore in hope generally the Liberal party will, during their coming term of power, avoid extreme and hostile legislation of such a character as that which was resorted to prior to 1874. If an attitude of moderation is manifested by the new Government towards the trade, I venture to hope the day is not far distant when the rule of acting at future elections in a combined form will become exceptional. The rash and violent attacks which have hitherto been made upon this trade have, from my long experience, caused the trade at past elections to do that from necessity which was not a matter of choice, considering the interests involved. I therefore venture to hope that the moderation which Mr. Hugessen has successfully encouraged may be strengthened, so that the licensed victuallers and beersellers may learn to feel that they have friends on both sides of the House of Commons."

On reading this cringing paragraph, with its hope and its ventures to hope, one is reminded of ancient Pistol, who also was a publican. But, Sir, as the Liberals were not afraid of their powder, so I venture to hope (if all the hope in Pandora's box be not exhausted by beaten Mr. Candelet) that they will not be conciliated by their prayers. The eyes of the nation are on them. Let them do justice to the liquor trade by fixing, in the interest and welfare of the people over whom they have been placed, that its doom by suppression shall take place at as early a date as possible. Few mourners will follow it to its interment in the inexorable past, and *resurgam* will not be found carved on its tomb.—
Yours, &c.,
MELIORA.

CANADIAN TEMPERANCE NOTES.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Orillia, May 24th, 1880.

Sir,—The Synod of Toronto and Kingston, now in session at Toronto, has taken advanced action in regard to temperance. The importance of training up children in principles of total abstinence was urged upon parents; Sessions were requested to take concerted action towards checking the evils of intemperance in their respective neighbourhoods, Presbyteries were recommended to hold conferences on the subject, at least annually, ministers and church courts were recommended to urge upon their people the practice of total abstinence as a matter of Christian expediency; the Legislature was urged to enact that all places where intoxicating liquors are sold should be closed on public holidays, and that such places should be separated as far as possible from groceries. "That every effort should be made to bring about, as soon as possible, the prohibition of the liquor traffic" was adopted by a small majority, several members declining to vote. The Synod also overtures the General Assembly to appoint a committee on temperance. Senator Brown, who died the other day, was indirectly a victim of the drink, having died of a wound inflicted by a drunken man. Yet we are told drink will not harm those who let it alone! The Methodist Episcopal Conference has recommended Dr. Richardson's "Temperance Lesson Book" for a text-book in our schools, but seems to think it is an American work, as the New York edition alone is mentioned. Now the London edition is retailed in this Dominion at five cents per copy less than the American, and is quite as good and more suitable. We need an agency for supplying British temperance publications wholesale.—Faithfully yours,
G. H. HALE.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE FAR NORTH.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Dear Sir,—My last letter to you was written from Dingwall, where I found the movement pretty vigorous under the care of the Good Templars. I have been at a number of places since that time, and am desirous to tell you something about them. From Dingwall I went to Cromarty, another of the burghs of the Wick group. Cromarty is a remarkable place. It is beautiful for its situation, and rendered famous by the genius of Hugh Miller. Although late in the evening, I went along with an intelligent young friend, and had a survey of the glorious scenery around. The population of Cromarty is not large, there being only 73 Parliamentary voters in the burgh, but it is well supplied with liquor shops, and the poor rates are very high. There is a temperance society in Cromarty which has monthly meetings. There was once a Good Templar lodge, but it dissolved some time ago. No temperance agents have been in Cromarty for a good while. I addressed a religious meeting on the Sabbath evening, and a temperance meeting on Monday evening. There are several gentlemen around Cromarty who take an interest in the movement, and who very cordially gave their support. Several others in the burgh gave me a kindly welcome, and I had no reason to regret that I paid a visit to the birth-place of Hugh Miller, the great mason, geologist, and journalist. I next went to Invergordon.

Here I had an open-air meeting, and at its close a number of questions were put about compensation to publicans. Ideas of compensation are not started till you speak about stopping the issue of licenses. Traffickers seem to feel quite safe until you speak of submitting their trade to the verdict of the people. There is nothing they dread so much as such a proposal. There is a Good Templar lodge in Invergordon, and a few earnest men striving to promote the interests of the agitation. I was very glad to meet the friends in this town and to spend a day amongst them. Beaully, a little town about fifteen miles north from Inverness, was the next place I visited. There is a lodge of Good Templars there, but they have a sore fight to hold their ground. They pay a dear rent for a small room; still there are men of public spirit among them, and the cause under their care will yet make progress. Mr. A. MacLennan conducts a thriving Band of Hope, and otherwise renders valuable aid to the temperance movement. I was now bent on crossing over the country to the island of Lewis, and of visiting Ullapool on the way; and, certainly, I never began a journey with cheerier anticipations, nor finished one with more agreeable results. In going to these places, you take the train from Dingwall to Garve, then you drive from the latter place to Ullapool—a distance of thirty-four miles. The first half of the journey is through interminable moors, and along the base of wild dreary mountains. Then you pass through a more fertile and picturesque part of the country; now you drive by a deep ravine whose sides are clothed with trees and adorned with flowers of loveliest hue; then you skirt the banks of a river, meandering on in silvery beauty, until it loses itself in the waters of Loch Broom; now you are beneath over-arching trees, whose boughs afford a grateful shade; then you see the pleasant fields and the farms and the smiling cottages on the opposite hills, and Loch Broom breaking in gentle ripples on its shore far below the mountain road. Somewhat dusty, but neither tired nor weary, you arrive at Ullapool. The Rev. Mr. Mackenzie kindly bids you wash your face and refresh yourself with a cup of tea, which being done, you go to see the town, and interview those who are favourable to the suppression of the liquor shops. The Good Templar lodge here has done splendid work. Dr. McCallum and Mr. Maclay are sturdy reformers, going forward on all the lines of progress. The lodge pays £12 10s. a year for a small room to meet in. One gentleman travels six miles to teach a Band of Hope; three drive ten miles to the lodge meeting. I addressed two good meetings. The Rev. Mr. McInnes took the chair at the Saturday evening meeting. Give ratepayers a local option law in Ullapool, and the liquor men would get an effectual notice to quit. It is forty-five miles from Ullapool to Stornoway, but the little steamer 'Express' does its work well. It takes fully four hours to sail out of Loch Broom and cross over the Minch to Stornoway. There is a great number of temperance people in Stornoway. The Good Templar lodge met on the night on which I went. I attended the lodge meeting and soon got acquainted with the Templars. The lodge is fully 200 strong. I asked them to give me their assistance to get up open-air meetings, which they did with great readiness. There was no standing aloof, waiting till other people came to the meeting, but the temperance men were there at the time "punctual as lovers to the moment sworn," and we had a great audience. The Rev. D. J. Martin, F.C., took the chair the second night, offered prayer, and made a short speech, and all came off well. Temperance friends in all parts of the country could easily make out-door meetings successful if they would act like the reformers of Stornoway, and just "lead the way." Nearly all the merchants in Stornoway are abstainers, and most of the chief citizens are in favour of removing the public-house. You can quite see how a prohibitionist like myself found many men in that island whose thoughts were in harmony with my own, and who most cordially joined our association for the suppression of the drink trade. I fear I have already trespassed on your space, or I would willingly tell you more about Stornoway. The Rev. Mr. Martin was my host all the time I was there, and

his kindness was much appreciated by me. I came home by the Isle of Skye, and took the train from Strome to Dingwall. Since I entered the service of the association I have seen some of the most romantic parts of Scotland, and if I were asked which part I liked best, I think I would be inclined to give the palm to the rugged grandeur and the sublime scenery of the Strome valley.—Yours most truly,

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD.

POST-CARD FROM HON. NEAL DOW.

PORTLAND, 31st May, 1880.

MY DEAR MR. MACKAY.—At a temperance meeting last evening at Congress Hall (at the close), Mr. Jamieson [of Ayr] presented to me your letter. We were sorry not to know he was present, so as to have had a speech from him—a down-right hearty Scotchman; a capital specimen of that race and blood, so heroic on many a field, so true and tenacious in church and council. May the race never be fewer; the blood cannot be purer! Of all immigrants to our country the Scotch are always by far the most welcome. They bring to us muscle and brain, and tried skill and trustworthiness in many of our great industries, of which they are often the managers of the most successful ones. What a wonderful election you have had! Was ever a man before sent to the right-about so summarily as your Jew? Do the brewers cry piteously for mercy? Our true friend John Smith has gone before. I want very much to see the old fatherland once more.—Truly yours,

NEAL DOW.

PUBLIC PRESS.

ABUSE OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL SYSTEM.—The *Students' Journal* has a thoughtful and forcible article on this subject, in which it says—"Thinking men cannot be ignorant of the fact that our hospital system is greatly abused. No doubt, in our profession, as in that of the Church, much gratuitous work is done, and its members must be prepared to make many sacrifices for the general good of the community, but that there is no reason why we should be imposed on. One example of very many is afforded by a drunken man. Why should a drunken man be attended to at our hospitals? We maintain that if a man can pay for the privilege of getting drunk, he can pay, and should be made to pay, for being cured of the effects of any accident the result of that drunkenness. If our readers will just think for one moment, they will see, as clearly as we ourselves do, the justice of this view. A man goes to a public-house and indulges in too much drink; in a drunken brawl he cuts his head. What does he do? He simply staggers instinctively to the nearest hospital and gets his head dressed for nothing; he then staggers back to the public-house, and spends in beer the money which he ought to have paid some surgeon for dressing his head. This is no fanciful dream, nor the result of an article-writer's imagination; it is a reality, a reality which happens every day of our lives, and just one phase of the abuse of the hospital system. Why, we ask, should the casualty assistant at that hospital have been drawn upon in the slightest degree for such a purpose? Why should drunkenness be thus encouraged? and why, lastly, should an outside practitioner have been cheated of a patient and a fee?"

WHAT IS THE USE OF SPIRITS?—The noble lord has been pleased kindly to inform us that the trade of distilling is very extensive, and that it employs great numbers, and that they have arrived at exquisite skill; and therefore the trade of distilling is not to be discouraged! Once more, my lords, allow me to wonder at the different conceptions of different understandings. It appears to me that, since the spirit which the distiller produces is allowed to enfeeble the limbs, vitiate the blood, pervert the heart, and obscure the intellect, the number of distillers should be no argument in their favour; for I never heard that a law against theft was repealed or delayed because thieves were numerous.

It appears to me, my lords, that really if so formidable a body are confederate against the virtue or the lives of their fellow-citizens, it is time to put an end to the havoc, and to interpose, whilst it is yet in our power, to stop the destruction. So little, my lords, am I affected with the merits of that wonderful skill which distillers are said to have attained, that it is, in my opinion, no faculty of great use to mankind to prepare palatable poison; nor shall I ever contribute my interest for the reprieve of a murderer because he has by long practice, obtained great dexterity in his trade. If their liquors are so delicious that the people are tempted to their own destruction, let us at least, my lords, secure them from their fatal draught, by bursting the vials that contains them. Let us crush at once these artists in human slaughter, who have reconciled their countrymen to sickness and ruin, and spread over the pitfalls of debauchery such a bait as cannot be resisted.—*Lord Chesterfield in the House of Lords.*

POETRY.

THE BATTLE OF THE BUNG.

DEDICATED TO SIR WILFRID LAWSON, BART., M.P.

TUNE, - - "The Battle of Stirling."

THE Drunkard's rights we'll sing,
Against John Barleycorn;
For down this mortal foe we'll bring,
We'll have his proud locks shorn.
It may not be, poor drunkards cry,
It shall not be, the pubs reply,
By the name "our trade" doth bring us;
Our drink is just as good's it was,
We care not for your Temperance cause,
Our heavy purse shall save us.

Up, sons of Temperance! vow
This nation's curse o'erthrow;
Oh do not slack your efforts now
Till once you lay him low.
He shall not lead our sons to death,
He shall not hush our nation's breath,
By deeds of wreck and ruin.
His whole ambition is to kill,
The poorhouse and the grave to fill;
He's aye destruction brewin'.

There's many a happy home
Deprived of all its joy;
The husband cast abroad to roam
The wife's peace doth destroy;
The children sent to beg for bread,
Home comforts now much worse than dead;
Lost are these glorious treasures.
To rescue such is all our aim,
To save such from a life of shame,
And bring them back their pleasures.

Up, Templars, to the fight!
Gird on your armour strong;
Come in your power with grace and might,
The conflict won't be long.
Down shall their signboards one and all
Like old wood in confusion fall,
We'll one and all them shiver.
Then shall our hopes of truth and right
Rise as the pubs are taking flight;
We'll banish them for ever.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson leads,
Reformers follow on,
And with united voice and deeds
We'll have this foe put down.
We'll shut those man-traps one and all,
We'll save our brothers', sisters' fall,
By acts of legislation.
The land shall then be free from pain;
No pubs or brewers making gain
From moral degradation.

21st June, 1880.

J. C.

* * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1880.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, JULY, 1880.

* * Notwithstanding that we give a supplement with the present issue, we are compelled to leave over "Woman—the Wife," "The Wanderer," "No Compromise," and other excellent papers.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE twenty-second annual meetings of this Association will be held in Glasgow, on Tuesday, 28th September next.

The executive earnestly hope that the friends of the Association will note the date of this meeting, and make arrangements to be present. They expect to be able to furnish farther particulars in next issue of this magazine.

R. MACKAY, Secy.

THE LADIES' LOCAL OPTION FUND.

WE desire anew to direct the attention of our lady readers to the claims of this important fund. We are glad that a number of ladies have generously responded to its claims upon their substantial sympathy, but there are many who, in regard to it, have as yet made no sign. We earnestly hope that these will not allow this call upon their sympathy and service to pass unheeded. We hope to have the pleasure to see, previous to the annual meetings (see preliminary announcement above), this fund exhibiting, in a substantial manner, the warm sympathies of the ladies of Scotland to a movement which aims to render the liquor traffic, that agency of temptation and debasement, for ever inoperative.

ONE of the most unsatisfactory features of the general election of 1880 was to be seen in the number of electors who, by their ignorance or carelessness, were deprived of their votes. They were prepared on the polling day for any trouble, or for any sacrifice, if either would only result in vesting them with the power of voting for the man of their choice. But nothing could be done, and the decision of the country was carried out without them. Our friends will, we hope, continue to maintain a vigilant attention to their local electoral registers. During the last parliament there were not fewer than thirteen bye-elections, and many of these were decided by a very few votes—lost for want of a very few votes which might easily have been forthcoming if the electoral register had only received ordinary attention. We

are convinced that any of our Templar Lodges, or temperance committees, might easily add twenty or thirty names to the register yearly, and such an increase, small though it may be considered, might easily determine the issue of a contest in favour of local option. The roll has to be completed by the 15th September, and is then exhibited for the purpose of scrutiny by the ratepayers. All individuals who have paid their rates in good time are eligible for a place on the register; and if their name be omitted, the friends should ask them to fill up the statutory form of application to be put upon it. Lodgers require to be put upon the register every year. LET ALL ATTEND TO THE ELECTORAL REGISTER.

The Canadian Temperance Act having been declared constitutional, one would have thought that it would have been left in the hands of the people to adopt or reject it as they felt disposed. But it seems it is to have a different fate. Almost at the last moment of the past session of the Dominion Parliament, an attempt was made to destroy its efficiency. It was necessary to amend it by explanatory (or interpretation) and declaratory clauses. Advantage was taken of this necessity to insert a provision that it could not be carried anywhere unless there were an absolute majority of the electors in the voting lists in its favour. This simply means that if there be 7,000 electors in a place, and only 5,000 of them vote in the proportion of, say 3,000 and 2,000, the bill could not pass. There must be at least 3,501 in its favour. Our readers will easily see how unfair this is to the object of the bill. Still, the adoption of this amendment was carried by 96 to 73. When the bill went before the Senate the amendment was rejected by 31 to 22, and the "Scott" Temperance Act remains as it is for another year. By that time other towns in the Dominion will come under its provisions, and additional evidence of its benefit be thereby secured. The friends in Canada may have a severe struggle before them ere the Act root itself in the necessities and the affections of the people, but every day it is maintained will count in its favour, and by and by, like the Maine Law or our own Forbes M'Kenzie Act, it will prove of too great advantage to be successfully assailed.

In our last issue we ventured to infer from sundry visits of Inland Revenue officers to great breweries that some change in the mode of taxing the liquor traffic was looming in the near future. It seems we were right. The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes the abolition of the malt tax, the imposition of a beer tax, the readjustment of the wine duties, and, we are sorry to add, an increase in the income tax. The malt tax was, rightly or wrongly, looked upon as a farmers' grievance, and its removal was a statesmanlike proposal. The imposition of a beer tax, while spirits and wines are taxed, and more especially when it removes the fetters from the farming interest, is hardly a step to be deplored

meantime. Why should the beer-drinker be favoured at the expense of the wine-bibber and the spirit-drinkers? If it be right at all to levy taxes on alcoholic liquors, the levy should be made all round. As for the readjustment of the wine duties, were those who deal in wine to be listened to, we would hear that it will be a very great hardship to dealer and drinker, without any advantage to the revenue. We can hardly credit this: we are rather disposed, on the consideration of the whole question, to believe that no amount of taxation imposed upon alcoholic liquors will greatly affect their increasing consumption. When people are bent upon any gratification, especially a gratification reinforced by a craving, they will not narrowly inquire into their ability to procure it. That will be a secondary consideration with them. They will drink, dread consequences notwithstanding, and our fear is that they will not be led through the expenditure of a few pence more to relinquish a daily and exacting gratification. The real question is, why should a traffic be protected by Government simply on the grounds that it yields gold for statesmen to vote away? That is the question, and to it there is but one answer. That traffic cannot support the revenue but at the expense of the means, health, and welfare of millions in the community. To maintain it for the taxation it yields, in view of that solemn fact, is to maintain a covenant with sin and death; and the sooner that the traffic is suppressed and the revenue realized from the lands and the accumulations of the community, it will be the better for the honour of the country, and more favourable to a just and economical administration of the revenues of the British Empire.

The division on Saturday morning, 19th June, must have rejoiced the heart of every staunch prohibitionist, and no wonder. After a fight which has raged all over the country for three and twenty years, and ranged over sixteen years in Parliament, the great principle of local option has been affirmed by the British House of Commons. We offer our hearty congratulations to all who have shared the toilsome efforts of which this is the triumphant result. What matters now all the gibes and taunts and scorn showered upon its advocates by wiseacres? What all the active hostility and obstruction which beset the path of our great aim? All is lost in the jubilant acclaim of a great victory, which justifies the wisdom and the persistent courage of those by whom it has been gallantly won. At this supreme moment how proud we are of our leader, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, whose efforts have been crowned with so great a victory. Amid the most depressing discouragement, the most persistent misrepresentation, and the most stubborn hostility, he never wavered, and to-day he has the proud satisfaction of having effectually aroused the House of Commons to the necessity of dealing with the liquor traffic in harmony with the great principle of local option, for which he has so stoutly contended.

But while we so heartily rejoice that the movement has reached so satisfactory a stage, we do not at all share the hallucination of those who believe that our warfare is accomplished, and that it may be safely left to Government to embody the principle it has affirmed into the statute law of the realm. This would be a fatal policy. There is no true discharge from our warfare while a vestige of the traffic remains—until that drink interest is prostrate, and the foot of the nation on its neck. We must not deceive ourselves with regard to our position. We have successfully vindicated the claim of the rate-payers to a veto on the issue and renewal of licenses, but it remains to be seen if we are to be allowed to exercise that veto upon all and every license that may affect us. We must not merely be allowed to interfere, but to do so effectually whenever need arises. We must have such full permission. That is the object that demands all our energies. That is the duty which lies nearest to our hand. That duty let us fearlessly discharge.

What does that duty demand of us? To educate the Government into an exact knowledge of the national demand. To do this we must exhaust all the resources of expression that are to be found in national conventions, conferences, memorials, petitions, resolutions, and personal communications. In whatever form we choose to make our wishes known the burden of them must be that we will not be satisfied unless we are legally enabled to prevent the issue or renewal of liquor licenses in the locality where our lot is cast. Between the present time and the next session of Parliament there is time enough, if well and faithfully used, to evoke such an expression of opinion, so far as Scotland is concerned, as shall effectually remove all dubiety from the minds of our legislators as to what shall satisfy us. Let us all with renewed vigour, the stimulus of our great victory, gird us for this work. Let us bring increased appliances into the field and increased resources into action, and as has been our good fortune in the past we will succeed. The Government is now bound to co-operate with us, and it should be our duty to see that its co-operation does not slacken until the liquor traffic perish in obedience to the fiat of the national will constitutionally expressed and vigorously enforced.

INTELLIGENCE.

LOCAL OPTION DEBATE AND DIVISION.

(By our own Reporter.)

THE marked accession to the ranks of the supporters of Sir Wilfrid Lawson which was the consequence of the general election, induced the hon. baronet at the earliest moment to test the feeling of the new Parliament on his Local Option Resolution by a debate and division. He succeeded in getting the 18th ult. for this purpose. The announcement of his intention sent an electric thrill through all ranks of the temperance movement, which instantly set about rendering him a cordial support. The Scottish temperance and prohibitory adherents were conspicuous for their alacrity, and the result of the division is a most emphatic testimony to their ability and activity. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association appealed to the friends in

every constituency. The Scottish Temperance League, and all the orders of Templars, United Temperance Association, Crusaders, Rechabites, Sons of Temperance, and other total abstaining organizations lent their powerful influence and put forth enthusiastic energy in behalf of the Resolution, so that there was an entire unanimity of effort and influence shown by Scottish temperance reformers in its favour. The Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association appointed a deputation to proceed to London to more immediately press the claims of the Resolution upon Scotch party representatives; the deputation included Rev. Dr. Adamson, Messrs. John Nisbet, and J. H. Waterston, from the Eastern Division, and Messrs. Colquhoun, Murray, Winning, and Mackay, from the Western Division of the Association's operations. Ex-Bailie Little, Kilmarnock, and Councillor Johnston, Dumfries, joined the deputation in London. By a wise division of labour the deputation were able to see every Scottish Parliamentary representative in town. The interviews were in nearly all the cases of an extremely satisfactory character, exceeding in cordiality previous interviews with honourable members; nearly all the new members showing a laudable desire to know the nature of the claims of permissive prohibitionists. Every Scotch member received a circular from the Scottish Temperance League, and also from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, reminding them of the coming debate, and respectfully requesting them to be in their places and vote with Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Petitions, memorials, and letters beyond enumeration continued to be received by honourable and right honourable members up to the hour of the division, and the acknowledgement of these communications was a serious tax upon their time and energies. During the week previous to the division the lobbies were thronged with the friends and the opponents of the bill, the Scottish local optionists meeting with members, and displaying business-like ability, tact, energy, and persistency, which, conjoined with their good cause, gave them a supreme advantage over their adversaries. Hearing that the Home Secretary was to receive a deputation from the Scottish liquor trade, the deputation succeeded in inducing Sir William to also grant them an interview. That he kindly agreed to do. Both deputations met him by appointment on the day previous to the debate. We have never seen such a commotion in the lobby as took place on that afternoon. The publicans failed to secure the presence of honourable members at their interview, but at the last moment Lord Elcho, at the instance of one of the local option deputations, was prevailed upon to introduce them to the Home Secretary. This was unfortunate for the licensed victuallers, for had they gone in by themselves to Sir William they might have been able to explain that they did not wish any honourable member to be present, now they must admit that their cause is sadly lacking in the element of parliamentary influence when only one Conservative member could be got to lead them on. Their interview was as short as it was whispered it was unsatisfactory. While they were presenting their case the local optionists were marshalling their forces, and when we merely mention the fact that they stood in the presence of the Home Secretary flanked by eleven honourable members and the Lord-Advocate, we have sufficiently indicated how obvious it must have been to Sir William that the friends of the bill were by far the most influential and popular party. Mr. D. M'Laren, M.P., the staunch friend of the deputations that have in London successively represented the temperance party, introduced the Scottish local option deputation, which was accompanied by the following party representatives—General Sir Alex. Gordon, M.P., Sir G. Campbell, M.P., Dr. Cameron, M.P., Messrs. Williamson, M.P., Noel, M.P., M'Lagan, M.P., Grant, M.P., Middleton, M.P., Dick Peddie, M.P., Mr. Currie, M.P. Rev. Dr. Adamson and Mr. R. C. Murray stated the case for the deputation. The Home Secretary made no public statement, but his remarks were peculiarly encouraging. He is reported to have said that he had been convinced that while both publicans and prohibitionists exerted themselves to the utmost the country went with the latter. He had at one time little sympathy with the

efforts of the friends of prohibition, but his views were changed by the Sunday Closing Bill for Ireland. When he found that Sunday closing was the desire of the people of Ireland, he could not refrain from supporting their claim, and if the people of Scotland showed similar unanimity they would no doubt greatly impress the legislature in their favour. He believed that members of the Government would be free to vote on the resolution as they pleased, but they must excuse him from stating what the Government intended to do when the local resolution was brought before the house; all he felt called upon to say was that the Government would by the division learn the tendency and force of public opinion on this question, and be guided by it if they had to deal in any way with the reform of the licensing laws. The deputation, having through Mr. R. T. Middleton, M.P., thanked the honourable gentleman, withdrew.

As instructed by the Gladstone memorialists in Mid-Lothian, Mr. J. H. Waterston, their secretary, communicated with the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., reminding him of the debate and division, and expressing the hope of the memorialists that he would be in his place and vote in favour of the local option resolution. The right hon. gentleman replied "that when Sir W. Lawson moved his resolution on the subject of local option he would not fail to express himself in the House of Commons." On behalf of the memorialists Mr. Waterston again wrote him (1) reminding him that he had received a memorial signed by 140 electors in the county of Mid-Lothian, praying him to vote in favour of local option; (2) that these memorialists energetically promoted his return in the belief that he would co-operate with them in advancing the interests of local option; (3) expressing their hope that in his speech he would not weaken the position which, judging from the vote of parliamentary representation local option holds in the estimation of the Scottish people, and (4) trusting that the memorialists would learn by the speech he purposed to deliver, he intended to exert his powerful influence on behalf of a movement which would promote the virtue, happiness, and progress of the people. This letter was duly acknowledged.

THE HOUSE BEFORE THE DEBATE.

Those who had members' orders for the strangers' gallery mustered in great force in the outer corridor, and those who had orders for the speaker's gallery thronged the entrance of the inner corridor. A large force of police, under the direction of Inspector Denning, were present to preserve order: a very difficult task, but one which, from the forbearance on both sides, was on the whole satisfactorily accomplished. Considerable merriment was indulged in as batch after batch of successful applicants for the strangers' gallery in the custody of policemen passed on to their seats. When all entitled to a seat there were cared for, the speaker's gallery was attended to. The gallery is gauged to hold 60, 36 seats being at the disposal of members, and the rest at the immediate disposal of the speaker's secretary. There is also a supplementary list consisting of those who take the seats of such as are pleased to relinquish them. The numbers wanting admission would have filled the gallery twice over. It was instantly crowded to overflowing, and several seats of the members' gallery in front of it pressed into requisition. The unfortunate individuals who were disappointed of a seat had then to withdraw into the outer lobby. The aspect inside the House was peculiar. The benches were rapidly filled, the galleries and the ladies' cage being crowded by an eager and expectant audience, and on the front ministerial bench were Sir W. Harcourt, Messrs. Gladstone, Forster, Bright, Grant Duff, and others. Sir R. Cross was the solitary occupant of the front opposition bench.

THE DEBATE.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Sir WILFRID LAWSON rose to move, "That, inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the

hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected, namely, the inhabitants themselves, who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system, by some efficient measure of local option." He said he should endeavour to address himself more especially to the new members, who had not heard this subject thoroughly discussed, and who wished to know what was meant by local option. The result of the late general election proved that there was a very general interest felt in this matter throughout the constituencies of the kingdom. One result of that interest was that some of his old and valued opponents were not there to oppose him as they used to be. He missed the familiar face of his old and respected enemy Mr. Wheelhouse, and he had had some doubt in his mind as to who would take his place. He did not know for certain who would do it, but he had been told that the mantle of Mr. Wheelhouse had fallen upon the noble lord the member for Haddingtonshire (Lord Elcho). (Laughter.) Not long ago the Prime Minister said that amongst the questions which any new Government would have to deal with, the question of altering and amending the liquor laws would hold a foremost place. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer said, "The evils of drunkenness become more and more patent every day," and that "the conscience of the country is fairly aroused upon this subject." If legislation was able in any way to deal with such a state of things, then that legislation was the most important subject which could occupy the time of the House of Commons. He had not come there to advocate a new licensing law. The preceding Liberal Government dealt with the liquor laws in 1872, and made them a little better, and the late Home Secretary dealt with them in 1874, and made them a little worse. (Laughter.) A proof of the evil of the liquor traffic was to be found in the innumerable bills which were brought into that House dealing with this question, and the curious thing was they all went in his direction. They were all meant to restrict the trade. He did not "go in" for a comprehensive measure of dealing with the licensing system, but left that to cleverer fellows and statesmen, neither of which he was. (Hear, and laughter.) All he proposed was that the people for whom these places were licensed, the inhabitants, should be allowed to choose whether they would have them or not. That meant "option." Then "local" meant that there should be a certain district marked out in which they should be allowed to exercise that option. He proposed to constitute no new powers as regarded licensing. "Local option" seemed to be a word that puzzled a good many people. The word was first used by the Prime Minister, but his resolution came from Convocation. (Laughter.) Convocation presented a report on drunkenness, and in that report would be found embodied a recommendation in the words of the resolution he was now moving, copied verbatim, with the exception of the words added at the end, "by some measure of local option," in order to make the thing a little clearer. The resolution was endorsed by 14,000 clergymen of the Church of England. Her Majesty's Government ought to give him some help in this matter, because they were very strong on local self-government. He knew that hon. members looked upon the resolution with suspicion, and regarded it as the Permissive Bill in disguise. (Hear, hear.) He knew somebody would cheer that; but he wished to ask those gentlemen who cheered, how it was possible for a resolution to be a bill! It was a thing impossible. He had annoyed hon. members over and over again with the Permissive Bill, and he had been often told that they wanted a principle and not details. He believed that the resolution did contain the principle of what he used to call the Permissive Bill—(hear, hear)—and that was that licensing should only be allowed where the people wanted licensed houses. Some of his hon. friends seemed to think that it meant a great deal more. If it did he should be delighted, and so much the better for the resolution. The principle upon which he proposed the resolution was well understood by the Lords' Committee on Intemperance. They condemned the Permissive Bill, but they thoroughly endorsed the principle of the

resolution. In an admirable sentence they pointed out the enormity of the evil and the feeble and unsuccessful efforts hitherto made to reduce it. He hoped he had clearly explained that the resolution was not the Permissive Bill. Turning to the amendments, he believed he had no objection to any of the schemes propounded in the amendments. Matters could not be much worse than they were; and all he said was, "Don't let the magistrates force drink-shops upon places which don't want them." Objection was taken to the resolution because it was an abstract resolution; but he believed—for there were exceptions to all rules—that there were occasions when an abstract resolution was laudable. He recollected the celebrated resolution brought in by the hon. baronet the member for Devonshire (Sir M. Lopes) about local taxation, and when a Conservative Government came into power they acted upon it. The Prime Minister, some years ago, moved an abstract resolution condemning the Irish Church, and when an opportunity offered, and he had a majority at his back, he very properly carried a bill for disestablishing the Irish Church. There was another case in point. A worthy friend of his—the late Professor Smyth—introduced the question of Sunday closing in Ireland by means of a resolution, and having carried it, in a year or two he was able to carry the bill which had already worked such wonders in the way of benefiting the people of Ireland. It was said that he ought to include in the resolution something about compensation. Now he did not want to condemn compensation, but it was not the question for consideration now. The question was the right to force these houses upon an unwilling neighbourhood, and if a remedy could not be found without compensation, then let them have compensation. All he would say now on the question of compensation was that at the right time, when the question was seriously raised, he and his friends would be ready to consider it. In conclusion he urged that there must be something in a demand which the people so persistently urged, and the House knew as well as he did that the demand sprang from the poor and working people of the country. Hardly any rich man, hardly any great man, hardly any statesman was in favour of it. The rich and the influential treated it with scorn. The press up to the last year or two were generally against it. No great orators went about the country as in the days of the Anti-Corn Law League, and there were no large subscriptions to aid in getting rid of this monopoly. They had had all this to contend with, and yet at this moment, notwithstanding all obstacles, it was a question which excited the deepest interest in every constituency. The only reason why the question occupied so prominent a position was that their cause and their demand was right, just, and reasonable. He knew very well that the Government had many intricate and troublesome matters to deal with, but he must say that this was one which they could not very long delay dealing with. The Prime Minister in several of his recent speeches stated that it was a matter upon which public opinion must be formed. No Parliament could go before public opinion. He would not urge the Prime Minister to vote for the motion, but he did ask him most respectfully to leave the matter to the unbiased opinion of the House to reflect the opinion of the country. It was his belief that the House was not insensible to the evil he had attempted to describe, and that a great many of its members were convinced there was some sense and some reason in the policy he was urging, and he was not without hope that the result of the division would be such as to lay the foundation of a course of legislation the full accomplishment of which would entitle this House of Commons to an honourable place in the annals of English Parliaments. (Cheers.)

Mr. HUGH MASON seconded the motion, and in doing so said that both the House and the country desired that something should be done to check the great evil of intemperance, and he was sure Parliament would afford them the means of doing so. There were some good men who were of opinion that legislation would be inoperative to check this evil, and that they must be content to wait for the slow growth of moral feeling

before they could expect this improvement in the habits of the people, and yet they had to admit that Bills passed in relation to Scotland and Ireland for closing the public-houses for one day in the week had accomplished a great deal of good. He denied that this was an attempt at class legislation. What they really desired was to take the power of licensing out of the magistrates' hands and place it in the hands of the people. The people themselves desired to be invested with this power. If the buying up of all the public-houses in the country would eradicate the evil, he would be ready to pay that immense price for such a great, moral, political, and social gain, and in conclusion he appealed to the House to give the working men the power to protect themselves. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. E. GLADSTONE, who was received with loud cheers, said—I do not rise at this early period of the debate with either the idea or the desire of checking the course of this discussion. On the contrary, I think that the delivery of speeches, full of argument and full of information on a matter of this enormous social interest, is a thing highly valuable and important to the public welfare. But I rise at this time because I thought it my duty to meet without a moment's delay, so far as it depended upon me, the courteous and encouraging invitation addressed to me by my hon. friend, the mover of the amendment. I understood my hon. friend to say at the close of his speech he did not propose, and he did not much expect me, to give a vote in favour of the adoption at the present time of the motion, but he hoped no attempt would be made on the part of the Government to bring whatever authority belongs to the Executive Government, as such, to bear on the deliberations of the House, but that everybody should be encouraged to declare his own sentiments, and to vote according to his own belief and judgment in the matter. I can meet that invitation and challenge of my hon. friend in a manner that I hope will not be unsatisfactory to my hon. friend. The opinion he entertains on that subject, viz., as to the course the Government ought to take, is an opinion to which we ourselves had arrived. (Ministerial cheers.) We do not desire to bring any pressure whatever to bear upon the House. I recognise with pleasure the statement of my hon. friend, that it is not in the power of the Government to take largely into its own hands the decision of a question such as this; that it must be content to march with a close and sedulous regard to the progress of public opinion, and that even if it be true, as it is true, that the Government may at a certain stage do something towards ripening or giving form to that public opinion; yet if it places itself in a position entirely apart from, whether in advance or in the rear, it mistakes its functions, and a premature attempt will probably result in its action being foiled. There are members of the Government who have voted already in favour of the resolution of my hon. friend, and those members will, so far as I know, renew that vote to-night. I shall not follow my hon. friend into the lobby, and I may tell him at once frankly the reason that will lead me to pursue the course which he hinted as probable on my part. He quotes a case in which I was the mover of an abstract resolution—namely, the series of resolutions in 1868 on the Irish Church Establishment. That is perfectly true, but my hon. friend will do me the justice of saying that those abstract resolutions were simply the preface to a bill which I proposed, and eventually carried through this House. (Sir W. Lawson.—In the same session?) Yes. Not a Bill to disestablish the Irish Church, because I considered that a dying Parliament was unequal to such a task, but a Bill to arrest all appointments in the Irish Church until after the election then approaching, in order that legislation might be reserved to the next Parliament. And even as in 1868, when, in proposing a resolution of this kind, I was prepared to give practical effect to it in a definite form on which the judgment of the House could be tested, the very same expectation would be, I think, legitimately entertained of me, especially in the place I have now the honour to fill, if I were now to vote in favour of the abstract resolution of my hon. friend. My hon. friend will also perceive that I have greater facility in taking the course

I have indicated, because the forms of the House enable me to deal with the motion for Supply as if it were a motion for the previous question. My hon. friend will see that a responsibility rests upon me, and an expectation would be held to follow on my vote which would be different from that of one not charged with official duty. I should have been better satisfied with the matter of the resolution if my hon. friend had included in it some reference to the principle of equitable compensation. I don't want my hon. friend to commit himself upon that point, but I want a recognition of the principle that we are not to deny to publicans as a class the benefit of equal treatment, because we think their trade is at so many points in contact with, and even sometimes productive of great public danger. Considering the legislative right they have acquired they ought not to be placed at a disadvantage on account of the impression we may entertain, in many cases too justly, in relation to the mischiefs connected with the present licensing system and the consumption of strong liquors as it is now carried on. Having said this much it is unnecessary for me to follow my hon. friend into his argument, but a few words I will say expressive of my general sympathy. I am bound to say there is not a word in the remarkable passage read by my hon. friend from the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords at the close of his speech which I am not prepared to endorse. (Cheers.) My difficulty in this case is not the ordinary one of want of time, but the intricacy with which the subject is surrounded. I do not yet see the particular measure by which just effect can be given to the principle of my hon. friend; but I earnestly entertain the hope that at some not very distant period it may be found practicable to deal with the licensing laws, and, in dealing with them, to include the reasonable, the just application of the principle for which my honourable friend contends. We all go together up to a certain point. We all recognise and allow that the evils of intoxication are not merely great, but monstrous. Their extent and their depth and their intensity need hardly be described; but, having made that admission, our paths begin to diverge. I do not myself agree with those who say that legislative means are impotent in these matters. Legislation has great powers in removing powerful sources of temptation, and the question will be to what extent, in what manner, and under what conditions legislation can be employed at a suitable moment for the purpose of lessening or removing those sources of temptation, either in cases that admit of a universal application of principles, or in those in which the local judgment of the population should be allowed an influence. I deny that this movement is inspired by any desire for class legislation, as it has mostly come from the working classes themselves. For myself I certainly am one of those who, regarding the general structure of the licensing law, are thoroughly and radically dissatisfied with it; but at the same time I am no believer in monopoly, either here or in any other matter, and I believe, also, that as monopoly is bolstered up, so is it more difficult to deal with the evil it covers. I do not wish to be drawn into any premature conclusion, but it is only fair to make that admission. With regard, however, to the question which my hon. friend has brought before us, I will say these two things in conclusion: First of all, that I believe that one of the great subjects which will call for the attention of the Executive at as early a period as the heavy competing pressure of some other subjects will permit will be the reform of the licensing laws; and secondly, I believe that that reform is so eminently called for and is so favoured by the circumstances in which we now stand, that I regard it as an essential part of the work and mission of the present Parliament. (Cheers from all parts of the house). I have no prejudices upon this subject, but I am glad to have at least the pardon, if not the approval, of my hon. friend if I decline to express by my vote distinct adhesion to an expression of abstract principle on the subject until I feel myself armed with the possession of some practical plan that I am in a condition to recommend for the approval of Parliament. (Loud cheers.)

Sir ROBERT GUNLIFF said he was one of those who

had never been able to support the Permissive Bill, and in voting for this resolution he should not consider himself pledged to any particular bill. It appeared to him that a bill which gave the ratepayers some control over the granting of licenses would do much to get rid of many evils of the present system.

Captain AYLMER said that all this resolution pretended to do was to transfer the power of granting licenses from one body to another. That would not put an end to intemperance. He maintained that the magistrates were the best licensing authority; they lived in the place, and were independent of any improper influence that might be brought to bear upon them. He should oppose the motion. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. ARNOLD said that for Local Option—mysterious term—he would much prefer to substitute the expression “local control.” (Hear, hear.) That part of the resolution which was intelligible to himself, and with which he was in entire accord, was to the effect that the representation of the people on this matter—a matter of such vital, such deep social importance to them—should be in their own hands; that they should have, as he contended they had a right to have, local control. The people of this country were not represented by their magistrates. For himself, he regarded the license possessed by the man privileged to sell wine, beer and spirits by retail as a very substantial property. It was impossible for anyone who seriously understood any course of reform to be anything but tender towards the rights of property; the very essence of the work of reform was to pay proper and consistent respect to those rights.

Lord ELCHO said the hon. member for Carlisle had told the House that he (the noble lord) had inherited the mantle of the late member for Leeds (Mr. Wheelhouse). He laid claim to no such Parliamentary inheritance. (Laughter.) They were urged to vote for local option because it did not necessarily mean suppression, but only restriction. His hon. friend, however, was too honest to stop there, and he added that he wished to suppress the liquor traffic altogether. (Hear, hear.) In this free country it would be an intolerable state of things to establish that a majority of the ratepayers—half the ratepayers of a district plus one—should lay down a law which would prevent the other half minus one, who might be most temperate men, from being able to take a glass of beer or spirits in that district. It was a climax to the harassing of interests. He believed this legislation was proposed at a time when it was not necessary. He heartily sympathised with every member who desired by every possible means to repress intemperance. But the resolution was introduced at a time when far from intemperance being on the increase there were many signs of improvement.

Mr. CAINE said he supported the resolution in the interests of temperance and morality. There had been a good deal said about the rights of property, but they must not, while protecting those rights, forget the rights, the sorrows, and the aspirations of the people.

Colonel BARNE opposed the resolution. This was essentially a poor man's question, and before the decided it they should wait until household suffrage got extended to the counties, which would give them a Parliament elected by the labourers. The magistrates were much more fit to be the licensing body than the inhabitants of the parish. (Cheers.)

General BURNABY opposed the resolution.

Mr. WARTON, who rose next to oppose the resolution, was greeted with loud cries of “divide.” He spoke throughout amid a running fire of interruptions from all parts of the House, which rendered his voice almost inaudible.

The House divided, and the numbers were—

For Sir W. Lawson's resolution.....	229
Against.....	203
Majority.....	—26

The announcement was received with loud cheers from the Government benches, this demonstration being taken up by the occupants of the Stranger's Gallery, many of whom rose to their feet and clapped their hands.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson was in good form, more argumentative and earnest than usual, but this was greatly in favour of his contention, his speech being cheered at its various points and warmly cheered at its close. Mr. Hugh Mason made a most excellent speech, bristling with telling argument and fact and full of eloquent pleas in behalf of the people having a veto-power over the liquor traffic. The Speaker having read the resolution which was now before the House, the Prime Minister, who seemed eager to speak, rose amid cheers and made one of the best speeches he has delivered during the present session. Calm, frank, sympathetic, and masterly, it made a great impression on the House, and we are of opinion that it moved many to vote for the resolution. He was loudly cheered throughout; and after he sat down, the House was not disposed for further debate, and gave scant hearing to those who opposed the motion. Mr. Caine, however, got a most attentive hearing. Lord Elcho was laughed at, and as for Mr. Warton he was shouted down; no one in the House could hear an entire sentence of his thirty minutes' speech. At last the Speaker put the question—“That instead of the words ‘the House shall go into supply,’ the words of Sir Wilfrid's resolution shall stand part of the question.” His ruling was challenged and a division ordered. At the end of the two minutes' grace, the doors being locked, the question was put and the House divided, members going into the lobbies. The suspense at this moment was painful, for it was felt that the division was to be a close one. At last members began to return to their seats, and amid breathless excitement all eyes were bent on the tellers to see whether those for supply or those for the amendment were to receive the paper bearing the numbers. Sir Wilfrid went forward to the Clerk at the table, and when the paper was put into his hand the House cheered, as did also the ladies and those in the galleries. Of course the strangers had at once to compose themselves, but honourable members being under no such restraint, cheered while Sir Wilfrid walked up the floor and read off the paper that 203 went for supply and 229 for him. Another loud outburst of cheering took place, at the announcement, which was shared in by both sides of the House and by those below the gangway. Many members shook Sir Wilfrid heartily by the hand, and he retired to the lobby to receive the warm congratulations of his friends and supporters who thronged around, cheering at the victory and congratulating each other on their great triumph.

THE DIVISION LIST.

On the two occasions on which the resolution was brought forward the voting was respectively—for, 183; against, 271; majority against, 88: for, 134; against, 248; majority against, 114. On this occasion the vote, including tellers, was—for, 231; against, 205; majority for, 26. To this number has to be added from 10 to 15 pairs, so that there will likely be a majority of about 40. On looking at the last and present vote the immense change of public opinion on this question becomes apparent. On the last occasion the majority against was 114, on the present it is 26 in favour, showing a difference in favour of the resolution of 140 votes. The Scotch vote on the first division on the resolution was 32 to 10, on the 5th March last it was 32 to 7, on the present occasion it was 40 to 5, exclusive of pairs, or 8 to 1 in favour of local option. Three members paired for, so that the votes and pairs stand 43 for and 5 votes and no pairs against. This is fully two thirds of the Scotch parliamentary representation. Some of our readers may point to our May number, and call our attention to the summary of the results of the general election there, which shows that 46 candidates promised to vote for, that 8 were neutral, and 6 were opposed, and ask us to explain. Of the 46, 39 voted, and 7—viz., Lord Colin Campbell (at Constantinople), Mr. Russell (resigned his seat for Buteshire), Hon. Preston Bruce and Mr. G. Anderson (resiled from their promise), Colonel Mure (on sick leave), A. Mathieson (ill), J. Ramsay (necessarily absent), are accounted for. The Lord Advocate was defeated in the Wigtown Burghs, but Mr. Stewart voted for the resolution. Dr. Webster, who was believed to prefer a neutral position,

voted with Sir Wilfrid, thus making forty, and Messrs. Anderson and Ramsay and Lord Colin Campbell paired in its favour. Then it was concluded that 6 would vote against the resolution. Mr. R. W. Duff and Dr. Campbell fortunately did not fulfil the anticipation, but Mr. R. W. Cochrane-Patrick voted adversely, contrary to expectation, thus there were only five against. The following is the voting:—

Ayes—Sir A. H. Gordon, Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Webster, Major Campbell, E. Marjoribanks, Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, R. Jardine, E. Noel, G. Armitstead, F. Henderson, D. M'Laren, J. Cowan, Right Hon. Dr. Playfair, Right Hon. M. E. G. Duff, J. W. Barclay, Dr. Cameron, R. T. Middleton, J. Stewart, Sir D. Wedderburn, G. O. Trevelyan, C. Fraser-M'Intosh, J. Dick Peddie, Sir G. Balfour, Sir G. Campbell, Captain Maxwell, Major Hamilton, A. Grant, P. M'Lagan, Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, S. Laing, W. Holms, C. Tennant, D. Currie, C. S. Parker, Hon. A. Elliot, S. Williamson, J. C. Bolton, H. Campbell-Bannerman, J. Pender, and M. J. Stewart—40. Paired for—Lord Colin Campbell, J. Ramsay, G. Anderson—3. Total for, 43.

Against—R. W. Cochrane-Patrick, A. O. Ewing, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Lord Elcho, Sir Herbert Maxwell—5. Scotch majority for local option, 38.

Absent—Colonel Alexander, Right Hon. W. P. Adam, Hon. E. P. Bruce, D. Cameron, Dr. Campbell, Sir T. E. Colebrooke, R. W. Duff, Sir George Macpherson Grant, A. Mathieson, Colonel Mure, T. Russell, Marquess Stafford—12.

THE LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION.

We have been requested to publish the following correspondence between Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., and Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., respecting the debate and division of 18th ult. :—

"My dear Sir Wilfrid,—I am sorry I had to leave the House on Saturday morning without having the opportunity of congratulating you on the success of your motion in favour of local option. I rejoice with you that after many years of earnest, able, and untiring advocacy on your part, the House of Commons has at length affirmed the principle that the inhabitants of localities should have the power to veto the sale of intoxicating drinks in their neighbourhoods. The question is being anxiously asked as to what course you will take to give effect to the resolution which has just been passed. I presume it will now devolve upon the Government to bring in a bill to carry out the wish of the House of Commons on the subject.—With kind regards, I am, ever yours,
THOMAS BURT."

"Dear Mr. Burt,—A good many persons ask me the same question as the one which is contained in your note. There is no doubt that those who are opposed to the liquor traffic never stood in so favourable a position as they do at present. Not only has the House of Commons, by a substantial majority, declared that localities are entitled to the power of protecting themselves from the invasion of liquor shops, but the Prime Minister himself, although he voted for the motion for the Speaker's leaving the chair, and not for my amendment, virtually gave a very cordial support in his speech to the principle embodied in the local option resolution. It is quite clear that the Government cannot long delay dealing with the liquor question; and if they deal with it in the manner which Mr. Gladstone indicated we shall secure legislation of the kind which you and I have so long advocated. It appears to me that any immediate action of mine in Parliament, at the present moment, could hardly improve the prospects of sound and early legislation, but might on the other hand tend to embarrass the Government in dealing satisfactorily with this vital question. Let us give them time; and for our part let us, between now and the opening of next session, do all that is in our power to show the Government that there is a real, thorough, and earnest demand on the part of the public for that popular veto on the issue and renewal of licences, which is the sum and substance of our present demand, and which will perfectly harmonise with any measure of licensing reform which Government may introduce next session.—Yours very truly,
W. LAWSON.

"Grosvenor Crescent, S.W., June 22nd, 1880."

THE PRESS ON THE DEBATE.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson is assuredly well content with the result of last night. He scored a decisive victory, and thus gave an unforeseen reality to the belief of the Prime Minister that this Parliament must deal with the licensing question. All men may, indeed, rejoice at a result which forces the Government to take the matter in hand. A tendency to let it drift has been the danger of the situation. Sir Wilfrid Lawson has his scheme. He may hide it under the cloak of a Local Option Resolution or in any other fashion that pleases him, but the scheme is prepared and only waits the appropriate hour. It is in this way that the impossible has so often become possible, and what we say never can happen does somehow come to pass. But after last night's vote the Government cannot allow another session to pass without elaborating some definite plan of dealing with the licensing question. This is to be desired in the interests of all men.—*Times*.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson has succeeded in taking hold of a practical principle which is forcing itself every day more and more into serious consideration. It is a very important question whether the regulation of the traffic against which Sir Wilfrid Lawson directs his efforts would not be more safely left in the hands of a properly representative body in each locality than entrusted to any specially constituted licensing board. But however Sir Wilfrid Lawson's main object may be affected by the principle he strives to call into action, it is clear that the principle itself is coming rapidly into recognition as a part of our public policy. The proposed principle does seem no doubt as if it put some of the daily habits of a small minority at the will of a large majority. But it is to be remembered that in almost every kind of legislation we have to put up this principle to some degree. We cannot help believing that a properly constituted representative system, having the power to deal with the liquor traffic and the licensing trade, would be found to take more account of all the various claims, interests, and rights brought within its charge than is done by means of the machinery at present in operation.—*Daily News*.

The division resulted in Sir Wilfrid Lawson's triumph. The hopes to which we referred yesterday have thus been realized. In a House of more than four hundred and thirty members, the resolution was carried by a majority of twenty-six. The House of Commons is thus committed to the principle of local option, and we suppose that the next step will be to propose positive legislation on the subject. Here the real difficulty will begin. But it is evident that a question of this kind can only be dealt with by the responsible Ministers of the Crown; and Sir Wilfrid Lawson will probably be satisfied for a time with the victory he gained last night. After years of patient labour, and in spite of misrepresentation and ridicule, he has convinced the House of Commons of the expediency of local option, and may be congratulated by all parties on the success he has achieved.—*Daily Chronicle*.

If the working-classes are content to place in the hands of the majority—in many instances, this majority would be those who do not frequent public-houses—the power of preventing the sale of stimulants, let them pronounce boldly to that effect, and we can assure them that their wish will meet with no opposition from those above them in the social station.—*Globe*.

Whether the principle is called local option or local control, it is to be hoped that we have heard the last of the absurd doctrine that to take the control of the drink traffic out of the hands of the present licensing bodies, and hand it over to elective bodies, would be to sanction local tyranny. There is nothing more tyrannical in local government of drink than in local government of anything else—of sanitary works, roads and bridges, water or gas. It has been found expedient to entrust the control of these matters to local representative bodies; and there is no reason to suppose that, if the regulation of the sale of intoxicating liquors were entrusted to the same authorities, they would at once forget all that they have learned in generations of the practice of local self-government, and rush into a tyrannical abuse of their trust. We must have confidence, after all, in the good sense of the majority in this as in other matters.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

It is somewhat amusing to find the recognised organ of the liquor trade comforting its clients with the assurance that, though the local option resolution has been carried by a majority, yet they will fall into the hands of Mr. Gladstone, and not into the hands of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. This subdued and mellow tone is in strange contrast to the fierce war cry that so recently called upon the dealers in drink to combine as one man against that Liberal party which threatened to lay its sacrilegious hands upon the most lucrative of all monopolies.—*Echo*.

THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE DEBATE AND DIVISION ON THE LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION, JUNE, 1880.

The following resolutions have been unanimously adopted by the executive of the association:—

I.—“That the warmest thanks of the friends of temperance and prohibition throughout the country are due to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and the 230 right hon. and hon. members, of whom 40 are representatives of Scotland—fully a two-thirds majority of its representation—who, on the 19th inst., voted in favour of the local option resolution, embodying the principle that ratepayers should be legally empowered to prevent the issue or renewal of licenses for the sale of alcoholic liquors in their several localities.”

II.—“That the executive tender their hearty acknowledgments to the various temperance organizations in Scotland, which so energetically promoted the movement in favour of the resolution: to the members of the Parliamentary deputation, whose exertions in London contributed greatly to the satisfactory Scotch vote; and to the large body of earnest friends throughout the country to whose co-operation at the present juncture the movement is very deeply indebted.”

III.—“That, as the result of the triumphant passage of the resolution, the executive hail with satisfaction the prospect of the early introduction of a Government measure dealing with the licensing laws in the interests of the community, including the principle for which temperance reformers have so long contended, and earnestly calls upon the friends of the movement everywhere to continue to press the claims of that principle upon the attention and consideration of all classes, in order that the Government may fully and speedily recognise the fact that no legislation on the liquor traffic can be satisfactory to the people of this country which does not enable the ratepayers to veto all traffic in alcoholic liquors.”

A circular, of which the following is a copy, was sent to every member of Parliament in view of the debate and division on the resolution:—“Intoxicating Liquors (Licenses) Resolution. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Motion, Friday, 18th June, 1880.—Right honourable and honourable members are respectfully reminded that on Friday first the following resolution will, in pursuance of notice, be moved by Sir Wilfrid Lawson:—“That inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of local option.” The principle embodied in the resolution is one which, it is now widely admitted, must form the basis of any really practical and satisfactory amendment of the licensing laws. It is at once just, equitable, and reasonable that localities should have power to deal effectively with a system that is maintained professedly for their convenience, and that nevertheless is fraught with great public mischief, and largely contravenes its ostensible objects. If anything were wanting to remove misgivings as to the probable results of local option, it is to be found in the testimony—clear and strong—afforded by localities that have been freed from the liquor traffic, to the effect that they have benefitted in every way by the change. That public opinion is ripe for the adoption of such a measure has been abundantly evidenced by the position the question held at the late General Election, when no question of domestic legislation was more strongly urged upon candidates by the constituencies, and none received more decided support. When Sir Wilfrid Lawson divided the House on 5th March last 32 Scotch members voted and paired for the resolution, while only 7 voted against it. Right honourable and honourable members are earnestly requested to be in their places on Friday first, and to give the resolution

their cordial vote and support.—James Hamilton, J.P., City Treasurer, Glasgow, President; James Torrens, J.P., Glasgow, Chairman of Executive; Thos. Dick, Ex-Chief Magistrate, Kinning Park, Vice-Chairman; James L. Selkirk, T.C., Glasgow, Honorary Secretary; Robert M'Callum, Glasgow, Treasurer; Robert Mackay, Secretary.—Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association; Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow, 14th June, 1880.”

THE ASSEMBLIES.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The General Assembly met at Edinburgh, on the 20th May, with the usual august ceremonial and solemnities. The Earl of Rosslyn was Lord High Commissioner; Rev. Dr. Watson was chosen moderator. On Friday, 22nd ult., the report of the Sabbath Schools was submitted, and showed that for the first time every Presbytery was represented. 56 parishes had not yet reported, and there were still 34 parishes without a Sabbath School. There was a large increase (18,000) in the number of scholars; 130 school libraries had been established, and £2126 2s 9½d had been collected in the Sabbath School of the Church. On Saturday, 22nd, the report on Christian Life and Work was submitted. The deliverance of the Assembly bore, among important matters, the following instructions:—That Presbyteries be asked, “How can the efficiency of the Church be promoted in developing and utilising within the constitution of the Church the special gifts of ministers, such as aptitude for organisation, or power of effective address on missionary, evangelistic, temperance, or other subjects.” Mr. Watson of Cavers disapproved of the paragraph in this report about getting youths of the highest class to enter the ministry. He considered that his service, if he had been a poor man, would have been as valuable as those of the son of a rich brewer or country magistrate. On Thursday, 27th, the Committee on Intemperance gave in their report. In it they drew attention to the Board of Trade returns, the newspaper reports, and the New Year's celebration, as all bearing witness to the improved state of the country through lessened inebriety. This may not, however, arise altogether from changed habits, but from the enforced sobriety of hard times. They would impress upon the General Assembly that the most hopeful view of the country in regard to intemperance implies a state of matters calling for the earnest and continued effort of every minister and Kirk-session of the Church to lessen the evil that is so widely spread, and is so ruinous in its consequences. The committee, in their suggestions for the future, proposed among other things that they should be authorised to form a temperance register for the Church—the register to include (1) parochial societies, (2) the names of ministers and elders who are members of such societies, with the number of ordinary members attached to each. The deliverance of the Assembly was an injunction “to watch over the interests of temperance in the Church, to have prayers and conferences in all the Church Courts, to devise measures to promote temperance, to furnish information to the Assembly on the subject, to keep parochial temperance registers, and to preach a sermon on Sabbath, 18th December next.” The mover (Mr. Allison) congratulated the Assembly on the report, complimented the working classes upon their increasing sobriety, charged the labouring classes with the great mass of drunkenness existing, and commended the report because it did not suggest any action in furtherance of legislation. The less the Church had to do, said this rev. gentleman, with legislation the better; first, because temperance legislation was of doubtful value, and second, because it was outside their province, the Church's duty being to deal with the people religiously and morally. The deliverance was unanimously adopted. Nothing farther of interest to our readers occurred during the sittings.

FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLY.—The General Assembly of this denomination opened on Thursday, 20th May, with the usual solemnities. Rev. Dr. Maine, Moderator. On Friday, 21st, the Committee on Religion and Morals brought up their report. The committee

had no report upon a marked and wide-spread work of grace, as was the case on previous years, but there were tokens that the gracious power of the Spirit accompanied the ministry of the Word. Such tokens were more manifest in Home Mission work. The committee deprecated the increased Sabbath travelling by farm servants. The Jedburgh Presbytery report that the two prevalent sins are drunkenness and unchastity. In many districts in the country intemperance was decreasing. This arose from the marked attention bestowed upon the evil, and from the way ministers headed temperance work. On Saturday, 22nd, Rev. A. C. Kay, Loanhead, was disjoined from his charge at Loanhead owing to the sin of taking opiates—a very harsh proceeding on the part of the Assembly, seeing that he laboured so zealously for the Church at Stornoway, had an attack of fever on his return during his pastoral visitation among his own people, and seeing, above all, that there was no law forbidding ministers to take, touch, and handle liquor, and that the holiest ordinance of the Church is celebrated with intoxicating liquors. On the 24th, the Committee on Temperance submitted their report through their convener, Rev. D. D. Bannerman. There were many indications of progress in the country, judging by the reports with which the report teemed. "The publicans of Rothessay had agreed to close at ten o'clock: effect good." "Beyond question the more opportunities, the more intemperance. Markets, fairs, and cattle shows, are scenes and occasions prominent for excess." "There is one parish in Dumfries in which there is no public house, and an intoxicated person is never seen there." The convener said if any wanted to know in what school they may best learn what intemperance means in this country, he would say to them, try to do a little Home Mission work in however small a way; try to get into contact with the people among whom you are living, and help them towards higher things, moral and spiritual, and you will soon find what stops the way. (Applause.) There was an urgent need that the Church should be fairly roused to grapple with this great question which faced it, and that the hearts and consciences of their Christian people should be stirred. He would appeal to the women of this city—of this country—to the women of the Church. (Applause.) This was a woman's question, and they could do much in raising the public tone of feeling and sentiment on this matter. (Applause.) Several overtures on the subject were presented. Principal Rainy moved the deliverance of the House on the temperance report, which approved of it, thanked the committee, and convener, and secretary, renewed their injunction to all the ministers of the Church, in addition to appropriate references in their ordinary ministrations, to preach a sermon on temperance on the third Sabbath of December, or on either of the two following Sabbaths, and instructing Presbyteries to see that this injunction is attended to; renewing their request to ministers and sessions to see that the young of the congregation are trained in habits of temperance; again recommended all kirk-sessions to consider the propriety of forming congregational temperance associations upon a well-considered basis, and under the superintendence of ministers and office-bearers of the Church; renewing the Assembly's support of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, and resolving to petition for the bill for closing public-houses in England and Wales on the Lord's day, introduced by Messrs. Stephenson and Roberts; pressing upon Parliament the necessity of a measure for Scotland giving to the ratepayers an efficient control over the drink traffic, and for the earlier closing of public-houses; and finally, the Assembly pressed anew the whole subject of intemperance, and the imperative duty of using all reasonable and expedient means for its removal on the attention of all office-bearers and members of the Church; and, in particular, enforcing the duty of discouraging in every way, both by influence and example, the drinking usages of the country." Principal Rainy said he had great pleasure in moving this resolution, which was very nearly in the same terms as the resolution of last General Assembly. He felt free to move the adoption

of the report, and to take the opportunity of expressing his sense of the earnest attention which all men and all Churches ought to devote to this most pressing social, moral, and spiritual question. He felt especial pleasure in taking up this subject in connection with the Church and with the General Assembly. (Applause.) He had no hesitation in joining with every Christian man or men interested in the welfare of the community, but he felt that the Christian Church was, and ought to be, the Christian Temperance Society, and that the results they ought to bring about ought to be results sought and laid in the line of Christian action in Christ's institution. The evils connected with intemperance had beyond all doubt taken most exceptional proportions, and besides that fact he pointed out that they had not yet got the minds of the people sufficiently impressed with the peculiar and insidious dangers connected with intemperance. Though many men were very powerfully impressed with these facts, yet he felt that there were great sections of the community who, after all that had been done, had not accepted with their minds impressions on this subject. He moved the adoption of this report with a great deal of pleasure, because he thought there was evidence that the subject was making progress, that it was drawing attention to itself on every side, that it was taking hold of the public mind in influential quarters, and that there was an increasing tendency towards something like a sound public opinion on the subject. Whatever point, however, it had reached, it would soon begin to go back unless Christian men kept at the subject, and continued to be resolute in calling attention to it—(applause)—and to all the evils connected with it. The progress that had been made would very easily be lost unless they kept at the subject. They must endeavour to push on as nearly abreast as they could, seeking to lay hold in some shape of the evil, so that by God's blessing they might subdue and overcome it. He could heartily say that it would be a very useful thing that a large proportion of the people should simply disuse the ordinary use of these things. He believed that if a great many more people would do it, it could do nothing but good, and he did not for his own part see what conceivable harm it could do. He wished it to be observed that this was one of those things in reference to which it was of the greatest importance to form public opinion, to embody public opinion in common with social habits and practices, because this was one of those things on which public opinion told with extraordinary force. Even class opinion, in a given class of society, told with a great force, and if they could get the public opinion on the side of temperance they might come to see a very great change on men's practices in this respect. (Applause.) Men would then begin to think how to get rid of this extraordinary tendency to an insanity—to an influence which, when it took hold of them with a power of delusion, of enslaving, to carry them down the hill, to bewitch them to their ruin—as inexpressible as it was deplorable. One other thing the report directed attention to, and that was popular action on temperance—he meant the action of law. Now, in regard to that, he had just to say that he did not believe in law making men sober, but he did believe in the law regulating the temptations by which men are made drunk. (Laughter and applause.) But there should be no question on this point, for the law already took cognisance and control of the liquor traffic. The question was how far the law should go, and how far it should be made most efficient? Mr. Kerr, shipowner, Glasgow (elder), expressed, amid some applause, the hope that they would ere long see many steamers such as that recently launched on the Clyde, in which no intoxicating liquors are sold. He ventured to ask the younger men of the Assembly and of the Church to consider the times in which they lived. If they would give up the luxury of wine and other intoxicating liquors he was convinced they would increase their influence for good. (Applause.) Mr. Kidston, Ferniegair, held that intemperance was caused by improper legislation, and that the evils of intemperance would be remedied by amended legislation. In concluding, Mr. Kidston intimated that having been for a number

of years convener of the Temperance Committee he thought it desirable now to retire, and he had pleasure in proposing as his successor Mr. Bannerman. Councillor M'Lachlan, who confessed himself one of the fanatical teetotalers, asked how could they allow kirk-sessions to constitute congregational temperance societies, while one of their number might be a licensed grocer? Accordingly, he wished the committee to put in a clause in the motion to have these congregational societies superintended by ministers and office-bearers who were themselves abstainers. The suggestion, however, was not entertained. Principal Rainy, in connection with the resignation of Mr. Kidston, took occasion to propose that there should be a fitting expression of the long and diligent services Mr. Kidston had rendered on this committee. Mr. Bannerman also testified to the value of Mr. Kidston's labours, and the deliverance was passed. Nothing else of moment took place in the Assembly. On the 19th a great temperance demonstration took place in the Assembly Hall—Lord Provost Collins in the chair. On Wednesday, 26th, the annual temperance breakfast took place—Provost Campbell, Greenock, in the chair. The Chairman's address had a jubilant ring about it, as instance after instance of progress was detailed. The proceedings were of the most hopeful and enjoyable kind.

LADIES' LOCAL OPTION FUND.

The secretary, Mr. Mackay, has received the following letter:—"Dear Sir,—Enclosed you will find card and P.O.O. for 15s., which will speak for itself. Being in Edinburgh some little time ago, Mrs. Dr. Kirk gave me this card to collect a little money. I am sorry the card is not filled. But most of my temperance friends are already subscribers either to this or other temperance funds, and others think that there is no use trying to pass either Local Option or the Permissive Bill; but my faith is stronger, and I sincerely trust that general good will follow Sir Wilfrid Lawson's efforts this month.—Yours most sincerely,

GRANGEMOUTH.—LORD ZETLAND AND THE PUBLI-CANS.—Mr. Wilson, solicitor, Falkirk, as agent for the licensed victuallers of this place received the under-mentioned letter from Lord Zetland's agents, communicating his lordship's answer to the memorial from the proprietors, factors, and tenants of licensed premises, here, forwarded by him to them on 11th February last:—"After carefully considering the memorial, his lordship regrets that he cannot, consistently with what he considers to be his duty in the circumstances, agree to delay any longer enforcing his rights in the case of the seven public-houses situated in Middle Street, North Basin Street, Harbour Street, Forth Bridge Street, and Grange Street, and understood to belong to Messrs. Peter Fealy, Baird's Trustees, John M'Arthur, Stewart's Trustees, J. Hislop, and R. Webster. According to our information the proprietors and tenants of these premises are still continuing to use them as public-houses, taverns, or dram-shops, in face of the notices published in January calling the attention of the parties to the prohibitions in the feu-rights, and intimating that these would be enforced after the 15th inst. Unless we hear from you with an assurance to the contrary on or before 26th inst., we shall understand the parties intend to refuse compliance with these prohibitions ex-judicially, and in that case the requisite legal proceeding will be adopted without further information. As regards the four licensed grocers' shops and the hotel in North Basin Street, it is not intended to interfere with them at present; but if any of them should be conducted in a way which Lord Zetland may consider to be objectionable, the parties may lay their account with the prohibitions being enforced. It will depend on circumstances whether the prohibition be enforced in the case of the Royal Hotel, in Grange Street, and the restaurant, in South Bridge Street." Mr. Wilson asked all the parties interested to meet him in his chambers, to consider what course should be adopted.

STRATHAVEN.—TEMPERANCE LECTURES.—Mr. R. Stevenson and Mr. R. Dransfield (of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association), on the evening of Monday, 24th May, delivered addresses under the auspices of "Drumclog" Lodge, I.O.G.T., in the Good Templar Hall, Kirk Road, to a large and enthusiastic meeting. Bro. A. H. Groves, as chairman, with a few appropriate remarks, introduced Mr. Dransfield, the first speaker, who is blest with a rich stock of racy, humorous anecdotes, coupled with hearty earnestness. In referring to himself, he said, after twenty years' "fuddling" he was an old man, but with twenty years' abstinence he had become young again. None who saw his energy and listened to his eloquence could doubt it. Mr. Stevenson, who took up the subject of the evening—"The British Government and the Revenue from Intoxicating Liquor"—treated it with great power of reasoning. By illustrating from prosecutions under the "Public Health" and other Acts, he proved the right of Parliament to interfere with and stop the traffic if it was proved injurious to the public good. The chairman then asked the audience to award the two gentlemen a hearty vote of thanks, which was heartily responded to. Mr. Stevenson, in replying, expressed the hope that the time was not far distant when they would again address a Strathaven audience. The benediction having been pronounced, the meeting dispersed, all highly pleased with the evening's enjoyment.—*Hamilton Advertiser*.

HAWICK.—INTERESTING SOCIAL MEETING.—The temperance hotel and restaurant, lately conducted by Mr. Rankin, has found a new "host" in Mr. James Patterson, who has for many years been connected with the temperance movement, and he is determined to carry on the business to which he has succeeded on strictly total abstinence principles. The premises having been thoroughly renovated and re-opened, representatives from most of the temperance associations in the town, and other friends, including the Rev. John Thomson, met in the hotel on Thursday night to encourage Mr. Patterson in his work, and spend a social evening together. After a plentiful supply of tea and cake, Mr. R. Murray, W.L.D., Scottish Border Beacon Lodge, No. 164, I.O.G.T., occupied the chair, and in the course of a few genial remarks, spoke of the difficulties which had to be determinedly faced in successfully carrying on a temperance establishment. Rev. Mr. Thomson said there was much need of such a house in the town, and he had no doubt that if it was conducted in a right spirit, and in such a way as to set temperance principles in their brightest light, it would be a thorough success. In concluding, he observed that nothing pleased a traveller better than to get a smile of welcome from the landlord. Mr. W. Simpson also encouraged Mr. Patterson to set a stout heart to his work. Mr. Cameron and Mr. C. Haig made a few remarks, and Mr. Patterson, in briefly acknowledging the good wishes of those present, said he was determined to do his part in making his house a home for those "from home." Songs and recitations were given by Messrs. Scott Smith, Allan, and Inglis, and the evening passed very pleasantly, additional vivacity being added to the proceedings by the presence of a number of ladies.

THE NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION SHOT FOR 1880.—The *Faranaki Herald* gives an account of a complimentary banquet given, on March 15, to Sergeant N. Okey, the winner of the champion belt for rifle-shooting. In responding to the toast of his health, Sergeant Okey said:—"Perhaps it would not be out of place if I were to say a few words as to what should tend to make a man a good shot. In the first place, he must be steady. There is no use in him taking what is now in these decanters before us. I am one who can say that I never drank a glass of liquor in my life, and I consider that it is owing in a great measure to that fact that I am the winner of the belt. There is another thing that tends to make a man nervous, and that is smoking. If a man tries to win the belt he must not take anything that will make him nervous. He must be temperate in eating and in everything else. I think Dr. O'Carroll will be able to explain that to you better than I can."—*Temperance Record*.

GLASGOW—THE GOOD TEMPLARS' HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.—This Society, which is now one of the most important and active in the city, has found it necessary to remove to premises which will suit their largely increased membership and business. Those premises, situated in Watson Street, were opened on Wednesday evening, the 23rd ult., with a soiree, which was a great success. Mr. Walter Freer, the president in opening the proceedings, made one of those earnest, shrewd, common-sense speeches which indicate his sterling qualities of character. His statistics of the growth of the Association, of the contrast of the "plant" held now as compared with what was held a few years ago; of the extra thousands of cups, of the hundreds of yards of table-cloth, of the high sums paid to their artistes for music, and to their bakers and grocers for bread and tea—I hope the artistes won't object to being associated with the bakers—of the fact also that while at the beginning two men were sufficient to take the tickets, hand round the bread and pour out the tea, it now requires forty men to do so every Saturday night. Besides the speech of the Chairman, Bailie Torrens, Messrs. W. Turnbull and Alex. Macdougall addressed the meeting in the intervals of some nicely-sung songs by members and others. The Bailie was in rare form, and in a short address ran up the gamut of his various styles. He was humorous, argumentative, pawky, eloquent, persuasive, forcible, and the meeting did not miss a single point. Mr. Turnbull was both interesting and amusing, and his speech was quite a novelty as to form. Mr. Macdougall's principal idea was the necessity for recognising the value of the labours of all the sections of the temperance party, and he strongly deprecated any action which would cripple or damage any organisation, even when one might be strongly opposed to it. The earnest manner in which Mr. Macdougall enforced this idea was not without its effect on the audience. We can only hope that Mr. Freer and his friends will go on prospering. The work they are carrying on is an absolute necessity, and they have proved themselves the men to do it.

LEITH TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—This society has lately been distinguishing itself by special efforts having for their object the creating and maintaining of a more enlightened interest in the temperance movement amongst the people. A series of fortnightly meetings was first held indoors, at which Mr. George Easton, of the Scottish Temperance League, and Mr. J. H. Waterston, of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, took a prominent part, assisted on each occasion by the pleasing accompaniment of music, rendered by several friends. The result of these meetings was so encouraging that the committee resolved upon undertaking a series in the open air. For these, they were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Charles Bent, of Manchester, and Mr. J. H. Waterston. Large and enthusiastic audiences listened to earnest and eloquent addresses, on Giant's Brae, night after night, and an impetus has been given to the cause which, it is hoped, may be lasting, and which must greatly gratify all concerned.

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—The thirty-ninth annual report of the directors of this institution, like the previous ones, exhibits great success. They completed 1979 proposals, involving a sum of £483,479. The present capital of the institution is £2,700,000. A bonus is to be declared this year to "with profits" assurers. The annual income was £355,761 4s. 4d. But what is of most interest to our readers is the temperance section as compared with the general section. There were expected claims in the temperance section to the number of 196, for £40,844; the actual claims were 164, for £28,690, or 32 claims and £12,154 less. In the general section the expected claims were 305, for £64,342; the actual claims were 326, for £74,950, being 21 claims and £10,608 more than was expected. This emphatically proves the superiority of temperance over not only intemperance but moderation, and loudly calls on all who taste alcoholic liquors to wholly and forever abstain from their use. If any of our readers have not already insured, by all means let them insure in this institution.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—The number of different kinds of postage stamps which have been hitherto issued all over the world is estimated, in round numbers, at 6000.

"THIS AWFUL AGE" is the title of an original moral comedy, newly issued, from the pen of Mary Grant, of Aberdeen, a frequent and esteemed contributor to our columns. We wish the venture every success.

ONE YEAR'S TETOTALISM.—The manager of a savings bank persuaded a workman to sign the pledge. The man kept his own council; but about a year after signing the pledge he came and deposited £15 10s. as the first fruits of his total abstinence.—*Temperance Record.*

ABSTAINERS IN PARLIAMENT.—Our good friend Henry Hibbert, U.K.A. agent in Bradford, sends us the name of A. Illingworth, Esq., M.P. for Bradford, as an abstainer of two or three years standing, not included in our list in last issue. We shall only be too happy to make further additions.

HE KNEW BETTER.—"I wish I could join the Band of Hope," said a little boy of six years old, who stood shivering in the doorway of a gin-shop by his mother's side. "You are not old enough," replied his mother; "you can't understand it." "I guess I'm old enough to know better than to drink gin," was the reply.—*Temperance Record.*

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.—We lately quoted a speech from Lord Derby to the effect that a working man consuming 3 lbs. of sugar, 6 oz. of tea, 2 oz. of cocoa, 2 oz. of coffee per week, would pay only 2½d. to the revenue. He went on to say:—"If I had to talk to working men on financial matters I should tell them, 'Don't complain of being taxed; you are hardly taxed at all. It is you who tax yourselves, and if you make yourself sheep you must expect to be shorn!' I don't think they sufficiently understand how completely the publican and the tax-gatherer are identified. I don't think they quite realise that whenever they order sixpenny-worth of spirits they are handing over 5d. as a free gift to the Chancellor of the Exchequer."—*Church of England Temperance Chronicle.*

ORIGIN OF BIBLE SOCIETIES.—A young Welsh girl in 1802 was wont to walk a distance of seven miles weekly for an opportunity of reading the Bible. In one of these weekly journeys she was met by Mr. Carlz, of Bala, who, on learning the fact, went up to London to ask for Welsh Bibles for distribution. When in conversation with some friends on the subject, one John Hughes exclaimed—"Why not establish a society for sending Bibles to Wales? But, if to Wales, why not to England? If to England, why not to Europe? If to Europe, why not to the whole world?" This small mustard-seed has spread into the British and Foreign Bible Society, as it now is; and the simple fact of that little girl's going seven miles a week for a Bible has led to the wonderful distribution of 74,000,000 copies of the Word of God, in whole, or in part, throughout the length and breadth of the world.

BREWERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—It appears by a Parliamentary return, just issued, that, in the year ending September 30, 1879, licenses were issued in the whole of the United Kingdom to 2,648 common brewers, not being victuallers or retail beer-sellers; to 99,013 victuallers, to 37,849 persons to sell beer to be drunk on the premises, and to 10,079 persons to sell beer to be drunk off the premises. It will thus be seen that the whole of the licenses issued amounted to no less than 149,589. Of this number 2,510 common brewers' licences, 69,840 victuallers, and the whole of the beer-sellers' licences were issued in England; 13,172 victuallers, of whom 13,081 were in England, 90 in Scotland, and only one in Ireland, brewed their own beer, as also did 6558 retail beer-sellers—all of whom were in England. The common brewers consumed, last year, 46,659,637 bushels of malt; the victuallers, 5,595,774 bushels; and the retail beer-sellers, 2,824,375 bushels. In the year ending December 31 last, 51,576,890 bushels of malt were made, and the amount of duty charged was £6,994,259, as compared with 58,752,933 bushels and £7,967,512 duty in the previous year—1878.—*Public Opinion.*

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Constitutional Liberty: or Social, Civil, and Political Rights and Principles, in their more Popular Aspect, and as a Bond of Union. In three parts. Part first—Social Rights and Principles. Glasgow: Printed by Aird and Coghill. 1880. This work has been issued without a publisher or the author's name. In the absence of the former, the author may indicate that his book is intended for private circulation, or may be had from the printers. Without his own name, he may wish that the work should be judged simply on its own merits. At page 26 he remarks:—Sometimes the most popular writings have at the outset met the very same treatment as those rejected. In competition, the slightest thing will put a purchaser from buying. To mention that a certain dish had been offered in sacrifice, would, in early Christian days, put a person from eating it; in general there was no occasion for him asking or the others telling. . . . A purchaser might have a strong dislike to a person who wrote a book; but no occasion for him knowing this or anything not contained in the book itself. He is to look at it, and judge for himself as he would with any other article." This, no doubt, is true, with a modification. A book costs money, and to buy a book without a name is much the same as to receive a stranger without an introduction. He may turn out well, but the reverse is possible, and experience makes people cautious. Still, to judge a book simply on the ground of its merits is undoubtedly the proper method to adopt. The present volume is a very thoughtful production, and entitled to the calm consideration of kindred minds. The author, in his preface, intimates that the treatise will likely be followed by two other parts, but that the present book is complete in itself. The first three chapters are devoted to the consideration of "Law and Liberty;" the fourth treats of Rights beyond the Law; the sixth on Fundamental Rights; seventh and eighth on Remedies and Securities; ninth on Manners and Laws; tenth on Manners and Knowledge; and the eleventh on Manners and Forms. From this it will be seen that the author traverses a large number of deeply interesting questions affecting our civil and our social life. We might quote much, but must confine ourselves to a few sentences. Regarding work, the author says:—"A little work is not inconsistent with higher pursuits. Its advantages have often been shown. Incessant mental toil is bad. There might be more or less. Young men might work more than those older. A great deal of this at present depends on mere fashion and opinion, but if these were changed, there is nothing unsuitable in the mixture within certain limits; it is little else than healthy exercise mixed with mental pursuits. In war it implies no disgrace. All pursuits, indeed, have their rough work as well as smooth, and it is generally thought best to take all together, instead of creaming off the mere agreeables. The mixture, too, would prevent whole classes being degraded, made worse than they need be. No labour, probably, need degrade, unless it is incessant, hopeless—leaving no time or chance for anything better.

The mind can shed a light
On each worthy labour done,
As lowliest things are bright
In the radiance of the sun."

On amateurs the author remarks:—"If there is no deceit or imposition, the existence of amateurs or irregular parties outside all professions is no evil. It is a check and spur. Sometimes discoveries and improvements have been made by them while they have been opposed by the regular bodies. . . . Necessity quickens the intellect." Regarding Fundamental Rights, the writer observes:—"The foundation of a building is of the utmost importance; however good the superstructure, it will be liable to fall if the foundation is undermined. In like manner in social and civil matters, nothing will be secure so long as we neglect what is lowest and most obscure, and leave anything to be done there. Our institutions, &c., however excellent, will not prevent this. Thus, to secure the foundations of civil things, it has been found necessary that no one should be deprived of liberty

without a distinct accusation and speedy trial." Whilst the author has given deep attention to the subject discussed, we have not observed any remarks upon one of the burning questions of the day—the relation of liberty to the suppression of the sale of intoxicating drinks. The advocates of these constantly affirm that what is termed "Local Option" is an interference with the liberty of the subject. The author may take up the question in one or other of the treatises to follow, but had he discussed the subject it would have been germane to the work under review. In treating of "Social Rights," there are few or any of more moment than the right of the people to be protected, or to protect themselves, from a trade that shortens the lives of the community, and is productive of pauperism, insanity, and crime.

The Pictorial New Testament. (London: E. Stock.)—This is a marvel. In a neat form, on good paper, and in clear type, we have a copy of the New Testament, containing, besides many illustrations, maps, notes, references, etc., short historical accounts of Jerusalem, the New Testament, the Tabernacle, and Mounts Sinai and Horeb, all for one penny. Surely the issue of such an exceedingly cheap and at the same time useful Testament, cannot fail to have a powerful influence upon the religious life of the common people. Home heathenism should go down before it, and a great impetus be given to every-day Christianity. It ought to be carried continually in the pocket, and consulted earnestly. We cannot too highly commend the enlightened enterprise which projected such an issue, and we earnestly hope its circulation may be counted by millions.

In Memoriam.

JOHN SMITH,
(FAIRMONT, BETHWELL.)

BORN DEC. 11, 1811. | DIED MAY 10, 1880.

Interred at the Necropolis, Glasgow, May 14, 1880.

HE was a gentle, thoughtful, kindly man,
Quiet in mood,—in purpose firm and strong.
Who knew him, loved, esteemed, and honoured him!
His word was as a sealed bond secure:—
A promise given, performance halted not,
But with prompt step and cheerful mien came forth,
The friend of all! the enemy of none!
His heart with milk of human kindness full,
O'erflowed responsive to the gentlest call
Of private suffering or of public need.
Nor class, nor creed, nor party zest restrained
His sympathetic, generous, manly soul.
THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE he loved and nobly helped,
As at the basis of the common weal.
His hand, his home, his heart were open wide
To aid and foster every onward course
Of patriotic aim and purpose pure.
He will be missed and mourned by loving hearts
That long have known and prized his honest worth;
Whilst those most near and dear to his true soul
Who fondly lingered by his dying couch,
And soothed him with the looks and words of love—
May they rich balm of consolation find
Applied by Mercy's gentle hand, with spells
Of precious memories,—and joyous hopes
Of brighter, purer, more enduring bliss,
Beyond the reach of earthly sorrow's shade;
In regions of unending, quenchless love!

T. H. B.

LAMOND'S NEW LECTURES.

No. IV.—OUR HOME LIFE.

„ V.—HOW IT MAY BE DONE.

Price 5s. 6d. per 100.

Order through

EDINBURGH PUBLISHING CO.,

J. MENZIES & CO., or SCOTTISH LEAGUE, GLASGOW.

THE
Social Reformer.

AUGUST, 1880.

TEMPERANCE IN RELATION TO THE
GOSPEL.—III.

It has been said that no one defends drunkenness as a right and proper thing. Yet, although drunkenness be a sin, there is no harm in taking alcoholic drinks in "moderation." We reply, in the name of science, that if it be a sin to take it in large quantities, it is also a sin to take it in small quantities. There is only the question of degree. Alcohol, in the smallest quantity, still retains its affinity for the brain. If it be a brain poison in a gallon, it is also a brain poison in a tea-spoonful. The fact that one man can take six glasses and not be helplessly drunk, while another man is intoxicated with two glasses, does not prove it a non-intoxicant. It only proves the strength of the man's constitution to resist the action of the poison. Here is a problem worth looking at.

One man thought he could stand six glasses; he drank them and stood. Another thought he could stand two glasses; he drank them, and had to lie down. Which of the two men was the greatest sinner—the man who drank six glasses, or the man who drank two? They would have been both alike if they had both stood it, and our "moderation" advocates would have said that neither had sinned. Yet, because the man who drank the two glasses was mistaken, he is guilty of the sin of drunkenness. He is not found guilty because he commits a deliberate act—for if he had stood them, it would still have been virtue to drink six—but because he committed an error in judgment, notwithstanding that his judgment was formed from past experience. We think this is rather queer doctrine. The motive in the heart of the man who drank two glasses was as good as the motive in the heart of the man who drank six. The difference was a physiological one, over which the man who became guilty of the sin of drunkenness had no control. We hold, therefore, that if one sinned, both sinned; for God judges not the outward acts or results, but the heart itself. (Jer. xvii. 10.)

The mind of man is rendered impure, and the lower passions are excited by the use of alcohol. In short, the moment a man begins to take alcohol as a beverage, he starts on a downward journey, away from God, and truth, and virtue; he starts on a course from which return daily becomes more difficult; and in course of time he becomes, as it were, proof against the sound of the gospel. On the other hand, the man who is an abstainer from such injurious articles of drink or of food, and whose conduct, in the sight of his fellow-men, has been all that could reasonably have been expected of human nature—the man who is intelligent, benevolent, has a taste for good literature, and a proper regard for the feelings of others—in short, a person of culture, will more readily accept Christ (circumstances being otherwise favourable) than the man who is sunken in vice.

Man, as we said before, is always a responsible being; he must accept God's terms as a rational responsible being; he will only correctly understand his position when he is in health of body and mind. It may be that there are exceptional cases; yet in the domain of religion it is the same as in agriculture. The ground must be tilled and prepared for the seed. The weeds must be rooted up and destroyed, and the water drained off, and every preparation made that the ground may be susceptible to growth before the agriculturist sows, expecting a crop. Men do not always sow grain on a piece of land immediately it has been tilled for the first time. It is often allowed to lie for a few years before a crop be sown in it at all. Temperance, then, we say, is the preparer of the soil. God does not work miraculously where natural means are available. Men do not expect that a crop of corn will grow if the soil be not prepared to receive the seed. And why should sowers of the word of God expect a crop if the soil be unprepared? Has the church of Christ forgotten that He taught that seed sown by the wayside would be devoured by the fowls of the air?

Man's spiritual and physical natures are nearly related. Man is a trinity—body, soul, and spirit; he is "fearfully and wonderfully made." He must have health in all his parts before he can be sanctified. We hear Christians often sing—

"Still all my song shall be
Nearer, my God, to Thee—
Nearer to Thee."

Man, however, can only come near to God in proportion as he is pure. Alcohol renders both the body and mind impure, and hence it is one of the strongest barriers that can be placed between a man's soul and God. It is the great stone that is rolled against the mouth of the sepulchre, shutting man in from the light—shutting him into his chamber of death—in from the sweet sound of God's voice—in from the glorious light of the Son of Righteousness—in from the glorious and delectable music of heaven—in with the darkness of death—in with the maddening music of pandemonium—in with the angels of vice, whose fiery cars most surely run him to eternal destruction.

Temperance, full of pity, stands weeping, and crying, "Take away the stone!" The bright armies of heaven are all upon her side. Christ himself stands pleading with his professed children, and his, too, is the same request. He asks them to "Take away the stone" that he may call Lazarus forth.

Christ has told the labourers in his vineyard to "lay aside every weight," and yet few—how few!—have heard and obeyed. Fashionable Christianity is ready to lay aside those weights, the laying aside of which involve no sacrifice. It is somewhat different when any great sacrifice is required. We tremble for such a Christianity as this. If the religion of Christ means anything, it means SACRI-

FICE—noble self-sacrifice—noble self-denial for the good of others. It was founded on that great and ever-memorable sacrifice on Calvary—such a sacrifice as never was before, and never shall be made again. Christ himself says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. xvi. 24). It is the duty of professing Christians to live so that every one may be perfectly safe in following their example, and that they may not in any way put a stumblingblock in the way of others. The principle regarding meat and drink was well defined by the noble Paul, that model teacher of Christian doctrine,—“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” (Rom. xiv. 21.) “If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest it make my brother to offend. (1 Cor. viii. 13.) This is the true spirit of a real, living, healthy Christianity. Every soul is precious in the sight of God; and those who have taken up their cross to follow in the footsteps of him who loved them and gave himself for them, are willing and ready to make any sacrifice for his cause—yea, they are willing to be “all things unto all men” if they might, “by any means, save some.” How different from the popular Christianity of this nineteenth century! Thank God, the day is fast approaching when the self-styled Christianity that cannot give up a paltry glass of wine or beer—liquid poison!—that the gospel of Christ may have free course, and the glory of God, and the eternal weal of mankind be promoted, will have to hide its face for shame, and give place to a better and truer type of Christianity that *will*! This state of things cannot long continue. We rejoice to observe that even now in this present time God’s own people are bestirring themselves, and inquiring what is their duty in regard to this burning question of temperance reform.

To clear-sighted individuals, who have been holding life-long warfare with intemperance, the wonder is—in the face of the emphatic testimony that has everywhere been given—that these things have not transpired sooner. Christian workers of every degree, who have sought to evangelise the masses at home, have testified that strong drink has ever been the great obstacle in their way. And the most crushing evidence against our drinking habits has come over the seas from our foreign mission fields. Our missionaries no sooner land on a foreign shore than we have a quantity of intoxicating liquor sent after them to nullify their work. W. W. Smith, of Owen Sound, Upper Canada, gives the following sad testimony:—“Indians—men that I love and value as brethren—have told me, with low and melancholy voices, of the devastation of this thing. A friend, a few weeks ago, told me of an effort he once made to induce a chief of a tribe of the Mohawk nation to allow a friend of his, a missionary, to come and dwell among them. ‘What you preach—Preach Christ!’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Don’t want Christ. No Christ!’ My friend persevered. At length the chief got warm, and, towering to his full height, with a volcanic fire in his eye, broke out—“Once we were powerful; we were a great nation; our young men were many; our lodges were full of children; our enemies feared us; but Christ came, and brought the fire-water! Now we are very poor; our hunting grounds are deserted; our council fires are gone out; we don’t want Christ! Go!” It is to our shame as a nation that the same kind of testimony has been given against us over and over again. We send out along with the gospel of love and life this demon of strife and death. The two are quite antagonistic to each other. Oil and water will be reconciled sooner than fire-water and the gospel of Christ. Little

good can come of all our missionary effort if this be the picture it presents to those for whose sakes we make yearly sacrifice. Well might the heathen abroad say to *worse than heathen* Britain, “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” Rather stinging this would be to our British pride, and yet—we blush to think of it—indisputably just. How unlike our boasted wisdom. How unlike our vaunted learning—

How unworthy England’s fair fame;
Less worthy of shrewd Scotland’s name.

How unbusiness-like! It is like as if we sent two opposing forces into the field, that we might be amused by the contest.

Shall this state of things continue? Nay! Even now the clouds are breaking. Fair Temperance is being questioned, “Who art thou?” Her answer is, in the voice of John the Baptist, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’” The popular mind and eye are turning towards her as she preaches, loud and ever louder, her gospel of repentance. Many are coming from the east and from the west, and are sitting down in her councils. The wise and good and great are becoming her servants, and are bearing testimony to her greatness. One by one the obstacles are being removed. Nor will she cease her crying, but cry on, until at last—and may God hasten that day!—in the noontide glory of her triumph, when all eyes shall be affectionately turned towards her, her last words to her followers will be those surpassingly grand, and ever-memorable words of John the Baptist, “BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.” Then shall Truth and Temperance be wedded together, and for ever reign as ONE. Then swiftly shall come that happy—oh, thrice happy!—day, when every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

D. G. F.

WOMAN—THE WIFE.

In this our concluding paper we affirm, with all the emphasis of language, that we know of no more solemn earthly obligation than that involved in marriage. Marriage is the very fountain of society, on which depends the most momentous issues of life, from which flows the purest and most abiding pleasures, or streams of the most agonizing misery. They who lightly or insincerely assume its obligations are in danger of laying up for themselves the anguish of the undying worm. Those who estimate its real worth generally secure the plenitude of earthly happiness. People with reckless hardihood do marry regardless of whether or not they possess that divine feeling which really constitutes marriage. They trust that with the new existence will come sooner or later the needful love and affection which stamps it as divine. They covet position, wealth, marriage itself, and for these barter themselves foolishly away. They profess to seek a husband or a wife, but they really aim at the circumstances in which he or she exists. They find too often when it is too late that they have their reward, and that as they never sought love as the prime essential of that union into which they have entered, so love stands aloof from them and leaves them, even under the most favourable conditions, to a cold and heartless existence. The victim of such a heartless fraud, if a woman, cannot dismiss an aversion for the husband that has betrayed her, and the husband, the guilty perpetrator of such treachery, although invested with the wealth and trappings on account of which he told a lie “before God and these witnesses,” feels a load on his heart which in-

creases with the progress of the suns. Reverse the case, and the Nemesis is no less terrible in its severity. Although eating, drinking, talking, and living with each other day by day, such a married pair are far as heaven from earth apart. It may startle but it will not surprise their friends, intimate with all the painful circumstances, that one or other, defying the conventionalism of society and the binding obligation of the altar, had sought in forbidden sources, or in other lands, relief from a companionship which, because based on deceit, had become intolerable.

The only basis of a real marriage is genuine love and genuine worth; and the woman whose education and training as girl and maiden we have sketched will see that she has both, as well on her own part as on his that desires her hand. She is of genuine worth. With a good sound constitution, feelings with no acridities in their flow, a will inclined at all times to the right, and an intellect that is ever exercising itself on the golden stores of knowledge, she is fitted to venture upon the untried existence of married life with no mean chances of success. Above all, she fears God. As she stands before His minister, giving herself unreservedly into the keeping of her husband, one cannot imagine that she can do so without having first weighed the supreme importance of the step. Some of her profoundest thinking has been given to it, but being at last satisfied that her suitor is worthy of her hand, and that she can make him happy, she bestows her hand, with her heart in it, upon him, resolved, in joy or sorrow, in foul or fair, to be, under the divine grace, in every way worthy of his choice.

The words "Love, honour, and obey," which are so distasteful to ill-regulated minds among us, have no chill in them so far as she is concerned. She has weighed them well, and traced them to their farthest-reaching consequence. She loved, and she means to love still. While her husband exhibits those sterling qualities that first gained the deepest homage of her heart she cannot but love. That delightful tenderness and sympathy which has led her heart a willing captive has improved and exalted every amiable quality of her nature, and reposes now upon her unwavering and undecaying affection. Of all the other sex she has looked upon, he, by the very excellence of his character, comes the nearer to her ideal, and stands the highest in her regard; and she has felt inexpressible pleasure in the anticipation that the happiness will be hers of being united to him by the dearest of earthly ties. Such a wife needs no incentive to love. She cannot but love, and where such love is, marriage has no fetters. To be apart when so well fitted for each other would be to be plunged into the depths of anguish and despair.

Honour, like love, implies no inferiority. As "Love, like death, levels all ranks, laying the shepherd's crook beside the sceptre," so honour is equally widely bestowed. Honour peereth in the meanest habit. It is begotten by excellence of character and true nobility of nature, and it is bestowed upon those who manifest qualities worthy of esteem. The woman that we hold up as the true wifely ideal for this degenerate age gives to her heart's lord that honour which is due to his genuine worth. To accept his hand is paying him honour; to exhibit in her home, her person, her surroundings, the qualities that may be fairly expected of her, is to do honour to her husband, to his estimation of her worth, his discrimination of her character. To be loyal to him under all the vicissitudes of human life, to suffer none but him to share in the smallest degree in her wifely affection, to beget in the minds of her children the same exalted sentiments towards

him which she entertains is to do him honour. To ever look up to him as her lover, her protector, her unfailing sympathiser, and constant friend is to confer upon him an honour which dwarfs all the other honours that fall to the lot of mankind. The husband of such a woman can safely repose upon her confidence—can wholly rely on her love. His heart does safely trust in her.

Obedience—that much-abused, because so much misrepresented word—is almost divorced from the idea for which at one time it stood—the idea of holy service. Happily its meaning as regards God is still acknowledged. In this sense surely it should be construed in the marriage service, for there is no fear in love. If the Master had to tell the twelve, "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister," surely we should acknowledge the dignity of the service implied in that obedience which has received the stamp of divinity itself. It is in this sense that our true woman looks upon her duty to obey. She is not a slave. She is a wife—a free woman, not bound to render merely perfunctory homage, but privileged to be the loving and faithful helpmeet of her husband. Her sense of what is implied in her altar promise to obey has been finely rendered by a master of the English language:—"That principle to which polity owes its stability, life its happiness, faith its expediency, and creation its continuance, is obedience." "Obedience is indeed founded on a kind of freedom, else it would become subjection, but that freedom is only granted that obedience may be more perfect." In the liturgy of the English Church, obedience is that service which is perfect freedom. The duties that a true wife owes to her husband will be cheerfully discharged, with heaped measure running over. The perfect accord which results from the union of such a man and wife ensures the mutual discharge of every obligation; and no true woman with a girlhood or maidenhood such as we have delineated will for a single moment intermit the discharge of duties so congenial to herself, or so well-pleasing to her heavenly Father.

Involved in the marriage relation are many, very many and varied services—of housekeeper, cook, nurse, and mother—but to our ideal woman these present no difficulty. From garret to basement her house is under her control, and her servants conscious of her intelligence and her powers of management, become contented portions of that admirable organization which she has imposed upon all her domestic affairs. Her chief excellence as a nurse shines in the preventive measures against disease which she has established. As a mother, she is as fortunate as she is as a wife. Her husband delights in her, and her children rise up to call her blessed. She deserves the most abundant felicity which can be a true woman's lot. Let us leave her to the ceaseless enjoyment of it. That there are such women is proved by the idea we have placed before our readers. Let girl, maiden, and wife who reads these papers, and has vividly realized the features of our sketch, strive to emulate like labours, secure like training, similarly improve their minds, and when the hour and the man arrives, like her they can enter upon that state of happiness for which they have lived and laboured, with confident anticipations of the rich harvest of enjoyment such a life is so well fitted to yield.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

Nothing in the annals of quackery can be more empirical than the mode in which fermented and distilled liquors are directed or permitted to be taken by a large proportion of medical practitioners.—*Dr. Carpenter, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.*

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

WERE one to take a walk through the Bethnal Green Museum, London, making a careful inspection the while of the contents of the many cases there, he would probably light upon one which, whether he is a drinker or abstainer, would have a great claim to his attention. It contains samples of those articles with which immoral publicans adulterate their wares. For the adulteration of beers he would find burnt sugar, treacle and burnt sugar, common salt, green vitriol, grains of paradise, cocculus indicus, liquorice, logwood, elderberry juice, spirits and water (grog), &c.; for wines, he would find solution of fuchseine, partially burnt sugar, raw grain spirits, &c.; for gin he would find essence of bitter almonds, essence of capsicum, &c.; for whisky, burnt sugar, whisky improver, sulphuric acid, &c. There is no mention of water, because we can hardly give in to having water, "honest water," charged with adulteration. Still, when water, which costs nothing, and these adulterants are used to cheapen the liquors to the publican and increase his shameful gains, we must admit that the water in such a case is in very bad company, though doing very good work, and that it must just for the time and under the circumstances bear an opprobrious name. The poor deluded, deceived drinker looks upon a vile concoction of alcohol and its adulterants as a good creature of God, eagerly tastes and then drains the covert death draught, exclaiming with more or less of bitterness against those that with clearer discernment endeavour to undeceive him, and persuade him from an indulgence which always injures and often kills. What's in a name? Cocculus indicus, or sulphuric acid, under the name of beer and whisky, secure an easy entrance to the human frame, which would be emphatically denied them if they were first compelled to send up their own names.

Not long ago a suicide was drawn out of the Seine. Like many others of that unfortunate class, he was careful enough to relieve the minds of the community regarding the reason for his abrupt and untimely departure to the society of the future. He was a grocer. Failing, notwithstanding exhaustive research, to find any instance of a grocer attaining a position in the higher worlds of Art, Science, or Politics, rather than live a grocer despised and obscure, he "jumped the life to come." If this despairing vendor of tallow, hominy, and bathbrick had but possessed his soul in patience and come over from France to Britain, he would have found some grocers to his mind—not all. There are grocers and grocers: those that sell tea, sugar, rice, and raisins, whom we all honour; and those that deal in brandy, beer, and whisky blends, wicked men whom all good people should unite to overthrow. Licensed grocers are simply publicans who angle for women's liquor custom with baits of tea and other necessaries, but who soon tempt them to buy liquor on their own account, to the ruin of many a home and of many women and children. There is an outcry on the part of the Aberdeen grocery publican trade because the new chief constable there is enforcing the law as to the shutting up of publican back doors. Well, if grocers in Aberdeen will continue to be so wicked as to sell drink, they cannot complain if the law about drink-selling disarranges their legitimate trade. Let them stick to dealing in tea and treacle, and no police-officer will trouble himself about either their back or their front doors. The stork in the fable, pointing to its feathers, said it had no affinity with the ravaging crows with whom it was found in company, but it paid the penalty of its bad association. Let the grocer-publicans beware. They are under the stigma

of the State. May the liquor portion of their business soon be under its emphatic prohibition.

The Westmoreland Gazette has furnished teetotalers with "a jaw-breaker," in the shape of a nut which the editor implies cannot be broken, except at a sad cost (figuratively) of the teetotal maxillary. This hard nut is the fact that a publican in Keswick district is 76 years of age, has been 46 years in the trade, was never before the police for the contravention of his license, has drunk say 10 pints beer daily, amounting to 20,976 gallons, or nearly 200 cart-loads of liquor, which at 2s. per gallon is equal to £2097 12s. The duty on this quantity is £174 18s. Yet, exclaims the *Gazette* triumphantly, the man lives and is prepared to continue drinking. Now, there is the nut. Is that the nut? where are my nut-crackers? It is all very well to speak of this publican, but let us know where all his boon companions are. Are they living, too, after drinking say only half the quantity of which he boasts? If not, why not? The express contention is that he lives in spite of his drinking, which is not a high estimate to take of the liquor, that it has not yet killed its victim! Well, I am bound to say that it involves harder work on the part of alcohol to kill a publican, living where there is all the conditions of long life, than it would be to kill people residing in the poorer districts of our large cities. Yet our publican friend should not shout yet. When he is 100 years old—not a very singularly rare age now—and a toper all the time, we will be the better able to compare him with some people who have reached that advanced age without liquors, without either a sore head or a sick heart, and with an unclouded mind. When he stands that comparison successfully, why, we will reconsider the subject. Meantime, his boast is like an air-cushion, full of wind, full of wind.

There is another crack to be given to this dreadful nut. The solemn fact is before us that there are men who have tiddled for nearly fifty years at a cost of more than two thousand pounds; men who, like the last of the classes of readers mentioned by Coleridge, are like sponges. These took the contents of books and gave them out again, only a little dirtier. These do the same by the drink. This publican is like a sandbank with tremendous powers of absorption, but none of assimilation. Yet he has consumed, on an average, two cart-loads of liquors, amounting to £2097 12s., and is daily wondering that he is still alive. Alas! there are millions among us emulating his beastly example, and, though possessing abilities that would have brought them, if sober, to the front rank of the community, are doomed to remain the hewers of wood and drawers of water to those who have not half their talents, with no brighter prospects before them than a lean manhood or an alms-receiving old age; and at the end of all the suicide's fate or a pauper's grave.

In the *Times* of September, 1860, the late George Stephenson, the great railway engineer, has a letter, in which, contrasting the past and present state of the Stockton and Darlington Railway as regards having alcoholic liquors on sale at the various stations, he says:—"Although in a pecuniary point of view it appeared a sacrifice, the duty to abolish the traffic became so apparent, that the directors could no longer hesitate to make the change. It is now some years since this was done, and I am happy to say that we have never yet had cause to regret it. There is not now a station on this the oldest line in the kingdom where intoxicating drinks are sold, and I hope that this state of things will ever continue. I am not aware that any other railway company has

adopted this plan, but am satisfied that if all railway companies were to do away with the sale of drink at their stations, they would be best consulting the interests of the shareholders and the welfare of the travelling public." As Count Fosco would say, there are three remarks to be made regarding this letter written twenty years ago. First remark, the Stockton and Darlington Railway Company to this day has never swerved from the resolution which George Stephenson commends. Second remark, other railway companies have not banished drink, but have lost far more than their profits on its sale, from accidents taking place through drunken stupidity or carelessness. Third remark, if a railway company gives up drink and has never had cause to regret, I want to know if it is unreasonable on the part of abstainers to believe that drinkers who give up drinking will never have cause to regret their doing so. If not unreasonable, then, drinkers, give up drinking, and unite on a national resolution, banishing public houses from our streets as effectually as refreshment rooms have been banished from the stations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The nation, like the railway, will never regret taking this course of action.

EARLY PROHIBITIONISTS.

On page 30 of the "Birthdays of the Temperance and Total Abstinence Movements," there is the following remark—referring back to 1836—when the Tradeston Total Abstinence Society removed its place of meeting to the city, and became the Glasgow Abstinence Society—"A new element was introduced, and the abstainers became divided into two parties." From that day to this, these two parties have existed—the one seeking the speedy and complete overthrow of the whole liquor traffic; while the other party has formulated schemes of restriction for the regulation of the traffic. These two parties, though acting harmoniously and unitedly on the general temperance movement, at intervals their distinctive characteristics became manifest—the prohibitionists always stepping to the front, taking up a position more in advance. The failure of the potato crop in 1846 made the two following years memorable for human suffering. By the failure of the potato crop, above 3,000,000 of the labouring population in Ireland, and over 300,000 of the same class in the highlands and islands of Scotland, were deprived of the food on which they mainly depended for the support of life. In the House of Commons it was stated that 5,000 adults and 10,000 children had perished in Ireland through sheer starvation. There was great suffering all over the land. Bread stuffs were at famine price; famine and pestilence thinned many families in the lowlands of Scotland. Public attention was aroused; benevolence did its best in order that the torrent of destruction might be stemmed. There were loud calls to open the ports for the free admission of grain, so that the supplies might be increased and the famine mitigated. The advance brigade of the temperance army stepped to the front, and demanded the CLOSING OF THE DISTILLERIES. Large meetings were held everywhere; public attention was directed to the wanton destruction of human food in the production of intoxicating liquors. Petitions, largely signed, were forwarded to the House of Commons, praying the House to "immediately arrest the fearful waste by stopping the manufacture of intoxicating drinks." Able articles appeared in newspapers and periodicals, recommending the stopping of the distilleries as the best and speediest means of averting the famine and saving the people. Public sentiment was quickened, the heart of the nation was touched, and it rose up against the traffic, and the cry "No license" ran over the country.

A periodical entitled "The British League" was started in January, 1847. In its first article it said, "This is our rallying cry for a movement in the Legislature—NO LICENSE. We care not what steps may be taken to lessen—to modify—to make respectable—to

limit to six days of the week, or to certain hours in those days—the abominable traffic in ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS. Their nature and effects are uniform—deadlier than the sirocco of the desert or the malaria of the Pontine marshes. It is not a periodical influence, returning at distant intervals, but it is a pestilence, breathing always—diffusing the poison when men sleep and when they wake—by day and by night—in seed-time and in harvest. The destroyer seeks its victim alike in every hogshead and in every glass. He exempts no man from danger that uses it, and is always sure of prostrating the most vigorous—of clouding the most splendid intellect—benumbing the most delicate feelings—of palsying the most eloquent tongue—of teaching those on whose lips listening senators hang to babble and mutter with the drunkard—and of entombing the most brilliant hopes of youth, wherever man can be induced to drink. We are resolved not to expend our energies on anything short of the immediate and total repeal of that license by which men and women are consigned to ignominious graves." Noble words these with which to welcome in the year of 1847. It was a gleam of light radiating the gloom that shrouded the land.

Following this, the "Scottish Association for the Suppression of Drunkenness" entered upon a vigorous crusade against the Sabbath traffic. By the powerful advocacy of Dr. Guthrie, Edinburgh, and many others, the country was soon aroused. The result was that early in 1851 Lord Kinnaird's Bill—better known as Forbes M'Kenzie's Bill—was brought before the public, and became law in 1853.

At the annual meeting of the League, 8th July, 1850, Mr. Wm. Robertson of Barrhead submitted a series of resolutions, declaring the traffic in intoxicating liquors to be illegitimate. The preamble to these resolutions was as follows:—"That we will aid, to the extent of our ability, the local magistrate and the Imperial Parliament in suppressing the licensing system, and establishing the criminal character of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors; and we do hereby sympathise with all, in every place, who labour, by legal enactment, to put an end to them."

These resolutions were lost. The disappointment on the part of those labouring for legal enactments was deep and lasting, and one of the most stirring episodes in the history of the temperance movement followed. But the defeated were neither disheartened in their work nor diverted from their object. The agitation went on, and took form as a separate and decided movement for the entire suppression of the whole traffic.

In February, 1853, a few friends met in the back-shop of James Morton, baker, Sauchiehall Street, and formed an association for the "legal suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors." A series of public meetings were held under its auspices, and 20,000 copies of the amended Maine Law, passed by the State of Maine, 1851, were circulated as a four-paged tract. Many other tracts were specially written for the association, and widely circulated.

On the 3rd June a public meeting was held in the Merchants' Hall, to discuss the question, "Ought the Legislature to suppress the traffic in intoxicating liquors?" Mr. James Morton presided. Rev. Dr. Bates and the Rev. Robert Gault spoke in favour of legislation. Messrs. George Roy and Thomas Brown spoke in opposition. The meeting broke up in confusion. Other meetings were held, and great good was accomplished.

On the formation of the United Kingdom Alliance, 1st June, 1853, a correspondence took place, and the Glasgow Association became the first auxiliary of that honourable and noble institution. The inaugural meeting of the Glasgow Association, in the character of an auxiliary of that Alliance, was held in the City Hall on the 16th November, 1853. The meeting, which was large and enthusiastic, was addressed by a deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Burns, London, John Everett, Esq., and Samuel Bowley, Esq.

The movement went on gathering strength and influence. At this time (1854) each elector had to apply to

be put on the roll. Considerable trouble was necessary to obtain a vote, and a fee of 5s. had to be paid. The Liberal and Conservative parties had agents engaged to look after all claims on their side, and the strength of parties was annually tabulated. There was also an agent for the Independents, who stood aloof from both parties. This year ('54) there was a new party formed. The association engaged an agent for the Maine Law party. He was most assiduous in his labours. In his report he says, "My calculation is that friends to the cause of about 400 have been added to the roll. 320 opponents struck off, and 130 persons prevented getting double enrolments, to enable them to vote in different wards—or a gain in all of 800 votes." A great many abstainers got themselves enrolled quietly as independent voters. The great contest lay between the publicans and the Maine Law men.

In August of 1854 the following petition, with over 18,000 names, was forwarded to both Houses of Parliament, and was presented in the House of Lords by the Duke of Argyll, and in the Commons by John M'Gregor, M.P. for the city:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,

"The Humble Petition of the Subscribing Male Inhabitants of the City of Glasgow, in Scotland, above 14 years of age,

"Sheweth,

"1. That the Petitioners believe that at least eighty per cent. of all crime committed in Great Britain originates, directly or indirectly, in drunkenness. They are confirmed in this belief by the concurring evidence of the most eminent judges in the criminal courts, and others having the best opportunities of ascertaining pertinent facts connected with, and forming correct opinions on, the subject. They could cite numerous such testimonies, but will confine themselves to the latest, viz., that of Justice Coleridge, who (in passing sentence on the 14th June, 1854, in the case of Charles Wood, convicted of homicide, before a jury in the central criminal court, London,) deliberately and emphatically stated that 'Drunkenness was the disgrace of our country, and the cause of at least three-fourths of the crime investigated in criminal courts.'

"2. That at least two-thirds of the cases of insanity sent to Lunatic Asylums can be traced to the same fruitful source of evil, as is evidenced by the governors and physicians of these establishments.

"3. That the pauperism which is so wide-spread, and so loudly complained of everywhere, has also, as is notorious, had its origin almost wholly in the unnecessary use of intoxicating liquors.

"4. That crime, insanity, and poverty have been always found in proportion to drunkenness, and drunkenness has invariably prevailed in proportion to the facilities afforded for alcoholic drinking.

"5. That while drunkenness has thus been the cause of such evils, it is impossible to point to any necessity for, or benefit derivable from, drinking alcoholic liquors as beverages. A large body of talented and influential physicians and surgeons have attested that these liquors are never necessary as beverages, but, on the contrary, injurious alike to corporeal and mental powers. It is alleged that a revenue is derived from relative taxes for governmental purposes. Assuming this to be true, it is a sufficient answer to say, that it is wrong to do evil that good may come. But that allegation is erroneous in point of fact, for independent of the enormous expense of collection—the unjustifiable destruction of almost incalculable quantities of the best food for man—the impossibility of poor people spending their cash both in drink and at the same time in other tax-paying commodities—that revenue is far more than lost to the country by the maintenance of jails, penitentiaries, convict settlements, lunatic asylums, poor-houses, courts of justice, legal functionaries and the like—all necessary, almost entirely, from drunkenness.

"6. That drunkenness is not only a great cause of crime, insanity, sickness, and death, misery and wretchedness to individuals, families, and whole com-

munities, but it is also the greatest barrier to the spread of the gospel at home and abroad.

"7. That the Licensing System, and the Statute commonly called 'Forbes Mackenzie's Act,' prove that the sale of intoxicating liquors and the sellers thereof require to be restrained by law, and the doing so to a limited extent, by the provisions of the Act last referred to, have already been productive of great good.

"8. That the total prohibition of the importation and manufacture for sale, and the sale of all intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes, have been attended with most beneficial effects in several of the States of America; and it is believed that from a similar enactment like good results would follow in Great Britain.

"May it therefore please your Honourable House to pass a Law prohibiting the Manufacture, Importation, and Sale of all Alcoholic Liquors, except for use in Religious Ordinances, and for Artistic, Manufacturing, and Medicinal purposes, and that under the strictest Regulations: And your Petitioners will ever pray."

This petition was followed by a memorial to the Queen, from the females of Glasgow. But I have exceeded my limits.—Yours truly,

AN OLD ABSTAINER.

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saunderson's Error," &c.

CHAPTER I.

It was on one of those sunny days of October which are so bright and beautiful as to remind travellers of an Indian summer. The air was balmy, the woods all aglow with warm and delicate autumn tints of brown and yellow; the fields in green and russet shone resplendent in the sun's rays. He, sinking slowly to the western wave, bathed all in lovely splendour—the clouds gave variety and motion to the sky, the water mirrored their beautiful forms as it rolled on to the sea, shimmering here, moving in deep shadow there, now rolling on silently, and again chattering on its stony ways. The cattle were slowly leaving their pasture, and lowing as they wended their way. All was as bright as midsummer; and no wonder. Where there is the musical flow of water, the melody of birds, the fragrant air, and the glory of the shining sun, there is all the charms that make nature to be so much admired—all the elements of natural enjoyment.

On this beauteous day, and on one of the great coach roads that, although less frequently traversed, are still largely used, a man, footsore and weary, was dragging his slow length along. He did not look at all respectable, for his dress in which he travelled was the same as that in which he worked when he did work, which might be very seldom. He never once looked up, still less around him. The sunny sky, the singing birds, the murmuring river, the waving foliage, and even the cheerful green grass, called forth no answering emotion from him. His thoughts were either far away or centred all on self. He might apparently at that moment have been in the solitudes of Glencoe, or in the still sterner solitude of some great city, as among such lovely scenes of nature. He plodded on, evidently bent on getting to some shelter before the evening wrapped the scene in gloom, but it required a strong will to master the feeling of fatigue which possessed him, and he was so absorbed in this task that nature had neither charms nor influence with him.

He was not old in years; he looked upwards of thirty, but he ought not to have been so much. Vice had thus early left her sad seal on his features: the eye was dull, the mouth was marked by indecision, the face with "the downward look," and the nose gleamed with a light that never was on sea or land but was derived from potatoes bottle deep. His hair was brown and curly, and his head finely formed. His brow had fallen, and his chin rested on his breast. His clothes were those of a working mechanic, and served him for all weathers, and for morning, evening, and, we fear, often

for night-dress costume as well. His shoes were dirty and hard, rendering his walk laborious and painful. He was, there was no doubt, in the hard thorny path of transgressors, and no doubt was wishing himself far enough away.

Happening to arrive at a milestone, he looked at it earnestly, gave a sigh, and sat down on the bank beside it to rest. Taking off his cap, he fanned his brow, waved his cap to throw off the clammy air that had accumulated inside of it, and then, drawing out his pipe, prepared to charge it for a smoke. This was a very slow process. He was in no great hurry however. He slowly cut off the requisite supply of tobacco, minced it to the needful degree, filled his pipe, and then put on the top all the half-consumed piece which he had taken out of his pipe. Kindling a match by rubbing it briskly against the rough exterior of his clothing, he applied it to the tobacco, and was apparently on the verge of enjoyment, when screams reached his ear. Mechanically he stopped and listened—they were genuine. He heard the tramp of horses, the dash of either cart or carriage wheels, and almost in an instant there came in sight an open carriage, with a woman clinging and screaming all her might. Our traveller saw the situation at a glance, threw away his pipe, and ran forward. But what could he do? No time, however, was to be lost if he was to do any good. Without a moment's hesitation, he threw off his jacket, and, as the near horse rushed past, cleverly threw it over his head. The effect was almost magical: the steed slowly stopped, and, in doing so, brought the other to a stand. Our hero seized the reins, and then drawing the horses to the wayside, jumped up to hand them to the fair occupant. But she had fainted. Here was a situation for one like him to find himself into. Tying the reins to a tree, he ran for water, and soon returned with the lady's hatful. Sprinkling her face and allowing her hands to rest in the water for a moment or two, he soon brought her round, when she slowly opened her eyes, which met his, eagerly gazing on her beautiful face, in which the blood was rising once more.

"You have made a lucky escape, madam," said he.

"I have indeed, I have indeed; oh I owe you much for your intrepid courage. I cannot sufficiently thank you; but you would favour me still farther by leading the horses back. I fear there is an accident, else some one should have been here by this time."

"I can easily drive you back at once, but I don't know where you have come from, and wait your instructions."

"Oh," she said, "we were at Woodgreen, a few miles on, and had hardly left it a mile behind us when this accident occurred."

He drove off, and whatever he may have become, he was once an adept at driving: whatever he may have lost, he had not lost the art of managing horses. But no more words passed between them. She kept crannyng her neck to see her friends coming after them, but it was not till fully two miles of the return journey had been traversed that a man on horseback was seen rapidly approaching. Behind him there was a carriage, and even at the distance it seemed full of excited occupants.

The man rode on, but when the carriage met him, he reined up, looked at the woman, took off his cap and waved it over his head. There was an answering signal from the other carriage.

"God be praised," looking up, "that you have not suffered but from fright," said he, as he looked into her pale face and tearful eyes. "Frederick is badly hurt, and poor Jenkins has, I fear, some of his bones broken."

"Oh, I am so glad that no lives were lost." Thank God, thank God, she said fervently.

"Dora, how far did they run?"

"Why, till within half a mile of Willow Copse, when this good man stopped the horses and saved me."

"The deuce take me, I entirely forgot him: he drives well."

"He does indeed, and has saved me from a horrible death."

But before he could address a word to our traveller, the carriages met. Then there were the usual fervent,

tearful congratulations, and many praises bestowed upon the lady's rescuer. Immediately the friends met he prepared to dismount, but Dora said to him, "I hope you won't mind to drive me home? As soon as you have rested there, you may go on your way; but if you will accept my father's hospitality for the night, the best we have is at your service."

Without a word, but with a low bow, our hero resumed his seat, and the party drove onwards.

As he rapidly drove on, our hero as rapidly communed with himself. "Why did they not arrive sooner? The coachman and this Frederick must be hurt, else they might have managed to get her sooner. Then where has her father come from, and how comes the other carriage? I can't unravel the clue just now. But it is as lucky for me as for the lady. Why, I could drive this way for ever so long. I shall in any case get a night's lodging, and, of course, a few shillings, or similar patronage. Oh, what a fool to have fallen so far as to look with pleasant anticipation on payment for meritorious services, which to the good are themselves their own reward."

Just as the distant spire of a village church came into view, the horseman called a halt. The party were evidently going to separate. The lady who was called Miss Dora bade them all good-bye, the horseman thanked them, and, leading the way, turned off from the main road. Our party drove on in silence for a few miles, till a neat porter's lodge was reached. It was quickly opened by a woman, who answered the eager inquiries of the gentleman by saying that the coachman and Master Frederick were both at the house. The doctor had been sent for, and had said that the young master was unhurt, and all were anxiously awaiting his return with Miss Dora.

On they drove along a most beautiful avenue. The wind just moved the trees and shrubs, making the rays of the setting sun dance and tremble on the pathway and the green grass that skirted it on both sides. The trees were shedding their foliage, and in their symmetry and grace they lent a delightful charm to the scene. We question very much, however, if either rider, or driver, or young lady felt the charm the avenue was fitted to impart. All were driving, riding, or being driven at their utmost speed. At last they came in view of a beautiful mansion, in front of which a number of servants were drawn up, and all of them looking very grave. The gardener and footman seized the horses by the head. The gentleman dismounted, and received the lady as she stepped from the carriage. She tripped hastily up the steps to be folded in her mother's eager embrace. Her father stood giving his orders about the horses, meantime examining them very careful. Apparently satisfied, he went up the steps, kissed his wife and daughter, and spoke to them in whispers.

Meantime our hero slowly dropped off his box, and stood looking at the master and servants as the horses were being examined. He was evidently waiting to be disposed of. He had not long to wait.

"Stranger, I am doubly indebted to you to-day, and really do not know how I can show you my deep sense of your service. At any rate you will dine with us, and stay all night, and then to-morrow we can talk matters over."

A profound bow was the only response to the invitation. All then went up the steps, and disappeared within the house.

(To be continued.)

FRUIT ACID.—Dissolve 2½ oz. tartaric acid in one quart of cold water. Pour it over 5 lbs. of ripe fruit, and let it stand 24 hours. Pour into a sieve to drain, as the fruit must not be bruised. To each pint of juice put 1½ lbs. loaf sugar, stir it frequently until dissolved. When the sugar is quite dissolved, bottle and cork it, and keep it in a cool place. These quantities make nine pint bottles. Raspberries are the nicest fruit to use, but cherries also answer well. To make jelly, dissolve 1 oz. isinglass in a pint of boiling water, strain it, and add a pint of the acid. Stir until cool, and pour into a mould.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, AUGUST, 1880.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS.

THE Annual Meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday, 28th September next. The meetings will as usual be three in number:—The annual business meeting at 11 a.m.—Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., President of the Association, in the chair. The annual tea party will be held at 4 p.m. The annual public meeting in the City Hall at 7.30 p.m. R. T. Middleton, Esq., M.P., will preside. Farther particulars will appear in this magazine next month. This early notice is given that friends throughout the country may make their arrangements to be present.

R. MACKAY, *Secy.*

The British Temperance League held their forty-sixth annual meeting last month. The Executive, in their annual report, say:—We would fain hope that recent political changes may bring about for us those much-needed and much-desired alterations in legislation as regards the facilities that exist for multiplication of drinking houses, as well as to institute more stringent and repressive measures for the safe keeping and restraint of habitual drunkards than the new bill represents, or at least can be made responsible for.

Speaking at a meeting held in Bradford on 17th ult., Dr. Richardson thus referred to the attitude of the present medical profession in regard to temperance:—He was proud to say that his profession was unquestionably making a move in the right direction. He was the president of a society of medical men, numbering 300, who were all abstainers—(applause)—and there could be no doubt that through the whole ranks of the profession of medicine there was a growing feeling that a great deal too much wine was taken, that stimulants could often be dispensed with where they used to be thought necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Raper having returned from a lengthened marriage tour, protracted in the interests of Mr. Raper's health, met with a number of warm friends at the hospitable board of Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., London, on 25th June, and were presented with a splendid tea and coffee service and cheque for £1600, as a marriage gift from their many friends resident in various parts of the country. We are glad to be able to state that Mr. Raper's health seems thoroughly re-established, and it gives us the highest pleasure to record such an appropriate expression of regard towards Mr. Raper and his wife. His manifold labours have often evoked our wonder and admiration.

On the 8th ult. a number of his friends and acquaintances met Dr. Norman S. Kerr in the

rooms of the Medical Society of London, under the genial presidency of Dr. W. B. Richardson. The occasion was the presentation of a carriage and harness to Dr. Kerr in consideration of his eminent services in the cause of temperance and social reform, and also crayon portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Kerr, with an illuminated address. We heartily congratulate Dr. Kerr upon the receipt of presents so useful and so handsome, and we entirely agree with Dr. Richardson, when he said that "the charm and sanction about this presentation was that it was given from the hearts of those who offered it, and that it had been won by the hearty service of him who received it." We hope that there are nobler honours in the future for Dr. Kerr, who, judging by his benevolent work in the past, bids fair to be one of the eminent benefactors of mankind.

The vagaries of drunkards would fill a volume. They are so utterly at variance with sound sense, that we treat them as we treat the antics of monkeys—we laugh at them. It is only when the drunkard involves us, as his near relations, in the inevitable consequences of his shameful vice, that we feel disposed to weep at him, and feel a loathing at his folly which never arises while looking at the droll creatures with which we compare him. They know no better. What senselessness, for instance, can compare with that of the drunkard that sank down on the banks of the Thames the other day in a drunken stupor? There he lay on the slimy shore, within high water mark, his head resting against the stoney wall, the sun beating on his unprotected head, utterly helpless and presenting a disgusting sight. Some photographers passing made a picture of him, and it was lucky for him that some good samaritan passing loosed his cravat, thus saving him from the danger of strangulation. Fortunately, the poison evaporated in time to save him from death by drowning. Yet, many people would laugh at this, but it is no laughing matter when his narrow escapes from death are realized. It is a matter for profound humiliation that such dreadful possibilities exist in this country, which prides itself upon its Christianity and gets into a dreadful fit of indignation at a professed Atheist getting into Parliament, but laughs at or resists the attempts being made to prevent that practical Atheism which was exhibited by the publican who sold the liquor that put that man on the banks of the Thames in such danger, and by the man himself, in deliberately choosing to drown his manhood in the bowl. We have no sympathy with Atheism, but we honour consistency. Let this great nation cast the beam of intemperance away in the interests of clearer and purer living, and then deal with the paltry mote of Atheism, in harmony with common sense.

OATMEAL DRINK.—Allow a tablespoonful of coarse Scotch meal to every quart of water; boil twenty minutes, add lemon peel, sugar, ginger or nutmeg to palate. This is a most cooling and nutritious beverage. In hot weather it should be made overnight.

LICENSING BOARDS.

From time to time we have deemed it our duty and privilege to review the various schemes for dealing with the liquor traffic, more or less effectually, which have originated within and without the temperance movement, and after receiving a momentary attention have been committed to the safe keeping of Lethean oblivion.

The (shall we put it) temporary withdrawal of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's famous Permissive Bill has given occasion for the birth of a number of schemes to render the liquor traffic harmless, less ostentatious to public view, as profitable as ever to the liquor dealer, and a valuable tributary to the rates. The Licensing Board schemes, like the Hartz demon, look imposing by the very haze in which they are enveloped, and, like that optical terror, they disappear in the light of investigation. We will endeavour to bring to our readers' remembrance the various features of this scheme, from that of Mr. Cowen's downwards, adding what portion of the schemes are at present receiving attention, in order that our readers may at least know exactly the true relation of Licensing Boards, as contemplated, to the aim of true temperance reformers—the suppression of the liquor traffic by the vote of the ratepayers.

MR. COWEN'S SCHEME.

During the contention on the part of temperance reformers for power to veto all liquor traffic, it was soon apparent how great was the chasm in England between the licensing system and the Permissive Bill. That system was administered by a body—justices of peace and magistrates—over whom the persons most affected by their action had not one iota of control. These authorities could not brook remonstrance, suggestion, nor memorials, but did what seemed right in their own eyes—as in too many places they are doing now. Mr. Cowen thought that the transfer of these powers from an irresponsible authority to one responsible to the ratepayers would be most beneficial to the interests of the community. Such a bill, if passed, would have placed the English licensing system ahead of that in Scotland, as all appeals to Quarter Sessions on new or old licenses or transfers would have been abolished. He, however, simply with this difference asks that the power of the irresponsible authorities he dismisses be assumed by the new power it is the object of his bill to create; and he never contemplates vesting in the licensing board he proposes to establish the power of a direct veto over the traffic. His scheme is regulative and restrictive, nothing more.

MR. HARRISON'S SCHEME.

Last year this gentleman, then representing the Kilmarnock district of burghs, brought forward a bill to establish licensing boards chiefly on the lines of Mr. Cowen's proposal. It would have abolished Quarter Sessions, created an electorate co-extensive with that of School Boards, but would simply hand over the administrative functions of the magistrates and justices of the peace, as regards the licensing system, to a popular board, elected by the ratepayers. It too is licensing, and in no way more suppressive than the present licensing authority.

MR. M'NEEKING'S SUGGESTIONS.

This gentleman, living in Helensburgh, has sent us a copy of his suggestions for "giving effect to the [Free] General Assembly's resolution to press on Parliament the necessity for a measure to give the ratepayers an efficient control over the drink traffic." He pertinently remarks that local option includes the power to increase, diminish, or withhold licenses, but he entirely ignores the suppressive aspect of local option; at least, he does not deal with it in

any way. He expressly states the power of granting licenses for hotels, public houses, and grocers, but *no other powers*, now vested in county justices and in borough magistrates would vest in licensing boards. These licensing boards, with powers identical to those exercised by licensing sessions, would be strictly administrative, and would regulate and control—not suppress—the action of holders of licenses. If publicans hold their licenses at the time licensing boards are appointed, they are to hold their privilege for life, on condition of their good behaviour. To guard against the excessive issue of licenses by boards, the present confirming committees are to be retained. This scheme is licensing, and not suppressive.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY'S SCHEME.

The Church of England Temperance Society has formulated a licensing board scheme. The board is composed of ratepayers and justices of the peace and licensing magistrates, in equal numbers. The board is to ask tenders for fresh licenses, the basis of which will be an advance upon the rental of the houses, as fixed by the board. Grocers are not to have spirit licenses. The board is to withdraw all licenses on which a second endorsement is recorded, and is to decide how many licenses are to be extinguished, and the holders of these must ask for compensation. If compensation cannot be agreed upon, an arbiter is to be called in. The compensation granted is got by borrowing the sum required from the Public Works Commissioners, and said sum to be repaid by existing license-holders in thirty years. The society is opposed to suppression.

SIR HARCOURT JOHNSTONE'S BILL.

This is a Licensing Board's Bill, and is simply the scheme of the Church of England's Temperance Society framed into a Parliamentary Bill. It is for England only. The Board is to be constituted in *perpetual succession*, its members elected every three years, and during their tenure of office can only once resolve on the reduction of licenses. All licenses are to be granted by tender. Any surplus income goes in aid of local rates, and any deficiencies of licensing fund to be defrayed out of special poor's rate. As may be inferred, it does not pretend to be in any sense suppressive.

MR. CAINE'S SCHEME.

Mr. Caine, M.P., lately wrote to the *Times* a letter on liquor legislation. He points to the local option division of 18th June as proof that the country is ripe for thorough licensing reform, and suggests a Licensing Board whose precedent shall be the Education Board. He would repeal all existing statutes, carry one comprehensive Act instead, and administer that Act by a Licensing Board elected wholly by the ratepayers. His scheme is administrative, and not suppressive, although he would not exclude that element from the operations of a Licensing Board.

Such is a slight sketch of these doubtful schemes of dealing effectually with the liquor traffic. Their genesis has its source in Mr. Cowen. The Church of England Temperance Society, who differs so widely on the question of liquor legislation with the United Kingdom Alliance, adopts this idea as entirely in harmony with the principles of its members generally. The admittedly unsatisfactory administration of the licensing laws in England, and the national sympathy with the principle of local option, has evidently led its executive to propose the infusion of the ratepaying element into the administration of the law. But the hybrid is as bad as things as they are. The Lords' Committee on Intemperance afforded the friends of such a scheme the opportunity of setting forth its merits, but we find that its pro-

motors have not been able to secure the sympathy of their Lordships with their views.

THE LORDS' COMMITTEE ON LICENSING BOARDS.

Their Lordships state that the effect of such a measure as that of Mr. Cowen's would be to entrust the granting and renewing of licenses to a body elected by the ratepayers, but their Lordships see no reason to believe that such a Board would discharge their duties more effectively than the present licensing authority. While magistrates have great power of control, it is too often exercised only so long as an indolent public opinion is moved to exert pressure upon them. On the other hand, the Local Board, it is feared, would be found more accessible to local influence, and less impartial. It would be constantly changed, and with its changes of membership there would be a change of policy. The election of members on it would be a cause of strife, and they might be open to the powerful influence of the publicans. On these grounds the committee are unable to recommend the passage of a law authorising the institution of Licensing Boards dealing with the traffic in alcoholic liquors.

Here we pause, and in our next and concluding paper will deal with this important subject from our own point of view.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE TEMPERANCE ACT.

WE have published, several times, summaries of the new Canada Temperance Act, but as there are still inquiries each week about it, the following excellent summary from the *Canada Casket* will be of value:—1, The vote cannot be taken in a less municipality than a county or city; and counties cannot be grouped with each other nor with cities.—2, One-fourth of all the electors in the county or city must sign a petition, asking the Governor-General to submit the Act to a vote of the people.—3, Before this petition is sent to the Governor-General, it must be deposited in the Sheriff's or Registry office 10 days to give a chance for people to see if the signatures are genuine; and two weeks previous notice of the deposit must be given in the newspapers.—4, If the Governor-General is satisfied everything is right, he issues his proclamation; this has to be inserted three times in the *Canada Gazette*, and the same number of times in the *Ontario Gazette*.—5, Amongst other things, this proclamation appoints the day when the vote is to be taken.—6, The voting, by ballot, is to be taken in one day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.—7, Either the Registrar or Sheriff will be returning officer.—8, Persons entitled to vote are the same as those who can vote for a member of Parliament. That is, in a city, they must be assessed either as owner or tenant for 400 dols., or have an income of that amount, and their names must appear in the voter's list. No woman can vote, and a man must be 21 years of age.—9, The following is a form of the ballot paper:—

FOR THE PETITION.
AGAINST THE PETITION.

—10, Those who want to vote for the Act put a cross in the upper apartment, and those who want to vote against it, a cross in the lower one.—11, A voter can only vote once.—12, Bribery and corruption, carrying banners, treating, &c., are forbidden under heavy penalties.—13, Hiring hacks to convey voters not allowed.—14, Special licenses will be granted not to exceed one for every 4,000 inhabitants for druggists to sell in quantities not less than one pint for medicinal or manufacturing purposes, and also wine for sacramental purposes.

In the case of medicine, a doctor's certificate is required; in manufacturers, a certificate by two Justices of the Peace; and for sacramental purposes, by a clergyman.—15, Distillers and wholesale dealers can sell 10 gallons, and brewers 8 gallons, but to be used outside of the municipality.—16, The penalty for violating the law is not less than 50 dols. for the first offence, not less than 100 dols. for the second, and imprisonment not exceeding two months for the third—and any person may inform.—17, The liquors and the kegs, &c., are to be forfeited.—18, Search warrant will issue upon affidavit of any respectable witness; the liquor, if found, may be brought before the magistrate, and if there is not more than 20 gallons of it he may order it to be poured out, and the receptacles destroyed.—19, 50 dols. fine for tampering with a witness.—20, There is no appeal from the decision of the Police Magistrate.—21, To compromise a case is punishable by imprisonment.—22, It is not necessary to prove that money passed, or that liquor was actually consumed, or the kind of liquor, if the Police Magistrate is satisfied that a transaction in the nature of a sale or barter or other unlawful disposal actually took place.—23, Wife and husband shall be competent and compellable to give evidence.—24, Not less than one-third of the fines shall be set apart for a fund to secure the prosecution of infractions of the Act.

ANALYSIS OF VOTES AND PAIRS ON THE LOCAL OPTION RESOLUTION, JUNE 18TH, 1880.

	Votes for.	Pairs for.	Votes against.	Pairs against.
English Liberals.....	133	9	35	2
" Conservatives..	1	0	145	10
Welsh Liberals.....	23	0	1	0
" Conservatives..	0	0	1	0
Irish Liberals.....	7	1	1	0
" Conservatives.....	10	0	7	0
" Home Rulers.....	17	1	10	2
Scotch Liberals.....	39	3	1	0
" Conservatives..	1	0	4	0
	241	14	205	14
Pairs.....	14		14	
Total votes and pairs...245			219	

As bearing on the subject of the use of alcohol in the great London hospitals, the following statistics are of no little interest:—

Hospitals.	Wine and Beer consumed, 1878.			
	Number of In-patients, 1878.	Total Cost.	Cost per Patient.	Equivalent of Alcohol in ounces.
Westminster.....	1,703	£165 5 9	1s. 10½d.	8½
London.....	7,055	539 12 2	1s. 6½d.	10½
St. Thomas's.....	3,727	845 2 7	4s. 6½d.	18
St. Mary's.....	2,222	366 16 0	3s. 8½d.	18½
Charing Cross.....	1,776	430 10 10	4s. 10d.	18½
University College..	2,288	445 6 2	3s. 10½d.	19½
King's College.....	2,145	391 12 9	3s. 7½d.	21
St. George's.....	4,097	796 16 8	3s. 10½d.	21½
Guy's.....	5,710	1,002 14 10	3s. 6d.	22½
Royal Free.....	1,313	300 2 7	4s. 6½d.	23½
St. Bartholomew's..	5,868	1,144 11 0	3s. 10½d.	24½
Middlesex.....	2,040	547 23 0	4s. 4½d.	32½
		£6,976 4 4		

The last of these columns is of peculiar interest, as showing the differences in the average quantity of alcohol per patient used in the chief London hospitals; varying from 8½ ounces in the Westminster Hospital to 32½ in the Middlesex Hospital. If the patients in the former have a sufficient supply of alcohol, what is to be said of the patients in the latter? The drop from 32 to 8 looks more serious than from 8 to 0, which is the relation in which the patients of the London Temperance Hospital stand to alcohol.

The cost of wine, spirits, and beer consumed by the in-patients of Saint George's Union Infirmary for the year 1878 is given for comparison:—

Number of in-patients, 2,496.
 Cost for wine, spirits, and beer, £8 3s. 6½d.
 Cost per patient, 3½d.; or more exactly, 9-10ths of 1d. per patient.

The Republican State Convention for Maine refer to experiences as demonstrating the wisdom of the policy of prohibition.

THERE was a decrease in the consumption of home-made spirits as beverages in the first quarter of this year of 649,699 gallons. The foreign spirits also show a large decline.

SUNDAY CLOSING IN WALES.—Mr. John Roberts, M.P., moved the second reading of the Sunday Closing (Wales) Bill. The measure is practically unopposed in Wales. Mr. Wharton moved and Mr. Scott seconded that it be read that day three months. After an interesting debate the second reading was carried without a division.

A PROHIBITORY VILLAGE.—Low Moor, a village about a mile from Clitheroe, Lancashire, contains a population of about 1,100 souls. There is neither public-house, beer-shop, nor any place for the sale of intoxicating liquors; neither is there a policeman, prison, pawnbroker, doctor nor lawyer. The rate of mortality is remarkable. During the last ten years the average number of deaths per year has amounted to only fifteen, or only a small fraction per thousand of the population.

People are already busy in foreshadowing the nature of the Government measure which the temperance party expect to be introduced next session. It is asserted that it will proceed in the direction of appointing district representative licensing boards, with power to reduce or extend licenses, and also liberty to adopt the Gothenburg scheme. Compensation, drawn from remaining and granted to prohibited licenses, will be a special feature of the new measure. We expect that this forecast, like many others will be discredited by the facts.

Another "feat of endurance" has been accomplished; this time by a young lady of nineteen, who has succeeded in exhibiting herself for thirty consecutive hours in a huge water tank at the Aquarium, Westminster. She never left the water once, and at the conclusion of the swim did not appear much exhausted. We pass no opinion upon the desirability of these displays, for, whether good or bad, it is quite certain something sensational will always be provided while crowds assemble to witness such affairs. There is one thing, however, we note here, and the fact must speak for itself, viz., that Miss Beckwith's refreshments were the same as those which enabled Captain Webb successfully to cross the Channel, for we read they consisted only of coffee, beef-tea, eggs, minced meat, &c. *Not a single drop of alcoholic stimulant was given.* If the young lady had been "kept up" by wine, beer, or spirits, some would have said that she could not have done the feat without—but how very quiet people are when the fact is against them.—*Church of England Temperance Chronicle.*

REPRESENTATION OF THE WIGTOWN BURGHS.—On the 14th ult. the Wigtown Burghs were declared vacant on petition in respect of bribery proved against certain agents of the sitting member, Mr. Mark Stewart. In giving judgment, Lord Ormidale "quite exculpated Mr. Stewart from any personal impropriety" in the matter, Lord Craighill concurring. Mr. Mark Stewart helped by his vote to carry the Local Option Resolution on the 18th of June, and has voted for it on other occasions. As soon as the vacancy in the burghs was known Mr. R. Stevenson, the central district agent of this association, was on the ground in the interests of the temperance party. It is to be hoped that our vote in Wigtown will not be reversed by the coming election. The candidates for the vacant seat are, in the Liberal interest, Mr. Gilbert M'icking of Miltonise; and in the Conservative interest, Admiral Sir John Hay, one of the defeated candidates at the General Election. Mr. M'icking, in his address to the electors, thus refers to the licensing question—"The licensing laws require revision, and should the Government introduce a measure in accordance with the sentiment of the ratepayers, it will have my support."

The Irish judges have decided that a licence is property which cannot be extinguished, without compensation, save for an offence against the law.

ONE of the objects of the Croydon Church of England Temperance Society is "to ask licensed victuallers to use their influence in lessening drunkenness"!!!

THE OLDEST TEETOTALER.—Mr. John Price, of Penkridge, Staffordshire, has been an abstainer for seventy-six years, having never in that time drunk anything else but tea, water, and milk.—*Temperance Record.*

Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., writing to the *Times* on "the position," says—"There are three requisites for successful legislation:—1st. The repeal of every Act on the statute-book relating to licensing of public-houses. 2nd. One comprehensive Act in place of all. 3rd. To entrust the administration of that Act to a Licensing Board elected by the rate-payers every three years by ballot, with the cumulative vote, following in every respect the precedent of the Education Act.

SACRAMENTAL WINE.—Unfermented wine is now used in about 1200 churches and chapels in the United Kingdom. One of the latest congregations to resolve upon its use at the communion is the Kent Road U.P. Church, Glasgow. A memorial, very largely signed in favour of the change, was forwarded from the congregation to the session, another for *statu quo* was entirely insignificant. The session wisely agreed to the prayer of the first one. This event has given considerable satisfaction to the congregation, the majority of whom, we are told, are abstainers.

The publicans are not taking kindly to their altered prospects since the passage of the local option resolution. They are sorely hit, and are crying out in consequence. They have hoisted the bogey of "infringed liberty," and are trying to look like martyrs, in order to beget sympathy. Some of the bolder spirits amongst them, however, affect to look indifferent, as if confident in the final appeal of certain triumph, and interpret their present defeat to the lethargy and criminal negligence of the trade. Prospects brighten for our old down-trodden, drink-steeped country!

GLASGOW, CROSS HALL.—The usual weekly meeting was held in the hall of the City of Glasgow United Working Men's T.A. Society. Mr. J. Campbell, president, was in the chair, and in a few brief remarks called upon Mr. R. Dransfield to address the meeting. Mr. Dransfield in a very vivid manner depicted the evils arising from the use of strong drink, and the blessings that follow the adoption of a total abstinence pledge loyally adhered to. The hall was crowded. 37 received the pledge. A hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of the chairman, awarded to Mr. Dransfield for his really excellent lecture.

THE repression of the Liquor Traffic is engaging the attention of the Dutch legislature as well as of the British Parliament. The Dutch Government has introduced a Bill into the States-General providing for the limitation of public houses to one per 500 inhabitants in towns of 50,000 souls, one per 400 in towns of 20,000, one per 300 in towns of 10,000, and one per 250 in all smaller places. The bill also forbids the supply of intoxicants to children under sixteen. It further imposes from one to eight days' imprisonment for supplying intoxicants to persons already drunk, and a day's imprisonment or a fine of 10 florins for being seen drunk on the streets.—*Daily Review.*

The Eleventh Annual Sessions of the Grand Lodge of Scotland (I. O. G. T.) was held at Perth on the 5th ult. and two following days. 400 representatives from various parts of the country were present. The Grand Secretary's report showed that the total membership of the order in Scotland was 46,124 (being a decrease since last year of 4624), and the number of lodges 719. 811 of the 20,486 juveniles in the order had been transferred to adult lodges. The Treasurer's report was able to announce a balance in hand of £846. The Rev. J. A. Johnstone, Springburn, was elected G. W. C. T., and Mr. W. W. Turnbull re-elected G. W. Secretary. The sessions meet next year in Edinburgh.

THE second bye-election in Scotland since the general election, was declared in Buteshire on the 3rd ult., and resulted in the return of Mr. Charles Dalrymple by 45 votes. At the general election, Mr. Thomas Russell unseated Mr. Dalrymple, but proceedings were taken to show that he won the seat by corruption, and was also disqualified by being a member of a firm having a government contract. The charge of corrupt practices was dropped, but as there was no doubt of his disqualification on strictly technical grounds, Mr. Russell at once resigned and made a second appeal to the constituency, with the result above stated. Mr. Russell promised to support Local Option. Mr. Dalrymple voted twice in favour of the Local Option Resolution. There is therefore no change in the strength of the Scotch vote on Local Option.

TEMPERANCE ELECTORAL ACTION IN CANADA.—The following pledge is being circulated in connection with the Scott Act campaign:—"We, the subscribers to this article, believe the policy of the Dominion towards the liquor traffic should be decided by the electors at the polls. We believe no party can act higher than its average sentiment, and that, as a consequence, neither of the Canadian political parties, divided as they are between licence and prohibition, can make the suppression of the liquor traffic an avowed and distinct issue. We believe the time has arrived when the advocates of national prohibition should place their question first on the political programme, and force it to an issue. Therefore we pledge ourselves to support no candidate for parliamentary honours who is not a practical man and an avowed prohibitionist. We agree to use reasonable efforts to add subscribers to this article, and to give our aid and support, as citizens or electors, to any platform adopted by them in public convention."

ABERDEEN.—CONFERENCE OF TEMPERANCE REFORMERS.—A meeting of the friends and supporters of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was held in the Aberdeen Cafe Company's Hall, Shiprow, on Saturday, 3rd ult.; Mr. William Davidson, clothier, presiding. The following resolutions were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted:—"1st. That this meeting tenders its hearty thanks to Sir Wilfred Lawson, Bart., M.P., and the 229 hon. members who voted and paired for the Local Option Resolution. 2nd. That this meeting expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Webster, member for the city, and to Dr. Farquharson and General Sir A. H. Gordon for the cordial support they gave to Sir Wilfrid Lawson in his efforts to secure the reformation which is so earnestly desired. 3rd. That this meeting of temperance reformers desires to express its high satisfaction at the marked progress made in the present Parliament, and hails with pleasure the growing conviction that no measure will meet the requirements of the time that does not give the ratepayers a complete veto on the issue or renewal of licences. 4th. That copies of these resolutions be sent to the member for the city, the members for the county, and the Prime Minister." The various temperance associations in the city were well represented at the meeting.—*Aberdeen Daily Free Press.*

THE LORDS ON INTEMPERANCE.—On the 2nd ult. Lord Onslow, in the House of Lords, called attention to the report of the Select Committee on Intemperance, and inquired whether Her Majesty's Government intended to introduce any measure based on the recommendations of that committee. One of these was, that facilities should be afforded those localities desirous of attempting to repress intemperance. He hoped that after the utterances of the Premier, the Government, which had received so much support from the Temperance party, would not hesitate to do all that they could in the matter. The Bishop of Carlisle said there was a wide distinction between law and Lawson, and the difficulty was to convert local option into law. He was favourable to a trial of Mr. Chamberlain's plan. Lord Cottesloe believed there was a strong feeling upon the question of intemperance throughout the country, and he wished Her Majesty's ministers would take it up.

The Earl of Fife, speaking on behalf of the Government, pointed out that this subject was one of large and complex character, as was shown by the number of recommendations made by the Committee on Intemperance. Of these, the one which seemed to him both the shortest and the clearest was undoubtedly No. 7, which said in less than a line that a considerable increase should be made in the licence duty. That recommendation had been acted upon at the very earliest opportunity. On one point all were agreed, that it was our duty to do all in our power, consistently with liberty, to diminish the evils of intemperance, which was unfortunately only too prevalent. But when once this agreement was arrived at on all sides, temperance reformers were found joining issue on every conceivable point. Some were in favour of absolute suppression, others of perfect freedom in the liquor traffic, while others again put forward schemes of varying complexity, such as the Gothenburg system, and the more practicable proposals connected with licensing boards. However interesting and admirable the report was, unfortunately it was hardly possible to find in it any one complete scheme which the Legislature were invited to adopt. The entire suppression of the liquor traffic was hardly possible or practicable in the present state of the public mind, nor would the policy of public freedom be likely to recommend itself to any large section of the community. The question of the hours of closing was one which had been under the consideration of successive Governments, and was one in which they had introduced many alterations of various sorts. For his own part, he very much doubted whether these changes really very much affected the general questions of the temperance or intemperance of the people. With regard to the Gothenburg system, of which he had heard so much lately, that seemed to him one more interesting to study than easy to adopt. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps the most promising part of the subject was that which was connected with the whole question of licensing and how far the power of granting licenses should be vested in the ratepayers or in boards directly elected by them. The last general election had shown that the temperance forces in the country had considerably increased, and that there was a growing feeling in favour of some sort of local option, and possibly in favour of some restrictions in the Sunday liquor traffic. But he would venture to say that it was hardly fair or reasonable to expect that a Government which had been so short a time in office, and had had, in the ordinary course of affairs, so many and such great questions pressing simultaneously for immediate solution, could have already elaborated a legislative proposal on a subject which had pre-eminently baffled the ingenuity of successive Administrations. Those who were most earnest in the cause of temperance reform would admit that it was hardly one of those questions in which it would be wise to go far ahead of public opinion. After all, we must not lose sight of the redeeming features of this distressing subject. Recent legislation had had a beneficial effect throughout the country by producing good order in the streets. Drunkenness had not increased in the rural districts of England and Scotland, or even in Ireland. As a rule, the higher classes of artisans are becoming more sober, drunkenness being more confined to the lowest grades of the community, where education had not yet kept pace with the growth of wages. In conclusion, he wished to say that the Government were both earnest and anxious in this question. The whole matter was under their consideration. They were noting the various changes which were now taking place in public opinion, and they hoped at no distant date to introduce a measure which might mitigate some of the worst features of this lamentable evil. (Hear, hear.) Lord Aberdare and the Earl of Kimberley made some remarks, and the subject dropped.

Dr. Lewett, while arguing for prohibition, once said, "Why not pour the drink into the gutter? It is destined to the gutter at last. Why not pour it there at once, and not wait to strain it through a man, and spoil the strainer in the work."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.

BY MR. WM. BLACKWOOD,

Northern District Superintendent, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

DEAR SIR.—In my last letter I gave you an account of my visit to Stornoway, in the Island of Lewis. To me that was a most important journey, and I will have a lively recollection of it for a long time to come. Some individuals use the editorial "we" in detailing their proceedings regarding the temperance movement. I will just use the first personal pronoun, and I hope I will not be charged with egotism for so doing. I spent about a fortnight in Aberdeen after my return, and then went north to Macduff. This was one among the many places where I got a hearty welcome when I first came to the north, and I found the friends still as genial and warm-hearted as they were on that occasion. I addressed two meetings, one in the open air and one in a lodge room. There are two lodges in the town, one a U.T.A., and the other an I.O.G.T. Upon the whole the cause is healthy in Macduff. Banff stands on the west bank of the Deveron, and is only separated from Macduff by the river. I had a good open-air meeting in Banff, and all our friends promptly renewed their assistance. I then went to Portsoy, and had some very interesting interviews with the temperance men of the town, whom I found to be earnest, and doing good work to strengthen the cause. There was a good open-air meeting, at which a number of kind friends put in an appearance, and said a few words to those who turned out to listen. After this I went to Cullen. Temperance reformers are never at a loss in Cullen. Mrs. Bennett makes them feel quite at home, and Mr. George Pirie's services are always tendered with a readiness that impresses one with the feeling that his heart is in the work. Cullen was well-nigh deserted when I was there, the fishermen being away plying their industry at another station. The Countess of Seafield has generously fitted up a coffee-house for the inhabitants of the sea town. It is a neat, commodious little place, well supplied with newspapers and pamphlets, and apparently taken advantage of by the young men of the village. It can only get fair play, however, like all these places, when the public houses are suppressed round about it. Peterhead was the town I next visited. The Good Templars here have ceased to work in the meantime. The U.T.A. have closed their doors till after the herring fishing. They find it difficult to get attendance during its great bustle and excitement. There is a large number of genuine temperance reformers in Peterhead. I had two excellent meetings in Broad Street, and secured the gratifying co-operation of the good friends of our agitation. I am often asked, What are you going to do now? and my answer is always ready. There should be a general advance along the whole line to secure a complete veto clause in any measure that may be brought before Parliament. Anything less than this is not justice, and to demand less wants the true ring of the prohibitionist. There will always be plenty of people ready to divert attention from the right thing without temperance reformers foolishly doing it themselves.

You could not wish to meet with kinder friends than the temperance men of Fraserburgh. I spent two days in that town, and my sojourn did me good. I had the pleasure of addressing a large meeting at the Cross, and of conversing with a large number of men, whose sentiments, aims, and aspirations are in unison with my own on the question of prohibition. There is a Temperance Society in Fraserburgh, also a Good Templar Lodge, and a Lodge of the U.T.A.'s. I heard the question of compensation discussed in Fraserburgh from several standpoints, and I am of opinion that there will be a good deal said before compensation is granted to the disestablished liquor men. There are many besides prohibitionists whom it will waken to a thoughtful attitude. Even those who have drunk deeply at the font of Bacchus, will be disposed to think that his high priests have already got sufficient without paying them off under a local option law.

We have had a fine conference in Aberdeen. The different societies in the city were all represented. It was called under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and resolutions were passed with great enthusiasm thanking Sir Wilfred Lawson, also the Members for the city and county of Aberdeen, for their votes on the Local Option Resolution. Tea was partaken of, and three hours of eloquent speech-making brought a most pleasant and happy meeting to a termination.

A WEEK'S WORK IN EDINBURGH,

BY MR. R. STEVENSON,

Western District Superintendent, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

I BEG to submit a sketch of my week's meetings in Edinburgh, which commenced on Sunday, 4th ult., in the Queen's Park. Mr. Armstrong presided, and Mr. John Steel gave a short, pithy, and practical opening address. I spoke up the hill to a very large and attentive audience, composed of all classes. There could not be less than from 1500 to 2000 people within the compass of my voice. The evening was fine, with a slight breeze, which wafted the sound of my voice clearly and distinctly a long way. I took as my subject "The Bible and the Liquor Traffic," on which I spoke for an hour. I introduced my subject by saying that the Temperance cause was too solemn a subject on which to crack jokes or use frivolous speech in its advocacy, and that they must not expect such from me, neither on this occasion nor on any other throughout the week. It was quite possible that my meetings might not be so large on that account. Still I had no faith in either singing or joking people into sobriety. I drew a contrast between the effects of the Bible and the Liquor Traffic. The influence of the one as contrasted with the influence of the other. The influence of the Bible in civilizing and christianizing at home and abroad, in contrast with the demoralizing and brutalizing influence of the Liquor Traffic. The friends appeared greatly pleased with the meeting.

On Monday the meeting was in Parliament Square. There was a very large attendance, and with only two exceptions, I had the most profound attention. My subject was "The Curse of Drink and the Cure." Mr. J. Milne presided. The meeting thoroughly appreciated the address—and a hearty response was given to the salient points of the lecture. I spoke for 75 minutes. At the close the meeting awarded a cordial vote of thanks.

On Tuesday night I spoke first in the open-air at Nicholson Square, and afterwards in the Temperance Hall. Mr. J. Milne presided on both occasions. The meeting outside was large, highly respectable, and very attentive. I have seldom seen so many well-dressed persons standing at an open-air meeting. I spoke outside for 30 minutes on a subject raised by one of the audience during the chairman's remarks, viz.:—Moderate Drinking or Temperance. I began by saying that I wished the question of limited drinking and total prohibition to be calmly and dispassionately considered. It was a subject that demanded calm and deliberate thought. I then said, how are we to proceed in our enquiry. We must first of all ascertain, apart from both prejudice and appetite, whether, as human beings, we are made capable of taking intoxicating liquors without injury. I then illustrated my subject by a reference to animal and vegetable life, the lion, dog, &c., and also to flowers, and carried my audience with me. I wound up my argument by granting for a moment that alcohol was a creature of God. What then? So are beetles. Do we cultivate them for our use? I referred to the Colorado beetle, and the act passed in 36 hours for its extermination because it was said voraciously to devour potatoes. I asked, are human beings not of more value than potatoes, and if an act is passed to destroy the destroyers of potatoes, how much more urgent is the necessity for destroying alcohol, which destroys all that is good and noble in humanity. The meeting adjourned to the Temperance Hall, which was filled. Rev. Mr. Parr first addressed

the meeting, then I spoke on the Danger of Drinking Alcoholic Liquors, &c. Mr. Nisbet, in a short speech, moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was warmly adopted.

On Wednesday evening the meeting was in Parliament Square. Mr. Forbes presided, but the night being wet, our meeting was not large. My subject was the "Theory of Compensation," and seemed to be appreciated by the audience, as I endeavoured to expose the fallacious reasoning and illustrations of "compensation" advocates.

On Thursday evening the meeting was held in Jeffrey Street. Mr. Armstrong presided. There was a very large and very attentive audience, chiefly composed of working men resident in that locality. My subject was, "The Publican as a Tradesman," contrasting the efforts of his workmanship with that of the tailor, shoemaker, &c., and pointed out that just as this trade prospered every other trade was depressed; pointing out the late Father Mathew's efforts, and the failure afterwards, through want of legislation to sustain the glorious results of his labours; gave Bessbrook as a proof of what all Ireland might have been if law had been then framed to allow the people to suppress the traffic in alcoholic liquors in their varied localities. I may here mention that a gentleman, a visitor to Edinburgh, stopped me in the High Street to thank me for my address on Tuesday evening in Nicholson Square. He was then on his way to take tea with Professor Masson, and he stopped rather long with me. He said that he had mentioned to the Professor what he had heard of my address, and they both agreed that such teaching on temperance and prohibition must do uncommon good, as many doubtless would listen to our advocacy on such an occasion that would not enter a Temperance Hall. He said that he often dined with Sir H. Thomson, M.D., and knew Dr. Richardson well.

On Friday evening the meeting was in Parliament Square, and was fully as large as the former in the same place. Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Forbes assisted. My subject was, "The Right of the People to Suppress the Liquor Traffic." The meeting at the close unanimously and heartily awarded me a vote of thanks. I may say that the committee was very attentive, and fully alive to the abundant and abiding results of out-door meetings, as was signally apparent by their personal attendance and co-operation. It is very encouraging to work night after night in connection with the Edinburgh T.A. Society.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1880.*

THE following meetings have been addressed by the representatives of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 11th April to the 10th July inclusive. During that period 203 meetings were held, 78 being deputationary and 125 ordinary. At these meetings 286 addresses were given.

The following is a summary of each speaker's work:

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Perth, Armidale, Montrose, Ferryden, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Dundee, Carnoustie, Glasgow, Coupar-Angus, Partick, Stranraer, Renfrew, Motherwell, Strathaven, Dumbarton, Paisley, Pollokshaws, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilsyth, and Bonhill, and addressed 58 meetings.

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Denholm, Pitlossie, Dysart, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Tranent, Leith, Addie-

well, Pencaitland, Ceres, Hawick, Peebles, Galashiels, Kirkcaldy, Cupar-Fife, Dunfermline, St. Andrews, and Strathmiglo, and addressed 56 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Blackwood has visited Kirkwall, Stromness, Shapinsay, Thurso, Wick, Helmsdale, Golspie, Dornoch, Tain, Dingwall, Cromarty, Invergordon, Beauly, Ullapool, Stornoway, Aberdeen, Millseat, Macduff, Banff, Portsoy, Cullen, Durriss, Peterhead, Duncanston, Clatt, Fraserburgh, and Stonehaven, and addressed 48 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Mearns, Kilsyth, Glasgow, Johnstone, Paisley, Renfrew, Motherwell, Strathaven, Dumbarton, Partick, Govan, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, and Kilsyth, and addressed 33 meetings.

Mr. Charles Bent has visited, Hawick, Peebles, Galashiels, Leith, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Cupar-Fife, Dunfermline, Bonhill, Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock, Ayr, Dundee, and Perth, and addressed 33 meetings.

Mr. Wm. Kesson has visited Glasgow, Greenock, Pollokshaws, and Partick, and addressed 10 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Glasgow, Forfar, Johnstone, and Stewarton, and addressed 8 meetings.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has visited Edinburgh and Peebles, and addressed 6 meetings.

Mr. Joseph Milne has addressed 5 meetings in Edinburgh.

Baillie Selkirk has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 4 meetings in Edinburgh.

Ex-Baillie Lewis has addressed 3 meetings in West Linton and Edinburgh.

Ex-Baillie Torrens has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. James Horn has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. Joseph Bone has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. J. Scrymgeour has addressed 2 meetings in Dundee.

The following gentlemen have each delivered one address in the places following their names:—Mr. J. Anderson—Ferryden; Rev. D. M'Rae, Rev. Mr. Steele, and Mr. Rutherford—Forfar; Rev. R. Burgess and Mr. J. B. Lyall—Peebles; Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. Mr. Parr, Mr. J. Nisbet, Dr. Bowie, Mr. J. Coutts, and Mr. D. Anderson—Edinburgh; R. C. Murray, Esq.,—Glasgow; Rev. Hector Hall and Rev. Mr. Clugston—Stewarton; Mr. D. Stenhouse—Cupar-Fife.

PUBLIC PRESS.

ALCOHOL AND OPIUM.—The two articles above named seem to be considered indispensable factors in maintaining the credit of the United Kingdom and of India. Hence licensed victuallers at home, and we doubt not opium growers in India, regard themselves as pillars of the State, and, therefore, entitled to special consideration. There is, however, one noteworthy difference; in the United Kingdom we raise a considerable revenue from the demoralization of our own subjects; in the case of India we rely upon the demoralization of the Chinese. It will not, we believe, be denied that both alcohol and opium have their uses; in so far as revenue from either is derived from its proper use, we hold that revenue to be economically unsound, and in so far as it is derived from its abuse, we hold it to be immoral. There is, with respect to China, the additional wrong that our opium has been forced upon them by most iniquitous wars; but, in other respects, both kinds of revenue, that, viz., derived from alcohol and that from opium, appear to us to stand upon a similar footing. It is, however, a very common idea to regard the taxes upon alcohol as satisfactory, and to condemn the revenue derived from opium. It is argued that a great moral result is secured by taxing alcohol, that the price is raised, consumption diminished, and sobriety promoted. That the price is raised is no doubt true, and that increase of price diminishes consumption is equally true; but there are other elements in the case; the consumption of alcohol may be diminished, but the consumption of deleterious and maddening drugs may be increased.

The taxation of intoxicating drink has, moreover, this consequence, that it makes the Government a participator in the profits of riots and excess. The publican who is fined for permitting drunkenness is practically fined for permitting his customers to swell the revenues of a professedly Christian country. Behind the counter of the lowest drinking bar, where, to quote the words of the late Mr. Dudley Baxter, "emaciated and in rags, the drunkard puts down the wages that should have supported his children, calling for glass after glass until his earnings are exhausted, and then staggers off to a poverty-stricken home to wreak his madness upon his wife," stands, in his official capacity, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and sweeps into the coffers of the State the largest portion of the money thus worse than wasted. With that inconsistency which is a frequent characteristic of humanity, there are those who condemn the gains of the gin palace while they regard with equanimity, if not approval, that portion of them which is appropriated by the State; but the question arises whether that which is held to be wrong in the individual, can by any process of logic be shown to be right for the State.—*Financial Reformer*.

OVERWORK.—Let me embrace the opportunity to say a word by way of caution in regard to the mistaken measures too often taken for the relief of what is supposed to be "overwork." In nearly all the cases of this class which fall under the notice of the alienist there has been a more or less prolonged use of stimulants to mitigate the sense of suffering and mental fatigue. It is no uncommon occurrence to find that the patient has been taking alcohol habitually though in small doses as a restorative and sleeping draft—composed of opium in some form, chloral hydrate, or bromide of potassium—night after night for weeks, or even months. Patients of all ages, conditions, and temperaments, terrible with sleeplessness of all forms and degrees, arising from the most diverse and contradictory causes, are dosed by their friends or physicians with these deleterious drugs. This is a serious business. The reckless routine prescription of stimulants and sedatives is one of the most unsatisfactory and unscientific of practices. Alcohol cannot possibly be harmless in cases of the class we have been considering. Over stimulation of the lower centres is the very evil which we have most to dread, and most sedulously to try to avoid. Alcohol never increases the power of the higher centres. It can only for the moment irritate them, and, in the long run, ruin their nutrition.—*Dr. Granville in the Lancet*.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, etc., for REVIEW, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Office, 30 Hope Street.

The Leaflet Reciter; by J. H. Evans (London: National Temperance Publication Depot, Strand). This is a series of leaflets, healthy in tone and educative in tendency, consisting of 8 sorts (6 of each), enclosed in a neat packet, and intended for recitation at Bands of Hope, etc. A happy idea, which should certainly be appreciated by conductors of juvenile entertainments.

Illustrious Abstainers. By Frederick Sherlock. (London: Hodder & Stoughton.) We heartily welcome a second edition of this volume of the finest temperance biographical sketches in the English language. It has the approving notice of such eminent men as Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., and Canon Farrar, and is indispensable to every temperance library. If we are reminded by the study of great lives to make our own lives great, with what force will these twenty eminent examples of a life of abstinence come home to the business and bosom of one and all of us, impelling us to do what in us lies to get a copy of it into the Temperance and Good Templar, and even City Free Libraries in our neighbourhood. We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. Sherlock on his well merited success.

Hand and Heart, No. 236. (London Offices, the Paternoster Buildings.) In addition to the usual varied, useful, and pictorial contents, this number contains a portrait and genial notice of Mr. Frederic Smith, the esteemed secretary of the Band of Hope Union. Full justice is done to Mr. Smith's ability and energy, but we are left to guess his age from his portrait—not a very remarkable omission in any life notice of a lady, but certainly an error in the present case.

The National Temperance Hymnal, No. 8; edited by the Rev. John Compston (Maidstone: G. H. Graham). We have always regretted the comparative lack of really worthy temperance song. We were of the opinion, and we think not without some reason, that the devil had all the best of the music; but that opinion has been considerably modified by the appearance of the publication before us, which we highly commend to Bands of Hope, Good Templar Lodges, etc. The music is arranged for four voices and the pianoforte, is printed in large type and on good paper, and every piece is pointed with expression marks, so as to secure good and effective singing.

Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Irish Temperance League. The past twelve months mark an epoch in the history of the temperance movement. We have celebrated the year of jubilee—we have seen the overthrow of liquor domination in the British House of Commons—we have hailed with joy the recognition of our great contention by a new Parliament—and we have watched the rapid progress of our principles amongst the people; events which have not only filled us with gratitude, but which have nerved us to still greater efforts in the great cause of our country's liberty. Our sister association in Belfast has shared largely in the labours of which these triumphs are but the results. In the annual report before us we find the record of a year's honest, zealous, useful, and successful work accomplished by our Irish ally, in the cause of personal, social, and political temperance, for which Ireland will yet bless her. Like other good institutions, she is only limited in her noble effort by the pressure of monetary considerations. Our wish for the friends in Belfast is that they may secure the sympathy and aid of an ever-increasing membership, so that the future may be even brighter than the past has been.

The Human Body and its Functions. Lectures. By Rev. H. S. Paterson, M.D. A second series of lectures delivered to the London Young Men's Christian Association, of which Life Studies, elsewhere noticed, is the first. The same skilful treatment—the same mastery of the subject and its details—is apparent, the same clear and cogent argumentation and forcible style is visible on every page. The volume is divided into eight chapters—the organism, tissues, preparation, and conveyance of aliment, removal of waste, the nervous system, the special senses, and the evolution and application of energy. Dr. Paterson protests against the doctrine which obtains in certain philosophical circles "that mind is simply another aspect of the body—the outcome of it in one direction—and that when we have exhausted the study of the physical components of man, we have nothing left to examine." And he gives to our mind invincible reasons for making it. In treating his subject, Dr. Paterson displays a perfect knowledge of the strength and weakness of his opponent's position, a mind receptive of whatever truths his opponents have to offer, and a skilful mode of setting forth the truths upon which he takes his stand, which, while keeping up the interest of the reader, at the same time thoroughly enlists his sympathy and irresistibly invites the action of his judgment upon the point at issue. Let anyone take up this volume in the true spirit of enquiry, and he will be constrained to acknowledge the fairness, ability, and courteousness which distinguishes Dr. Paterson. As for the book itself, it is well printed and handsomely bound; but we miss those illustrations which are so necessary in a physiological treatise; all the more that his audiences apparently had the advantage of a very complete set of apparatus, which constantly illustrated these most interesting series of lectures.

"*A Famous Boy*" is the title of an address delivered to Sunday-school scholars, by Fred. Sherlock, author of "Illustrious Abstainers," etc. In it the author makes an interesting episode in the early life of Milton—when he hurried home from the pleasures of the Continent to share in the grand struggle for civil and religious liberty in which his countrymen were engaged—the groundwork of an earnest and eloquent appeal to the young to recognise their responsibility, and aid in the overthrow of the giant evil of intemperance. It should circulate by thousands. The price is sixpence per 100.

Studies in Life. Lectures by Rev. H. S. Paterson, M.D. (London: Hodder & Stoughton.) It is often remarked that ministers of the Gospel do not sufficiently guard their flock from the insidious and dangerous teachings of Pseudo-Science. They are, it is said, too often to be found in the theological groove, and seldom found meeting sham scientists on their own field of conflict with reasons in the one hand and religious principles in the other. It will be rather difficult, we think, for the accused to secure a verdict of acquittal. Certainly we see the utmost expenditure of energy and research put forth by men of science, falsely so called, to exclude God from His own universe, and to enthrone a negation in His stead. The whole field of current thought is overrun by bands of men whose sole purpose apparently is to establish in the minds of mankind a belief in a world which was not framed by God. At the same time we look to the ministry and the priesthood, only to find the great body of them either incapable or indifferent, and the defence of the truth, as against the destructive rationalists of our day, left in the hands of a few noble spirits, who, with great advantage to the cause of Christ, do battle for the cause of truth. Anyone looking over the field of science must be made painfully aware by his survey of the absurd credulity not seldom exhibited by her votaries. Theories not half made up are flaunted in the eyes of the people, and made current for a little time by the authority of some great name, only to be, by the prick of an Ithuriel's spear, exposed and cast aside. The credulity of science during the past twenty years as regards Bioplasm, Protoplasm, Evolution, Involution, and other "isms," would be discreditable in a high degree to the investigators of nature in the infancy of scientific research. Scepticism and Christianity have often been in conflict. At one time men would not believe in Christianity, because miracles could not be demonstrated. Nevertheless and notwithstanding, belief in Christianity won its way. Now she might turn round and ask Science to demonstrate a great many of those so-called truths with which her schools are teeming. The danger which science at present has to fear is the disregard—unconsciously in most cases, no doubt—of all the canons of investigation on the part of many of her followers, and the consequent damage to truth and the world. We are not of those who look for perfection in scientific investigations, or dream that it will have been attained even for centuries to come. While so much in nature has yet to be explored, so much generalised, so much experimented upon, it is useless to think for one moment of resting and being thankful. The great living principle of science is progress towards higher generalisations and higher truths. What we desire to see, and what we have, we think, a right to, is true inductive research, properly formed hypotheses, correct scientific methods, knowledge gained and accurately registered, leading to the consequent conquest of the whole realm of nature. It is in this spirit that we heartily welcome Dr. Paterson's book. It deserves a place among those works having as their object the defence of true religion against false science. Dr. Paterson, although a minister, is also an M.D. in medicine, and has the training and the culture for scientific investigation—placing him on a level with those whose theories he examines. We can, therefore, take up his book with confidence, and enter upon the studies of life and man which he has laid before us, with some anticipation of fruitful result. He is a Scotchman, too, with more than an ordinary measure of the caution of his race. He holds, very

properly we think, that the claims of certain scientific men to have found out other than Divine origination for the beginning of all things have not been sustained—in other words, he is disposed to ask a verdict of "not proven." This may not be considered a great deal to ask, but it is a fair way of putting the subject, and it involves tremendous issues. It means the failure of theories and hypotheses the aim of which is to show that the world around us and within us are simply the result of cold upon the incandescent vapour in which this world was once, and—nothing more. He, on the other hand, maintains that there is no choice between the theory of Divine origination, which he accepts, and the theory of chance. Those, as he truly says, who adopt chance as the explanation of things are in danger if they carry out their theory consistently of landing themselves in universal doubt or pyrrhonism. Dr. Paterson studies nature and life as the works of God. In the first chapter, nature and the study of nature is treated with the utmost fairness, and with ability conspicuous in every page. The question which has been raised with regard to the Book of Nature and the Book of Revelation has been stated thus: Is it possible to reconcile the various statements that we read in the Bible with the various facts that we find on examination in the universe? Dr. Paterson accepts the question if amended, by putting for Scripture the interpretation of Scripture, for, as he says, the interpretation of Scripture is quite a different thing from Scripture itself, just as the interpretation of nature is different from nature itself. Having set nature down as an effect whose cause is God, and quoted Augustine's saying that the will of God is the nature of things, the author deals with the laws of nature, which with him are simply the observed succession of nature. The regularity of these laws he admits, their immutability he denies. God is always present in His universe, guiding it with vigilant care, and it is because of His watchfulness that the succession we all so much admire is sustained. The second chapter, treating of life and its characteristics, is equally interesting. In life, the author recognises—first, growth and development common to all life; second, thought and will, restricted to the animal kingdom; and in life in the human family conscience and spiritual inspiration. He calls up among the various theories of life that of evolution, which he contrasts by the recognised quality of matter "inertia!" contrasts force as admitted by true science with the vagaries which some philosophers would impose upon it; the co-relation of forces with the great fact that while chemical, electrical, and mechanical forces are interchangeable, vital force cannot be so interchanged, it can only be produced from pre-existent life, and so regarded it stands alone. The successive chapters treat of the origin of life—its varieties, its record, its natural history, its enemies, and its results. And in all these the author is quite at home in his subject, highly satisfactory in his treatment, cogent in his arguments, forcible in his style, and accurate in his science. His design was to show that we have as yet no real knowledge of nature that warrants suspicion or rejection of the claims advanced by the Bible. We are convinced that he has accomplished that design in a manner eminently conclusive and satisfactory, and were we asked to recommend a hand-book introductory to the consideration of nature and life, we should warmly point to "*Studies in Life*" by Dr. H. S. Paterson.

Just Published, Price 2s. 6d.

THE ALCOHOL CONTROVERSY.

BY JAMES WHITE.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE *CONTEMPORARY REVIEW*
ARTICLES IN DIALOGUE FORM, REPRINTED FROM
ALLIANCE NEWS.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL ASSOCIATION.

THE
Social Reformer.

SEPTEMBER, 1880.

“CHAMBERS'S JOURNAL” IN THE MIST.

AN article in this journal on toast-drinking, excellent in its matter and treatment, is sadly disfigured by the vagaries of the worthy editor respecting liquor legislation. We go a long way with him in some of his strictures. We believe with him that there are many getting demented upon the liquor traffic. They are not the staunch prohibitionists. These at least are not demented. They see a great evil, and they have at the same time a clear knowledge of its cure. The world may be getting stupefied with schemes for lessening drunkenness, but the blame of this lies upon those who seek to merely scotch the liquor snake and not to kill it. We regret, as much as the writer, the fact that all who set themselves in array against the liquor traffic are not, as we are, total abstainers; but we do not despise their aid at the polling booth. There “noses count,” and the vote of a non-abstainer and one who abstains are equally valuable. It is to the honour of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association that it has all along aimed at uniting all classes of citizens against the drink traffic. And while, in doing so, it has been unable to acquit the drinker who assists it of inconsistency, it at the same time leaves his inconsistency to himself and Him with whom he has to do. The editor is, for a man of his judgment and experience, singularly oblivious of the principles and policy of prohibition. He evidently knows nothing of the difference between restriction and prohibition, or he looks upon alcohol as a good thing, to which restriction and not prohibition should apply. The instance he offers as decisive of the folly of legislation confirms our view. All the evidence afforded by Bessbrook, Saltaire, and St. Johnsbury, has never appeared above his mental horizon, and hence the great density of ignorance he displays. He says, “We do not expect much good from legislating on the liquor traffic. A rigorous Act of Parliament to restrain drunkenness in England at the middle of last century, proved a complete failure, and had to be rescinded.” One of the Acts to which he probably refers is that of Anne, I., cap. 24, which allowed every merchant to sell spirits off the premises; the other, of George II., suppressed the sale of liquors except in *dwelling* houses—thus virtually turning every dwelling house into a public house. This Act declared that spirits should not be sold in less quantities than two gallons without a £50 license, and that 20s. a gallon should be levied upon gin. Shortly before this the Middlesex magistrates declared “that spirits were sold by persons of all descriptions.” Here, then, was a severely restrictive law passed in the teeth of unbounded license. Could anything but failure be expected? There was no public education antecedent to its passage, but instead quite a liquor demoralization. The temperance reformation was not then organized;

then the parliament, which did not represent the people, passed laws without regard to the opinions of the masses, whom they despised. Now laws register the opinion of the people. There can be no argument against the present agitation for liquor legislation drawn from the failure of the rigorous Act of last century. Then the Act was, after all, restrictive—severely restrictive, but it only, after all, altered the mode of sale. The legislation sought at the present day is to render all sale felonious; and we hope to succeed because the masses are in sympathy with our aims. He says “the cure was worse than the disease.” But it was not a cure, for the people who had means could indulge in the grossest manner. There is no desire on the part of prohibitionists “to supersede moral discipline by statutory enactments.” The fact is, with all the means of moral discipline we have we are not becoming a sober people. Why? Because our people are the slaves of a physical substance and the institutions for its sale, not merely victims of ignorance. They are under the tyranny of the drinking customs and the traffic. The upper classes, notwithstanding their advance in culture attend dinners, and drink toasts with all the honours; and our very ministers at ordination dinners, display a grossness sadly at variance with the moral discipline they so earnestly enforce in the pulpit. The fact is, that the public house, notwithstanding what has been done to curtail its operations, defies all the means of culture which seeks simply to strengthen the moral principle, but does little or nothing to remove conditions which expose people to temptations which they cannot resist. The editor cannot show one place where public houses exist wherein the people have succeeded in tipping without harm to themselves or their neighbours. The very use of these liquors tend to the larger use, which all acknowledge to be abuse; and hence, in the wake of every public house there is drunkenness, poverty, crime, and death. In those places where there are no public houses quite another result takes place. There the non-expenditure on drink leads invariably to augmented comfort, and wealth, and enjoyment. Temperance reformers see this going on in such places before their eyes, whether the absence of these places have been brought about by landlords or by laws; and they argue that if this can be done in various countries—Sweden, Canada, Greece, the United States, and Norfolk Island—and under all conditions of life, ranging from savagery to civilization, there should be such a law on the statute book giving the people power to place themselves under its benign sway. The editor has all his life been urging upon society the development of the higher, and the restraint of the lower faculties of its members, and he looks for the highest form of social life when the mentality, the morality, and sensitivity of man are co-ordinated and harmonized. But has legislation been of no avail in this development?

Has it not been found necessary to evoke law in the interests of education—to establish the conditions of knowledge? and can it be futile or unwise on the part of temperance reformers to evoke that same law for the removal by the people themselves of those conditions of intemperance, the public houses—the admitted stain and bane of our country, and the fostering cause of our abounding intemperance?

“NO COMPROMISE.”

BY REV. SAMUEL HARDING, PAISLEY.

A LITTLE gained is better than nothing, is a favourite phrase with many persons who shudder at the bold measures taken, and the Utopian schemes propounded by the advanced leaders of the temperance army. Having scored such a magnificent victory in the House of Commons on the local option resolution they would have us be content, and quietly hope, and patiently wait for a favourable opportunity and then make a move in the direction of limiting the hours of sale, or diminishing the number of public-houses. We have little sympathy with this mode of operation. We adopt the platform of the early prohibitionists—*No License*. “We care not what steps may be taken to lessen, to modify, to make respectable, to limit to six days in the week, or to certain hours in those days, the abominable traffic in alcoholic drinks, we are resolved not to expend our energies in anything short of the immediate and total repeal of that license by which men and women are consigned to ignominious graves.”

If we believe that the liquor traffic, as carried on in licensed houses, is sinful and demoralising, that it is a curse to the community, giving rise to crime, pauperism, insanity, immorality, disease, premature death, domestic misery, bad trade, waste and loss of property, unnecessary heavy taxation, besides forming the greatest outward hindrance to the moral and religious improvement of society and to the spread and triumph of the Gospel of Christ; and that these are the necessary, inevitable, and unpreventable results of the traffic, as the whole history of the system demonstrates. For this reason the article which is sold in these places is a poisonous article, which disturbs and deranges man's physical system, and tends to increase the desire for itself in those who drink it. Experience proves that you cannot permit this traffic to be carried on without inflicting infinite injury to the temporal and eternal interest of the people. If the foregoing indictment be true, what attitude should the temperance men and prohibitionists of Scotland take in regard to the liquor traffic?

Suppose a dangerous epidemic broke out in our midst, what attitude would be taken by the authorities and medical faculty in relation to it? Would they confine it to a certain district or limit its fatality to a limited number of the inhabitants? We unhesitatingly answer no. Medical skill would be brought into requisition and every measure adopted, not to regulate or restrict the epidemic, but to stamp it out entirely and purify the locality from further contagion. And this course of action would have the consent and meet with the approval of the entire populace, with, perhaps, here and there a solitary exception.

What plague has ever visited these shores that will for one moment compare with the results of the liquor traffic in its blighting, withering, blasting influence—that has left so dark a stain behind, that has sent up to heaven so terrible a wail of agony from broken hearts, that has contributed so largely to the number of those whose cry of despair comes up from the drunkard's hell. And yet, notwithstanding

standing all this, some who are regarded as leaders in the temperance movement hesitate, and fear to grapple with this evil in its entirety. Poor, weak, frail humanity trembles before the magnitude and power of the traffic, and well it might; for if ever there was a combination of “principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places,” such exists in connection with the liquor traffic.

“But our sufficiency is of God.” The battle against intemperance is God's battle against iniquity. God is on our side, “Whom shall we fear? of whom shall we be afraid?” Temperance men have been looking too low for help. Too long have they trusted in the arm of flesh. They have separated in many instances what our glorious leader—“The Captain of our salvation”—joined together and enjoined upon His followers as an imperative duty, to “*watch and pray*.” A very large portion of time has been devoted to the former but too little to the latter duty. God's warriors in the past fought many a battle against cruelty and oppression on their knees, and if we would succeed we must often be found in the same attitude taking hold of the divine strength, and then we shall go forth “terrible as an army with banners.”

There must be *no compromise*.

“Right is right, as God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.”

Our duty is clearly before us. Every means must be employed to arouse and instruct the people upon the prohibition question. The truth must be proclaimed and defended at all cost. It may be that those who persistently advocate the prohibition of the liquor traffic will be regarded as extreme men and fanatics, and, like many of the reformers of the past, for the time being become unpopular. But when our principle becomes popular we shall have many of these timid temperance men coming stealthily over on the prohibition side, and claiming to have been there all the time.

We want men of uncompromising character and principle, having faith in God and in the triumph of our cause, who

“Laugh at impossibilities
And cry, It shall be done.”

Then, only then, shall we see the liquor traffic shaken to its foundation, the truth winning its way, mountains levelled, valleys exalted, crooked places straightened, darkness scattered, Satan defeated, God glorified, the cross of Jesus the attraction, and multitudes of souls rejoicing in the Saviour of men.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

The question of female drunkenness is one which will soon compel attention. So long as our women generally kept studiously aloof from participation in the bouts which have brought so much misery and disgrace upon the other sex there was always a surety that boys would at least have the stronger example of their mother to keep them, at least in their boyhood and youth, from following the pernicious example of their fathers, brothers, and “chums.” But now that women are daily falling away from this high eminence we say most advisedly, God help the young. A poet says, “Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.” We have never seen such a fury or her type, but we should say hell, among all its bestial troop, has nothing so odiously foul as a woman drunk. In the *Lancet* the other day a Dr.

Brown asks for a diagnosis on a case of female drunkenness or apoplexy. He thus describes it—"On 5th August, at 8.30 p.m., I saw a woman at her own house. She was lying on the floor of her room occasionally breathing stertorously, both pupils widely dilated, the right most so, the left contracting feebly when the candle was brought, the right totally insensible to light. She was quite unconscious. Her husband said she had been drinking brandy freely for a week. I had attended her frequently for the effects of her drinking bouts, but I had never seen her unconscious before. About twelve o'clock she came round, and in twenty-four hours she was all right." Conceive, my gentle reader, of your mother or sister or companion being found in her room on a beautiful summer evening so steeped in drunkenness, so utterly unconscious, so near the confines of the eternal world as to be on its very verge, and tell me what your thoughts are. For myself, being a man with a very high estimate of the truthfulness and purity of women, I can conceive of nothing so utterly vile and foul, it is blacker than Milton's abhorrent picture of sin at the gates of hell; and I think that women should take fright and shame at the spread of intemperance, and each and all unite to banish drinking from their hearts, from their parties, and from every phase of their life, lest those of them that drink may be one day found grovelling in drunkenness as swinish as Dr. Brown's patient wallowed in, and lest those that meantime maintain their womanly purity amidst the abounding intemperance may be overborne by the dissoluteness which the general corruption of women, through intemperance, at no distant day may bring to pass.

It is the season of holidays, and at no time have we seen or heard of so many moving about on pleasure bent. While we have long been persuaded that we should never, in going off for our holidays, take the "comforts of the Sautmarket," along with us, yet we find that the generality of pleasure-seekers will not stir without them. At the coast or country or continent madame must impress the people of the places she visits with an exact conception of how she lives and dresses at home, and she is continually giving audible expression to her disappointment at missing some one or other of those luxuries to which she was accustomed at her own fireside. Her lord is generally of an opposite disposition. He lays aside his tall hat, stand-up collar, and broad-cloth coat, attires himself in a holiday costume, and takes it easy everywhere. All women are not so stupid nor all men so wise as our types, but certainly most holiday-seekers miss the point of true pleasure when they do not go off for a change of living as well as change of scene. Dwelling in some quiet solitude remote and living on a level with those amongst whom they sojourn, resting, walking, as fancy dictates, roaming the green fields, climbing, boating, and exploring, they would then return to the comfort or, it may be, elegancies of home with a renewed zest for them, and with a memory stored with the pleasures of their country home, which would, when brought forth, avert all the gloom and all the discomfort of city winter life. The saddest spot upon the brightness of the holiday season is the drinking, which so largely detracts from its pleasures. With liberty comes leisure, so to many who leave home in order to obtain a "stock of health" too often return with the seeds of early death, sown, alas, by themselves during the unchecked indulgence which marked their absence. But the trail of the serpent of intemperance is over all portions of our existence, and its poison is corrupting the national vitality to an extent of which very few

but the leaders of the temperance reformation have any conception. We pay in diminished enjoyment a heavy penalty for our baneful alcoholic indulgence.

It always affords pleasure to a patriot, and we modestly lay claim to the appellation, to witness the progress of his country in wealth and greatness. The receding commercial depression and the coming prosperous times has been the cause of unbounded satisfaction to us. Hard times are more than privation, they prove a time of extreme danger to the weak who prefer gilded vice and forcible acquisition to the patience and resignation which are the true elements of a virtue sure in the long run to be exalted. But to those who endure, like the bees, the winter trading and manufacturing adversity, there seems rapidly approaching a period of abundance. The Board of Trade returns for July show that there is more than double the expansion in the exports than what is in the imports. The total imports for the month were £33,354,595, which is an increase of 10.5 per cent. over the same month of 1879. The total increase of the seven months of 1880 is 20.3 per cent. Looking at the exports we find that in July they were £20,270,579, an increase over July, 1879, of no less than 22.0 per cent, and for the seven months of this year the increase is 21.3 per cent. Otherwise, the contrast between 1879 and 1880 is even more favourable than these figures show. America, too, is prosperous, and in consequence of her great cotton and wheat harvests she is eager to sell, so that we will have cheaper cotton and cheaper wheat, which means more clothing and more food. If the nation would only know the time of its merciful visitation and utterly root out the liquor traffic there is no conceivable limit that one would desire to put to its advancement in mental, moral, or religious progress short of perfection itself; but, alas, such prosperity to a drunken nation is less of a blessing and more of a curse. It enables it to produce boundless wealth, which it consigns to a bag with holes and ruins thousands of its weak and infatuated members in the process. *

FESTIVE DEMORALISATION.

It is a pity, we think, that social intercourse in our festivities should continue to be disfigured by the absurd old usage of drinking toasts. In nothing do men of good education and repute make themselves so ridiculous as when, at the word of command, they impulsively rise in a body, and with glasses of liquor in their hands, frantically, like so many lunatics, drink the health of some one, following up the ceremony by uproarious shouts and other manifestations of delight, at having done what they consider to be a great and good action. Such is what is called toasting with all the honours. The practice is no doubt ancient. It is identified with national traditions, it is fashionable, and it is acknowledged to be expressive of good feeling. But for all that, it is very irrational, and very much of a sham. Certainly it is an encouragement to waste and intemperance.

In private life, toasting has almost entirely disappeared. A hundred years ago and less, it was rife in the extreme. Half-a-dozen men could not sit down to dinner without drinking toasts. . . . It was part of a young man's education to get familiar with a few toasts, which he could bring out when "called upon" in turn at evening entertainments. At the ripe age of fifty, he had become so hackneyed in toasting as never to be at loss for a hero, or for a sentiment suitable to the character of the company. At the very least, he could give "The rising generation," "All ships at sea," or "May the wings of friendship never lose a feather." . . .

Discountenanced in general society, complimentary

toasting holds its ground in public festivities. There the libations are observedly as copious, as provocative of oratorical display, and as much attended with senseless uproar, as ever. Corporation dinners, charity dinners, reception and farewell dinners, are all alike in these respects. Every toast must be prefaced by a drink all round. The quantity of champagne consumed on some occasions is immense. . . .

On this account we venture, with deference, to recommend that an end should be put to all drinking usages whatsoever by general concurrence of feeling. That conspicuous and antiquated usage, toasting at public entertainments, should at all events cease. No doubt, there may be difficulties to overcome. Inveterate prejudices stand in the way, as they always do, when the reform of any kind of abuse is suggested. On the other hand we are inclined to think that many who complain of the tediousness and absurdity of the toasting system at public banquets would be glad to see something more simple and rational substituted. To take the thing quietly, the first step in reform might consist in getting rid of the bellowing toast-master who acts as fagman to the ceremonies. The next and more important step would be to drop "the honours"—that is to say, the blatant shouting, hurraing, clapping of hands, and stamping of feet. Last of all, the practice of *wishing* instead of *drinking* healths might be introduced, along with such complimentary remarks as are called for in the circumstances.

Evidently the present usage cannot be continued without invoking the contempt of the classes who are preached to on their intemperate habits; and contempt is a serious obstacle to reform. How those wretched ne'er-do-weels, glad to seize an excuse, must derisively laugh at admonitions to abstain from drink, when they read of a titled chairman at a public festivity saying in a lively manner to a select company:—"Fill your glasses, gentlemen, to the next toast which I have to give—The navy, army, and reserved forces—with all the honours, if you please." And then follow the drinking and boisterous applause. We ask all who have participated in such saturnalia, if they have not, in responding to the toast, felt somewhat ashamed of themselves at the figure which they cut? Grave statesmen, reverend divines, learned professionals, and sound men of business, taking part in a buffoonery which could only be excused in a parcel of children! Independently of this abasement, the participators must, on consideration, feel that they have contributed a very bad example to intemperates, who doubtless make unceremonious remarks on the subject: "Here have we been reprimanded and sent to prison by these magistrates and fine folks for taking a glass, while they swill no end of glasses in drinking toasts at these grand dinners of theirs." The subject is too painful to pursue, and we leave it to others. Surely it would be possible, as we have hinted, to indulge in sentiments of loyalty and personal esteem without anything like Festive Demoralisation.—*Chambers' Journal*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.

BY MR. W. BLACKWOOD,

Northern District Agent, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.

In my last month's letter to you I gave an account of how I found matters in connection with our movement in various parts of the Buchan district and along the coast of Banffshire. I am always delighted to find a number of excellent friends who receive with pleasure information through the *Social Reformer* regarding the progress of our prohibitory agitation. I have since visited Inverness. You are aware that this is one of the prettiest towns in the Highlands, and that there there are a number of staunch temperance men. What Inverness requires is the removal of her liquor shops, so that the moral order, the social prosperity, and the religious progress of her people may be in harmony with the beauty of her surroundings. I addressed a

large open-air meeting in front of the Exchange, and at the close sold eighty *Social Reformers*. There are three Good Templar Lodges in Inverness and a Temperance Society, and the butchers contribute a strong contingent of reformers, whose ideas in favour of prohibition are clear and pronounced. A number of the ministers of the town are abstainers. All the friends cordially renewed their subscriptions, and many were the good wishes expressed for our continuous success. From Inverness I went to Nairn—the "Brighton of the North." There is a Good Templar Lodge here and a Temperance Society in connection with the Free Church. I had a good meeting in Nairn, and was ably assisted by Mr. C. Mason, one of the east coast missionaries, as well as by a few public-spirited young men, who sung a few hymns to attract an audience. One is glad to see a number of young fellows with a moral backbone in them bravely facing the liquor interest "in the chief places of concourse, in the openings of the gates." This is a kind of moral support which seems entirely wanting on the part of many temperance men. What a fine example our old temperance veterans have shown to us in this as well as in other respects. Where would our local option movement have been to-day had our Torrensens and our Lewises, our M'ullochs, our Patons, and our Brochiehs failed anywhere to assert the people's right to veto the issue of licenses and to prohibit the liquor traffic? We need stalwart men still upon the high places of the field who will press this thought home to the hearts and consciences of the people. Victory will be secured just as we are earnest in this matter. Forres was the next place I visited. We have a number of excellent friends in Forres. The Good Templars and the U.T.A.'s are, I am sorry to write, in a state of great weakness. There is, however, an effort to be made to form a Total Abstinence Society. All that is required in Forres is just a little united action. Our friend, Mr. Naughty, took the chair at my open-air meeting, and we had a good audience. I must visit Forres again before our annual meetings. My next place was Elgin, where I had an open-air meeting, with our friend, Mr. R. Stewart, in the chair. I believe there are two Good Templar Lodges in Elgin and a Lodge of the U.T.A.'s, also a Temperance Association. The statement was made at the meeting that Elgin had a drink-shop to every twelve electors—a heavy burden to carry. It is a wonder that they should manifest patience under the load. I like to go to Elgin, and I hope our Association will always merit the confidence of the good friends there. I had a good open-air meeting at Lossiemouth, but as the fishing was being prosecuted with vigour I left with the intention of going back in September. There is a Good Templar Lodge at Lossiemouth, which has recently been resuscitated and has done good work. May it prove a blessing to the town. At Fife-Keith and Keith I had capital meetings. Our esteemed friends, Messrs. Cunningham and Brown, gave their assistance and success attended our efforts. There is a Temperance Society in Keith, but there is considerable room for development on the lines of progress. Keith is situated in Banffshire, and if I am correctly informed there are thirteen or fourteen distilleries in that county. The whiskymen are kings in Kirk and State, so that our friends have a hard battle to fight with intemperance. Huntly is situated in West Aberdeenshire and occupies a front place in the temperance movement. The Good Templar Lodge is healthy. I think all the ministers are abstainers. Some of the leading townsmen are in warm sympathy with abstinence and local option. I addressed a meeting in Huntly Square, a splendid place for a gathering, and gave away a number of tracts entitled "Prohibition is worth working for." This is a first-rate tract, worthy of a large circulation. My meeting was well attended. A series of open-air meetings have taken place in Aberdeen under the joint auspices of the Aberdeen Temperance Society and the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. These have been agreeable meetings and have been well attended. I may say that since I came to Aberdeen I have found Mr. Matthew Edwards, the esteemed Secretary of the Aberdeen Temperance Society, a very hearty co-worker

in the movement. The more one sees of the demoralising effects of drink, and the eager rush of men to secure licenses to sell it, and the more one reflects on the cunning manoeuvres of property-holders to get licenses attached to their houses, the greater the necessity appears for having the law altered in relation to this nefarious business. Legislation is the vital point in the temperance movement. The traders in liquor dread nothing so much as this. We may be sure we are right when we receive their bitter hostility and opposition.

PUBLIC PRESS.

Show us the man who sells drink and the man who drinks them, and we will show you men whose whole life and influence are bad.

The drink traffic and its blighting results go hand in hand with infidelity and every debasing and abhorrent evil and wrong-doing in society.

Let dissolution come when it will, it can do the Christian no harm, for it will be but a passage out of a prison into a palace—out of a sea of troubles into a haven of rest—out of a crowd of enemies into an innumerable company of true, loving, and faithful friends—out of shame, reproach, and contempt, into exceeding great and eternal glory. What will dissolution mean to the drinker who steepes his senses in alcoholic forgetfulness?

The poor drunkard does not chiefly support the public house, he is too poverty-stricken to do it. The total abstainer does not support them at all. "The moderate drinker" is the man that keeps them in prosperity. If it were not for the support of this class, the traffic in strong drink would soon cease to exist. The old drunkards would die out or reform. It is only out of a moderate drinker you can find grist for the publican's mill, and recruits for the great drunken army that, like locusts, spread misery over the land. The moderate drinker is the fountain of intemperance.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER AT EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS.—We could not help remarking how frequently the drink question cropped up among these petitions. Prayer on behalf of the victims of the drink is well, but it does seem something like a solemn mockery for the Christians of England to be continually crying to God to deliver their country from an evil from which they can very well deliver themselves if they choose. As long as our social customs are what they are, and as long as we are content to have places of public temptation to this sin in every street and at every street corner, we do not think God will interfere with the natural sequence of cause and effect in order to relieve us from the consequences of our apathy and contributory guilt.—*Christian*.

DRINK A GREAT ENEMY OF LIFE.—I am not going away from my subject, or attempting to ride a hobby, when I say, that of all causes producing weakness, there is not in this country a greater or worse than intemperance. I am speaking from the physiological platform, and not as the advocate of teetotalism, or any other "ism" whatever. No one who has given attention to the subject is unaware that of the causes of weakness in this country, intemperance may not unreasonably be said to equal all the rest put together. I believe that drinking strong drinks, within even what are known as the bounds of moderation, produces a weakened condition of the body that makes it less able to perform its normal amount of work, and more likely to succumb, not only under extraordinary pressure, but under the ordinary pressure of business life. We must take care that nothing is put into our bodies that will lessen their vigour, or make them less able to perform their functions. It has been calculated that 100,000 lives are lost in this country every year through intemperance. I suppose the lowest calculation that would be made would be that that at least 50,000 are lost, though I do not think the higher estimate at all exaggerated. But take this lower estimate; what an immense sacrifice of life it is! If we lost

50,000 men in a campaign, we should think we had lost a tremendous number, and yet we lose more than that every year through this single vice! You cannot wonder that some people are greatly incensed against intemperance, and are anxious to bring it to an end by any available means. Nor can you blame this exasperation. Anything that will help us to prevent this immense yearly sacrifice of life is warrantable, and more than warrantable, within the limits of sound sense and prudence.

Now, young men, let me say very deliberately, that I do not think any of you need strong drink. There might, perhaps, be a good case made out in some circumstances for its medicinal use, and it is prescribed by some physicians in the weakness of old age. But I have not got old men here; and if I had, I would not say anything to encourage them to drink. But for us, young men, there is no excuse whatever. We certainly do not need alcohol.

I sometimes fear that the attention bestowed, wisely and necessarily enough, on the external causes of disease, may throw altogether into shadow the necessity of endeavouring to obviate the internal. There are two ways of saving the weak. Either you may shelter them from the cold blast, or you may make them strong enough to face it without fear. We cannot afford to neglect either method; and as individuals the latter is more within our own control. By avoiding all well known causes of debility; by rational and reasonable precautions in eating and drinking; by avoiding equally over-fatigue and indolence; by cheerfulness, and obedience to those who are truly our superiors, we can do much to make "our days long upon the land."—*"Studies in Life," by Dr. Paterson.*

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saunderson's Error," &c.

CHAPTER II.

Dinner was served without delay. Our hero had been enabled to improve his toilet, and as he dressed himself there was no exultation visible at his good luck. He seemed to be in no way elated at his good fortune, and felt more the loss of his pipe than the finding of himself so transformed. He looked well; and though he was not able to obliterate the marks of dissipation evident in his features, he softened them so as to render them less disagreeable. His manners were those of one accustomed to good society, and when he sat down at table, all were at once at ease in each other's presence. The dinner was excellent, but no liquors, save water, were on the table. Our hero bore the privation without flinching. There was no reference during dinner to the cause of the mishap, nor to the son. With his host, our hero was at once at home. He showed considerable knowledge of country life, of farming, of stock, of markets, and thoroughly enlisted the eager interest of Mr. Vernon. Dora paid him marked attention, and he was evidently at pains to be worthy of it. Mrs. Vernon was an excellent listener, and perhaps as excellent an observer. Dinner over, the ladies retired, and the gentlemen were left for some time to themselves.

"May I ask how the accident occurred to which I am indebted for the present pleasure?"

"Yes, certainly," said Mr. Vernon, "but one has no heart to enter upon painful details."

He then told the old story of an only son, well and carefully brought up, going to college, and then going astray; of dark rumours, of enormous bills, of rustication, and so forth; of coming home under the mastery of evil habits and an apparent powerlessness, let us say, rather than an unwillingness to reform. That day he had gone into Woodgreen, and while Dora was shopping he had met some of his boon companions, had merely a glass or two, took the reins from the coachman, lost all control over the horses, resented the interference of Jenkins, who, however, snatched the reins just as his young master fell, but, in the attempt to save both, he also fell, and the horses, feeling them-

selves at liberty, darted off, with the result with which our readers are acquainted.

By the time he reached the end of his short narrative, Mr. Vernon was visibly affected. His voice trembled, tears filled his eyes, and his features were overcast with sorrow.

"I owe you a deep debt of gratitude indeed, and shall have a sincere pleasure in repaying to the best of my ability. So I hope you will be my guest for some time at least. It may be the better for all of us."

When they joined the ladies at tea, it was evident that they were aware that Mr. Vernon had explained the reason of the alarming accident which had taken place, and there was on the part of Dora an eager inquiring glance at the face of the guest to learn the impression the disagreeable communication had made upon him. Apparently, if not satisfied, she was pleased to find that there was nothing in his returning look to create any anxiety, and the evening wore away in a most agreeable manner.

As they parted for the night, Mr. Vernon said, "I am quite at leisure to-morrow, and after breakfast we will have a few hours to look over my home farm, when no doubt your observations will be of great value to me. Good night."

Once more in the room allotted to him, our hero—whom we may at once call Harry Milbank—looked quite another man to what he did when he arrived at the Grange. Then he thought only of his hardships, of his mean appearance, of securing some paltry recompense; but now other feelings possessed him. He had been admitted freely to this mansion, received on an equality with its owner, not merely for one night, but for sometime. Pacing backwards and forwards, he struck his hands often together, as if to clench some resolution, or as if he had decided on some important course of action. His eyes sparkled, his lips were compressed, and a certain elation marked his demeanour. He could hardly contain himself. But at length he spoke.

"So, Harry, you are once more in clover. After being down so far that surrender appeared to be inevitable, you are happily in this superbly-furnished mansion—feted at its hospitable table, invited to stay under its kindly roof, and trusted as a welcome guest. At a bound you have leaped from pinching vagrancy to affluent hospitality. It is yet scarcely half a day since footsore and weary you were plodding along the king's highway a most miserable wretch, and yet here you are in circumstances to which you have been a stranger for years. It must be a dream. Ah, would it were! But it is not a dream, for there lie the threadbare clothes you have so lately put off, and which, ere the sun sets to-morrow, you may have to put on. Never! Rather than do that, I shall discover myself to Mr. Vernon. I feel new thoughts rising within me, to the exclusion of those which have swayed me too long; the buried aspirations of years are once more making themselves felt, as if they were coming out of the pit into which I have thrown myself and them. My share in the escape of Dora Vernon shall be the upward turning-point in my career; and if I do not regain all I surrendered, I at least shall not need to blush for my condition. I have yet youth and energy sufficient to redeem the past and win back my reputation. I cannot see my way clear. I may be after all under the gush of momentary feeling. Ah, I had better go to sleep. To-morrow will shape my destiny, but not downwards—oh, no, not downwards."

He slept. His slumbers were profound and prolonged. Seldom these many years had he enjoyed such comfort. No dreams disturbed his repose. The system, estranged from ease for so many years, wholly surrendered itself to the pleasure of the moment, and it was not till the morning was far advanced that Milbank awoke. At first he was confused. How came he to be in such a luxurious bed, a carpeted room, and within a room with a curtained window? Recollection soon revived all the new-found circumstances, and for many minutes he surveyed the room and what of its outward surroundings he saw from the window. It was a guest chamber, to be expected in such a

wealthy dwelling-place. Every appointment in it was in the best of taste, and to the guest that had a good conscience, rest in it was more than recovery from fatigue—it was a luxury. Somewhat reluctantly he arose; gratefully he availed himself of the means of making a gentlemanly toilette; thankfully he surveyed himself in the mirror; and then, at the summons of the gong, went down stairs. Would young Vernon appear? If so, there would be some painful disclosures. If he did not, there might be another day of pleasure; and who could tell what might occur to lengthen, even for the day beyond the present, his stay at the Grange. To his great relief, no one was there. He had scarcely begun his survey of the grounds from the window, when Mr. and Mrs. Vernon entered the room, and, with great heartiness, exchanged the compliments of the day. As they were sitting down, Miss Vernon stole in. After being fondly caressed and kissed by her parents, she shook hands with Mr. Milbank, saying as she did so—

"You must not think me a lie-a-bed, Mr. Milbank. I rise early, and have been very busy all the morning, although (turning to her father) I cannot say that I have been at all successful."

During the meal, which was accompanied with the liveliest conversation, Milbank seemed deeply touched. Here he was at table with a gentleman and his family, to all of whom he was a perfect stranger, and with nothing to recommend him but the service he had rendered to Miss Vernon. He might have been sent to the servants' hall, but instead of that, they had treated him with the greatest hospitality and kindness. He felt that he must exert himself to keep in the good grace of all; and to an observer it would have been difficult to think of Milbank as being other than an old and valued friend of the family. Towards the close, a servant entered with a tray, on which were letters, documents, newspapers, which were carefully put on the sideboard.

"I hope, Mr. Vernon, I am not keeping you from the perusal of your letters?"

"I am glad to be able to tell you that you are not. I never permit myself to read my letters or papers at breakfast. I think it disturbs the pleasure of those present, and has a hurtful effect on the morning meal. When I was at college, a chum of mine used to tell, with much gusto, how his landlady always sent in letters before breakfast to her boarders, and was overheard once remarking to her servant girl, 'It makes a great deal in the course of a year, my dear, as it takes the keen edge off their stomachs.'"

A hearty laugh passed round the table at the expense of the shrewd lodging mistress. Breakfast over, Mr. Vernon informed his guest that family worship was to commence, and that if he felt at liberty to join them, all would be glad. Milbank having acquiesced, the servants assembled, and the singularly brief and simple service began. A portion of a hymn was given out, when one of the maid servants led the music, the singing being accompanied by Miss Vernon on the harmonium. A chapter was then read, annotations by Mr. Vernon, making it peculiarly interesting; and then a brief but touching prayer by the master, thankful, supplicative, and intercessory, was offered. Twice did Mr. Vernon's voice quiver—once when asking God to melt the hard heart and gently rebuke the forward and perverse; and again when he invoked heaven's choicest blessings on the stranger who was sojourning with them. Milbank never had so felt the power of Christian influence till that morning, and he anew resolved that he would embark upon the voyage to heaven. The recollections of early piety, fatherly counsel, womanly entreaty, rose before him, as if to upbraid; but heavenly mercy breathed upon them, and changed them into incentives to a new and better life.

The Vernons at length turned to the postal tray. There was a careful scrutiny of the envelopes, and many fortunate guesses made of the writers. Milbank was courteously offered the morning paper, and withdrew to the window recess to read it at his leisure. There he saw the adventure of the day before duly set forth in all the gorgeous vocabulary of the provincial

paragraphist. He could not forbear smiling at the record of his own prowess; but what was the most gratifying to him, was the real unaffected terms in which Miss Vernon was referred to, and the vigorous castigation given to her brother's obstinacy. Looking over the paper, his eye fell on the following advertisement:—"Left his home, Henry Estcourt, younger of Lea. He is entreated to return home, when every reparation will be made to him. Any of his friends knowing of his whereabouts will kindly communicate with Mr. Estcourt, the Lea, Rockshire. A reward of £100 will be paid to any who can give information leading to his discovery, or produce indubitable proof that he is no more."

"Why, how absorbed you are, Mr. Milbank. I was asking you if there was anything remarkable in the papers, but I think you are finding more pleasure communing with your own thoughts."

"I beg your pardon, Miss Vernon, I was absorbed. There are often so many things in a newspaper that impress you which are not new. They have their rootlets in the past."

"That's quite true. Now I never take the morning paper but I always read one special advertisement first—the one inserted by a friend of my father's, Mr. Estcourt of the Lea. They were college chums, but my father has been long abroad, and was not aware of the distress into which Mr. Estcourt has fallen through the disappearance of his younger son Henry. Mr. Estcourt writes yesterday to say that he is to see my father in London next month, and that he has heard no news whatever of his son."

"Ah, a young scapegrace, I suppose?"

"No, I don't think that altogether; but to tell you the truth, it is all a mystery. It has often been debated. I have always taken young Estcourt's side, because I have never seen anything said against him which could justify the harsh measures taken against him at home. My defence is none of the best, because I am, like all but a few, outside the real facts of the case; however my father admits that I make my defence go a long way. I am sure that it would give me great pleasure if I could in any way be the means of restoring Mr. Estcourt to his family."

"If Mr. Estcourt ever comes to know of your interest in his welfare, he will not require other inducement to return."

"Ah, yes, if he knew. But surely, Mr. Milbank, he must have sometimes seen the advertisement; and if so, don't you think that he is too stubborn-hearted not to give way to such a yearning desire for his return as that advertisement seems to show. If you'll allow me, I will point you to the advertisement. Ah, here it is now, just read it over. There, does not that breathe the essence of reconciliation?"

"Yes, it does. I believe, Miss Vernon, that you have already half enlisted me on your side, if my opinion was worthy of consideration."

"Oh, you have no idea how very much my father is pleased with you. You are accustomed to good society, are brave, can drive splendidly, and know much of country matters. Unless you are very much hurried, you must stay with us for a few days, and interest and instruct us. You are to go over part of the estate with my father before dinner, as he would like to have your opinion upon some of his most recent improvements. We shall all meet at dinner. I am off to see how my brother is. Dr. Fletcher assures us that, beyond a severe shake to his system, he has sustained no injury, and may be up in a few days. He will be glad to thank you for preserving his sister."

In another room lay Wentworth Vernon in anything but a subdued spirit. It was not the body that was tortured, it was the mind. That he should have furnished a paragraph for the papers, in which his conduct was so severely reflected upon, was maddening. If he was only within arm's length of the reporter, he would horsewhip him to within less than an inch of his life for his insolence. There's Jenkins, too; what the devil had he to do with meddling with his taking the reins; and then there was a new volley of curses, not loud but deep, alternating with feelings of bodily pain,

There by a table, with liniments and drugs and so forth, was a decanter, which he insisted, notwithstanding the remonstrances of Dr. Fletcher and the pleadings of his sister, should be there, and of which oftener than of anything else he availed himself. After being apparently asleep for some little time, he awoke, and demanded some liquor.

"Where's Jones? Send him here at once."

"Yes, sir; I think that he is to take Jenkins' place for the next few days."

"Is he? They had better ask me first. Send him here."

In a few minutes Jones made his appearance in no very amiable humour. When the patient saw him, he said—

"Where have you been, sir? Do you think that I have broken my neck, that you have so unceremoniously cut my service? I say, where have you been?"

"Nowhere. I have never been a moment off duty. As you were to be kept quiet for a day or two, I refrained from intruding on your privacy."

"Ha, ha; refrained from intruding on your privacy. That's devilish good from a cheeky fellow like you. Just you stow your gammon the next time you are sent for, and be within call whenever I want you."

"I heard it said this morning that master was to ask you for me for two or three days till Jenkins was able to go on duty. The man that saved Miss Vernon from accident is to stay a day or two, and I would be a useful substitute for Jenkins."

"The devil, he is. Why didn't the governor throw a crown to him and let him go?"

"He drove the carriage home, and is not a common tramp. He is a capital driver, an excellent judge of horse flesh, and the butler says he has the manners of a gentleman."

"Fiddlestick!"

"Not so much of that as you think, sir. I think that there will be a blow-up when you meet."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that he is not the chap he seems, by a long way."

"Who the deuce is he?"

"If you would allow me to lift you up, so that you could look into the courtyard, you can see for yourself."

"Why, it's that insolent scoundrel Milbank—curse him. Does he know you?"

"He hasn't said, and he doesn't look like it yet."

(To be continued.)

POETRY.

TILL THE ECHO DIED AWAY.

I SAW them meet 'mid the noon-day sun,
Blythe as birds in their sylvan bowers;
Gaily they roamed hand lock'd in hand,
The livelong day 'mid trees and flowers,

I watched them part when evening fell,
And the sun on the hill tops lay,
She listened with love to his footsteps' sound,
'Till the echo died away.

I thought of the time when somebody came
To me at the closing of day,
When I used to list to his footsteps' sound
Till the echo died away.

It struck the tenderest chord of my heart
Awaking to life the dear old strain;
But it murmur'd only, in wailing sounds,
As if joy had changed to grief and pain.

Sometimes a note that filled me with bliss
Fell soft on my listening ear;
My poor heart leapt with a mad delight,
Though my eye grew dim with a tear.

Silent I sat till night came and went,
And the day dawned pale and grey—
Till the weary world resum'd its toil,
And the echo died away.

MARY GRANT.

THE FUNDS.

* * * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1880.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, SEPTEMBER, 1880.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL
AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETINGS, 1880.

The Executive have the pleasure to announce that the Twenty-second Annual Meeting of this Association will, D.V., take place at Glasgow on Tuesday, 28th current.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Will take place in the CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, 70 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, at 11 A.M.—Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., President of the Association, in the chair. The Annual Reports will be submitted, office-bearers elected in room of those retiring, and business of an important nature pass under deliberation. Societies in connection with the Association will please intimate early to the Secretary the name (or names) of the Delegate appointed to represent them at this and the other meetings.

THE ANNUAL TEA MEETING

Will be held in the CITY HALL SALOON, Candleriggs. Tea on the table at four o'clock precisely. Provost Campbell, Greenock, will preside. Addresses will be delivered by representatives and delegates from various parts of the country. Tickets 1s. each, early application for which will facilitate the arrangements of the Committee and prevent disappointment to intending visitors.

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Will take place in the CITY HALL in the evening at 7.30. The Executive are glad to be able thus early to announce the following list of speakers:—

W. SHEPHERD ALLEN, Esq., M.P., Newcastle-under-Lyde.

W. S. CAINE, M.P., Esq., Scarborough.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq., M.P., Kilmarnock Burghs.

B. WHITWORTH, Esq., M.P., Drogheda.

Rev. THOMAS EVANS, Merthyr Tydvil.

Rev. J. M. SLOAN, M.A., Glasgow.

R. T. MIDDLETON, Esq., M.P., Glasgow, will preside.

Other speakers expected will be afterwards announced.

The Executive having in view the satisfactory results of the general election, the gratifying division on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution, and the necessity of vigorous Parliamentary action in the next session of Parliament, anticipate a very large gathering of members, delegates, and friends at the approaching meetings.

R. MACKAY, Secy.

The attention of our readers is requested to extracts from an article against toast-drinking, taken from an article on that subject which recently appeared in *Chambers' Edinburgh Journal*, and which will be found, by permission, on page 87 in our present issue. It is really time we were getting less heathenish and barbarous in our social observances and were showing the courage required to banish intemperance from our hearts, our homes, and our country.

Dr. Tanner has been and done it. He has shown that under extremely favourable circumstances a person can subsist without solid food for six long weeks. He may dispel a very hurtful superstition which lurks in the mind of too many of us that if you take plenty of food no fear of you. Some people are day by day, summer and winter, loading their stomach with large quantities of solid food whether the season or the state of the eater require it. They have a keen horror of fasting and fully believe that were they to miss one meal grievous consequences would follow. They may gather a better notion of eating from Dr. Tanner's fasting and learn to proportion the amount of food they consume to the season and the healthy wants of their organism. Of the gluttony that followed the fast we won't venture to treat, it was disgusting. Alcoholic baths and after the fast a plentiful indulgence in liquors preclude us from drawing any temperance lesson from the experiment. In these circumstances we are not sorry to learn that it has been set down as of no scientific value.

Once more Mr. Bernard, the manager of the Gaiety Theatre, Glasgow, has received from a bench of Glasgow Justices permission to deal in intoxicating liquors within his theatre. Mr. Bernard is no doubt a worthy man and an indefatigable caterer for the public amusement, but as licensed to deal in alcoholic liquors he is not to be trusted. He appeared deeply hurt that in Glasgow alone he should have to appear year after year before a court of Licensing Justices to get a player and publican's license. But this is the law, a law framed in the interests of society. He set up a claim for exemption from his doubtful position on the ground that the English Justices gave their license empowering him to deal in liquor, to his clerk. But their neglect of duty should furnish no example to Glasgow J.P.'s. All this humiliating procedure should, we

think, make Mr. Bernard, who is by no means obtuse, reflect, and as a consequence of such reflection impel him to have done with a branch of business which brands all engaged in it with a want of respectability. We were glad to find by the vote that the minority against his having a publican license in connection with his theatre is growing, and are hopeful that in a year or two Mr. Bernard may, through his enforced exclusion from the drink trade, go out and in amongst us without implied reproach on his character.

LICENSING BOARDS.

II.

IN our last issue we set forth, for the information and consideration of our readers, the various Licensing Board schemes which have been suggested as the best solution of the drink problem. This, in our opinion, was the most effective way of showing how extremely inadequate such schemes are for the suppression of the liquor traffic. There is nothing final about them. They do not even profess finality, but as it were simply offer themselves as an addition to the 470 Acts of Parliament which have been passed at one time or other for the restriction or regulation of the liquor traffic, and now only encumber our Statute-book. We exhibited a want of sympathy with them as we described them, and we will now show that our want of approval is at least reasonable and such as might be expected from a searching investigation of the relation in which they stand to the suppression of all traffic in alcoholic liquors.

On the very threshold of the temperance reformation temperance reformers perceived that the evils of alcoholic intemperance required a special education to dislodge the pernicious misconceptions on the nature of the drink which unhappily prevailed regarding it, and combined their efforts to resist successfully the oppressive and almost irresistible drinking usages. They also felt that the liquor traffic was one of the most potent and tyrannical of the factors that produced the abounding intemperance. They therefore established a propaganda for the diffusion of intelligence which enlightened the public mind on the nature and powers of strong drink; silenced popular prejudice against total abstinence; and even "taught science to physiologists." They instituted societies, which proved a barrier against the inroads of the drinking customs, and enabled millions to show conclusively by their lives the uselessness of alcoholic liquors either as food, fuel, or force. They also formed themselves into political organisations, which have called forth an enlightened public opinion against the existence of all traffic in alcoholic liquors, and have so effectually directed that opinion in favour of the suppression of the liquor traffic by the votes of the ratepayers immediately and injuriously affected by it, that it appears as if it were only yesterday since the British Parliament had affirmed the principle contended for, and had promised to deal with the liquor traffic on the very lines on which these staunch temperance reformers had so often and so earnestly declared that effective and final legislation on the liquor traffic must be based.

From the first there was no concealment regarding their aims. They advocated entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks on the ground that they were poisonous, disturbing by their noxious qualities the healthy action of the human system in proportion to the quantity taken, and they have never swerved from this doctrine. On this very ground they have combined as citizens, and with citizens, to secure the

passage of a law declaring traffic in such deadly beverages illegal, and enabling ratepayers to exclude it from their localities. They have appealed this matter to the country, and in doing so have successfully met all the assaults inspired by appetite, custom, and the traffic. The views they hold on the drink and the traffic have generally been admitted as sound but wholly impracticable. This latter objection has been met by facts. Landlords and laws have amply demonstrated the practicability of legal suppression, and the Canadian people are at this hour in the enjoyment of a law which almost exactly reflects the legislation at which they aim.

At this supreme moment of the triumph of our principle and the solid progress of our legislative policy, we are met with suggestions from within and from without the temperance camp. It is suggested that Licensing Boards are the most feasible and effective means of dealing with the liquor traffic on the lines of local option. These have been ushered before our notice as Local Option Boards, but though the voice is the voice of Jacob, the hands are certainly those of Esau. They profess to meet all the claims of local option, while avowedly non-suppressive! In reality, however, they are merely new centres for the administration of the licensing laws. Now, this implies licensing, and licensing implies the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors, very much more limited than now it may be, but still, within the narrowest possible limits, a sale and consumption dangerous to the welfare of all who may be tempted to take advantage of it, and consequently utterly alien to the truths and aims of the great temperance reformation.

Now, the ground on which such a suggested system of administration is based cannot be prohibition but restriction and regulation, and by whomsoever enforced, these have never gone and never can go to the root of the evil. We have had centuries of their sway, have got pious and wicked men licensed to deal in these drugs, and found them as injurious to society when dispensed by the one as by the other; have licensed their sale in the low tavern as well as in the gilded gin-palace, with the result that the latter is more seductive and dangerous than the other; have at one time permitted their sale a double round of the clock all days of the week, and at another only during fifteen hours on the six lawful days of the week, and still, curtail the traffic as we may, it has ever played dreadful havoc with the most of those that used the poison which it dispensed. Under all circumstances except those of prohibition, the traffic has mocked regulation and defied control, and at this present moment not one single instance can be adduced to show that it has been carried on, or can be carried on, without doing evil to those who buy. And how could it be otherwise? The licensing system aims at rendering the sale of alcoholic beverages harmless, or at least tolerable, and it does so by protecting the vendor rather than his victim. It aims to furnish a temperate supply of liquor, yet it has never been able to prevent the successful inducements to drinking on the part of the seller nor the grossest indulgence on the part of the buyer. The very fact that it is restricted to those who are licensed is proof that it cannot be controlled and should therefore be suppressed. The problem is to reconcile its existence with the safety and welfare of society, and yet it has never been found possible to bring about such a reconciliation. The benefits with which foolish people credit the licensing system are due entirely to prohibition, partial, we admit. In the presence of such prohibition, the traffic is a sleeping adder; when it is relaxed, it shows the venom and the activity of the folded snake. Under license it has for hundreds of years

dispensed a liquor that has degraded character, impaired the vigour, diminished the energy, and shattered the nerves of the drinker; filled prisons, penitentiaries, and poorhouses with inmates, and inflicted upon its unfortunate victims an infinity of evil for which there is no human compensation, and hardly a human cure.

This licensing system has been administered by a body of men of reputation in all ages and under a variety of circumstances—by landlords in virtue of a commission conferred by Royalty, and by magistrates in virtue of their election to municipal office by their fellow-citizens; in short, by the wisest and best of men. At once the Acts were so stringently enforced that only 40 licenses were granted in London, 8 in York, 6 in Bristol, 3 in Westminster, 2 in the other towns; while in the villages none were allowed. At other times the bench was so generous that the free grant of a license to all was the rule. This has had to be said of every attempt by licensing authorities to administer the license law in the interests of society, that their efforts have been followed by a total and disheartening failure. We do not wish to say one harsh word about magistrates or justices of the peace, but this we cannot with justice withhold, that they have been, with a few noble exceptions, too accessible to influences derogatory to their position, and their own conduct on the bench has not seldom invited the severest condemnation of the community. But for the vigilance of our temperance organizations, and in combination with Christian men, our streets might have been overrun with public houses. None who have ever attempted to reform the licensing system have been able to boast of success, and it is an incontrovertible fact that many justices of the peace have abandoned all attempts in this direction in despair.

Notwithstanding the confessed failure of the licensing system many of our friends would look upon a trial of a licensing board with approval. They desire a constituted authority to deal with the liquor traffic, as a school board deals with education. They forget that we in Scotland have such a board at the present moment; but to this they say, "Ah, the board we would see established would have simply licenses to attend to and nothing else." So much the worse for such a system. The answer given implies that the business of the board would be of some magnitude, and this means considerable demoralisation through drink. There is no analogy between a school board and a licensing board. The one is required to supervise those in charge of the development and training of the mental faculties of the young, the other would mainly have to keep in check those who ministered to the baser passions of the people. In the one case we look after teachers, who are as necessary to the progress of society as the pastor, in the other we would have to look after men who were debauching society by selling its members a deadly and seductive drug. Every child is born in a state of ignorance and must be trained; drunkards are the pests and dangerous results of a system which is preventable and which undoes in many cases the efforts of the teacher and the mother. In the case of ignorance administration is demanded, in the case of liquor selling suppression is required. In Roman shows the whole audience doomed the wretch that displeased them to death by turning down their thumbs. Would it have been better done if they had remitted it to a board of their number? We want a verdict only and not control, we want the people of themselves and for themselves to declare that all traffic in alcoholic liquors shall cease, we do not want them to perpetuate it under a new name and, from the nature of the case, by an inefficient administration. They know better than any one

whether the liquor traffic is their friend or their foe; to their deliberative judgment, then, let the fate of that traffic be consigned. Those favouring this scheme have surely never thought of the constitution of such a board. One would think that they mean to get a body of men superior to all that ever had to do with licensing, and that none but those having an inveterate aversion to the drink traffic would be elected to serve upon it. This expectation is just as vain as to expect a permanent course of action from a fluctuating body. The board will not only change in personnel but fluctuate in policy, just as the public electors are indolent or patriotic. Then there will be the trouble of triennial elections, the expenses of palatial offices, an array of officials, inspectors, and informers, entailing not only a charge on the rates but much red-tape patronage, and consequent demoralisation. No true temperance reformer could with reason prefer such a scheme to the one asking the ratepayers to register their opinion on the existence or extinction of the traffic, and we are confident that, as a final means of dealing with the evil, it will not gain the approval of the community. It is only a new phase of an old and unsatisfactory policy, and notwithstanding the bait thrown of its yielding contributions to the rates, we await with confidence the moment not far distant when the country will demand instant and permanent relief from the menaces and the burdens of the drink interest.

All temperance reformers eager to get at the root of the evil will adhere the more firmly to the policy of the past—the suppression of the liquor traffic. Averse to licensing in any form, they will continue to support the principle embodied in the local option resolution so lately adopted by the House of Commons. The traffic stands before the country as antagonistic to its best interests, and Parliament is pledged to deal with it on the lines laid down by prohibitionists. Let these stand firm, decided upon not resting satisfied until invested with adequate power to rid themselves of a system which has never yielded benefit to any but the trader, and is the most manifest source of public disorder and mischief in the country.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE LOCAL OPTION VICTORY.

A WELL-ATTENDED social meeting, under the auspices of the South-Eastern District of the Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was held in the Temperance Hall, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 24th July, to commemorate the passing of the Local Option resolution in the House of Commons, and to consider the present position of the prohibitory movement in Scotland. Rev. Dr. Adamson presided, and amongst those present were—Revs. M. Rose, T. Parr, and T. B. Johnstone, Edinburgh; Dr. A. G. Miller; Councillor Scott, Leith; Messrs. Samuel Neil, A. D. Mackenzie, Cumberland Hill, James Coutts, James Watson, and J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; R. Stevenson, Glasgow; R. Blair, Lasswade; William Laurie, Portobello; D. Mackay, Liberton; James Rae, Falkirk; G. Barclay, Kirkliston; A. Bennet, Dysart; and M'Intyre, Winchburgh; Mrs. Wellstood, Edinburgh, &c.

The CHAIRMAN referred at length to the work which the deputations from their association, of which he was a member, had done in interviewing the Scotch representatives in Parliament on the subject of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option resolution. For the result of the division on the resolution they were very much indebted to the present Government. He contrasted the manner in which the deputation had been received by Sir William Harcourt, the Home Secretary, with the manner the previous Home Secretary, Mr. Cross, received similar deputations. The present Home Secre-

tary was a very different man from the late occupant of that office. He first heard what the deputation from the publicans had to say, and then heard our deputation, listening most attentively to all they said, and expressing his opinion that, were the people of Scotland to show unanimity in their ranks, he had no doubt that it would make a favourable impression on the Government. There was no doubt, continued Dr. Adamson, that were the present Government to continue in power they must very soon deal with this subject. The Scottish members, the Chairman said, were all right, but he was sorry that the member for Mid-Lothian did not go into the lobby with the majority. The right hon. gentleman's speech was very much in their favour. The result of the division was that they had got the Local Option resolution, but they must now think what they were to do next. They had got on the right line. They had got their principle recognised by Parliament. They must now keep on the right line, and keep progressing. They must one and all unite in an entire mass, and devise some means for the carrying out of this resolution, and putting it into practical working.

Mr. J. B. LAWSON, solicitor, said he was at one with them all on the local option question, though he leaned more to the opposite side of politics from Mr. Waterston. He would say, however, that whatever were the views of the leaders of the Conservative party in the House of Commons, there were many men in that party who, if they were convinced that Sir Wilfrid Lawson was right—and many of them were—they would throw overboard party feelings.

Mr. BLAIR, Lasswade, expressed his great pleasure at the passing of the Local Option resolution.

Addresses were afterwards delivered by Messrs. Hill, Bone, Ramsay, Stevenson, Anderson, Nisbet, Watson, Waterston, Steel, and M'Kenzie.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Bone, seconded by Mr. D. Ramsay, was agreed to:—"That this meeting is of opinion that a national conference should be called, in order to consider what steps should be taken to carry out Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution to a practical issue." Another resolution, moved by Mr. A. D. M'Kenzie, seconded by Rev. J. B. Lawson, was also agreed to. It was in the following terms:—"In view of the approval by the House of Commons of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option resolution, this meeting is of opinion that temperance reformers should more than ever determine to press on the public the poisonous nature of all alcoholic drinks, and the moral and physical evils propagated by the liquor traffic, and the desirability of its abolition."

On the motion of the Rev. M. Rose, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. J. H. Waterston for his arduous labours on behalf of the prohibitory movement, and for convening the present meeting. Mr. Mackenzie moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, when the meeting, which was a most enjoyable one, terminated. —*Daily Review (abridged).*

The British Medical Association have resolved that in future the price of the dinner ticket shall not include a charge for wine.

The Baptist's Total Abstinence Association are desirous, should the necessary funds be forthcoming, of engaging a travelling secretary or agent.

The Free Methodist Assembly last month resolved upon the formation of a Connectional Temperance League upon the basis of total abstinence.

The Earl of Derby has sent a contribution of twenty guineas to the London Temperance Hospital as a mark of his interest in the object of the institution.

The Glasgow Bakers' Gospel and Temperance Society had their second annual trip to Hamilton Palace one day last month. About 280 sat down to tea in the grounds.

Captain Brochie, who is in his 74th year, ascended Ben Nevis 4358 feet high, on Friday, the 13th ult. Long life to him; for few have used their past life to better purpose.

It is said that the Australian cricketers at present on a visit to this country are all, or nearly all, abstainers. Has this fact no connection with their success with the willow?

It is said that the Lord-Advocate intends bringing in a bill for authorising the granting of six-day licenses to river steamers, and forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquor in them on Sundays.

Dean Stanley, referring incidentally to the prodigious evil of drunkenness, declared that the "one thing needful" in the present distress "is to remove the alcoholic temptations by every means which lie in our power."

An officer on the North American and West Indian station, writing from Manan Island, Nova Scotia, says that "at Yarmouth all the people are teetotalers; no alcoholic liquors are sold in the island; and no licenses are given."

The School Board of Glasgow have resolved that the scholars under their charge shall be instructed as to the evil effects of alcohol and the virtue of TEMPERANCE. It is, however, forbidden to the teachers to urge upon their scholars the duty of total abstinence.

There is at Gorey, Wexford, an old woman 112 years of age, who, when lately asked by her medical attendant to take some wine for the infirmity she was labouring under, asked him if he wanted to poison her, and told him she had never tasted strong drink all her long life.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND CIVILISATION.—In one of Mr. Mackey's letters from the Nyanza Mission, he remarks that "drink is the curse of Africa." Wherever grain is plentiful he has found drunkenness. Whoever would introduce civilisation into Africa, he adds, must be total abstainers.

The Directors of the Scottish Temperance League have offered three prizes—five, three, and two pounds—for the three best essays on the constitution, organization, and efficient working of Total Abstinence Societies. The essays are to be in the hands of the secretary by 1st November next.

The President of the United States, Mr. Hayes, and his wife, lately entertained 1000 persons at their official residence in honour of the diplomatic corps. Though not a single drop of wine was provided, the proceedings were splendid and successful. How few have the courage to act like President and Mrs. Hayes?

SUNDAY DRUNKENNESS IN ENGLAND.—It appears, from a return just issued, that between September, 1876, and September, 1879, the number of persons convicted in England for drunkenness on Sundays was 46,317, and of that number 13,870 were not bona-fide residents in the districts where the offence occurred.

We are glad to hear that the Lord Advocate expects that his Steamboat (Scotland) Passenger Liquor Bill will become law this session. We believe that the entire prohibition of the sale of liquors on board steamers plying in the waters of the Clyde, Forth, and Tay, will be of incalculable benefit to all that travel by them. About the interests of the owners we care little, so long as they are opposed to the public good.

The Society for Enforcing the Licensing Laws has issued its prospectus, which states that it is proposed to employ a staff of able and experienced inspectors, under the society's solicitor, to compel publicans to obey the existing laws. New licenses in districts already provided with public-houses will be opposed by the society, and also renewals in cases where two or more convictions have been obtained.

THE RECHABITES.—From the register of Districts and Tents, published in the *Rechabite Magazine*, we with pleasure learn that the Order is making progress in Scotland, there being 24 tents—19 male, 1 female, and 4 juvenile. These are located in four Districts, namely, Glasgow, Dundee, Dumfries, and Perthshire. There are about 35,000 persons connected with the entire Order, which is, as one may say, world-wide.

The new and beautiful pleasure steamer "Ivanhoe," placed this season on the Greenock and Arran route, and which is conducted upon temperance principles, has been a decided success. Everybody speaks highly of it, and although it is premature to say that the proprietors intend building a sister steamer, to be called the "Waverley," yet the success which has attended their enlightened enterprise this season will probably induce them to run another steamer on the Clyde, conducted on similar principles, next season.

The British Workman Public-Houses in Glasgow are flourishing. At the annual meeting of the shareholders a dividend of five per cent. was declared, after deducting £500 for depreciation. The company now possess sixteen houses and a bakery, and the drawings show a marked increase over last year. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he trusted that the success of the coffee-house movement was "an indication of an improvement in the tastes and habits of the people, and of a diminution of the intemperance which has so long been a disgrace to the country."

LANARK.—On Monday, 2nd ult., a meeting was held at the church gate here, when the able and energetic lecturer, Mr. R. Stevenson, the agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, spoke for nearly one hour and a-half upon the Curse and Cure of Intemperance. An audience of five hundred persons listened with deep interest to the telling remarks of the speaker on the right of the ratepayers to protect themselves from the curse of the liquor traffic. Mr. James Horn afterwards addressed the meeting, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Stevenson, which was very heartily responded to.

WINTER EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.—The friends of moral and social reform will be making arrangements for the winter. We heartily advise them to include in their winter programme a series of entertainments by Mr. J. W. McCall, of London. We can speak personally of the artistic excellence of his lantern slips and of the variety and superiority of his subjects. His lectures are of acknowledged ability, and are most gracefully delivered. Our readers will find him at 73 Westwick Gardens, London, and may consult advertisement in this issue.

The British Temperance League have decided to remove their headquarters from Bolton to Sheffield. We notice with regret that Mr. Aitken, the esteemed secretary of the League, has resigned his office, it is said in consequence of the change, but we rather think in consequence of increasing years and failing strength.

There are at present 1831 Bands of Hope, with a membership of 178,207, and 117 temperance societies, with a membership of 8124, in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist denominations. The temperance societies are composed of a mixed membership—abstainers and non-abstainers.

Dr. John Rae, of Arctic Expedition experience, writing to the *Alliance News*, says:—"Sir Charles Tupper, in the course of his address [at Westminster Palace Hotel], said 'he had the honour of proposing in 1872 to the Parliament (of Canada) the most stringent prohibitory law that ever was proposed in any country, applying it to a section of territory 2,500,000 miles in extent, called the North-west territory. It was a measure for entire prohibition.' It is but fair to the Hudson's Bay Company, formerly the governing powers of this vast country, to state that they had carried out an 'entire measure of prohibition' over the whole interior of this great land for something like forty years prior to the date (1872) named by Sir Charles Tupper. The chief factors, traders, and clerks of the H.B. Company voluntarily gave up their yearly allowance of a few dozens wine and brandy, so that the Indians and the employees might not have it to say that we refused to them what we took for ourselves."

OPEN AIR TEMPERANCE MEETINGS IN ABERDEEN.—On Thursday evening and last night (5th and 6th August) temperance meetings under the joint auspices of the Aberdeen Temperance Society and the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, were

held in Castle Street. The speakers on Thursday evening were—Rev. John Hunter, Mr. Wm. Blackwood, agent, Scottish Permissive Bill Association; and Mr. William Davidson, who presided; and last night the meeting was addressed by Rev. George Moir, Mr. M. Edwards, secretary of the Aberdeen Temperance Society; and Mr. A. S. Monro, who presided. Large audiences attended the respective meetings, and appeared to listen with evident interest and appreciation to the addresses, which dealt more particularly with the moral, social, and political aspects of the temperance question. We understand that this mode of bringing the claims of the temperance movement before the community is to be adopted at frequent intervals during the present season.—*Free Press*.

BEER AND BRIBERY.—The Conservative reaction seems to have been a curious compound of beer and bribery. Mr. Hall's election was carried against the Home Secretary by floods of beer and lavish expenditure. The electors of Oxford saw the merits of Beaconsfieldism through the medium of the amber fluid, their search for it being stimulated by silver put into their pockets. At Sandwich the reaction had been prepared for by much money and malt liquor; and the strong sense of Conservative wisdom which a majority of the electors showed was that commonly found in men who have been assisting at the consumption of the product of the brewing of "pecks o' maut." In the Wigtown Burghs again, beer and meat and money were freely given as incitements to Conservatism.—*Scotsman*.

TEMPERANCE SERMON.—The first of a series of temperance sermons, under the auspices of the Good Templars, was delivered on Sabbath, 15th ult., in Fisherman's Hall, Newhaven, by Mr. J. Waterston. Notwithstanding the fine weather to attract people outside, there was a large attendance.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. CRAWFORD.—This gentleman having been appointed Assistant-Secretary to the Glasgow Sabbath School Union, resigned his position as Clerk and Cashier to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which he had held with much acceptance for nearly three years. On the 27th July, he met the Executive at their desire, when the chairman (Ex-Baillie Torrens), in graceful and appropriate terms, in their name, presented him with a splendidly bound copy of the *Leopold Shakespeare*, bearing the following inscription:—"This volume is presented to Mr. A. Crawford by the Executive of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, on the occasion of his leaving their service, to mark their sense of his ability and probity as Cashier of the Association, and their high regard for his personal worth. R. Mackay, Secy." Mr. Crawford made a happy reply. The volume is from the artistic press of Messrs. Cassell, Petter & Galpin, is profusely illustrated, clearly printed, handsomely bound, and elegantly inscribed. Our best wishes follow Mr. Crawford into his new and congenial sphere of labour.

BEER IN EUROPE.—Some official tables connected with the production of beer in all the European countries and the United States have been lately issued under the authority of the Austrian Government. The following is a summary of the production during 1879:—The whole German Empire produced 38,946,510 hectolitres, or 23,311,117 British barrels; Great Britain, 36,597,550 hectolitres, or 22,375,010 barrels; United States of North America, 15,400,000 hectolitres, or 9,425,252 barrels; Austria-Hungary, 11,184,681 hectolitres, or 6,838,090 barrels; France, 8,721,000 hectolitres, or 5,331,845 barrels; Belgium, 7,854,000 hectolitres, or 4,801,778 barrels; Russia, 2,300,000 hectolitres, or 1,406,174 barrels; the Netherlands, 1,600,000 hectolitres, or 978,208 barrels; Denmark, 1,100,000 hectolitres, or 672,518 barrels; Sweden, 930,000 hectolitres, or 568,583 barrels; Italy, 870,000 hectolitres, or 531,900 barrels; Switzerland, 724,000 hectolitres, or 448,753 barrels; Norway, 615,000 hectolitres, or 376,000 barrels. The greatest production in proportion to the population is in Belgium, where 167 litres, or a little over 3½ gallons per head, were manufactured; and the smallest production

was in Russia, where the ratio was only 3 litres, or a little more than 5¼ pints for every inhabitant.—*Times.*

THE EDINBURGH CAFE COMPANY.—Last month this company opened large and magnificent refreshment rooms in Princes Street, Edinburgh. The chief characteristic of this venture is to supply in the centre of the city a first-class refreshment room, in the nature of a café, but without alcoholic drinks. Among other gentlemen present at the opening were Sheriff Guthrie Smith, chairman of the company; Professor Calderwood, Bailie Colston, Mr. C. J. Guthrie, advocate, &c. The chairman in declaring the café open, drew attention to the manner in which the building was fitted up. If the establishment, he said, succeeded, it was the directors' intention to open other places of a similar kind, until the whole city was properly supplied. He thought the company were especially fortunate in obtaining the services, as manager, of Mr. Ritchie—(hear, hear)—a gentleman who might be expected to bring all necessary intelligence and energy to bear in carrying out a scheme which he had so much at heart. The directors intended to supply goods of the very best quality; indeed, it was on the matter of quality they proposed to take their stand. The café, he hoped, would be regarded as the proper place for ladies to go to; and it was principally from a desire to meet their cases that the room was opened. Without making any reflection upon licensed houses, he believed it was in accordance with a general feeling that it was not desirable that there should be put before people any condition or suggestion which should savour of what might be called temptation. Professor Calderwood said he considered it extremely desirable for people to obtain refreshment in the centre of the city without having decanters before them. He thought the presence of so many of the medical faculty, and also of representatives of the Town Council, was a proof that these respective bodies appreciated the intentions of the promoters. Bailie Colston said he did not expect that the house now opened would ever come before the magistrates in the way some others did. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) Dr. Fraser, Hull, in the course of a few remarks, said there had already been opened eleven houses in Hull—(applause)—and these paid a dividend of 10 per cent.

MR. DONALD CURRIE, M.P., ON THE PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE REFORM.—On Saturday, 14th ult., Mr. Donald Currie, M.P. for Perthshire, laid the foundation-stone of the new Temperance Hall in Stanley, in presence of a large assemblage, including upwards of 1000 Good Templars from Perth and surrounding districts. Lord Provost Richardson, Perth, presided. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. Currie, who was received with loud cheers, made the following remarks:—This is a temperance hall, and I would like to say a word of encouragement to those who have for their purpose in the hall—in their motive, and in their temperance movement, this—the good of all men. (Applause.) This is a noble purpose—a purpose worthy of you and worthy of legislators—for the country's greatest good is sought, as its greatest development is secured, when the private purpose and the public interest go hand in hand. (Applause.) Is it a public interest that temperance principles should prevail? (Applause.) I say it is. (Great cheering.) In this Parliament I recorded my vote for the principle that ratepayers should control—or at any rate have a voice in—the liquor traffic of this country. (Applause.) I said that I would do so in every town that I visited in my canvass for the county of Perth—not that I was so thoroughly in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill as to argue for it—but was willing to have this principle, involved in local option, that those—that is the electors—who have interests at stake, are entitled, as ratepayers, to consider wherein their interests are affected. (Applause.) And this local option principle is the principle of Government in England, and Ireland, and Scotland—the principle that we judge what is best for the whole is best for ourselves, for the community—and by a large majority in Parliament we declare your voice, the voice of our constituents, and so accom-

plish your purposes. (Applause.) Take Ireland. In Ireland the Sunday closing movement took a development. Has it succeeded in Ireland? I am not advocating it for England, because in England the people are not ready for it yet—and we had better not propose measures for which the public are not ready—but in Wales the voice unanimously for Sunday closing was shown to the present Parliament—(applause)—and I would have voted with those who were for Sunday closing in Wales if the House of Commons had not unanimously agreed without a division. (Applause.) There is another argument I would like to draw from this, and it is this—that this closing on the Sabbath, which in Scotland prevails, and which has been so beneficial in Ireland, has had, on comparison, this singular effect, that on Saturday and other days of the week there might be an advantage by earlier closing. (Applause.) On Saturday if all closed earlier there would be an immense advantage, even to the publican who does not wish to make a man drunk. It is not his interest. His interest is to have sober, moderate drinkers. Between eleven and twelve o'clock on the Saturdays in Ireland, there was 665 arrests of drunken men; between ten and eleven o'clock there were only 535 during the year 1879; between nine and ten only 440; and between eight and nine 462; while between twelve and one in the morning it was as much as between seven and eight at night, exactly 377, and it fell off between one and two to one-fourth of what it was between eleven and twelve. Therefore moderate closing, local option, legislation for reduction of hours at night, like closing on the Sabbath day, has had, in Ireland, a beneficial effect. Now I argue this from all I have told you, that while we must not prohibit in the sense of interfering with the rights of the people as a people, there is a right to the nation, to Parliament, to legislate in such a way as to secure the best good to the community, in harmony with the wishes of localities, and even week-day early closing has been beneficial. Therefore, we are all indebted to the temperance movement. (Applause.) The Temperance Hall established in Stanley has been established on no narrow basis, and, as having the good of mankind for its object, it ought to have our heartiest sympathy. (Applause.) I hope that this hall may be ever a happy place for the old, in which you may meet friends, and talk over old times. I hope it will be a place within which the middle-aged will meet and talk over the politics and questions of the day, and I hope it will be a place where the young may meet together in wishing for the advancement and the prosperity of right, and the best of Great Britain as a whole—(applause)—and that temperance may be advanced, friendship advanced, and good of every kind secured by each place doing its little in its own way throughout this great nation. So do I wish you all every happiness in Stanley. (Great cheering.) Ex-Bailie M'Neill, Perth, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Currie for his kindness in laying the foundation-stone, at considerable inconvenience to himself. (Cheers, and a Voice—"Three cheers for Mrs. Currie." Renewed cheering.) The Rev. Mr. Thomson, Free Church, Stanley, shortly addressed the assemblage on the benefit of total abstinence. Three cheers having been given for the Queen, the vast assemblage repaired to a large park where numerous games were engaged in.

Magistrate—"Prisoner, what had you to drink?"
 "Only a pint of beer, your worship." "What next?"
 "Only another pint, your worship." "What next?"
 "Only a fight, your worship."

CHURCH WHISKEY.—The assertions of the Mormons is that their religion saves them. Being God's "chosen people," they can do nothing wrong, hence many of their doings are sacrilegious. A gentleman who had occasion to make a purchase at their store recently, showed us the bill he received, of which the following is a copy:—"Holiness to the Lord." Mr. Blank Doe: Bought of Zion's Mercantile Co-operative Institution, two gals. whiskey, 8.00 dols.—*Daily Tribune*, June 22, 1879.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

THE following meetings have been addressed by the representatives of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 11th July to 14th August inclusive. During that period 87 meetings were held, 30 being deputational and 57 ordinary. At these meetings 125 addresses were given.

The following is a summary of each speaker's work:

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Markinch, Jedburgh, Kelso, Yetholm, Newcastleton, Langholm, Dunse, Gavinton, Pencaitland, Edinburgh, Lauder, Ceres, Pennicuick, and Dalkeith, and addressed 35 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Glasgow, Partick, Kilsyth, Ayr, Helensburgh, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kirkintilloch, Lanark, Dumfries, and Port Glasgow, and addressed 21 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Glasgow, Greenock, Partick, Kilsyth, Kirkintilloch, Clarkston, Paisley, and Aitkenhead, and addressed 15 meetings.

Mr. William Blackwood has visited Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Lossiemouth, Fife-Keith, Huntly, and Aberdeen, and addressed 13 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Glasgow, Kilsyth, Edinburgh, Clarkston, and Greenock, and addressed 9 meetings.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has visited Jedburgh, Kelso, Newcastleton, Langholm, Dunse, and Pennicuick, and addressed 8 meetings.

Mr. William Kesson has visited Partick, Glasgow, Kilsyth, and Greenock, and addressed 7 meetings.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

Mr. W. Davidson has addressed 2 meetings in Aberdeen.

Mr. Joseph Milne has addressed 2 meetings in Edinburgh.

The following gentlemen have each delivered addresses in the places which follow their names:—Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh; Captain Brochie, Greenock; Rev. Mr. Hunter, Aberdeen; Messrs. D. Moore, Glasgow; D. G. Simpson, Helensburgh; A. Brown, Fife-Keith; J. Nisbet, Edinburgh; Fuller, Edinburgh; J. Horn, Lanark; Edwards, Aberdeen.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

BOOKS, etc., for REVIEW, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Office, 30 Hope Street.

Mr. Frank York, of 87 Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, London, W., has sent us a photograph of a drunkard taken at a ferry on the Thames. It is most artistically done. Temperance reformers should place it in their album, where it can paint a moral and adorn a tale.

Winsome Words. One penny. (London: F. C. Longley, Warwick Lane, E.C.) This is the monthly magazine of "The Help-one-another Society" for boys and girls. A glance at its pages will dispose the most fastidious to commend it for the purpose it has in view.

Home Words for August. (London: Paternoster Square.) This is a magazine which must come close to the hearts of those who peruse its pages. All its articles have one chief characteristic distinguishing them, a gentle persuasiveness to good deeds and dispositions. This month's (August) contains "A word to our harvesters," by our friend, Mr. F. Sherlock, which has had the honour of being reprinted in many temperance magazines.

Onward Reciter, No. 107. One penny. (Manchester: "Onward" Office.) We have felt real pleasure in reading the various pieces which compose this number of the "best and most popular reciter." One of these, "A word to our girls," should be read by every girl, so wholesome and timely is the counsel which it con-

tains. Here are the opening lines of it:—"Girls, whatever else you do, do not marry a drunkard. No matter how deeply in love you may fancy yourselves to be, do not marry a man who drinks intoxicating liquor. It is better to go on through life single and alone, to keep a cat, and make aprons for the heathen children, than to be a drunkard's wife."

Supplement to Whitaker's Almanack, 1880. Those who are wise enough to furnish themselves yearly with this very useful and interesting Almanack will be alive to the desirability of procuring a copy of the Supplement, rendered necessary by the great political change which has recently taken place in Imperial affairs. Those who are not subscribers to the Almanack, and who yet desire to be well informed as to the administration of our national affairs, will find in this Supplement the fullest information detailed, analysed, and summarized.

The Little Dears. A photograph of over one hundred children is certainly the happiest idea in photography we have ever seen. It is difficult for one to say whether the sterner or the fairer sex has the odds, but it is certain that a lovelier group never arrested the eye. They are in all positions, from little "Sooty" in the wash-tub to "Beauty" in the perambulator, and "Lovely," dressed as if for a baby show. There's "Tiny" and "Shinny," the sweetest of pets, and we don't know how many more, all of them somebody's darlings—bless them—for all have sat for their bright little pictures. One could linger fondly over such a charming galaxy of beauty, archness, and innocence, but we must forbear. Only we the more earnestly urge our readers to possess themselves of a copy of this delightful sun picture. It is to be had of F. E. Langley, 39 Warwick Lane, London, E.C.

Women's Medicinal Use of Alcohol. By Mrs. Helen Kirk. Read at Conference of British Women's Temperance Association. (London: Memorial Hall, Faringdon Street, E.C.) It was once our cherished belief that women would be impelled to offer an active antagonism to the personal, social and national intemperance of our day. That belief is now sight; they do. It was also a belief of ours that when they did so, they would be found in intelligence, equipment, and fertility of resource, most effective for offence against all the causes and practice of intemperance. We welcome Mrs. Kirk's admirable paper on the medicinal aspect of the question, and point to it in support of our belief. We are old enough to remember her husband's famous pamphlet on medicinal drinking, which at the time did so much to enlighten the mind of the community on the errors and the cruelties of the medical profession as exhibited in their prescription of alcoholic liquors. In Mrs. Kirk's too brief paper we have an excellent *resumé* of the progress of temperance medical opinion, a valuable exposition of the various ensnaring occasions for a "little stimulant," and an eloquent appeal against their use. It is thoroughly reliable, eminently practical in treatment, and a marvel of condensation.

God's Arm: To the Sceptics of Scotland. By Rev. G. G. Macleod, Carnwath. (To be had from the author. One Penny.) We always remember with admiration the reply of the old lady to the terrified women that clung to her during a fearful thunder-storm, "I love a God that can shake the world." And, notwithstanding all that has been said about intemperance in language, we do hear with pleasure the fiery outburst of passionate eloquence with the grandeur and power of the Almighty for its theme. Mr. Macleod has a talent for vehemence of assertion, as was obvious in his sermons on "Hell" and "Satanic Sacrifices;" and he closes with "Nogodism" as fiercely and, we think, as successfully as with Universalists and Alcoholists. He begins by saying, "God is! In the face of creation, Atheism is arrant nonsense. Science has long since knocked the bottom out of the antiquated thing for all except blind moles. Voltaire tried to send blood through its icy veins, and lost his soul in the attempt. It has long since been scouted from educated circles as too profoundly coarse to be enter-

tained by rational minds. Its ghost however, in the garb of evolution, has arisen to haunt this age. Atheism we know, and the devil: but Evolution, who art thou? Evolution is the refined and cultivated form of the rotten carcase buried with Voltaire." In this strain he discourses throughout his sermon, which is well sustained from its beginning to its close. For energy and grace, sarcasm and appeal, it is not surpassed by any of the discourses that teem from the press, and is fitted to exert a powerful influence on all by whom it may be read.

The Two Sides of the Question: A Sermon. By the Rev. G. Calthrop, M.A., Vicar of St. Augustine's, Highbury. (London: Elliot Stock.) "Save us from our friends," are the first words which reach our lips after a perusal of this sermon. It was avowedly preached in the interests of temperance by one who claims to be a temperance reformer; but certainly the tendency of its teaching is to exalt "moderation" to the pinnacle of admiration, and patronisingly to regard total abstinence as the innocent weakness of rabid reformers. The author fully recognizes the extent of the evil we combat. He regards intemperance as "the monster evil of our time," and describes with considerable power the slow and insidious growth of the enslaving habit. Yet these facts of a wide experience only lead him to this daring and almost abandoned conclusion: he says—"I assert most strongly, and without the slightest hesitation, the lawfulness for a Christian man of the use—as a beverage, and not merely as a medicine—of alcoholic liquors." To support this antiquated assertion, he ventures to quote Christ as authorizing the consumption of intoxicating liquors. "The Lord Jesus Christ (he says) on a certain occasion, and an important one, for it was the introduction to His ministry, turned water into wine—wine which, if it had been consumed in excess, would have had the power of heating the system, and disordering the intellect, and stupefying the senses of those who consumed it." He will not accept the theory that it was unfermented wine which our Lord made, but contemptuously pushes it aside, with the hazardous assertion that "no scholar whose opinion is worth taking into account would say so." After this, it is with some misgivings that we recall one or two names which we had regarded as of some weight in such a controversy, and which we fondly believed convincingly supported that theory—Dr. Lees, Dr. Notts, Bishop Hall, Archbishop Trench, Dean Howson, etc., etc. But even without the aid of scholastic authority, if our author will admit the weight of moral considerations, we submit that a little reflection on the character of Christ (pure and undefiled), the mission of Christ (to save men, not to destroy them), the object of the miracle (the manifestation of Christ's glory), the words in which Christ taught the world to pray ("lead us not into temptation"), and the fact of the nature and effects of alcoholic liquor (insidious and deadly), will not strengthen, but fatally weaken the force of what we consider his unwarranted assumption. Our author, however, further supports his view of what he calls common-sense temperance, by quoting the words of Christ—"John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say he hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners"—as tending to show that our Saviour countenanced the moderate consumption of intoxicating liquors. "Had Christ been himself a total abstainer," he remarks, "it would have been simply impossible that He could have been called a 'wine-bibber.'" . . . "The thing is impossible; because there would have been no foundation for the calumny to be built upon." Now, without multiplying words unnecessarily, we have simply to say that calumny, when it rests on a foundation, is itself much calumniated by such a designation. For ourselves, we regard the life and character of Christ as too holy, too pure, too wise to offer the moderate drinker (who, after all, is in a great number of cases but the first phase and incipient outline of the drunkard) even the shadow of an excuse for his limited indulgence. We are, moreover, convinced that the

spirit of our Lord's teaching—which, after all, is the chief matter for the Christian—is entirely and only in favour of total abstinence as a duty, in a country and in times characterized by drunkenness. We dismiss this sermon with wonder. It is years behind the times. It would certainly have been better for its author's reputation that he had accepted the other alternative of which he speaks in the introduction.

FOOD AND FEEDING.*

FIRST NOTICE.

Anything from the pen of Sir Henry Thompson, dealing with any aspect of human welfare, is sure to command attention, and, we venture to believe, is specially worthy of the consideration of temperance reformers. Their movement has been indebted to him oftener than once. In his letter to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, in his correspondence with Lady Jane Ellice, and in his contributions to the *Contemporary Review*, and in his public speeches, he has thrown the weight of his great knowledge and influence as a medical authority on the side of temperance reform. We turn, therefore, with interest to the volume before us, hoping to find in its pages farther confirmation of our position from so deservedly great an authority on medical questions.

In *Food and Feeding* Sir Henry is not, however, specially writing on alcoholic liquors and their relation to the healthy human system, but with an earnest desire to reform the abuses connected with our food and our use of it. It is, alas, the general custom, and not, as one would look for, the exception, for the most of people to treat their stomachs as they do their poor relations—with unwarrantable indulgence the one day, and with studied neglect the other. They have not even the Irish pig-feeder's excuse, that he "wanted in the pigs—the craters—a streak of lane and a streak of fat time about." Is it any wonder that they almost never enjoy the latter half of their existence? Others, alas that they are the minority, conscious that their body, at least here and now, is the basis of the manifestations of a healthy mentality, have a laudable desire to treat their stomachs worthily; but from ignorance on the one hand and the pressure of conventionalism on the other, find it a very difficult thing to do. In his treatment of the subject, Sir Henry attempts to warn the one of his folly, and encourage the other in the way in which he should go.

The volume consists of ten chapters. In these are set forth the great sin of improper feeding—the materials of food—foods used by the peasantry—preparation of food by the middle classes—combination of foods at meals—dinners—wine—dinner arrangements—and the public dinner. There is also an appendix on the *Pot-au-feu*.

It has often filled us with surprise when we have seen with what accuracy mankind can treat of the properties of numbers and the nature and relations of the heavenly bodies, trace out the wonders and unfold the marvels of creation, and yet all these years have made so little progress with the knowledge and management of their own systems. We stand awe-struck and worshipful before the grandeur of the outward world, and are content to writhe instead of live, to endure the horrors of dyspepsia, instead of patiently striving to bring ourselves into harmony with organic laws. Sir Henry says, "For it is certain that an adequate recognition of the value of proper food to the individual in maintaining a high standard of health, in prolonging healthy life, and thus largely promoting cheerful temper, prevalent good nature, and improved moral tone, would achieve almost a revolution in the habits of a large part of the community." Meantime, in consequence of this neglect, the majority of infants are reared on imperfect milk by weak or ill-fed mothers. Almost all the rest, being well to do, are the victims of over-feeding, and it would be some consolation if in after stages some better treatment was in store, but the poor boy must share his father's hard and unsuitable fare and, alas, his beer or gin; the well-to-do boy, on

* By Sir Henry Thompson, F.R.C.S. London: F. Warne & Co. Price, Half-a-crown.

the other hand, is pampered with solid foods and stimulating drinks, which custom and self-indulgence have placed upon the table. Is it wonderful that following on these abnormal feedings we have the "bilious attacks" which in so many mar the enjoyment of life. This is a sad picture, but it grows darker when, "Under such circumstances it often happens, as the youth grows up, that a flagging appetite or a failing digestion habitually demands a dram before or between meals, and that these latter are regarded rather as occasions to indulge in variety of liquor than as repast for nourishing the body; and it is not surprising that the true object of both eating and drinking is entirely lost sight of. . . . So it often comes to pass that at middle age, when man finds himself in the full current of life's occupations, struggling for pre-eminence with his fellows, indigestion has become persistent in some of its numerous forms, shortens his 'staying power,' or spoils his judgment and temper. . . . On the other hand the poor man, advancing in years, shows signs of damage to his constitution from continuous toil with inadequate food, the supply of which is often diminished by his expenditure for beer, which, although not seldom noxious, he regards as the elixir of life, never to be missed when fair occasion for obtaining it is offered. Many of this class become permanent inmates of the parish workhouse or infirmary."

Sir Henry, from such considerations, finds his subject shaping itself. Food must be first regarded in relation to its value for building up and sustaining the human body; the food must be properly selected and fitly prepared; the true exercise of taste in service, and the art of combining foods for a meal, fall lastly under consideration.

In subsequent chapters we find food defined; its two-fold purpose and its assimilation duly set forth. Sir Henry guardedly approves of a vegetarian diet. There is an excellent summary of foods, their geographical limits, their uses by various civilized and uncivilized peoples; and he finds occasion to animadvert on the vice of the age in selecting foods too much concentrated, and in consuming too largely of them.

Our modern dining customs have the special antipathy of Sir Henry. He favours a small select dinner party in preference to the crowd that is generally invited to dine. His scathing denunciation of a fashionable dinner is well-deserved; it stamps discredit upon the age in which we live, and, as contrasted with our culture in other matters, looks very much like swinish in comparison. Equally deserved and pungent are his strictures on the public dinner, and if his observations on our public feeding are laid to heart, it will be of signal benefit to the individual and the country, and, we need not say, will permit of a greater and cheaper diffusion of the materials of food than obtains at the present time.

We have, we hope, said as much as will be sufficient to induce our readers to possess a copy of this work for themselves. It will amply repay perusal. In our next notice we will examine what Sir Henry says about liquors, and why he says it.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE REV. DR. KERR, A.M., DUNSE.—It is our sorrowful duty to place on record the decease of this good minister and true social reformer. He died at Dunse of heart disease on Saturday evening, 17th July, in the 74th year of his age, and 47th year of his ministry. He was the beloved pastor of the South U.P. Congregation for the long period of forty years, and was widely known and greatly esteemed in Dunse and Berwickshire. He heartily co-operated with the other ministers in Dunse in all that regarded the higher interests of their respective flocks, and showed by a bright example what might be done if ministers everywhere were to combine for the overthrow of the wickedness around them. He was a self-made man, a diligent and successful student all his life, an accomplished theologian, classical scholar, and authority on early

Oriental History. He ever took a deep interest in all that favoured the promotion of civil and religious liberty; was a member of the School Board, and at last its chairman. A proficient in music, he carried on for many years classes for the extension of this delightful art. As a social reformer, he took a prominent part in movements calculated to elevate the working classes by reducing the temptations to which they are exposed. This led him to be a cordial supporter of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, which aims at the suppression of the liquor traffic. He was for some years president of the local auxiliary of this association, and generally presided and took an active part in the meetings. He died, in a word, greatly beloved and sincerely lamented. His remains were interred on Thursday, 22nd July, in the presence of the largest assemblage of mourners ever seen in Dunse. A deputation from the Dunse auxiliary to the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association—Messrs. G. Bruce, president; W. Smith, treasurer; D. Paterson, secretary; and J. H. Waterston, district superintendent—attended on the melancholy occasion as a mark of deep and sincere respect to the deceased.

VARIETIES.

Ladies had better be fast asleep than "fast" awake.

ONE WAY.—How to acquire short-hand. Fool around a cutting-machine.

A little fellow was eating some bread and milk, when he turned round to his mother and said, "O, mother, I'm full of glory! There was a sunbeam on my spoon, and I swallowed it."

"If my mind wanders," said a stout Irish invalid, "give me a little out of the black bottle on the table." "But what if you refuse to take it?" said the attendant. "Then bate me, and make me take it," was the reply.

GONE TO THE DOGS.—One of Mr. Yeaman's supporters, early on the polling day at Dundee, got a dog, put a cloth upon him, on which was inscribed, "Vote for Yeaman." One of Mr. Henderson's canvassers seeing this, exclaimed, "What! is Yeaman gone to the dogs already?"

"Don't you want to be my wife?" said a small boy to a smaller girl. With some hesitation, but with a certain firmness of tone, she replied, "Yes, I would." "Then," continued the boy, as he seated himself on the ground, and lifted up his foot, "you must begin by pulling off my boots."

A child from a temperance home, visiting her grand-mama, saw the old lady drinking a glass of beer, and exclaimed, "Why, grandmama, I thought you were good!" The old lady thought it over, and promised the child she would drink no more, adding aside to its mother, "I am sure that I won't forfeit his good opinion for the little I take."

No day should pass without eating a certain proportion of fruit. When fresh fruits are not at hand, or are dear, try Dr. Gull's favourite. Raisins at 4d. per lb. are about equal to grapes at a 1s. Soak them in water all night, stew them gently an hour in the morning, and you have one of the most delicious compotes in the world. Dried figs, heated in the same manner, are delightful.

Just Published, 16 pages, Price One Penny.

LOCAL OPTION AND PROHIBITION. STATEMENT OF MR COMMISSIONER MANNING

This interesting and important statement, by J. W. Manning, Esq., of Ontario, was made a few months since to a select audience, in the Mayor's Parlour, Manchester Town Hall. It is now reprinted, by special request, for wide circulation, with a Synopsis of the Canadian Permissive Prohibitory Act (1878), and some important testimonies from Maine.

THE
Social Reformer.

OCTOBER, 1880.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL
AND
TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE Twenty-Second Annual Business Meeting of the members of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was held on 28th September, 1880, in the Christian Institute, Glasgow. There was a crowded attendance. Treasurer Hamilton presided, and was supported by ex-Provost Dick, ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, R. M'Callum, Dr. M'Culloch, and Mr. R. Mackay. The meeting was constituted by prayer, offered up by Mr. James Malcolm. Present during the day were the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Robert Rodgers, Largs; Wm. Scougall, Glasgow; James Malcolm, do.; James Murray, do.; Rev. Wm. Crombie, Avonbridge; Thomas T. M'Lagan, Edinburgh; James Wilson, Clarkston; John M'Diarmid, Dollar; John Lightbody, Lanark; Aeneas Mackay, Edinburgh; Robert Murray, do.; R. M'Callum, Glasgow; J. G. Temple, do.; James Drysdale, Bridge of Allan; John Steel, Edinburgh; Peter Ferguson, Glasgow; James Rae, Falkirk; John Lamont, Glasgow; Murdoch M'Kenzie, do.; John Tait, Dalbeattie; Wm. Blackwood, Aberdeen; James M'Culloch, M.D., Dumfries; James Burns, Tollcross, Glasgow; William Davidson, Aberdeen; James Nicol, Glasgow; John Black, do.; Ex-Provost Dick, do.; William Ramsay, Gourrock; James Paterson, Aberdeen; J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; William Kesson, Glasgow; R. C. Murray, do.; George Laird, Glasgow; John Paterson, do.; William Robertson, Paisley; Adam Black, Leith; John Williams, Wishaw; Archd. M'Kenzie, Bonhill; James Osborne, Mearns; William Hogg, Arbroath; Thomas Robinson, Hurler; Rev. Samuel Hardiug, Paisley; George Andrew, Glasgow; Thomas Goodlet, Paisley; Duncan Smith, Glasgow; Peter Cunningham, Hamilton; Miss Isa Muir Goodlet, Paisley; Jas. Flemington, Whitburn; Joseph Milne, Edinburgh; Mrs. Joseph Milne, do.; James R. Livingston, Glasgow; John Howieson, Uddingston; Ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., Glasgow; James Winning, Paisley; William R. Gibson, Kilsyth; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow; R. Dransfield, do.; R. Stevenson, do.; Daniel Kerr, Fergushill; Alexander Black, Glasgow; James Fullerton, Saltcoats; J. M. Cunningham, Glasgow; Henry Wyatt, do.; Rev. Hector Hall, do.; James Horn, Lanark; David G. Findlay, Glasgow; Mrs. Neilson, do.; J. H. Raper, Manchester; William Hart, Kilsyth; Henry D. Reid, Coatbridge; Captain Donald Brochie, Greenock; Samuel Dickson, Kilsyth; James Darling, Edinburgh; Mrs. Smith, Bothwell; Miss Smith, do.; Mrs. Robertson, Paisley; Miss Robertson, do.; Mrs. Dalziel, do.; Miss Gemmill, Glasgow; Jas. Jamieson, Ayr; James Miller Shaw, Ayr; John Nisbet, Edinburgh; James Patrick, Neilston; John Paton, Barrhead; James Hamilton, J.P., Glasgow; R. Mackay, do.; J. W. Mackay, do.; A. F. Shanks, Barrhead; J. N. M'Alister, Cambuslang; Duncan Ferguson, Barrhead; Alex. Smith, Bonhill; Daniel M'Farlane, Barrhead; Isaac Lynas, Glasgow; Wm. Hart, sen., Coatbridge; Rev. Robert Wallace, Crosshill; Rev. Robert Paterson, Govan; George Hunter,

Gourrock; Rev. Wm. Adamson, D.D., Edinburgh; Rev. W. F. Adamson, Ayr; Thomas Shanks, Johnston; John Conchar, Glasgow; Daniel Brown, do.; John Colville, Motherwell; Walter Linton, Glasgow; J. P. Lossock, Peebles; Mrs. J. P. Lossock, do.; Rev. Thos. Evans, Merthyr-Tydvil; John Lang, Greenock; James Johnston, Falkirk; W. J. Wood, Glasgow; Wm. Howat, Stirling; John Laing, Edinburgh; Mrs. John Laing, do.; J. Y. Simpson, Largs; Wm. Smith, Glasgow; George Gray, do.; James Dymock, Boness; Rev. Alexander Cross, Ardrossan; Rev. A. Davidson, Greenock; Rev. W. Wyllie, Blantyre; Wm. Brydon, Ayr; Andrew Crawford, Glasgow; Rev. S. Sleath, Boness; John Munro, Edinburgh; James Nicolson, Leith; Councillor Scott, do.

The following gentlemen have sent regretful apologies—Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Esq., M.P.; Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Charles Cameron, Esq., M.P.; R. W. Cochran-Patrick, Esq., M.P.; James Cowan, Esq., M.P.; Col. Alexander, Esq., M.P.; James Stewart, Esq., M.P.; Dr. Robert Farquharson, M.P.; Lieut.-Gen. Sir A. Gordon, M.P.; Frank Henderson, Esq., M.P.; Charles Tennant, Esq., M.P.; D. M'Laren, Esq., M.P.; R. J. C. Hamilton, Esq., M.P.; Sir James Bain; C. Fraser-Mackintosh, Esq., M.P.; Andrew Grant, Esq., M.P.; R. F. F. Campbell, Esq., M.P.; J. C. Bolton, Esq., M.P.; J. Kidston, Esq., J.P., Barnet; James King, Esq., J.P., Kilsyth; James White, Esq., J.P., Overtoun; J. Robertson, Esq., J.P., Lawhope; Rev. J. M. Sloan, Glasgow; Rev. W. W. Tulloch, do.; Rev. Dr. Thomson, Paisley; Rev. James Wells, M.A., Pollokshields, Rev. Dr. Wallace, Glasgow; Rev. A. Dunlop, Partick; Rev. David Macrae, Dundee; J. Miller, Esq., Innerleithen; H. E. Crum Ewing, Esq., Helensburgh; James Campbell, Esq., Glasgow; George Bruce, Esq., Dunse; William Tait, Esq., Edinburgh; D. M'Gowan, Esq., Glasgow; Councillor J. Johnstone, Dumfries; P. Campbell, Esq., Perth; Dr. A. Fergus, Esq., Glasgow; Alex. S. Cook, Esq., Aberdeen; John Trayner, Edinburgh; Robert Lockhart, Esq., do.; Alex. Allan, Esq., Glasgow; Dr. A. Sloan, Glasgow.

(From Sir WILFRID LAWSON, Bart., M.P.)

"Thanks for the platform ticket, which I, however, must return, as I could not be with you on the 28th. I hope, however, that you will have a most successful meeting, and one which will be worthy of Scotland, from which country we have received most invaluable support in the struggle for the most pressing reform of the day."

(From Dr. CAMERON, M.P.)

"I should have had great pleasure in attending the meeting had I been in town. It is hardly necessary for me to assure you of my cordial sympathy with the object of your meeting, nor to express my hope that in point of success it may surpass all its predecessors."

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said his first duty was to congratulate the members on this the 22nd anniversary of their association. Directing their attention to the signs of progress since the last meeting, he said one of these was the fact that the Maine Law was still being enforced, and had been

successful for a quarter of a century. At the Maine Republican State Convention, held in Augusta in June, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"Resolved: That experience has demonstrated the wisdom of the policy of prohibition as an auxiliary to temperance reform, and as contributing to the material wealth, happiness, and prosperity of the State, and that we refer with confidence and pride to our undeviating support of the same as one of the cardinal principles of the Republican party in Maine." Then there was the Irish Sunday Closing Bill, of which there were the most gratifying testimonies to the good it was doing. Next, there was the new Temperance Act in New Brunswick; while at a late meeting of the British Medical Association at Cambridge, the temperance question was discussed, and Dr. Kerr made a very bold inroad upon the customs of society. Some temperance friends had great difficulty in attending public dinners, in consequence of the practice of making the tickets the same price to those who did not drink as to those who did. They did not object upon the ground of the money value, but upon that of principle. Dr. Kerr made a motion to the effect that there should be a distinction, and it was carried. Henceforth, with that association, there will be a difference in the price of tickets to abstainers. Another sign of progress was the fact that the wife of the President of the great American Republic would not allow the use of strong liquors at her social gatherings. Further, there was the great meeting in the Exeter Hall on the 16th June last, when eloquent speeches in favour of Local Option were delivered by eminent men. It was the best meeting ever held in that hall on the question. Two days after, the great debate took place in the House of Commons, when Sir Wilfrid Lawson was supported by 229 members and opposed by 203. Just three months before, when Sir Wilfrid moved the same resolution in the Conservative Parliament, he had 136 for and 250 against him. Having read extracts from newspapers in favour of Local Option in order to show the progress made in public opinion, the chairman said they must all rejoice at the great victory of the 18th June—one long to be remembered with another victory, for it was on that day in 1815 that the battle of Waterloo was fought. But the prohibition victory was a bloodless one. It left no maimed bodies and no widows and orphans. But it was one which would for ever tell for good upon all classes of the community. (Applause.) He called upon the secretary, Mr. Robert Mackay, to read the report, which was as follows—

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

IN presenting this their Twenty-Second Annual Report, your Executive have to congratulate their constituents on the remarkable successes of the past year. It is impossible to look over the period which has elapsed since the last annual meeting of the Association without recognising the solid progress which has been made. The year of which this Report treats is the most memorable in the history of the Association. A general election, covering your opponents with defeat, and assigning to your question a supreme place among political questions; the passage of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local-Option Resolution, embodying the principle of a suppressive veto over the liquor traffic by the ratepayers, and a pledge on the part of the Government to deal with the liquor traffic in harmony with the proposal of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, appear to fully warrant your Executive in believing that a continuance of the same vigorous and united effort, so manifest on the part of Scottish moral and social reformers, will in the immediate future secure for its people legal power to exclude from their respective districts a traffic so alien to the order and progress of their country.

THE AGENCY.

Your Executive are happy to report that all the ordinary operations of the agitation have been maintained with unabated vigour; and they feel persuaded

that the aim and object of the Association were never better understood or more widely appreciated than at this moment. They have been surrounded by a number of able and zealous agents, whose continuous labours have been warmly and widely recognised by all who have co-operated with them in promoting the interests of the agitation. There are at present on the staff Messrs. Black, Blackwood, Lossock, Stevenson, and Waterstone. Mr. Blackwood has the Northern district under his care, and your Executive learn with great satisfaction that his labours are meeting with increasing acceptance. Mr. Waterston superintends the Eastern district with great ability and success. Mr. Stevenson has the Western district under his care, where his labour meets much appreciation. It is most gratifying to be able to add, that in the prosecution of their various and manifold labours they continue to receive the very cordial co-operation of a large and increasing number of earnest friends. Mr. Robert Dransfield and Mr. Wm. Kesson continue to render efficient platform services. Mr. Lossock devotes a considerable portion of the year to collection with gratifying success. Mr. Black has given all his time to this branch of the work with singular aptitude, devotion, and success. His efforts have resulted, notwithstanding the prevalent depression, in a large accession to the membership of the Association. The arduous and exacting work of your agency staff, during the year, has been done in a manner satisfactory to your Executive.

The ordinary advocacy has never been equal to the demands of the movement, but your Executive could always rely upon the generous and valuable aid of an ever-widening circle of earnest and devoted friends, to whose abundant and successful advocacy in behalf of the movement your Executive bear a willing and emphatic testimony.

MEETINGS.

During the year your Executive, deeply sensible of the necessity laid upon them, in view of a general election, to create and deepen a sound conviction on the principles and policy of the Scottish prohibitory movement, continued a vigorous agitation by public meetings. These meetings excited great attention in those localities where they took place, and the general election invested many of them with unusual interest, and rendered them more than ordinarily successful.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson addressed eight great meetings in Scotland during the last recess. The night previous to your last annual meeting he was taking part in the Jubilee Temperance meetings in Greenock, and addressed a densely-crowded meeting in the Town Hall. He had a most gratifying reception, and on the following morning met with a number of the leading citizens at breakfast. In the evening he attended your annual public meeting, where he met with a most cordial welcome from the crowded audiences assembled in the Larger and Lesser City Halls. On the 3rd November he appeared in Edinburgh at one of the most imposing demonstrations ever held there on the Temperance question. The Free Church Assembly Hall was crowded, and the Established Church Assembly Hall had to be called into requisition. On the 17th he visited Ayr, and in the evening was introduced to a densely-crowded meeting in the Skating Rink by the Provost, and received the heartiest manifestations of welcome. On the 26th, he visited Dundee, after an absence of eight years, and had an enthusiastic welcome from a crowded audience. He went under the auspices of the Dundee Temperance Hundred, and the Provost presided over the meeting. On the 28th he went to Forfar, and in the Reid Hall, crowded to its utmost capacity, received a most flattering reception. On the 22nd January, in response to an influentialy-signed requisition, he delivered an address, under the auspices of the Edinburgh University Temperance Society, to the students of the Edinburgh University, in the Free Church Assembly Hall. His appearance was greeted by these young men with prolonged cheers, which broke out again and again during the delivery of his address. The next evening he went to Kirkcaldy, to one of the most imposing of the demonstrations in which he had ever taken part in Scotland. The

North British Railway Company ran special trains to accommodate those attending the meetings held in the Free and Congregational Churches. The Provost presided on the occasion. It is needless to add that at all these gatherings the utterances of the hon. baronet commanded the sympathy of the vast numbers that crowded to hear him. They were marked by all the freshness, cogency, humour, and significance which so markedly distinguish his addresses, and those that heard them set their seal of approval upon them by their unstinted approbation.

Sir Wilfrid was accompanied at all these meetings by members of your Executive and friends. The following deserve special mention:—Dr. Cameron, M.P.; E. Jenkins, Esq., M.P.; Provost M'Pherson, ex-Bailie Lewis; Revs. J. C. Burns, John Kay, and Hector Hall, Treasurer Hamilton, J.P.; ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Messrs. R. C. Murray, J. Winning, and J. Steel.

Through the kindness of the United Kingdom Alliance, Mr. John Paton has been at the disposal of your Committee for several months during the year. Mr. Paton has been principally engaged in canvassing the electors, and his labours have, in the opinion of your Executive, had a powerful influence in favour of your principles and policy in many of the election contests. Mr. Paton, they are glad to state, remains in Scotland until the end of October.

In order to meet the numerous demands on your lecturing staff, your Executive engaged Mr. Charles Bent, of Manchester, for two months during the year. He addressed meetings in February and in June over a wide district of country, with the highest credit to himself, and to the gratification of all who had the pleasure of attending his meetings. Your Executive were highly satisfied with his services.

During the year a number of special meetings have taken place, which were addressed by talented friends and members of your Executive. The annual meetings were remarkable for the attendance and the enthusiasm of the audience, and the talent and ability of the platform, and the resolution not to abate one jot of their rightful demand, so manifest on the part of the members and friends. At the crowded meeting in the City Hall there were, along with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the Lord Provost (who presided), Mr. Burt, M.P.; Sir James Bain, Revs. J. C. Burns, G. Cron, J. Brand, and J. Clark, Mr. J. W. Manning, Ontario, Canada; Mr. Gilbert Archer, Treasurer Hamilton, and ex-Bailie Torrens. On the following evening Mr. Manning lectured in Edinburgh on the Canadian Temperance Act. He is a most talented exponent of Prohibitory views, and your Executive regretted that time did not allow of his visiting Scotland and taking part in a number of meetings. On the same date ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P., was present as your representative at one of the series of Jubilee Temperance meetings in Greenock, and addressed a densely-crowded meeting in the Town Hall. A large meeting took place at Port-Glasgow on the 20th, in which he took a leading part. Bailie Selkirk represented your Association at a large meeting in Ardrossan on 4th February, along with Rev. J. Kay, Rev. D. Macrae, and others. Next day a large and influential Conference was held in Edinburgh, to offer congratulations to the Earl of Zetland, who had announced his intention to enforce his rights, as Superior of Grangemouth, against the liquor traffic. Among those present were Rev. Dr. Reid (who presided), Principal Cairns, Professor Kirk, Rev. Drs. Adamson and Teape, Rev. J. Kay, ex-Bailie Lewis, and other warm friends of the movement. Your Executive entertain the hope that his Lordship may succeed in his efforts to secure the legal exclusion of the publican from his fens in Grangemouth. Next day, at Stirling, ex-Bailie Torrens and Bailie Selkirk addressed a most enthusiastic meeting in the Town Hall, and were loudly applauded. On the 17th ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, Mr. James Winning, and your Secretary went to Aberdeen. In the afternoon a Conference Meeting took place, where interesting matters connected with the movement in the north received careful consideration. Your deputation were glad to see how highly appreciated

Mr. Blackwood was by those present, who spoke not merely for themselves, but were accredited to do so for others. In the evening your deputation addressed a most excellent meeting in the Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, and had the valuable assistance of Messrs. M'Donald, Adams, Wm. Clark, W. Davidson, J. Paterson, &c. On the 23rd, at Dunse, Rev. Dr. Adamson and Mr. Waterston addressed a large and earnest audience, in the Town Hall there, with great acceptance. On the 26th, at Kinross, ex-Bailie Torrens and Bailie Selkirk addressed, on behalf of the Association, a large attendance, by whom their addresses were loudly cheered. On the 6th inst. a very interesting and influential meeting assembled in the Council Chambers, Edinburgh—the Right Hon. Lord Provost Boyd presiding—to hear a statement of the nature, position, and prospects of the Canadian Temperance Act, by the Hon. Alex. Vidal. His statement made a marked impression on those present, among whom were ex-Bailie Lewis, Councillor Clark, Rev. D. Bruce, Rev. F. L. Armitage, D. Dickson, Esq., &c. Many other places have been visited by your advocates and agents, with the happiest effect upon the prohibitory sentiment more or less manifest in the locality. It is to these meetings that your Executive have to attribute the rapid extension of their principles, and the wide-spread acceptance of their policy. They heartily acknowledge the great services rendered by Bailie Lewis to the prohibitory movement, by his unwearied advocacy of temperance and prohibition, both at week-day and Sabbath meetings.

The open-air advocacy has, during the year, been conspicuously successful. Meetings addressed by your agents were held in almost all the leading towns. Your Executive are convinced that through this branch of your operations a knowledge of the aims and objects of your Association is brought home to those whom otherwise you could not reach, and that the good they do amply justifies the great care and labour bestowed upon them.

The Sabbath meetings on the Green have been unusually successful this year. They were under the devoted superintendence of Mr. R. Dransfield, and have been addressed by ex-Bailie Torrens, James Horn, Esq., Messrs. J. Paton, J. H. Waterston, R. Stevenson, C. Bent, R. Mackay, W. Kesson, D. Moore, and R. Dransfield. The attendance has been most satisfactory, and great interest has been manifested by the audience.

THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS.

During the by-past year the number of lectures delivered by your agents was as follows:—Mr. Waterston, 233; Mr. Stevenson, 206; Mr. Blackwood, 204; Mr. Dransfield, 141; Mr. Bent, 57; Mr. Kesson, 28. Mr. John Paton delivered 32 lectures and your Secretary 65 during the same time. The number of meetings held during the year which were either arranged by the Association or addressed by its representatives was 927—697 ordinary and 230 deputational. At these meetings 1318 addresses were delivered. These figures are not inclusive of the numerous lectures delivered in behalf of the Association by friends throughout the country and of which your Executive regret to state no record is kept or transmitted to them.

Your Executive heartily acknowledge the very valuable assistance which was rendered by the following gentlemen and members to the agitation during the year:—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Thos. Burt, Esq., M.P.; ex-Bailie Torrens, J.P.; ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P.; Bailie Selkirk, Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. John Kay, Rev. H. Hall, Rev. Wm. Crombie, Rev. W. J. Boon, Rev. Wm. Halliday, Captain Brochie, Dr. J. M. McCulloch, Dr. Bowie, ex-Provost Dick, Messrs. R. C. Murray, J. Winning, John Steel, Robert M'Callum, James Horn, W. J. Wood, J. W. Mackay, William Davidson, Robt. Adams, D. Moore, J. Nisbet, Matthew Edwards, &c.

KINDRED ASSOCIATIONS.

Your Executive rejoice to have to state that they have availed themselves of every opportunity that has

presented itself for co-operating with the various temperance organisations in Scotland, and that in consequence they continue to maintain the most cordial relations with them all.

Bailie Selkirk, Mr. John Nisbet, and your Secretary represented your Association at the annual meetings of the United Kingdom Alliance in October last. These meetings were in every sense worthy of this grand organisation. Bailie Selkirk was appointed one of the Council Business Committee and addressed the Council meeting. The relations between your Association and the United Kingdom Alliance are of the most cordial character, and that organisation is represented here by W. S. Caine, Esq., M.P., and Mr. Raper. We all rejoice to see Mr. Raper once more amongst us.

Your Executive gladly welcome representatives from the Scottish Temperance League—Rev. John Douglas and Mr. James Johnstone; from the Irish Temperance League—Mr. W. M. Scott; from the British Good Templars—Rev. J. A. Johnston; and from the American Good Templars—Rev. R. Paterson. They are also glad to welcome a large number of delegates representing those societies who subscribe to the Association. They trust that the unity so apparent among all sections of the movement may never be disturbed, and that all will be eager to combine on every occasion for the promotion of any effort which has for its object the advancement of the temperance reformation.

LITERATURE.

As might be anticipated, there has been considerable attention bestowed on your question by the press. As soon as it was apparent that prohibitionists were resolute in their determination to vote for principle, and not merely for party, leading articles and correspondence absorbed much of the space of the ordinary press. On one hand your principle was admitted to be sound but your action was inexpedient; on the other you had been corrupted and had sold yourself to the party in power. Your Executive availed themselves of every opportunity to state the true issue on which they were prepared to fight, and they have little grounds for complaint against any portion of the press for not giving due publicity to their action and the reason for it. The constant notice taken of your policy provoked inquiry into your principles and aims by the intelligent, and the interests of the agitation were largely benefited by the publicity and criticism to which your Association was subjected. The cause is deeply indebted to those gentlemen who so ably defended your course of action in those papers to whose columns they had access. Your Association is specially indebted to the *Alliance News*, *Christian News*, *The Good Templar*, *League Journal*, *Irish League Journal*, and *Irish Temperance Banner*, *The Medical Temperance Journal*, *Church of England Temperance Chronicle*, *British Temperance Advocate*, and *Weekly Record*, which have all rendered signal services to the movement during the year. Among the representatives of the Scottish press the following deserve honourable mention:—*The Daily Review*, *North British Daily Mail*, *Alloa Advertiser*, *Northern Ensign*, *Orkney Herald*, *Greenock Telegraph*, *Paisley Express*, and many others. The Scottish Press in general have taken increased notice of Permissive Prohibition, and it may be confidently affirmed that there was scarcely one paper in Scotland who did not, last year, draw the attention of its readers to the electoral aspect of your question.

During the year your Executive have been as liberal in the distribution of literature—book, pamphlet, and tract—as their resources would permit, and have to report that a very liberal distribution has taken place. They have always recognised the value of this branch of their operations, and regret that they have not been enabled to carry it out to the extent that the present position of the movement requires. *The Social Reformer* continues worthily to represent the Association. It is growing in public favour, and is receiving increased commendation from its contemporaries and the press in general. They earnestly ask members and friends to co-operate with them in getting it more widely circulated by bringing it under the notice of their

friends, and thus make it as useful as its conductors would wish.

The New Year's Tract for 1880 was written by the Rev. H. S. Paterson, M.D., of London, and was issued in a most attractive style. Its circulation was injured by the delay in its publication. The Tract for 1881 is written by Rev. Dr. H. Bonar, of Edinburgh, and is entitled "The City of the Plague." It will be issued in the attractive form in which this series appears.

OBITUARY.

During the year your Executive have had to mourn the decease of many devoted friends of the Association and the movement. The agitation has sustained a serious loss by the death of Mr. John Smith, of Fairmount, Bothwell. He was one of the vice-presidents of the Association from its institution, and his large-hearted sympathy, his generous hospitality to deputations visiting the Association, and his full-handed liberality to the funds cheered your Executive in their labours, and the remembrance of his sympathy and liberality cause them to keenly feel his loss. Mr. G. Shirra-Gibbs, J.P., Cults, also a vice-president, was a valued labourer, and did much in the north to further the interests of the Association. Mr. Wm. Gray, Kinning Park, was a steadfast friend, and among the members of the Society of Friends laboured abundantly in the interests of temperance and prohibition. The Rev. D. Kerr, of Dunse, was for many years the president of your auxiliary and was one of the most devoted friends of the cause. The Rev. Francis Johnston, Messrs. David Craig, T. Knox, J.P., J. Craig, M.D., J. Chalmers, and J. Thyne, of Edinburgh; Rev. John Wise, Auchtermuchty; Councillor Sutherland, Dundee; Messrs. T. Biggart, Dalry; R. Rankine, Haddington; W. L. Roy, Alloa; D. Nicol, Blairgowrie; Wm. M. Millan, Avonbridge; Mr. R. Laurie and Eben. Anderson, Glasgow, have all proved themselves the staunch friends of prohibition, and deserve this sorrowful tribute. Mr. Wm. M'Combie, of Tillyfour, when in Parliament did good service at a time when your friends there were few, and after he had relinquished parliamentary honours he rendered the movement great service in West Aberdeenshire. Your Executive have to regret the loss of Mr. E. A. Aitken, who died as we were assembled here last year. He earned the character of an intelligent, faithful, devoted, and successful servant, and, in his sphere, combined great aptitude for business with staunch loyalty to principle. The loss of his services is deeply regretted by friends in various parts of the country who knew his worth and who will join your Executive in this sorrowful tribute to his memory.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

Your Executive, profiting by what took place at the general election of 1874, maintained a vigorous prosecution of the electoral policy of the Association. It was evident on every bye-election that, so far as your Association was concerned, success depended upon whether or not the constituency was intelligent on your policy, had been canvassed for their pledges, or had organised their electoral strength. Your Executive became more and more convinced that upon the electoral organisation of the electors the lasting success of the movement would be found to rest. At such times, and with what resources they could command, and in this respect the value of the electoral action fund can hardly be overestimated, they entered upon the work. They are well aware how imperfectly the work has been overtaken, how defective in the critical judgment it may appear, but they point to its results, and merely add that it has proved that in appealing to the electors upon the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic they were simply appealing to the "Master of Parliament."

Your Executive, in view of the general election, continued to make the fullest preparation in their power for that important event. The friends of the Association co-operated with them in interviewing all new candidates that entered the field, and they themselves published a list of all the votings on the question, by which constituencies might be guided in their choice of candidates, published lists of all the

candidates appearing before the electors, and issued an election address. Their agents in their several districts were busy carrying out the instructions of your Executive, imparting information, assisting the friends, and the result of these varied efforts has been a splendid triumph for the cause.

Parliament opened in February with the usual formalities, and it seemed as if there was to be another session still, with the general election to follow in the autumn. On the 9th March, however, a letter from the Earl of Beaconsfield to the Duke of Marlborough proved really an appeal to the constituencies. There was a hurried dispatch of what business remained to be done in Parliament. The House was dissolved on the 24th March and the new Parliament met for the transaction of business on April 29th under, as was evident, strangely altered circumstances.

In the conflict that raged your question assumed a foremost place. Its friends were fully sensible of the value of the opportunity placed within their reach and fully availed themselves of it. Their firm unyielding attitude produced its intended effect, and they reaped a victory at almost every polling booth. As proof of the great interest felt in your question it may be stated that there were 107 candidates for the 60 Scottish seats. Of that number 61 were in favour of local option, 35 opposed it, while 11 declared for neutrality, but the result of the elections was far more favourable than these figures showed. Of the 60 members elected 46, or more than two thirds of the entire representation were in favour of local option, 6 only were against it, and 8 took up, meantime, an attitude of neutrality. Of the 60 members at the general election 11 honourable members relinquished their seats, 11 were rejected by their constituency, 24 were opposed but were returned, 14 were unopposed and 22 were elected for the first time. In the old Parliament your Executive could reckon upon the support of 32, upon the opposition of 7 and on the neutrality of 21; but in the new Parliament there were 46 favourable, 6 opposed, and 8 in favour of neutrality. In the new Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland 248 were pledged to support local option, of this number 100 were new friends. There were also 57 who sympathized with Sir Wilfrid Lawson's aims, so that 305 or a number only 21 less than the half of the full strength of Parliament were in full sympathy with the party of prohibition. This gratifying result of the general election is due to a faithful adherence on the part of the friends to the electoral policy of the movement. They were loyal to their cause and they were rewarded by a success both in the country and in Parliament as memorable and as likely to be enduring as has ever attended the efforts of any body of moral and social reformers.

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.

Notwithstanding the very general impression that there would be a general election before Parliament met the House assembled as usual in February. On the opening night notices were given of a number of liquor bills. There was the bill of Mr. A. M. Sullivan for early closing—the bill of Mr. J. W. Pease for partial Sunday closing in England—the bill of Mr. Stevenson for total Sunday closing in England—the bill of Mr. Roberts for total Sunday closing in Wales—Dr. Cameron's bill for stopping Sunday liquor traffic on board passenger steamers—Mr. Stanley Hill's bill for dealing with grocer's licenses—and that of Mr. Ritchie dealing with beer licenses. None of these bills survived. On the 6th February Sir Wilfrid secured by ballot Friday, 5th March, for his local option resolution. He also got a first place for it, thus securing the best possible chance for its discussion. Your Executive, highly encouraged by the numbers that voted in its support on the first occasion of its being brought forward, called upon the friends everywhere to press the importance of voting in its favour upon their representatives, and it is to their warm response to the urgent appeal of your Executive that so much success was due. Honourable members frankly confessed upon no other question had they received so many communications from their constituents. Your Executive also asked

the co-operation of all sections of the Scottish Temperance Movement, which was most cordially given, and contributed materially to the voting. Your Executive also deputed the following gentlemen to London to see to the interests of the resolution:—ex-Councillor Paterson, Aberdeen; Mr. John Steel, Edinburgh; Messrs. R. C. Murray, T. L. Selkirk, and R. Mackay, Glasgow, who during the brief time at their disposal saw nearly all the honourable members who were in town. These were joined in London by Mr. D. Brown, Glasgow. A special circular was addressed to each Scottish representative directing his attention to the resolution, and asking him to be in his place on the day named for its discussion, and give it his support. On that day in a full house Sir Wilfrid, in a speech of great ability, moved his resolution, which was in the following terms:—"That inasmuch as the ancient and avowed object of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquor is to supply a supposed public want, without detriment to the public welfare, this House is of opinion that a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses should be placed in the hands of the persons most deeply interested and affected—namely, the inhabitants themselves—who are entitled to protection from the injurious consequences of the present system by some efficient measure of local option." He was seconded by Mr. Burt, whose eloquence greatly moved Mr. Gladstone, who rose and in a brief but telling address expressed his doubts about there being a national unanimity on the principle embodied in the resolution, told the House that he could not vote for the resolution because it meant suppression as well as restriction; he would not vote for things as they are, so he would refrain from voting. Mr. Wheelhouse, Mr. Rodwell, Mr. Bulwer, Mr. Muntz, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Cross all spoke against the resolution; but Mr. Leatham, Mr. Mark Stewart (the only Scottish M.P. who spoke on the debate), Mr. Colman, right hon. John Bright, and Sir H. Johnston spoke more or less in favour of the resolution. The Marquis of Hartington was against the resolution because it was just the Permissive Bill. After a debate extending to nearly eight hours, the House divided, when 248 voted against and 134 for the resolution, the majority against it was thus 114. The several amendments to the resolution of which notice had been given fell to the ground. The Scotch vote was well maintained. The votes and pairs in its favour equalled the previous vote, while there was a decrease of three against. Every division upon either bill or resolution, even in a publican Parliament, judging by the action of the members of Parliament for Scotland, had told in favour of granting the Scotch people the power of vetoing the liquor traffic. On this occasion the voting was remarkable, 7 county members voted and 2 paired for the resolution, 6 county members voted and 1 paired against, showing a majority of 2 of a county vote for the resolution; 21 burgh members voted or paired for the resolution, and not one voted against; 1 University member voted for it, while the other was silent. The full vote was 29 and 3 pairs for, and 6 and 1 pair against. No Scotch Liberal M.P. voted against the resolution. The voting had no party significance, as both political parties were found voting for it. Five members of the Government—right hon. W. E. Baxter; right hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair; H. Campbell-Banerman, Esq.; M. E. Grant Duff, Esq.; and G. O. Trevelyan, Esq.—representing Scotch constituencies supported it. Taking Scotch county populations into account, there are a larger population in those counties in favour of the resolution than in those against it; the valuation of these counties whose members supported Sir Wilfrid is in excess of those who voted adversely. This was the sixth time that on a division on the Permissive bill and the Local Option resolution Scottish members polled a majority in favour of permissive prohibition. Thus, even in a publican Parliament, there were grounds for great encouragement. The community were becoming year by year more intelligent upon this question, full of increasing sympathy, and more willing to co-operate with the Executive in behalf of their great aim, so that in a moribund and hostile Parliament solid progress was being made, and they

could look forward with considerable confidence to the result of the appeal which the Government would at no distant period be compelled to address to the country.

The new Parliament met on the 29th April, and the third notice given was by Sir Wilfrid Lawson of his local option resolution, on the terms of which your Executive have already reported. There were quite a plethora of notices about bills, but they were the same as those already noticed, with the exception of the Church of England Temperance Society's bill, brought in by Sir Harcourt Johnstone and Mr. Birly, which may be fitly termed a licensing board bill. None of them advanced to any extent in their passage through the House, if we except the Welsh Sunday Closing bill, that passed its second reading without a division. Sir Wilfrid, with his usual great good-fortune, secured Friday, 18th June—Waterloo day—for the discussion of his resolution. There was a general impression that there would be a great increase in the voting in its favour, but hardly any believed that the resolution would be so triumphantly carried. The friends of the resolution in Scotland when appealed to responded with the greatest enthusiasm, as the number and urgency of their communications to their representatives could testify. The various temperance organizations cordially co-operated with your Executive, and there was a feeling that the Scotch vote would be overwhelmingly in favour of the resolution. Your Executive looking to the election returns, felt some anxiety as to their being confirmed by the voting about to take place, as it was an open secret that many successful candidates did not think that they would be called upon so soon after their election to divide upon this question. Your Executive appointed a deputation to go to London in the interests of the resolution. That deputation was inclusive of the following:—Rev. Dr. Adamson; Messrs. John Nisbet and J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; Messrs. Colquhoun, Murray, and Mackay, Glasgow; and Mr. Winning, Paisley. Ex-Bailie Little, Kilmarnock and Councillor Johnstone, Dumfries, joined the deputation in London. Every member for Scotland in town, with one exception, was seen, and those absent communicated with. The efforts of the deputation were supported by letters and memorials from the various constituencies, the acknowledgment of which was a very serious tax upon the time and energies of honourable gentlemen; and by special circulars from the Scottish Temperance League and your own Association. Your Executive have to report that your deputation displayed an ability, tact, and persistency that gave them an immense advantage over their adversaries. On the afternoon previous to the debate they met the Home Secretary by appointment. The right hon. gentleman had agreed to meet with a deputation from the Licensed Victuallers at the same time. Your opponents made an insignificant master on the occasion—there was not one of all their friends in the House who had the courtesy or the courage to lead them into the presence of Sir William Harcourt. This difficulty was got over by one of your deputation inducing Lord Elcho to do them that service. Their interview was brief, and the loud whisper in the lobby was that it was unsatisfactory. Your deputation, on the contrary, awakened the interest and the sympathy of many honourable members, and had the good fortune to be ushered into the presence of the Home Secretary by D. McLaren, Esq., M.P. The deputation was accompanied by General Sir A. Gordon, Sir G. Campbell, Dr. Cameron, Messrs. Williamson, Noel, McLagan, Grant, Middleton, Dick Peddie, and D. Currie—the right hon. the Lord Advocate was also present. Rev. Dr. Adamson and Mr. R. C. Murray spoke for the deputation. The right hon. gentleman made no public statement, but stated that he was convinced that the country had gone with the party represented by the deputation. His views changed in their favour through the progress and passage of the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Bill. If the people of Scotland showed a similar unanimity to the people of Ireland in their efforts to secure liquor legislation, they would no doubt impress the legislature in their favour. The Government would by the

division to-morrow learn the tendency and force of public opinion, and be guided by it if they had in any way to deal with the licensing laws. The right hon. gentleman intimated that the members of the Government were free to vote as they pleased. Mr. R. T. Middleton having thanked the Home Secretary, the deputation much pleased withdrew.

The next evening the House was quite filled to hear Sir Wilfrid, for whom the Government, having resolved on morning sittings on private members' days, felt bound to keep a house. At a few minutes after nine the honourable baronet rose to move his resolution amid loud cheers. There was an unusually large house to greet him. His speech was most excellent, telling, and argumentative, and had the stimulus of the deep attention and evident sympathy of his auditory. He did not speak at such length as he usually does on this question. Mr. Hugh Mason ably seconded the amendment, and was listened to with close attention, and rewarded with hearty cheers. The Prime Minister followed in a speech, every word of which was carefully weighed, showing that he felt the grave importance of the occasion. He concluded his address with the following significant words:—"With regard to the question of my honourable friend, I will only say these two things in conclusion—first, that among the great subjects to which the attention of the Executive Government shall be directed as the pressure of business will allow, will be the task of reforming the licensing laws; secondly, I believe that in the reform which is so loudly called for and favoured by the circumstances in which we now stand, we shall take as an essential principle the motion of my honourable friend." The House loudly cheered these words. Sir R. Cunliffe, Mr. A. Arnold, Mr. W. S. Caine supported the amendment; Captain Aylmer, Lord Elcho, Colonel Barnes, Colonel Burnaby, and Mr. Warton supported the motion. It was evident, as these speakers severally addressed the House, that its sympathies decidedly lay with the prohibitionists. The division was announced at 12.50 A.M. as follows—for supply, 203; for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, 229; majority for Sir Wilfrid, 26. Immediately on the announcement of the figures great cheering took place, even those in the Speaker's gallery joining in them lustily till ordered to desist. Sir Wilfrid, on his appearance in the lobby, received the fervent congratulations of his many friends.

There were 231 votes, inclusive of 2 tellers, and 14 pairs for the resolution, made up as follows—1 English Conservative, 1 Scotch Conservative, and 10 Irish Conservatives, 142 English Liberals, 23 Welsh Liberals, 18 Irish Liberals, 18 Home Rulers, and 42 Scotch Liberals—total for, 245; against—37 English Liberals, 1 Welsh Liberal, 1 Irish Liberal, 12 Home Rulers, and 1 Scotch Liberal, 155 English Conservatives, 1 Welsh Conservative, 7 Irish Conservatives, and 4 Scotch Conservatives—total against, 219, showing a majority of 26 for the Local Option resolution.

The Scotch vote was the most remarkable thing about the division. For the resolution 43 voted and paired, against it only 5, this gave a majority of 38 for the resolution. But the vote shows 8 to 1 in its favour, and also that two-thirds of the parliamentary representation of Scotland is in favour of giving her rate-payers power to veto the traffic in alcoholic liquors. The verdict of the general election was amply confirmed by this division. Of the 46 who pledged during their candidature to vote with Sir Wilfrid, 39 voted; of the other 7, three, Lord C. Campbell, Messrs. Anderson and Ramsay paired. Colonel Muir and Mr. Matheson were absent on sick leave. Mr. Russell had resigned his seat, and the hon. Preston Bruce did not vote. Then, as regards the opposition, it was anticipated that 6 would vote against the resolution—only 5 did so. There was thus 43 in favour, 5 only against, and 12 absent. The following is an analysis of the voting:—

Ayes—Sir A. H. Gordon, Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Webster, Major Campbell, E. Marjoribanks, Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, R. Jardine, E. Noel, G. Armistead, F. Henderson, D. McLaren, J. Cowan, Right Hon. Dr.

Playfair, Right Hon. M. E. G. Duff, J. W. Barclay, Dr. Cameron, R. T. Middleton, J. Stewart, Sir D. Wedderburn, G. O. Trevelyan, C. Fraser-M'Intosh, J. Dick Peddie, Sir G. Balfour, Sir G. Campbell, Captain Maxwell, Major Hamilton, A. Grant, P. M'Lagan, Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, S. Laing, W. Holms, C. Tennant, D. Currie, C. S. Parker, Hon. A. Elliot, S. Williamson, J. C. Bolton. H. Campbell-Bannerman, J. Pender, and M. J. Stewart—40. Paired for—Lord Colin Campbell, J. Ramsay, G. Anderson—3. Total for, 43.

Against—R. W. Cochrane-Patrick, A. O. Ewing, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Lord Elcho, Sir Herbert Maxwell—5. Scotch majority for local option, 38.

Absent—Colonel Alexander, Right Hon. W. P. Adam, Hon. E. P. Bruce, D. Cameron, Dr. Campbell, Sir T. E. Colebrooke, R. W. Duff, Sir George Macpherson Grant, A. Mathieson, Colonel Mure, T. Russell, Marquess Stafford—12.

At length after a gallant struggle on the part of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and the noble band who have earnestly and faithfully stood by him, often discouraged and disheartened, but ever hopeful and ever aggressive, the British Parliament have affirmed the principle, that the liquor traffic must serve the community without detriment to the public welfare, and that where this cannot be done, it must be subjected to the veto of the ratepayers. And, as if this were not enough, we have the pledge of the Prime Minister, that legislation on the drink system, in harmony with this principle, will in the near future be embodied in statute law.

BYE ELECTIONS.

No sooner was the election over than a great many election returns were challenged, petitioned against, or scrutiny of the voting demanded. In Scotland, Bute-shire, Dumbartonshire and Wigtown burghs were in this position. The petitions against both candidates in Dumbartonshire were, however, withdrawn. The successful candidate for the Wigtown burghs, Mr. John M'Laren, having been appointed Lord Advocate for Scotland, had to appear before his constituents for reelection. He was opposed by Mr. Mark Stewart, the defeated candidate. Your Executive appointed a deputation to wait upon both gentlemen in Stranraer, with the result that they advised the friends to support the Lord Advocate. His Lordship on the polling day, 18th May, was defeated by 656 to 633. The return of Mr. Stewart was petitioned against, and because of the acts of some of his committee exhibiting corruption and such like malpractices, he was unseated. The seat being declared vacant, Mr. G. M'icking was the Liberal, and Sir John D. Hay the Conservative candidate. The former was in sympathy with the aims of your association. Sir John was stubbornly opposed. The polling on the 30th July, was in favour of Sir John, who was returned by 636 votes to 620, and is the only opponent in the Scottish burghs to your policy. The Conservatives did not oppose Mr. Gladstone, who was returned for Mid-Lothian unopposed. Mr. Dalrymple and his friends petitioned against the election of Mr. Russell for Bute-shire, on what turned out to be merely technical grounds. That gentleman resigned his seat, but immediately stood for it in the Liberal interest. Mr. C. Dalrymple was his opponent, and defeated him by 45 votes. This contest did not, like the Wigtown burghs bye election, alter the state of the Scotch vote on local option; as your Executive found both candidates in favour of local option they did not offer their assistance. The right hon. W. P. Adam, M.P., having been gazetted governor of Bombay, a vacancy in the counties of Clackmannan and Kinross is imminent. Whether the Lord Advocate or Mr. J. B. Balfour be elected in the Liberal interest, and it is believed that a Liberal is certain to be returned, your policy will receive their support.

CHURCHES.

There are many cheering indications of progress in regard to temperance and prohibition in the Scottish denominations, although they are far from showing the vigorous action in the direction that might be fairly expected from them. The Congregational Union held

its meetings in Glasgow this year, and your Executive are glad to report that a very hearty sentiment on the question of prohibition prevails, as is evidenced by the conference at Edinburgh and the annual meeting at Glasgow forwarding petitions to Parliament in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution.

The United Presbyterian Synod meeting in Edinburgh bestowed considerable attention on the temperance question. At a conference of the Synod on temperance, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Brown roundly affirmed, that, if not more than one pound sterling, per head, was spent by the members of their church on alcoholic liquor, and that sum were, instead, to be devoted to their funds, the aggregate, £174,000, would lift them out of all their monetary difficulties. Rev. Dr. Wallace drew the attention of the conference to the triumph of local option at the general election. In meeting of Synod, the report on temperance and morals was submitted by Rev. Mr. Rankine, Cupar-Fife, and indicated the healthy progress of the temperance movement by the progress of temperance among the young, in the army, navy, among railway servants and women; the increased testimony of the medical profession in favour of abstinence, and the spread of public houses without the drink. The deliverance of the committee was "that drinking customs at ordinations, inductions and funerals be discouraged; that sermons be preached during the forthcoming December; that the committee petition in favour of any parliamentary bill for the restriction of the liquor traffic, and also petition in favour of the earlier closing of public houses. The public morals committee is to deal in future with the temperance question exclusively, in which case, your Executive anticipate vigorous action on the part of the U. P. Synod and church against the liquor traffic. Bailie Selkirk and Mr. Waterston were your representatives at the breakfast party of the U. P. ministers abstinence society, and were warmly welcomed."

In the Church of Scotland, sympathy with your efforts is very feeble, meantime. But the question of how to deal with the intemperance of our country is, here as every where else, irrepressible, and in the course of the sittings, references to it were neither few nor seldom. With regard to *Christian Life and Work*, the presbyteries were to be asked,—"How can the efficiency of the church be promoted in developing and utilising within the constitution of the church, the special gifts of ministers, such as aptitude for organisation or power of effective address on missionary, evangelistic, temperance or other subjects." The committee of intemperance gave in their report, pointing out in it many indications of an improved state of the country, through lessened inebriety, adding "this may not, however, arise altogether from changed habits, but from the enforced sobriety of hard times!" The deliverance of the Assembly on the report was, "an injunction to watch over the interests of temperance in the church, to have prayers and conferences in all the church courts, to devise measures to promote temperance, to furnish further information to the Assembly on the subject, to keep parochial temperance registers of parochial societies, and the names of ministers and elders who have joined them, and the numbers of ordinary members; and finally, to preach a temperance sermon on Sabbath, 18th December next." Rev. Mr. Allison "charged the great amount of drunkenness to the labouring classes, praised the working classes for their increasing sobriety, and commended the report because it did not suggest any legislative action. The less the church had to do with legislation the better, it was outside her province, and at best, it was of doubtful value. It was the church's duty to deal with the people religiously and moral, not legislatively." The deliverance was agreed to. We might have expected such reasons against legislation from a dissenting church, but not from a church by law established. We will, however, we believe, find the Established Church, at no distant day, repudiating such a deliverance when it is compelled, in the interests of self-existence, to grapple with the intemperance that is confessedly enfeebling its energies.

The subject of intemperance received great attention

from the Free Church Assembly. The report on religion and morals pointed out how, in many districts, the evils of drunkenness was decreasing because of the marked attention bestowed on the evil by ministers. A painful duty was laid upon the Assembly, namely, the deposition of the Rev. A. C. Kay, of Loanhead, for drunkenness. As long, however, as alcoholic liquors are used in the church communion it is absurd to expect that ministers will view it with aversion sufficient to deny themselves indulgence in it in some form or other and on some pretence. The report on intemperance was as usual lengthy and interesting. The convener asked "those in that reverend court who wished to learn what intemperance means in this country to try and get into contact with the people among whom they were living, and in helping them towards higher things they would soon find out what stops the way." The deliverance of the Assembly on the report was "an injunction to preach a sermon in December, to train the young in habits of temperance, to form congregational societies, renew the support to Sir W. Lawson's local option resolution, and to petition in favour of Sunday closing in England and Wales, to press upon Parliament the urgency of a measure conferring power upon the people to efficiently control the liquor traffic, and for the earlier closing of public-houses.

Such are, on the whole, the gratifying indications of progress in the direction of prohibitory effort manifest in the leading church courts. Among the other denominations—the Evangelical Union, the Baptist Union, the Wesleyans, and the Primitive Methodists—there is a hearty and growing sympathy with the aims of this Association. Each and all are rapidly coming under the irresistible sway of that enlightened public opinion against the drink interest which is so palpably permeating all classes of the community. The church and its manifold agencies will, in the near future, be constrained into an energetic co-operation with the prohibitory party, the object of which will be the pulling down of one of the strongest fortresses of wickedness in our country—the traffic in alcoholic beverages.

A PERMISSIVE BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

At last annual meeting of the association your Executive were in a position to lay before you an outline of a bill agreed upon by the Directors of the Scottish Temperance League, the Executive of the Independent Order of Good Templars, and your Executive. The joint Sub-Committee to whom the preparation of it was confided employed a draftsman, but so many difficulties disclosed themselves to him that the framing of the measure made little progress. Members of Parliament were seen upon the subject, and your Executive expect that farther action will be taken with regard to it in the next parliamentary session. They have no apprehension as to the future. They know that so great a change as they aim to bring about cannot be brought about suddenly and yet successfully; they frankly admit that greater progress might have been made with the bill but for the intervention of the general election, the successful passage of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution, and the Government promise to deal with the liquor law. But these events will greatly conduce to future success by smoothing away the difficulties that meantime beset this subject, and your Executive are sanguine enough to believe that as in the past, they, with your help, met and mastered whatever difficulties sprang up in the way of getting the House of Commons to affirm the principle for which they have so vigorously contended, so they believe, with the help of the efforts of the Moral and Social Reformers of Scotland, now so happily united upon this matter, the difficulties that lie in the path of the passage of a Scottish prohibitory measure will be successively and speedily overcome.

THE FUNDS.

Your Executive are gratified to be able to report a slight increase in the ordinary funds, although the commercial depression which bore so heavily upon the country has not wholly passed away. They are hopeful that with improved trade the elasticity of their

funds will return. The increase in the funds during the year would not have taken place but for the generous kindness of Mr. John Smith, of Glasgow, who, previous to his lamented decease, presented £100 to the funds of the Association. The gift was most acceptable, as the United Kingdom Alliance has again reduced their grant to this Association by £100 sterling. Your Executive have now no special fund wherewith to meet any emergency that may arise, and they earnestly hope that before separating to-day you may devise such measure as will tend to increase the financial resources at their disposal. The demands on the funds of the Association are becoming increasingly urgent, and they rely with confidence that you will show a liberality sufficient to meet them fully and promptly. The question of farther efforts is simply a question of farther means.

CONCLUSION.

In resigning into your hands the trust you have been pleased to repose in them, your Executive are gratified at the progress which has been made. The greatest victory, short of the passage of a law enabling the ratepayers to veto the liquor traffic of their respective districts, has been gallantly won by Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The House of Commons has affirmed the principle of local option, and the Prime Minister, in deference to that affirmation, has promised to embody that principle in law. The prospects of this being done look very hopeful. There is every reason to believe that the Liberal Government will during the present Parliament bring in a general licensing measure. Your Executive have no doubt about this; but unless it contains provisions for enabling the Scottish ratepayers to veto the liquor traffic, by which they are injuriously affected, the claims of Scotland to immunity from the liquor traffic will not be fairly met. Your Executive will heartily acquiesce in whatever further restrictions the Government may see fit to impose upon the drink interest, but they are emphatic in their determination not to accept as a settlement any legislation short of the ratepayers' veto over all traffic in alcoholic liquors. What the Government has in store for Scotland will depend upon what her people continue to demand. The persistent efforts of her moral and social reformers in the past, their unflinching adherence to the principles of permissive prohibition, the resolution with which their electoral action has been carried out, their confidence in the results of an appeal to the people on the evils of the liquor traffic, and, above all, the justice and patriotism of their demand have placed them almost within sight of the end of their labours. Your Executive believe that the inhabitants of Scotland more fully realise what ought to be their attitude to this question, that as they are more intelligent they will become more determined to complete the work you have carried on. Be it yours, then, to see that vigorous and devoted efforts are made by you to increase the power of public opinion in your favour, that your agencies are most efficient, your further organisation of the electoral strength of the country persistent and thorough, and that you are resolved not to yield a jot or tittle of your just demand for a veto over the liquor traffic. The whole agitation furnishes a signal proof of what energy and determination can effect. Let that energy, that determination be continued and increased, and the evil against which we have warred so persistently will sooner or later be overthrown. (Loud applause.)

Mr. M'CALLUM read the treasurer's statement, which showed that the balance of the last year was £57 9s. 6d.; subscriptions inclusive of the special fund, £1,786 17s. 5d.; publications and advertisements, £109 5s.; collections at public meetings, £120 10s.—total, £2,074 1s. 11d. The expenditure left a balance in hand of £59 2s. 0½d. He thanked the members for the support which had been given to the association. They had lost a number of large subscriptions, but these had been made up by the smaller subscriptions—there being £68 more last year than in the year before. (Applause.)

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING
25TH SEPTEMBER 1880.

<i>Income.</i>	
To Balance from last year,	£57 9 6
„ Subscriptions, inclusive of Special Fund,	1786 17 5
„ Publications and Advertising,	109 5 0
„ Collections at Public Meetings,	120 10 0
	£2074 1 11

<i>Expenditure.</i>	
By Salaries and Expenses,	£870 12 10½
„ Publications,	113 11 8
„ Deputational Tours, &c.,	298 19 8
„ Offices, Expenses, Clerks' Salaries, Stationery, Rent, Taxes, &c.,	249 1 2½
„ Printing and Advertising,	313 6 10½
„ Postages, Telegrams, Carriages, &c.,	169 7 7
„ Balance on hand,	59 2 0½
	£2,074 1 11

<i>ASSETS.</i>	
To Accounts due Association,	£41 2 10
„ Office Furniture,	43 7 3
„ Publications and Stationery,	118 9 2
„ Cash on hand,	59 2 0½
	£262 1 3½

<i>LIABILITIES.</i>	
By Accounts due by Association,	£113 10 7
„ Balance in favour of Association,	148 10 8½
	£262 1 3½

Glasgow, 28th September, 1880.—I have examined the books of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association for year ending 27th September, 1880, and compared them with the vouchers produced, and I certify the whole correct—the balance on hand being Fifty-nine pounds two shillings and a halfpenny sterling.
(Signed) JNO. GOURLAY, C.A.

Mr. WM. ROBERTSON, Paisley, in moving the adoption of the secretary's and treasurer's reports, said that the former was a red letter one. It was satisfactory that public opinion upon their question was rapidly changing, there being few men who did not believe that a trade which decreased the national welfare should be prohibited. They did not want to convince people. What was wanted was some power to stir them up. As to the Church, there was not much moving of the waters there. No doubt the various bodies had petitioned in favour of Local Option; but there were other important measures required, and if a prohibitory bill were brought forward, how many of these bodies would help them? He strongly advocated the formation of ladies' associations to forward the movement. Such associations had done good in other directions. Why should they not do good for the promotion of prohibition? (Applause.) Mr. Robertson referred in humorous terms to questions on the subject of temperance which he had put to the moderators of the three great Presbyterian Churches some time ago, and read the replies received to these as indicating, in a measure, the Church's position to the movement. Rev. William France, moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod, replied—"I beg to acknowledge your letter, and remain, yours faithfully, William Fraser." (Laughter.) No answer was received from Dr. Gould, the moderator of the Free Church. The moderator of the Established Church, Dr. Phinn, wrote as follows—"Dr. Phinn presents his compliments to Mr. Robertson, and begs to be excused from expressing any opinions on the questions stated in Mr. Robertson's letter of yesterday."

Mr. JAMES DRYSDALE, Bridge of Allan, in seconding the motion, said they could not fail to feel ashamed at the very little they, as individuals, had done. He felt they had not got half way up the hill, for their

hard work was but beginning. He trusted that from the appeals made they would feel a call made upon them to do more in the way of subscriptions and effort; for the misery in the land due to intemperance was such that they should work rigorously while it was day. (Applause.)

Mr. AENEAS MACKAY moved the adoption of a list of office-bearers, Treasurer Hamilton being President.

Mr. HOGG, Arbroath, seconded the motion. He said that the Association had done much work during the past year, and advanced in every direction. There was a hopeful spirit amongst them, and friends in the country had much reason to be thankful for such an excellent list of office-bearers.

The motion was adopted.

EX-COUNCILLOR PATERSON, Aberdeen, moved:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the progress of the agitation during the past year affords room for abundant satisfaction; rejoices at the triumphant results of the general election; hails with the liveliest satisfaction the passage of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution; recommends the Executive to energetically prosecute the agitation by an electoral canvas, public meetings, conferences, and otherwise; and calls earnestly upon friends throughout the country to encourage them by a vigorous and sustained co-operation." They could not, he said, fail to congratulate themselves on the results of the last general election, especially when they contrasted them with the results of the election of 1874. They had no longer to fear the publican's power. That power lay like an incubus during the existence of the last Parliament. Public opinion was now more advanced, and there was in nearly all classes a latent feeling in our favour. But he regretted that amongst themselves there were not a few who by their action did not make it known that they were abstainers, or favourable to prohibition. He hoped such friends would show what side they were upon. (Applause.)

Rev. S. HARDING, Paisley, in seconding the motion, wished the meeting to understand that the clergy were not the church, for there were tens of thousands of lay members prepared to push this question forward, and, if the ministers were not ready, to go on without them. They were carried away by error when they wanted to be always speaking of peace. He had read in the Old Book, "Suppose ye I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you nay, but rather division." This was said by the Lord Jesus Christ. His mission was to cause division, and the mission of the church was to cause division. The mission of all philanthropic and patriotic institutions was to cause division. There were the kingdom of truth and the kingdom of error. Agitation and division there would be until they had succeeded in putting down error, sin, and immorality in every shape and form. (Applause.) Let them agitate till they had turned the liquor traffic upside down; agitate from the Mull of Galloway to John O' Groat's, and then very soon there would be a change in matters. People said they must follow their party however much they sympathised with the prohibitory movement. But there was a grander thing than party, viz., the welfare of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. JAMES MILLER of Monkton, in supporting the resolution, spoke strongly in favour of the electoral canvas. He was struck during last election very much with its importance, having been one of a deputation who waited upon the Liberal candidate for South Ayrshire. The hon. gentleman did not believe in prohibitory legislation, but ended by being convinced. Mr. Miller therefore called upon the members to sustain the Executive by a vigorous co-operation. Operations could not be carried on without funds, and it would be well that in that respect all did their duty. He was willing to contribute so far as he could, and he hoped to live to see the day when the battle should be won, and this iniquitous traffic put under their lawful and righteous control. (Applause.)

Mr. ANDREW SHANKS, Barrhead, moved the fourth resolution:—"That this meeting offers its warmest congratulations, and tenders its most cordial thanks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., and the 244 honour-

able members who voted and paired in favour of his Local Option Resolution, embodying the permissive suppression of the liquor traffic, and gratefully acknowledges the valuable co-operation of the various Scottish temperance organisations previous to the divisions which have this year taken place on the resolution." He said that God raised up in every age men to do the work he had in hand. In this case he had raised up Sir Wilfrid Lawson for the regeneration of society. He had been fighting their battle for 30 years, and had earned the gratitude of all temperance reformers. A friend beside the speaker had called a son after the honourable baronet, and there were many little Lawsons over the country, all bearing their parents' testimony of admiration. If they had lived in the ages of mythology, their admiration would have made them give him a niche in the temple of the deities. (Laughter.) When they learned the result of the vote of 18th June, they had not a ceiling high enough to which to throw their hats. (Laughter.) It had been said by a friend that they had not reached the half-way house. But he thought, with all deference, that they had; nay, they had got over the key-stone of the brig. They had nearly won the battle, for the House of Commons and Mr. Gladstone were committed to give a local option measure in some form or other. The only question was what form it should take. (Applause.)

Rev. ROBERT WALLACE, in seconding the resolution, paid a high tribute to Sir Wilfrid Lawson for his long and valuable services, and said that he was so full of wit and good humour that his very opponents could not but admire and listen to him. (Applause.) Mr. Wallace then remarked that except at Oxford, where the roughs threw flour at him and the good Bishop, Sir Wilfrid had received manifestations of the lasting gratitude of the abstainers throughout the kingdom. The organisations in Scotland were now at one upon the question of prohibition. When they used to meet Members of Parliament, the objection made by them was, let temperance people be agreed amongst themselves. Now the Scottish Temperance League, Good Templars, and all sections were agreed. They could therefore bring to bear their united strength upon the legislature.

Rev. Dr. ADAMSON, Edinburgh, in supporting the resolution, said there was no class which had made more progress upon this question than the clergy. In the city of Edinburgh many leading men were on their side, including Principals and Professors of colleges, and leading clergymen, who had joined the ranks within the last five years. That was a matter upon which they had reason to congratulate themselves. But after all, the clergy were always in advance, and should be always in advance. (Laughter.) He believed with Mr. Shanks that they had reached the key-stone of the arch. If they made as much progress in Edinburgh in the future as they had done in the past, and if that progress was in an increasing ratio, they would soon reach the goal of their hopes. He also said that the number who voted for local option was 245, not 244. By and by there would be a Scotch measure. They were better situated for it than England, many of whose population were saturated with beer. He believed that at least half-a-dozen members would endorse a Scotch bill, and if it were got the thin end of the wedge would be driven in, and the temperance jubilee would soon be celebrated. (Applause.)

Mr. SHANKS said more members would have voted for the local option resolution if circumstances had not intervened. For instance, Colonel Mure was too ill to be present at the debate; but, as he would have supported the resolution, he also deserved their thanks. (Applause.)

Mr. PATON, in supporting the resolution, said the men who signed the pledge and converted the Colonel were also deserving of thanks. He did not think that it was a circumstance to be deplored that members voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson against their will. He wished a great many more would vote with him against their will, for it must be remembered that the

House of Commons was a place of compromise, and if the House of Commons made the constituencies as compromising as themselves, then it would be a great compromise altogether, but they had nothing to look for from compromising men. It was rather from men of principle. Every canvassed man who had stood by his gun in the House of Commons should be included in this resolution. It had been said by a friend that the kirk could be converted by the women. Now women were a humanising power, and could bring their influence to bear, because until we sympathised with our brethren upon the broad principle of humanity little progress could be made. A converted kirk and a converted Liberal party—what a power! A canvassing man was a sincere man, and he made the canvassing man sincere. Canvassing to-day was the highest cultivating power which could be put forth. (Applause.) He wanted local option only in one form, namely, power to the people to destroy the curse of drink. Unless they confined themselves to this, they would be playing into the hands of tricky politicians. They had adopted great resolutions; but their talk was apart from them. Let the temperance world of Scotland feel from their earnestness and intelligence they were at the head of the movement, and they would create the man who would take the measure into the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid Lawson was at the head of the movement in England. Why had they not a man as the outcome of the temperance movement in Scotland? If they were superior to England in intelligence, why were they not equal to that country in having a representative man?

Mr. R. MACKAY said Mr. Paton was mistaken when he said that they had not found the man.

Mr. PATON—I am glad I am mistaken. Who is he?

Mr. MACKAY—I could mention several men who would be willing, although they would not take up the matter as Sir Wilfrid has done. But to say we have no man is to say what is not correct.

The CHAIRMAN—I suppose Mr. Paton means the man has yet to come to the front.

The motion was then carried.

Captain BROTCHE moved the fifth resolution—

"That this meeting, having regard to the avowed intention of the Government to legislate during the present Parliament in harmony with the principles and policy of the prohibitory movement, earnestly calls upon members and friends to co-operate in increasing the funds at the disposal of the Executive, so that they may be amply provided with means for vigorously prosecuting the agitation in the country, and for urging upon the Government the national demand for power to enable the ratepayers by a suppressive veto to effectually protect themselves against the injustice and wrong of having public-houses thrust upon them against their will." The Permissive Bill came to the help of the helpless, for it came down to the rescue of those who could not resist the drink. He did not think the Churches or Parliament could now resist the force which was brought to bear upon them regarding this question. He believed some of them would yet live to see their cause triumphant.

Dr. M'ULLOCH, Dumfries, said the resolution embraced two things—the first was the funds for carrying on the movement, and the second, the measure desired. With regard to the funds, he believed that people who had the means should show the extent of their sympathy by the amount they subscribed. There was a person who had got himself hurt, and a sympathizing crowd had collected. One shrewd fellow took off his hat and sent it round asking how much they sympathized. The members could show their sympathy in this way, for unless it had funds the institution could not be carried on. They were warring against a rich institution—the drink traffic. Unless they canvassed the electors, they would take a long time before the traffic would be prohibited. They could not tell the objections which existed in the mind of any man until they had conversed privately with him and heard those objections. Thus they might meet and convert the man. No man was a Liberal who would not vote down the traffic. If he

did not consent to do this, such a man was only a sounding brass and tinkling cymbal, and they had no right to vote for such a man. He never entirely approved of the Local Option resolution, and he said to Sir Wilfrid Lawson that whenever it was fully tested, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hartington, and Mr. Bright would turn against him. Therefore all he had said was to induce the friends to open their purse strings.

Mr. WINNING, of Paisley, in supporting the motion said that the financial statement showed the balance of their assets at a considerable loss, as compared with that time last year. That is, their income was less and their expenditure was much greater. In the matter of deputation and office expenses, they had spent that year £200 more than they did in the preceding year. Therefore, an urgent call was made upon the friends to be more liberal than they had been in the past. It was said that Paisley people were bumptious. Well, it would be found that they paid 1s. per £ of all the subscriptions, and if the country were taken, the amount would be found to be 2s. 6d. per £, so that taking Paisley and Renfrewshire, they stood, as compared with the rest of Scotland, in a favourable position. He had often said, "What do you people in the country do with your money?" Eight towns gave half of the whole subscriptions, some small and others large, although none was in the position it ought to be. Bailie Selkirk had given them a great lesson in Paisley when he said that progress would be in proportion to the giving. The Association had gone upon the principle that they wanted honestly to pay their way. Unless they put the Executive in possession of larger funds, they would be far behind next year. The enterprise could not have been carried on had it not been for such men as Bailies Selkirk and Torrens, who abandoned their home-comforts to serve the Association. The fact was that the bank account was being overdrawn to keep things square. But if they had funds in hand, there was no saying what could be done. It had been said they had not a man yet to lead them. If they had the funds they would soon evoke a man to take the lead. An appeal was therefore made to them to furnish the Executive with the sinews of war in order to prosecute the movement more vigorously in the future than in the past.

The motion was then adopted.

Mr. W. DAVIDSON proposed the sixth resolution:—"This meeting fully recognising the very satisfactory position which the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory Movement has now attained, more especially since the recent General Election, and being of opinion that a vigorous and united effort should now be made to secure the right of vetoing the sale of alcoholic liquors at the earliest possible moment, in harmony with the advanced public sentiment, recommends the Executive to consider the propriety of arranging for a series of district conferences of the friends of the movement, in order that united political action may be taken in the ensuing session of Parliament."

Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS, Wishaw, seconded the motion. He said some friends were afraid of local option, but he thought Sir Wilfrid Lawson would take care that they obtained a bill something like that for which they were working. They had got much and were hoping for more. He would like the sale of liquor stopped, not only for the sake of the intelligent; but for the sake of the ignorant; for there were thousands of both classes who could not keep the pledge. But as the rich were expected to take care of themselves, he had more interest in the movement for the sake of the poor. It was said they wanted to deprive the working man of his beer. Quite true, because the beer was robbing his wife and children. He went further. He wanted not only to stop the sale, but stop the manufacture.

Mr. RAPER, Manchester, supported the resolution. He was thankful for the advanced position of the movement in Scotland; and he rather thought the nation had not yet realised how advanced the movement was in Scotland. He never saw such a large Scotch vote as

took place on the 18th of June, and it did not do for the politicians to cry down the motives of the men who went with them. There was a rude motto in England—"Never cry stinking fish." He would tell them what these 43 men voted for—that it was unjust to force liquor shops upon people against their will. (Applause.) They did not vote for prohibition—they did not vote for permissive prohibition. But when they put that question to them, "Sir, do you think it is right, when parishes don't want liquor shops, that, in spite of their wish, they should have them forced upon them?" "No; do you think I am a dog? Is thy servant a dog that he should do such a thing?" That was the style in which members of Parliament always treated that question. All that they wanted was to make it illegal to force liquor shops upon a community against their will. The members were shut up in a corner. But they would take them further; and the time would come when the bill would be on the statute book, and then they would ask the members to vote in their own parishes that liquor shops should be put out. Scotland was ripe, and he trusted the conferences about to be held would bring about such a state of feeling that a man would be found to inaugurate the bill, and that next session might see it pass. Let that be their aim, whether they secured it or not. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. REID, Coatbridge, moved an amendment to the effect that an united effort should be made to introduce a Scottish Permissive Bill.

Bailie SELKIRK explained that the resolution had been left open to enable them to support any measure which would give, at the earliest possible moment, the greatest possible power.

After some discussion Mr. Reid withdrew the amendment.

Rev. R. PATERSON moved the seventh resolution—"That this meeting records its satisfaction with the conduct of the *Social Reformer*, tenders its best thanks to the editor and contributors, expresses its approval of the literature issued during the past year, strongly recommends increased enterprise in this department, and pledges itself to co-operate energetically with the Executive in securing for the magazine and literature of the Association a still wider circulation." The resolution embraces, as you will observe, five particulars. About the first there will be no hesitation, I am sure, that this meeting records its satisfaction with the conduct of the *Social Reformer*. Your magazine holds no mean position in the field of temperance literature. It stands among those journals that are regarded as maintaining the front rank in the great social reform of the age. Broad and comprehensive in its sweep; fundamental, intelligent, and consistent in its principles; massive in its moral earnestness, permeated with a fine and finely-chastened tone of Christianity, always interesting and fresh in its facts and news, keeping its readers abreast with the development and the progress of our cause; able, and manly, and courageous, and uncompromising in its wielding of its weapons of warfare, it challenges our respect and admiration. We are more than pleased with it. And this meeting, I am sure, will have pleasure in recording its satisfaction with the conduct of the *Social Reformer*, as well as tendering its best thanks to the editor and contributors. You are also asked to approve of the literature issued during the past year. This item in the resolution will be heartily accepted, I am sure, for that literature is not only first class, but also, for the most part, of the very highest in the first class of true temperance teaching. I have only to mention as specimens, "Why is Trade Depressed?" "Our Production and the Present Stagnation in Trade," by William Hoyle; "A Cloud of Witnesses;" "Success of Prohibition in Maine;" "License Reform Schemes Essentially Inadequate and Unsatisfactory," and "The Duty of Temperance Reformers in relation to Parliamentary Elections,"

by Bailie Selkirk of Glasgow, &c., &c. The only matter with respect to which probably you will not be able to express entire satisfaction, is the far too limited extent to which those and similar invaluable pamphlets and tracts have been scattered over the land, and among the masses of the people; and then in this case your dissatisfaction (which I hope will be deep and sincere, and followed by fruits meet for repentance), will fall upon your own heads, for no doubt the Executive have done their very best with the scanty means at their disposal. A very favourite expression on the prohibitory law platform is, that "Laws do not make themselves, and when registered on the statute book do not enforce themselves." It is my duty to remind you, if you will kindly bear with me, that in like manner pamphlets and tracts do not print themselves, and publish themselves, and scatter themselves broadcast among men. This brings us up to the point that I would wish to lay emphasis upon, the weighty element, as I regard it, of the resolution—"That this meeting strongly recommends increased enterprise in this department." Trite and commonplace as it is to say that the press is a great power in our modern civilisation, very few of us even who are accustomed to use the phrase think of it as we should, and act in accordance with it. Philosophically viewed, nothing is more certain than the principle that, ultimately viewed, it is thought which governs man. Or, as the Bible in its wisdom puts it, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Men, from head to foot of the body politic, are greatly in need of light as regards the nature and effects of alcohol, and also the evils essentially inherent in the gigantic anomaly and crime of the licensed liquor traffic. A year or so back I remember going to a small town to lecture on the temperance question. Some four or five ministers met in the anteroom before going upon the platform. The chairman, desirous to arrange a programme, said, "Mr. A., you will please to take such a part; Mr. B., you will please to take such another part;" and so on. Without exception, all refused. One, speaking for the rest, said, "Mr. Paterson, as the stranger, the speaking will all fall to your lot this evening;" and he added, in his excessive modesty, "The fact is that we have spoken repeatedly on the subject here, and I myself, on that very platform, have said almost everything that can be said on the question." He was a young man, ladies and gentlemen. My first word, when introduced to the audience was that, in my judgment, instead of having exhausted, we had as yet scarcely pricked the rind of this great subject. When we have mastered the physiological aspect, the chemical aspect, the economical aspect, the social aspect, the political aspect, the moral and spiritual and eternal aspects of this far-reaching, deep-drawing, and many-sided question, we shall have made an approximation to the mastery of it; but how far are even the advanced Temperance reformers in general from this full-orbed and somewhat comprehensive treatment of the case? Leaving the platform aside for the present, I think that one phase of the literature question demands grappling with to-day. Gen. Neal Dow has said, before he gained the Maine Law he "had seeded the State of Maine knee-deep with literature." There may be an innocent exaggeration in the statement, putting a magnifying glass on the matter that it might stand out boldly to the mind; but it contains in essence a most important and loudly clamant truth for us here to-day. What we need very specially, and must set about accomplishing, is to have the great scientific and statistic investigations and results known only to the initiated few popularised, and in short pithy, condensed, yet striking and popular representations circulated in pamphlets, and leaflets by the million among the masses of our fellowmen. The great old Homer rose to a grand conception when he spoke of words as "winged words." They fly, when true and good, hither and thither on the beams of light, penetrating every nook and corner and crevice of the land. And what we desiderate is, that the

whole country should be flooded with such "winged words," and thus the mind of the community as a whole, old and young, steeped in the morally compelling facts and ideas of this burning question, not only of Great Britain and Ireland, but of the civilized world at large. Such monthlies as the *Social Reformer* cannot be dispensed with. No organization in our day can do without its recognised organ. Let everything possible be done to increase and multiply its power, both within and outside the pale of our society. But there are thousands and tens of thousands who will not, in the first instance, read such magazines as the *Social Reformer*, but who, nevertheless, must be reached if the cause is to triumph, who could be reached by literary efforts such as herein indicated, won to our ranks, and educated up to the point that would make them appreciate the articles and information supplied in the higher periodicals and books. But I must draw to a conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, ere the subject is but barely touched upon. The best brains and hearts, the best energies, the best pens, the most elegant paper and printing, the most beautiful engraving, should all be pressed into the service of this great and holy cause for God and humanity. All these are within our reach, and would be available if only the temperance people were willing to sacrifice themselves somewhat, in their time and money and personal labours of love for Him who loved them and gave Himself for them. Let us devise liberal things, and we shall soon reap even here an abundant reward in the increased prosperity of the cause which lies so close to our hearts, and to the weal, for time and eternity, of our fellowmen. I beg, Mr. Chairman, to move the adoption of the resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was heartily seconded by Mr. W. R. GIBSON, Kilsyth, and agreed to.

The next resolution was as follows:—

"That this meeting desires to place on record its grateful sense of the valuable services rendered to the movement and the Association during the past year by friends at public meetings, at the general election, and previous to the divisions on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution; and also its high appreciation of the efforts of the agents of the Association."

Rev. WM. CROMBIE, Avonbridge, had great pleasure in moving this resolution. The labours of their friends in behalf of the movement were truly valuable, and involved great self-sacrifice. They had to spend and be spent in the good cause, and deserved our heartiest thanks. The agents, too, were men of great devotedness and energy, and did very meritorious service.

The motion was seconded by Mr. M'LAGGAN in a few words of warm sympathy, and agreed to.

Mr. J. R. M'DIARMID, Dollar, in a few felicitous remarks, moved that "This meeting desires to record its heartfelt thanks to Treasurer Hamilton for so ably filling the chair upon the present occasion," which was heartily seconded by Mr. J. Jamieson, Ayr, and the meeting brought to a successful termination.

THE ANNUAL SOCIAL MEETING

Was held in the City Hall Saloon in the afternoon. The room was quite filled with an audience that apparently fully enjoyed themselves. The chair was occupied by Provost Campbell, of Greenock, who was supported by James Johnstone, Esq., chairman of Executive Scottish Temperance League; ex-Provost Dick, Bailie Selkirk, J. H. Raper, Esq.; R. M'Callum, Esq., Rev. John Douglas, W. M. Scott, Esq., Belfast; Rev. S. Harding, and Mr. R. Mackay. Grace having been said by Rev. Mr. Harding, the guests entered upon the enjoyment of a most ample tea and accompaniments, the providing and serving of which did Mr. Jenkins, the purveyor, great credit. Thanks being offered through the singing of the Hundredth Psalm, the chairman rose, amid hearty applause, and said—"That he hoped that the meeting were as pleased as

he was with the progress that was being made. This principle of local option was being more closely looked at, and more and more seen to be the principle which should underlie any legislation that should be framed to remove the liquor traffic. The people, it was felt, should have a right to legally insist that they should not be subjected to the evils arising from the presence of public-houses. (Applause.) Licensed shops were not like butcher or bakers' shops. These supplied a felt want, fed an appetite that came and went, just as the human system was hungry or filled; but before the public-houses were wanted a craving for the drug they vended was set up within the man that never came and went, but always demanded gratification. (Applause.) The influence of those places that dispensed such a drug was always injurious to the neighbourhood where they were; he never could, in view of that fact, support the transfer of a license to sell liquor from one district to a new district, because he felt that, to do so, was just to put down a place which would prove injurious to the neighbourhood. (Applause.) A public-house not only injured the property beside which it was placed, but it deteriorated the people living there, and the little children that were sent by their parents for drink, and he never would consent to be a party to doing so injurious an action. (Cheers.) The publican dealt in a dangerous article, and he pushed his business with all the ardour of the most energetic men of business. He did not blame him for doing so. No man was doing himself justice that was not diligent in his business; but the question was, should there be such a business at all? (Hear.) If such a business was allowed men would push it, and make it far more dangerous, by the very energy they throw into it. He had often been aware of the many occasions on which the working-classes met in a sociable capacity, and he often wondered why, when doing so, they met in premises connected with public-houses, but he found, on inquiry, that these merry gatherings were got up by the publicans, who in this way pushed their business. Look at it how you choose, this was incontestable, that the liquor traffic was never plied in any district without doing great evil to all within its reach, and its neighbours should have the absolute power to veto it when they found that it was really and always a source and occasion of danger to them. (Cheers.) It is true that magistrates can put down public-houses by acquiring the property in which they are; too often they shrink from paying the sum required for the property, the goodwill, and the lease; so they often spread the evil by spreading the public-houses over new districts. They give the publican the choice of a new district, which he soon makes as demoralised as that from which they compelled him to remove. (Applause.) The way to get an entire riddance of the evil is by giving the people the power to say if they are prepared to permit the sale of liquor among them; if they are not, then no public-houses should be allowed. (Applause.) He hoped that means would be taken to introduce a measure for Scotland and carry it next session. Scotland was before other portions of the kingdom. It had the Forbes McKenzie Act many years before it was even spoken of having Sunday closing elsewhere; and it would certainly be well that the legislation asked for was in operation in Scotland. It was quite ripe for a local option law, and he hoped that the leaders of the movement would be able to get such a law on the statute book by the close of the next session. (Loud applause.) Addresses were then delivered by Captain Brodie, Greenock; Mr. James Winning, Paisley; Mr. R. Murray, Edinburgh; Mr. W. Freer, Mr. Isaac Lynas, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. A. Malcolm, Glasgow; ex-Councillor Paterson, Aberdeen; and Rev. S. Sleath, Bo'ness. A deputation from the Scottish Temperance League was present in the persons of James Johnstone, Esq., Langbank, and Rev. John Douglas, the latter of whom briefly addressed the meeting in fraternal terms. Mr. Wm. M. Scott, Belfast, gave an excellent address, having a genuine Irish flavour and much good sense. Had time permitted, delegates from Edinburgh, Leith, the Western District Lodge American I.O.G.T., would have spoken, but as the

meeting was protracted much beyond its usual length, ex-Provost Dick had to move a hearty vote of thanks to Provost Campbell, which was cordially paid, and the meeting closed with the benediction.

MEETING IN CITY HALL.

THE annual public meeting of the Association was held in the evening in the City Hall. There was a crowded attendance. The Hon. the Lord Provost presided; and on the platform were: Mr. W. Shepherd Allen, M.P.; Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P.; Rev. Drs. Adam, Joseph Brown, and Adamson, Edinburgh; Rev. Messrs. S. Harding, J. A. Johnston, Thomas Evans, J. M. Sloan, John Kirk, jun., R. Anderson, G. Gladstone; Provost Campbell, Greenock; Bailie Selkirk, Treasurer Hamilton, ex-Bailie Torrens; Mr. Raper, Manchester; Messrs. John Wilson, W. Quarrier, J. Y. Simpson, R. Mackay, Jas. Finlayson, and W. Johnston, W. W. Turnbull, J. Paton, J. Wilson, &c., &c.

Bailie SELKIRK intimated, on behalf of the Executive, that their esteemed friend, Mr. Middleton, M.P., was unable, through indisposition, to preside at the meeting. In a note, Mr. Middleton said he had, up to the last moment, hoped to be present as he promised. He was still suffering from the fatigue of the last session, and he had been prohibited by his medical adviser from taking part in any public work. Bailie Selkirk then stated that the Lord Provost had kindly consented to take Mr. Middleton's place. (Loud applause.)

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. JOSEPH BROWN.

THE LORD PROVOST said: Last year, when I had also the honour to preside at your public meeting, I spoke of the outlook along the whole line of temperance action and enterprise as being of the most hopeful and encouraging character. Our noble Parliamentary leader, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, had, in the previous session, brought forward his now-famous Local Option Resolution, and, even in what was not inaptly described as the Publicans' Parliament, was defeated by only 88 votes. It was also a most significant and suggestive fact that, while the majority included all the members of the Beaconsfield Government who took part in the division, in the minority who voted with Sir Wilfrid were no fewer than 15 members of the previous Liberal Administration, including that noble tribune of the people, John Bright; and Mr. Forster and Mr. Stansfield. (Applause.) Well, ladies and gentlemen, to use Lord Beaconsfield's familiar words, 'Many things have happened since then.' We have had, as his lordship well knows, a general election, resulting in a strong political reaction over the whole country, placing the Liberals again in power by an overwhelming majority, with Mr. Gladstone as Prime Minister. (Applause.) I need not say that, in the great political contest, the publican interest, with few exceptions, was conspicuous in its support of that party which had served it so well by removing the restrictive provisions in the licensing legislation of the previous Government. Parliament had proved most unfriendly to the Irish Sunday Closing Bill, and given Local Option the miserable faction of 14 votes in a total vote of 174. (Applause.) On the other hand, not speaking as a politician but strictly as a temperance reformer, I could not but rejoice in the gratifying fact that the temperance party, in almost every constituency, were true to their principles and the highest interests of the temperance cause, in working for and supporting the party of social and political progress, whose whole policy aims at the legitimate extension of the rights and powers of the people, and is therefore in fullest harmony with our

just and reasonable demand for the popular control of the liquor traffic. (Applause.) The result, as you know, apart from the political aspect of the question, was the defeat of a large number of the trade representatives, including the amiable and indefatigable Mr. Wheelhouse, and the return of a majority to the new Parliament pledged to support temperance legislation. The division on the 18th of June showed how thoroughly the temperance party had swept the decks, when, instead of the majority against of 88 votes, by which his motion was lost, in the division just before the dissolution, Sir Wilfrid Lawson carried his Local Option resolution by a majority of 26. In itself this was, indeed, a glorious victory; but its importance was vastly increased by the fact that no fewer than 14 members of the present Government voted with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and in favour of the principle of granting to the people the local power of protecting themselves from the incalculable evils of the liquor traffic. In the division, Scotland again occupied an honourable position; the votes and pairs of our Scotch members being, for Local Option 43, against only 5. From that division we may reasonably anticipate the early introduction of a comprehensive measure of temperance reform by the Government. For this question must now be dealt with as a Government question, as no Government, however powerful, can trifle with the expressed will of the people as given by the votes of their representatives, not only as regards permissive legislation, but also the early settlement of Sunday closing and the extension of the Irish Sunday Act to the large centres of population in the sister country. In this cherished hope for early and satisfactory legislation, temperance reformers are sustained by the declaration of the Prime Minister himself in the course of his able speech on Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution. (Applause.) Mr. Gladstone said: "I earnestly hope that, at some not very distant period, it may be found practicable to deal with the licensing laws, and, in dealing with the licensing laws, to include the reasonable and just measure for which my honourable friend pleads." (Applause.) From another quarter we have encouragement in the same direction. The licensed victuallers of Manchester held a conference last week, at which the Government were naturally denounced by the trade; and Mr. Candelet, a man of light and leading among them, felt sure that the Government were preparing a Licensing Bill, and would pass it before they went out of office. You see, my friends, the publicans believe in and tremble at the future action of a Government they so determinedly but so impotently opposed. Another precious morsel fell from a Mr. Stubbs, who said he had studied Mr. Gladstone's career for the last 30 years, and found that he had never been the friend of the licensed victuallers; and now let us hope, at the close of his brilliant and beneficent career, Mr. Gladstone will assume the same attitude towards the trade which flourishes only on the vice and poverty of the people; and that, on the other hand, he will evince an ever-increasing friendliness with the movement with which we are all more or less identified, and in the successful consummation of which are bound up the highest commercial, industrial, social, and religious interests of the nation. (Loud cheering.)

Rev. Mr. HARDING, Paisley, said he had to propose the following resolution:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in intoxicating liquor tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people, and ought therefore to be prohibited." (Loud applause.) The first part of the resolution contained a terrible indictment against

the traffic in intoxicating liquors, but he would confine himself to the last clause of the resolution which referred to prohibition. If they believed that civil government was an ordinance of God established for His glory and for the good of all men, then the rulers stood in the place of God, for by Him kings reign and princes decree justice. (Applause.) And that they might meet their high responsibilities and administer the law justly and righteously, they needed to be men of self-denial and self-control. They ought to protect the people from evil-doers, and sustain the principles of God's moral government. In all conflicts with evil the Governor of the universe never gave licence for a moment. It was always prohibition. (Applause.) But the licensing of a publican was nothing more or less than giving a license to him to sell poison to his weak brother, and bring him down to a drunkard's grave, and yet the publican was protected by the State in his act. (Applause.) It had been said that personal abstinence would destroy the liquor traffic, but that was a serious mistake. Under the glorious crusade led by Father Matthew in Ireland tens of thousands, it might be hundreds of thousands, were led to give up drink, and take the pledge. Where were they now? Where was the great movement that was carried on by Father Matthew now? Where were those who took the pledge? After a time the movement began to wane, the public-houses were kept open all the time, and some of the weak brethren could not resist the strong temptation of the liquor shop, and thus they went back by multitudes. Now, if in connection with that crusade the traffic had been prohibited, Ireland would have been—

Great, glorious, and free,
First flower of the earth,
And first gem of the sea.

(Applause.) In connection with that horrible agrarian crime which happened in Ireland the other day a dark lantern was found near the body, and also a bottle of whisky. Ah! that was it. They might persuade the people; but the publicans, the brewers, and distillers would say, "Leave it to us. While we hold the licenses to keep open our public-houses from eight to eleven o'clock we will gather your children and destroy them as fast as we possibly can." (Loud applause.)

Mr. W. SHEPHERD ALLEN, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said he had some diffidence in standing for the first time before an audience composed of Scotchmen and Scotchwomen, because he knew well the acuteness and subtlety of the Scotch intellect, for the fact was that he had a mother-in-law who was a Scotchwoman—(laughter)—and he could assure them that he never entered into her presence without the most painful sense of his own mental and moral and physical inferiority. (Renewed laughter.) The resolution which had been read was a strong one, and it was for them to say by their votes whether they endorsed the charges it brought against the liquor traffic. (Applause.) For his part he did. (Renewed applause.) His position with respect to the liquor traffic was very similar to that of a gentleman with respect to the United States Government. When that gentleman had resided long enough in the States to obtain what was in England called the privilege of the franchise, he was bothered by men of all parties for his vote. Democrats, Republicans, know-nothings came to him, all asking for his support, and at last, worried to death, he asked, "Is there a Government in this country?" "Oh yes, there is," was the reply. "Then," said the gentleman, "I'm agen it." (Laughter.) That was exactly his own position with respect to the liquor traffic—he was "agen it." The resolution in the first place set forth that the traffic in intoxicating liquor tended to increase crime. He was sure every one in the assembly would endorse that accusation. They could not take up a newspaper, or even look at a Glas-

gow paper of that day, without reading of some crime caused by the love of intoxicating liquor. Speaking for himself as a magistrate of more than twenty years' standing in a large and populous English county, he could truly say that the vast majority of crimes of violence were undoubtedly caused by the liquor traffic. (Applause.) The second charge was that the liquor traffic tended to waste the national resources. They all knew the vast expenditure in connection with the sale of intoxicating drink; they all knew that the direct and indirect expenditure, including, of course, the loss of labour and things of that kind, amounted to the colossal sum of 270 millions per annum. Now, Scotchmen were generally supposed to be very shrewd on financial questions. They had a proverb in England, but he believed it was a libel, that threepenny bits were invented in order that Scotchmen might subscribe to charitable institutions. (Laughter.) He merely mentioned that in order to show that Scotchmen were supposed to be peculiarly shrewd in all questions relating to money, and that therefore they would be able to grasp the details of any waste in the national resources. The Lord Provost had alluded to the Liberal party. Well, they would all remember that when Lord Beaconsfield was in power, one of the cries of the Liberal party was that the taxation of this country and the expenditure had been increased some ten or twelve millions. As Liberals, let them be consistent; and if they protested against those additional ten or twelve millions, let them protest still more strongly against the 270 millions of self-imposed taxation which was draining away the life-blood of the country. (Applause.) The resolution likewise said that drink tended to destroy the health and lives of the people. Those who were acquainted with details told them that some 60,000 men and women went down every year to untimely graves in consequence of the existence of that traffic. Just think of that long and ghastly procession, and still it did not include the wretched, miserable, half-starved drunkards who went down to their graves as sufferers, nor did it include the poor, wretched, half-naked, starving children who died in their youthful years and were thus made the innocent victims of the drink curse. He would tell them what he said upon a Manchester platform, that sometimes in the low streets of London, when he had looked upon scores of these little dirty children, degraded, ragged, some going to an untimely grave and others growing up to a heritage of crime and sin, he had burst into tears and had felt he would sooner go into a pauper's grave than he would roll in wealth made by the trade in intoxicating liquor. (Applause.) That was not all. He was thinking as he rode this morning from Edinburgh to Glasgow, over the dark catalogue of men he had known, who had fallen victims to this deadly vice of intemperance. There were ministers of the gospel, lawyers, merchants, tradesmen, professional men, as well as working men, all struck down in their manhood's prime, having lost their health and lives. Where were they now? Only within the last two months two gentlemen whom he knew something about, men of position, had died in the prime of life. That was not all. They had left their wives widows and their children orphans, utterly unprovided for. Were the charges against the traffic proved? If so, then followed the logical sequence that the traffic ought to be prohibited. (Applause.) He most thoroughly agreed with the speech of the rev. gentleman who had preceded him that prohibition was the right, sure, and certain remedy. The friends of the Permissive Bill were met by the old stock argument—"You cannot make men sober by Act of Parliament." Whenever men were short of argument, they took refuge in assertion. It saved a great deal of trouble, labour, and thinking. He had listened to the speeches of Mr. Wheelhouse in the House of Commons against Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill, and the hours so occupied were the most melancholy he had ever spent. (Laughter.) He had suffered pain of different kinds—had had toothache, and the pain of being scolded by his wife—only, however, when he deserved it—(laughter)—but he never felt so wretched as under the infliction of Mr. Wheelhouse's speeches. Mr. Wheelhouse

had only two arguments, and he went over them with the most tiresome iteration. One argument was, "You cannot make men sober by Act of Parliament," and the other that "Sir Wilfrid Lawson's followers were all Dissenters, Primitive Methodists, and men of that stamp." Mr. Wheelhouse seemed to show quite as large and extensive a knowledge of the different kinds of Dissenters in these three kingdoms as an old lady who had a great dislike to Nonconformists, and who said there were two classes she regarded with special aversion—namely, Plymouth Brethren and Yarmouth Bloaters. (Laughter.) The question was, What did the friends of temperance want to do? There had been remedies of all kinds proposed. The remedy now asked was a very plain and simple one—it was, trust the people; and if the people were trusted, and had the power to prohibit the liquor traffic, the common-sense of the hard-headed working men of England, Scotland, and Ireland would very soon say to the licensed victuallers, "Gentlemen, you must get a better business." He was thankful to say that, by recent legislation, the people were now trusted much more largely with political power than they used to be. The vast majority of the working men of these three kingdoms were entrusted with votes, and they had the influence and the power to deal with questions affecting the destinies of this great empire; and had not the working men of England and Scotland and Ireland sense enough to say whether they wanted a gin palace in the street in which they lived or not? He believed that all temperance reformers owed a debt of gratitude to the United Kingdom Alliance for the good work it had done. He was there to confess before that large meeting, and acknowledge the debt he for one owed to it. Some 14 years ago, when the United Kingdom Alliance took him up, he was not sound on the liquor question. He thought Sunday closing would be going too far. The Alliance educated him up to that point. Then he was not sound upon the question of local option. The United Kingdom Alliance convinced him that local option was the right thing. He had had two teachers upon the temperance question. One was the United Kingdom Alliance and the other was his own little children. (Applause.) He told fathers and mothers in that hall that when he looked at their bright, joyous, and happy faces, all radiant with innocence and the beauty of youth, when he thought upon their future lives, and when he considered, moreover, that these little children were gifted by the Almighty with the stupendous destiny of immortality, he felt that in his house he dared not place the intoxicating cup. (Applause.) He believed the temperance party were gaining ground steadily but surely. In Scotland for many years the people had possessed the boon of Sunday closing. That boon had been granted to Ireland. In the last session of Parliament an overwhelming majority of Welsh members voted for the extension of Sunday closing to Wales. He believed Wales would soon have Sunday closing, and that a similar bill for England would follow before long. The principle of local option was taking strong hold of the working men of these three kingdoms. He knew very well that the swells did not like it. That did not much matter, because the swells at election times had to come cap in hand to the working men; and it was for working men to see that they sent the right sort of men to represent them in the Commons House of Parliament. Speaking next of the interest taken by ladies in political questions, and their great influence, the hon. member remarked that fifteen years ago, when he was first seeking a seat in Parliament, he called at the house of a voter, and was met at the door by a fine handsome woman, his young wife of about 24 years, who said "Oh, Mr. Allen, my husband would have voted for you, but he died last night." (Laughter.) She further said—"Never mind; I'll have another husband ready to vote for you the next time." (Laughter.) That lady kept her word. (Cheers and laughter.) In 1868, when he called at the same house, there was a husband properly educated in political matters, who voted for him. (Laughter and applause.) The temperance cause was gaining ground, and if the men and women of Scotland,

England, and Ireland did their duty, prohibition would soon be the law of the land. (Applause.) Then we should hardly know the land in which we lived. It would be so happy, so prosperous, so contented, that wherever an Englishman might go his heart would turn back to his native land with longing love, and in the magnificent words of the poet he would be able to say:—

Where'er I go, whatever lands I see,
My heart untravell'd still returns to thee;
Still to my country turns with ceaseless pain,
And drags at every step a lengthening chain.

(Loud applause.)

The resolution was cordially adopted.

Mr. W. S. CAINE, M.P.—The resolution I have to move is as follows:—"That this meeting regards the proposal to invest the ratepayers with ample power to abolish the liquor traffic in their respective districts as just and practicable: rejoices at the passage of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution in the recent session of Parliament by a majority including pairs of 245 to 219: and in view of the promise of the Government to give effect to this principle in dealing with the licensing laws in the next session, earnestly urges the friends of the movement everywhere to maintain the agitation with unabated energy, so as to secure in any new legislation the fullest recognition of the principle of local option." Now, with regard to the first section of this resolution, the method by which the prohibition of the liquor traffic is to be secured, is by giving the ratepayers ample power to abolish the liquor traffic in their respective districts, and it states that that is just and practicable. Of its practicability there can be no doubt. We have ample experience upon which to go. We have the experience of the United States, our own colonies, and Canada during the last twenty-five years to show that the method which we propose to secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic is practicable. The question is, being practicable, is it just? We are here to-night to maintain that it is just also. Now, if you take the people of this country, and take their opinion upon the liquor trade, you may divide them very fairly into two sections—those who look upon the public-houses as a public convenience and those who look upon the public-houses as public nuisances. (A laugh.) And whichever view you happen to take of this institution it is just in either case to invest the ratepayers with ample power to abolish the liquor traffic, or, on the other hand, to maintain the liquor traffic. That is clearly what local option means, if it means anything. Now, let us look at it for one moment or two as a public convenience. I know something of the city of Glasgow. It is not the first time I visited it. I know what public spirit you have, and I know well how you manage your own affairs. I know about your gas—the great convenience—by which we are able to see one another to-night. It is controlled by your representatives. I also know about your beautiful water which you all at present enjoy. It is brought here by yourselves, and it is your own property, and under your own control. There are other conveniences. There are your tramways—a very great public convenience indeed. These also belong to the Corporation, and I believe they have leased them to a company who are bound not merely to provide the public with ample convenience, but to hand back the roads in as good condition as when they received them. All these institutions I have named are under the control of the ratepayers, therefore if the friends of the licensing system aver it is a public convenience all we ask is that that convenience, like so many other public conveniences, should be placed in the hands of the ratepayers themselves. (Applause.) Let us look at the other aspect of the question—public-houses as a nuisance. Any person who has given a thought to public matters has paid some attention to, and has looked into, the working of the Public Health Acts. You in Glasgow and elsewhere are under the control of a magnificent Public Health Act, which gives great power to your Corporation to preserve the health of the town. I will undertake to say that if you go through all the back

streets and all the back yards in Glasgow you will not find one single man keeping a pig, because the Public Health Act does not permit him. If you do find one party keeping a pig it will be got rid of at once. The keeping of pigs in large towns—in Glasgow at any rate—is prohibited by the representatives of the ratepayers. Any manufacturer who produces articles that are dangerous to public health can be prohibited from so doing under the Health Act. A manufacturer of fire works can be prohibited. The manufacture of anything that produces a foul smell and endangers the health of those who live around can be prohibited under the Public Health Act. All we want is a particular trade, which, in our opinion, works desolation, misery, wretchedness, wounds and diseases the people, causes crime and pauperism, and causes premature deaths, and which trade is looked upon as a nuisance, should also be placed under the control of the ratepayers. I do not hesitate, then, to say that you ought to support the first paragraph of the resolution. (Applause.) The next paragraph reports progress. It tells us that in the recent session of Parliament the local option resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson was carried by 245 to 219, or by a majority of 26. Now, if I recollect rightly, the majority by which it was defeated in the previous session of Parliament was 114, so you see from being defeated by 114, we have improved by carrying it by a majority of 26. Do not let us run away with the notion that this shows a wonderful change during three months. The previous Parliament was elected in 1874. The existing Parliament was elected more than six years afterwards, and that represents the earnest, steady, and persevering work of such organisations as the one that has called us to-night—of the United Kingdom Alliance and all auxiliaries, and Good Templar Lodges, Scottish Temperance League, &c., and the noble men and women up and down the length and breadth of the kingdom who have been bringing pressure to bear upon public opinion. (Applause.) That resolution is the measure of growth during the last six years, but now we come to what I think we were exceedingly grateful to be able to mark such progress. But we must not sit down and think that the work is done. I do not hesitate to say that a great many of the 245 who voted for that resolution took very different views indeed of local option to what are taken on this platform to-night. Local option is a wide word. It may mean little or a great deal. We intend it to mean a great deal. If it is to mean a great deal every one of these 245 members of Parliament must be kept to the line on the question without any mistake whatever. Some members of Parliament are apt to be very enthusiastic immediately after a general election and to pine away somewhat as the Parliament advances. Keep your members up to the mark upon this question. That is what the resolution asks you to do. Among other things, in view of the promise of the Government to give effect to this principle of dealing with the licensing laws in the next session, the resolution earnestly urges the friends of the movement everywhere to maintain the agitation with unabated energy so as to secure in any new legislation the fullest recognition of the principle of local option. That is a greater sign of progress than even the division list. What gratified me that night was the speech of the Prime Minister, in which he stated that it was the intention of the Government to bring in a measure based upon the principle affirmed in Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution. Now the real genuine hard work of the movement begins. The Government are pledged to bring in a measure. It is for the country to let the Government know what that measure is to be. (Applause.) Governments exist to give effect to the will of the people and for no other purpose. Let the Government know what your will is and I undertake they will carry that will out. If you simply in one way or another let them know that you will be content with 2s. 6d. in the £ you will get about 1s. 6d. Tell them you wish 20s. in the £ and you will get it. Do not be content with any measure which does not contain in one clause of it the principle that whatever else may be done the people themselves shall have the power to

get rid of the evil altogether. (Applause.) Now then let us instruct the Government. Do it as the resolution says, by urging the friends of the movement everywhere to maintain the agitation with unabated energy, so as to secure in any new legislation the fullest recognition of the principle of local option. I have great pleasure in moving the resolution. (Applause.)

Provost CAMPBELL, Greenock, seconded the motion. In doing so, he said there was a good deal yet to be done by temperance reformers. He recently observed with sorrow that the Lord Provost of Glasgow had stated that the number of cases coming before the Police Courts of the city had increased very much since the return of good trade. That was a sad state of matters, and showed the great necessity there was for legislation of some kind. He had long held, and held very strongly, that the greater the number of public-houses the greater the amount of drunkenness. (Applause.) He knew that some people, and some very influential newspapers, thought differently. They took up the argument that an increased number of houses did not mean an increase of drunkenness. He held that to be a great fallacy, unless they were to believe that those who owned public-houses were different from every other class of people, who generally desired to make as much profit out of their businesses as they could. He trusted that very soon a change would take place on the part of some of the influential Liberal newspapers, which at present were very unsound on this question. Those who had to do with the improvement of towns knew, that in connection with this subject the question of licenses came up very prominently. They knew that when it was found necessary to sweep away wretched old houses, if a public-house happened to be in the property, the publican came to the magistrates and complained of the hardship of being deprived of his licensed house. This never gave him (Provost Campbell) much concern, because if he were to transfer the license to another district, he would feel more for the people resident in that district than for the publican. The fact was, that the proprietors generally got large sums in connection with the houses taken down, and the man who held the license should go and get a share of that money. By putting a public-house in a district, they might increase the rent of the particular property, but they deteriorated the value of the property around; and what was far worse, they deteriorated the character of the tenants. He, therefore, had never felt any difficulty in declining to grant transfers, but he considered that it would be better that the people of the districts should have the power of putting their veto on such transfers. He trusted that, in course of next session, a bill granting this power would be passed. At one time, he feared that it would be necessary to have separate measures for England and Scotland, but he was delighted to hear from the gentleman who preceded him that the question of local option was making so rapid progress in England. He should be glad, therefore, if a bill were introduced for the whole country. If, however, this was not done, he trusted some Scotch member would introduce a bill for Scotland alone, and he was satisfied that he would not only have the support of the majority of the Scotch members, but that the majority of the people of Scotland would be in its favour. (Applause.)

Rev. THOMAS EVANS, Merthyr-Tydvil, supported the resolution, and contended that, if the publicans were, as they maintained, the friends of the working-man, there was all the more reason for the trade being under the control of the working men, who were the ratepayers. It is not possible to give a report of the rev. gentleman's speech, because it is impossible to reproduce the figure, the gesticulations, and the wonderful humour and earnestness of the speaker. The illustrations—the potato and the Colorado beetle—the muzzling of the dogs—the youthful exciseman—and the tigers of India—were all so graphically told. As he was drawing out the analogy of the beetle and the drink, you were reminded of Old Eccles or perhaps more so of Toole, and you enjoyed the unctuous humour displayed without at all losing sight of the great truth involved in the contrast between our

terror at a foreign bug and our toleration of native spirits. The earnestness of the speaker was manifest in the powerful eloquence displayed in the closing words of his truly impressive appeal to his enraptured audience.

Rev. JAMES A. JOHNSTON, of Springburn, moved the third resolution as follows:—"That this meeting rejoices at the gratifying progress of the movement in Scotland, as manifested at the recent general election, and by the overwhelming Scotch vote—including pairs 43 to 5—in the division on the Local Option resolution, hereby expresses its warmest thanks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his 246 supporters, and pledges itself to assist the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association in its efforts by hearty co-operation and liberal pecuniary support." In supporting the resolution, Mr. Johnston said that Scotland occupied a prominent place in the agitation against the drink traffic. As Scotchmen, they were proud of their country, as they had never withheld their help when some right was to be maintained, or when some wrong was to be redressed. In the general temperance movement, and in the Sunday closing movement, Scotland had taken precedence of her sister countries; and, looking to the general election and the vote of their representatives in Parliament, might he not say that Scotland had declared, as with trumpet voice, that the honourable place which she had hitherto occupied she had no intention whatever to resign. (Applause.) Some of the 43 who had supported local option in the House of Commons had fought the battle for years, but there were others who had been slow to learn the value of local option, and perhaps they had not learned its value and power yet, unless they had experienced what it was at the general election.

Mr. JOHN WILSON said, at that late stage of the evening it would ill become him to take up the time of the meeting, but there had been delegated to him a very pleasant duty. Before proceeding to discharge that duty, he would wish to make a few remarks. He was sure they would all agree with him that they were much indebted to the Lord Provost for his opening remarks. They were all proud of their Lord Provost, not only from the high position which he occupied, as head of the municipal power of this great city, but also for his straightforwardness, honesty, and his readiness to stand forth in the ranks of the temperance cause. (Applause.) They all knew that the reign of the Lord Provost was near at an end. There was a talk of sending him back to the Council. Be that as it might, they had a higher position for the Lord Provost, and he (Mr. Wilson) hoped that at the first vacant seat in Scotland the Lord Provost would stand. (Applause.) He was sure he spoke the minds of the temperance reformers, and it would be the crowning victory of the Lord Provost's life if he were able to carry a prohibitory measure for Scotland. (Great applause.) Mr. Wilson concluded his remarks by asking the meeting to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers who had addressed them that evening. (Applause.)

Bailie TORRENS said he had a very pleasant duty to perform, but, at the same time, he had a great complaint to make. The last speaker, Mr. Wilson, encroached upon his (Bailie Torrens) ground from beginning to end. (Laughter.) Did he know as much about the Lord Provost as he, Bailie Torrens. (Laughter.) Well, he rose to propose a hearty vote of thanks to his Lordship for presiding that night. They were under a great obligation to him that evening, because he came there and occupied the position of chairman at short notice, owing to the indisposition of Mr. R. T. Middleton. (Applause.) Their Lord Provost was quite a champion in the temperance movement, and he (the speaker) did not know any man in Scotland holding the position the Lord Provost did, that had done one-tenth towards the advancement of the temperance cause that he had done. (Applause.)

After the benediction had been pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Harding, the proceedings terminated.

A little boy being asked what the chief end of an editor was, replied, "The end that's got the head on."

THE FUNDS.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, OCTOBER, 1880.

NEW YEAR'S TRACT.

THE Executive are glad to be able thus early to announce their New Year's Tract for 1881. This year it is from the eloquent pen of the Rev. Horatius Bonar, D.D., Edinburgh, and bears the significant title, "The City of the Plague; or Sights of London in Sixteen Sixty-five." It is illustrated in the finest style of the Art, and may be had at 10s. per 1000, or 1s. per 100—carriage not paid. Societies may have their name and local announcements printed at the top at an extra charge of 1s. 6d. per heading. If heading contains more than 40 words, by special agreement. On all orders of 2000 and upwards no charge is made for heading. Orders should be sent in at once, as there are already indications of it meeting with a very large circulation.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS.

THE Twenty-second Annual Meetings of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association stand prominently out as the most memorable in its history. Those that have gone before were brilliant from the progress that distinguished them; they showed the rapid outgrowth of the agitation. The meetings of this year are brilliant because of the results obtained, and they bespeak the near fulfilment of anticipations of a crowning triumph.

The Annual Business Meeting was held in the Christian Institute, and was an unqualified success. While the proceedings lacked the undesirable heat of the previous annual meeting, the unflinching earnestness so distinctive of these meetings was apparent all through the course of the proceedings. All present seemed conscious of the very great successes achieved—successes not the result of fitful chance, but of earnest endeavour—and were ready to gird up their loins and go forward to new efforts and still more decisive successes. The chairman's address was an excellent resumé of the progress of the year, implying deep research and close attention to all that was taking place on the question. The report was, as usual, comprehensive, and dealt with the divisions on the Local Option Resolution, and with the General Election and its signal success, in a manner both interesting and stirring. The Treas-

urer's report might be said to be capable of two quite diverse impressions. In so far as the Executive were able to support two divisions on the Local Option Resolution, endure the strain of a general election, and maintain in vigorous operation the ordinary agencies of the Association, and yet not get into debt, they were deserving of much commendation; yet they could not have done so unless by the generous liberality of the late Mr. Smith. It is matter for regret that notwithstanding all that they have achieved, they should yearly be plunged into financial anxieties, and be left unable to bring those irresistible powers of agitation into the field that might so speedily compel decisive and triumphant results. The important resolutions submitted foreshadowed a year of vigorous effort, and it was gratifying indeed to see with what unanimity they were adopted. If the friends afford that co-operation expected from them, if they are liberal of means and effort, who can doubt but that the year now begun may be marked by events bearing more decidedly upon the liquor traffic of Scotland than has hitherto been the case. The Executive have paltered with no principle, faltered at no action haphazard for its aim the suppression of the liquor traffic; shrunk from no duty, and with the active co-operation of the friends, it may be safely anticipated that they will be found as energetic and as fortunate with the resolutions passed at the meeting, the carrying out of which has been confided to their care, as they have always been.

The Tea Meeting has not been exceeded in interest and enjoyment by any of its predecessors. The provision was excellent in quality and ample in quantity. The guests thronged the City Hall Saloon, and the Provost of Greenock presided over the assembly. Greenock has always been the foremost in her support of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and the Executive deemed themselves honoured by the presence of Provost Campbell. His speech was able and exhaustive. Although he devoted some time to the advocacy of merely restrictive methods of dealing with the liquor traffic, he was sound to the core on the propriety of legally investing the people with power to suppress the liquor traffic that injured them and theirs. We heartily desire that his hope of having a local option law for Scotland on the Statute Book may come rapidly to fruition. We do not remember of hearing better speeches at any similar meeting than those which were given at the tea party. Everyone had something special to report of the town or district he represented, and all were of interest to those present. The time did not permit of all on the programme being called upon, but that is the case with every meeting of the kind. The address of Mr. W. M. Scott, Belfast, was truly valuable, as it showed that Ireland on this matter was as intelligent and resolute as any Scot of us all. The presence of a deputation from the Scottish Temperance League for the first time was a most welcome feature of the proceedings, and the neces-

sarily brief remarks of the Rev. John Douglas indicated the most cordial amity on the part of the national temperance institution on whose behalf he spoke.

The evening meeting was immensely successful. A more intelligent and respectable audience never met on a like occasion. The hall was crowded, and the greatest good order and the most thorough appreciation were visible all through the evening. The Executive's arrangements suffered from a cause which one would have thought was too remote to affect their plans. The long parliamentary session has much to answer for. It prostrated Mr. Middleton, M.P., who had kindly undertaken the duties of the chair, and also Mr. Peddie, M.P., who had agreed to speak to one of the resolutions. Mr. Whitworth, M.P., was at the last moment called away to Ireland, which might be set down as another case of obstruction to lay to the charge of the sister kingdom. There was great disappointment felt at the non-appearance of the chairman, though it was tempered with hearty sympathy with the cause of his absence. The Hon. The Lord Provost was asked to take the place of the popular city member, and it says much in favour of his Lordship's sympathies with the prohibitory aspect of the temperance movement that at so little notice, and amid so many distracting public duties, he did not hesitate to preside over the meeting. His speech under the circumstances was quite a surprise, for all that he said seemed to be as carefully conceived, and was certainly as eloquently delivered, as if he had as many days as he had hours for its preparation. In tone it was thorough, was in style characterised by earnestness and feeling, and was loudly cheered. The Rev. S. Harding delivered a speech of the most thorough-going kind, and carried his audience entirely with him. Mr. Allen, M.P., who for the first time advocated our question in Scotland, did so in a speech of superior excellence. It was pervaded by a profound knowledge of the subject, a vein of sterling humour, affecting pathos, and genuine eloquence. It was greeted with cheers. Mr. Caine, M.P., also on our platform for the first time, met with a hearty welcome. His speech was instructive and telling. The audience were agreeably surprised at the statesman-like ability apparent in all that he said on the subject, and they loudly cheered his remarks. Provost Campbell, Greenock, took up much of the same ground traversed in his afternoon speech. The audience were highly pleased with what he uttered. They felt in having the Provosts of Glasgow and Greenock to address them that the heads of municipal bodies were evidently prepared to divest themselves of what authority over the liquor traffic they possessed, so that the rate-payers themselves might be enabled to veto the liquor traffic that endangered them, and they greeted the speaker's words with hearty approbation. The Rev. Thomas Evans electrified his audience by showing up, in the most convincing manner, the inconsistency of our national and municipal authorities in

their attitude to the traffic in strong drink. Nothing could have been happier than his illustrations, especially about the muzzling of dogs, the frantic efforts to keep the Colorado beetle from our shores, and the destruction of a few tigers in India by our rulers, who yet allowed the drink interest to commit the most irreparable ravages among all classes of the community. He was accompanied all through his address by the applause of his auditory, who burst forth at its conclusion into protracted cheering. The Rev. J. A. Johnston made his first appearance on the platform of the Association. Directly he was the representative of the I.O.G.T., indirectly he stood there as one of the founders of the Scottish Temperance League. He expressed a hearty sympathy with prohibition, and his sentiments were loudly applauded. The Rev. Dr. Adamson, with rare self-constraint, simply seconded the motion of Mr. Johnstone. Mr. John Wilson, in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, delivered a speech in favour of the agitation characterised by unusual fervour. Ex-Bailie Torrens asked the meeting to award its cordial thanks to the chairman. It testified to the eminent popularity of the worthy ex-magistrate that at the late hour he came forward his remarks should have had such attention and appreciation. The meeting closed with the benediction. These series of meetings mark another stage on the path of the agitation. They afforded the highest gratification to all who were privileged to attend them. Looking back they spoke of progress and success, looking forward they pointed to a triumphant issue to the agitation should loyalty to principle and liberality to the funds mark the future of the Association as it has so radiantly distinguished its past. With hope at the prow and energy at the helm the haven of a success at once glowing and decisive cannot now be far ahead.

"RIGHT" OR "EXPEDIENCY?"

On one occasion Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" and they replied pertinently enough, "Some say thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." But Jesus meant to prepare them for something he was looking at with a full gaze, but which they did not see even faintly. Accordingly he put this more searching question, "But whom say ye that I am?" How have your thoughts been forming upon this vital question? Is it a head or heart matter with you? What say you? And Simon Peter, the ready and impetuous, answered significantly, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." It was well answered—clear, manly, and noble, and to the point. But let us see. Speaking practically, Was this not fair-weather sailing, and is not that *easy* sailing? The disciples were meantime comfortable in the presence of their Lord and Teacher, hopeful and buoyant as to the future, expecting popularity and power to their Master and themselves. But the scene suddenly changed. Jesus had been looking earnestly into the future, and very soon began to show unto them that He must go into Jerusalem, and suffer many things, and be killed, and raised again the third day. What a saddening announcement this. What a crushing outlook for

the disciples. They thought Jesus must be greatly in error—the victim of some fanatical imaginings—and which really required to be removed, and that at once. Accordingly, Peter proceeded to the hazardous task by taking Him in hand with the purpose of “managing” Him, as the modern electioneering phrase goes. He rebuked Jesus in some fashion or other for picturing such dismal events, and wound up his effort with the words of a real time-serving man—“Be it far from Thee, Lord; this shall not be unto Thee.” Your prospects are good. In a year or two the chances are national feeling will turn in your favour. The people will in time gladly receive your teaching, and will pay you the honours you deserve, acknowledging you as their Messiah and King. Accommodate a little, humour a little, and who knows what may happen very soon. But what did Jesus say to all this grovelling cajollery? “Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art an offence unto me.” Stand aside; do not venture to cross my holy path or hinder my righteous work. I am no man of expediency. To save mankind came I into this world, to proclaim the eternal righteousness and love of God to mankind, and my soul is straitened till that work be accomplished. “Thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.” Peter’s secret was out. Christ had revealed it. Peter, like every man of poor expediency, *did* care more for the things of men than for the things of God, for social position more than righteousness, and stood the representative of all “time-serving” followers of the Lamb.

God does not act on lines of “expediency” as we understand the term; neither do the godly act on these lines. The question for them on all matters is—“Is it right in the sight of God?” and they take ample time to settle that question in the light of reason and conscience; if decided to be “right,” then their course is clear. That is the only “policy” they can pursue. It matters not how long time it take to work it out nor how much effort or suffering is required from them; that is the thing to do and no other. In all great reforms affecting the vital life and welfare of the nation—for instance, the abolition of slavery, repeal of the Corn Laws, Parliamentary reform, and our own good cause of temperance—we find a very large number of our “great men” none other than time-serving, shifting men of expediency, ready to catch the passing breeze, and side with the winning horse. “Will it take?” is their continual cry. How will it be received by the public—in a kindly or hostile spirit? Will it not be apt to create personal animosities and provoke unpleasant consequences? Will there be a “row”? Now, what Christ-like man cares for a “row” in the fight for truth and freedom? Whoever saw the devil resigning any of his strongholds without “kicking” up a fearful “row,” and invoking earth and hell to his aid? We know little of his Satanic majesty but what we see embodied in evil men, yet in this way we have seen enough of him to know that he never exhibits grace in any of his forced retreats—they are always void of grace, most ungraceful—but on the contrary, he brings into full play all the bitter developments of his evil nature, and only quits hold when compelled. But the Christian cares not for any of his “rows,” and ever strikes sturdily in behalf of eternal right, knowing that

“Virtue may be assail’d but never hurt;
Surprised by unjust force, but not enthral’d;
Yea, even that which mischief meant most harm
Shall in the happy trial prove most for glory.”

JAMES CRAIG.

Aberdeen.

POETRY.

GRAIN'S VINDICATION.

I was made to be eaten,
And not to be drunk;
To be thrashed in a barn,
Not soaked in a tank.

I come as a blessing
When put in a mill.
As a blight and a curse
When run through a still.

Make me up into loaves,
And your children are fed;
But if into a drink,
I will starve them instead.

In bread I am servant,
The eater shall rule;
In drink I am master,
The drinker a fool.

Then remember the warning—
My strength I'll employ,
If eaten to strengthen,
If drunk to destroy.

Bloomsbury Journal, Pa.

VARIETIES.

A familiar spirit.—Whisky.

“Take care,” says a timid exchange. Yes, but take it in small doses.

“I die content,” said the fly in the baker’s dough.
“Somebody will take me for a currant.”

A QUERY.—What is the difference between a B and a bull’s foot? One yields honey, and the other yields grease. Bravo.

A PARADISE.—One who has “been there” assures us that the straighter a man takes his whisky the crookeder it seems to make him.

Why are corn and potatoes like the idols of old? Because the corn has ears and hear not and the potatoes have eyes and see not.

Editors all unite in asking Edison to invent a style of newspaper column that will enable each separate advertiser to have a space next to the reading matter, and at the top of the page!

Lawsonite (to half-tipsy Irishman, whom he has seen in the same state on several occasions of late)—“What will you take, Pat, to keep sober for a month?” Irishman—“Take no whisky, av coorse.” Lawsonite subsides.

An Arctic explorer, Dr. Rae, gives the following valuable testimony:—“During four winters spent on Arctic service—on two of which we had no fire to warm ourselves—no spirits or wines of any kind were used, not even when sledge hauling, sometimes over very rough ice.”

SUMMER DRINKS.—PEPPERMINT CORDIAL.—1 lb. loaf sugar, 1 pint boiling water, simmer 10 minutes, then stir in 1 tablespoonful of honey; when nearly cold, add 30 drops of the essence of peppermint. Bottle for use. Four tablespoonfuls to a tumbler of hot or cold water makes delicious drink. Essence of ginger can be used in the same way.

An old darkey, who was asked if in his experience prayer had ever been answered, replied:—“Wel, sah, some pras is ansud an some isn’t. Pends on wat you axes fo. Just arter de wah, wen it was mighty hard scratchin fo de cullud breddern, I bsarved dat wen ebber I pway de Lord to sen one o Marse Peyton’s fat turkeys fo de ole man, der was no notice took of de partition; but wen I pway dat he would sen de ole man fo de turkey, de matter was tended to befo sun up nex mornin, dead sartin!”

THE
Social Reformer.

NOVEMBER, 1880.

THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

Our world, and indeed the universe, was once free from evil. But a mysterious testing time came to higher intelligences than man. Some fell and some did not. Man too was made holy, but to him also there came a testing-time, and he fell from his integrity. And when the "Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," the same weird hour of test came to him in the Wilderness. But He withstood the hateful influence. It appears from these facts that the great Governor of the universe will not compel the loving service and obedience of His intelligent creatures, but that having made them free and intelligent beings He lays on themselves the responsibility of choice and action.

We know not, and are not curious to inquire now, in what "form" evil first made its appearance, but we do know that evil has appeared, and now manifests itself in a thousand forms. And in our day and country there is one form of evil, which, like the lean kine of Pharaoh's dream, is all but ready to devour all other forms. Need it be said that this is intemperance. If it be denied that drunkenness or intemperance is an evil, then let us call evidence. Professor Buchanan, Glasgow University—"I am not an abstainer," says the Professor, "but I see that drink ruins thousands every year." Sir William Gull, one of the first of living physicians, says, "I am not a pledged abstainer, yet I would like to say that a very large number of people in society are dying day by day, poisoned by drink." Major Ross, chief constable, Aberdeenshire, depones "that two-thirds of the crime are due to drink." Committee of the House of Lords, after most careful investigation, declares, "When great communities, deeply sensible of the miseries caused by intemperance; witnesses of the crime and pauperism which directly spring from it; conscious of the contamination to which their younger citizens are exposed; watching with grave anxiety the growth of female intemperance on a scale so vast and at a rate of progression so rapid as to constitute a new reproach and danger; believing that not only the morality of their citizens but their commercial prosperity is dependent on the diminution of these evils; seeing also that all that general legislation has hitherto been able to effect has been some improvement in public order, while it has been powerless to produce any perceptible decrease of intemperance, it would seem somewhat hard, when such communities are willing, at their own cost and hazard, to grapple with the difficulty and undertake their own purification, that the legislature should refuse to create for them the necessary machinery, or to intrust them with the requisite powers." God's book says "The drunkard shall come to poverty." "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Now this evidence proves, if the fact needs proof, that intemperance is an evil—our country's sorest evil.

God steps in here and says to me, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." This is my first reason for being an abstainer—*God's command*. But it may be objected that it is drunkenness, or the abuse of intoxicants, that is the evil to be abstained from. Granted that the *abuse* is the *evil*, the ordinary use is the *appearance* from which God demands that I abstain. The command is not only to abstain from what is essentially evil, but also from what suggests, or induces, or, from its notorious tendency, allures to evil. Common sense comes to my aid and tells me that if the use of alcohol is the *appearance* of the evil, and the abuse of alcohol the *evil*, I can avoid the evil infallibly by abstaining from the *appearance* of it. In other words, I am anxious to avoid the sin of drunkenness—this I can do infallibly and eternally by abstaining from drink.

I have said that my first reason for abstaining is God's command. God has a right to command. I am bound to obey. The Creator's right to command His creature is as clear as His power to give His creature being. I must either obey or disobey God's command. To obey is duty. To disobey is setting my will against God's, which is the sin of sins. I must then either deny myself or defy God. Which? In view of my derived nature, in view of God's claim and command, in view of the grave where I must lie, in view of the judgment where I must appear, which is it to be? To deny myself and abstain, or to defy God and indulge.

This command "abstain," comes to me not only as a responsible creature, but likewise, and more penetratingly and suavely, as a redeemed creature. It comes not only from the unqualified sovereignty of God, but also through the medium of the Cross. Thus am I doubly bound to obey the command, by the tie that binds responsible creature to the sovereign Creator, and by the still more sacred ties of nature and love and blood, that bind believers to the cross of incarnate God.

My second reason for abstaining from the appearance of this evil is *my own nature*. Here is a soul, a memory, a will and conscience, that I am to keep till the appearing of the "Great God and our Saviour." For every stain these receive, for every blight that by my action or inaction comes to these powers, I must give account. Every sin is loss. Every known sin is shame and loss. Every known sin persisted in is aggravated sin and irreparable loss. If by thoughtlessness, or induced by example and custom, I reach excess in intemperance, and be not roused to repent and dash down the delusive cup, then my life ends in darkness worse than death. If roused haply to repent and abstain, it is to see the ruin I have wrought within, and how I have dwarfed and beggared my God-given nature; it is to see glorious possibilities gone from me beyond recall; to see, it may be, an attractive future, but over its brightness the shadow of the past is flung; to feel my energies enfeebled by the thought of what I

might have been but for indulgence in that cruel, cruel cup. Charles Lamb tells his sad experience, as a warning to young men, in the following language:—"The waters have gone over me. But out of the black depths, could I be heard, I would cry to all those who have set a foot in the perilous flood. Could the youth to whom the flavour of the first wine is delicious as the opening scenes of life, or the entering upon some newly discovered paradise, look into my desolation, and be made to understand what a dreary thing it is when he shall feel himself going down a precipice with open eyes and passive will; to see his destruction, and have no power to stop it, and yet feel it all the way emanating from himself; to see all godliness emptied out of him, and yet not able to forget a time when it was otherwise; to bear about the piteous spectacle of his own ruin; could he see my fevered eye, feverish with the last night's drinking, and feverish looking for to-night's repetition of my folly; could he but feel the body of the death out of which I cry hourly with feebler outcry to be delivered, it were enough to make him dash the sparkling beverage to the earth in all the pride of its mantling temptation."

My own nature demands abstinence, and very specially demands it in view of what the holy book deposes, "Ye are the temple of the Holy Ghost." Now if He abide in me at all, it must be for purifying purposes. But my nature purified or in process thereof by God's Agent, has, and must have, one all-absorbing reality before it, that is the attainment of complete purity or likeness to God. If this soul-hunger for purity be present as a power within me then I cannot and will not habitually partake of that which darkens the soul and nullifies its purity, and defies the purposes of God.

This nature then, re-modeled at the Cross, hallowed by the Spirit, and loved by the Father, should make continual progress in self-denial, purity, and nobleness; should throw off all merely carnal and unnecessary indulgences. This immortal within, partaking of the nature of angels, and dowered with a salvation love that in its full force even angels never knew, may aspire after an ever-expanding good. This spirit may soar above systems within systems, and worlds beyond worlds, and when these shall be extinguished in eternal darkness—the spirit may become still purer, wiser, nobler, through the years of God, and in its holy ambition and progress it may yet outstrip angel and archangel, until in the vast, vast universe it has no peer and no superior save eternal God, trinity of person in unity of essence.

These are the hopes that cheer my nature and brighten my prospects—shall I then lie down in the drunkard's vomit, and descend to the drunkard's nameless and unknown grave? N. M. P.

"THE PRICE OF BLOOD."

BY REV. SAMUEL HARDING, PAISLEY.

So said the chief priests concerning the thirty pieces of silver that Judas returned after repenting of the act of betraying the Lord Jesus Christ, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, it is the price of blood."

Our modern legislators, however, have no scruples of this kind if the recent debate upon the opium traffic be any criterion. With them the blood of souls, death, perdition, are minor matters provided the nation's treasury be well filled. It is saddening, and makes one blush for human nature. Setting aside altogether the higher principles of our holy religion to hear those who are designated statesmen,

patriots, philanthropists, and Christians so speak, there must be something radically wrong. We are not surprised that infidelity exists in our midst, our only wonder is that it does not more largely prevail.

What a humiliating confession was that of the Postmaster-General in the British House of Parliament, "Twenty-six millions of money flowing into Britain's treasury annually as revenue from the improvidence and vice of the people occasioned by the liquor traffic." With all the affection we bear to our beloved country, we say, let the rod of her power be broken rather than continue the responsibility of raising revenue by the liquor traffic. Let our army and navy sink into oblivion, let our rivers be choked up with sand, and our merchant ships rot in the harbour, rather than go on hurrying immortal souls to ruin, and raise revenue from the groans, tears, and blood of our fellow-creatures. Better sell the crown of our beloved Queen to raise money, if it cannot be obtained from any other source, than raise revenue on the ruin of souls. Anything is cheap as sacrifice for the redemption of the people from this terrible curse. More than one hundred years ago John Wesley wrote in reference to the liquor traffic, "It is amazing that the preparing or selling this poison should be permitted, I will not say in any Christian country, but in any civilized state. Oh! it brings in a considerable sum of money to government. True! but is it wise to barter men's lives for money? Surely that gold is bought too dear if it is the price of blood. Does not the strength of every country consist in the number of its inhabitants? If so, the lessening of that number is a loss which no money can compensate. So that it is inexcusable ill-husbandry to give the lives of valuable and useful men for any sum of money whatever. Oh! tell it not in Constantinople that the English raise the royal revenue by selling the flesh and blood of their countrymen."

Is the church clear from participation in the price of blood? We feel humiliated as we answer, she is verily guilty in this matter. What are the contributions of those who are engaged in the liquor traffic—they are but "the price of blood." And is not the church receiving a portion of its revenue from this source? And does it not condone the guilt of these men, not only by receiving their ill-gotten gains, but by placing them in high positions as office-bearers in the church?

In one of the Metropolitan cities of the United Kingdom stands a magnificent protestant Cathedral, recently restored and beautified at a cost of one hundred thousand pounds, every penny of which was stained by the dark beverage which leads multitudes down to the drunkard's hell. Not to be left in the back ground, another trafficker in the same city expended fifty thousand pounds in the erection of a sanctuary for the worship of God. The names of these traffickers are emblazoned upon thousands of public-house sign boards throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Methinks that, while the devotions of the people in these places are going up, there is also ascending to heaven another cry, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The time is past for silence upon this subject. "Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord." Scotland needs men of God who will dare follow the example of Him who went into the temple of God "and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables, saying unto them, 'It is written, my house is the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.'" O that the pulpits of Scotland were right upon this question, and all her

ministers crying aloud, sparing not, lifting up their voices like a trumpet, showing "the people their transgressions, and the house of Israel their sins!"

Such language as the following would suit the traffickers, and purify the churches of this country from participation in the price of blood. In one of Wesley's sermons he says, "Neither may we gain by hurting our neighbour in his body; therefore we may not sell anything which tends to impair health. Such is eminently all that liquid fire, commonly called drams or spirituous liquors. It is true they may have a place in medicine. They may be of use in some bodily disorders, although there would rarely be occasion for them were it not for the unskilfulness of the practitioner. Men, such as prepare them only for this end, may keep their conscience clear. But who are they? Who prepare them only for this end? Do you know ten such distillers in England? Then excuse these. But all who sell them in the common way, to any that will buy, are poisoners—general. They murder His Majesty's subjects by wholesale; neither do they pity or spare, they drive them to hell like sheep. And what is their gain? Is it not the blood of these men? Who, then, would envy their large estates and sumptuous palaces? A curse is in the midst of them; the curse of God cleaves to the stones, the timber, the furniture of them. The curse of God is on their gardens, their groves—a fire that burns to the nethermost hell! Blood, blood, is there—the foundation, the floor, the walls, the roof, are stained with blood! And canst thou hope, O man of blood, though thou art clothed in scarlet and fine linen, and farest sumptuously every day; canst thou hope to deliver down thy fields of blood to the third generation? Not so, for there is a God in heaven; therefore thy name shall be rooted out like those whom thou hast destroyed, body and soul, thy memorial shall perish with thee."

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FOOD.

BY W. WHITELAW, M.D., KIRKINTILLOCH.

FOOD is to be taken, not for the gratification of the palate merely, but for the maintenance of health and the prolongation of life. In other words, the object of food is the rearing of a fine, healthy, and intelligent race of men and women. In connection with this there are to be considered various points:—

1. *The age of the individual.* There must be a variation in the nature and quantity of the supply of food at the different periods of growth. Neglect of this primary truth is one of the chief causes of the infantile mortality that disgraces Great Britain. Infants ought to be fed on milk, their mother's milk if possible, till they cut their front teeth; after that, they may be gradually accustomed to fine oatmeal porridge, wheaten meal food, bread in milk, and other similar diet. Their little stomachs should not be crammed with even suitable food, as is often the case—the consequence being vomiting, purging, and general disorder of the system. Happy the baby who is not stuffed to repletion by an indulgent mother, and digests and assimilates all the food that passes into the stomach!

Youths of both sexes should have a plentiful and at the same time simple diet. Overeating undoubtedly injures the health of many of the rising generation. People on this side of the Atlantic can scarcely be blamed for eating very frequently too much pie; but Rev. David Macrae, in his *American Notes*, seems to consider pie as the cause of the dyspepsia, pale faces, and irritability of young Americans. If attention were paid to the quantity and quality of the food of young persons by their parents, tem-

perate self-denying habits would be cherished more readily hitherto, when the children become men and women. At same time, adults, with their full powers of observation, learning and reasoning, have no excuse for excess in eating and drinking; and when they do eat immoderately and partake of indigestible luxuries and poisonous drinks, they sin against light—the light of their own and general experience.

The late distinguished Dr. Abernethy confesses to once having violated his own pithy hygienic rules, and this is what he says—"I remember once having lived irregularly and taken butter, sauces, and sweatmeats, and things that turned acid and rancid on my stomach. I was seized with pain in my bowels, and had headache and a sore throat. I had a friend and a physician, to look into my throat, and there was a long discussion as to what sort of complaint it was to be. One said one thing; and the second another; but I smiled and said, 'If you do not know what it is, I know what will cure it?' so I took a dose of calomel and jalap, I lived upon toast and water for about ten days, and I got rid of my sore throat and face together."

Diogenes, a more ancient authority than Abernethy, made the remark that as houses well stored with provisions are likely to be full of mice—so the bodies of great eaters are liable to many diseases.

Babies may continue to live in spite of the ignorance and indulgence of mothers and nurses; and young people may revel for a while in the pleasures of the table—the original constitution being strong but the period of old age is not the time to experiment with dainties for the palate, and thus hasten the ever-advancing bodily sorrows. Elderly persons ought to know by experience what is meet for the body, and should avoid all disturbing elements in social life, take food moderately at closer intervals than the robust man, and do their utmost to conserve energy for reflection on the past, and hopeful looking to the future. It is painful to witness some old people cherishing the belief that as long as they can eat the quantities common in their working days, they will be able to hold at defiance the "last enemy."

2. *The mode of life.* A laborious employment, in which the bodily powers are much taxed, by causing a large expenditure of tissue and energy, necessitates a corresponding amount of good food to repair the loss. For example, a tiller of the soil, or an ironmoulder should have more food than a clerk or weaver. Sedentary *idle* people do not require heavy meals. In fact, the well-known maxim, "Those who don't work should not eat," has an expressive physiological meaning.

3. *Sickness.* The appetite is always good in health, and that person is healthiest whom hunger alone reminds that he has a stomach. In many illnesses there is almost no desire for food, a suggestion of nature that the stomach and other organs are to be allowed more than usual rest. In many so-called bilious attacks (often the result of excess at table) abstinence from meat and drink promotes restoration to health.

A king of Persia sent a celebrated physician to one of his provincial commanders, who enquired, on arrival, how his court lived. "We never eat till we are hungry, and always stop when we could eat a little more," said the commander. "Then I may leave this place," said the doctor, "I will have no practice here."

4. *The Seasons.* Substantial food is specially required in winter, to maintain animal heat and resist cold. In summer, the diet should be cool and diluted, to defray the increased perspiration from the skin. Hence, a "hot joint," like a warm over-

coat, is more appropriate in winter than in summer; while in sultry July, a pint of curds and cream, or rice and milk with some fruit, would be preferable to a savoury steak. On account of the increased necessity for keeping up the internal temperature in this generally cold country, more food is required here than in a hotter climate to perform an equal amount of muscular and mental labour.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

It is reported, my dear Mr. Editor, that a new vine pest, of American origin, has made its appearance in the Canton St. Gall. The disease is similar in its appearance to the potato rot, and the grapes affected by it become putrid. Well, we will not break our hearts about it. With the most of grapes it is a question whether they will be rendered putrid by yeast or putrid by the visitation of God. Let them fall by the hand of God rather than by the hand of a brewer. It will be the better for mankind.

The American papers tell us that Mrs. Annie E. Garrison, of South Bay, Wisconsin, obtained a verdict for 10,000 dollars (£2,000), in a civil damage case, against a liquor dealer who sold her husband liquor, thereby causing his death. Mrs. Garrison is fortunate. How many American widows are there just now whose husbands have not been so glaringly done to death as her departed, and who suffer all the woes that fall to widows through drink! A veto on the liquor sale would prevent the call for a civil damage law, because where no liquor could be sold, no damage could be sustained.

The people of Wick are in an evil case. The town council seem to turn a deaf ear to their prayers for an improved water supply. Five years ago the inhabitants had their water supply analyzed, and with the analysis they got the following note from the analyst:—"I am decidedly of opinion that one and all of the waters are grossly impure, and possess positively unwholesome properties. They are dangerous waters for domestic supply, and should not be employed for drinking, or cooking, or any other dietetic purpose." Such a water supply is provocative of intemperance, for people foolishly imagine that a mixture of strong drink poison with water poisonous enough already, will kill the animalcule supposed to live in such a mess. How stupid! There are things that, when brought together, chemically combine, and produce something that is neither the one thing or the other; but that cannot be said of dirty water and dangerous whisky, for when brought together they will not be clean water or harmless liquid. Let the Wick folk filter their water, boil it well, and agitate for a pure and plentiful supply. We thought they were made of sterner stuff than to knuckle tamely down to the use of dirty water for dietetic use, when they might command their town council to secure for them and their posterity the blessings of health and life-giving water.

Mr. D. Henderson, of Tain, writes you asking for proof of certain statements made about grocers in my last letter to you. I might simply refer him to one of the numbers of the *Grocer* for June, where I read part of a letter from an Aberdeen grocer, on which I commented. As regards the annoyance felt by the Aberdeen grocers his language is emphatic, and on its accuracy, no doubt is, in my opinion, to be cast. But the publication of the letter is itself a proof of his assertion. The first

proof wanted is of licensed grocers being simply publicans. I repeat my statement,—They are, with this difference, that they are expected to sell for consumption off the premises, like some of the English publicans; and of the two (them and taverners, I hold them as the more dangerous on that account, as women, who would sink for shame on being seen in a drinking public-house, have little if any hesitation to enter their premises and traffic with them. The next charge—That they angle for women's liquor custom with the bait of tea, &c.—is involved in the last charge. The third, Is Tea a necessary? Well, my personal opinion is that it is not. But when a person is speaking on a special point, he is hardly justified in opening up knotty questions about terms with various senses; and whether tea is necessary, or the reverse, is not so fully settled as to allow of one departing from the conventional idea of tea being a necessary. Indeed, if one looks around him at the enormous consumption of tea, he might well be excused for thinking it the breath of life. The fifth charge—That licensed grocers are under the stigma of the State—need not be proved by me, when Mr. Henderson understands it in the sense, I suppose, of recognizing that it is just. Now, if Mr. Henderson would procure a copy of the "Royal Commission on Grocers' Licenses," issued a year or two ago, he would find that I put on my kid gloves when I wrote about them. I feel gratified at the compliment paid to you, Sir, by Mr. Henderson, that "if you would kindly prove the statements made, it will be in keeping with the character of the *Social Reformer* since ever he knew it, and that is a good many years now." May your readers always have this to say of you and the *Social Reformer*.

It is delightful to observe how the journalists write of the coming good times, and how they point to the abundant harvest as an indication of it. The *Economist* writes in this gushing manner,— "A good harvest cannot be anything but a great blessing. Especially must it be so at a time when trade, after long depression, has begun to show substantial signs of revival. Such is the uniformity of the testimony among business men, bankers, brokers, merchants, and all who are interested in business, as to the results of the bountiful yield this year. This, we have been taught, is the one thing which has been found lacking to confirm the upward movement in the new cycle of commercial prosperity, and give an absolute guarantee of prosperous times. Cheap bread—the invariable and inevitable effect of bountiful crops—means the assurance of a margin of saving among the multitude of consumers that will divert a larger sum of money to the purchase of superfluities, and thereby impart a sharp stimulus to trade. Hence it is concluded, upon valid and economic grounds, that anything like a bountiful harvest this year must enormously stimulate trade, and make the revival that has been somewhat languid and fitful an indisputable reality." Now, this would only be the truth in a country where the people avail themselves of plenteous harvests to purchase necessaries or save money; but in this country good harvests, like good wages, are a curse. We see this already in the increase of the Excise, in the greater number of cases at the police courts, and in the growing disorder, and view with serious apprehension the fearful excesses that will accompany the cycle of commercial prosperity on which we have undoubtedly entered. What would the noble heroes who fought for free trade say, if they beheld the grain they sought to avert famine with, used to create poverty and pauperism, and being when converted into alcoholic poison the accessory to murder?

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saunter's Error," &c.

CHAPTER III.

MEANTIME Mr. Milbank was in company with Mr. Vernon, going over the Manor House, and looking to the fact of his being so poorly dressed when he met the latter, it was hard on his part to believe in the great change that had taken place in his circumstances. Whatever Mr. Vernon thought about him he did not very well know, but he soon found ere they had gone far that he filled a place in Mr. Vernon's out-door existence that was little else than an aching void. They went over the stables, trotted out the horses, slowly and carefully examined the stud; and while Milbank gave his opinion upon their various points, he felt that either his opinion fell in with that held by Mr. Vernon, or that what he did say was not to be rejected until after very careful consideration. Over the garden, hot-houses, and parterres as carefully as they went over the stables, and here Milbank added to the good impression made at first upon his entertainer. They then went down to the home-farm, and with the same results: a feeling in the mind of the host that his guest was a skilled agriculturist, and one in the mind of his guest that he had never come across a place where the master's eyes did so much and the servants' hands were more productive. But the hour of lunch drew near, and as they returned to the Hall Mr. Vernon remarked that he hoped that on the whole he had the favourable verdict of Mr. Milbank.

"Most certainly, sir. I have seldom seen a place where master and servant have apparently so persistently co-operated to mutual benefit and credit. Everything shows what wise supervision and willing obedience can do to produce a satisfactory result."

"I have always tried, my friend, to look at this matter in the light of morality. I am but the tenant of this great estate. It yields sufficient for abundant wants, and that when I rent portions of it at a figure below what I could easily get, but I could not get good tenants and rack rents at the same time, so I prefer the good tenant to having one who, toiling for me early and late, cannot by any means keep himself from the apprehension of approaching distress, perhaps ruin, should bad years in succession thwart his industry and skill."

"Well then, I should, were I to meet with your tenants, hear you spoken of as a kind and considerate landlord."

"I do think you would, although I do not require to wait upon your report to know. I feel within myself the consciousness of successful efforts in doing my duty. I never have a word with any tenant likely to evoke bad feeling, and at our meetings throughout the year the most independent and resolute of my tenants are loudest in my praise."

"In this you will no doubt be seconded by your son, Mr. Vernon."

"No, I am sorry to say. He has evidently no heart for a country life: no interest in the progress and welfare of the estate. He wants to remain in town, living with other young landlords like himself, and fast becoming one of those whose absenteeism has been so much a bane to their tenantry. Ah, Mr. Milbank, if you could save him from his folly you would confer an obligation which neither myself, son, wife nor daughter would ever think of being able to repay. His sister is trying to induce him to go abroad and travel for a few months, hoping, by his agreeing to her suggestion, that he may far from home see it in a light which, since he left college, it has never yet appeared to him."

In the afternoon a drive was proposed, and Jenkins being still ill Jones was sent for. Milbank did not hear the answer, but guessed it was unfavourable.

"If you don't mind, sir, I will have pleasure in driving you about. My efforts yesterday in more trying circumstances are calculated to inspire confidence in my abilities."

"We shall only be all too glad of your kindness." And, as if to show her confidence, Dora sprang lightly into the machine, her father followed, and away they

went at that degree of speed known as a rattling pace. The day was beautiful, the sun was warm and the roads were in capital condition. The horses stepped at a great pace, and the air while cool was not so much so as to be disagreeable.

It was one of those districts of the country which offers so much pleasure to the eye. Milbank was for a stranger evidently aware of its peculiar beauties, and seemed to have a vivid remembrance of all that was worthy of observation. They were soon on the high road on which the accident of the previous day took place, and in a short time were driving through Woodgreen, one of those pretty villages which are, we fear, fast passing away. A river slowly rolled on its winding way to some one of the larger rivers that flow to the western shores. It was beautiful and clear, and threw back with almost intolerable brightness the rays of the sun as they danced on its waters. If we except the gas works there were no factories to soil the river or absorb the labour of Woodgreen. There were plenty of children running about, but when they had got the minimum of education they found their way to the larger centres, where, under the fostering care of some uncle, aunt, or other relative that had migrated as young in years as they were doing, they became the respectable or the *residuum* of its population. By all accounts, however, Woodgreen youths and maidens were held in good repute, and it became one of the cherished determinations of the denizens of the humble little place to train up the children to be the future merchants or manufacturers of the centre to which so many of their sons and daughters set out to seek and find their fortune. There was quite an air of respectability about the little place. The square, intersected by the great road, had at the angle nearest the river the Queen's Head, a large hotel and posting establishment. The original hotel had been so added to that the building was now a somewhat imposing though somewhat irregular pile. It was, however, in splendid order—on the window-sills there was plenty of flowers, whose glowing colours set off the grey Portland cement of the building. Beautiful dimity curtains lined the windows, and the blinds half drawn down suspended a neat red tassel encased in a white cup of crochet work.

The door was spacious, leading to a large lobby where there was ample accommodation for any amount of umbrellas, coats, hats, and fishing gear. Near by a roomy staircase led to the chief rooms of the house, while on the other side there was an equally roomy passage to the bar. What farther accommodation there might have been we will not stop to describe, as our party did not stop there. But lounging about the door might be seen two or three of those miserable wretches who pass almost all their time in the anticipation that their services would sooner or later be in request, and that they would be rewarded by a glass of Dame Ingram's best home brewed. That lady, a widow, kept the place better than it had been kept for more than fifty years. She had been born in it, brought up in it, was up to everything about it: so that when John Ingram came about the place she was manageress of its whole affairs. John was a farmer's younger son, and a spirited young fellow. The girls all set their cap at him, just as a broom is set at the masthead of a ship to show that a tender would not be rejected without consideration; but he was not in any hurry. He managed one of his father's farms, and did so to that gentleman's satisfaction, although often declaring that farming was by far too slow for him. Such a fine fellow could not always hope to escape the toils of the fair, and the sweet face of Sarah Williams was the sweet toils into which he found himself hopelessly entangled. She was discreet, however, and did not swoop down upon him so swiftly as the eager desire she had to secure him for a lover might have excused. She waited to see if the captive was pleased with his fate, and her discretion was rewarded. Gradually he yielded to love's sweet impulse, and the sequel was that Sarah Williams, while yet only manageress of the Queen's Head, became Mrs. Ingram. Shortly after, the landlord, her father, died, and John Ingram, in right of his wife, succeeded him, and the married life of Mrs. Ingram passed under an

eclipse of many years' duration. As a lover no youth in the village was more worthy, as a husband under his father-in-law he was most exemplary, but as a landlord he was only contemptible. Refusing the wise counsel of his wife he allowed himself to lounge at the bar among the villagers, to engage in sports with cleverer rogues than ever he could hope to be. He soon left off attending to business, and choose rather to be at all the great racing events far and near, where he lost considerable sums of money. No remonstrance on the part of his industrious wife could impress him or alter his conduct, and so she toiled early and late, raising the fame of the place to the highest pinnacle of popularity. She saw with growing dismay that her husband was bent upon ruining her as well as himself, and she found after anxious inquiry that she had no redress. One day one of her dear children, to whom she had to be both father and mother, strayed from her nurse, and falling into the river was drowned. This event she hoped would lead to reflection on the part of her husband; but no, and from that hour she never gave him a place in her heart. Gradually the very customers at his own bar declined to associate with him, and with good reason, for if any lingering there assisted the master at one of his drinking bouts he soon learned that neither he nor his money was wanted. By and bye she would not allow any drink to be served in the room after nine o'clock, and it was no novelty for the villagers to find themselves on their road home almost as sober as they were when they entered. This improvement had not been secured without a struggle, indeed the most serious quarrel which ever took place between the ill-assorted couple took place through it. She boldly included him in her interdicted list, and came herself to tell him that none of woman born would be served after the hour prescribed. An angry altercation ensued, and at last, as resolute as ever, she left him. He followed in a fierce passion, and exasperated by her firmness, struck her severely. From that day she was wholly estranged, never taking any interest in his affairs, yet gradually and surely obtaining the mastery. About this time he took a severe cold, yet she nursed him with the most anxious solicitude, and brought him through trouble which was at one time believed to have a fatal termination. Perhaps at this crisis in their histories, if some friend had interposed, a reconciliation might have taken place. With his convalescence the opportunity passed, as it turned out, for ever. He tried to make up matters, but though she did not haughtily repulse him he felt that he had thrown away her affections. It is, however, useless to speculate on what might have been, for not long after this he took a journey upon some matter connected with the business, and as he departed he drew her to him as if to embrace her. Drawing herself away she asked him to desist as the blow he gave her had never healed.

"Nonsense, Sarah, that is a year ago, and the skin was not so much as broken."

"That blow smarts as keenly as on the day I got it, and will do till my dying day."

"Oh! don't say so, forgive me for inflicting it, and forget that ever I forgot myself."

"That blow might have been forgotten, but it was given, and when passion cooled forgiveness was never sought. Days, weeks, and months it has smarted, until now it could not be soothed away with years of expiation."

"Oh, my God! to think that such thoughts should find a lodging in your heart, and having me too for their object; but I will try and win back the old love yet. Kiss me before I go."

As she turned from him he seized her in his arms, kissed her passionately, rushed from the house, and was heard riding off at a rapid pace. He never returned. Just as he was at his destination his horse stumbled, threw him, and a fracture of the skull drove him from this sublunary scene. His remains were brought home, and after those in charge had left the room where they were laid, she quietly took a candle, and silently entered the chamber of death. What passed none knew, for she locked herself in with the

dead body. After some time she as quietly returned, and only to those that keenly marked her features did she appear to have been weeping, but none dared to either question or console her—the one she looked on as impertinent, the other as insufferable. From the day when he was committed with some pomp and circumstance to the grave, his name was never mentioned by any in her service. Everything that was associated with his presence was gradually weeded out. His name alone she kept, as she told her minister, because she had made it honourable, so that no more respected name was heard in all the country side. So on she had lived the thorough mistress of her affairs, everything about her like the Queen's yacht, a model of order and discipline. Her stern and wholesome rule about supplying drink to the villagers had never been relaxed, so that there was scarcely a maddened drunkard about the place, and she often has been heard to say that if people did not go elsewhere and buy it from less scrupulous sellers a case of drunkenness might never have been seen in Woodgreen. Still there was plenty of drinking in the village, though it did not exhibit itself grossly, and although she was rigorous in preventing excess she afforded the means of sowing the seeds of intemperance in many a constitution which slowly ripened into a harvest of disease and misery and sin. Like many others her susceptibilities did go out to meet gratification from the glass. She loved to rule: her chief pleasure was derived from having a grand house, lordly guests, a splendid stud, and a busy trade. In the prime of her life, respected, wealthy, vigorous, she felt no weariness nor lassitude. Her only aversion was to anything that savoured of compliment to her, she dreaded any one that presumed to look upon her with feelings akin to admiration. She did not care how much she might be the object of female envy, indeed she rather liked that as it applied admission of her superiority, but she never would again permit her affections to rest upon any of the other sex. She has been heard to declare that one man did deceive her, and only one would ever have the chance. All her affections were liberally bestowed upon her two children, a boy and a girl. If they were right, the day had no cloud, if the least ailment troubled them the brightest day was plunged in gloom. Standing at her best room window she saw Mr. Vernon, Miss Vernon, and Mr. Milbank pass, and the interchange of recognition between them showed that all were on friendly terms. The rest of the square was taken up by the chief shops of the village. There was the draper's with its rude imitation of metropolitan fashions; the baker, who was a personage of great position. He was at once farmer, miller, and baker, and his little bakery was the source of supply to half the country side. Here, too, was the grocer, who did not seem to thrive like his neighbours, and at the opposite angle of the square from the Queen's Head might be seen the prosperous premises of the joiner and undertaker. He could furnish a cradle for the young wife, a coffin for the old man, a chest of drawers for the blushing bride, and a counter for the busy merchant. At the very moment the Vernon equipage passed, he and his man were harnessing the little pony in order to carry "the stretching board" some miles into the country. On the greensward before the school the school children were making the most of their leave of absence, and the air resounded with their cries and shouts, the outburst of their gambols. Here a mother sat at the door with her infant on her knee to suckle it and rest herself. There drooping age sat in the sun in the hope of deriving vigour from his beams. The brr of a wheel was evidential of industry, the clang of a hammer of arduous labour. At length the pretty little place was left behind, and the trilling song of the birds, the many-hued tints of autumn apparent in the forest, the bare surface of the grain-bearing fields, and the russet aspect of the land lately so beautiful with its green, invited silent consideration from them all. Each was busy thinking: Milbank of new resolves and a better life; the old gentleman of his erring son, and his lovely daughter of the pleasure which she would feel were her brother as kind as this stranger.

By and bye her thoughts settled pretty closely down to the task of analyzing all the events of the past two days, and it was quite wonderful how large was the space which Milbank filled in the existence measured by these two days—filled with his bravery, his skill, his manners, papa's esteem for him, her own gratitude,—yes, she felt only gratitude—well, let us too, as yet, say gratitude for his kindness. Where did he come from? He was not vulgar like the peasants of the village, nor brutal like the people of the cities. How long would he stay? she hoped for some time for papa's sake. Papa would be very glad of his company, and she was sure so would mama. As for herself she thought that he was welcome to stay till he—she choose to go. It is somewhat dangerous when a young lady begins to speculate so closely upon the bearing of a young and handsome man, especially when she is content to lay the onus of his leaving her company upon the said young man.

On they went, and, to Vernon's surprise, Milbank never seemed at a loss about the way. He simply drove on over the hill that brought the party to the river, along the bridge that spanned it some miles below the village, and then away up towards Elm-grove the seat of his host. It was not until they were nearing his own lodge that Mr. Vernon remarked—

"Well, we could never have had a better ride even if Pegasus had had the reins, nor have kept the way better, even if Jenkins had been guiding us."

"I felt at first surprised, but merely thought you had given precise instructions to Mr. Milbank before we started. We have been a charming drive. Don't you think so, papa?"

"I do, indeed, Dora. It is so much more pleasant than running away. Oh, Dora, to think that you should have given way to feelings of terror, and as the horses plunged on the road, have done nothing but scream."

"What could I do, papa? I was warned from my earliest years not to jump. I could not get hold of the reins, so I shouted for help, and I must say that it was to my taking your advice and clinging and shouting that we owe the pleasure of my rescue by Mr. Milbank, and your pleasure from intercourse with him since then."

"You are quite right, Dora; always right." As they drew near Jenkins was standing awaiting them, but so poorly that the moment his master saw him he jumped off and ordered him off quite peremptorily home to bed and rest.

"Do, Jenkins, go at once. You are not well, and I want you well, so go to bed and recover there. I am sure Fletcher never gave you permission to rise already?"

"No, sir, but I could not rest when I found none but this stranger to drive you out. So I came to see if I could not go into harness again, but you are right, I am not in trim at all."

"Oh, we are getting on pretty well, Mr. Jenkins. We had as good a drive as you could have given us; of course I mean in your present state of health. So take papa's advice and go indoors, and we will all have the pleasure of seeing you all the sooner that you take care of yourself."

"Bless you, Miss Dora, one always feels sunshine with you. Well, I will just go, but I am downright vexed that Mr. Wentworth would not allow Jones to go out with master."

"Ah it was not a filial action, but we must not judge too harshly. He will come round yet, Jenkins."

"Ah, so he will; so he will," said the faithful fellow as he trudged away.

Milbank had, in the meantime, gone up to dress. As his eye fell on his dressing table he was surprised at seeing a note evidently addressed to him. It was a hasty scrawl, and read thus:—

"Sir,—You had better cut your stick out of this, for there is a plot to mark you if you don't. You may laugh this warning off, but if you do, you will live to repent: remember Wantage Inn.

"The Favorite."

The superscription—Mr. Milbank.

Mr. Milbank gazed at this writing long and earnestly, turning it over and over as if it was juggler's paper, and might show all manner of things by merely turning it up like a box labelled glass with care, but nothing more appeared.

"What can be the meaning of this? Who knows me here? However, it is a warning which I should certainly accept. I shall be on my guard, and before another day closes its career I shall throw myself upon the kindness of Mr. Vernon. Wantage Inn, too, where I had to chastise a scamp. I can't make it out, but I shall be on my guard—on my guard."

FOURTH GENERAL UNION FOR PRAYER

FOR THE ENTIRE AND SPEEDY REMOVAL OF THE TRAFFIC IN INTOXICATING DRINKS AND IN OPIUM.

(From the 7th till the 14th November, 1880.)

THE friends of this Union are urged to hold one or more meetings for prayer; to introduce the subject at ordinary prayer meetings. The progress of the temperance movement and the increased attention which the opium question has received during the present year are great encouragements to persevering supplication. The following subjects for prayer are suggested in relation to

THE TRAFFIC IN INTOXICATING DRINKS.

Sabbath, 7th November.—That the people may soon have the control of the licensing system, and may rightly use the power when it is obtained. Chapters that may be read:—Isaiah lviii.; Matthew v. 13-20.

Monday, 8th November.—That all who are victims of intemperance may be rescued, and that those who abstain may be faithful to their vows. Psalm cxvi.; Proverbs i.

Tuesday, 9th November.—That those who manufacture or who deal in intoxicating drinks may be led to reflect on the awful results of the traffic, and may be induced to give up all connection with it.—Proverbs xxiii. 29-35; Isaiah xxviii. 1-13.

Wednesday, 10th November.—That those who send out intoxicating drinks to the heathen, often at mission stations, may cease to perpetrate this evil, the guilt of which is peculiarly aggravated. Daniel ix.; Romans xiv. 10-21.

Thursday, 11th November.—That a spirit of prayer may be poured out upon all associations formed for opposing the drink traffic, and that in answer to their petitions they may be more and more guided and blessed in carrying forward the temperance movement to a successful issue, and may thus be instrumental in removing a mighty stumbling block which now obstructs the progress of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Zechariah xii. 10-14; Isaiah lvii. 13-21.

Prayers are also urged to be offered against the opium traffic on the 12th, 13th, and 14th November. We earnestly bespeak the sympathy and prayers of our friends on behalf of the temperance question as indicated by this Union.

A writer in *East Kent Gazette* says:—Once in my life I took up my abode temporarily in a London coffee house, which happened also to be the head-quarters of a whole army of teetotalers. I had good opportunities for observing their peculiarities, and I noticed that many had only given up one excess for another. Although they had relinquished intoxicating drinks they drank non-intoxicants to a tremendous extent, and as for smoking I could have backed them against any similar number of Dutchmen or Germans. My dormitory was very near their large club-room, and, if I had not taken the precaution to let down the top sash of the window for half the night, I verily believe I should have been suffocated, and my carcass smoked-dried as completely as a well-cured piece of Hampshire bacon. Smoking is as much an artificial practice as inordinate drinking, and those who refrain from contracting such a pernicious and useless habit are to be congratulated.

THE FUNDS.

*** Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, NOVEMBER, 1880.

OUR NEW YEAR'S TRACT.

THE Executive are glad to be able to announce the issue of the first twenty thousand of their New Year's Tract for 1881. This year it is from the eloquent pen of the Rev. Horatius Bonar, D.D., Edinburgh, and bears the significant title, "The City of the Plague; or Sights of London in Sixteen Sixty-five." It is illustrated in the finest style of the art by Pearson of London, and may be had at 10s. per 1000, or 1s. per 100—carriage not paid. Societies may have their name and local announcements printed at the top at an extra charge of 1s. 6d. per heading. If heading contains more than 40 words, by special agreement. On all orders of 2000 and upwards no charge is made for heading. Orders should be sent in at once, as there are already indications of the tract meeting with a very large circulation.

MR. JOHN PATON.

THE Executive are glad to announce that Mr. Paton will return from a three weeks' tour in Ireland on 20th November, and from thence to the end of the year will assist the lecturing agency of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. Applications from Committees desirous to arrange for a visit from him may be sent at once to the Secretary, R. Mackay, Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow, who will endeavour to meet their wishes as far as possible. In dealing with such applications, the Executive will give a preference to those which contain a wish to have Mr. Paton for two or three consecutive nights.

The Social Science Congress has, since we met our readers, been and gone, and we are in the depths of reflection over all that has been said. Society receives the drenching it so liberally bestows with the feeling that it is only once a year, and on the strength of the large outflow and overflow of topic and discussion devotes a very superficial attention to the questions with which the Congress deals. Those immediately benefited are those that are truly aiming and striving to secure some means of ameliorating the condition of mankind. They can

next deliberate on and compare whatever suggestions may be brought under the shadow of the great names to lend their influence to its deliberations. This year the Congress has been helpful to the cause of social and political progress: it has been helpful in promoting deeper reflection on the great questions involved in the Temperance Reformation. Permissive Legislation, Parochial Drugging, Local Option, and Specific Temperance Education have formed themes for much interesting and profitable discussion.

The Rev. John Kay of Edinburgh gave a paper on "Temperance in Primary Schools," in which may be found a very exhaustive resumé of the entire rise, progress, position, and prospects of specific education on temperance truth in our primary schools. Education has most influence with the young, just as growth has most influence with the twig, and to form in the plastic mind a doubt or distrust of strong liquors is to forever unsettle the faith of the "coming race" in the virtues of strong drink. It is gladdening to hear that 44 schools in Glasgow, all the schools in Edinburgh, inclusive of Heriot's Hospital, look kindly on the work of educating the young in the principles of temperance. It is interesting to know that the scheme of Robt. Lowe to demand payment by results is also found antagonistic to apathy on the part of the teacher on this matter. Irregular attendance, chiefly arising from the drunkenness of parents, injuriously affects their interests by diminishing their grant. Hence it will be their interest to teach the young under their charge in order that their grant may be maintained. While this education is going on we need still a local option measure to stop the tap, for education may point out the right road, may show that it is the best as well as the right way, but it will not prevent the injury, the mortification, the ruin of thousands so self-indulgent or so trained as to see and approve the better, but follow the worse.

"The Rhetoric of the Recess" will soon be in full flow. Many honourable members are slowly recovering from the exhaustive and prostrating labours of the "Long" session. Others are still roaming over the "Green Isle of the Ocean" in search of light on the Irish land question, and, it may be, are taking a sly kiss of the "Blarney" stone as they meander along. They will soon be giving their constituents their views on the abolition of the malt tax, the duty on beer, and the coming Government Licensing Measure. On some of these points, they will speak an infinite deal of nothing, and will as likely as not too often speak away from the issue. But it is the duty and privilege of our friends to put them right. Indeed, the ignorance or the intelligence of members of Parliament on our question indicates the extent of the education to which the friends of prohibition they represent have subjected them. If they have been lax in laying facts and arguments

before them, then that laxity is visible in the crude and undigested views of their representative on the question. If he manifests an intelligent grasp of their proposal to deal with the drink traffic, then that happy result has been brought about all the more happily that it has most intelligent supporters in his own constituency. During the coming session honourable members will be asked if they are to support a special Bill for Scotland. All our friends can during the recess take advantage of their representative's presence amongst them to render an account of his stewardship to prepare his mind for giving his staunch support to a measure conferring upon the people of Scotland the power to abolish the liquor traffic of their respective localities. This is their duty. They did their duty nobly previous to the division of the 18th June. Let them endeavour to discharge it as desired in view of the next session, and a like triumphant result will sooner or later crown their efforts.

One of our contemporaries the other day in having his usual fling at Rev. Dr. Begg, whom he loves as well as he loves Bailie Lewis, quoted Lord Palmerston's famous letter to a certain Edinburgh presbytery which memorialised his lordship to appoint a day of national fasting and humiliation, because of the cholera which was raging. The reply was conclusive. His lordship did "not think under the circumstances such a national fast was desirable or suitable. The Maker of the universe had established certain laws on the observance or neglect of which the weal or woe of mankind depended. One of these laws connects health with the absence of those gaseous exhalations which proceed from overcrowded human dwellings or decomposing substances, and it is the duty of man to attend to those laws of nature and to exert those faculties which Providence had given to man for his own welfare. To stay the cholera it was imperative that he remove the causes and sources of contagion which, if allowed to remain will infallibly breed pestilence and be fruitful in death in spite of all the prayers and fastings of a united but inactive nation. When man has done his utmost for his own safety then is the time to invoke the blessing of Heaven to give effect to his exertions." We could not choose an utterance that would better arraign the folly of those who are continually crying to God to put away the pestilence of intemperance from the land and yet fold their hands and do nothing. One of the laws of our Maker connects the use of liquor with poverty, crime, unsoundness of mind, and national disorder, and until we energetically set about to remove the breweries and distilleries that produce, and the public houses that dispense such baneful liquors, we do not act so as to deserve a gracious answer with the prayers we offer. Godiva prayed the grim earl her lord to remit the tax he just had laid on Coventry, for "if they have to pay they starve:" he turned bluntly upon her and told her she would not let her

little finger ache for such as these. But she nobly rejoined she would die, and asked him to prove her sincerity. He did so, and in responding to the severe demand he made upon her womanly sensibilities, she built herself an everlasting name, for the proud earl, moved by her devotion, abolished the tax he would have exacted irrespective of the consequences to Coventry. It is in this spirit we should act when our Maker's laws are violated by our fellow beings. Let us not merely be content with prayers to a beneficent God who is not Benevolence personified but a moral Governor, and let us urge on our fellows the duty of obedience to the law broken through the cupidity of some and the weakness of others, and besides help to render their obedience easier. Men ask God's blessing on our mutual efforts. The abundant blessing will impart irresistible power to our puny efforts, and man be blessed and God truly revered. If in this spirit we were as a nation to act towards the fountain and cause of intemperance in this country, how soon would the one be stopped and the other for ever removed?

The winter is upon us and the work of temperance and prohibitory committees should be during its course energetically carried out. Our temperance and good templar halls should now be crowded with earnest listeners to temperance and prohibitory truths, and our membership lists and our pledge books should be rapidly filling up. From one end of the country to the other such should be the case, and where it is not there is "a screw loose" either in the committee or in its arrangements. Where there is enthusiasm, activity, and success, the society and its committee will be found working on the lines of a rational and stable scheme, and we have only to say that such societies have our earnest cry and prayer for their progress and success. We would earnestly impress upon those others which are struggling and threatening at every meeting "to go under" to examine themselves and their arrangements to see where the real cause of their failure is. To help them in this work we unhesitatingly affirm that it is useless to think that people are madly desirous to adopt their pledge: some have done so often, and as they have had struggles which have ended in their going back to the drink-pots they will fight shy of temperance meetings: others have relatives who are directly engaged in the traffic and they cannot shake off the connection: others have not a relative who abstains and they have not the pluck to be singular: others fear ridicule, and others think that by taking the pledge they are branding themselves drunkards. But for all that there are plenty that only need to have the nature and effects of drink explained to them and the duty of abstaining properly urged upon them to induce them to join the ranks and become noble workers in the cause. It is useless to think that merely hiring a hall badly lighted up, and

sitting in it without a fire, will attract people. Nothing tends so much to failure. A cosy fire free to all, a brightly lighted hall, a few pictures on the wall, and a busy committee, are the prime factors of success. Why the temperance movement is aggressive, a fighting movement, a seeking in order to save movement, an effort on the part of its devoted followers to pluck the brands from the burning, and who would bring the wounded or scorched into a dingy hospital ward? If they would not why should committees bring the poor drunkard into a miserable out of the way hall. It is as useless to hire a brilliantly lighted hall, if committees wont arrange to have good speakers, not merely famous speakers, but good, earnest speakers, for although a most excellent fire, sunlights, pictures, vocal and instrumental music are provided, yet if advocates are not present to teach, labours in the neighbourhood, selected for operations will not be profitable or satisfactory. We would not rigidly exclude these adjuncts, but we would certainly subordinate them to sound, healthy, earnest, witty temperance teaching. An advocate is asked to give an address, but he is told to be brief, he is ushered before the audience in terms that show that the committee would dispense with him if they dared, and yet that man is expected to speak so as to charm and instruct. That is the way to make advocates careless in their preparation and careless in their oratory. Encourage them, listen to them, applaud them, thank them, pay their fares or provide a cab, furnish a tea should they appear to need it, and it will be as true as twice six are twelve that they will exhibit a knowledge of their subject or a desire to please that will carry them over the difficulties of their subject, and draw forth the applause and commendation of their audience. If under such encouraging circumstances advocates encumber the platform set them aside: they are sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. If on the other hand committees treat advocates as gentlemen; they will not want those that will be worthy of their best attention. Such are some of the secrets of success deserving of the attention of our temperance committees. If they are made the basis of operations they will bring success that will be at once lasting and satisfactory. The winter has now fairly commenced. Let committees be in earnest in their work; let them strive after unprecedented success; let them secure good sound speakers; let them not merely pledge abstainers to give over drinking, but also enlist voters who will whenever they have the chance veto a system that is at once at war with the will of God, and the true and lofty interests of man. Like them have a mind to work, and victory will in due time perch upon their banners.

A very readable paper on Local Option by the Rev. J. A. Johnston, was submitted to the late meeting of the Social Science Congress. We are glad that in it Mr. Johnston does not speak for us, seeing that he considers local option as an amend-

ment of the Licensing Acts, when its effect would be to destroy their licensing power altogether. The licensing clauses of the Scottish Public House Acts are their exceptional clauses, and these clauses it is the avowed intention of local option to abolish. However, we mean by local option other than Mr. Johnston, namely, the possession and exercise by the people of a given locality, the same licensing control as that of the licensing court. By local option, we mean the power vested in the ratepayers or house-holders, of preventing the issue and continuance of all liquor licenses in their midst. It is that, or it is nothing. Temperance Reformers have been for years supporting a proposal of that thorough going character, and they will be satisfied with nothing less. They don't trouble themselves with the latitude of local option, that is, whether it means to increase, decrease, or extinguish public-houses. They find none, the publicans themselves not excepted, asking for power to increase. Many will be found glad to join in a crusade to decrease, as against a crusade to abolish; it therefore remains for the true Temperance Reformer to concentrate his energy and his influence on getting the option to abolish. Let him see to that. Whatever powers may be sought, let him see that that power is obtained, because it will be most grudgingly given, even by the present Parliament. Once it is granted to the people, a most corrupt element of political and social corruption will be forever lost to Government; it cannot be expected that Parliament can let it go without reluctance. There must be a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether to get our demand, and with this it will be got. In reviewing the threefold optional mode of dealing with the liquor traffic, Mr. Johnston manifests his long standing dislike to the Permissive Bill, and takes the side of Mr. Forster as against Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The Permissive Bill seems to him as well as to Mr. Forster, to have too much *Prohibition* and too little *option*, and he forgets in stating Mr. Forster's view, that he seems to be pleading for something less than prohibition. Why should we care for the opinions of moderate drinking, statesmen or modify our views till they harmonize with their aversion to the suppression of the drink traffic. That traffic ought to be suppressed, and in that *ought* is involved our marching orders. It is a marvel to find Mr. Johnston, whose acumen and subtlety of mind is so apparent, so obtuse on this subject, the more so when we find him admitting the simplicity and effectiveness of the Permissive Bill. He sets it aside, fortunately, not on the grounds of its merits or demerits, but that it is not likely soon to become law. Happily, the publicans differ *in toto* with him on this point, and we agree with them, and not with Mr. Johnston. The Permissive Bill of Sir Wilfrid Lawson may be withdrawn for ever, but whenever there is a bill before the country, providing for the local suppression of the liquor traffic by the vote of the people, there is a Permissive Bill. Let us not de-

ceive ourselves by names. We, for ourselves, don't care with what name the bill, the measure, or the law may be christened, if its powers are equal to the overthrow of the traffic by the ratepayers. Mr Johnston finds a new name for the partial veto which, for so many years, was the object of his solicitude. He calls it the "direct" veto; but it is scarcely fair to appropriate a name too likely to mislead. The "direct" veto has only partial scope, and aims to suppress any license whose obnoxiousness invites its action. The Permissive Bill, or suppressive veto, or entire veto, will be as direct in its action as the special or partial veto championed by Mr. Johnston; and to call the latter the direct veto brings an element of confusion into prohibitory politics, which so acute a reasoner as Mr. Johnston should have taken care to exclude. Mr. Johnston is meantime entangled in the meshes of the Licensing Board scheme. Our readers know our view of this plan—that it is too like the present administration of the licensing laws to be palatable to all who have observed intelligently the action of the Licensing Courts and Quarter Sessions. We choose to appeal to Cæsar, and not to his deputies; to the people themselves, and not to a committee appointed by them; to a final poll on the subject, and not to the triennial or quinquennial election of a body of men no better than those that license at the present moment. It is significant that Mr. Johnston has to go to Englishmen to bolster up his scheme; to the Church of England Temperance Society—at present in the densest mist on this question; to Joseph Cowen, and his copyist, Mr. Harrison. England has no licensing magistracy in the sense that we have in Scotland, and a licensing magistracy might really improve matters with them. Mr. Johnston only claims for these Boards that they would work better than the present system; and as they are not suppressive, as we understand suppression, we can see that we would, by adopting this scheme, be very little nearer the goal of all our hopes than we are. We are truly sorry to differ from Mr. Johnston, but we cannot help it. He declares himself sound on the prohibition of the traffic. He wants it down, no doubt, some time; but when he is called on to plunge boldly into the fight, he shrinks from the struggle, apparently preferring the inglorious work of reducing the outworks of the enemy to gallantly joining the storming-party—manfully assailing the fortress, and planting the victor's banner triumphantly on the battlements of the citadel.

A banquet was given on the 26th September, to Sir Kenneth M'Kenzie, of Gairloch, Bart., in acknowledgement of his contesting Inverness-shire against Cameron of Lochiel, and only losing by 30 votes. The proceedings were most successful; and Lord Lovat stated that if ever Sir Kenneth saw fit to place his services at the disposal of the Liberals of the County of Inverness, he would be most cordially received. Sir Kenneth would, if returned, vote for the Local Option resolution. Lochiel has always, when present, voted against the Permissive Bill and the Local Option resolution.

SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1880-81.

President—Treasurer HAMILTON, J.P., Glasgow.

Vice-Presidents—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., M.P., Brayton; James Stewart, Esq., M.P., Garvochs; Sir John Murray, Bart., Philiphaugh, Selkirk; Councillor Hope, Edinburgh; John Davie, Esq., Dunfermline; J. M'Kenzie, Esq., M.D., Inverness; Ex-Provost Ferguson, Partick; Provost Rae, Wick; Ex-Provost Taylor, Forres; Provost Wilson, Moffat; J. D. Bryce, Esq., J.P., Glasgow; J. Morton, Esq., J.P., Greenock; R. Little, Esq., J.P., Greenock; J. Robertson, Esq., J.P., Lauchope; Dr. Robertson, J.P., Renfrew; J. Miller, Esq., J.P., Rothesay; J. Cowan, Esq., J.P., Beeslack; J. Smith, Esq., J.P., Peterhead; James Guthrie, Esq., J.P., Brechin; D. M. Home, Esq., J.P., Paxton House; Councillor Moncur, Dundee; John Jamieson, Esq., Perth; Rev. Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D.D., Edinburgh; Rev. Prof. Kirk, Edinburgh; Rev. Prof. Hunter, Leith; Rev. Dr. Longmuir, Aberdeen; Rev. A. A. Bonar, D.D., Glasgow; Rev. R. M'Corkle, St. Ninians; Rev. W. Ross, Rothesay; Rev. A. Davidson, Greenock; Rev. D. Brochie, Greenock; Rev. A. Inglis, Dundee; Rev. Hector Hall, Glasgow; Rev. J. Thomson, Hawick; Rev. William Clark, Barrhead; Rev. J. Stewart, Peterhead; Rev. James Ronald, Annan; Rev. John Tait, Newport; Rev. Jas. Mather, Langbank; Rev. A. Affleck, Auchtermuchty; Rev. R. I. Gray, Galston; Rev. W. Halliday, Glasgow; Rev. J. C. Russell, Campbeltown; John Colvin, Creetown; Rev. William Elmslie, Inch; William Govan, Esq., Glasgow; Bailie Lamberton, Glasgow; G. Tait, Esq., Edinburgh; James Horn, Esq., Lanark; J. Buchanan, Esq., Glasgow; J. Neilson, Esq., Glasgow; Adam Dryden, Esq., Edinburgh; Dr. Bowie, Edinburgh; E. Howat, Esq., Dundee; W. Scrymgeour, Esq., Dundee; John M'Donald, Esq., Aberdeen; William Clark, Esq., Aberdeen; Councillor Rodger, Dumfries; Councillor Johnstone, Dumfries; Dr. J. Gilchrist, Dumfries; Dr. J. M. M'Culloch, Dumfries; Major Malcolm, Burnfoot; R. Patrick, Esq., Barrhead; William Robertson, Esq., Paisley; Robert Hay, Esq., Perth; P. Campbell, Esq., Perth; Councillor Syme, Perth; Duncan Smith, Esq., Glasgow; Thos. M'Lellan, Esq., Barrhead; Ex-Bailie Kennedy, Dumbarton; Robert Roy, Esq., Dumbarton; James Wood, Esq., Galashiels; Andrew Jack, Esq., Kilmarnock; A. D. Stewart, Esq., Kilmarnock; James Miller, Esq., Shaw, Monkton; Walter Scott, Esq., Langholm; J. Y. Simpson, Esq., Largs; D. Stenhouse, Esq., Cupar-Fife; John Hogarth, Esq., Kirkcaldy; Robert Bird, Esq., Paisley; Lockhart Dobie, Esq., Rothesay; George Lewis, Esq., Selkirk; J. Shanks, Esq., Bridge-of-Weir; Provost M'Leish, Fort-William; Bailie Tindall, Fraserburgh; W. Menzies, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh; James Jamieson, Esq., Ayr; John Hay, Esq., Inverkeithing; John Wilson, Esq., Hillhead; A. S. Cook, Esq., Aberdeen; William Craig, Esq., Barrhead; J. P. Smith, Esq., Dundee; Councillor Anderson, Elgin; William Fraser, Esq., Forres; Alex. Monro, Esq., M.D., Forres; J. Borthwick, Esq., Hawick; Bailie Young, Jedburgh; Provost M'Pherson, Grangemouth; G. Bruce, Esq., Dunse; James Walls, Esq., Kirkwall; John Adair, Esq., Edinburgh; John Telfer, Esq., Portobello; Bailie Ross, Inverkeithing; William Davidson, Esq., Aberdeen; William Briggs, Esq., Arbroath; William Howat, Esq., Stirling; James Paton, Esq., Tillicoultry; James Drysdale, Esq., Bridge-of-Allan; William Rutherford, Esq., Forfar.

Honorary Directors—Mr. James Murray, Glasgow; Mr. James Russell, Douglas; Mr. G. Arthur, Forfar; Mr. J. Howieson, Uddingston; Mr. J. R. M'Ausland, Bonhill; Mr. John Curle, Jedburgh; Mr. A. P. Brown, Kilmarnock; W. M'Even, Kirkcudbright; Mr. A. K. Williamson, Edinburgh; Bailie W. Dougal, Linlithgow; Ex-Bailie Heron, Annan; Mr. S. Cavan, Kirkcudbright; Mr. A. Jardine, Bonhill; Mr. A. M'Millan, Milngavie; Mr. D. G. Simpson, Kilwinning; Mr. John Cook, Crieff; Mr. J. Russell, Haystone, Peebles; Mr. A. Macdougall, Glasgow; Mr. R. Adams, Aberdeen; Mr.

A. Byers, Langholm; Ex-Councillor Paul, Falkirk; Mr. W. Crombie, Avonbridge; Mr. T. Fairgrieve, Galashiels; Mr. Walter Mercer, Stow; Mr. D. Mathewson, Crail; Mr. Charles Newall, Locharbriggs; Mr. Thomas Hope, Bo'ness; Mr. Alex. Glen, Eyemouth; Mr. William Milne, Edinburgh; Mr. George Mitchell, Campbeltown; Mr. Peter Esson, Dunfermline; Mr. John Macfarlane, Stirling; Mr. Wm. Glass, Grantown; Mr. Matthew Elliot, Inverness; Mr. John Macdonald, Inverness; Mr. J. C. Thomson, Stonehaven; Mr. Gilbert Archer, Leith; Mr. Wm. Smith, Balzeordie; Mr. A. Ogilvie, Dingwall; Mr. Joseph Morris, Broxburn; Rev. W. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy; Mr. D. Christie, Ladybank; Mr. R. Blair, Lasswade; Mr. Wm. Scott, Lesmahagow.

Executive Committee.—The City Members—Robert M'Callum, T. L. Selkirk, R. C. Murray, J. Torrens, Peter Ferguson, A. Husband, J. L. Selkirk, J. Forrester, William Smith, Thomas Dick, John N. M'Allister, J. Colquhoun, George Gray, and W. Stewart. Country Members—J. Winning, Paisley; John Lang, Greenock; John Williams, Wishaw; James Osborne, Mearns; William Hart, Kilsyth; Rev. Dr. Wm. Adamson, J. Nesbit, and J. Steel, Edinburgh; and J. Howieson, Uddingston.

Chairman of Executive, Ex-BAILIE TORRENS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman of do., Ex-PROVOST DICK.
Treasurer, - - - - R. M'CALLUM.
Honorary Secretary, - BAILIE SELKIRK.
Secretary, - - - - R. MACKAY.
Bankers, - - - - UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Organ of the Association—*The Social Reformer*,
 Monthly, One Penny.

Offices of the Association—30 Hope Street, Glasgow.

INTELLIGENCE.

Drunkenness is said to be largely on the increase in Belgium.

Of the 13,000 cabmen in the Metropolis, 1,000 are abstainers.

The movement for providing Army Coffee Taverns is meeting with generous support.

Coffee taverns are flourishing all over the country. We are sorry to add that the liquor traffic is also flourishing.

It is said that the new Lord Mayor of London will lend the weight of his position to encourage temperance at the civil banquets and elsewhere.

The right of the State to regulate or prohibit the liquor traffic has been frequently affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Rev. C. H. Collyns, M.A., of Wirksworth, has been appointed Secretary of the British Temperance League, in room of Mr. F. Atkin resigned.

SERVE HIM RIGHT.—Thomas Moyes, of the Abbotsford Temperance Hotel, Edinburgh, was found guilty of harbouring women of disreputable character, and fined £10.

The Temperance Society of France offer a prize of 2,000 francs (£80) for the best essay on the question, "Do alcoholic liquors, when introduced into the economy, undergo any modifications?"

J. W. OWEN, the Electoral Agent of the United Kingdom Alliance, died at Manchester, on 12th September. He was a most devoted servant to the movement, and was widely esteemed.

FASHIONABLE FEMALE DRINKING.—The love of strong drink appears to be increasing among the educated women of our day. During the season just past instances of this were so frequent as to lead to the conjecture that a kind of epidemic of drink was pervading those classes of society in which culture, position, and the possession of every comfort of life would appear to be a sufficient guarantee against so degrading a vice.—*Truth.*

There are 128 Soldiers' Temperance Association Societies in India, with a membership of 9,002 members, and 4,107 honours have been distributed. The increase of membership during the year is 1,355.

It has been resolved to erect a drinking fountain in Glasgow, to cost about £700, as a memorial of the services rendered to the temperance cause by the Hon. Lord Provost Collins, during his term of office as chief magistrate.

MR. F. AITKEN, the secretary of the British Temperance League, has accepted an engagement as Lecturing and Special Agent of the Western Temperance League. We wish him signal success in his resumed career.

Burns' birth-place is at length to be dissociated from the drink that did so much to tarnish his fame. The memorial committee have purchased the "auld clay biggin'," and intend making it into a museum for the relics of the poet.

The first of the seventh winter's series of conversations under the auspices of the Scottish Temperance League was held on the 18th ult., in the Pillar Hall of the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow. The Hon. the Lord Provost presided, and the Rev. J. A. Johnston read a paper on the subject of Local Option.

There is a temperance society in every European regiment commanded by General Sir J. Roberts,—a fact which may largely account for that General's brilliant march from Cabul to Candahar. Drink kills more than the climate in India.

At a conference in Manchester the other week, the Licensed Victuallers expressed serious fear that the Government had in contemplation a measure of the most disastrous kind relating to their trade, and resolved upon organized opposition to it.

FOOD AND DRINK.—On an average £4 3s. is spent yearly by every person, young and old, in the United Kingdom on bread, tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and rice. On alcoholic liquors alone the expenditure is £4 7s., or 4s. more than all the other articles put together.

One sign of progress, and a most cheering one, is the large numbers of inquiries made at our offices for information on the question of Prohibition, for use in essays and debates in connection with literary associations. We are always glad to assist those who will seriously study the question.

We have lately been having a Licensed Victuallers' Exhibition—a curious thing in its way, but very incomplete. The intricate and elaborate machinery of our national curse has been on view, but not the length and breadth, the height or depth of that awful curse. It requires two worlds fully to exhibit that.

There has been a decrease in the number of shipwrecks up to the present time this year as compared with the same period last year. We wish we could say the same in regard to the number of man-wrecks, but we can't. The sea has been calmer, no doubt, this year, but strong drink has been raging.

At a meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society held in Exeter Hall, a clergyman thus referred to the expenditure of drink:—"How much do you think has been spent in the last eighty years by all the Protestant Christian missionary societies of the world, and all the Bible societies put together? Not more than England spends every three or four months on drink!"

LIQUOR IN THE UNITED STATES.—That the temperance cause is making steady and certain progress in the United States there is abundant and indisputable evidence, but that it has yet a great task to accomplish is also made obvious by the significant figures of the Internal Revenue Department with reference to the liquor traffic. It is announced that for the last fiscal year, ended June 30, 1880, the revenue from distilled spirits was 61,185,508, dols. 79c., an increase over the previous year of 8,615,224 dols. 10c.; that on fermented liquors also there was an increase of 2,100,486 dols. 12c. It appears also that the revenue from retail liquor dealers' licenses shows an increase of 269,247 dols. 61c. over 1879.

DRUNK AND INSANITY.—In 1860 there were in England and Wales 38,058 insane persons; there was, in 1879, 71,191. The rate of increase of the population was 28 per cent.; of insanity, 87 per cent. Intemperance stands as the first of causes of insanity: 27.5 per cent. of the men were insane through it, and 10 per cent. of the women.

Railway accidents are becoming alarmingly frequent. Of course, as long as human fallibility, over-worked pointsmen, and bad metals exist, we may expect to hear of such accidents; but drink need not be allowed to augment their number. Drink will do more mischief than dynamite. If it gets to be a recognised factor in these smashes, we may fear and dread to take even a five-mile journey.

Here is how the trade view it in America. "Mrs. Hayes' 'No wine at State dinners' may have sounded easy to other people, but it was almost a sound of death to the wine trade. Many is the time we have sold hundreds of boxes to dealers who we knew in turn furnished them to the executive mansion. That trade is entirely gone now. Last winter (in Washington) there was not one case of wine sold where forty were sold even ten years ago."

THE QUEEN'S PARK ESTATE on the Harrow Road, London, belonging to the same committee which erected the Shaftesbury estate, near Clapham Common, London, is almost finished, when it will consist of 8,000 houses and 30,000 persons, all of the working classes. No public-house will be allowed on the estate. We may inform our readers that this population is nearly as large as the populations of Ayr and Dumfries taken together; they will draw some idea of the size of Queen's Park Estate, and some idea of how many households will be relieved from the constant drink temptations to which those in towns studded with public-houses are subjected.

GLASGOW.—On Wednesday, 6th ult., a meeting of St. Luke's Branch, Church of Scotland Temperance Association, was held in the Parish Church, Bain's Square, the area of which was quite crowded by one of the most interested audiences ever brought together. The Rev. Mr. Dick, Pastor of the Church, presided; and the speakers of the evening were Messrs. Stevenson and Mackay, Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The addresses met with most hearty applause. The evening's proceedings were agreeably diversified with vocal and instrumental music. There were 36 pledges taken by the audience at the close—4 pledging to be an example of strict personal sobriety, and 32 pledging to thorough personal abstinence. The usual votes of thanks terminated one of the best meetings yet held under the auspices of this branch.

HIS PLEA.—James Brown, of Balgersho, Coupar-Angus, was charged by the Caledonian Railway Company with roughly shaking a lady, a fellow-passenger, and when remonstrated with, cursed and used foul language, and knocking down a gentleman passenger. He was ejected at Lochee, and threatened to throw the station-master over railings into the street below. He denied it, but when evidence condemned him, he expressed sorrow for his conduct, and accounted for it by saying he must have been drunk, as he did not remember anything that occurred. The Sheriff declared that his conduct was disgraceful, and the worst that had come before him. Fined £2, and £2 costs, or thirty days' imprisonment. The liquor dealer escaped scot free, although he was accessory to the shameful conduct of his customer.

"The average English operative is not equal to the average American operative, either physically or intellectually. I notice a lack of physical strength in the workpeople as they leave the factory. They look sallow, and appear haggard and weary. There is a kind of languor, and a lack of buoyancy of spirits among them, quite in contrast to our American operatives on this particular. Then, again, beer drinking and smoking are very common among them, and an enormous amount of money is spent in this way. Beer

is the great curse of the poorer classes in England. The contrast in the condition of operatives in England and the United States—in dress, in education, in living, and in the prospects for the future of their families—is most marked indeed. American operatives in their social position, in their school privileges, and in the future possibilities open before them, are a hundredfold better off than the operatives of this country."—*Col. Shaw, United States Consul, Manchester.*

THE REVENUE for the quarter and the six months show decided improvement. It is melancholy to think, however, that so much of this improvement should be owing to the consumption of strong drink: *The Scotsman*, the inveterate enemy of the Scottish Prohibitory movement, on this subject of improved revenue, makes the following significant remarks:—"Excise, which was only £40,000 up in the June quarter, is £191,000 up in the quarter just ended. No more conclusive proof of the improving circumstances of the people could be obtained; they are spending more on liquor and luxuries. The fact that one of the first results of returning prosperity is indulgences of this kind may be regretted: but such is the fact." The fact that people cannot meet prosperity without using it to the ruin of their physical, mental, and moral being, might well be regretted if it was inevitable for them to dissipate their means and incur ruin, but when a prohibitory law would save them regret should not be indulged in till the law was tried and failed.

A WOMAN'S CRUSADE.—The *Daily News* of 19th ult. published the following:—"According to advices received by the last mail from Ohio, Fredericktown is just now a scene of remarkable excitement. The wives of the citizens, being deeply moved on behalf of the temperance cause, met the other morning, summoned by the ringing of a handbell. Falling into procession, they marched to the principal liquor establishment of the place, which they found closely guarded. After some parleying, they proceeded to break open the doors, and, having thus effected an entrance, they turned on the taps of all the barrels that were tapped, staved in others that were not, and broke every bottle in the place. The ladies next visited other stores where liquor was sold, and were at the hour of the latest despatch pursuing their victorious course unchecked. It is clear that the male population of Fredericktown is utterly cowed before this uprising, and the bar-keepers find themselves deserted in the hour of danger by those who have hitherto loyally supported them."

THE WAY TO CONQUER APPETITE.—In the course of an address, in London, Mr. Gough said:—"I knew a man who undertook to give up the use of tobacco. He chewed it—the best cavendish tobacco. (This was in America; they don't chew here, I believe.) He put his hand in his pocket, took out his plug of tobacco, and threw it away, saying as he did so, 'That's the end of it.' But it was the beginning of it. Oh, how he did want it! He would lick his lips; he would chew camomile; he would chew gentian; he would chew toothpicks, quills, anything to keep his jaws going. No use; he suffered intensely. After enduring the craving for thirty-six or forty-eight hours, he made up his mind: 'Now, it's no use suffering for a bit of tobacco; I'll go and get some.' So he went and purchased another plug, and put it in his pocket. 'Now,' he said, 'when I want it awfully, I'll take some.' Well, he did want it awfully; and he said he believed that it was God's good spirit that was striving with him as he held the tobacco in his hand. Looking at it he said, 'I love you. But are you my master, or am I yours? You are a weed, and I am a man. You are a thing, and I am a man. You black devil, I'll master you if I die for it. It shall never be said of me again, 'There is a man mastered by a thing!'' Every time he wanted it he would take it out and talk to it. It was six or eight weeks before he could throw it away and feel easy; but he said the glory of the victory repaid him for all his struggle

Many large temperance meetings have been held during the last month all over England. The North of England Temperance League held their twenty-second annual meeting at Stockton amidst much enthusiasm. In their Report the Executive recommend house to house visitation as the most effective means of enlightening the people. The friends in Leeds with great rejoicings celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the temperance movement in their town. They commenced with sermons on Sunday, and throughout the entire week following they held demonstrations, conferences and public meetings, and systematically deliberated upon all phases of temperance work—the religious, economical, medical and legislative. If every town would copy from Leeds in this, prohibition would be soon an established fact. At Exeter the National Temperance League held a congress with members of the Sanitary Congress, at which the Bishop of Exeter and Dr. Richardson both delivered excellent addresses bearing upon sanitary science in its relation to temperance reform. At Leicester a church congress was held, at which the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Liverpool, and Canon Farrar spoke. Papers were read in support of local option, and discussions took place on that and on the "shattered assertion"—"You can't make men sober by Act of Parliament." In London Cardinal Manning addressed a great meeting of the Catholic Temperance League; and lastly, but not least amongst these great efforts to advance the cause of temperance, we note the United Kingdom Alliance annual meetings, of which we speak at more detail elsewhere.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY AND TOTAL ABSTINENCE.—Temperance men point with pride to Sir Garnet Wolseley as an abstainer, and Sir Garnet, in a letter, which has been published, informs a Church of England clergyman that there is no one wishes well to the temperance cause more sincerely than he does. All his experience as a soldier makes his conviction the stronger that "the less liquor there is consumed in any army the more efficient is its condition," and he adds, "with the troops under my command recently in South Africa, we had very little spirits. Of my own personal escort the majority were total abstainers, and they were models of what soldiers on service should be. I find that if you give men plenty of tea and sugar, they don't miss their grog after a time. Having no grog with you in a campaign eases your transport very, very considerably, and removes a temptation to steal, which its presence in an army always creates." It has often been said that whatever class of people turns more sober than another, the English agricultural labourers would never discard the home-brewed beer. But the fallacy of this has been proved. A Hampshire farmer has published a letter reporting that an experiment he made of giving a harvest-home supper on temperance principles to his labourers, with their wives and families, numbering in all about seventy, was a decided success. "A very sociable, pleasant evening was spent," he writes, "and all expressed themselves perfectly satisfied. I believe it proved to them that it is quite possible to enjoy a harvest-home without beer. I may add, my head carter went through the harvest without drinking any beer, and that he says he never did his work more comfortably." Besides enjoying better health, the humble carter, of course, also added considerably to his little store of wealth.—*Daily Review Correspondent.*

The Earl of Zetland has entered into an action of declarator. Messrs. Carmichael and Wilkinson are the respondents. Carmichael, a draper in Falkirk, is the trustee for the owner of the property in which Wilkinson deals in spirits. His Lordship wishes to enforce the prohibition of the feu charters and to get Wilkinson interdicted. The defenders plead that the prohibition in the charters had been waived from time immemorial and that the premises in question had been licensed for fifty years. Also that as the prohibition founded upon being inapplicable to the existing circumstances of Grangemouth is contrary to the spirit of the true meaning and intent of the feu charter and cannot be maintained.

We were sorry to see that by an inadvertent error Rev. Dr. Adamson's name had been omitted from the report of our annual meetings as seconding the third resolution. The Executive esteemed not only the doing of this service highly, but the doing of it formally; the rev. gentleman denying himself of an opportunity in which he might have greatly enhanced the services rendered, by placing his views on the question before a City Hall audience.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL, BART., M.P.—At Kirkealdy on the 18th Sir George said—"Mr. Gladstone's great achievement had been the Budget, by which he had electrified and pleased the country. The Budget had been an enormous success. Every one, he thought, now agreed that the transformation of the malt duty into a beer duty was an extraordinarily happy thought. By this enactment Mr. Gladstone had satisfied the farmers and at the same time increased the revenue. He hoped that as another result of the change he would be able to do justice between England on the one side and Scotland and Ireland on the other by the fairer adjustment of the incidence of the duty in regard to beer and whisky. They might also trust that Mr. Gladstone would tackle the great brewing interest—the aristocratic brewers who sat both in the Lords and in the Commons—and increase the beer tax, and in this and otherwise bring about other financial reforms and improvements."

TROY, DONIPHAN CO., KANSAS, U.S.A. — SPIRITED CONDUCT OF LADIES.—"The 24th September was the time set to dispose of the two booth privileges at the Fair, by auction, to the highest bidders. The proprietors of the two saloons in Troy were there to bid; and so sure were they of succeeding, that they had given directions about fixing up the booths, and one of them, at least, had laid in a quantity of provisions and other goods. But when the time came, a number of the ladies of the Temperance organisation were on the ground, to buck against whisky. But they adopted an entirely different plan from that pursued by most women in these temperance contests. They did not try to succeed by praying, and subjecting themselves to ridicule, nor by smashing barrels and bottles, and getting themselves into trouble, but they went at it on regular business principles, and bid against the saloon men for the booths. The bidding was spirited, but the ladies stood it longest, and secured the booths, paying 225 dollars for them, which was almost double the amount they brought on previous years, and was a good thing for the Fair Association. When the sale was awarded, some of the beaten parties contended that the terms were cash, and demanded that the booths be contracted to them, as the ladies could not pay for them, and would not take them. But the ladies hauled out their little cheques, which they filled to the amount of the purchase money, and handed them over to the Association. Their opponents were fairly beaten, and took it in good humour. The ladies have banished the sale of whisky, beer, and wine from the Fair Grounds this year, and in their stead will sell eatables, lemonade, and hot coffee and tea, which will be much better for those who are tired and hungry, and will not produce quarrels and fights. This is a turn not to be regretted, for liquors have never been of any benefit on the Fair grounds." The incident here given is one well worthy of imitation in this country, not only for the good resulting from the action taken, but also as an instance of out-and-out prohibition. All honour, then, to this small, but devoted band of noble ladies for their good work. That this was no spasmodic effort on their part the writer can testify, for, on a recent visit to Troy, he had ample evidence of the strong temperance feeling pervading their small community; and at this distance of place and time, he bears testimony to it and to their desire and effort to keep the drink demon from their doors. What the good ladies of Troy have done could be done by their sisters here; and if the calling of their attention to this leads to similar action at country fairs, shows, &c., our notice will not have been in vain. In the United States a very strong anti-drink feeling is prevalent among the ladies, who, by practice, precept, and teaching, do all in their power to crush the traffic in intoxicants, and

banish them from their homes. What benefits result from this may be summarised—quiet and peaceful homes, good example to their offspring, and an elevating tendency of strong moral sentiment, stimulating the waverers to follow their footsteps. A. D.—G.

OUR SKETCH BOOK.

A RUN TO U. K. ALLIANCE MEETINGS.

ON Monday 18th, we left the Central Station, Glasgow, in company with the deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. The day was very fine and the journey promised to be made under the bracing and pleasant stimulus of a fine October day. As we went south, however, we found the cold, and the gloom of a rainy day combining to diminish our pleasure: added to these was the delay indulged in by the railway authorities whose servants on this occasion never put on "a spurt," but resigned themselves to loss of time with an equanimity with which the passengers they conveyed did not at all share. Manchester was reached forty minutes later than we were led by the railway time-tables to expect. The friends who expected us were taught a lesson in patience, which was not at all visible in the hearty manner in which they received us. Two-thirds of us went off to Ashton, the remainder remaining in Cottonopolis. Ashton was reached after a short ride, and then the residence of Hugh Mason, Esq., M.P., where we received a most hearty welcome. At tea we met Mr. Thos. Burt, M.P., Dr. Lees, and the repast was most enjoyable, seasoned as it was with a diffused and not merely one-sided conversation. On reaching Ashton Town Hall—with a sitting capacity for 1000 of an audience—we found it densely crowded, and many left outside. English meetings are superior to Scotch meetings in respect to the number of women that attend them, whose presence adds greatly to the interest and enthusiasm of the proceedings. Bailie Torrens fully sustained his high reputation and the other member received an indulgent and appreciative hearing. It was a most successful meeting. Next morning found the deputation at the breakfast party in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, provided for by the Alliance Executive. The capacious area of the great hall could not accommodate all that came, but by relays all at length were served. The look at the assembly from the gallery was very fine. The hum of conversation was varied by the boisterous welcome given to some friend who had just put in an appearance. The committee to prepare the business for the general Council were then named, and we learned that Scotland was represented by Bailie Torrens. The Council meeting, the real meeting of the day, though certainly balking less imposingly in the public eye, was held, as is usually the case, in the Friends' Meeting House. Exteriously this differs in no feature from an ordinary kirk, internally it does so very much. You find yourself on entering the church, travelling along a passage which brings you half way up the building; and you are, for all practical purposes, in the church itself. The seating is peculiar, several seats facing the audience occupy the place of the pulpit in ordinary churches, the area is seated parallel to these, but the seating under the galleries rise towards the window the same as those in the gallery. Should the congregation more than suffice for this part of the building, room is got by removing a partition which divides the building and a considerable area is gained by this means of enlargement. The aspect of the edifice is plain, as is the dress and the worship of the Friends. Many of the women are beautiful: their charms—if we can venture to speak of the charms of so demure a beauty as a Friend—are increased by the simplicity of their attire. As usual, the building began to fill as the Free Trade Hall emptied; and it afforded enjoyable pastime to those assembled to watch for the appearance of noted friends of the movement, and welcome them with cheers, some stimulating the welcome with cries of "ge it toonog lads," when there would be another cheer. At ten precisely, the spare, stooping figure of Mr.

Barker, with his keen eye, the intellectual face with its grey hair appeared, closely followed by Sir Wilfrid and the members of the Executive and speakers selected by the business committee. What a hearty English cheer greeted them as they passed up the passage to the platform. We cannot come near it in Scotland. At length all being seated, Sir Wilfrid rose and met with even heartier cheering. His speech was another tribute to his platform ability, years cannot wither, nor repetition stale the varied excellences of his speeches. He is continually harping on one string, but he makes that string give forth all the inexhaustible harmonies of the orchestra. He has one idea, but he clothes it in all the varied charms that beauty can disclose, and the readers of his speeches are charmed by the unailing freshness and variety of his address. The representative character of the speakers was fairly maintained, though one only for Ireland and one for Scotland was thought enough. The report was read by Mr. Pope, who put in large exercise the art of skipping. It might have been held as read, for all were supplied with a copy of it and of the resolutions. The impression on our mind was that the report had all its interest discounted; we all knew of the victory, and the formal recitation of it had not the power to renew the jubilant feeling which it evoked at the time it took place. The resolutions were nine in number, and the submitting them to the meeting was done in a manner which left nothing to be desired. Birmingham and Burslem friends submitted the annual report, which was carried; Belfast and Brecon submitted the list of office-bearers, the Rev. Johnelones, of Brecon, reminding us that he first gave publicity to local option, and prophesying that Wales would be under Sunday closing by the end of another session. What threatened to be a display of inharmonious feeling was evoked by Mr. Kempster of London, moving the election of Mr. Joseph Malins to a seat on the Executive. He masked his proposal by first moving Mrs. Lucas, sister of Right Hon. John Bright, which would have met with unanimous approval, but the meeting would not stand the gentleman, and so to restore good feeling, the lady and gentleman both were made to walk the plank. The matter will be adjusted next year. It came out that no provision had been made for the admission of ladies on the Council of the U. K. Alliance. The sooner it is made the better—the presence of Mrs. Lucas would be an acquisition even to the Alliance. Gateshead and Glasgow submitted the third resolution, and did it happily. George Charlton is a reformer of the Radical type, and had a glowing account of the north of England to give. Bailie Torrens met with a cordial reception, and gave a telling and therefore impressive speech. Both these veterans cling tenaciously to the central idea of the movement, the abolition of the traffic; and that alone as the real solution of the difficulty. York and Hull laid the next resolution before the meeting—thanks to Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues—in a most effective way. Mr. Balfour followed in a speech marked by a resolute determination to fight to the bitter end. This is the idea, the true idea of the warfare. We are foolish to dictate to ourselves or to others the time of the victory. We are wise to fight till it comes, though we may die fighting for it. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's reply was in the very best spirit—thankful for past support, but as exacting as ever of that support in the future. Studiously clear on what was wanted, studiously averse to say one disparaging word upon any proposal tending in the same direction as his own. What he wanted all men to understand he cared for was, that the power of licensing liquor shops should not be exercised where the people say they don't want it. The statement deserved the vigorous cheering which it received. Mr. Whitworth added a few earnest words, and the vote was cordially passed. Mr. Pope submitted the resolution of the day—calling on the Government to introduce a local option measure in the next session of Parliament. Certainly we did not sympathise with his suggestion that the power we have striven for should be a compound of a licensing board and a veto; we will try the effect of a law directly investing the people with power themselves immediately and directly to abolish the liquor traffic which injures them. In no way can the power for

which we contend be more effectually applied. Alderman Tatham made a capital observation in speaking to this resolution. If in the expected Government measure there was no veto, he did not care what its provisions were, it was doomed to failure, and a great cheer spoke the approval of his sentiments by the audience. The next resolution—on finance—was submitted to the Council in the most masterly way by Rev. Charles Garrett. What a power that minister can wield over an audience. His speech was a splendid appeal, and backed by Mr. Watson, the great tract distributor, Mr. Wm. Hoyle, and Abraham Sharman, it had a most munificent response, about £4500 being promised to the funds. The Alliance has done well during the past few years with the allocation of its funds, so far as keeping out of debt is concerned. Its last three balances at the close of the year were £1636, £1598, and £1710. But like the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, its finances would have been below par, but for the legacy of the late lamented Sir W. C. Trevelyan. However, with better times, there will come generous help, and the power that it begets. A call to duty, the Sunday closing measures, and the usual votes of thanks formed the remaining resolutions towards which Councillor Fairish, Chester, Rev. Thomas Hutton (who spoke brilliantly), Mr. Bingham, one of the common folks whose unadorned eloquence stirred the meeting; Dr. Lees, whose bugle note thrilled the audience to the core. Mr. Kempster, who, though sometimes not safe in deliberation, referred to electoral action as essential as ever; Mr. Manning, of Canada, who told the meeting that the appeal of the Dominion publicans to the Privy Council had not been disposed of; Mr. Raper, who gave one of his genially couched and graceful little speeches, a compound of humour and wisdom, in the course of which he took care to show that Scotland had greatly inspired Sir Wilfrid by the position it had won. Then came the Hon. Baronet's closing words, and the Council dissolved.

It is unnecessary to speak of the evening meeting, farther than to say that it was as successful as ever, and you can't say more than that. The overflow meeting was the best we have ever seen. Bailie Torrens presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Bingham, Rev. C. Garrett, Mr. Kempster, Dr. F. R. Lees, R. Mackay, W. S. Caine, M.P., A. Pease, M.P., Rev. R. Mitchell, and Rev. W. Reid. The chairman was enthusiastically received, and at the close he had to give another speech, which was even more welcomed than his first. The Scotch element was largely represented at this meeting. At the out-of-doors overflow meeting, the attendance was large and enthusiasm great.

Next day, after an interview with Sir Wilfrid Lawson and the Executive of the U. K. Alliance, the deputation returned to Glasgow with the feeling on their minds that the country on this question was fully abreast of the leaders, so far as sympathy was concerned, but that much hard work was in store and ultimate success, though the exact moment—when it would happen could not be predicted—was nearer than some people would allow themselves to believe. S.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

The turning of EVERY stone, at the general election, to oust the Tories, has demoralised the Liberals; and, if it is not repented of, they may settle down—ever ready to sacrifice, even, Liberal principles for victory. This result is already noticeable in constituencies where seats have been lost, or retained by the Tories, through small majorities. And, in the light of this fact, it is not encouraging to reflect that the large liberal majority in the House is the result of small majorities in the constituencies represented by Tories in the last Parliament. Toryism is weak and merely obstructive in this Parliament, but it is strong in the constituencies, and capable of increased force to take back its lost seats.

In the constituencies represented by Tories through small majorities this state of corrupted Liberalism is clearly evident. In these constituencies Liberals who are temperance reformers do not stand by the prohibition of the drink trade, nor by any Liberal

principle. They call such crotchets. For if they did they might be restrained from voting party. This is, no doubt, an outcome of publicanism, as the most corrupting power, in alliance with the other voting forces, which support Toryism. The publican as a voter is politically corrupt; and he votes to maintain himself as a privileged trader, against the will of the community in which his trade may be discovered to be a calamity, not merely in impoverishing the people, but in corrupting them morally and politically. The publicans' victims do anything for drink. And publicanism from being the impoverishing and criminalising factor in our social conditions, has become the corrupting political power to drag Liberalism down, through drink, to the level of Toryism. The two now wallow together in one sink of corruption. This is especially so in county constituencies where public-houses are numerous. By the Reform Bill of 1868 county publicans were made voters; their license depends on the voting rent, and while—with a few exceptions—they have given their votes to the Tories, they have impartially distributed their corrupting influence. And while past progress is becoming inoperative, the manifestations of future progress are blighted at their source. Let it not be forgotten that without progress conserved and continued there is no Liberalism. The Liberal candidate who, in declining to prohibit the drink trade, attracts the support of temperance reformers as mere Liberal partisans, divests Liberalism of its progressive character, and conserves the conditions which make Toryism still possible. For the drink trade is revenue derived from material and mental waste; and political freedom lost in the people's drunkenness and inability to stand up for great Liberal principles.

But there are temperance reformers who, while they admit all this, decline to be guided by it, and, in blind stubborn allegiance to party, vote against their convictions and stultify real Liberalism. They are in the crowd, gathered by electioneering tactics, and even thoughtful men, massed in such a crowd, are impelled more by crowd feeling than by conviction and conscience. It is in this relationship they have mostly erred, and sacrificed social and political well-being to party interests. When temperance reformers are reminded of this mistake, they reply that there is not anything to be expected from the Tories. That may be true. But neither are progress, culture, prosperity and freedom to be expected from the Liberals so long as they are afraid to pronounce the doom of the drink trade. Hares, with fixity of tenure, to the farmers, dead Englishmen equally divided between the parsons and dissenting ministers, more voting power to the people, and even permanent peace with the world can never obviate the prevalence of Toryism while the drink trade is retained as the great means of taxation. We must be under the influence of Toryism while it is liable to grow into power; and that liability must continue to loom in the immediate present, while the drink trade is with us as the embodiment of waste, social demoralisation and political corruption.

That Liberalism may not become absorbed in Toryism it must cultivate the suffrages of temperance reformers by adopting a means of taxation in harmony with sobriety, production, culture and progress. This is now the work of Liberalism, and it devolves on temperance reformers, as a numerical and moral power within the party, to unite it and lead it in the undertaking. When they become faithful to their convictions this is their place and mission. They are as responsible for the culture and direction of the Liberal party as they are for the sobriety, moral and social well-being of the nation. For they have been begotten and developed by the national temperance movement to work for the one purpose and the other. And they are in the heart of the Liberal party. The movement thus dominates the party to make it its political instrument. All this is verified in the political and social outcome of the past twenty years. But the future has to reveal this faithfulness to temperance conviction. And, if not, we must remain out of harmony with the periods in the past that have transmitted much of all that is best in the present. TRUE.

THE
Social Reformer.

DECEMBER, 1880.

LOCAL OPTION.

WHAT does Local Option mean? or what does it propose to effect? According to some men who set themselves up as authorities, it does not mean much; while, according to others, it means a vast deal. It means what is certain to be of permanent and abiding interest to society. Since my connection with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association many years ago, I always recognized that it had a glorious principle to fight for—a principle easily understood by any one who gave a little consideration to the subject; and that principle was a popular vote upon the issue of licenses by the people living within the licensing area. I never could understand how this proposal could be opposed by those who professed to love sobriety, unless it was a kind of pride of opinion, or that the idea did not emanate from their particular quarter. Some people tell us that local option is something very different from the Permissive Bill. That was a measure hated by saints and sinners, but local option is a general favourite. One man says, "I am against the Permissive Bill, but I quite agree with local option." Another says, "I don't believe in prohibition at all, but the principle of local option commends itself to my judgment." I think we should try and disentangle our minds from this state of confusion.

Local option, to be effective and adequate to meet the evil, must confer a full veto power to remove the public-house. Anything short of this will not be in harmony with the requirements of the time. Local option must afford complete protection from the invasions of the liquor dealer. It must arm the ratepayers with a power to exclude the publican from destroying the amenity of their homes. The phrase "local option" has been differently interpreted. Here is a definition of it from a very eminent man, the Right Hon. W. E. Forster. He says that the people "ought not to be allowed, if by chance they might wish to do so, more than a certain maximum of public-houses, and they should not be allowed absolutely to prohibit them." That is the utterance of a statesman. If one were to attempt to dissect it, it would seem to be a sad mixture of effeminate Whiggery and stiff Toryism—the worst kind of mixtures of all! His words want the genuine ring of the reformer, but they are quite in harmony with the spirit of the compromising politician. Forster is bent on resisting the march of the prohibitory movement for a complete veto over the issue of licenses. He fails to realize the issue, or to understand the true needs of the age. He would give power to remove a little of the evil, but he would not give power to remove the whole of it. It is perhaps too much to expect politicians to go before us in this matter. They will be content to follow afar off, and will only be led as prohibitionists are in earnest. We are in danger of being hoodwinked and deceived if we don't look out.

If we are to have local option, it must not be counterfeited; it must be option of the right sort, with as few trammels about it as possible. We want the removal of the public-house. We want a "scientific frontier" of prohibition round the dwellings of working men. This has been the aim of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from the first. Hence we have been advocates of a popular vote as the best means for securing that end.

It is refreshing to see old opponents of the Permissive Bill coming to take a share in this reform; only, it would be a happy circumstance if they would be content to follow Sir Wilfrid, and not attempt to bring forward mangled schemes of their own that may rather hinder than help him. However, this has always been the way. Great reformers have had to be patient, while lesser men aired their projects, and annoyed them by seeking to amend their plans. Buxton's righteous soul was vexed in this way by men who advocated a system of "gradualism" as a preparation for emancipating men from slavery. Rowland Hill experienced exasperating difficulties in carrying out his postal reform because individuals succeeded for a time in mutilating his splendid scheme. Cobden was sadly tried in his efforts to repeal the Corn Laws both by Whigs and Tories. These wanted a sliding scale; those wanted a fixed duty; but his unbending demand for the right thing crowned him with glory and honour. Sir Wilfrid Lawson wants to put into the hands of his suffering countrymen an instrument to enable them to smite the curse of license. This, above all things, is what the country requires at the present moment. Do not let us divert attention from the essential question by merely talking about customs. Bad customs, in this case, are the result of bad laws. The liquor laws are not moral laws. Neither let us suppose that we shall ever rectify this wrong by raging against churches. Let us press on to secure a full power to vote down the public-house, and then both Church and State will immediately feel the beneficial results of the change

W. BLACKWOOD.

FOOD AND FEEDING.*

SECOND NOTICE.

Sir Henry offers a graphic description of the stomach-burdening process involved in an old-fashioned dinner. First, oyster and turtle soups *consomme* with *punch*: fish, salmon or turbot, or both smothered in lobster sauce: *sherry*: four entrees, oyster patties, mutton or lamb, lamb cutlets: *Vol au vent*: *hock* and *champagne*: this consumes three-quarters of an hour! Then saddle or haunch of mutton, currant jelly, cold vegetables and heavy flabby salad. Boiled fowl and tongue, or a turkey with solid force meat, a slice of ham, and so on up to game. Hot substantial pudding, three or four other sweets, including iced pudding: *wines in variety*

* By Sir Henry Thompson, F.R.C.S., London: Frederick Warne & Co. Price half-a-crown.

more or less appropriate followed by a *pate de foie gras*: more salad, biscuits and cheese, again two ices and liqueurs: then an array of decanters, red wine and a prodigious dessert of all things in or out of season. The disappearance of the ladies and the closing in of men with host and reassembling of decanters, age and quality of wine discussed, recommendation of vintages, &c., &c. About two and a half hours lost at dinner.

In contra-distinction to this barbarous mode of dining, barbarous as to its eating and drinking, for it is surely akin to swinish to eat and drink so grossly, Sir Henry offers a scheme for what he calls a perfect dinner party. It should be small, and seated round an oval table, not encumbered with floral ornaments. Eight persons at such a repast is quite enough. Now for the bill of fare or *menu*: "A perfect *consomme*, a choice of two fish, a fillet or a *chateaubriand*, a *gigot* or a *fricandeau*: followed by a *chaud froid*, *creme de volaille garni*" a roast and salad, and choice vegetable and an iced *souffle* or *charlotte*, and in summer a *macelaine* of fresh fruits in an old family china bowl if there is one; and lastly, a savoury biscuit accompanying vegetables and appropriate wines. This is still high feeding. Now for the liqueurs, *one bottle of wine divides well into eight*, if therefore the host desires to give with the roast one glass of particularly fine ripe *Corton* or *Pomard*, a single bottle is equal to the supply, and so with any other choice specimen of which a single circulation is required; and of course the rule holds equally if the circuit is to be repeated."

Every food reformer will view with approval the improvement, slight as they may esteem it, which Sir Henry would establish upon a meal so important to the constitution as a dinner; for there would be a very great restriction indeed in the consumption of various meats and drinks, a restriction that would tend powerfully in the interests of a stomach on which the old fashioned dinner imposed an injurious and not seldom a pleasure-destroying burden; and in the interests of a hospitality, which, not so severely taxed, would be promotive of greater good feeling and better cheer. Still in the matter of liqueurs, Sir Henry is even yet too generous. He may have, we do not know, but he may have a strong opinion that no stomach would be able to endure the perfect dinner he offers as a substitute for the gross one he would displace, unless its sensations were silenced or modified by wine. There is a great danger often in knowledge, and the knowledge of the strain to which the constitution may be subjected is often acted upon to the permanent injury of its functions. What brandy and soda is to those enervated by alcoholic excess wine may be to the gourmand. He seeks a glut of pleasure to his palate, and regardless of the misery of his stomach irritated by excess in quantity and quality, he drowns its remonstrances with wines of this and the other vintages or brands, quite aware that the penalty for his wrong-doing is inevitable; still wine may at least postpone its exaction to the future. We believe that fermented wine, beer, or spirits should never be used at meals, and as little even of water or coffee, &c., as possible; when there is soup, there should be none at all. The use of liquids on such occasions relaxes the stomach, weakening the concentration of its efforts on the processes of digestion.

Sir Henry, as might have been expected, gives his opinion against the regular use of alcoholic liquors. He says, "I am of opinion that the habitual use of wine, beer, spirits is a dietetic error, say for *nineteen* persons out of *twenty*. In other words, the great majority of the people at any age, and of either sex, will enjoy better health both of body and mind, and will live longer without any alcoholic drinks whatever, than with habitual indulgence in their use even although such use is what is popularly understood as moderate." Again, "But I do not aver that any particular harm results from fine pure wine—and rare as this is, I do not think any other is worth consuming—just as any one may occasionally enjoy a particularly nice dish, neither the one or the other being sufficiently innocuous or digestible for frequent much less for habitual use." Again he says, "Then I frankly admit that there are some persons—in the aggregate not a few—who may take small quantities of genuine light wine or beer, with very little if any appreciable injury." We ask our

readers to pause here and ask themselves the question, What really can be the real nature of the substance of which Sir Henry Thomson speaks so guardedly? If the vast majority are better without it than with it, if even in its genuine and purest form it can only be used as pastry or shellfish is, by a man on the threshold of old age, very occasionally and very sparingly; if there are those, who, as the extreme exceptions of the human race in its attenuated form, can alone use it in the smallest quantity, and of whom we can say not that they have escaped its perils, but that their injury is not manifest, surely the conclusion is a loud appeal to abstinence from its use on our own part, and a burst of pity and commiseration for those unfortunate and infatuated creatures who use it in its grossest forms and in reckless draughts. The weighty import of these remarks of Sir Henry's simply mean that for thirty-one millions of our people, alcohol is a dangerous drug to use in any quantity; and if they venture upon its habitual use they expose themselves to the most serious peril, whether they are young and strong, old and feeble, man or woman. Drinking by them of even pure and genuine fermented wines and beers of commerce means for them diminished health and shortened life. As for those who can drink without harm, because they do not show it, a wise man will not be lured by their seeming immunity to indulge, even with all the advantages of rare draughts and the genuine article. That the evil is not appreciable may be true, but that it does exist is certain. We cannot approve of such teaching. The very feeling is begotten of evil done and not felt, that some evil may be done and yet defied. Prudence dictates another course—and urges us to beware of not only evil, but its appearance, because evil done is ever the harbinger of a harvest of misery. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they do grind and grind to powder.

Sir Henry lays down a canon admirable but impracticable, for at the very moment when obedience is imperatively required, obedience is impossible. Sir Henry says:—"Relative to those matters every man ought to deal carefully and faithfully with himself, watching regularly the effects of the smallest license on his mental and bodily states, and boldly denying himself the use of a luxurious habit if he finds any signs of harm arising therefrom, and he must perform the difficult task with a profound conviction that his judgment is very prone to a bias on the side of indulgence since a luxurious habit is so agreeable, and to refrain therefrom in relation to himself and to the present opinions of society so difficult." For luxurious habit we should substitute poisonous drug, and for agreeable, seductive. However veiled the use of drink or the habit of drinking is by the mellifluous language of our author, he cannot wholly disguise the danger, might we not say the extreme danger, of taking alcoholic liquors. No wonder, when the power of alcoholic liquors is to generate excess. The use of these liquors is in the inverse ratio to self-control, the greater the use the lesser the control, and a stage is often reached by the growth of appetite when control disappears and the drinker, rudderless and unmanageable, plunges into all the horrors of mental and moral shipwreck. Sir Henry writes that all that he has said in favour of a very restricted and very occasional use is absolutely the best that can be said, and how little in their favour that is our readers can gather for themselves. There is, however, an antagonism to strong and adulterated liquors apparently in all that Sir Henry writes on the subject. Even the occasional use is a matter of risk and doubtful benefit: those who drink with apparent impunity are not scathless, and all who drink can only do so when they have been loyal to the canon Sir Henry lays down. We deeply commiserate the foolishness of those strictly moderate men who will persist in drinking in face of the strong opinion of Sir Henry. They sin against the clearest light and their own soul, and invite that retribution which is always hovering dangerously near the violator of the ordinances of God. It may be that the chain of destiny of such is only being forged at the rate of a link a-day, or even a link a-week; but they may find as the years roll on that it is strong enough to bind them for ever in God's eternal prison-house.

WINE QUESTION.

THE readers of the "Birth days of the Temperance and Total Abstinence Movements in Scotland by James Macnair," are familiar with the early discussion of the wine question; how it began, how it emerged from obscurity into light, the opposition it provoked: but few of these will be aware that Mr. Macnair, who lives and continues to play his part fearlessly in our midst, was the Sabbath-scholar of Thomas Farie, who desired to emulate his teacher; was the son of the president of the Cartsyke Radical Association, known as the Cartsydyke poet. Mr. Macnair has inherited his father's zeal and indomitable perseverance, and was the one that proclaimed total abstinence so early as 1825; the one who caught up Dr. Daniel Richmond's classification of the Bible passages containing the word wine, engaged several Jewish Rabbis, and gave to the public in 1829-30, the various terms in the original Hebrew Bible which are translated wine in our version. This noble work of shedding light on the Bible wine question was continued by him and Dr. Richmond. Mr. Macnair, wherever he went, and whenever an opportunity was afforded, advocated total abstinence, especially spreading light on the wines of the Bible. At first it was as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; but the cry was continued so long, uttered so loud, that it was caught up by others, and wafted over the land. Opportunities were sought out and multiplied for advocating his views in church courts, and before the public. The few enthusiastic ones who joined him in this work drew down upon themselves as he did the hostility of all parties. Onward the light moves, upwards its influence rises, passing through a tempest of fire, until it arrested the attention of one church, causing it to halt and discuss its claims. This gave the wine question a prominence, and placed it on a loftier position than it had ever reached. Mr. Macnair transmitted the following petition through the Session of West Campbell Street Congregation, Glasgow, 5th June, 1836, and through the Reformed Presbytery of Glasgow, 16th August, 1836.

"To the Moderator and Members of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod to meet in Edinburgh, 17th Oct., 1836.

"That your Petitioner, along with many good men, is of opinion that what is called the moderate use of intoxicating liquors, is unnecessary to persons in health, while it necessarily leads to the formation of the drinking appetite, and perpetuates the sin of drunkenness and the manifold evils resulting therefrom to society and the Church of Christ. That your Petitioner is of opinion that abstinence from all intoxicating liquors is the simplest, most consistent and efficient way to prevent intemperance, and alone affords a hope of reclaiming those who are the subjects of that vice, while this remedy appears to your Petitioner in perfect accordance with the principles and precepts of the Holy Scriptures. That considering the enormous evils daily inflicted on society, the temptations to which the members of the church are exposed, the numerous and powerful obstacles opposed to the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom by the use of intoxicating liquors, as well as the value of the immortal souls of those enthralled by the vice of drunkenness, your Petitioner conceives that all who profess love to Christ are under the most solemn obligations to use every means which the Providence of God points out for lessening or preventing the evil of intemperance. That for these reasons your Petitioner humbly but earnestly entreats that his fathers and brethren of this court would give their most serious consideration to the duty of abstaining from all intoxicating liquors, and exert their influence as a Synod and as individuals, endeavouring in the strength of the Lord to persuade every one to abandon their use, and that the spirit of Christ may guide you in this, and in every good word and work is the earnest prayer of your petitioner. (Signed) JAMES MACNAIR."

A most remarkable scene took place on the reading of this petition. There was evidence of great preparation for the fight, the contest seemed an unequal one; on the one side were all the leading divines of that denomination, on the other side was a comparatively

young man fresh from the turmoils and activities of business, come to wrestle with men mighty in the Scriptures, as to what the Scriptures taught in reference to the use of wine and strong drink. Such a scene would make a subject for a picture by a master artist. There stood alone a young man, bold for the truth; beside him lay a Hebrew Bible, several Hebrew Lexicons, wine from Palestine, clusters of grapes, preserves made from grape juice, un-intoxicating liquid made from the dried fruit of the vine, identical with that used by the Jews at the Passover, and similar to that used by the Saviour at the institution of the Supper. On being called upon by the Moderator, this young man modestly stepped forward, began to state his case as he warmed to his subject, unfolding the true meaning of Scripture, amid the excitement of his hearers, the shifting restlessness, the animation that pervaded the whole court as he shattered one after the other their cherished theories, and laid before them the passages in which the term *Tirosh* occurs, demonstrating that *Tirosh* always meant and only meant the fruit of the vine. He spoke for upwards of two hours, such a two hours' speaking as Synod walls never before reverberated to; with his Rabbinical knowledge he cleared away verbal misinterpretation, wrested the word of God from the hands of those who were using it in support of the use of wine and strong drink. "Nobly he fought and well." In that contest he fought not only for himself and his co-peers, but he fought for all future generations of men. He erected a beacon light that has acted as a guide to the nations. The changes that have been wrought out since then, that are being wrought out now all over the civilised world, the outcome of that and other early contests, laden with blessings and deliverance to humanity, exceeds human computation. Mr. Macnair's opponents seemed to triumph over him at the time, and they recorded their victory in the following note which speaks for itself and him:—

"Edinburgh, 24th Oct., 1836.

"The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland met and was constituted.

"*Inter alia*, The Petition of a member of the West Campbell Street Congregation, Glasgow, is now separately read, praying that this Court would give their most serious consideration to the duty of abstaining from all intoxicating liquors, and exert their influence as a Synod, and as individuals, endeavouring in the strength of the Lord to persuade every one to abandon their use.

"The Petitioner lays before the Court a number of arguments in support of the Petition, and while the Synod admit the importance of the subject submitted to them, they for want of time are unable to give it particular consideration at this meeting.

To Mr. James Macnair.

"(Signed) JOSEPH HENDERSON, Clerk."

Such was the faint-hearted deliverance of the Reformed Presbyterian Church on this irrepressible question.—Yours &c., AN OLD ABSTAINER.

In days of old, when claret was not considered "shilpit" drink, two neighbouring lairds happened to dine together. When the afternoon was pretty far advanced they were joined by a neighbouring minister, who found them sitting over their wine sobbing like children. "What are ye greetin' for, frien's; what for are ye greetin'?" said the reverend visitor. "We are greetin'," said one of them, and before he could complete his statement, the other said, "We're just greetin', minister, aboot the national debt."

"Courage, brothers! there is nothing
Brave and true men should affright;
Life's a warfare high and holy
For the lofty and the lowly;
God and angels watch the fight;
In the roar, and rush, and rattle,
In the sweat and blood of battle,
Fight as men for fight arrayed.
Whether vanquished or victorious,
Good men's lives and deaths are glorious,
"Courage, brothers—who's afraid."

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

We may mutually rejoice, dear editor, at the success of the new postage-stamp saving scheme. The suggestion that the postmaster-general allow buyers and users of stamps to rule them with a fine drawn ink line would effectually prevent stealing and resetting them, as none would put such stamps on the postal cards. A most excellent means of encouraging the poor would be when "tipping" them for any little service to give them one, two, or more stamps, and see them paste them on their cards forthwith. This would most effectually discourage drinking and encourage a love of self-restraint and of frugality, which would result in many a thriftless creature becoming possessed of something for hard times. All our teetotal friends can be as generous as ever they were: the only sufferers would be the publicans, and as their profits, as we all know, are mis-spent money, their sorrow would be rather enjoyable.

In Miss Bird's delightful book newly out, entitled "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan," she gives much curious information about the Ainos, the aborigines of Yezo. These have a tradition that they were in some far-off age a great nation. They are low in the scale of humanity, but not brutal by any means. Their great curse is *saké* wine, for which they will sell anything save their art treasures. Their chief act of worship is drinking to the god. Drunkenness and religion are thus inseparably associated, as the more *saké* an Aino drinks the more devout he is and the better pleased are the gods. Yet there are abstainers among them—like Pipichare, the adopted son of the chief—who objects to *saké*, "because it makes men like dogs." As, however, their religious customs demand the use of *saké*, abstainers must be practical atheists. It would be gratifying to know whence this belief has arisen amongst these savages. We in this country, with a few exceptions, adhere to the drinking of *saké* in our highest religious ordinance, but few would venture to call those who will not venture to take *saké* (bad wine) at the Lord's table atheists. Yet the Yezo aborigine savage can claim equality with his enlightened Christian Briton, in so far as they both worship their respective deities with poisonous drugs. If ever extremes do meet here they are.

In a recent number of *House and Home* there is a capital story told of Henry VIII. and an abbot. The king had lost his way, and turned up at the abbey. Knowing that the king was in the neighbourhood, the abbot asked him to stay and sup, believing him to be one of the king's guards. As they sat at meat, the king fed like a farmer on some roast beef; the pampered abbot could scarcely eat of anything. "Ah," said he to the king, "I would give £500 if I could but pick as heartily as you do on a piece of beef." Shortly the king took his leave, and shortly he sends for the abbot to the Tower, and there ordains that he be fed on a little bread and small beer and nothing else. This was his diet for a month, when he came to have a good stomach. The keeper, by command, set a good roast of beef before him, when he set to with great relish. The king who, himself unseen, saw his lusty feeding, steps in and asks for his £500. "For," he said, "you said you would give it, and I have performed the cure, and got you a better stomach than all the doctors in England would have done." And so, on payment of the £500, he discharged him. Now, the question arises, Did the king infringe on his subject's liberty? Certainly he did, but look with what beneficial

effect. John Stuart Mill declares that we have no right to abridge a man's liberty even to do him good. Yet I question if he could have got the abbot to have approved him. Now, were a few of our drunkards sent into confinement for a month, the good that would be done to them through their enforced abstinence would far outweigh the silly and unsubstantial loss of liberty. For what is their liberty but license? and license is dangerous both to man and to society.

It is always cheering to find proofs in favour of the superiority of temperate over intemperate lives. We don't include that fulness of balanced enjoyments, or that self-directive power which the abstainer peculiarly possesses; but merely join issue as to the length of life. Dr. Ridge, in one of the *Lancets* of last month, shows that the mortality of the adults from 16 to 70 is 17·24 per thousand—1 in 55; between 16 and 60 is as 1 in 76. In the reports of the Sons of Temperance for 1878-80 the average membership is 14,020, the deaths 97, 120, and 129 respectively, equal to an annual average of 115, or 8·2 per cent. per thousand; or 1 in 121. Dr. Carpenter many years ago showed that the deaths in the Madras army in 1847 were for the intemperate 44·58 per cent. per thousand, of the temperate 23·15 per cent. per thousand, and of the abstainers 11·11 per cent. per thousand. Allowing for the difference in climate, this is parallel with the other instances; it is 1 in 90. Certainly these are most remarkable statistics, but we need not wonder at it, God is not mocked. What men sow, of that they reap. The churchyards of our country are thickly strewn with the narrow cells of those cut down before their time by alcohol.

What a sad fate is that of the child who only gets across the threshold of this world to have its young life cut off by its own mother. But this is the fate of thousands of unhappy babes in our drink-sodden land. The *Lancet* informs us that "in the course of his inquiries as Coroner of Middlesex, Mr. Wakely discovered grounds for believing that a large proportion of the deaths by "overlaying" were caused by the abuse of alcohol. These "accidents" occur on Saturday nights, following the weekly debauch of the poorer class among whom they happen. The mischief works, Mr. Wakely points out, in two ways—first, there is alcoholic poison through the milk, which tends to stupefy the infants and predispose them to death; and secondly, the semi-intoxication of the mothers throws them into a stupor in which they lie upon and suffocate their children. It is as important as ever that these perils incident to the practice of heavy drinking on Saturday nights should be generally moderated." This murder—for if a woman who has a child drinks herself insensible, and, by depriving the child of its protector, leaves it or helps it to perish, is not a murderess, then language has lost its significance—arises from the abuse of alcohol: ergo *Lancet*, the use of drink is good. Only the abuse is a farther stage of the use—that is all—and overlain children are usual at that stage. Then what does the writer mean by moderating the perils to children of drinking mothers pressing them to death? Should it not be wiser that these perils be prevented? Are we only to kill less, or are we to kill none at all? Certainly, kill none at all. We cannot believe that child-murder can have the sanction of the *Lancet*. Poor, dear babes to perish, and by the hand of a drunken, unconscious mother who is for the time like some remorseless machinery, relentless and cruel, deaf to the smothered cry, and insensible to the little stiffening form!

Another theatrical public house has been opened in Glasgow—the Theatre Royal. The play now running is one of the best of Shakespeare's writing, being his delightful pastoral comedy, "As you like it." But as if to prevent excess of pleasure with its sentiments, the management afford an opportunity to playgoers to employ the intervals between the acts in drinking at the bar within the theatre. Unfortunately, too many avail themselves of it, and the good the play would do to them is marred by the evil the drug inflicts upon them, and going to the play is in consequence discredited. One of the weightiest utterances in the play is in favour of that temperance which the management seeks to render impossible. In the third scene of Act II., old Adam, the faithful servant of old Sir Rowland de Boys, and now of his son, Sir Oliver, for the love he has to Orlando, his master's younger brother, determines to fly with him to the Forest of Ardenness, and, that both may do so, offers his young master the thrifty savings from the hire he had from his good father, adding:—

"Let me be your servant,
Tho' I look old, yet I am strong and lusty;
For in my youth I never did apply
Hot and rebellious liquors to my blood,
Nor did with unbashful forehead woo
The means of weakness and debility.
Therefore my age is as a lusty winter,
Frosty, but kindly. Let me go with you."

Her Majesty's servants, as the company at the Royal are styled, profess to show the very age and body of the time, its form and pressure, and they seem determined to stereotype its drunkenness by the arrangements they have made for indulgence on the part of the ignorant, the sensual, and the plastic that may patronise them. They not merely show vice her own image, but they serve her by ministering to the evil dispositions of her slaves. Of all hypocrisies, the greatest is that of pretending to increase the culture of the age and at the same time stooping to fill the maddening cup that is so often the cause of crime and misery.

LEMONADE (Another Way).—2½ oz. powdered citric acid, 2 scruples essence of lemon rubbed well together. Take a quart spring water and 4 lb. loaf sugar and boil together; when nearly cold, stir in the acid and lemon, and bottle for use. A tablespoonful in a tumbler of water is a most refreshing drink.

—From the *Non-Alcoholic Cookery Book*.

THE JUDGE AND HIS DEMIJOHN.—A good joke is told of Judge Lewis, of New Hampshire. He always kept a demijohn of good Jamaica in his private office for his particular friends. The Judge had noticed for some time past that on Monday morning his Jamaica was considerably lighter than he had left it on Saturday. Another fact had established itself in his mind. His son Sam was missing from the paternal pew in church on Sundays. One Sunday afternoon Sam came in and went up stairs rather heavily, when the Judge put the question pointedly to him—"Sam, where have you been?" "To church, sir," was the prompt reply. "What church, Sam?" "Second Methodist, sir." "Had a good sermon, Sam?" "Very powerful, sir; it quite staggered me." "Ah, I see," said the Judge, "quite powerful—quite powerful!" The next Sunday the son came home rather earlier than usual, and apparently not so much "under the weather." His father hailed him with, "Well, Sam, been to the 'Second Methodist' again to-day?" "Yes, sir." "Good sermon, my boy?" "Fact was, father, that I couldn't get in; the church was shut up and a ticket on the door." "Sorry, Sam; keep going—you may get good by it yet." Sam says that on going to the office for his usual spiritual refreshment, he found the "John" empty, and bearing the following label:—"There will be no service here to-day; the church is temporarily closed."—*American Paper*.

WORK v. POVERTY.

(From the German of *Thekla von Gumpert*.)

In a Prussian roadside inn, one hot summer's day, several men were smoking and drinking. The room was dirty and uncared for, and the men, who looked quite in keeping with it, were railing at the way in which Providence did her work, and contrasting the luxury and idleness of the rich with the misery and hardships of the poor.

During the conversation a stranger, a young man, came in to eat his bread and cheese, while his team rested in the shade before the inn. For a time he listened silently to the talk, and then joined in, saying, "You must strike!"

"Strike against what?" asked the peasants.

"Against poverty!" answered the young man, "and the weapon with which to strike is work."

"Well said! Sensibly spoken!" laughed the peasants.

"It would have been well for me had I always been as sensible," continued the stranger, "but I used to be an idle rogue. I was strong and healthy, but I wouldn't work, and if now and then I was obliged to do anything, I was off at once to the alehouse, and like lightning the money was out and the brandy was in. I went from place to place—that means, that everywhere I was turned away, for no master wants a loafer about. I'd soon had enough of farm service, and then I went about to fairs and public-houses as a fiddler. Wherever anyone would hear me, I scraped my violin, but with all my scraping I was never able to get a whole shirt to my back. Soon I grew tired of music, and then tried begging. I went up and down the country, but most doors were shut in my face. People said a healthy young fellow like I was ought to work. That enraged me. I grumbled that God had not made me a rich man, and I was envious of all who were better off than myself. I would have liked to turn the world upside down, that I might have been able to lord it over the rich. One day I went into an inn, sat down in a corner, and began muttering my begging speeches. At a table not far from me sat a gentleman (he is, as I afterwards heard, a writer of books); he kept glancing at me and I kept glancing at him, for I thought he would be sure to give me a good alms, and so he did. I'm spending it still."

"What was it?" asked the men, who had listened attentively.

"He came up to me and asked me about my early life. I told him I had been a farm servant, and sent from place to place—in short, I told him everything. He listened quietly, shook his head, and at last said, 'Show me your hands!' Astonished, I held out my hands; he examined them all over, pushed up my shirt sleeves, and again shook his head.

"What powerful hands! What strength there must be in those arms!" he said. "My lad, you must join in the war."

"In what war?" I asked.

"In a war against your misery!" he exclaimed in a loud voice. "You fool, you imagine you are poor—poor with such hands! What a mad idea! He only is poor who is sick in body or in mind. You are healthy in body and in mind. Good heavens! with such hands, poor! Set your wits to work and reflect upon the treasure God has given you in your strong, healthy limbs. Recover your senses and march forward in the war."

"Bravo! That was very good," laughed the peasants.

"And so I joined in the war," continued the young man. "I looked for a place, and now I am a farm servant as before—nothing better and no richer; but I am content and industrious, and I have served the same master these five years, and shall stay with him until one of us dies."—*Fountain*.

N.B.—We would venture to suggest to our readers that they carefully look over the Advertising Columns of the *Social Reformer* month by month. We believe these will repay a careful examination, as many excellent articles are always being offered through them to their notice.

POETRY.

THE OLD SAD TALE.

So slenderly made with dark brown hair,
 Thus did the newspapers speak to-day,
 And bade her friends if any there were,
 Come quick to the place where her body lay ;
 But no mother came to call her child,
 Nobody called her his poor drown'd wife,
 Nobody knew of her name or home,
 Yet she was fair in the bloom of life.
 They laid her down in a lone churchyard,
 Quietly to rest, untouched by care,
 And only said of this friendless one,
 "So slenderly made with dark brown hair."

But yon bridegroom in his rich attire,
 Who swift to the bridal altar hies,
 Could a tale unfold of blighted hopes,
 Of a broken heart and broken ties,
 Of trust betrayed, of love grown cold,
 Of two lives wreck'd for love of gold ;
 The bride looks on with an anxious gaze,
 As proud to the church her friends repair.
 She marvels to see him look so sad,
 For the bridegroom's brow is pale with care ;
 And oft as the festive night wears on,
 She raises to his her face so fair,
 And though he may smile no word he hears,
 Save—Slenderly made with dark brown hair.

MARY GRANT.

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saun-
 der's Error," &c.

CHAPTER IV.

"OH my ! here's a pretty go. Master's gone and done it this time. He's cut his stick he has, and never left his address. Well, I never experienced sich ingratitude all my days. To think on him going off without his coat dusted, not to speak of his going without a dusting of mine. Well, I shouldn't wonder if there was a earthquake a knocking at the door in five minutes. Oh my !"

"What's to do, Jones, has Master set off again ?"

"I should say so, but he has left me behind, which he has never done before."

"Well, you may thank your stars, for he has not been so affectionate to you by all accounts."

"Dang if I stand it longer, so when the old gentleman has breakfasted I'll ask to enter his service, and if he has no vacancy why I toddle up to Lunnan."

"It may be long, lad, or you get better quarters."

"Right you are, my kindest love, if you mean here, but if you mean with Master in Lunnan or the other places you are out of sight astray. All very fine to have a jolly blow out once a month or a six weeks, in this here strictly regulated place, but to be on the move here and there drinking and gambling night and day, why it is the most outrageous way of killing time as ever I was in. The more I think on't the more I makes up my mind to be done with it this very day."

"Well Jones, we'll change the subject, you are making us too serious. Don't pull so long a face, else we will all be as solemn as mutes at a funeral."

At breakfast Mr. Vernon learning that Walter had left the house was greatly distressed. He could not account for his conduct : even when Jones was sent for nothing of importance was learned. Dora counselled patience and rightly guessed where he would be.

"He will be at Woodgreen, papa, you may be sure. Wentworth never goes from home without his groom and his luggage. He has neither, so he is not far off, he will be at Woodgreen. The housekeeper has some commissions to execute there this forenoon, and she will easily find out his whereabouts."

Wentworth went off early to pay off the grudge which had been fattening during the few days he was confined indoors. He made the journey on foot and duly arrived at the little village, and turned in to

the Queen's Head. Mrs. Ingram hastened to receive him, although she would not have been sorry to see him pass her door. She instinctively saw that he was bitten with the fell disease that was so fatal to her husband. He was, however, the son and heir of a widely esteemed landholder, and his presence still added respectability to her house. So she offered her service, showed him into one of her best rooms, provided a most tempting breakfast, sent for some of his friends, and by her quiet but skilful attention raised his spirits, and greatly helped to dispel the gloomy humours that seemed to gather round him. She never allowed the maids to serve him. He was too much of a rake to allow of that, and yet assiduous as was her attentions he indulged in no freedoms with her. When his companions came the maids waited on the company. Contrary to his expectations he found them all opposed to his intended castigation of the editor of the district newspaper. They did not boldly tell him he deserved all that he had got, but he knew that that feeling was in their thoughts. So the five young and thoughtless fellows spent the day in drinking, gaming, and in racing. Hitherto the landlady had scarcely grounds for thwarting their wishes in any way. Deeply immersed in their indoor and outdoor sports they had not gone beyond a very moderate indulgence in liquor, and comparative peace and good order marked the progress of the day. At dinner the first symptoms of indulgence became manifest. On the first signs of it Mrs. Ingram resumed her waiting and kept admirable order until the cloth removed she left them to their conversation and their potations. Play soon began to run high, and disputes became frequent. To her great satisfaction two of his companions—the sons of farmers—called early for their horses and set off for home. The pleased hostess saw them to the door, gave them the stirrup cup herself, and bade them good bye. The others, the son of the miller, a partner in the drapery establishment, and a neighbouring laird with whom few cared to associate, were left behind.

Just at nine there was an order given for more drink, but the maid respectfully stated that the bar was closed. Wentworth off his guard, and rather obstreperous, thought he would compel a relaxation of the rule, so he asked the girl to bid her mistress attend. In a moment Mrs. Ingram entered the room. On being told of her servant's impertinence, she calmly said,

"Edith only did her duty, my bar is closed for the night."

"Do you mean to treat me with such insolence ?"

"I have simply said that the bar is closed for the evening."

"And I simply say I'll have more liquor, and at once too."

"It will not be here, Mr. Vernon."

"I say it will. So be off and fetch me brandy."

"I am sorry indeed to see you so forget yourself, but you will get no more liquor to-night from any one in the Queen's Head."

He glared upon her, and it was a study for a keen observer of human nature to see the two : the landlady firm and self-possessed, mistress, in fact, of the situation. There she stood in the very prime of womanhood, with her frank open fair face, her clear open blue eye, and her flowing auburn hair. Although her features were not what might be styled regular, she was a handsome woman. Her figure, plump, not stout, was well-formed, and her movements were lithe and graceful. It was curious that this woman, who might have had a choice of some of the best men in the neighbourhood, was so persistently averse to the attentions of the sterner sex. There would have been little flattery in the compliments paid by gentlemen to her she was so handsome. Wentworth, too, was a good-looking fellow. At Eton he was a good first at boating, and the manly games that do so much to build up the Etonian's physical constitution so effectually. At Oxford he was no less proficient. He was a good shot, and he had been in Scotland deer stalking. But he liked revelry by night, with the fascination of the gaming table, and it was no secret that he was lax in his observance of the relations that should obtain between the sexes. At this moment his dark eye glared, his features were dis-

torted with wounded pride, and his clenched hand showed the gripe that passion had upon him.

Perhaps he had been measuring himself, excited by drink, against her as she stood so firmly and so self-possessed.

"Upon my word, madam, this is scarcely treatment calculated to increase the number of your customers."

"I am sorry to think, Mr. Vernon, that you forget that I have never consulted you in the management of my business. As it is not my custom to bandy words with my guests, you will allow me to retire."

"If we are to continue to be friends, you will see my order fulfilled, Mrs. Ingram."

"I am sorry that you are to make your friendship depend on my deliberate violation of a rule that I have maintained for years and have never yet broken for any one."

"Oh, I remember you would not break it for your husband, and got a good beating for your obstinacy."

Her eye flashed, her whole frame quivered with indignation as she returned to the table, and looking him in the face said,

"Mr. Vernon, you leave my house this very moment, and if ever you set your foot within it I will have you removed by the authorities."

Wentworth felt that he had gone too far and would have eagerly apologised, but she looked in his face and pointed to the opened door.

"I do not choose to leave till I am ready." She went out to the lobby, called upon two of her grooms, and when they appeared asked them to see Mr. Vernon out of doors.

Matters looked extremely serious for Wentworth, and to spare him the humiliation his comrades pleaded with Mrs. Ingram, but she was obdurate.

"When Mr. Vernon conducted himself like a gentleman the best in the house was at his command. When he so far forgets himself as not only violate a wholesome rule, but insults me when maintaining it, he is unworthy of my roof," and turning to him, "Mr. Vernon, if you do not leave this moment I shall have you thrust forth like a dog."

Wentworth called on his friends to stand by him and a fight appeared imminent, but just at this moment Miss Vernon darted into the room. For a moment she looked at her brother and his companions, at Mrs. Ingram and her grooms, and then slowly said,

"Am I rightly informed, Mrs. Ingram, that you are to thrust my brother from your house by force?"

"Miss Vernon, I am sorry to say that your brother has conducted himself so shamefully that no other course is open to me: and but for your appearance he should have been thrust out with ignominy within the next five minutes. For your sake I shall spare him the indignity, but I shall never permit him to enter my house again."

"Oh my brother, do not part with Mrs. Ingram while she labours under the sense of the infliction of any injustice from you. Explain or apologise, and then come home with me."

His companions on her appearance quietly withdrew: the grooms had left with their mistress.

"How came you here, Dora?"

"I was on my way home with Jones when I heard Mrs. Ingram call for assistance, and I sent Jones in to see what was to do. I was not prepared to learn that you were the aggressor. Come home, dear brother, and papa and I will arrange with her."

Meantime the miller's son was freely giving vent to his opinion of Wentworth down stairs, and Wentworth, who had utterly lost all command of himself, went to the door, heard his name mentioned in anything but complimentary terms, rushed down stairs and demanded an apology.

"Vernon, you need not act the fool with me. I am not the landlady."

The observation was met by a blow from Vernon, which was returned, and a fight commenced, Dora screamed and seemed about to faint, while the bystanders attempted to part the belligerents. At this moment Milbank suddenly appeared and stepped between them, warding off a blow aimed by Haworth, and making him reel and fall heavily against the stairs.

The landlady, who was holding Dora, gave a scream as she saw Milbank, and cried, "Mr. Henry, is it possible." Milbank gave her a meaning look, and as he took Dora from her whispered words in her ear which made her silent, and look on him merely as a stranger. Vernon gave one glance at Milbank, and with a deep curse turned and left the house. Mrs. Ingram took Mr. Haworth into the bar. Outside the door Vernon saw his groom but never stopped, and striding off across the bridge was lost to view.

Dora, who did not faint, soon recovered her usual state of feeling, and turning to Milbank begged him to see her home. While he went out to see that the drag was right, Mrs. Ingram expressed her sense of indignation at the shameful conduct of her brother.

"Oh, don't do anything until my father calls to-morrow. He will be greatly distressed I know, and I am sure that you will forgive and forget all that my wayward brother has done to-night."

"I heartily forgive him for his sister's sake, but I cannot forget it. If he is really a gentleman he will make reparation to-morrow. Good night, Miss Dora."

"Good night, Mrs. Ingram."

As she sat nicely wrapped up in "the trap" Milbank ran into the hotel bar and implored the hostess not to disclose to any one who he was till he should give her leave. This she readily promised, shook him warmly by the hand, and off all three drove into the darkness of the night.

They had not gone far before they met with her brother. Jones hailed him and requested him to take a seat, but the devil had not yet gone out of him.

"Go on," he said, "you don't want me while you have a vagabond to bear you company."

"Miss Vernon needs my company less than she does yours, and I will readily yield my place to let you avail yourself of her sisterly kindness."

Vernon jumped up and attempted to take the reins, but Jones boldly refused to give them up, adding that his master strictly enjoined on him the yielding of them up to no one.

"Mr. Milbank, I am deeply grieved that you should have been so treated. For father's sake follow us. When I arrive I will send my own horse for you. The best room in my father's house is at your command, and if my brother loved me as he ought he would not have been so ungrateful to you."

"I will certainly walk on to your father's, and I forgive the discourtesy of your brother for his father and his sister's sake. I will be all the better of the walk, so do not trouble to send the horse."

Dora never spoke a word to Wentworth Vernon all the way home. When Milbank arrived Mr. Vernon was standing at the hall door ready to welcome him.

"My dear sir," he said, as he shook him heartily by the hand, "you have done me the greatest favour in your power by coming here. I am your friend for life."

(To be continued.)

Temperance is always at leisure, luxury always in a hurry. The latter weakens the body and pollutes the soul; the former is the sanctity, purity, and sound state of both.—*Archbishop Leighton.*

To clean water-bottles, half fill the bottles with tea leaves and a little water, and then add a spoonful of common vinegar; proceed to shake all together thoroughly, then empty, and rinse well with cold water.

SAVING THE FAMILY REPUTATION.—A gentleman asked a little girl how many sisters she had and was answered "three or four." Her mother asked her why she told an untruth. "Why mamma," cried she, "I didn't want him to know you were so poor as only to have one child. Would not he have tho't us dreadfully poor?"

"Did you make the train?" "No, it was made in the car-shops." "I mean did you catch the train?" "Of course, not. It's not infectious." "Well, my Solon, did you arrive at the depot in time?" "No, I arrived in an omnibus." "Yes? and did you then board the cars?" "Alas! I do not keep a boarding-house."

THE FUNDS.

* * *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 18th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, DECEMBER, 1880.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

WE beg to direct the special attention of our readers to the important resolution adopted by the annual meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. That resolution was in the following terms:—"This meeting fully recognising the very satisfactory position which the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory Movement has now attained, more especially since the recent general election, and being of opinion that a vigorous and united effort should now be made to secure the right of vetoing the sale of alcoholic liquors at the earliest possible moment, in harmony with the advanced public sentiment, recommends the Executive to consider the propriety of arranging for a series of district conferences of the friends of the movement, in order that united political action may be taken in the ensuing session of Parliament." We understand that the Executive are resolved, in view of the early meeting of Parliament, and the prospects of the appearance of a Government licensing measure, to hold a series of conferences and public meetings. We hope to hear that their friends have everywhere cordially and energetically co-operated with the Executive in this important matter. Resolutions calling upon the Government to make provision in their coming measure for an absolute veto on the liquor should be passed at all these conferences and meetings, and the Government should be given clearly to understand that no measure without such a veto can be satisfactory to the Scottish people. It would be well, too, that the power to make trial of such a veto power in Scotland should be asked for. We look forward with a pleasureable anticipation to these meetings, especially as we understand that the Rev. H. H. Pereira, M.A., Rector of Southampton, is expected to be at several of them. Mr. Pereira is an excellent speaker, and his appearance at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, at a recent alliance anniversary meeting, was a great success. All our friends should be prepared to give the heartiest reception to the deputations from the Association.

OUR NEW YEAR'S TRACT.

THE Executive are glad to be able to announce the issue of the first twenty thousand of their New Year's Tract for 1881. This year it is from the eloquent pen of the Rev. Horatius Bonar, D.D., Edinburgh, and bears the significant title, "The City of the Plague; or, Sights of London in Sixteen Sixty-five." It is illustrated in the finest style of the art by Pearson of London, and may be had at 10s. per 1000, or 1s. per 100—carriage NOT paid. Societies may have their name and local announcements printed at the top, at an extra charge of 1s. 6d. per heading. If heading contains more than 40 words, by special agreement. On all orders of 2000 and upwards no charge is made for heading. Orders should be sent in at once, to allow of the Tract being duly forwarded in time for distribution previous to the New Year. The Executive are to execute orders according to priority of application.

Mr. John Paton has been lecturing in Scotland and Ireland during the month. He has, we learn, been received with great enthusiasm by the Ulster people, who have thoroughly appreciated his earnest and thoughtful advocacy. In Scotland he has been at Brechin and Blairgowrie, Auchterarder and other places. He will address meetings in Kilsyth, Coatbridge, Dollar, Falkirk, Hamilton, Ayr, etc., during the present month, after which he will sojourn some time in England.

The Trade being regarded as a camel, has had its back broken by the last straw—the license duty—put upon it by that enemy of the liquor traffic, William Ewart Gladstone, and the agonized outcries that mark its condition are most harrowing to the feelings of all concerned. It looks upon the recent legislation as "Parliamentary persecution," and calls thus upon "Brother traders! The time for apathy is over, and action—united and vigorous—must take place at once. Every one of you, rich or poor, the big brewer or merchant, and the little innkeeper, must arouse and attend." Nobody outside the "ring" is wanted; they seem to think themselves a host. They want more than this new Inland Revenue impost removed, however; they want Sunday profits to continue, and the magistrates, and not the people, to deal out their letters of marque. Many of our readers may be enlightened by perusing the terms of the liquor dealer's resolution on Local Option. Here it is—"That this meeting condemns utterly and heartily the introduction of Local Option into the licensing system, involving as it must, degradation to the magistracy, diversities in dealing with the thing in different localities, encouragement of agitation, insecurity to licensed and therefore legalized traders, and peril to public liberty generally—impressed with a belief thus set forth, this meeting pledges its support to the defensive organizations of the trade in any effort put forth by them to ward off or minimise the mischief which must necessarily attend

and follow the application in any form of a principle so insidiously dangerous." Can our readers imagine any body of men putting such a resolution on record, if they were not in the throes of apprehension, and did not dread some merciless storm in the future, wild enough to founder them? They dread, and that with too much reason, that any appeal to the people on the existence of their interest will result in their ruin, and yet there are people who will persist in believing that it is doubtful if we had a veto if it would be of use. Let such read that resolution intelligently, and their belief will soon change. Legislative protection is the publican's only remaining anchor; if it gives way, he knows his fate, that of being dashed to pieces on the indomitable will of the sovereign people.

The *Dundee Advertiser* in commenting upon the decision against the action of declarator sought by the Earl of Zetland on behalf of his feu-charter rights, makes an emphatic contrast between his Lordship enforcing the prohibition of the liquor trade in Grangemouth, and the people of Grangemouth themselves doing it. The Editor says:—"If Grangemouth has itself decreed through its licensing authority, that no alcoholic liquors should be sold within its bounds, nobody could have questioned its interest in so deciding. Every community is entitled to speak for itself, but the peer whose interest in a town is only that of a feudal superior has neither claim nor right to meddle in that which concerns only the town itself, and must expect to be checked by law, and snubbed by public opinion, when he sets himself above the ratepayers." That is very clearly put, and although we do not take up Local Option as against his Lordship, we agree with the *Advertiser* that the drink trade should be unreservedly left to the arbitrament of the vote of the ratepayers, and to them alone.

The Solicitor-General, Mr. J. B. Balfour, when speaking as the Liberal candidate for Clackmannan and Kinross at Culross the other day, very plainly read a lesson to the fearful and the unbelieving on the local option question, which they might wisely lay to heart. The question of the farmer having power to prevent ground game from ravaging his crops was "not alone a farmer's question. It was a question in which the whole country was interested, because he need not say it was not only the farmer who was interested in the land yielding its best fruits in the largest measure: the whole country was interested in the fruits of the earth not being wasted or destroyed—in the food of the people not being injuriously diminished or put away. (Cheers.) That was what was simply done by the excessive number of those wild animals which were maintained, often artificially, in many parts of the country." We could not wish for better terms in which to place our case before any assembly than those in which Mr. Balfour sets them forth. Suppose we

try, "This question of the liquor traffic was not alone a prohibitionist's question. It was a question in which the whole country was interested, because he need not say that it was not only the prohibitionist who was interested in the land yielding its best fruits in the largest measure, the whole country was interested in the fruits of the earth not being wasted and destroyed, in the food of the people not being injuriously diminished or put away. That was what was simply done by the excessive number of brewers, and distillers, and publicans, who were legalised by Government in many parts of the country." The question of public houses diminishing food and doing other dreadful things runs on all fours with the question of ground game. And if an act had to be passed to guard the farmer directly and the nation indirectly from the ruin that landlords were bent on keeping for their special interest and sport, why should not a law be passed in the interest of the abstaining prohibitionists directly and the nation indirectly, and thus effectually protect both against the injurious ravages and burdensome exactions to which the liquor traffic subjects them? Education has been defined as the perception of relations. Be it so. The sooner that the Briton perceives his true relations to the drink traffic the better for his pocket and his peace.

Mr. J. B. Balfour, the Solicitor-General for Scotland has, at the request of the Liberals of that country, offered himself as a candidate for the representation vacated by the Right Hon. W. P. Adams, gazetted Governor of Madras. In his published address Mr. Balfour thus refers to the question of the liquor traffic, "I think that the principle of self-government ought to be applied in counties as well as in towns, and that the administration of county affairs should be entrusted to local boards—in the election of which the ratepayers should have a just share. The ratepayers ought, in my view, to have, through such boards, an effective control over (amongst other matters) the administration of the liquor laws, and in this sense and manner I am for giving effect to the principle of local option." As this would even in the counties be a great improvement upon Justice's administration of the law, it is to be heartily accepted. Although it is only for counties, we believe we are right when we state that Mr. Balfour will be found voting for local option.

By the lamented death of Colonel Mure last month, the representation of Renfrewshire became vacant. As usual gossip conjured up a host of candidates and a keen contest. Circumstance, that unscriptural god, ruled in favour of Mr. Crum of Thornliebank securing the seat as the unanimous choice of the Liberal party. Mr. Crum is a prohibitory landlord like his lamented predecessor Colonel Mure, and he is a local optionist in so far as he gave to the frequenters of the club he established for the working men at Thornliebank the option of beer or no beer. At an interview with a deputation from the electors of Renfrewshire, he so expressed himself on the subject as to satisfy those who waited upon him. The prohibitionists in Renfrewshire should see him on the subject, as by their representations he will certainly be guided. Colonel Campbell, the Conservative candidate for the county in 1873, 1874, and 1880, counts discretion the better part of valour and declines a contest. He was a bitter enemy to permissive prohibition.

MR. PARKER, M.P., AND LOCAL OPTION.

MR. PARKER, M.P., for Perth, addressed his constituents last month, and not only gave in an account of his stewardship, but devoted a considerable part of his speech to a forecast of the labours of the coming session. We are glad to find that he voluntarily classed among great reforms "standing not less high in popular favour and not less urgently needed, reform in that particular branch of local government which deals with licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors." We are glad of this avowal from the honourable member, who is somewhat sympathetic and yet far from cordial. He refers at length to the temperance question, and begins by suggesting that the minor reforms recommended by the Grocer's Commission and the Lord's Committee should be taken in hand at once. If the Government, in supposed deference to public opinion, will labour to introduce these petty palliations, why there is no one to hinder them always excepting any attempt to introduce the Gothenburg system. That at least is not a reform at all, but a reaction, and will we doubt not receive the most strenuous opposition of more than the prohibitory party.

Mr. Parker then says—But no doubt there will be disappointment if the Government do not also indicate how they mean to deal with the resolution of the House of Commons in favour of Local Option. Well there is no "also" in the case. Whether they attempt minor reforms or not they are bound, not merely by the understood procedure of the House with resolutions, to deal with that resolution, but by the higher laws of morality and in harmony with the loyalty they owe their leader. It will not be merely disappointment but indignation which will be felt at a promise solemnly made being wantonly broken. We have more faith in Mr. Gladstone however than his friend Mr. Parker, for we never entertained for a moment the probability of such a disappointment taking place. We then are treated to what Mr. Parker calls a little plain speaking. However unpalatable such speaking is, and however like damaging exposure it may look, we think that the honourable member may blush more for it than we need to do. We never represented the local majority of the House as a majority for the Permissive Bill, and we never knew an intelligent friend of the Permissive Bill who did. If Mr. Parker had been asked for proof he would have had great difficulty in leading evidence. That the Local Option Resolution is not the Permissive Bill pure and simple we readily admit, but the Local Option Resolution is inclusive of the Permissive Bill: it is a resolution embodying the principle that the ratepayers shall have the power to veto the liquor traffic, and it will be for the parliamentary committee to provide machinery for carrying out that veto partially or absolutely, to say in short whether that veto shall extend to some or all of the public houses of a licensing area. If this alternative power is vested in the ratepayers, we should like Mr. Parker to point out where the difference will be between the Permissive Bill and the more extensive power of the act which will be the sequence of the Local Option Resolution? And Mr. Parker himself admits that the permissive veto comes within the abstract resolution. The honourable member attempts a distinction between the Permissive Bill and the Local Option Resolution, which finds a place in the mind of Messrs. Foster and Bright, and also himself. The Permissive Bill works by plebiscite, just like that of France, and the Local Option through town councils or licensing boards. Surely that is not a blemish. The Libraries Act, the Lindsay Police Act, and

other similar acts are adopted by a plebiscite of the ratepayers, and testify to the strong good sense of the people to whom such a franchise has been committed. In what better way could the opinion of the householders be obtained? It is hardly fair to complain of the best means of eliciting public opinion because it is so direct and does not come from the representatives elected by the people, but from the people themselves. Besides this voting will never override any minor reforms that the people may wish to see applied. It will come into operation only after all legitimate means have been taken to diminish the evils and abuses connected with the public-house system. If minor measures taken can render the traffic tolerable and comparatively harmless, does Mr. Parker really believe that the ratepayers will, out of mere wantonness, suppress public-houses? He cannot, if he has duly considered the matter. Why this great solicitude for the publican, and this great aversion to the Permissive veto? Well, we believe it is just because he and other like-thinking but feeble politicians firmly believe that it will, in many places, come into immediate operation; but he does not see beyond the adoption of the Act the boundless advantages it would confer, and hence he lingers shivering on the bank and fears to launch a way.

Mr. Parker gives a happy definition of Local Option, which is, he says, local as opposed to national control. The present national control of the liquor traffic means simply the prohibition of nineteen and the license of one of every twenty of the population: the ground of the prohibition of the nineteen is public safety. Now, if the licensing of the one out of the twenty is found in any district to threaten public safety and order, we ask that on that being shown the power to suppress that one be applied by the ratepayers, and thus enable them to realise all the advantages that follow prohibition of the liquor traffic. We ask this power vested in the ratepayers, because they know their own circumstances best, and because we believe that they will not doom the liquor anywhere to extinction till it has become a manifest public annoyance: until, in short, its evils are abundant and its benefits more than doubtful. Mr. Parker takes us into his confidence and lets us know that the coming bill will not be a prohibitory bill: but that is merely a guess on his part. The bill may be a regulative bill with a veto clause. If so, we will not quarrel with the weak part of the bill, but will give the Government a loyal support just because of the veto power with which it would arm the ratepayers. Only that veto must be potent enough to purge any district of its liquor nuisance. If it is not Mr. Gladstone will have broken faith with a very considerable portion of his party, and repeated the blunder of 1871 which was followed with such disaster in 1874.

We are sorry to differ so much with so amiable a gentleman as Mr. Parker, whose views on Local Option are so out of harmony with the ingratiating urbanity of his character: and we are as glad that we can agree with him on so much of what is vital. We part with him in cordial harmony on the necessity of union among prohibitory reformers, but then men don't unite on trifles, they are only roused to unity on great national questions and at great national crises. Let the Government embody in its expected licensing bill a veto which may be used against a part or the whole of the liquor traffic, and they will not only secure the unity of the whole temperance party, but they will for ever relieve Parliament of one of the greatest annoyances and obstructions to which it has been subjected, continual and fruitless attempts to deal satisfactorily with the liquor traffic.

INTELLIGENCE.

GREENOCK—CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC MEETING.

ON Monday, 8th inst., a Conference, followed by a public meeting, was held in the Temperance Institute, Greenock. At the Conference, which was well attended, there were present, as a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Ex-Bailie Torrens, Bailie Selkirk, and Mr. R. Mackay, secy.; Provost Campbell, Greenock; Ex-Provost Morton, Ex-Councillor Lang, Capt. Brochie, Rev. A. Davidson, Rev. Wm. Laughton, Rev. J. Campbell, and other gentlemen. Capt. Brochie was called upon to preside. After tea the chairman gave a brief but impressive address, laudatory of the Association and congratulatory on the position of the Scottish prohibitory movement. Mr. R. Mackay was first called upon, and his remarks bore on the operation of the agencies that had brought about such a satisfactory state of matters, and on the necessity for concentrating all the forces at command upon securing the suppressive veto. Bailie Selkirk followed, stating that it was imperatively necessary that in any Government measure that veto should be recognised. Several gentlemen took part. The question of compensation was brought up by Mr. Simpson, and amid the expression of great variety of opinion the idea was prominent that temperance reformers could easily discuss the terms of surrender when the publican party surrendered. Provost Campbell, in a few remarks on his experience in dealing with the publicans who had to leave properties under the operations of the Greenock Improvement, showed that firmness on the part of the Magistracy was all that was needed to manifest the hollowness of any demand on the part of the drink interest for compensation. The proceedings were most interesting, and after the usual vote of thanks had been warmly awarded, the Conference broke up.

Later on a meeting in support of local option principles in relation to the liquor traffic was held in the large hall of the Institute, which was well filled by an attentive audience. Provost Campbell occupied the chair, and was accompanied to the platform by Mr. James Stewart, M.P.; ex-Provost Morton; Bailie Torrens, Glasgow; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow; Rev. Wm. Laughton, Free St. Thomas' Church, Greenock; Rev. James Kerr, Reformed Presbyterian Church, Greenock; Rev. Alexander Davidson, E.U. Church, Greenock; Rev. John Campbell, Newark Parish Church, Port-Glasgow; Captain Brochie, Messrs. R. Mackay, Glasgow; Reich, Lang, Simpson, Miller, Fairgrieve, Whitelaw, Buie, etc.

The Chairman intimated letters of apology for absence from ex-Provost Lyle and Bailie Brymner. In the course of his opening remarks, he said he believed that if the town were polled it would be found that the great majority of the people were in favour of giving the inhabitants of each district the right to say that no public-house should be planted there. If he was not wrong, there was a census taken some years ago of the number of parties in Greenock in favour of such a measure, and he thought it was found that the majority were in favour of having a measure of local option. That being so, he thought they should let Parliament know their minds; and held that when Parliament became acquainted with the mind of the people they were entitled to give laws such as they demanded, and no doubt the people would only seek for what was reasonable and just. They had spent a large sum of money upon an Improvement Act, and they had been weeding out wretched localities, and many of the houses taken away were public-houses. And the question had come up, should the magistrates be obliged to give to those men whose houses were in those wretched localities licenses in other parts of the town, whether the people wished it or not? He had always held clearly that they should not. (Applause.) The magistrates must be aware that great evils resulted from having those shops in the localities he referred to, and they could not take them from one locality and place them in another, for the benefit of one individual, and it might be the ruin of a thousand individuals.

He might give compensation for taking away the property, but to plant those public-houses in other localities, or to allow public-houses to be again opened in the same localities, was a thing that he should never be responsible for. (Applause.) He never wavered in his belief that if the temperance reformers continued to exhibit their wonted zeal, the local option principle would be speedily embodied into law. (Applause.)

Ex-Provost MORTON moved the following resolution:—"That in view of the tremendous evils arising from the vice of intemperance, this meeting of inhabitants of Greenock desire most respectfully to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the vital importance of at once dealing as promised with the liquor laws of this country; and specially of dealing with them in the spirit of the Local Option resolution passed by the House of Commons, so that the inhabitants in their respective districts may be intrusted with a direct veto on the issue or renewal of all licences." He said they all knew that the question of local option was brought before the House of Commons by the veteran Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and that he managed to get a substantial majority in favour of the principle—a very great stride in the right direction. He thought the particular object of this meeting and other meetings held throughout the country should be to inform Her Majesty's Government that this measure might be of a very wide character, and might give power to a very large extent to the people of the respective districts to settle the question of licenses. (Applause.) He held that power must be given to the extent of abolition if they saw cause. (Hear, hear.) In a great many places the people would exercise the right to limit the traffic very much, and the limitations might work in such a manner as ultimately to educate the people in the district in the direction of prohibition. It was all nonsense to say that people could not be made sober by Act of Parliament. Measures could be passed by the legislature which might have a very beneficial effect on the population. Temptations could be taken out of the way of men who were liable to fall before them, and so they would have a population freer from evil than they would otherwise have. (Applause.) Some of the evils could not be removed by the legislature, but they could call upon the Government to remove those that it was in their power to remove. He would only add that it was very desirable that this question of local option should be first tested and tried in Scotland, because the people of Scotland were more advanced in this question than were the people of England or Ireland. He concluded by moving the resolution. (Applause.)

MR. STEWART, M.P., said:—Provost Campbell, ladies and gentlemen—from what I have heard I do think that the cause has not perhaps suffered at all, from the fact that the resolution has fallen into such able hands as those of my friend Mr. Morton. (Applause.) Sir, there is no platform which as a public man I feel more consistent with my duty to stand upon than that where I am side by side with the advocates of the temperance cause—(applause)—because I feel that in doing so I am associating myself with men who are aiming at raising their fellow-countrymen from that great scourge of intemperance which has been such a reproach to our country for so long a time. And I think I may congratulate you, friends of temperance, on the favourable circumstances under which we find ourselves placed as advocates of this great and important measure. Some few months ago many of you met here to do honour to Sir Wilfrid Lawson—(applause)—and also to celebrate the jubilee of the temperance movement. Well, I am in great hopes that this jubilee year is to be in more senses than one a jubilee for those who wish to see Scotland raised from the great evils with which she is burdened; because we have now got a Government that has, to a certain extent at all events, promised to deal with this great evil: and I venture to say that as soon as it is possible for them to take up the subject they will effectually deal with it. (Applause.) Now, I do not wish to-night, or at any time in handling this question, to make it one of party—(Rev. John Campbell: "Hear, hear")—and therefore I shall not say one word more than I have said, namely, that we have now a Government and a Parliament which are more

sincere, I am sure, than any that has preceded it in their desire and will to deal with this matter. (Applause.) You know that early in the last session of the late Parliament Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion for local option was rejected by a very decided majority. I think the number was no less than 114. A new Parliament was elected, and Sir Wilfrid was not the man to lose his opportunity. He took the very first opportunity that presented itself to bring forward a notice of motion of a similar kind, and he was successful in getting well placed, so that his motion came on somewhere about June. You know the result of that motion was that Parliament declared in favour of local option by a majority of 26. (Applause.) That is a very good omen to begin with in connection with the jubilee year; and if it is too much to hope that we shall be able to see what we want—a very strong and decisive measure of reform on this subject carried before the termination of the year—still I feel confident that no very long time will elapse before something like progress will be made in temperance legislation. (Applause.) I would just remark in regard to the question of local option itself that some people are disposed to look upon the term—and I think rightly so—as having a very wide application. Now, there is one kind of local option which I do hope any measure introduced by Government will not contain, and that is local option to allow the liquor laws to remain as they are at present. I think that would be a heavy blow and a great discouragement to all those who seek to raise the masses from the state in which they are at present in regard to this great question. But in regard to a direct veto on the issue or renewal of all licenses, there is no doubt, that the friends of temperance will have a very heavy battle to fight in order to obtain such a provision in any measure of legislation; because there cannot be a question that the power of the publican even still is very great indeed, and that there is a large portion of the present members of Parliament who are not disposed to go the length of an actual veto in regard to licenses. But I think that the principle is a sound one, and that we who are sincere temperance reformers ought to insist that such a provision of option ought to be contained in any measure that may be introduced. (Applause.) For my part, if I have the honour of a seat in Parliament when such a measure is brought forward, I shall be disposed to join Sir Wilfrid Lawson in his demand for a provision of that kind. (Applause.)

Baillie SELKIRK, Glasgow, supported the motion in a long address, setting forth some of the principles which appeared to him to be at the foundation of the movement, the fundamental principle being that the traffic in intoxicating drink was antagonistic to the community, and ought to be suppressed by law. He said he was greatly struck many years ago in reading an article by Charles Buxton on "How to stop drunkenness." In that article it was stated that there were in Great Britain about 20 years ago half-a-million of homes where peace was not known owing to drunkenness, and Mr. Buxton urged that the traffic ought to be suppressed by the ratepayers. (Applause.) Now the law had always to a certain extent dealt with this traffic, and the question was simply how far, in the interests of the public, the law should be made to go. All the existing regulations had been put in force in order to prevent the evils of intoxication, but the reason why they had not succeeded was that they had not dealt with the right thing. The mischief was in the drink itself. (Applause.) A publican, it must be remembered, was just a man; he was not an angel—(laughter)—and he had as much a desire to push his business as any other person, and that could not be done without injury to all around him. The *Times* newspaper many years ago said some very truthful things about the drink traffic, and one of these things was that publicans' profits represented mis-spent money. (Applause.) It had been said that the people must be educated, and it was just because temperance advocates believed in education that they had attended the present demonstration. (Applause.) At present the law established public-houses, and temperance reformers were endeavouring to bring public opinion up to the

point of further restriction. All these years they had been endeavouring by meetings, discussions and literature to educate the people, and the consequence now was that, as Mr. Stewart had said, temperance advocacy stood higher in the estimation of Parliament than ever, and he (the speaker) was anxious that the people should have the power to sweep the drink traffic out of the land. (Loud applause.)

The resolution, having been put to the meeting, was enthusiastically carried.

Rev. Mr. LAUGHTON moved the second resolution as follows:—

"That whether the subject be taken up generally or not, this meeting would desire most earnestly to call on Her Majesty's Government to assist in every way the proposed passing of a Scottish Local Option Bill; both public opinion and the laws which are its outcome being in Scotland many years in advance of what they are either in England or Ireland."

He said it had always been perfectly plain to him that the multiplying of public-houses was simply the multiplying of temptations to drunkenness, and unquestionably, as public-houses were reduced, so were the inducements and temptations. (Applause.) With regard to the attitude of the magistracy, he rather thought that the magistrates of Greenock, on the whole, looking back for many years, had been more favourable to the cause of restriction than perhaps in any other town of the same extent in Scotland. (Applause.) But notwithstanding the earnest desire of many magistrates—and many of them in Greenock were thoroughly temperance reformers and total abstinents—their wishes were often thwarted in the object they had in view. He had to point out that, to a certain extent, communities in towns had already a measure of Local Option, because, practically, they could choose their own Councillors, and these Councillors could choose their own magistrates. He further pointed out that if Government could not sanction a general measure of Local Option, they might at least be induced to grant a measure limited to certain localities, in which the principle might be subjected to the test of experiment. At present the Government made experiments in localities before sanctioning the application of general principles to the whole country, and the latest of these experiments had proved so successful in ten counties of Great Britain and Ireland that it had been extended to the whole nation. He referred to the provision whereby people could buy postage stamps with their pence till they amounted in value to a shilling, and could then deposit it in the Post Office Savings Bank. (Applause.) He would accordingly rejoice if Parliament would make an experiment in Greenock with the Local Option measure; and, if that experiment were made, and if Greenock did not tell a different story in the course of a year or two as to the extent of its intemperance, he would be very much disappointed indeed. (Applause.)

The resolution was formally seconded by the Rev. A. DAVIDSON.

Baillie TORRENS, J.P., Glasgow, heartily supported the resolution in a powerful speech, which alternately elicited laughter and applause. Referring to the great change of attitude on the part of Parliament towards the Local Option Bill last session, he said that it was the temperance agitation throughout the country which had effected the change. (Applause.) On the subject of licenses, he held that they were merely granted for a year, and at the end of any year the magistrates had the power of withdrawal. (Loud applause.) He was sure that if the resolutions which had just been carried were forwarded to the proper quarter, they would receive every attention, and that it would be found that Parliament had not been appealed to in vain. (Applause.)

The motion was then put to the meeting, and unanimously adopted.

Rev. JOHN CAMPBELL moved the third resolution—"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Honourable the Provost for presiding; and that he be requested to send a copy of the foregoing resolutions, on behalf of the meeting, to the Prime Minister and to the Home Secretary."

Rev. JAMES KERR seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment, and promised to comply with the request contained in the resolution.

On the motion of Captain BROTHIE, a vote of thanks was passed to the deputation from Glasgow.

The Rev. ALEX. DAVIDSON pronounced the benediction, which closed the proceedings.

The rum business has collapsed at Woodstock, New Brunswick. Six fines of fifty dollars each did it, and the temperance cause is rejoicing.

Prince Bismarck, it is reported, is engaged on a magnificent attempt on a wholesale scale to combat drunkenness, by limiting the facilities for the indulgence in that vice.

Last month at Stafford, a man named Crutchley for a wager, drank off a pint of whisky at a draught. He dropped down, was taken to the Infirmary and died there. The 'drop' was not good for him.

A woman was fined for drunkenness at Glasgow last month, and she tried to exculpate herself by saying:—"I get my money once a fortnight, and I aye like to taste the barley brae." Her money thus spent reminds one of the pearls put before swine.

The adulteration of beer seems of late years to have been steadily on the decrease, the percentage of adulterated samples having fallen from 9.3 in 1877, to 5.0 in 1878, and 3.6 in 1879. In a single instance trace of tobacco was found, but salt is oftenest used.

FOOD REFORM IN LONDON.—There are now seven restaurants in London, accommodating a grand total of 1,700 diners. Think of Londoners abandoning the use of roast beef. Who dare say after this that "the world we fool in" is not a world of change.

EDINBURGH T. A. SOCIETY.—We understand that the following are the office-bearers of this society for the present year:—President, James Coultts, Esq., S.S.C.; Vice-presidents, Messrs. John Steel, John Forbes, and James H. Waterston; Treasurer, Mr. R. W. Armour, and Secretary, R. M'Laren, 52 Nicolson Street.

MILNGAVIE.—Mr. Robert Dransfield, one of the agents of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, delivered a very earnest and telling lecture in the Bridge School here, on the evening of Monday, 8th ult. A general wish was expressed at the close of the meeting, that Mr. Dransfield should be requested to return during the winter.

Mr. R. H. M'Donald of San Francisco offers 100,000 dollars towards founding a university in that State. One of the stipulations is that an equal sum be raised by the various evangelical denominations, another is, that no professor, student, or employee, should be addicted to the use of tobacco, opium, or spirituous liquors, in any shape or form.

Mary Ann Mooney, an old woman, was fined at the Edinburgh Police Court 10s. or ten days imprisonment, for being drunk and incapable. She has been one hundred times convicted. If Mary read the newspapers and had a choice in the matter, I think she would hardly feel satisfaction at being branded as a common pest, but she has lost her helm. Poor Mary Ann.

COVE—TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—A lecture was delivered under the auspices of the above society on Saturday evening, 30th October, in the Mission Hall, Cove, by Mr. Blackwood, agent of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association.—Captain Ross, secretary, N.-E. Coast Mission, presided. The subject of the lecture was, "Facts worth knowing about the drink question," which the lecturer handled in an earnest and practical manner, and was listened to with rapt attention by a large audience of fishermen. After the usual votes of thanks, and the transaction of the society's ordinary weekly business, the meeting terminated.—*Aberdeen Daily Free Press*.

CONFIRMING COMMITTEES.—We understand that the Confirming Committee for the Burgh of Glasgow will consist of the following gentlemen—Messrs. James Dunlop, W. Kidston, and J. C. Wakefield, Justices of the Peace, and Bailies Laing, M'Onie, and Thomson.

Messrs. Meux & Co., the famed brewers, St. Giles', London, were fined £25 for selling drink on unlicensed premises. The Magistrate expressed his surprise that "such eminent brewers as Messrs. Meux & Co. should break the law in such an open way." Good gracious! how could they help it? Can they be law abiding and sell drink at one and the same time?

Occasional and habitual drunkards will doubtless hail with delight the new order which has just been issued from Scotland Yard, to the effect they are only to be locked up until sober, and then released upon their own recognisances to appear before the magistrate. Should they fail to do so, the cases are to be reported to the commissioner, who will decide the course to adopt. Oh see-saw, see-saw treatment, as foolish as ineffectual.

Mr. Bannerman, as convener of the F.C. Temperance Committee, made a statement on this subject, moving that Presbyteries, in the way of maturing opinion, should consider the suggestions on the local option question which had been sent down to them, and report on them before the meeting of the Committee in December. One of the suggestions was that as Scotland was more ripe on the matter than England, they thought a measure could be carried of a kind which they would all rejoice to see.

DUNDEE TEMPERANCE HUNDRED.—This spirited organisation is taking an important step just now. It is making a strong appeal to the ministers in Dundee to form a temperance organisation in connection with their churches, and offers to send a deputation either to encourage existing societies connected with churches or to assist in establishing an adult or Band of Hope Society in connection with them. We shall be glad to hear of the success of this important effort, and to hear that, moved by their bright example, others in their neighbourhood are doing likewise.

The Session in Kent Road U.P. Church, Glasgow, received a memorial signed by 549 of the congregation, or about 100 more than half of the communicants in the church, praying that unfermented wine be used at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper instead of the usual alcoholic kind. Certain parties in the congregation and in the Session protested against the change as beyond the power of the Session to make, and their protest being unheeded, they appealed to the Presbytery. The question of unfermented communion wine was not before the Presbytery on its merits, and the result is that the whole is sent back to the Session for reconsideration, with a view of restoring unity and peace in the congregation. As a consequence of this discussion a discussion on the "Unfermented Wine Question" has been opened in the Glasgow papers, and no one will deny but the advocates of a pure non-alcoholic wine at the Lord's Supper have the best of it.

EDINBURGH.—Brother Bruce, the Grand Lodge lecturer from Yorkshire, visited Modern Athens last month. On the 12th ult. he addressed a largely attended meeting of the Anchor of Hope Juvenile Lodge 214, in the hall 52 Nicolson Street. Brother Bruce advocated the principles of total abstinence, introducing "The two rain drops," "Good resolutions," and "The sea captain and his boy." A vote of thanks to him was unanimously responded to. At 8 p.m. same evening, he addressed the Anchor of Hope Lodge, 23, in the same place. Brother R. Dick, W.C.T., presided. After the meeting was opened in templar style Brother Bruce delivered an eloquent address. He viewed the temperance question in its dark and in its bright aspects. He gave a few excellent anecdotes, and at the close of his address sang a melody. Addresses were also given by the chairman and Mrs. Fuller, and songs and recitations were given during the evening by brothers and sisters present. The usual votes of thanks were heartily awarded.

THE GRANGEMOUTH FEUS.—As we stated in our last, the Earl of Zetland brought an action of declarator against Messrs. Carmichael and Wilkinson, the proprietor and occupier of a feu under his lordship. On the 5th ult., Lord Rutherford Clarke, judge in the case, gave judgment against his lordship, on the grounds that his lordship has not shown that he has an interest in suing the action, with costs against his lordship. His lordship simply pleads the well-being of the community and his title as superior, and not any interest on his own part. We understand that he has amended his condescence on the subsequent actions, we earnestly trust with a better result.

MR. PARKER, M.P., AT PERTH.—On the 16th ult. the hon. gentleman addressed his constituents, and referred to Local Option in the following terms: He said, As regards the Temperance question, there are many minor reforms suggested by the Lords' Committee, and for Scotland by the Royal Commission on Grocers' Licenses, that might well be taken in hand at once. There is also the Sunday closing question for Wales and England, and for the large towns at present exempted in Ireland. But no doubt there will be disappointment if the Government do not also indicate how they mean to deal with the resolution of the House of Commons in favour of Local Option. On this a little plain speaking beforehand may be useful, for in some quarters a persistent attempt is made to misrepresent the majority for Local Option as a majority for the Permissive Bill. Now, whatever else it is, it certainly is not that. For it includes leading men who vote, speak, and write against the Permissive Bill, and who, in supporting the resolution, said they would oppose the bill again, should it be again brought forward—such men as Mr. Bright and Mr. Forster, whose example, no doubt, guides many others. What then is Local Option? The phrase is fathered by Sir Wilfrid on Mr. Gladstone. I don't think Mr. Gladstone admits the paternity, but at any rate I may give you his explanation of Local Option in Mid-Lothian, gratefully accepted by Sir Wilfrid, though I am not sure it would have passed muster coming from a humbler quarter. The principle, as Mr. Gladstone understands it, is "that within the limits of justice and fairness the local opinion of a particular district may be considered in the particular conditions of those police laws which are to regulate the sale of alcoholic liquor." But what is there in the Permissive Bill that causes Mr. Bright, and Mr. Forster, and Lord Hartington, and I suppose Mr. Gladstone, to reject it? The Permissive Bill gives effect to local public opinion; so far it is one form of Local Option, and fairly comes within the abstract resolution. But it does so, in the first place, not as is usual in this country through responsible administrators, but by popular vote, like the plebiscite in France. And, secondly, almost as a necessary consequence of this, it gives the public no option of controlling the number or the character of licensed houses, or the times of opening and closing, but restricts them to a single option, yes or no, as to total prohibition, just as in France they must say yes or no to war, or to an empire or republic. Now it is not my purpose to-night to argue for or against plebiscite, or for or against total prohibition. What I wish to make clear is this. Local Option in itself means simply local as opposed to national control. In Mr. Gladstone's examples you see local control worked through a private bill, or through a responsible representative body. But in the Permissive Bill you have a local control worked by plebiscite for or against total prohibition. That is what recommends it to the Alliance, of which Sir Wilfrid is chairman, and which exists for the total suppression of the liquor trade; and that is what makes it impossible for the Liberal Cabinet, consistently with their principles, to accept the bill. This is not, as Sir Wilfrid Lawson would have you believe, a question of details; it is a question of principle. He cannot deny that in his bill, over and above the principle of local option, there is the further principle of total prohibition. If he gave way on that principle he knows he could no longer be chairman of the Alliance. I have only to add that, although, as a private member, I voted

for the resolution, because I sincerely wish to see more local control, yet I thought Lord Hartington showed good sense in the reason he gave for not supporting it as a leader. His vote was withheld, not because it was an abstract resolution, but because the members speaking for it were not practically agreed. But now, with a Liberal Government in power, and with a House of Commons recommending local option, I think the more practical course is to induce the Government to bring in a bill. And, as their bill would certainly not be a prohibitory bill, my humble and earnest advice to all friends of temperance is to unite their forces, not for a resolution only, but for a bill. Of this they may be sure, without more union no progress will be made.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS.

A SCHEME OF PROHIBITORY AGITATION.

As specially belonging to the legislative and prohibitory aims of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, I would, with your permission, merely by way of specimen, indicate a number of subjects that ought to be sown in the popular mind, thick as the most abundant and precious seed, not by means of elaborate papers and essays, but in short and telling leaflets:—That the licensed traffic in intoxicating drinks stands directly in antagonism to the great moral law of God. That it stands in opposition to the mind of God as manifested both in nature and in the divinely inspired oracles. That it is, in principle, an anomaly in legislation. That, as an antidote to intemperance, it has always proved a failure wherever introduced, in every age and every clime. That it is on the part of the Government a gigantic blunder, a complete playing of the fool, swallowing up rather than supplying the State's revenue. That, apart from all peculiar theories of Government, it is the duty of the legislation to protect not a privileged few, but the whole of the people. That the licensed traffic in intoxicating liquors fosters and encourages to a vast extent drinking and drunkenness, thereby creating and perpetuating all the vices, miseries, and burdens of intemperance. That it is the legalizing of this traffic which renders it respectable in the eyes of the world. That it is wrong to drink; if wrong to drink, then it is wrong to sell the drink; if wrong to sell, then it is wrong to license the sale of such drink; if wrong to drink, and sell, and license the sale of such drinks, then it is wrong to manufacture the wretched drug. That if it is wrong for any Government to legalize the sale of intoxicating liquor, it is doubly wrong, a crying sin and a most fatuous proceeding, for any body of constituents, and especially for temperance reformers, to become the ultimate legalizers of that traffic by sending men to Parliament who will vote for drink. That the tinkering of the old kettle is useless and worse than useless. That the river of death must be cut off at the source. That all license laws which do not go the length of giving people power to prohibit the public sale of these drinks in their midst is only a playing at temperance legislation. That maintain and perpetuate the unwise and unrighteous system of license, and the sin, the shame, the sorrow, the degradation, the misery, the violence, the disorder, the pauperism, the lunacy, the crime, the murder, the death temporal and eternal, which are not the accidental, but the legitimate outcome of the system, because essentially inherent in it, will be maintained and perpetuated. That the province, the object, the duty of Government, is not to curtail and regulate, but to prohibit wrongs coming within its sphere, and that on no account whatever, for no end whatever, has it, any more than the individual, the right to do wrong. . . . That for the injuries, the wrongs inflicted upon society up and down and all through and through its relationships, by this gigantic and fiendish iniquity, there is, there can be no redress after the evil is perpetuated, and so, by conse-

quence, the only adequate remedy must be found in that prevention which is not only better than cure, but which is to-day a glorious possibility, whereas cure, if the evil be allowed to go on, will be in millions and myriads of cases, and all through humanity, only a sad despair.

REV. ROBERT PATERSON.

CANADIAN TEMPERANCE NOTES.

Orillia, 15th Sept., 1880.

Dear Sir,—After reading the evidence in the Louth election case, I must say either your election law is much inferior to ours, or Baron Dowse gave the sitting members very large benefit of a very small doubt.—Did you ever hear of a seller of tobacco giving up that trade for conscience sake? Mr. Thomas Dallas, who died here the other day, was a quiet but earnest and useful temperance worker. A number of years ago he was engaged in business as a general merchant. In his stock was tobacco. He listened to a sermon by the minister of the Presbyterian church here—Rev. J. Gray, M.A.—in which the inconsistency of selling tobacco while disapproving of its use was pointed out. Next morning Mr. Dallas carried out all the tobacco he had in his shop, and burned it. He never sold another plug. He was a native of Edinburgh.—Beware of any proposed law containing a compensation clause! If such be enacted, let the whole onus of it rest with the opponents of prohibition. It will fail, as all other temporising measures have failed, and every effort will be made to attribute the failure to the prohibition advocates.—Faithfully yours,

G. H. HALE.

Orillia, 20th Oct., 1880.

Dear Sir,—Do you ever have any drunkards confined in English prisons? A constable of long experience tells me he knows of none here, and the governor of our county goal has never had one in charge. Prisoners being permitted to state to which class they belong, of course never record that they are of the worst. Some even call themselves abstainers on such occasions, though their period of abstinence began with their arrest, and will end with their term of imprisonment. There is in gaol at present a man who has drank up a good property, and is now, as often before, incarcerated for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, who is recorded on the books as a "moderate drinker."—With regard to what the *Warrington Guardian* terms the anomaly "of a mayor whom Mr. Bright refused to confirm as a permanent magistrate because he is a publican," I may mention that here a publican cannot be a mayor or a councillor.—A medical student attending the matriculation examination at Queen's College, Kingston, last week, drowned himself while suffering from *delirium tremens*. Is this proof of the efficacy of education as an antidote for drink?—Faithfully yours,

G. H. HALE.

TEMPERANCE ANNUITY FUND.

Sir,—There is a matter about which I have often thought I would beg your readers' consideration. Should there not be in connection with the temperance organisation something in the shape of an annuity fund, so that members of temperance societies of some years' standing might, by paying a weekly sum, be entitled to receive, at the age of say sixty-five, a weekly allowance as a help in their declining years? I feel sure that some such society would be the means of uniting abstainers together far more so than at present; because they would have something at stake and something to look forward to. This would induce them to take a more decided stand in the good cause than they do meantime. The management would not cost much, as local societies could easily remit the money to head-quarters. I would be glad to hear from any of your correspondents the result of their consideration of the feasibility of such a scheme.—I am, &c.,

Arbroath.

WM. GRANT.

REAL PHILANTHROPY.

SIR,—I have seldom seen a better mode of mitigating the evils to which country laddies and lassies are subjected when attending school in winter than that explained and enforced by Rev. Mr. Cameron, the parish minister of Farnell. How often have we when young, attending a northern parish school, pitied the boys and especially the girls from the country districts who had nothing but their piece of bread and butter and skim-milk cheese, and often ate it shivering in the bitter cold air, washing it down with a good draught of water. It was all well so far as the hardy loons were concerned, they joined us in our play, and if there was any snow we soon experienced the might that slumbered in a peasant arm, fortified by a barley scone and a whang of a skim-milk kebbuck. But the less robust callants shivered as they looked on at "plays" in which they dared not engage for want of "pith." And the wee lassies covered in the door or the lee of the school, huddling together for warmth, with their hands beneath their slips or with them wrapped in their frock tail. Some of them, too, used the skipping rope or "the beds" to raise their temperature, but to all but the hardiest, winter was a severely trying time. Then there was the walk to and from the school—the roads often blocked with snow or rendered almost impassable with mud, and often all had the blinding rain and the drifting snow to encounter along with the sore fatigue of the lang, lang road. Sometimes

"Ye maist wad think a wee touch langer
And they maun starve o' cauld and hunger,
But how it comes, I never kened yet,
They'r maistly wonderfu' contented,
And buirdly chiels and clever hizzies
Are bred in such a way as this is."

But why expose them so? If their lot can be softened beneficence should succour. To remain indifferent to their hardships is to incur the charge of cruelty.

Mr. Cameron found the same state of matters prevailing in Farnell in 1878 as often invited our sympathy more than forty years ago, and having the power as well as the heart he soon devised a scheme of amelioration which has already, we feel convinced, drawn down the blessing of many a fond mother on his kindly head. He enlisted the sympathies of the Countess of Southesk and, as may be easily believed, the Earl soon built a little wooden edifice, the scheme being to give a warm midday meal to the 100 or thereby of scholars frequenting the school. The building, 24 by 13, forms a washing-house for the schoolmaster and a cooking place for the children. The funds to start were three pounds (the proceeds of a lecture), with which the utensils for cooking and serving were provided. The scholars bring their spoons in their satchels. The dinners are varied and plentiful, consisting of potato, pea, and rice soups, plenty of vegetables, and there is beef distributed once a week, and several haunches of venison have been received from the Countess' larder. The charge is one halfpenny each, and a family is never charged more than a penny. Yet there was a balance to carry forward of 9s. Rich and poor meet together. A young lady—bless her—was the cook the first winter, but the school board has since provided one. The indirect advantages are great. The big lads carry the soup to the teachers who, often assisted by neighbours, serve it out. Half an hour is allowed for dining and half an hour for airing the school. Then the senior girls help to wash and dry the dishes and often get a lesson in cookery for their pains. The health of the scholars and their attendance are both improved, and one parish has already taken a leaf out of the book of this highly creditable experiment in Farnell parish. May every country parish soon be doing likewise.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Longley's Illustrated Annual for 1881. F. E. Longley. London: 59 Warwick Lane, E.C. One penny. Six full-page fine wood engravings, a calendar, and a well-selected number of stories, make a marvellous pennyworth.

The Penny Testament.—We understand that the sale of this, the cheapest edition ever published, has already reached nearly 400,000, and that the publisher, Mr. Elliot Stock, confidently expects that a million copies will be disseminated in the course of twelve months.

House and Home, the organ of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, is giving a series of masterly wood engravings. Pressnitz, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and other celebrities have appeared. Ruskin's famous letter to trade societies appears, besides "Our Retrospective Review," from which we learn that many of the reforms in diet now advocated were anticipated by two centuries by old writers. *The House and Home* is truly the friend of home and the household.

The Adviser for 1880; a book for young people. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League. One of the most superbly got up books of the season, done in handsome cover, adorned with a charming chromo of somebody's darling on a swing. It is also gold lettered and gilt edged. Of the contents we need not speak; their excellence is affirmed month by month by the many thousands of little folks who feast with avidity upon the *Adviser*.

Heroes in the Strife.—We understand that Mr. Sherlock's new volume, which is announced for publication by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton at the end of the month, will contain sketches of John Bright, David Livingstone, John Wesley, Abraham Lincoln, John Locke, C. H. Spurgeon, Cardinal Manning, and several other eminent men. Following upon the plan pursued in *Illustrious Abstainers*, the author will specially treat of the total abstinence testimonies of his several Heroes, so the book will be a useful addition to temperance literature.

Songs and Recitations for Bands of Hope. New and enlarged edition. Paisley: J. & R. Parlange; Edinburgh: Menzies & Co. Twopence. In these 64 pages of songs and recitations, compiled and arranged for the Edinburgh Band of Hope Union, Mr. D. M. Fraser has displayed a taste and adaptation which has enabled him to place a superior collection before the public. The 63 hymns and 15 recitations form a selection that should—when sung or spoken—contribute, in a high degree, to the success of our Bands of Hope meetings, and we very cordially recommend them to those in charge of such meetings.

Onward Reciter, vol. ix. (Manchester: Onward Offices, 18 Mount St., Peter St.). The very fact of this little Reciter having completed its ninth volume will be a strong proof to our readers of the excellent quality of its varied contents, for nothing commonplace can long survive, especially in temperance literature. In the hands of an intelligent reader, this deservedly popular little work may be the means of brightening up and making attractive many an otherwise dull and uninteresting meeting—for there are dull and uninteresting meetings. For the ninth time we have pleasure in commending it to our readers.

Thorn Lodge, or the Wheel of Life; by the author of *The Losing Game*. Glasgow: Scottish Temperance League. Price One Shilling. This is a valuable acquisition to the entertaining literature of the League, being a most interesting and sprightly tale. The author's treatment of his story reminds one of the ebb of the tide, for it seems as if every one of his characters was going to be exterminated through drink, and, in fact, almost all are but the arch-villain, Ben Phyle; and it reminds one too of the flow of the tide, for all but the *drink-logged* are wafted by temperance to the haven of happiness and peace, Ben dying a horrible death. The scene is laid in a midland Scottish county, and in Glasgow, and the Row, Sautmarket, Briggate, figure prominently in its pages.

Graham's Popular Temperance Dialogues, by John H. Scaife. London: National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand. Sixpence. An admirable series of dialogues, well done, abreast of the latest facts of the temperance and prohibitory question, and fitted to do a power of good where well delivered.

Personal Work among our Blue Jackets, 1879-80. By Agnes E. Weston (Devonport: Sailors' Rest and Institute). This little tract is the simple record of a great and good work carried on among our seamen and marines by Miss Weston during last year. The work afloat consists in the issue and distribution of about 200,000 copies yearly of a monthly letter called *The Blue Backs*; in the establishment and maintenance of temperance societies on board ship; in the presentation of libraries to small vessels; in the circulation of periodicals and tracts all over the world; and in personal visitation of the lower decks of H.M. ships when in port. We are glad to learn from this tract that almost every ship in the service carries members of the Temperance Society, and that a considerable body of officers are pledged abstainers. The work ashore consists in the carrying on of "Sailors' Rests" in Devonport, Keyham, and Portsmouth; in the beneficent agency of a flower mission in connection with the Royal Naval Hospital; in the maintenance of coffee and reading rooms in Falmouth and Portland; and in the holding of numerous gospel and temperance meetings. During the year 24,191 sailors put up at the "Rest" at Devonport alone; and when we reflect how proverbially loose Jack Tar is ashore, and how frequently he is the easy victim of the prowling "land shark," we must rejoice at the institution of such places as "The Sailor's Rest," and be proud of the work in which Miss Weston is so devotedly engaged. She is the brightest beacon to Jack Tar that ever shone out upon his dangerous tract; and he is not ungrateful. Long may she be spared to work "for the glory of God and the good of the service."

OBITUARY NOTICE.

COL. MURE, M.P.—We regret to have to announce the death on Tuesday, 9th ult., in Hamilton Place, Piccadilly, of Lieut.-Colonel William Mure of Caldwell, Ayrshire, M.P. for Renfrewshire. The deceased who was in the fifty-first year of his age, was the eldest son of the late Col. William Mure, M.P., of Caldwell, formerly Vice-Lieutenant of the County of Renfrew, by his marriage with Laura, daughter of the late Mr William Markham, of Becca Hall, Yorkshire. He was born in the year 1830, and was formerly a Lieut.-Colonel in the Scots Fusilier Guards, from which he retired in 1859. He served with the 60th Rifles in the Kaffir War of 1851-53, for which he received a medal, and he also served with the 79th Highlanders in the Eastern campaign of 1854, being present at the actions of Alma and Balaclava, and the siege of Sebastopol, for which services he received a medal and clasps, and also the Turkish medal; he afterwards joined the Scots Fusilier Guards. Colonel Mure was a deputy-lieutenant for Ayrshire, a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Renfrewshire, and Colonel of the 2nd battalion Renfrew Rifle Volunteers. He contested the county in 1873 in the Liberal interest, but was defeated, greatly owing to his want of sympathy with the Permissive Bill. In 1874 he was returned by a majority of 188, and he was again returned, this year by a large majority; his opponent being on all three occasions Sir Archibald Campbell of Blythswood. He maintained a strict neutrality on the Permissive Bill, but latterly voted in its favour. Being unable through illness to take his seat in the new Parliament, he could neither vote nor pair in favour of the Local Option resolution. Col. Mure married in 1859 the Hon. Constance Elizabeth Wyndham, youngest daughter of George, first Lord Leonfield, and has issue a son and three daughters. His remains were brought to Caldwell House, the family seat, and were interred in the parish churchyard of Neilston on Friday, 12th ult., in the presence of a select circle of mourning friends, his political opponent Sir Archibald Campbell being among the number.

THE
Social Reformer.

JANUARY, 1881.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC: THE GREAT
OBSTRUCTIVE OF REFORMS.

A LECTURE BY

J. M. McCulloch, M.D., DUMFRIES.

It has occurred to me that were I to give you a short, and it must be a very short description of the state of our country within my own recollection, with incidental references to previous facts, I might perhaps interest you more, and give you a clearer and more powerful interest in the Temperance Reformation by showing thus its paramount importance to the welfare of the nation.

Let us go back about 53 years. At that time there were great and grievous restrictions upon religious freedom. In England and Ireland more especially, no man could be a Member of Parliament, a Magistrate, a Town Councillor, or indeed hold any public situation, unless he was a member of the Church of England and subscribed his belief in the 39 Articles of its creed. If he was a Roman Catholic not only could he hold no public situation, but he was practically excluded from all political and many social rights; and not very long before my day if a Roman Catholic was riding a valuable horse, worth say £100, and a Protestant offered him say £5 for it, he was obliged by the law to dismount and give it up for that sum. Nay, more and worse still, if one of a Roman Catholic family went before a magistrate and swore that he or she, as the case might be, had become a Protestant, no matter how infamous their character might be, the law gave them the right to take all that belonged to the family, and to turn their father and mother, or sisters and brothers out destitute. In all the three kingdoms there were other religious tyrannies about which I shall not trouble you.

As to political freedom, matters in Scotland more especially were even worse; in fact, it was a "mockery, a delusion, and a snare." Many of the burghs of England and Ireland were as openly sold to the highest bidder as a house or a horse, or as church livings were but lately sold in Scotland, and are sold in England still; a great many, indeed the most of the Parliamentary seats belonged to a few great families, and they put whomsoever they pleased into the House of Commons, no doubt after going through the solemn farce of an election which deceived nobody. Since I came to Dumfries, and just before the first Reform Bill, I saw first one and then another General Election, and there were only five persons in the whole of the five Dumfries burghs had the right to vote, and these five men, of course, returned the member. In the great city of Glasgow there was only one man who had the right to vote for a member of Parliament, and even he could only vote for the fourth or fifth part of that member. The county of Bute had only one voter, and in 1832 he happened to be the sheriff, and when the King's writ came down ordering the election of

a member for that county he went up into his place as sheriff and read out the writ, then came down and proposed himself, then seconded himself, and finally went up into his place again and declared himself duly elected! I recollect of the celebrated Lord Jeffrey stating all these facts in the House of Commons, and the other constituencies were little better. I have personally seen decent, respectable men, of good character, hanged, and known of many imprisoned or banished for life for saying or doing *politically* what now-a-days especially during elections, is said and done by hundreds of thousands without injury to anyone or anything. It would take me many days to tell what even I have seen and known of a like kind, but I have said enough to prove to you that political liberty and the liberty of the subject did not exist in Scotland fifty years ago, and that such words, in Scotland at least, were mere names without any reality whatever.

As to commercial freedom, Free Trade as it is called, we had none of it; everything foreign was taxed to the extent almost of prohibition, the landlords had a monopoly of the food, the manufacturers of the clothes, the shipowners of the carrying trade by sea, &c. The quantity of land in the three kingdoms became too small for the increased population, and as foreign grain and other food were not allowed to be imported until the necessaries of life had risen to famine prices, want and misery were rife, and when a really bad harvest occurred starvation, disease, riots, and bloodshed were sure to occur. And even when such famine occurred and the ports were opened, the navigation laws prevented competition in freights and thus rendered the necessary supply of food dearer to the starving millions. I saw, after I settled in Dumfries, two of these dangerous riots, meal mobs as they were called, and in the manufacturing districts more especially they were much more frequent and dangerous.

Then as to sanitary reform, or sanitary measures of any kind, such things were never thought of, and only occasionally heard of, and then were spoken of as whims. Dirt and dangerous nuisances were rife, the rule and not the exceptions, and fevers and other pestilential diseases were prevalent to a fearful extent accordingly. The death rate was very high, especially in towns, and no wonder, for there was no drainage, the water supply was polluted, and filth of every kind was only removed once a year when the potatoes were set.

As to education, there was some in Scotland, and that was pretty extensively diffused, but in England and Ireland at least 80 out of every 100 persons were as ignorant and scarcely as innocent as savages. I need scarcely tell you that these religious, political, commercial, sanitary, and educational evils were accompanied by a vast mass of pauperism, disease, insanity, sin, vice, crime, and abject misery among the people.

For a long time previous to 1823, the religious

classes outside the pale of the Established Churches agitated for and demanded religious freedom, or, in other words, the right, without civil disabilities, to worship God in accordance with their own conscientious belief, and in 1828-9 the agitation, especially in Ireland, became so great and menacing that the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, although they had obstinately and persistently upheld these religious tyrannies all their lives, granted religious liberty to the Nonconformists and other dissenters by abolishing the Test and Corporation Acts, and also granted Catholic Emancipation. The great and good men who originated and sustained that agitation for religious freedom believed that they would not only gain greater purity of faith and morals, but that by such increased purity, pauperism, sin, vice, crime, and social misery would be greatly diminished. No doubt religious freedom, though still imperfect, was a great gain, it emancipated thought and shook tyranny to a certain extent, but pauperism, sin, vice, crime, and social misery were as rampant as ever.

Wise and good men soon saw this, and examined why it was so, and they came to the conclusion that it was because the vast bulk of the people were little better than serfs without any political rights or power, and they said, "Give the people the franchise, let them know and feel that they are really men and have an interest in the laws and welfare of their country, and it will elevate their thoughts, and by so doing give them a nobler idea of their duty to God and man. And they agitated for political emancipation, and that with such vigour that in 1832 we were again on the verge of a revolution; young men all over the three kingdoms were secretly drilling at night, even in Dumfries they were drilling on the Lochar Moss at night, and at Birmingham 100,000 men assembled on New Hall Hill and threatened to march upon London if the Reform Bill was not immediately granted, and the Crown and the Tories became terrified and ceased to oppose that great national measure. We got a still more extensive Reform Bill in 1868, and we only wait for the County Household Franchise Bill in order to attain a sufficiently extended franchise. The advance therefore in political liberty has been very great, especially when I tell you the undoubted fact that just exactly twelve years before I was born slavery was abolished in Scotland—not the slavery of black men, mark you, but the slavery of many Scotch men and Scotch women, who were sold and worked in slavery like horses and cattle. Well, after these great measures of religious and political reforms, have pauperism, insanity, disease, sin, vice, crime, and social misery been diminished? No; the very reverse, for they have steadily increased, and at a very much greater ratio than the increase of the population.

All this was soon seen and felt, and then Villiers, and Cobden, and Bright, and the other Corn Law and Navigation Law repealers arose and declared that all these and many other evils arose from the Corn Laws and other taxes on the people's food, intensified by protection, causing, as they undoubtedly did, periodical starvation and all its attendant miseries. After a long and severe struggle and agitation, Sir Robert Peel again stepped forward and abolished these iniquitous laws, and free trade became the settled policy of Great Britain, bringing with it an extraordinary, I might almost say, a marvellous increase of trade, riches, high wages, in short, a flow of material prosperity greater than any recorded in the history of the world. Have pauperism, disease, insanity, sin, vice, crime and social misery become less? No, they have increased more rapidly and fearfully than ever.

Then the cry got up that it was the ignorance of the people, and the bad houses, and the bad sanitary conditions in which a great many of the people lived, and the education bills and several sanitary bills have been passed to remove these, and though ignorance has been greatly lessened, and cleanliness greatly increased, they have neither stopped nor diminished the rapid increase and extent of these unmitigated curses of the people. Is it true then that all these great and beneficial reforms are and have been of no use, and that the Tories who bitterly opposed them were right after all? So far from that they have been of great benefit to the people, and would be of infinitely greater still if it were not that you, yes you and others refuse, wilfully and deliberately refuse, to give these great reforms anything like fair play, for you uphold the drinking of intoxicating liquors, and thus by habit, custom, and example keep up that pernicious practice, and those of you who are electors will vote for a Whig, a Tory, or a Radical, as the case may be, although you know he will vote to uphold the liquor traffic, or at least, won't vote to put it down. Perhaps you deny that intoxicating liquors are the principal cause of all these evils, and of the comparative inefficiency of all the great reforms I have enumerated and declare that it is the sinfulness of the human heart that is the cause, and that as long as human beings are human beings these evils will prevail. That, no doubt, is partly true, but the truer it is by so much the more is it your bounden duty to give up and put down all those causes which can be removed, easily removed, if you are willing to do your duty to God and man. Those who put forward such excuses as the only cause, do it either ignorantly, of whom it may be said, "They know not what they do or say," or they do so falsely as a cloak for their own selfishness, because they know full well that they, and such as they, uphold and sustain the most prolific cause, or, at the very least, refuse or neglect to give up and put down the two pervading causes which principally originate and foster these clamant national and social evils.

What is the cause? I need scarcely tell you that it is intoxicating drinks and the infamous liquor traffic which fosters and maintains their use. Inquire and then think over what the liquor traffic and the liquor it deals out occasions. No other agent produces such an enormous amount of demoralisation, blasphemy, vice, sin, crime, pauperism, insanity, and social misery of the most appalling kind. No other instrumentality strikes such a deadly blow at the very basis of good government, by rendering our political elections and institutions infamously corrupt, as the present public inquiry into corrupt practices at elections proves, thus corrupting and undermining the very source of our liberties and threatening the very existence of the British Empire. It is by far and away the greatest cause of our pauperism and poverty (for there are vast numbers poor who are not paupers), and no wonder, for our Chancellors of the Exchequer prove every session of Parliament that from £130,000,000 to £150,000,000 sterling are spent by the people of this country for intoxicating drinks, a sum it is even difficult to comprehend and which if it were spent upon the necessaries and comforts of life would increase trade and wages to such an extent as would render us almost independent of foreign customers, and almost drive pauperism and poverty from the land. It is the same curse which, in spite of free trade and cheap food given to us by the Anti-Corn Law repealers and Sir Robert Peel, reduces so many of our population, by the drinking of their bread-winners, to the very verge of starvation, from the want of food, clothes, firing, and proper shelter. It

is this pervading evil that checkmates, diminishes, and deteriorates the benefits derived and derivable from education, in short, these great and many other beneficent reforms which we have attained within the last fifty-three years have been shorn of their benefits, and to a great mass of the people rendered useless by this unmitigated curse, thus proving the truth stated by the great and good Matthew Devport Hill, "That whichever way we turn and whatever we do for the welfare and elevation of the people, the drink demon starts up before us and blocks the way."

Now what are the lessons derivable from and proved to be necessary and justifiable from these undeniable facts? The first, is that the liquor traffic is the main and most potent cause of all these lamentable evils. Second, that as long as that traffic is allowed to exist these evils cannot be got rid of. Third, that it can be got rid of only by an Act of Parliament. Fourth, that when a candidate wishes to get into Parliament and asks your vote, but at the same time refuses to promise that he will vote for giving the people the power to veto the granting of licenses to sell intoxicating liquors, when they so mind, or, in other words, prevent the magistrates from forcing the liquor traffic upon any place where the people are unwilling: if he is a Liberal ask him how he dares to profess Liberalism and at the same time maintain an evil that antagonises almost all Liberal measures hitherto passed by Parliament, and which all experience teaches us must ever, whilst it is tolerated, continue to do so, and that, moreover, such a refusal on his part is directly opposed to the principles of Liberalism, these principles being, "Trust in the people, local self-government, reform of all clamant abuses, peace, retrenchment, and reform." The liquor traffic being the most clamant of present abuses, the most common cause of dispeace, one of the most fertile sources of extravagance, the people being entitled to local self-government in this more especially as they drink the drink, pay for the drink, and surely know better whether they want it or not, much better indeed than a set of Justices of the Peace who, in this matter at least, give us neither justice nor peace.

If he is a Conservative ask him how he can reconcile his refusal with Conservative principles, two of the most important of which are, "To uphold order, and put down anarchy," the liquor traffic being the greatest cause of disorder and anarchy known in this country, and finally tell them both, Liberal and Conservative, who shall refuse to vote down this curse, that they are shams, hypocrites, and wolves in sheep's clothing, and that you won't vote for either of them.

Lastly, what is the duty of you electors? Can you, will you continue to be gulled and duped by men calling themselves Liberals or Conservatives but who are really neither the one or the other honestly or consistently, as I have shown you, but time-serving, selfish, unprincipled politicians, who care nothing for either moral principle, or the welfare of the people one bit further than serves their own ends and purposes?

No, if you care for God and your country, you will only vote for those who will put down this iniquity, thus giving fair play to all good measures, and sending plenty, peace, contentment and happiness into the homes of the people.

The General Baptist Association have passed a number of resolutions in favour of temperance legislation—one rejoicing in the adoption by the House of Commons of the Local Option Resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, as opening up a prospect of early legislation by which the intemperance of the country, with its enormous attendant evils, may be greatly diminished.

INDIVIDUAL CONSECRATION.

BY REV. S. HARDING, PAISLEY.

There is no more fitting occasion than the commencement of a new year, for taking a retrospect of the past, and marking out a course for the future. This plan is adopted generally by business men, who take stock, balance their books, and carefully examine into their financial position. Should the results of their examination be unsatisfactory, greater prudence and economy will be observed, and more diligent measures adopted, so that the future may be attended with more satisfactory results.

The same principle holds good in regard to our individual position in its relation to God and to society. We rejoice as we behold the growth of those institutions which are the glory of our age and country, and established for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of suffering humanity, and advancing the glory of God in the world. But if we examine closely into the working of these institutions, the labour is carried on by the few, while the many look on with almost stolid indifference, even though associated by membership with the society. There is not that personal consecration and effort which the urgency of the case demands, nor that strenuous exertion which it might be supposed so momentous a question would call forth.

To be more explicit—Take any one of the great temperance organizations of Scotland, and will any person conversant with its membership dare venture the assertion that all its members are doing their duty to God and to humanity, loyal to their pledge and obligation.

Is there not too much indifference, ease, and selfishness, in our ranks, which interferes with the entire energies of body and soul being given to the work. There are many who think they have done their duty, when they have paid their subscription. But is this all that God and humanity require? Is this all that is demanded of me by the society of which I am an enrolled member? Is there no hardship to be endured, no sacrifice to be made, no obloquy to be encountered, no weariness to be experienced, no self-denial to be exercised, for the sake, and in the cause, of him who did not hesitate to shed his life's blood for sinners, and endured the severest sufferings in order to work out their salvation? That man gives but a poor proof of the genuineness and sincerity of his philanthropy, patriotism, and Christianity, who can view with indifference and unconcern the multitudes enslaved by the liquor traffic, and yet make no personal efforts to save them.

It is sometimes objected that much personal effort will interfere with individual and family duties; but I fear there is too much reason to suspect that the true statement of this objection would be that it interferes too much with personal and family conveniences. If we suppose that we can fulfil our duty to God and our fellow men, and yet experience no inconvenience, and be called upon to make no sacrifice, we are grievously mistaken. The question is not whether the duty is agreeable to us—whether it is congenial or otherwise to flesh and blood,—but whether it is obligatory upon us; and if it be so, surely it ought to silence every objection, and nerve the soul to consecrate its entire powers to the great work of "rescuing the perishing."

Now is the time to start afresh—to turn over a new leaf. Begin the year 1881 with new resolves. It may be the last year you may be permitted to labour in the great work. Make it the best. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, wisdom, knowledge, or device in the grave, whither thou goest."

WOMEN'S APPEAL TO WOMEN.

We commend the following heart-searching and heart-stirring appeal to the women of Paisley, from the Women's Christian and Abstinence Association, Paisley, to our many female sympathisers:—

At the beginning of another year's meetings, we respectfully request those women who are not already members to consider the objects of our association.

We are banded together for the reclamation of drunkards, and the prevention of drunkenness.

The drinking customs of society, and the great number of dram shops in town, render the first exceedingly difficult; and we are convinced that moderate drinking is the source of drunkenness, and the chief support of our 203 dram shops.

For the last few years, the average yearly expenditure on strong drink by every man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom was over £4. Taking the population of Paisley at 50,000, our drink bill amounted annually to over £200,000. We ask you carefully to consider what return we get for this enormous outlay.

Strong drink is the cause of one fourth of our lunacy, three-fourths of our pauperism, and three-fourths of our crime. It enormously increases our taxation, destroys a large portion of our food, sends 60,000 of the population of Great Britain annually into drunkards' premature graves, besides indirectly causing the death of at least as many more.

It is quite plain, therefore, that the sale of an article which can thus so materially decrease the national welfare ought to be prohibited. In fighting this battle, we know we are on the side of right, and right must ultimately prevail; but the very sad struggle may be greatly shortened if women would, from motives of humanity, give up and protest against the use of an article which, although sanctioned by custom, causes more distress and ruin than all other causes put together.

If you saw a person in the water struggling for life, and one on shore with a life buoy in his hand, but refusing to throw it to the drowning man, what would you think of the man so acting? Total abstinence is a life buoy which will preserve from drunkenness—the only one that can restore the drunkard, and, in the interests of humanity, we entreat you to use it.

If you are a mother, surrounded by a rising family, and if you use or offer the fatal cup at the social board, your example may prove a stumbling-block to some of your offspring; and if such should unfortunately be the case, would not your heart be wrung with an agony of bitterness to think that you helped on such a sad catastrophe? If a sister, and in any way countenancing the so-called social glass of your brother, and if he should fall into habits of dissipation (as is too often the case), would you be able to account yourself blameless? In either case, complicity, and consequent responsibility, can only be escaped by setting the safe example of abstinence; for, if in any degree drinking is countenanced, to that extent one is inevitably responsible for the consequences.

We earnestly request you to observe that the very highest scientific and medical authorities now declare, that the habitual use of alcohol, in the very smallest quantities, deteriorates the constitution, by lowering the temperature of the body, increasing nervous sensibility, putting an extra strain on the heart, and paralyzing muscular action.

It is a law of nature that fermentation renders substances unfit for human food or drink; and long and sad experience teaches that grain and grapes are no exception to this law. Alcohol is a product of fermentation, which the highest scientific authority declares to be as potent for evil as powerless for good.

It is a very lamentable fact that intemperance is spreading rapidly amongst women in all grades of society, but, thank God, many of the best and noblest women in the land are now espousing our cause; yet we hail with joy the accession to our ranks of the most humble, for it is amongst them that the ravages of drink prove most disastrous. Picture to yourself that vast and unending procession of 60,000 drink-

stricken human beings, staggering into drunkards' graves, and dragging down with them, through a miserable existence into untimely graves, another 60,000 innocent victims (mostly women and children), giving a daily mortality of 328.

We often get for answer, "I'm almost an abstainer—the little I take is neither here nor there." An "almost" position is a very unsatisfactory one on any question of vital importance. But if "almost," why not "altogether"?

In view of such a terrible state of matters, will you consider long whether to stand nobly in the breach, endeavouring to save some, or stand looking on—nay, fighting against us; for, whatever sophists say to the contrary, in the war between good and evil there can be no neutral party. It is now as of old, "He that is not for us is against us."

To you, as Christians, we make a special appeal, because love and self-denial were Christ's motive powers. As He went about continually doing good, His followers ought to remove every obstacle in the way of good. As He proclaimed peace on earth, Christians ought to give no countenance or quarter to this great destroyer of peace. He inculcated brotherly love; and this substance, against which war ought unceasingly to be waged, sets brother against brother, father against son, and husband against wife, thus breaking up or destroying the peace of innumerable homes. Christianity enjoins us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and set the captive free; while the drink-demon clothes in rags, deprives of food, and binds his victims, soul and body, in almost hopeless slavery.

Will you not therefore come and join us? The enemy is strong and determined, and we will need all the assistance we can get to help us to sweep away this, the greatest hindrance to the progress of civilization and Christianity. "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it, and He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it, and shall not He render to every man according to his works?"

Signed on behalf of the association—Mrs. S. Clark, Kilnside, *Hon. President*; Mrs. Arthur, Barshaw, *Hon. Vice-President*; Mrs. Dalziel, Wester Carriagehill, *President*; Mrs. M'Callum, South Park, *Secretary*.

OUR DAILY LIFE.

From morn till night, from night till morn,

Our daily life proceeds;

And from the day when we were born,

Till life's fond ties are rudely torn,

The daily burden must be borne,

Of all our mortal needs.

In daylight fair, or darksome night,

We toil by turns, and rest;

And though we love the glorious light,

That makes the summer noon so bright,

The shade brings off a cool delight,

For light and shade are best.

In daily life we are aware

Of oft-recurring changes;

The lightsome heart, the load of care,

Of each we get a mingled share,

And sometimes even dark despair

Our joys awhile estranges.

A chequered scene, like changeful day,

On which the night descends,

Our life, or sorrowful or gay,

Will for a time some force display,

But at the last, against decay

It hopelessly contends.

Our daily duties should be done

With hearts resolved and brave;

For needless weakness is a sin

To him who has the race to run,

Some manful triumphs yet to win,

This side the silent grave.

LODA.

THE FUNDS.

* * Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, JANUARY, 1881.

A Happy New Year to all our readers, and many returns. They may have, during the year on whose threshold we now stand, all conceivable happiness, and yet they will be far from exhausting what is contained in our wishes for their happiness. Looking back to the "Year that's awa'," we cannot but have a heartfelt sense of satisfaction at the retrospect. All the striving on platforms, on deputations, canvassing, tract-giving, and interviewing, which we were told was beating the air, or at least working mischief, substantial and widely-spread, has been justified by the fact that, not only have we a majority of supporters in Parliament representing Scottish constituencies, but a majority of the parliamentary representation of Scotland—a Permissive Bill majority, forty out of sixty being in our favour—a vote of eight to one when the Scottish opposition is taken into account. That one fact sums up the arduous labours of years, and justifies all the efforts that have culminated in the gratifying result. The victory of June has ripened the agitation to an inconceivable degree. There is nothing that succeeds like success. The movement that has shown itself powerful enough to compel the support of the imperial legislature, will not long want the homage of society. Turning to the future, what do we see? A great success if the energy which has brought us to our present advanced position continues to exhibit itself as powerfully, or more so, than it has done in the past. The danger that lies before us is the eagerness with which some may spring forward to meet the legislature half-way. In compromise lies our danger. Acquiescing, with the best grace we can command, in what the Government of the day may offer, let us maintain an unquenchable determination to secure the suppressive veto. Let us give the friends of the measure who maintain our cause in parliament our unwavering support, and show to those that are ready to halt that we cannot be trifled with, and victory, later or sooner, more or less complete, will crown our labours. Upon us rests the responsibility of sweeping the liquor traffic from our beloved land. If we waver, none others will stand firm; if we are undaunted and persistent, our attitude will infuse a courage in our representatives that will nerve them to grant us the power

which the traffic will totter and finally fall. Let us be... realize our responsibility—let us strenuously use all our strength to compass the end we have in view, and herewith to so shall be our strength. Thus resolved, thus energetic in the dawning year, we shall abundantly realize ere it expires. A happy New Year, then, to all our readers!

The Rev. H. H. Pereira, M.A., Southampton, will be in Scotland about the end of the present month, and will probably address seven meetings as the representative of the United Kingdom Alliance. We ventured to give our opinion of his abilities in our December issue. We have great pleasure in directing our readers to our news column, where they will find a notice of him from the *Southern Reformer*. He will secure esteem for his character and admiration for his abilities during his sojourn in Scotland.

Mr. John Paton has had a month's excellent lecturing, and has received very favourable notice from the press. The *Airdrie Advertiser* considers him in the sublimity of his conceptions and his phrasing more a prose poet than a lecturer, and the friends in Dollar who heard him lecture on the Covenant times and also Professor Blackie lecture on the Covenanters, vastly preferred the temperance advocate to the learned professor. Mr. Paton is now in the North of England, whose people have learned to eagerly appreciate his labours. We hope soon to hear of his return to Scotland.

Mr. J. W. Manning, of Ontario, Canada, who is now paying a brief visit to this country will visit Scotland for a week—31st January to 4th February inclusive. We are confident that Mr. Manning will receive a most cordial reception from the friends in the places he will visit. Our friends should see that those distrustful of, or indifferent to, the objects of our agitation, be cordially invited to be present at his meetings. It is not so much ourselves as our neighbours still unenlightened that should hear Mr. Manning; and the duty of our friends is to exhaust every means of bringing such people face to face with him. They will have a proud satisfaction in the result.

One must not condemn "Boycotting" entirely, lest they condemn what may be a most powerful means against sources of evil, if applied justly and on sufficient grounds. We do not sympathise with "Irish boycotting"—intimidating or tabooing people—because it is simply an instrument of tyranny that will yet return to plague the inventors. What will our readers have to say to American "boycotting," of which the following is a recent instance? A man at Buttersville, Indiana, got a license, and opened a saloon. The people there thereupon resolved not to have anything to do with him. They would buy nothing from him, they would sell him

nothing, nor notice him in the street; when he went into a store the question was put, "Can the man that sells whisky sell you any goods?" He said, "I cannot sell you any goods." He could not get mails at the post office for any one but himself without a written order. We are prepared to hear, looking at his calling and his company, that "he cursed, and swore, and raved, but only cut off his own nose, and soon closed his saloon, and went into something better than that of making drunkards, and is now a good citizen." Another fellow, equally resolute, opened a saloon, but he was served similarly, and had to quit. As thus applied, what true temperance reformer could condemn "boycotting"? For our part, we should not be sad were it applied to the 14,000 Scotch publicans to-morrow.

The annual report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association will be in the hands of the members of that Association before this magazine reaches our readers. It shows that even in a time of depression the Association continues to hold its own and more, so far as its membership is concerned, there being a considerable accession of subscribers. That its funds have not such cheering accounts to offer is due to the fact that "hard times" still continue to press upon the intelligent and thoughtful supporters of the Association. The expenses connected with the electoral canvas, the general election, and with deputations to the leading centres and to Parliament, will sufficiently account for the fact that but for its extraordinary income this year the Association would have been in all probability in debt. Now that trade is undoubtedly reviving, the usual generous support to the funds of the Association may be confidently looked for. No one looking carefully over the report now issued can fail to be impressed by the persistent efforts being made by the agencies of the Association to enlighten the people on the necessity of possessing legal power to suppress the liquor traffic, should such a step be in their judgment demanded in the interests of themselves and those dependent upon them. We heartily commend the annual report to the attentive perusal and careful consideration of all who receive it, and we appeal to them to meet the claims of the Association upon their sympathy and liberality in the spirit of earnest minded, generous hearted, moral and social reformers.

During the past month a number of Scottish parliamentary representatives have addressed their constituents—Right Honourable W. E. Baxter, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Sir John D. Hay, Col. Alexander, Captain Maxwell, and Messrs. G. O. Trevelyan, J. C. Bolton, C. Dalrymple, R. W. Cochran-Patrick, S. Williamson, D. M'Laren, J. Cowan, M. E. Grant Duff, C. Fraser-M'Intosh, and Henry Campbell-Bannerman. The condition of Ireland absorbed the chief portion of their addresses, though Mr. M'Laren and Mr. Grant Duff gave most excellent summaries of the parliamentary session. The ques-

tion of Local Option received attention from Mr. Baxter, who told "the advocates of farther restriction and representative action that they need not be impatient. They would win the game." Mr. Cochran-Patrick, said that "he took up the position during the election that an abstract resolution was not the way to deal practically with a subject of that kind. Mr. Gladstone had taken up the same position and had voted against the bill." The honourable member is right and wrong. Mr. Gladstone did disapprove of Sir W. Lawson's resolution, on the ground that it was abstract and that he never voted for such, but on the division of the 18th June he, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, voted for supply with regret as against the resolution, and was the only Liberal representing Scotland that did so. We have hope of Mr. Cochran-Patrick, for as he has defended his vote against the resolution by quoting the action of Mr. Gladstone, he will not surely shrink from following that gentleman in voting for the bill with a veto he has promised to introduce during the present parliament? Mr. S. Williamson who said, "He had supported most heartily the resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson in favour of Local Option, in the carrying of which by an unlooked for majority there was evidence alike of the earnestness of the House of Commons in dealing with such a social question, and of the power of the constituencies in imposing their will upon their representatives. He hoped the Government ere long would formulate some adequate measure dealing with the liquor traffic so as to carry out the resolution. He trusted that the friends of temperance would not be discouraged if for a little while legislative action arising out of the resolution were delayed." Mr. Fraser-M'Intosh—in reply to a question—said, "He had always voted for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill. He added that he did what he could to keep down the drink traffic about him, for in the few charters on the Drummond and Ballifeary estates there was a prohibition against having a public-house. (Applause.) That being the case it would be inconsistent in him if he did not vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution." Mr. M'Laren, in his eagerness to support the Government, seemed to look with approval on the beer tax as a means of meeting any State emergency—the nation by drinking beer heavily charged with duty could drink itself out of a difficulty. Mr. Cowan saw in the abolition of the malt tax the way clear for the farmers entering more deeply into the cultivation of malt. Our readers will believe with us that these utterances on Local Option are on the whole satisfactory, Mr. Cochran-Patrick's being the only exception; the remarks of the members for Edinburgh were not those of reformers but statesmen. The electors will no doubt treasure up the references to the question of Local Option made during the recess by their members, and be prepared at the proper time to firmly press their wishes for a suppressive veto upon the attention of their representatives.

Good Words for December has an article on Women's Collegiate Life in America. The author of the paper—a lady—begins by saying that "A young country is eminently the place in which women may put forth their best powers;" and pointing to the advanced position of women in America as help-meets to their mates, and as a social force, says, "What they positively effect to these ends is surprising. No English lady can refuse to bear witness to the moral aspect of American society as compared with England's state at this time. If only one remarkable feature be noticed, which is prominent all over the land as the influence of woman, it would be enough to crown the fair sex in that country with the greatest earthly honour. They have banished by their all powerful effort the presence of drink from their tables, and so far have stigmatized drunkenness as abhorrent to them. Hospitality, "without the drink," is the honoured grace of the New World; and this is due to the work of women—not fanatic, superstitious, and unreasonable, but calm, scientific, pious women, resolute in their aim and their action to avoid that which is dangerous to their families, the preservation of which is their special duty." This is truly emphatic testimony in favour of culture for women. What these noble women have done in the New World, British women might be safely expected to do in the "Old Country." And when law assails the public institutions that dispense the poisonous juice in our streets, and women, pious and earnest, sweep it from the hearth and the sanctuary, truly Britain will be in the prosperity of its institutions—in the character of its inhabitants, and the purity of its religious ordinances what Malachi calls a delightful land.

We have often had occasion to deplore the action of ministers generally on what concerns the liquor traffic. With a few brilliant exceptions ministers never seem to think that that traffic at all concerns the welfare of their flocks. They deal gently, too gently, with the erring through strong drink, and often don't deal at all with the tempter. They work alongside some of their office-bearers without remonstrance or discrimination, although they know that among them, side by side by the God-fearing, stands the devil-serving. The brewer, the distiller, and the publican, is in their eyes as good as the school-master, the baker, and the builder. Vile men are not despised by them even although they are specially vile through vending alluring poisonous drugs. They will sign certificates to enable eager aspirants to the publican caste to live an easy and luxurious life by preying upon their fellow-creatures. They will hold public-house property, or if not possessed of any themselves, will sign a requisition to the licensing courts for the licensing of some premises where worse than murders are committed—the ruin and perdition of immortal souls. These men—we dare not call them shepherds—are the hirelings that flee and leave their flocks to be driven

away from the quiet waters and the green pastures of the Lord. And the languishing church membership, the abounding ungodliness, and the fearful backsliding speak trumpet tongued against their faithlessness. Their flocks follow them, deceived by their specious hypocrisy on this matter, and like them call good evil and evil good, and so the land mourneth. The churches are not yet on the side of the temperance reformation. Perhaps some of the faithless who may read these words may see themselves better in a foreign mirror. The *Portsmouth Weekly*, Massachusetts, thus writes on the election of a liquor license governor for that State—"Where were the churches? Where they generally are—on the side of rum and victory. E. Stone was elected over Dr. Irving, a true friend of temperance. Stone declares that rum-selling is as honourable as any business. He has a reputation as a free rum advocate. The Christian churches cannot plead ignorance—they knew, or ought to have known, all about him; but they have shown a contemptible indifference to the temperance cause, because they prefer our party. Behold the 6th district, with its 28 towns, containing 300 churches, more or less, marching up to the polls—clergy, laity, pulpit, and pews—to vote for a man who declares 'the liquor traffic is honourable as any business,' not even excepting the minister or the schoolmaster. Ghosts of the Pilgrim Fathers, how can ye rest in your graves whilst such infernal heresies are thriving in the old Bay State? Yet these ministers and flocks will from now until another election day returns preach long and pray loud for temperance, and then at 'the party call' will do the same as they have just done, and then will have audacity enough to ask the Lord to let his kingdom come. Where? In a rum-shop, we suppose; for if we judge them by their fruits our churches are mighty little better. Shame, shame, shame on such Christianity." We commend these passionate words to every one, whether minister or member, that votes for party to the detriment of temperance, and to the upholding of the liquor traffic.

Our thoughtful readers will naturally turn to the special report of the visit paid to the Lord Advocate last month by the United Executives—League, Prohibitionists, and Templars—to learn the nature of the representation to his lordship which was made by the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. We confidently look for their approval of the sentiments in that statement. It is eminently worthy in our opinion of the Association, and it will go far to satisfy most of the supporters of the Association. We are sorry that we cannot say all, but the leader in *The Christian News*, immediately after the interview, renders our doing so impossible. The criticism of the writer is, so far as the Association in question is concerned, grossly unfair. The opening sentences are brimful of sneers at the preliminary meeting of these Executives, and a very lame attempt is made to turn an old saw to

a bad use with, we delight to say, very indifferent success. We feel a grim pleasure at the forced admission that the communings so contemned had not been so very insignificant as the progeny of the proverbial mountain. The writer blunders on the last four points of the programme when he gives such prominence to its licensing items by calling them its major portion. The suppressive veto was not merely the major, it was the vital point, the pivot upon which the whole negotiations turned. It had the first place assigned it on the programme, just because it was supremely important, and it is on it that the foundations of harmonious co-operation are laid. It says much indeed for the agitation which the Association had led so energetically that the three organizations have come to see eye to eye on this matter; and it says as little for the writer that he has magnified the importance of the licensing clauses that he might gratify a censorious disposition. Is the position of the Scottish prohibitory movement changed one whit for the worse because the leading organizations have agreed upon this programme? We say nay. It is surely better that these Associations should have at last been found united upon a full, pure, radical veto than that one should be prosecuting an agitation in its favour, and the others going for something else or different. The writer calls upon his readers to look at this demand, first asking them however to leave out of view "the reference to the veto power which was general and vague." We refer our readers to the full text of the statement read by Bailie Torrens, and having done so, we decline to accept any conclusion founded on the consideration of the programme with the first point left out. As well attempt the criticism of Shakespeare's play of Hamlet without referring to the Prince of Denmark. Judged as a whole the programme will merit, and we believe will receive the approval of all right thinking men. The Government may or may not introduce a licensing measure during the coming session; but should the suppressive veto be embodied in that measure we opine that very few friends of the cause will waste much consideration on its amendment clauses. The power they seek is there, and they will use every means to keep it there until it is inscribed on the statute book of the kingdom. The writer attempts historical criticism with no better success. He says, "After fifty years of agitation, and the deliverance of the House of Commons last session on local option, it is asked to pass laws to regulate." No! he has become the victim of his own omission of the veto, for the United Executives pressed on the Lord Advocate these points;—power to suppress all, power to suppress any, and power to amend the present law. Why should we feel indignant at publican criticism, often blinded as it is by vested interest, when we find a Christian newspaper, the organ of a denomination which has so earnestly contended for the faith once delivered to the saints, indulging in writing of

this sort, and being guilty of such calumny? If it were true that the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association was asking merely for license, then it would be true that it was being managed by traitors or incapables. They must be either the one or the other; but no man besides the writer would be so insane as to make, let alone substantiate, such a charge. These organizations went together to his lordship—and this is the great hope for Scotland—they went and asked for suppression as well as amendment. Instead of feeling humiliated and ashamed at the points urged upon his lordship, the writer ought to feel humiliated and ashamed at his own ungenerous criticism. Having, as he believes no doubt, shown that the suppressive veto was no part of the representation to the Lord Advocate, he sets himself to show what should be done. He says the Government requires to have the veto pressed upon its attention. "There is nothing worth fighting for compared to relegating the whole matter to the ratepayers." Precisely so, and hence every friend desirous of such relegation will be glad to find the entire temperance movement in Scotland making common cause in demanding that power. We heartily agree with the after portion of his letter, which is in harmony with the grand old traditions of the *Christian News*. The position of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association in the agitation remains unchanged. It has made no retrograde step, and we feel confident it never will. It has secured the advance of the League, and the adherence of the Good Templars to its policy, and it hails their co-operation as an augury of not distant success. The position of the Association is that of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who clings tenaciously to his veto, and yet opposes no one: goes in for "the Bill, the whole Bill, and for everything tending in the direction of the Bill." Whatever legislation the Government is pleased to enact, shall not, if not reactionary, have the opposition of the Association. If such legislation embodies the whole veto, it shall have its most energetic support. And we are very much in error if our views on this matter are not shared by all but a very few friends of the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement.

* * * We have been obliged to leave over our story, "The Wanderer," concluding article on "Food and Feeding," and other matter in type; but we hope to overtake arrears next issue.

With the present number we present all readers, as our usual New-Year supplement, a copy of our New-Year Tract for 1881, by Rev. Dr. Bonar, Edinburgh. We will be glad of orders for quantities of this tract, which has been highly appreciated. Price 10s. per 1000, carriage *not* paid; 1s. per 100, 1s. 5d. per post.

DREADFUL.—Mrs. M'Manus entered a low drinking saloon in Pennsylvania to look after her husband. Frank Carrol deliberately shot her.

INTELLIGENCE.

DEPUTATION TO THE LORD ADVOCATE.

Specially Reported for the Social Reformer.

On Thursday, 2nd ult., a deputation representing the Scottish Temperance League, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and the Independent Order of Good Templars, waited by appointment on his lordship in his chambers, Parliament House, Edinburgh. Among those present we observed the Revs. Dr. Adamson, J. B. Johnstone, J. Wemyes, M'Donald, Loanhead; Jas. Johnston, Kay, Rose, Barr, Kirk, junr.; G. Gladstone and M. M'Intosh; D. A. MacFie, Esq.; Messrs. J. Hogarth, Kirkcaldy; Williams, Wishaw; Colville, Adair, Tait, D. Grieg, M'Laggan, H. Drummond, Coult, S.S.C.; Sutherland, Steel, Nisbet, Fuller, J. Lamond, J. Pirret, D. Pirret, T. Temple, Archer, Salmond, Gray, Smith, Keppie, Telfer, Miller, Cranston, jun.; Dr. Brodie, D. Anderson, Butters, J. W. Paterson, S.S.C.; Semple, J. Johnstone, Langbank; Bailie Torrens, J.P.; Councillor Johnstone, Dumfries; Messrs. Winning, Paisley; Wm. Johnston, R. Mackay, J. H. Waterston, W. W. Turnbull, and others. His lordship's secretary, Mr. D. Crawford, was also present.

The Rev. J. A. Johnston, G.W.C.T., I.O.G.T. of Scotland, as representing the Scottish Temperance League, first addressed his lordship. He said "That the legislation they had united to secure was not merely in accordance with their own views, but such as would in their opinion be sustained by the general opinion of the country. They were quite aware that on this subject legislation could not go beyond public opinion, and hence all they asked was that the views and wishes prevailing among all classes, and throughout the whole of Scotland, be embodied in law. They thought that there were obvious reasons why Scotland should have a distinctive measure of its own, the most weighty being that the public sentiment in Scotland in relation to the drink traffic was very far in advance of what it was either south of the Tweed or across the Irish Channel. It was understood that they were not opposed, while submitting the points they had agreed on, to other alterations and amendments of the existing laws, provided these in no instance relaxed any of the legal restrictions at present placed upon the traffic in intoxicating drinks." He then unfolded the points in detail upon which the United Executives were agreed.

Ex-Bailie Torrens then read the following statement: My Lord, the Association I have the honour to represent on this occasion is the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. It was instituted in 1858 to co-operate with the United Kingdom Alliance, formed in 1853, with its headquarters in Manchester, for the purpose of procuring the total suppression of the liquor traffic, with special reference, as its title indicates, to the enactment of a Permissive Bill, conferring upon the ratepayers in burghs, parishes, or other districts, the power to prohibit the traffic within their respective boundaries. The Association is based on the principle that the traffic in intoxicating liquor is essentially mischievous. Under no system of restriction can it be satisfactorily regulated, and that as the evils and burdens constantly and universally flowing from it are not confined to one class, but injuriously affect all classes, it is just and reasonable that the whole body of ratepayers should, by having direct and potent voice in the matter, be enabled to protect themselves against the continuance of such a traffic in their midst. The movement, though resting substantially on a temperance basis, is specially a political one. In this respect it is distinguished from that conducted by the Scottish Temperance League, the Independent Order of Good Templars, and other temperance organizations. Working in fullest harmony with them, this Association has addressed itself chiefly to the task of bringing about a change in the laws affecting the liquor traffic. This it has sought to do by educating the public sentiment of the country on the question by the widespread and constant diffusion of literature, by public meetings of every description, and by organising in every con-

stituency electors favourable to the objects of the Association. In addition to this, large numbers of petitions have been presented to the House of Commons, and memorials and other communications have been addressed to hon. members. The progress of the movement is matter of history. Year by year large bodies of the intelligent working men, as well as no inconsiderable section of other classes, have in various forms expressed their cordial approval of the principles of the Association, and have given practical evidence of their convictions. Indeed it is not too much to say that there is no public question at the present moment, either of a social or political kind, that excites equal interest in the country, presenting as it does strong claims on the hearty support of all moral, social, and political reformers, irrespective of party either in Church or State. The principle of *total suppression* is involved in that of *restriction*. If the State may interfere at all with the traffic in intoxicating drink, it can only do so on the ground that the public good demands it, and to that consideration everything else, including all private interests, must give way. What then is to determine the *limits* of such interference? Clearly the public good; and who are most competent and best entitled to determine this point but the whole body of the ratepayers and electors of the country. On any other principle than this, political liberty would be a delusion, and representative government a misnomer. Through the action of landowners, and from other causes, there are upwards of one hundred parishes in Scotland without a single public house. These parishes are exceptionally free from drunkenness and the evils flowing from it. The population not only contrive to live, but to get along contentedly and prosperously, and no one seriously challenges either the competency of the action, or the highly beneficial results, although the popular voice has not been consulted in the matter. If such a state of matters may obtain throughout the country, on what principle can it be seriously maintained that the inhabitants of a parish or district should not be vested with an effective veto power, to be put into operation as soon as they may be prepared to do so. It is perhaps right to state that this Association hails with satisfaction every step taken in the direction of its own special aims, either in or out of Parliament. It believes that its principles are sound and defensible, and it urges its supporters to give immediate and earnest effect to them at the polling booth and in every other constitutional way. It has no idea of success other than what will be secured through the formation of a strong and intelligent public sentiment, acting first on the legislature in order to obtain the passing of the law, and thereafter in each district, to secure its adoption by the people. The leaders of the movement are of opinion that there is a much more general preparedness on the part of the country for the adoption of a local option measure than many are aware of. No legislation on the drink traffic, for Scotland at least, will meet with much favour or support that does not fully recognise direct and thorough control by the ratepayers. "Supreme confidence in the people" is the fundamental principle of local option, as it is of numerous kindred measures that have from time to time been placed on the statute book. Never in the history of the country has a more favourable opportunity presented itself, whether as regards both the House of Commons and the Government, for giving practical effect to the principles for which this part of the kingdom has long been distinguished than the present, and if in any forthcoming liquor legislation the Government will undertake to grapple effectually with the whole subject, they will be cordially supported by the country. As an indication of the progress of the movement in the country and in Parliament, it may be stated that on seven different occasions a majority of the Scotch members of Parliament have supported Sir Wilfrid Lawson. On four of these occasions, namely, 1870, 1871, 1876, and 1878, the support was given to the second reading of the Permissive Bill, and on the last three occasions, namely, 1879, and twice in the present year, the support was given to the Local Option resolution—the

Scotch vote on the last division being for the resolution, including pairs, 43; against it, 5.

Rev. Mr. GLADSTONE, Glasgow, spoke on behalf of the Independent Order of Good Templars, which, he said, happened to be the largest association, and had a very large network of agencies for work throughout the country. He, too, advocated the question of giving a power to the ratepayers to veto the liquor traffic, pleading this right specially in the interests of the poorer classes of the population, who must congregate in the centres where public-houses were set down in the greatest abundance. Uneducated as many of them were, the resisting power was of course at the minimum, while the power of temptation was really at the maximum, and they claimed, on the part of those who were the wronged people, the same right as was already secured by richer people of keeping public-houses away from their doors. They looked with eager anticipations, he concluded, for the legislation which was hinted at, and even promised, by responsible members of the Government. They were very anxious that they might be able to help the Government to pass such a measure as might be for the good of the country, and they were very anxious that the Government proposals should be on the lines that would secure hearty co-operation of all the associations represented, and many Christians behind were represented.

The LORD ADVOCATE said—I must begin by thanking the large number of gentlemen who have done me the honour to come here, and show by their presence their interest in this as a public question, and their confidence in the Government, which I have the honour to represent here, as desirous of fairly considering and dealing with their views. Now, gentlemen, I quite assent, of course, to many of the general propositions that have been stated with regard to this subject. I agree with Bailie Torrens that there is no question that may more properly claim the attention of the political, social, and moral reformers at the present time, and I hold also with Mr. Johnston—who introduced the subject to my notice, that after so many years have elapsed since the passing of the last Act for regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors, Lord Mure's Act, which I think is now more than eighteen years old—that the question may fairly be brought under the review of the Executive, with the view to improvement either in principle or in the various matters of detail which are mentioned in this paper. Of course, it would be impossible for me to indicate more than very generally the views which might possibly be taken of this question by the Government; indeed, I am not any further in possession of these views than you are, although I have certain views of my own regarding the mode of dealing with this question in Scotland, which I should be glad on another occasion to state more fully. I am generally in favour of the principle that has been referred to as "home rule" in dealing with matters of Scottish legislation—(applause)—because there is such a difference, not only in our institutions, but I think also in the degree of progress that has been made in the formation of public opinion between Scotland and England, that we may very often, with great advantage to the public, introduce reforms which the citizens of England, and even the Liberal portion of them, are by no means yet fully decided upon. At the same time, you will see that whenever a question affects the whole United Kingdom, and affects it in the same way, and is supported by large bodies of reformers in both countries, that though you may have separate legislation for the three countries, it is extremely desirable that these measures should be brought in together, and dealt with at the same time as part of one comprehensive scheme. I should, perhaps, not be inclined to go so far with one of my friends who spoke, as to say that the best mode of dealing with the subject would be to begin with a measure for Scotland in anticipation of a more general measure for the whole United Kingdom. I should rather look forward as to the best means of ensuring success, that this subject should be considered with reference to the whole kingdom, but having regard to the local differences that have been recognised by custom and public opinion. Now, when we

come to the large subject of a general revision of the licensing system, I think that every Government must take into account the very decided expression of opinion that has been given by the House of Commons on more than one occasion, and especially by the decisive vote of last session in favour of adopting a representative licensing authority in place of what I may call the judicial system under which the regulation of licenses is left in the hands of the justices of the peace. Well, that is undoubtedly the conclusion which the majority of the House of Commons has come to after a great deal of reflection and discussion. And I confess, as an adherent of the popular or representative principle of government, I can see no answer to the claim that the representative principle in our great centres of population ought to be applied and carried out in any future measure dealing with this subject. It has been said that it is undesirable that the licensing authority should be a board that has charge of other matters. That, I confess, is a point that I have not formed an opinion upon, although it is plain enough that a board charged with many different matters, occupying all the leisure that its members are likely to have for public affairs, may be apt to neglect, or at least to give less than its fair share of its attention to, what they might look upon as very much a matter of routine compared with their duties on county matters, which call for the exercise of a good deal of care and attention. It is therefore a very important matter for consideration, whether the boards should be merely licensing boards, or should be separate boards, or whether they should be committees or branches of a board possessing some general powers. It occurs to me, speaking only for myself, and very much from the impression of the moment, that perhaps a mean between the two views might work not unsatisfactorily—I mean that you might have a board elected by a large area, such as a county divided into committees, which would superintend the licensing system in their different parishes, and having a large constituency, there would be a check upon any extreme views that might be held in particular localities either in favour of the entire suppression of drinking, on the one hand, or the granting of indiscriminate licences on the other, which we know is a view that has found many influential supporters. On this subject, however, I do not think it would be right in me to express any opinion as to the precise mode of giving effect to the principle until the matter has been more fully considered by the Government, whose views I may be called upon to assist in carrying out. With regard to some of the other points which you brought under my notice, I should be very glad, apart from any larger measure, to be instrumental in carrying them out—(applause)—and, in particular, I think that the subject of the sale of liquor on Sunday is one that might probably be dealt with without the risk of promoting any opposition during the ensuing session if it were found that the whole question could not, in consequence of demands upon the public time, be then dealt with. With regard to river steamers, also, I may say that a bill was prepared in my office last summer, which we had hoped to introduce, to enable the Excise authorities to regulate that traffic on the same lines as the traffic on land is regulated under the existing Act—that is, prohibiting the traffic on Sunday, and giving to the Excise power to withdraw the certificate on complaint followed by conviction. I am sorry to say it was impossible from want of time to proceed with that measure, but I hope it may be introduced in conjunction with some of these other reforms. With regard to the subject of special licences, I was not aware that inconvenience was found to result from them. These, I think, are the main points to which you have referred. I need not say I will take care to represent to the head of the Government the views which you have been good enough to impress upon me, and to invite the attention of the Government to it with the view to legislation. As you know, the Government are at present considering the measures of the ensuing session, and it is generally understood that those which relate to Ireland will occupy the best, and therefore a considerable part of the session. Therefore,

I should not like to hold out any rash promises as to immediate legislation. All I can do is to take care that your views are fully considered, and that the Government should be made aware that a general desire does exist in the northern part of the island for the improvement of our licensing system. I shall only say, while I myself have never been in favour of the suppression of the liquor traffic, I should be extremely pleased if it were in my power to deal with the subject on the basis of regulation, and to endeavour to make laws more effective for that object which we, and I think every right-thinking person in the community, must have at heart—the promotion of temperance and good order, and the diminution of crime and disorder, which has been so clearly proved to flow in most cases from the abuse of the means of supplying drink to the poor. (Applause.)

Mr. J. JOHNSTON of Langbank having thanked his lordship for granting them an interview, the deputation retired.

The following statement was furnished to his lordship as to the points which the directors of the Scottish Temperance League, and the executives of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland of the Independent Order of Good Templars, consider to be essential in any legislation affecting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Scotland:—(1) That power be given to the householders of any burgh, parish, or other district, to veto therein *all* the licences for the common sale of intoxicating drinks; (2) that power be given to the householders of any burgh, parish, or other district, to veto therein *any* of the licences for the common sale of intoxicating drinks; (3) that all licensed houses be closed at 8 p.m.; (4) that hotels be prohibited from selling intoxicating drink on Sabbath to so-called *bona-fide* travellers; (5) that powers to grant special licences be abolished; and (6) that no place of amusement, recreation, or instruction, nor any river or short passage steamboat, be licensed for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

LOCAL OPTION.

On Monday, 6th ult., a public meeting was held in the Court House, Maxwelltown, to hear addresses on the subject of local option from Mr. R. Mackay, secretary, and Mr. R. Stevenson, lecturer to the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. The audience was small, but the speaking was good, and interest was sustained from first to last.

Dr. McCulloch presided, and explained the object of the meeting in the course of a few characteristically terse remarks. His translation of the term "local option" was simply the Permissive Bill. The one was the other under a different name. (Applause.) They had to ask themselves whether it was right that a set of justices of the peace or a set of magistrates should have the power to thrust the liquor traffic upon a parish or a burgh against the will of the ratepayers? His reply was emphatically that it was not right, and it was not reasonable. (Applause.) A bill that would embody the principle of local option must give to the ratepayers themselves this power—to the people, that is, who pay the poor-rates, the police-rates, the lunacy-rates, all of which were in great part occasioned by the liquor traffic. (Applause.) There was a very curious but well-authenticated fact that he would ask them to take into consideration—namely, that not a single justice or magistrate was ever found to licence a public-house at his own door. (Applause.) Nor was this the whole of it. They would recollect that some years ago in Scotland a great number of toll-keepers and country blacksmiths were licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. But they were not now. The justices of the peace withdrew the certificates from them. Why? Because their servants had often to drive through the tolls, and they were too apt to stop and get drunk when doing so—risking their masters' property. When they went to the blacksmith's with the horse to be shod, it was ten times worse. (Laughter.) Now the question came to be, what right had any man to license or set up a

public-house at another man's door when he would not allow it at his own? (Applause.) What right had he to license people, to seduce not only the sons and brothers and fathers, but the breadwinner of other folk, when he would not allow a licence if his own horse was to be put in danger? He would leave them to say whether the vested interest that was represented by a horse, or the vested interest that was represented by sons and daughters, husbands and wives, was the greater? (Applause.) It was this latter vested interest that a measure of local option would enable the community to protect. (Applause.)

Mr. STEVENSON then addressed the meeting, starting with the universal admission that drunkenness is an evil, and bringing his argument down, by cogent reasoning, illustrated and enforced by telling references to facts and figures, to the conclusion that the only effectual remedy for drunkenness is to prohibit the public traffic, and that the best way to effect this would be a measure of local option.

Mr. MACKAY followed with a vigorous and convincing speech in the same direction, dwelling more fully on the question of local option.

Several questions being put and answered, the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the deputation, which, being seconded by Councillor Johnston, was heartily agreed to.

Both the speakers acknowledged the compliment. Mr. Stevenson expressed the pleasure he felt in having their old friend the Doctor with them, and a hope that he might be spared to witness the Parliamentary triumph of the cause he had so long, so consistently, and so powerfully advocated. Mr. Mackay gave expression to similar sentiments, adding that, from his position in the Permissive Bill Association, he knew that no man in Scotland had done more than the Doctor to make this cause prosper, and that to him was due the suggestion, which had been so successfully acted upon, of a house-to-house canvass, and a systematic dealing with members of Parliament. (Applause.) The meeting then dispersed.—*Dunfries and Galloway Standard much abridged.*

The following evening the deputation addressed a meeting in the Waterloo Place Church, Rev. Jas. Strachan's. There was a fair attendance. The pastor occupied the chair, and was supported by Dr. McCulloch and Rev. Mr. Tooley. The speakers were briefly but kindly introduced. Mr. R. Mackay took local option for his subject; Mr. R. Stevenson, the claims of prohibition; Dr. McCulloch, special voting, and Rev. Mr. Tooley, encouragements. The proceedings were most interesting, and hearty thanks were paid to the speakers.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh University Temperance Association, Dr. Young, Portobello, said that "medical men were unanimous in believing that alcohol was not required for health, and that it was not food."

A series of successful meetings in Aberdeen were addressed by Mrs. Blaikie and Miss Wigham, Edinburgh, a deputation from the Women's Temperance Association. Mr. W. Blackwood took part in one of the series.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC AND PARTY.—Yes, this accursed business destroys the *maker*, *seller*, and the *drinker*, and brings misery upon thousands of innocent women and children. But, when earnest souls propose to prohibit it, a whole host of "goody-goody" temperance men whisper: "Don't, don't, it will hurt our party!"—*Signs of the Times.*

One of the most hopeful features of women's temperance work is the formation in the States of seventy-six "Young Ladies' Temperance Unions." I said to a wealthy young lady the other night, "The time will come when young women will not marry young men who drink any intoxicants." "That time has come with many of us," was her reply. When that time comes with most young women, the use of beer, whisky, gin, brandy, and wines, will be beautifully small. Let there be a million of such unions.—*Sarah K. Bolton.*

Twenty soldiers signed the pledge last month in Aberdeen barracks in the presence of their colonel. They had a lecture on total abstinence by the Rev. J. Gregson.

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The Managing Committee of this organisation have unanimously resolved to issue a monthly organ in Gaelic and English, recording the operations of the League and Highland temperance news generally. It is to appear under the happy title of *Fiery Cross*, on the 1st of the current month.

KINGUSSIE.—Large and enthusiastic meetings were addressed here by ex-Bailie Ross, of the Highland Temperance League, on the 2nd and 3rd of December. Several members, including the two ministers,—Rev. Messrs. Mackenzie, E.C., and Dewar, F.C.—were added to the League.

In the town of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, with 4,000 inhabitants, where the Local Option Act has been enforced, there has been but four arrests for drunkenness the last six months, to thirty-three arrests for the same offence during six months of license. *Local Option*, not more faithfully enforced than other laws, never fails.

It is matter for unmingled satisfaction that twelve of the wretches concerned in the traffic in English girls in Brussels have at length met with condign punishment from the laggard authorities there. It is saddening to observe that strong drink greatly aided the callous brutes in their work by stupifying their hapless victims. Many more will have to be arrested, tried, and punished before we hear the last of this dreadful traffic.

WHAT WE WANT TO MAKE SCOTLAND.—Worth County in North-Western Missouri may safely claim the temperance belt. Ex-Governor Farwell, formerly of Wisconsin, now a resident of Grant City in Worth County, some time since instituted a series of temperance meetings, and as a result the taxes have been reduced one third. There are no saloons in the county; there is not one man in the county jail, nor is there one criminal in the State penitentiary in this county. The circuit judge, county judges, county and town officers, and every member of the last grand jury, are all strictly temperate. Every newspaper in the county, be it democratic or republican, is earnestly devoted to the temperance cause, and more than eight-tenths of the voters in the county are for temperance or total abstinence from intoxicating drinks.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

LEADHILLS—HEATHER BELL LODGE, I.O.G.T.—This lodge held a public meeting in the Lodge Hall, on Saturday, 4th ult., Bro. Robert M'Kendrick, W.C.T., presiding, who, in a few remarks introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. R. Stevenson, agent of the S. P. B. Association, the first agent of the Association that has visited this upland village. He delivered an eloquent and practical address on "Happy Homes: how to get and how to keep them." The lecture was much enlivened by appropriate pieces, which were well rendered by Bros. J. Whitefield, J. Brown, and J. M'Donald. On the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Stevenson received a very cordial vote of thanks for his admirable lecture. A similar compliment having been paid the Chairman, the people separated. On Sabbath evening Mr. Stevenson preached an able temperance sermon to a crowded house. We believe he has left a good impression behind him, and will be welcomed back again. The lodge has emerged from its complicated difficulties, and is now in a flourishing condition.—G. P.

THE REV. H. H. PEREIRA, M.A.—The reverend gentleman whose portrait we (*Southern Reformer*) present to our readers to-day, is one of the most active, useful, and deservedly esteemed clergymen in the county of Hants. In addition to the usual duties of a minister of religion, Mr. Pereira is an able advocate of the cause of temperance, and helps it forward both by precept and example. He was born in the year 1845. His father was the late Dr. J. Pereira, who for many

years resided in Jersey, and his uncle the celebrated physician of the same name, whose work on "Materia Medica" enjoys an European celebrity. He was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, and Trinity College, Dublin, at which University he graduated in first-class honours in 1869, having previously carried off prizes in Hebrew, modern languages, history and composition. He did not proceed to the degree of Master of Arts until 1878. He was ordained by the Archbishop of York just ten years ago, and began his clerical work among the teeming population of the Cleveland iron-stone district. The trying character of the work, and the severity of the climate, broke down his health, and compelled him to come to Southampton, bringing with him a very gratifying memento of his work amongst those rough toilers, in the form of a handsome testimonial with which they presented him on his leaving them. Whilst recruiting his health and strength, he undertook the sole charge of a parish near Stockbridge, where he remained a year, and again on leaving received a most pleasing testimonial from the humble villagers. He was then licensed to the Parish of Holy Trinity in this town, where he remained until appointed by the present Bishop of Winchester to the important post of First Warden of the newly-formed memorial mission to the late Bishop Wilberforce in South London, when he was again presented with a most handsome testimonial. The work which Mr. Pereira was called upon to carry on in London was of a very severe and anxious character, as he had practically four large parishes under his care and supervision, populated by something like 40,000 souls. A large staff of clergy and lay workers laboured under his directions. We believe during the year and a half he remained there Mr. Pereira preached in well nigh every church in South London. The very severe strain to which mind and body were subjected in this new and anxious work had its influence in inducing him to accept the living of St. Laurence in this town, when it was offered him by the then Lord Chancellor in 1876. Mr. Pereira was married to the eldest daughter of Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Stretton, in 1874, by whom he has three children. Mr. Pereira has advocated the cause of temperance in nearly every large town in the South of England, as well as in the North, and also in Ireland and Scotland. His labours in this great social reform are beyond all praise, and have been crowned with great success. The parishioners of St. Laurence are fortunate in having such an excellent pastor to encourage them in the practice of all good works.—*Southern Reformer*, November 20.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

IRELAND.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Mr. Editor,—Having been in Ireland recently, with your permission I will give your readers my impression of that distracted and distracting portion of our common country.

Arriving in Belfast on the 2nd, I remained until the 20th, and addressed fourteen meetings under the auspices of the Irish Temperance League. My friends, between joke and earnest, were of opinion that, to avoid being shot, I would require to be most circumspect. Some of them affected concern about my appearance. I was so like a landlord, they said, that it was a tempting of Providence to expose my person to the sharp observation and keen vengeance of Irishmen in their present state of mind. But, if suspicious eyes did survey me, no responsive finger drew a trigger to injure me. I returned as hale and sound as I went.

My friends failed to realise that I was about to visit the part of Ireland which had been planted with Englishmen and Scotchmen over two hundred years ago.

In those days the forefathers of the people I moved among were enabled, by English statesmen, to exterminate the native Irish, or to so reduce their number that the residue became a feeble remnant, powerless to restrain the invaders from dividing the country among themselves. This transaction diffuses its effects to this day. The North, now the country of the Scotified and Englished Irish, is as unsympathetic with the South and its fierce Irish race, as were the Scotch and English who conquered it, and the anti-landlord movement is not permitted to enter from the South. The Northerners are loyal to England, with this divergence, that the progress of legislation should not disturb settlements which were made to secure to themselves social and political dominance. The northern people are, therefore, urgent for the suppression of the land movement, and every movement that would change the present state of things. And, wherever I went, the preponderance of feeling was in favour of direct and arbitrary action to suppress the Land League and convict its leaders. But, while I was thus related, and removed from the suspicious and rifles of the leaguers, now and again I came into contact with those of the pure northern stock, who did not denounce the southern land movement. While they are averse to the violence which emanates from it, they admit that it is a legitimate expression of opinion against a crushing injustice, which results in national impoverishment. These men deem, a peasant proprietary, honestly brought about, a direct approach to the solution of the chronic social and political difficulties. The resources of the country would thus be related to the people, to be developed for their own advantage. With its wealth to themselves, while enterprise and economy would be stimulated, the source of injustice would subside and cease to disturb them in the advancement of practical good. This is the hope entertained by the Liberal and enlightened few; but, in their opinion, this is not the whole remedy. Out of it, they believe, would arise the disposition and the means to emigrate. In the present state of things these are inadequate. It is only with wealth, and the culture which it gives, that men are disposed and enabled to go forth in the world, to still further improve their circumstances; and, while Ireland is almost exclusively agricultural, to maintain itself in moderate comfort it must continue to send forth a continual stream of emigration—a stream, too, that leaps, rushes, and laughingly sparkles on to its ocean of plenty—not a sluggish stagnant puddle that hankers to go on, and would rather return, to go back to its source. I was glad to find in the North this state of mind, for it will become diffused. I accept it as a guarantee of union with the South, to develop the resources of the whole country, and obliterate, in social and political equality, the hard and fast lines of distinction which separate the South from the North, and from England.

But, as I did not go to Ireland to confront, and become familiar with the matters that occasion these alienations and political strife, I must now refer to the object of my visit.

As has already been implied, I went in connection with the temperance movement, to enforce the claims of the temperance reformation. This, as you know, has been my work during the best part of my life, and I have a large experience of the movement in Scotland and in England. I knew that the Irish Temperance League had acquired honourable distinction, from its influence with the constituencies, in returning almost the whole of the northern representation to support Sir Wilfrid, not merely with his resolution, but with his bill while it was not possible to construe it to mean restriction. I knew all this, and was prepared to see in its leaders, strength of conviction and thoroughness; but I did not anticipate that the people who were to compose the meetings that I was to address would be characterised, as they were, with the capacity to listen and weigh the facts and arguments presented to them. I would not have it inferred that a similar earnest deliberativeness does not confront the Scottish and English temperance platforms. Occasionally it is to be met with, especially when (on rare occa-

sions) the speakers are known, or are believed to be distinguished for an earnest thoughtful utterance. Such are generally reserved for great occasions, and they attract thoughtful audiences; but, as a rule in Scotland, temperance audiences do not congregate with a thoughtful purpose. It is for amusement, or, to put it mildly, entertainment; and when they are looked at, the facial expression which anticipates fun, smirks and giggles toward our platforms to encourage the gratifying effort. This description of audience abounds; and although it is out of the public-house, and singing saloon, it craves for the songs, the readings, the chaff, and grimace which are an attraction in these centres of popular entertainment and culture. Temperance, in an earnest teaching sense, is all but discarded. Speaking, at the most of these meetings, is still attempted, but to be listened to with encouraging attention, it has to partake of the comic song and comic reading. This is called a counter attraction to the public-house, and is held to be a practical phase of the temperance movement. The consequence is, however, that the run of our meetings are deserted, alike by earnest listeners and earnest, instructive speakers. I, therefore, with your permission, desire to put on record the delight which I experienced in feeling the thoughtful deliberativeness which pervaded these Irish meetings which I was privileged to address. They were ordinary meetings, for I was not understood to be an attraction. It was this that intensified my delight. Even the children that were present at some of them behaved with the decorum which is begotten by the restraints of a meeting for worship. There was but one exception, and I was sorry to learn that these children were from middle class families, who compose a most respectable cultured church.

I will not attempt to give a reason for the difference between these Irish meetings and our own. It may be that the leaders have declined to cultivate counter-attractions, or it may be that the people will not submit to their culture. But since I have experienced them, the fact that every two Scotsmen drink as much as every three Irishmen has been borne in upon me to beget reflection. This being the case, it is evident that Irishmen are much less the objects of public-house training than Scotsmen. This must go for much; for to be engrossed with the pleasure of intoxication is to be alienated from all that calls out the higher faculties, and to be made responsive to the frivolities of the public-house. It is therefore not to be wondered at that Irishmen are more natural, so to speak, and sincere than Scotsmen, for they are a third less intoxicated, and much less tainted with public-house attractions. To see how sincere Irishmen are they have only to be looked at in the light of their movements. The violence and persistency displayed in these, however much they merit disapproval, are evidence of sincerity operating in sturdy, if misguided manhood. This is the reflection which passed through my mind when I thought of Ireland's comparative sobriety. It may therefore be because of a less degree of drunken debasement, that the rank and file of the temperance movement in Ireland have the degree of mental health and stability which qualify them to have pleasure at temperance meetings, in estimating the value of argument, to strengthen public opinion for the prohibition of the drink trade. However this may be, the people do not come to the ordinary temperance meetings expecting to be entertained with public-house amusements. Temperance meetings in Ireland are not public-houses without the drink. The people attend them to listen to the discussion of the temperance question, and are not disappointed when they are not treated to doses of public-house fun. The movement in Ireland transpires on a mental and moral level; that must be risen to before the prohibition of the drink trade is possible.

It would be invidious to specify one meeting as surpassing the rest, and as your space is limited I will content myself in referring to the one at Bessbrook, as representative of the whole. It was not numerically large, but it was not small in its capacity for thoughtful, sustained attention, and this, in connection with the prohibitory celebrity of Bessbrook, was interesting

indeed. Bessbrook has been so often and so fully described that I will, I am sure, be excused when I simply say that it is a model town. It is not to be compared with most Irish, nor, indeed, other towns; it is like a town, imagined in the future, when prohibition has become the basis of real Christian civilisation. Without a public-house, there is not a squalid-looking home in it; while looked at, the absence of poverty and dirt produces a pleasing impression. In this little centre of industry, wisely used for beneficence as well as for profit, sobriety and economy are fostered to make the antipathies of opposing creeds disappear with the crime and pauperism which a licensed drink trade produces. These in Bessbrook are all being exterminated through the rule of prohibition.

Irish hospitality has become proverbial, and my experience confirms the characteristic. From the moment I arrived until I left I was treated with the best in the best spirit.

JOHN PATON.

THE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.

To the Editor of Social Reformer.

SIR,—It is now some months since I wrote a letter to the *Social Reformer* giving you an account as to how matters are progressing in the North. I want to draw your attention to several places which I have not had the pleasure of lecturing in until recently in the district, namely, Bervie, Ballater, and Ellon. Bervie is one of the Montrose Burghs, and is situated on the coast about mid-way between Stonehaven and Montrose. I had two meetings in the town—one in the Free Church and another in the Burgh Hall. The meetings were moderately well attended. I stayed with the Rev. Mr. Small, from whom and his good wife I received no little kindness. A number of friends generously contributed to our funds, and wished us hearty speed in our work. There is no temperance society, however, in Bervie. The little burgh would be all the healthier and all the happier if the liquor traffic were excluded from its precincts. Gourdon is a fishing village about a mile south from Bervie. There is a Good Templar Lodge in it, and I have several times addressed meetings there; and I am free to say that there are a few as earnest men there as you will find in any part of Scotland. They have a sore fight, as all true reformers have who are seeking to combat drunkenness, which is fostered in the interest of revenue, profit, and rent.

I had a very pleasing experience at Ballater. Your readers are aware that this town is 40 miles west of Aberdeen at the terminus of the Deeside Railway, and is 9 miles from Balmoral; it is situated in a narrow plain, and is almost encircled by hills. The Dee sweeps round it at the west side, and then winds along the northern base of the hills which rise abruptly to the south of the village. Ballater is said to be very healthy, and in summer it must be a place of charming beauty. The Established Church stands in a square in the centre of the village, while the Free Church occupies a position to the north and west of it, on the side of the road that leads to Balmoral, and under the shadow of the dark hill which bounds it on the north. There is an excellent Band of Hope in Ballater. My meeting was held in the Free Church—the Rev. Mr. Moir presiding. The audience was composed of a number of thoughtful men and women—just such a meeting as I love to address. I sold two dozen of *Social Reformers*, and on the following day was highly gratified by the generous response a number of good friends made to our subscription list. I shall not readily forget the warm interest manifested by the temperance men and women of Ballater on my first visit to that delightful locality. Ellon is 16 miles north from Aberdeen, close to the line of the Great North of Scotland Railway; it lies on the north bank of the Yethan, and is 6 miles from the sea. My meeting was held in the U.P. Church, under the auspices of the Temperance Society. The Rev. James Ireland, a temperance veteran of the olden time, occupied the chair. The meeting was well attended, and I sold three dozen of *Social Reformers*, and got a number of subscriptions.

The friends treated me kindly, paying bills and all the expenses in connection with the meeting. The Ellon Society is in a good state, having weekly meetings, and putting forth vigorous efforts to train the young and to teach the old. Temperance Societies and Templar Lodges cannot estimate the good they might do if they would go at their work in earnest. Let them spread literature, have frequent meetings, study the subject in its varied phases; above all, let them adopt sound temperance politics, for it is on this latter line that the liquor traffic is to be overthrown. W. BLACKWOOD.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

SIR,—The practice of smoking has increased, is increasing, and ought to be extinguished. It is becoming intolerable to non-smokers and dangerous to smokers. None can properly estimate with certainty the amount of slavery it imposes on its dupes, or the misery it lays up in store for its victims. On every occasion you find its votaries absorbed in indulgence, injuring themselves and annoying their neighbours. The vast expenditure upon this drug few ever really realize. Sixteen millions sterling are spent upon tobacco in its various forms, and the amount consumed ranges as high as twenty-five ounces per head of the population. I am not sure that the consumption has not been higher, but at any rate it is at my estimate frightful, and it threatens to increase. When times again become prosperous twenty-five ounces will reach to thirty, perhaps to thirty-two, but by that time many will have become the victims to tobacco-induced diseases which will in numerous cases have a fatal termination. It is not the loss of wealth but the loss of health and mind and skill and position that is to be deplored. The use of tobacco reduces the animal temperature, induces nervousness and debility, and leads to organic disorder and to structural transformation. It induces mental, functional, and structural derangement. It is universally avoided by the fair sex, who might set up at least an equal claim to its heat-giving, nerve-quieting, and strength-imparting qualities did these exist. They know better. They see how their dear ones are day by day injured by its pernicious quality, and they avoid it as at once a delusion and an impropriety. Almost all our athletics who, in rowing, sailing, bicycling, shooting or running, have taken the highest prizes, or have maintained a foremost place, have eschewed it as a danger. So that smoking is the mark of a man of sensual nature who is deficient in intelligence of its qualities and effects, or being intelligent acts in defiance of reason and conscience; of a man who knows that the use of tobacco cannot be defended, and yet stamps it with the seal of his practice; of a man who chooses to yield himself to slavery for the doubtful pleasure of an indulgence that is injuring him mentally, morally, and physically, and may one day carry him off prematurely to the grave.—Yours truly,
MELIORA.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 18th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

Evans' Annual for 1881 is fully up to the level of excellence attained by previous issues. It is to be had at the National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand, London. Price Threepence.

Judging from the January issue of *Home Words*, we are inclined to wish the readers a glorious volume by the end of 1881. Looking to the pictures, the story—Poetry Sermons—the Adventures of Rob Roy (of canoe fame)—In a Mine,—we should say, if this is the sample the volume will be wonderful. It is one of the *Hand and Heart* series.

In *Hand and Heart* for the 3rd ult., Frederick Sherlock tells us that it was he that first read Tennyson's new ballad, "The Northern Cobbler," as a temperance reading. In the article conveying this agreeable information, Mr. Sherlock extols the excellence of the ballad, the main one in the book, and graphically points out the many temperance lessons it conveys.

The Onward Reciter. No. 110. November. One penny. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row, E.C. This highly popular serial continues to maintain its usual high standard of excellence. The present number is no exception, the fine boy's speech on moderation is excellently conceived, and the publican's invitation to drink brings out the reasons for the hope that is in him on the part of the invited—reasons that we would gladly know animated the breast of every one. We cordially recommend this number.

The Fireside, Jan., 1881. London: Hand and Heart Office, 1 Paternoster Buildings, Paternoster Row. Sixpence. This is a superbly got up serial, in type, engravings, and matter. The variety is striking. While there is a wealth of good things, we have a special appreciation of the article on Temperance Pioneers, by Frederick Sherlock, who selects Mr. Joseph Levesey for treatment by his graphic pen. This excellent article is fitly illustrated by a speaking likeness of "the Patriarch of Teetotalism."

The Children's Sunbeam. Pleasant stories for the young folks. London: F. C. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C. One shilling. This is a delightful monthly magazine for the young. It is full of stories, each illustrated with well executed wood engravings. There are also music, sermons, and abundance of little short pieces, just the thing for little children. Then there is a delightful exposition of the Twenty-third Psalm, where Christ as the Good Shepherd is set forth in a manner to make every child that reads it desire to be a follower of the meek and lowly Saviour. The little volume is handsomely got up in cream colour, gilt, and gold lettered, and is worthy of a place among mamma's new year presents.

Seventh Annual Report of the Glasgow Dale Street Total Abstinence Society. This energetic, and in some respects, model society is to be congratulated on the issue of its seventh annual report. From it we learn that 128 pledges have been taken; 40 ordinary, and one social meeting have been held either in or out of doors during the year. The committee memorialized the magistrates on Licensing Sessions to grant no new licenses, and they earnestly prayed the Earl of Zetland to adhere to his resolution to remove all liquor dealers from Grangemouth. They manifest gratitude to all who have assisted them in providing lectures, in addressing meetings, or entertaining them; and the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association has a due meed of praise. But a visit to the society's meetings is the best test of the work of the committee. No one who has been present can, we think, come away without a feeling that the Dale Street Society is in conduct and results entitled to a high place among temperance agencies. The receipts have been £22 10s. 0½d, the balance to carry forward £9 18s. 2½d.

Fourth Annual Report of the Paisley Women's Christian and Abstinence Association, 1879-80. We have had occasion to notice previous reports of this indefatigable association, but never with greater pleasure. The committee, believing that the Master is come and calleth for them, hold themselves as ever in the Great Taskmaster's eye. The record of their work is highly creditable to them all. 37 forenoon prayer meetings, a course of Sabbath evening temperance sermons, by the Rev. Drs. Dodds, Joseph Brown, Hutton, Marshall Lang, and Rev. Messrs. M'Ewan and Hector Hall; the promotion of petitions in support of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution, memorials to the local presbyteries of the E., F., and U.P. Churches, and one to the magistrates against licenses. A drawing room meeting and sewing meetings were also held and assistance afforded to the young ladies' branch, and the

Anchor branch society. The income was £35 12s. 3d., the balance to carry forward being £1. The society is in connection with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and is in our opinion one of the best female societies existing; a signal proof of what womanly sympathy and courage may accomplish.

Health Studies; By Rev. H. Sinclair Paterson, M.D. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 27 Paternoster Row. Price 2s. 6d. When we reviewed the previous volumes, of which *Health Studies* is the third—*Studies in Life* and *The Human Body*--we were induced by the learning, science, &c., style manifest in every page, to award them the highest praise. The present volume demands the same tribute at our hands. It is a fitting sequel to its predecessors. There is the same clearness of perception, the same sturdy common sense, the same vigorous treatment visible all through, and we have consequently a book which will impart sound information and healthy instruction, awakening in the reader's mind the feeling that mankind are not merely fearfully and wonderfully made, but that the body is the temple of the spirit, to be kept swept and garnished. These lectures must have set forth clearly to those who heard, or will to those who may read, the relation of the mind to the body, and how necessary to the vigour of the soul that a due obedience to the laws of the body is maintained. Those lectures, which treat of "Food and Appetite," "Exertion," "Worry," "Rest and Sleep," "The Merry Heart," "Rational Principles of Medicine," &c., will be highly valued by every intelligent youth into whose hands they may fall, and we would counsel parents to procure the whole series for their children. No better gift of books from parents to children could be named.

Bonhill T. A. Society's Nineteenth Annual Report, June, 1880. (Bonhill: Mr. Mungo M'Nee, Treasurer, and Mr. G. L. Melville, Secretary). With unfailing regularity this vigorous Society issues its Annual Report, and with commendable attention favors us with a copy. We are always glad to see it lying on our table. Although located in a village the Society works away with vigour and persistency, which we should be glad to see equalled by many societies in our great cities. The Temperance Jubilee Meetings, Band of Hope effort, and Tract and Pamphlet distribution make a most creditable show of work attended to during the year. The Committee are sound at heart on local option, and record their elation at the Parliamentary victory of the present session. The Treasurer's accounts are as usual found with a balance on the right side. The sum received, including balance from last year, was £18 7s. 6½d., leaving a balance of £3 1s. 10½d. with which to begin the work of the year. The subscription list is not lengthy but it is very select, and includes nearly all the landed and trading gentry in the Vale of Leven. This of itself is no mean testimony to the efficiency and influence of the Bonhill T. A. Society.

Books received—*Beacon Flashes; Heroes in the Strife; Trust the People; Double Collapse of Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P.; National Temperance Hymnal; Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, I.O.G.T.; State of California; Annual Report Edinburgh T.A. Society; Sunday Closing in Ireland, &c., &c.*

An aged coloured man, hastening home from church, was asked why he was in such a hurry. "Oh, nothin' pertiklar, boss," was his answer, "only I jess heard at confrence dat Sam Johnson's fell 'im grace, and I thought I'd get right home 's soon's I could an lock up my chickens. Dat's all."

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Some mischievous boys at a village school, seeing a sign over a grocer's shop which read "Arnold Drinkall," painted out the three first letters, leaving it "Old Drinkall." The sign was soon restored to its former condition, and then the boys, not to be beaten, painted a "D" before the first name, making it "Darnold Drinkall." And then, in utter despair, the grocer painted his name out.

VARIETIES.

JUST LIKE THEM.—Lots of mothers complain that they have not strength to comb their hair, yet they'll hold a seven year old boy over their knees and spank him till his pulse rises to 149 without their feeling at all tired!

A "TRAMP" RIGHT.—A tramp was not long since arrested for disorderly conduct and assault and battery, while under the influence of liquor. On his way to the lock-up, he shouted, "You have arrested the wrong fellow; when I'm sober, my heart is good, when I'm drunk I'm full of the devil. Arrest drink and lock it up, and let me go free." He is right, let us lock up alcohol. Prohibition will do that fast enough.

LEARNING TO DRINK.—A very efficient Sunday-school teacher, who had gathered up a class of boys previously neglected, was one morning, after the regular lesson, talking to them of the great evils of intemperance. Suddenly she said, "Boys, I wonder how people learn to drink?" A bright little fellow, son of a publican, said, "I know: by tasting." Do not forget this. "Touch not, taste not, handle not," and you will never become a drunkard.—*Temperance Record.*

He left her and stepped out to see a friend between the acts. "Why, Edward," she said when he returned, "you were a very long time gone." "Yes, dear; I regret to say I saw a young man whom I have known for years drinking whisky." "You did?" "Yes, standing right up before me, partaking deeply of the intoxicating glass." There was a little pause, "Edward, don't most bars have mirrors at the back?" Edward flushed a little, and permitted the subject to drop.

FINAL DEFECTIVENESS OF PLEASURE AND PAIN.—Pleasure and pain are feelings which it has always been found impossible to make out to be a satisfactory and worthy description of man's final experience. Every one fails utterly to apply them to the conception of a Supreme Being. In that ultimate hypothetical case, though the lower terms may have perforce to be used, an attempt to reinterpret them with higher significance is always made. Men, too, whom their fellows from secret recognitions of excellence in their character most reverence always have desired purity, holiness, leaving mere delight to take care of itself; and they were willing to be content with sacrifice, that is, smilingly to confront suffering, as the mode of reaching this inexplicable satisfaction which is better than pleasures. By-and-through the renunciation of pleasure the egoistic self-certification of advance in the retrieval of faculty seems to be gained. Certain it is, that the Ego gets its great serious amplification from its actualisation including pain, while even the higher pleasures following on successful penitences and aspirations seem finally to transform into something better—an egoistic serenity, freedom, efficiency, recognised as familiar and native to us.—*William Cyples's "Process of Human Experience."*

WORK.

What are we set on earth for? Say, to toil;
Nor seek to leave thy tending of the vines,
For all the heat of day, till it declines,
And death's mild curfew shall from work assoil.
God did anoint thee with His odorons oil,
To wrestle, not to reign; and He assigns
All thy tears over, like pure crystallines,
For younger fellow-workers of the soil
To wear for amulets. So others shall
Take patience, labour, to their heart and hand,
From thy hand, and thy heart, and thy brave cheer,
And God's grace fructify through thee to all.
The least flower, with a brimming cup, may stand,
And share its dew-drop with another near.

MRS. BROWNING.

A Yankee schoolmistress was teaching temperance and telling the boys to sign the pledge as she had done, and thus become cold water men. A little pupil inquired, "Did you ever get drunk, and fall into the river?" "Why, no, my child," she replied in astonishment, "how came you to think of such a thing?" "'Cos my grandfather did, and that was what made him a cold water man."

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE MR. JAMES GRANT, WEST CALDER.—We deeply regret to announce the decease of this most faithful adherent of the prohibitory movement in Scotland. He was a merchant and a man highly esteemed in his private and public relations. He died suddenly on 17th Nov., and all that remained of him was consigned to the tomb on the 22nd. Mr. Grant and his wife, who predeceased him two or three years, felt pleasure in proffering their sincere hospitality to the wayfaring temperance lecturer. His family, left to mourn their irreparable loss, are cared for by their eldest brother, John, who in looking to their wants is showing himself worthy of the highest commendation.

THE LATE MR. DAVID CARSWELL, PAISLEY.—We deeply regret to have to announce the death of this thorough temperance reformer. Mr. Carswell usually enjoyed vigorous health, but some week or so ago he was seized with a severe attack of cold, to which he succumbed on the 12th ult., at the comparatively early age of 62. As a temperance reformer, he occupied a prominent position in Paisley for many years: and was at the time of his decease treasurer to the Total Abstinence Society, a post he filled for a lengthened period. He liberally supported the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, and heartily sympathised with its efforts. Mr. Carswell occupied a highly respectable position in Paisley, his firm (bookbinders) being noted for the excellence of their workmanship and the integrity of their dealings. He was a member of the Philosophical Society, and a Congregationalist. The *Paisley Express* thus sums up his character:—"In private life Mr. Carswell was a most liberal-minded, candid, and obliging gentleman; and his loss will be much felt by those who fought side by side with him in the battle of moral reform: but most of all by his widow and family, who are bereft of a loving husband and a kindly father."

THE LATE MR. JOHN SHAW, KILSYTH.—Last month there passed away, after a painful illness of about twelve months' duration, borne with singular patience and Christian resignation, Mr. John Shaw, stationer. He had long been far from robust in health, but he had a mind to work, and his mind and heart and deeds went together. On the temperance question he was most decided and pronounced. Having been brought up under strict temperance principles, he had a keen sense of the evils of the drink system; like many others he did not consider temperance work as something distinct from ordinary Christian work, but rather a part of it. By his faithfulness, devotion, and liberality, he did much to further the cause, and everything he did was done with heart and soul. When Good Templarism was introduced into Kilsyth (about ten years ago), our deceased brother at once recognised its superior organisation, and became one of its respected members—and while strength continued there was not a better officer or a more regular and faithful member. He remained to the end a decided and consistent abstainer. Mr. Shaw was a member of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, and also a member of the Scottish Temperance League. He was a respected member of the Free Church, and a Sabbath-school teacher, and maintained a "walk and conversation" becoming the religion he professed. Earnest, respected, and useful during life, he was calm, patient, and resigned in the prospect of death. His end was peace; he died in the blessed hope of a glorious resurrection.—W. R. G.

THE

Social Reformer.

FEBRUARY, 1881.

TAXATION, IMPERIAL AND OTHER.

By the Rev. F. WAGSTAFF, F.R.H.S., editor of the "Lay Preacher" and the "Temperance Worker."

"Know ye of this Taxation,"—*Shakespeare.*

It will not be long before the political world will be exercised about financial matters. One year the attention of Parliament may be mainly occupied by the Eastern Question; another year by Irish troubles; and another by electoral reform; but "ways and means" furnish a perennial topic for discussion. Whatever else be done or left undone, the BUDGET is among the things inevitable; for does not the old proverb tell us that "there is nothing certain except death and taxes"?

Nor is the annual excitement confined to Parliament. Newspaper writers and platform orators take up the theme; and with spasmodic efforts, thoroughly characteristic of the dear old gentleman, John Bull bestirs himself with a view to secure some diminution of his burdens. "Abolish me some of this taxation!" is his cry. "Ask me not how the revenue of the country is to be obtained! Talk not to me about the necessities of the State! What I want is to be free from these continual attacks on my purse." Poor John Bull! He always grumbles when he has to pay; but how little he concerns himself about the true cause of all this heavy burden of which he so loudly complains. He cries out for economical government, yet will do so little to make economical government possible.

A few years ago a pamphlet was issued by Professor Leone Levi, the interest in which ought not to be allowed altogether to die, inasmuch as it afforded some important information on the subject of taxation. Premising that the statements made by Mr. Levi are not all equally infallible, we must bear in mind that there is probably no higher authority on statistical matters than he.

It would appear that the Imperial taxation of this country has increased something like 17 per cent. since 1842, but at the same time the Professor estimates the gross increase of the income of the people at about 66 per cent. In other words, the tax-bearing power has increased some four times as rapidly as the burden to be borne. Taxation may be broadly divided into four general classes:—1, That which affects wealth and industry; 2, that which affects luxuries; 3, that which affects necessaries; and, 4, that which does not concern either of the other three classes. Professor Levi shows that the re-arrangement of taxation which has gone on of late years has had the effect of increasing the proportion of taxation on "luxuries" by something like 74 per cent., and of diminishing that on what are usually denominated the "necessaries" of life by some 58 per cent. It rests, therefore, very much with the taxpayer himself whether his burden is proportionally high or low. On "necessaries" he must pay

some taxation; as to "luxuries," the matter is entirely in his own hands.

Of class 1, namely taxation on wealth and industry, Professor Levi's pamphlet shows that not more than half a million probably falls on the working classes—that is, on those dependent upon weekly wages; while nearly twenty-three millions fall upon the upper and middle classes. The taxes on "luxuries" realise on the whole about £33,000,000, of which the working classes are estimated to pay not less than £21,000,000, or about *two-thirds* of the whole amount! This arises almost entirely from the perfectly voluntary and unnecessary expenditure by working men on strong drink and tobacco!

A great deal has been said of late years about the burden of "local taxation." Comparatively but a small proportion of this falls upon the working classes; and Professor Levi thus tabulates his estimate of the method in which each pound of taxation is made up by the payments of each class:—

WORKING CLASSES.		MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES.	
Spirits, ...	£0 7 5	Local Taxes, houses, &c.,	£0 7 8
Malt, ...	0 3 0	Stamps, ...	0 3 3
Tobacco, ...	0 3 0	Income Tax, ...	0 3 0
Local Taxes, houses, &c.,	0 2 9	Malt, ...	0 0 9
Tea, ...	0 1 5	Tobacco, ...	0 0 9
Sugar, ...	0 1 0	Sugar and Tea, ...	0 1 0
Licenses, ...	0 0 9	Wine, ...	0 0 7
Other Taxes, ...	0 0 8	Other Taxes, ...	0 3 0
	£1 0 0		£1 0 0

It is most important for the working classes to look at these figures, and to realize the ugly facts which grow out of them. These facts are that, for every £1 of taxation paid by the working classes, 13s. 5d. arises from drinking and smoking, or if the cost of the licenses be added, then 14s. 2d.; while similar indulgences only swallow up 2s. 1d. of each sovereign of the taxation which falls upon other classes!

Let us see how these facts look when examined in another light. Suppose that all classes should at once cease to live under the slavery of drinking and smoking, the result would be that, while the upper and middle classes would still have to pay 17s. 11d. out of every £1 now paid, the working classes would only have to pay *five shillings and twopence*. In other words, the latter classes voluntarily and needlessly tax themselves to the tune of *fourteen shillings and twopence in the pound!*

Working men, in the words of Shakespeare, we ask: "Know ye of this taxation?"

THIS IS FROM RUSKIN.—"You fancy you are sorry for the pain of others. Now I tell you just this, that if the usual course of war, instead of unroofing peasants' houses and ravaging peasants' fields, merely broke the china upon your own drawing-room tables, no war in civilized countries would last a week."

NOTES FROM THE OUTER HEBRIDES.

THE ROUND OF FISHER-CROFTER LIFE.

SINCE the days of Dr. Johnson there have always been tourists who, while making the round of our islands, have travelled notebook in hand, and have given to the reading public their views on life among the islands. As often as not these views have been formed from the impressions made during, at most, a few days' residence in the height of the summer when everything looks at its best. As a result their letters have been imperfect and very often misleading in some vital point, which could not be discovered by the casual observer, but has to be patiently searched after and can only be found out by one who, by long continued residence, has found his way into the deepest recesses of the mind of the native Celts, who are, by the way, a very reticent race. Judging others by my former ignorance, when living in the South, I am inclined to think that there is more known about the inhabitants of Central Africa, than is known concerning the inhabitants of these islands, which form part of the same great group of islands known as Great Britain and Ireland; certainly that was my condition, but then there has not been a Livingstone, or Baker, or Bruce, devoting his life to ascertaining the manners and customs, and everyday life of these islanders, who are now, in these days of steamboats and railways, within easy access of the great cities of the South.

In the following papers I purpose to confine myself to the three following points, leaving for abler pens the discussion of vexed questions which will be only stated. 1st, The round of fisher-crofter life. 2nd, The social habits of the islanders. 3rd, Some reflections on the condition of the people.

1st, The round of fisher-crofter life. Spring, the birth season of the year, forms a natural starting point of which I will avail myself. The first work of a farmer in the South is to get manure carted to the fields, so is it here, with this difference that the manure is sea-weed. A stranger would think that not much need be said about such an unsavoury subject, but he would be wrong. At the cutting of the ware he will find brought into play the patriarchal government of the olden times. Do you think that every crofter is at perfect liberty to cut ware wherever he chooses, or that all the foreshore, *ex adverso* to his own land, is his property? Not so, what would be the share of those who have no land bordering on the sea? Not much if they were left to the tender mercies of the landholders near it. In this matter there is a perfect community of goods; "All good things are common," is a doctrine that meets with as little favour here as it does in the greater island of Great Britain. This is the only instance of communism that I have been able to find in the village or township government of these islands, so I give it all due prominence as one redeeming feature in what will be a black picture, though a true one.

The week from new to half moon, or the week from full moon to half moon (waning) is the season of the spring harvest of ware, as there is then a greater ebb. All the crofters meet and cast lots for the different bays and low water rocks, after which each hastens to his allotted share, and works with might and main, as he is working against the tide, which waits for no man. The women in this, as every other case here, get the heaviest of the work, that is the carrying of the wet ware from the ebb to a spot above high water mark. When the tide flows, the crofter, if industrious, will get his boat and ferry the ware home to his piece of land: thus leaving the unbroken week during spring tides for the delving of his patches, while his wife and daughters are doing the horses' work in carrying the great heavy creels of now rotten ware from the shore to the land. This is by far the heaviest of the work, and yet these patient creatures plod away from morning to night, crooning some Gaelic melody, quite happy carrying a full hundredweight on their backs in many cases for half a mile. The cutting and securing of the ware is at all times dangerous work, but in a stormy spring this is even more true. The women are then made to cut the ware on the rocks, while the men keep hold of the

ropes which are fastened round the waists of the women, ready to lift them up on the approach of a bigger wave than usual. There they work wet, drenched to the skin, for about three hours at a stretch, and even with all its discomforts, they unanimously confess that at this time they are healthier than at any other season of the year. A striking proof of the efficacy of the cold water treatment among a race of people who do not often indulge in the luxury of a bath.

These patches of land are only drained by wide, deep, open drains, which carry off the surface water, leaving the cultivated land cold and damp, but even the drains have their uses, and for a strange purpose, the sides and bottom when dry produce a luxuriant crop of weeds, which is carefully pulled up and carried away to the cow, who is quietly chewing the cud, after a scanty meal of the hardest, driest vegetable fibre, at which a starving Ayrshire would turn up her nose.

After the crops are in the ground, the women are again installed in the office of caretakers, as the men must now attend to the reaping of another harvest from the sea. Nets require to be mended, or barked, buoys made, and the boats must be launched from the beach where they have lain high and dry since last autumn. During the home fishing season every Saturday and Monday is devoted to cutting peats, in which everyone helps his neighbour: thus if a man needs twelve men for a day to cut his yearly supply, he will need to pay back each of these men with a day's work. To this law there is this exception, that those men who by their calling could not be expected to cut peats—ministers, teachers, catechists—get their peats cut for nothing, by giving the men engaged at the work their food for the day. I learned on coming here that alcoholic drinks are food, and had at first a dead set against me for either drink or a line to get it. I as firmly refused and proposed to cut my own peats, when the opposition was at once silenced, as they could not bear the disgrace of that, and since this first stand was taken I have never been troubled with the alcoholic food question. Again after the peats are cut the women do all the rest of the work among the peats, turning them when one side has got dried, putting them up on end when they are firm enough to stand alone, and stacking them when they are thoroughly dried, and, worst job of all, carrying them home in creels on their backs, often during the fiercest storm of winter, having to go out two or three times to the moss over rock and bog for their daily supply, for the average Celt is not provident, and never lays in a supply of anything but only lives from hand to mouth.

After the summer home fishing is finished the men go away to the East Coast fishing, where they get the only money that they see from year to year; all their home fishing is done on the truck system with the merchant. The leave-taking ere setting out for the East Coast is a most heart-rending spectacle. All the women and children flock to the shore, while the parting words are being said all are bathed in tears, indeed the parting is far more demonstrative than that which is seen on the quays of our large seaports when an emigrant ship departs, which separation is often for a lifetime and not as in this case only for at most two months.

While the men are away the women are busy cutting something, which they dignify by calling it *hay*, which however, would be more correctly named *bent*, something leathery, heathery, which only the most absolute starvation would compel a cow anywhere else to look at, but which a hardy highland cow will eat and digest, aye, and give the richest milk from. Barley harvest now draws on, this is a time of pulling and not cutting. The oat crop is treated in harvest pretty much in the same way as is done in the south; but the barley is too sacred a grain to be treated in any fashion so common, for a variety of reasons which will shortly appear. Then the staple food of the crofter, the potatoe, has to be lifted. After the last sheaf of grain and the last creel of potatoes have been carried home on the back of the hard-working wife or daughter, the men, having meantime returned, refit their shattered creels and prepare for the lobster fishing. Poor fellows, though lobsters are plenty, very little is

now to be got for them, as they are imported in such quantities from America and Norway. When all the young, strong, hardy men are away prosecuting this most dangerous branch of their calling, in one of the many lochs on the West Coast, the shores of which are not peopled, the people having been forced to leave and swell the already densely crowded cities, or go to those weary colonies, in order that they might make room for deer. Now is the time to see crofter life, in its purity, at its best or worst, in the long winter nights when there is no one at home save a few old men, women, and children. Go into a crofter's house and see how the winter evenings are spent—in the upper room the boys and girls are busily engaged in plucking the heads from the barley straw. This slow and tedious process is still retained in preference to the more expeditious way of thrashing by a flail, for two very opposite reasons: first, in order that the straw may be as little crumpled as possible, so that our crofter may have good thatch for his house, and good straw to plait into the bottom of his chairs, or for the neck-ropes for the creels; and second, in order that he may be able to get his barley conveniently dried over his peat fire, the heads of grain are more easily put into a piece of old herring net (so that the barley may get the proper taste of *peat reek*, which is so much relished by the lovers of the barley bree) than the single grains would be after the ordinary process of thrashing. Though I have never seen oxen treading in the threshing floor, yet one can easily see here a stranger thing than that, namely, women rubbing with their feet the separate grains from the head, and loosening the chaff, which brings us now to the open air winnowing of the grain, which is so well known a process that I need not describe it. The oats are treated after the following fashion. They are thrashed with the flail, and that part which is to be made into meal is dried in a pot by the side of the fire, which forms a simple but very efficient kiln of a primitive kind. The next stage in the process is the milling, which is also done at home. The grains, just as they came from the ground, without any preparatory dressing to remove the outer husk or shell, are handed over to the female part of the household, who are the millers for the family. The quern, or hand mill, as it is found in the houses here, is a very different thing from one of the many patent home mills which now inundate the market. It is more easily wrought, makes a finer meal, is cheaper, and last, though not least, is that which has been handed down from their fathers. It may not be so cleanly, small particles of grit off the stone may come off among the meal, but these drawbacks are nothing to an Islander as a set off against its many advantages. The cleaning or separating of the coarse husk from the fine meal is as primitive as any of the other stages of this homely life. A calf's skin, from which the hair has been scraped, is stretched over a hoop, so as to resemble one end of a big drum, when the skin is perfectly dry, holes are drilled in it at the proper distances and of a proper size, what passes through this is fit food for men, and what will not go through is only fit for the cows. The next stage is the baking. Suffice it to say on this point, that from meal, whether barley or oat, made in this homely fashion, bread is made which for sweetness will please the most fastidious, and for blackness ought certainly to satisfy the eyes, if not the stomachs, of the leaders in the brown bread movement. I have dwelt so fully on the *cropping* part of the crofter's life, that I fear I cannot fully enter into a description of the live-stock part of the system. In brief then, all unless the very poorest have at least one cow, while many of them have two, and in some cases three, all giving milk, not counting young beasts. Dairy produce cannot be sold at any price, hence the poorer people who have no cows are pretty liberally supplied by their more fortunate neighbours. The kindness shown in the way of giving fresh warm milk to a sick person, or to a family where there is a child but no cow, by the Islanders is very great. The more remote the island, and the less it is in the route of the tourist, the better is it for the poor and the sojourning stranger. Hens and ducks are found in every house,

and eggs are to be had all the year round at a half-penny a-piece. The wool from the sheep is all spun and woven into home-made tweeds, winceys, druggets, which now find a ready market in the cities of the South. Knitting is also a very considerable source of revenue to the female part of the Islanders, for when they are engaged at any work, even carrying creels, where their hands are free, they are busily engaged knitting stockings for some of the large warehouses of your city, who have got agents here and there over all the islands, just as in a former generation they had agents for the giving out and receiving of tambouring and stamped work. Thus you have got a brief description of the occupation of the hardy men and women who inhabit our Western Islands. I hope to take up the other two points mentioned at the beginning of this paper in a future number.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

STATE PROTECTION AND HIGH DUTY ON LIQUORS.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

Sir,—Whilst fully realizing that the ranks of those who are combating the present drinking traffic and customs of our country should not be divided by individual views, and that the minority should act with the majority in the measures they decide to adopt, you will permit these measures to be fairly criticised in your column. It is a pleasure to admit that the *Social Reformer* breathes a true religious spirit whilst advocating repressive measures, whose object might be better attained by using religious and moral influences alone against this evil; by agitating to set intoxicating drink entirely free from State connection and control; and by securing that the law of the land shall treat intoxication, in every stage, as a crime.

Instead of wasting our energies on Permissive Bills, temperance men should join shoulder to shoulder to cut the whole traffic adrift from the State. As with the opium trade in India, we should have no interest save to crush it wherever its use was proved, in any degree, inimical to society. The present protective system is most "unfair." In a country that has adopted the simple principle of "free trade" in all things—*ubique et ab omnibus*—it is inconsistent also. It is "unfair," because it gives privileges to the distillers and the licensed householders, that enrich them by prohibiting competition. By back-door influence with licensing justices and magistrates, one householder gets fifty per cent. better return for his invested capital than his neighbour. It is "inconsistent" to retain protection in the sole case of strong drink. If it be necessary for us, or even a luxury, our people should be able to manufacture or buy without excise regulations. This freedom would, from many causes, lessen the manufacture; but, should it be increased thereby the price of grain, and the profit of the farmer would rise in proportion. He is entitled to the profit of the distiller and the retailer, as much as the gardener in making his cider, or the West Indian sugar grower in having his rum-still on every estate. "Local Option," or whatever measure goes on similar principles or lines is therefore *unfair* and *inconsistent* with our legislation.

2. With all this, these measures are doubly objectionable, because they will not cure the evil against which they profess to be directed. Though they may limit the number of public houses, it by no means follows that they will lessen drinking or drunkenness. If there be two houses in a district the abolition of one of them only doubles the drink consumed in the remaining house, and also the income of the publican—abolish both houses, and the custom for drink is only sent to the next parish or the nearest city or village.

Silent drinking and shebeening must inevitably increase; and the public house under the public eye is preferable to corrupting hypocrisy and deceit.

Protection and high duty encourage the present system of adulterating drink with deadly poison, whereby additional gain is secured for the publican's till. "Free trade" would abolish this wholly, and even drunkenness would be less, and less savage than it is in its effects now. A learned sheriff, who has sat on the bench for fifty years, assures the writer that the effects of drink have changed contemporaneously with the raising of the duty on whisky. Within the last twenty years criminals uniformly declare that they have no recollection of their brawls. They remembered taking liquor in a certain house, and their next recollection was on waking in the police cell. Formerly, however drunk, they could generally give some account of themselves. The drink now dethrones reason, and kills memory. Other judges were consulted as to their observation in this matter, with the most serious and startling result, that it is found to be the rule now in the criminal statistics of drink. Legislation should concern itself with this more than has hitherto been done, or seems to be proposed.

3. Excise duty and license are objectionable, as being an attempt to regulate vice and self-indulgence that should be left to regulate themselves through their natural consequences of degradation and ruin. If liquor were freed from State connection and patronage, it would not have the respectability now attaching to it. It would be cheap and vulgar as penny beer. Call this champagne and charge for it 10s., instead of its intrinsic value of one penny, and it will be found adorning the sideboards of the rich and gay.

4. Our present system, however it may be regulated, connects our country with the traffic, and secures profit to it from what is ruining the produce of the country, and producing misery and crime. The hearts of women and children are bleeding, and often from the gibbet the drink-fiend scowls on church and country. Are we to have anything to do with that? The dark, hideous thing there swaying in the morning breeze was great gain to our worthy publican and our parental State. He might come to the same end under "free trade" in drink! If he did, we would have no complicity with him in his self-destruction; and if it happened often—were there no personal interest at stake—the community and the nation would rise in indignation and stamp out or "lynch" the trade. The Government would take strong drink from the people, as it does fire-arms from those who give themselves up to midnight assassination or rebellion. Eventually, to degrade and to repress the whole hideous system, "free trade" seems the true course to be adopted by all temperance men.

5. The question of compensation is one that will give trouble under the present proposed measure. The idea is abhorrent. Compensate a man for stopping his manufactory of crime! Let it not be named among us! "Free trade" cuts at the root of any such claim. No case for compensation could arise any more than by the landlord and the farmer for the abolition of the duty on corn.

These views will be met with the cry as to the loss that would be entailed on the revenue by their adoption. We answer, "that is a small matter compared to the welfare of the people;" and financial genius would prove itself equal to the task of raising money for our country's wants. Taking the matter roughly, the £24,000,000 raised by the Excise could be covered by an income tax of 1s. per £ even levied over its present area. The area might be extended equitably, and the tax otherwise adjusted so that the sum per £ would be much less. Many would gladly pay much more than five per cent. of their incomes to be free from all connection with liquor, and to have the opportunity of fighting it in the open, without any of its present patronage and adventitious respectability. Why should we not support our army and navy by direct taxation? Far better, surely, to do this than to support them, as we do now, off the produce of drink and crime! It would be otherwise beneficial in placing a wholesome

check on what the nation might at any time consider a "spirited policy" among the nations.

This subject must come to be dealt with ere long from an economical point of view. As Britain drinks, and becomes, at the same time, pastoral, we must make our liquor from foreign grain; and so we are being gradually drained of the nation's capital. With such laws operating, we must, at the present rate, soon drink ourselves out of house and home.

"Free trade" would not directly remedy this. Indirectly it would. It would set the nation wholly free from what is working ruin to our people, and all the remedial and repressive action, both of religion and the State, would press on the viper until it was crushed beneath its heel.—J. S. MACKENZIE, Manse of Little Dunkeld.

DO PUBLIC HOUSES CONDITION DRUNKENNESS?

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Ex-Bailie Lewis is reported, in the *Scottish Temperance League Journal* of December 11th, to have said, that in a ward in Edinburgh, with a population of 22,550, there are 145 licensed houses, and that, in this ward there have been 3,175 drunken arrests. And also that, in another ward, with a population of 12,430, there are 37 licensed houses, while the drunken arrests have only been 75. He is further reported to have said that, in this state of matters there is a fact of immense value to the temperance and social reformers of this country. For, he is made to say, if those facts prove anything they prove this, that the amount of licensed drink shops, to a large extent, conditions the amount of drunkenness. Should he not have used a more explicit phrase than large extent? Why is he not reported to have stated the exact extent? Was it because he did not know and could not say. And if he does not know the extent, why is he reported as having submitted the above facts as of immense value to the temperance and social reformers of the country? I am astonished; for it has been on assumptions of this sort, enforced by misleading phrases, that the licensing system has been maintained for centuries as the means of revenue through drunkenness, assumed to be regulated within manageable limitation. The drink trade is licensed and supervised for the regulation of drunkenness. Sobriety is regulative in and of itself, and does not require supervision. Drunkenness is inseparable from the drink trade, and licensed supervision has been applied as a restraining power without effect. But besides being represented as inexplicit in the phrase (large extent), he is also made to mislead in withholding all information about the people in the wards he is said to refer to. If 22,550 give 3,175 drunken arrests: and if 12,430 give only 75, is it not because the 22,550 are to a large extent composed of degraded drunkards huddled together in circumstances begotten of extreme drunkenness and favourable to arrests; and if the 12,430 give only 75 arrests, is it not because they are composed not of the lapsed masses, but of people who have an aim in life and who live toward it, with the self-command which obviates exposure in helpless drunkenness. All the world knows that there are wards in Edinburgh occupied by the debased through drink, and wards occupied by people who are far above being caught by the police in the state of helpless drunkenness. It is the helplessly drunk who swell the number of drunken arrests; but he is not made to say whether the ward with the most arrests is inhabited by people liable to become helplessly drunk, nor whether the ward with the least arrests is inhabited by people not liable to become helplessly drunk. These are grave omissions. But even though this point had been made clear, it would not have followed that drunken arrests are the measure of drunkenness. If there was no drunkenness except that represented by the arrests of the helplessly drunk we would be a comparatively sober people. The Bailie should have been reported as giving exact information, too, as to the extent to which the police are bribed by respectable people to take them quietly home. All

this he has not been made to do, and his facts, disconnected with these circumstances, are not entitled to be estimated at immense value by temperance and social reformers in their enlightened efforts to remove the conditions of drunkenness, which does not consist, as is assumed by the Bailie, as reported in a large number of public houses rather than in a small number. Drunkenness is conditioned by drinking, and by the appetite for drink created by drinking. The whole history of licensed restriction is that it is thus developed and diffused irrespective of the number of houses licensed to sell drink, or of the respectability of their owners, or of the extent of supervision exercised over them by the administration of the licensing laws. While the appetite for drink is cultivated by any number of public houses it grows beyond the power of control, and it is because this is the case that total abstinence is a personal duty and prohibition a national duty. Drunkenness is not to be eliminated and diminished from the sale of drink under any conditions. And the Bailie's statistics, as reported to prove that the amount of licensed drink shops, to a large extent, conditions the amount of drinking and drunkenness, are misleading and fitted to encourage so-called licensing reformers in their efforts for a licensing measure to frustrate temperance reformers in their efforts for prohibition. If the Bailie is correctly reported this is evidently his object. This is what he is made to say. I apprehend that if we put in operation, honestly, the clauses which are to be found within the existing license laws of Scotland, we could do a mighty deal to arrest the progress of drunkenness. The meaning of this is, that the existing licensing laws merely need to be fully administered in order to produce the required amount of sobriety. In the opinion of licensing reformers of the type of Mr. Gladstone and the Lord-Advocate, the Bailie's administration of the existing license laws to mightily arrest the progress of drunkenness, might as mightily obviate the need for any attempts on their part to apply new regulations. The Bailie's arrested drunkenness could well enough be accepted by them as a substitute for their sobriety contemplated in further restriction. He and they by appearance are in one boat, and while he labours to arrest drunkenness mightily by enforcing legalized drinking in the present, they must look to him for help in any additional attempts they may make at legalized drinking in the future. But temperance reformers do not forget that legalized drinking is drunkenness. I could not have imagined an utterance better fitted than this reported in the Bailie's name to encourage Mr. Gladstone to persist in voting against Sir Wilfrid until he abandons the demand for prohibition. This, attributed to the Bailie, is so much opposed to the enlightened, unflinching advocacy that he used to stand up for so manfully, that there is room for suspicion that he has been unfairly reported with a view to misrepresentation. For the sake of prohibition and sobriety, as against license and drunkenness, I hope to hear that such is the case. JOHN PATON.

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

Sir,—I am obliged for your courtesy in favouring me with a proof copy of Mr. Paton's criticism of some remarks made by me at a public meeting in Edinburgh upwards of a month ago. Mr. Paton objects to my having said "that the amount of licensed drink-shops to a large extent conditions the amount of drunkenness." This statement, notwithstanding Mr. Paton's denial, is substantially true. It is a truth which was established by a report of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as far back as 1848, and from which we learn by returns from 478 parishes that drunkenness among the people was very much in proportion to the number of public-houses. In 1869 an exhaustive report was issued by the Lower House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, and signed by upwards of 13,000 clergymen of the Church of England. After taking the testimony of "governors and chaplains of prisons, the heads of constabulary throughout Great Britain, the superintendents of lunatic asylums in

Wales, the judges, the recorders, the coroners, and the masters of workhouses throughout England and Wales," the Convocation report that "in proportion as the facilities for drinking are reduced intemperance with its manifold evils is restrained." Another report was published in 1874 by the Convocation of the Province of York. After taking extensive testimony from similar authorities as the above, the Convocation reports that the evidence of said witnesses "invariably show that when the facilities for obtaining drink are increased, drunkenness increases also; that when they are lessened, there is a corresponding diminution in intemperance, and this rule seems to operate with all the force of a natural law." So much for Mr. Paton's denial of a palpable truth.

Your correspondent next takes exception to my having stated that in Edinburgh police arrests are most numerous in those districts where licensed houses most abound, and *vice versa*. It is here noticeable that he ventures neither to deny my statement nor controvert my figures. He prefers to surmise that the people who live in the wards where drunken arrests are few were far above being caught by the police and well skilled in the practice of bribery. In the ward to which I referred where licensed houses and drunkenness are at a minimum, there are thousands of the working classes resident, and where, as has been shown, very few get into the hands of the police. Why is this? Chiefly because in their district there are few public houses. I do not require to inform the readers of the *Social Reformer* that if liquor shops were forced in upon that district as in the other ward to which I referred, the deterioration of the people issuing in additional drunken arrests would be the inevitable result. Mr. Paton next tells us that "drunkenness is conditioned by drinking and by the appetite for drink created by drinking." Why does he stop here? Why did he not finish the sentence by saying "and the appetite for drinking is conditioned by the licensed facilities and temptations which exist." Surely in writing the above your correspondent did not write to the full extent of his knowledge.

In speaking of drunken arrests, Mr. Paton teaches a doctrine which, from one in his position, I cannot but regard with grave concern. He says, "If there was no drunkenness except that represented by the arrest of the helplessly drunk, we would be a comparatively sober people." Against such a doctrine I must tender my solemn protest. With upwards of a quarter of a million of drunken arrests in the United Kingdom last year, and with upwards of 600 drunken incapables gathered from the streets of Glasgow during the first week of the present year, I presume there are few of your readers who will regard this appalling amount of public drunkenness with such complacency, or believe that it comports with comparative sobriety.

Mr. Paton further objects to my having stated that if the existing licence laws in Scotland were honestly and properly administered a mighty deal could be done to arrest the progress of drunkenness. This statement, however distasteful to Mr. Paton, is nevertheless true. In my remarks at the meeting referred to I called very special attention to one of the most salutary clauses in the Public Houses' Amendment Act which is notoriously disregarded in Edinburgh, and I believe very generally throughout Scotland. It is therein provided that every police superintendent shall, on every Monday morning, supply the procurator-fiscal in his district with a written report of the names of all licensed persons from whose premises drunken persons are seen frequently to issue, and may use the forces at his command for the conviction, and if necessary, apprehension of offenders. It is also provided that the procurator-fiscal shall submit said reports to the magistrates and justices at the Licensing Courts; and that on first conviction the magistrates and justices may cancel the license, and that on the third conviction they shall do so. If this salutary provision were faithfully administered, I believe that about one-half of the public-houses in Edinburgh might be shut within a twelvemonth. Mr. Paton may believe that this would in no degree tend to the diminution of drunkenness, but I presume

he will get few who know anything of the aggressive power of the drink traffic to agree with him.

I can sympathise and co-operate with Mr. Paton in sharply criticising the conduct of those who teach that the policy of restriction is essential to the success of the prohibitory agitation, or who insist upon it as a means adapted to secure either the prohibition of the traffic or the attainment of national sobriety. But when I find him denying that drunkenness is abated by the diminution of licensed centres of temptation, or increased by their multiplication, under the plea of advancing either total abstinence or prohibition, I regard him as playing not so much into the hands of Mr. Gladstone as into the hands of the liquor power. The denial of such a palpable and popular truth in the face of overwhelming testimony may retard but it never can by any possibility advance the prohibitory agitation.—I am, truly yours,

Roselea Villa, Grange,
Edinburgh, Jan. 21st, 1881.

DAVID LEWIS.

FOR CONSCIENCE' SAKE.

To the Editor of "Social Reformer."

In your December number your correspondent, G. H. Hale, asked the question—"Did you ever hear of a seller of tobacco giving up that trade for conscience' sake?" Yes! Some twenty-four years ago the prosperous town of Bonnybridge was but a mere village. It had then only one shop of a general grocery kind, the keeper of which had to keep tobacco. All this is now changed. Bonnybridge is now a thriving place, and has got a hotel. There are now at least a dozen shops, but the original store still keeps no tobacco. The keeper has been for two generations known as a consistent temperance man, who strongly disapproved of the use of tobacco. The only explanation that ever I heard offered for the change is the following:—One day he was going up from his shop to his works, and in passing through the pend below the canal, he met a little ragged bare-footed urchin coming from the foundry busily engaged in trying to blacken a piece of clay and injure his health at the same time. The merchant put out his hand to take the pipe from the boy's mouth, when he was met with the dreadful words—*Let that alane, I bocht it in yer ain shop.* This was enough to show the path of duty, which was obeyed. The explanation may not be true, though I have heard it in the place as truth. The merchant was George Turnbull, Esq., Auditor to the Scottish Temperance League.

ENIKNAR.

CORRESPONDENCE ON LOCAL OPTION.

The following copy of correspondence has been sent to us for publication:—

Manchester, January 11, 1881.

Dear Sir Wilfrid,—Absence from the House of Commons on pressing business prevented my hearing Mr. Gladstone's answer given last night to your question as to whether the Government intended to do anything this Session in regard to the drink traffic. I see by the papers that the Prime Minister gives no hope of the Government attempting at present to carry out the view expressed by the House in this matter.

May I ask what course you propose to take under these circumstances?—Yours respectfully,

THOMAS BURT.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON'S REPLY TO MR. BURT.

House of Commons, Jan. 13, 1881.

Dear Mr. Burt,—From Mr. Gladstone's statement, to which you allude, it seems that the Government, under the urgent call made upon them by the state of Ireland, have decided not to attempt dealing with the drink question during the present session.

This will doubtless cause much disappointment, and especially so to those who have worked for many years to obtain for the people the power of protecting themselves and their families from the drink traffic. But,

although the present position of affairs is somewhat disappointing, there is nothing in it which ought seriously to discourage or dishearten us.

The threatening and alarming agitation of the Irish Land League naturally quickens the desire of the Government to get the Irish question settled without delay.

We think that we could prove that our question, bearing as it does upon the main cause of crime and pauperism throughout the whole kingdom, is far more important. But those who conduct an agitation in a quiet and constitutional manner have often, in the exigencies of political life, been obliged to see their demands refused; while others preferred in a more exciting manner are being attended to. But we have begun the session this year exceptionally early, and even an Irish question cannot last for ever.

Besides, we have a Government in power, several of whose leading members have spoken weighty and encouraging words on our question.

Mr. Gladstone himself has said that our drinking system brings upon us the accumulated evils of "war, pestilence, and famine." Mr. Bright has adverted to the drink traffickers as those who deal in articles producing "crime, disorder, and even madness." Sir W. Harcourt, the other day, in an admirable address, expressed his earnest desire to do something towards remedying a vice of which, he said, "the whole industry of the country is at the mercy." While Mr. Chamberlain, some years ago, declared that if remedial steps were not urged, "the very stones would cry out."

It seems to me that the duty of the hour is to strengthen the hands of such men, and, if it be possible, to let them see that even the Irish question should not be allowed to stand in the way of the people of England, Scotland, and Wales obtaining the legislation which they desire, and for which a majority of the House of Commons, including an overwhelming majority of the Liberal party, voted last session.

With this view, I have given notice of the following resolution, which I shall move on the earliest suitable opportunity I can secure:—

"That in the opinion of this House the resolution passed by the House on the 18th day of June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic, ought without delay to be embodied in a bill to give effect to the said resolution."

It is possible still to save a year, and before the next licensing session comes round, to have put the public in possession of means enabling those who are so minded to protect themselves and their neighbours from the licensed sources of misery and mischief, over which there is at present no power of popular control.

WILFRID LAWSON.

THE YOUNG SHAVER.—The owner of a bright pair of eyes says the prettiest compliment she ever had received came from a child of four years. The little fellow, after intensely looking at her, enquired naively, "Are your eyes new ones?"

In an article upon the growth of powerful political parties, and the importance of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, the *Ripley News* says:—"Powerful political parties in their commencement are the offspring of great political questions ignored by existing parties, but cherished in the hearts of the people. The one now looming up in the political horizon is the outgrowth of the greatest question of political economy that has for many years presented itself to the American people. Its aims are higher, its purposes greater and more unselfish, than any other that has been before it, while the principles it advocates are of greater moment than any that have been before the people since the days of the struggle for American Independence. This party merits the support of true political economists because it seeks to check the greatest source of national waste; it meets the views of the philanthropist because it seeks to elevate and ennoble mankind and rescue the perishing."

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saunter's Error," &c.

CHAPTER V.

THEY were fully furnished with all that wealth could procure or elegance suggest. They consisted of sitting, dressing, and bed rooms; but they were comfortable and tasteful in a superlative degree. You had only to see them in the noontide or the setting sun to say so. Just now the light from the fading fire that feebly flickered casting weird shadows across floor and walls and ceiling, and the turned down light of a lamp, were all that lighted up the rooms. Just then the maid trimmed the fire, partly turned the lamp up, and even by night the suite looked beautiful, but its chief grace was its cosiness. Standing on the threshold you saw nothing save a portion of the wall, for a handsome draught screen hid all the rest from view. Coming round by it, however, you stood in a room where everything seemed combined to yield voluptuous ease. Heavy curtains on windows and on door precluded draught. Chairs designed to lull the sense into supreme ease, a couch fitted to banish fatigue, carpets, rugs, and hassocks, to minister ease to the weary or to gratify the indolent, were there. But you could not gather from these the character of her who used them; these may be seen in the rooms of those who never rise higher than the gratifications they afford. Here they were a very subordinate part of the furnishings indeed, though their profusion might at first attract the eye. Close by one of the windows was a table that told of hard literary work; there was quite a pile of sheets closely written. The sheet half written and the pen lying across it showed that the writer had been busily engaged not long ago. A little whatnot with books apparently well used, clearly showed that they were for constant use and not merely for show. Near by was a table of quite a different kind. It was crowded with books, many in elegant bindings. Magazines, engravings, photographs, and some of the finest etchings are in that portfolio that rests on the stand hard by. A piano open with a piece of classic music displayed, also speaks for the musical ability of the fair occupant of this delightful room. In its centre stands a table with a book or two, one or two floral ornaments, and a lamp which casts its shaded light around. Adjoining was the bed-room equally elegant and equally comfortable, from which the rays from the flickering fire streamed out, and blended with fire and lamp light of the room we have sought to describe. You saw some engravings on the walls, and if you at once inferred that their presence there was due to their intrinsic worth you would be right. On the marble chimney piece there were several beautiful bronze figures marked by the severe taste that pervaded all the objects in the room. There were also three photographs exquisitely framed, a young and an old man much alike, whom you guessed and guessed rightly were her father and brother; the other was that of a lady advanced in years, yet still possessed of that beauty which a long career of goodness stamps upon the features and which time is never able to efface. Taste and order ruled all things, and you were more inclined to think that the rooms were got ready for some future occupant than that they were being every day in use by the only daughter of a landed gentleman willing to gratify her every wish, and who was in danger of spoiling her if that could be possible.

Just as we have completed our hasty survey of this lovely place we hear a footstep on the stairs. It is a woman's footstep, and so heavy that we know before we see her that her heart is heavy and her countenance sad. Presently the door opens and a young girl enters the room. Yes, she is sad, the sadness of anxiety and apprehension clouds her brow. As the flickering light plays on her features there is no answering smile. Dora is too downcast for that. She turns up the light which floods the room with its brilliance, heightening in a high degree its beauty, but we look at Dora as she stands by the table looking at something hidden from us, but painfully present to her mind's eye. She was

beautiful, not that sickly wax-like beauty which some extremely aesthetic people affect, but the healthy beauty begot of a co-ordinate development of all her powers. She was a finely formed girl with an easy graceful carriage which was as much part of herself as her hair. She was a brunette in complexion, and the blood as it mantled in her cheeks gave her olive complexion the hue of one of those Spanish or Italian women which are to be seen in the masterpieces of Velasquez or Murillo. Her face was a fine oval, and her hair naturally ringletted was as glossy as the raven's wing. Her eyes when animated sparkled as if with fire, but ordinarily their brilliancy was softened by her long eyelashes. Her mouth was exquisitely formed, not Apollo's bow was more graceful in its curvature than the curve of her lips—ruddier than the cherry and set off with most beautiful pearly teeth. Although not rigidly regular, her features were remarkably free from irregularity: and altogether Dora Vernon's face would have taxed the powers of a great portrait painter to embody adequately on the canvas. She was free from that extreme plumpness of form which is the great blemish of women in the middle and higher ranks of life. Her manner was perfectly unconstrained, being not only easy but self-possessed she made those in her company as easy and unconstrained as she herself was. Dora was in short in the fulness of life and spirit, which in itself greatly enhanced her beauty, and she was good. Living with her parents almost always in the country, under the careful training of a governess who had a passionate desire to make her pupil a woman in every sense, she grew in beauty, and sense, and goodness, and was liked if not loved by all who were on terms of friendship or were dependent upon her.

Dora wished as she stood by the table that her governess had not gone away, but she was married and settled about a year ago, more than a hundred miles away. Dora still thought, still stood looking as it were far away. At last she sat down and began to gaze into the fire abstracted and absorbed. She was apparently unable to disentangle the web into which matters at Elmfield had become involved. At last she spoke. The sound of her silvery voice, a voice that offered evidence of the immense care and patience with which it had been trained, startled her, and she half looked round as if others were in the room as well as herself.

"I must get at the bottom of all these disquieting matters. Poor Wentworth is sadly changed since he has gone from home, even changed to me. How kind and good a brother he was to me, the partner on my riding, boating, botanizing excursions, always helpful, always watchful. But since he has gone to college how changed to be sure. Moody, heedless, wilful and given, I fear, to low pleasures. Jones does not like his service, yet Jones has few scruples about anything, and then, what means his deep seated aversion to Mr. Milbank, when quite a contrary feeling should fill his breast. There is some mystery there, which for my own peace and my brother's character I must fathom. Could they have met before? Surely not. Why not? That boy Jones knows very much of my brother's doings, and seems desirous of leaving his service if he has not already done so. Wentworth went off from the hotel with bad words on his tongue, and he behaved very badly to Milbank; can they have met before? If they have, the shame is not on Milbank's side. I am strangely interested in him, and do wish my brother was as much so. How strangely he has come amongst us. It is most wonderful that he should still continue as one of the family, but one need not wonder when his behaviour is taken into account. When he stopped the horses, he drove me home as if he had been my own brother. When he was provided with clothes he appeared a perfect gentleman, and ever since he has acted as one. How kind he is; goes out with my father and feels a deep interest in all around our home: and father wishes that Wentworth was only as practical and sagacious as he is. My mother is much impressed in his favour. He speaks to her of London and London society as if he had moved in it, and to me how kind: gets the piano in order, or reads to me, or makes up a quiet rubber. I am deeply interested in him, and anxious to penetrate

all the mystery that hangs over him. Why should I? He must soon leave, for Wentworth has told his father that the same house shall not hold both, and father cannot prefer a stranger to his own son. He will have to go, but I will never forget his bravery and his after kindness, and if he goes he shall not go away empty handed." By this time a tear welled over her eye and fell upon her hand; covering her face with her handkerchief Dora had a good cry, but her tell-tale heart could have roundly affirmed that three tears out of four were for the stranger.

Starting up she touched the bell and passed into her bed-room; when the maid appeared she said,

"Annette, will you send Jones here?"

In a minute she came out refreshed, in another minute Jones appeared.

"Jones, are you still in my brother's service?"

"No, Miss, I am this minute discharged; but I don't leave with Mr. Wentworth. I am to stay till Jenkins is on his pins—I mean, miss, on his legs."

"Is Mr. Wentworth leaving?"

"Yes, to-morrow; I am packing up his toggery; I mean his things."

"Where is he going?"

"Oh my! Excuse me, Miss, the place has such an ugly name, quite a flavour of brimstone."

"Oh, I understand, you need not trouble yourself to name the place. Does father know?"

"Yes, and takes on awfully about it. But Wentworth says quite boldly that he goes because Mr. Milbank stays."

"Jones, you can tell me if ever the gentlemen met before?"

"Oh, yes I can. They have, Miss, and a jolly meeting; I mean, a very unfriendly meeting it was. They met at Wantage, M'am, and Milbank said, 'You sha'n't ill-treat the young woman.'"

"Jones!"

"Oh, I am mum, ah, I mean I am dumb, Miss."

"We'll, they quarrelled?"

"They did, and master got the worst of it by a long way. The other gentleman put a settler on master's mug-trap. Oh, I mean the ruby flowed; no, I mean that by a well planted blow on his bellows's; the fact is master got the worst of it."

"No doubt, Jones! Well, go and attend on Mr. Wentworth; but, Jones, be very discreet and say nothing to anyone about what you have told me."

"Oh, Miss, I will never say a word, and if you and master will only keep me in your service I will serve you night and day."

"Well, well, that is a matter for my father, who will see in a day or two."

Dora wrote on when it was far on in the night, and at last went to her devotions and her bed.

With Milbank it was different. It was the last night that he was to be under that roof which had sheltered him now nearly for a week. He might have left with less regret had he only had the pleasure of another of the delightful evenings he had spent in Elmfield. To leave Miss Dora and wander forth again as the prodigal, whom a father in the public prints was vainly entreating to return: to be compelled to leave the society of so lovely a woman because her brother was an ingrate, and worse, to have to leave his own home because his brother had conspired against his peace and set his parents against him. "Had my brother been able to say as much of me as I could say of Wentworth Vernon there might have been cause for the treatment he bestowed on me. Stay there, Henry, you perhaps charge the old man falsely: be generous to him, let your antipathy against your unnatural brother be as great as he deserves. Well, well, I shall see to-morrow. Mrs. Ingram was glad to see me; I misjudge her if she is not as willing to assist me."

Oh, what an evening that was to Jones. He could not conceal the joy which filled him at the thoughts of getting rid of his master. So little could he hide it that he so whistled and capered while engaged in packing up that Wentworth, who sat moodily by the fire, turned round and said,

"What the deuce are you howling at, one would think you were baying at the moon."

"Ah, sir, if I howled you might tremble at the thoughts of leaving to-morrow."

"None of your superstitious cant."

"Oh, I am dumb."

In a little the old elation struggled to get vent, and Jones was whistling louder than ever.

"Look you here, Jones, stop that noise, or I'll pitch you out of the window."

"Mum's the word," said Jones, with a grimace that Master Wentworth would not have cared to see.

"You are not away yet, sir."

"How do you know that, impudence?"

"'Cos he is going off to-morrow afternoon."

"Is he?"

"Yes, to the great grief of the whole establishment."

Up started Wentworth and tried to get hold of Jones, but he was quite alert and ducked and dived now round, now behind a chair, till Wentworth sat down breathless and glared on him.

Up got Jones on a table, and striking an attitude said,

"Most potent, grave—no, I beg your pardon, but if you will tell me what I have done to offend you, you would do me a favour of the right sort."

"What did you say about great grief, &c., just now."

"What did I say; why, please sir, I said that we all of us are sorry that Mr. Milbank is going away. The real fact, on my soul. Just think he saved Miss Dora, he pleases Master, my Master now, and Misses, he is not stuck up, he never gives trouble, and so we all feel sorry that he's going."

"Come down, you young whelp, and I'll teach you better sense than speak about a vagabond in such terms."

"Oh, I come down at once; here we are on terra-firmer once again, and I'll relieve you of my presence, but if it was the last word I ever said that gentleman is a real gentleman, and all the rest on us would give our 'davy on it."

Jones vanished. In the long night during most of which he sat by the fire with the untasted wine on the table at his elbow, remembrance was busy with the conscience of Wentworth. She held up a mirror that almost seared his eyeballs, for it showed him how foolish, how wicked he had been, and he was almost persuaded to be filial to his father and friendly to the preserver of his sister.

(To be continued.)

FOOD AND FEEDING.*

THIRD NOTICE.

In a few final words we will take our leave of this interesting book. We have seen how Sir Henry views the fashionable dinner with its load of dainties, which quite unlike Balaam is invited to bless our stomachs, and instead of that curses it with the evils that excess brings in its train. Against the present public dinner with the magnitude of its display, its dangerous excesses and its evil results Sir Henry firmly protests. He would amend it by reducing its solids and would greatly restrict the dimensions of the flowing bowl by limiting those formidable incentives to deep potations—toasts. Here we have a London physician quite restive under the dozen or two of toasts that clamour to be honoured on such occasions. A few months ago we had a veteran Edinburgh journalist making a similar remonstrance against toasting as a usage more honoured in these days in the breach than in the observance. Are we wrong in our belief that such a relic of gross barbarism is doomed soon to have a place in "the tomb of the Capulets?" We think not, and we are specially pleased with even the mild amendment on our present system of toast-drinking which Sir Henry lays before his readers. "Might it not be better worth trying the experiment of offering fewer dishes, better service, and abolishing half the toasts?" His scheme, if toasting was good in itself, and only abused at present, would do well. But as toasting in itself is only a piece of paganism, we simply approve of his scheme as being less evil than the present absurd

* *Food and Feeding.* By Sir H. Thomson. London: Warne & Co.

and injurious usage. He would give the Queen and Royal Family as the first toast: "Our National Institutions" as the second. This toast would include parliament, its leaders: justice, our judges: military and naval forces, their officers: education, heads of universities and public schools: religion, its ministers: science and art, heads of societies, academies, colleges: literature and press, distinguished writers. The third would be the "Toast of the evening," the real object of the dinner. There might be a fourth toast, that of the committee connected with the object, visitors, &c., &c. When our public dinner toasts are thus restricted and clergy dinners have gone out of fashion, we will have advanced very far indeed on our way to the abolition of the drinking usages.

Sir Henry has a conviction that good, pure, genuine wine is obtainable, but not from those firms that advertise. He would not be sincere if he did not harbour such a conviction. He says distinctly, "Whatever wine is given should be the most sound and unsophisticated of its kind which can be procured. The host had far better produce only a bottle or two of sound *bourgeois* wine from Bordeaux, than an array of fictitious mixtures with pretentious labels procured from an advertising cheap wine house." This being his conviction and his contempt of flashy wine cellars, we have just to see how he thinks it may be procured. He says, it may be procured in two ways; first, by finding some merchant of long standing and reputation who will do the applicant the favour to furnish them, and the price must be large for quality and age. Such a one will never advertise, for he confers a favour upon his customer by parting with such stock." But Sir Henry advises tipplers to be their own wine merchants, to buy in and bottle wine years before it is to be used. A man's wine cellar becomes in twenty or thirty years a possession of interest and value, and he can produce something curiously fine and free at all events from the deleterious qualities of new and fictitious wines. Of course Sir Henry overlooks, inadvertently, the fact that even all this begging and obligatoriness to a wine merchant, this investment and care upon wine bins, cannot make bad wine good, for we need not say that all that Sir Henry can claim is that such wine is not the worst, and he cannot affirm that it is other than bad after all the wealth and pains expended. Should not the rigid and unsparing in our ranks have some commiseration for the ignorant and foolish that fall by the publican's strong ones, when they see a gentleman like Sir Henry Thompson writing about wine in the strain he adopts in his book? Pure genuine wine free from alcohol is only to be got direct from the grape, not from the vat: it is the juice kept from fermentation not the foaming liquor that seethes, grows turbid, and at last bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Sir Henry's wine is too dear to be indulged in freely and does less harm, but it prepares the way for those more potent beverages that vitiate the body and ensnare the soul.

Sir Henry has so deeply enchained us that we plunge deeper and deeper into the interesting subject. He unfolds the rule, which has the general gastronomic consent laid down for those who indulge in the luxury of wine. The rule is "to offer pale sherry or dry Sauterne after soup, delicate Rhine wine after fish, a glass of Bordeaux with the joint of mutton, the same or champagne, dry, but with some true vinous character in it (is he afraid of gooseberries?) during the *entrees*; the best red wine with the game, and—but this ought to suffice even for the exceptional individual who is supposed to be little if at all injured by "moderate potations." With the ice, a glass of full flavoured but matured champagne or a liqueur may be served, but at this point dietetic admonitions are out of place, and we have already sacrificed to luxury. There are no less than six glasses of wine allowed under this gastronomic rule, a quantity sufficient to impel the craving for drink to greater excesses, while at the same time it has almost if not altogether broke from the control of self-restraint. At this most dangerous moment a beneficent genie is near and has only to be invoked to say Canute-like, "This far but no farther." This beneficent

genie is—a cigarette. "The value of a cigarette at this moment is that with the first whiff of its fragrance the palate ceases to demand either food or wine; after smoke the power to appreciate good wine is lost." Is it any wonder on reading these words that many will be able to account for the immense amount of bad wines which play such havoc at our private and public dinners. But Sir Henry claims tobacco as an ally of temperance. "A relationship for him"—"the Gourmet"—of the most perfect order is that which subsists between coffee and fragrant smoke. While wine and tobacco are antipathetic, the one affecting injuriously all that is grateful in the other, the aroma of coffee "marries" perfectly with the perfume of the finest leaf. Only by the uncultured classes of Great Britain and other northern nations, who appear to possess the most insensitive palates in Europe, have smoke and alcoholic drinks been closely associated. By such tobacco and spirit have been sought chiefly as drugs, and are mainly taken for their effects on the nervous system—the easy but disastrous means of becoming stupid, besotted, or drunk. People of cultivated tastes on the other hand select their tobacco or their wines, not for their qualities as drugs, but for those subtler attributes of flavour and perfume which exist often in inverse proportion to the injurious narcotic ingredients, which latter are "as much as possible avoided, or are accepted chiefly for the sake of the former." Here again we must take care and not drink these poisonous drugs even with the knowledge Sir Henry imparts that a whiff of a cigarette will at once "draw the fires" of our drink appetite, or that we should proceed to learn the art of coffee drinking and smoking to be a fit and proper person for cultured society and able to withstand the insidious approach of fragrant alcoholic wines. Let us rather choose to avoid the wine glass, the tobacco pipe, and the coffee cup, and fall back on these pleasures that never fail, and which like Barkis are willing to afford us simple delights whenever we desire them.

Through all the mazes—many of them thorny—of this book in which we have followed Sir Henry, we have often dwelt with delight on the pleasant subjects which from time to time have presented themselves. The last of the oases is the best. We again quote Sir Henry—"Before quitting the subject of dining it must be said that after all those who drink water with that meal probably enjoy food more than those who drink wine. They have generally better appetites, and they certainly preserve an appreciative palate longer than the wine drinker. Water is so important an element to them that they are not indifferent to its quality and source. No admixture of wine or spirit counteracts the poison in tainted water and makes it safe to drink, as people often delight to believe, but the simple process of boiling it renders it perfectly harmless: and this result is readily attained in any locality by making weak tea to be taken hot and cold, or in making toast water, barley water, lemonade, &c." Sir Henry recommends seltzer and similar waters, but he tells us that ample slices of water melon are delicious. Let us thank him for suggesting an option as regards water and wine, and thank him for showing us the best aspect in which wine drinking can be presented. We have seen how grave is the responsibility of tampering with these wines, even pure and genuine as Sir Henry thinks them, the extreme care with which pure as they are they must be used, the evils they inflict upon nineteen out of every twenty who drink them, the great freedom from danger which is begot of abstinence from them, the superiority of the appetite of the abstainer over that of the very moderate drinker which Sir Henry desires to see: and we will learn from this volume of "Food and Feeding" to be more rigorous in our aversion to all alcoholic liquors, more loyal in our adherence to the practice of true and delightful temperance, and more anxious to diffuse the knowledge that lies at the basis of the great temperance reformation.

LEMONADE.—Boil 1 lb. sugar in half-pint of water, pour on to half ounce citric or tartaric acid; when cold add 15 drops essence of lemon, boil it, and when wanted mix with water.

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, FEBRUARY, 1881.

* * We have been compelled to leave over "Dunse Auxiliary Report," "Midlothian Memorial," and other important items.

On Thursday, 27th ult., the Lord Advocate was elected Member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh over Mr. E. Jenkins, by a majority of 7,450, the numbers being—for his Lordship, 11,390; for Mr. Jenkins, 3,940. This does not alter the strength of the Scottish Local Option vote, which on the 18th June last stood as follows:—For Local Option, 40 votes and 3 pairs, against 5 only votes, showing 8 to 1 in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution.

In our news column will be found an account of the presentation to Councillor John Hope, W.S., Edinburgh, of an illuminated address and album containing the signatures of between three and four thousand of abstainers in Edinburgh and neighbourhood, who in this happy way gratefully recognise the invaluable services which he has during a long life rendered to the cause of temperance. We rejoice at this presentation, and gladly bear our testimony to Councillor Hope's generous liberality to the movement. On two occasions, by a munificent donation to the funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Councillor Hope enabled its executive to increase the agencies and extend the operations of the Association. His generous help at the time materially contributed to the energy and progress of the agitation.

One of the most cheering indications of the growing prevalence of temperance sentiment comes from the Glasgow School Board. It has for some time been evident that applicants for licenses have been very desirous of getting premises closely contiguous to schools, so that they might accustom the youthful attenders to the presence of a place for refreshments, even if they did not venture, by unwarrantable inducements, to get scholars to become customers. The School Board of Glasgow, in the interests of the young committed to their care, are asked, by notice of motion, to oppose every application for a license, if sought for premises nearer than two hundred yards to any of the schools under their charge. Of course it might well be successfully argued that if it be bad for the child to have a public house near the school he attends, it must be worse for him to be subjected to the temptations of a public house adjacent to where he lives and plays. Still the School Board has power only over its own schools and their amenity, and if it decides to oppose the presence of public houses near the schools, it will be deserving of the thanks of all right-thinking people. With prevention without, and temperance teaching within the schoolroom, the scholars in Glasgow will enjoy advantages which will in future be very gainful to society.

The Americans—why don't we call them Uncle Jonathan now?—manifest daring in whatever they undertake. During the late political campaign New Hampshire put up as their Democratic candidate Mr. Frank Jones, an extensive brewer of Portsmouth, in that State. A procession in his honour came upon the State prison, and their amazement and their disgust may be faintly imagined when they found a transparency displayed on the prison walls with the very significant inscription, "JONES' BEER BROUGHT US HERE." It was all that the prisoners could say, and it was most effective. Jones did not win. We commend this idea to those who aid discharged prisoners—those who seek to improve the condition of the poor. They could not, in our opinion, do better than appoint a Commission to visit the prisons and poorhouses of their district, and on learning to whose drink the unfortunate inmates owed their incarceration, display the information on the prison wall or the poorhouse gate for the enlightenment of the suffering and burdened rate-payers. Were this done, when the direct veto is on the statute book, there would be a very speedy and proper attempt made not merely to adopt it but to enforce it in the neighbourhood of the prison or the poorhouse affording such significant information.

We believe that many of our readers will be looking forward with some interest to the appearance some months hence of the Revised New Testament. We have been told to expect the disappearance of the three witnesses of 1 John vii. 8, the story of the woman taken in adultery, which will be as ill to bear as the exclusion of the romantic battle of Luncarty from Scottish national history, and to be prepared for a great many other changes in our dearly beloved New Testament. But as temperance reformers we will doubtless be looking for a great many changes vindicatory of our claim for the New Testament as a temperance book. For instance, there are the words self-control and self-restrained, forbearing, sedate, sensible, discreet, abstinent, continent, &c., rendered by temperance, moderation, sobriety (of mind), and sobriety (of body); now temperance, moderation, sobriety, are uniformly rendered by a corresponding English term. *Epi-ikees*, *Epi-ikta* though only occurring seven times altogether, is translated by four distinct words, and *sophron* is also translated in five different ways. If the translators have done their duty conform to their high reputation for wide and accurate scholarship, we shall find that many a difficulty which could only stand on mistranslations has been removed, and that the harmony between our principles and those of the New Testament is more clearly disclosed.

Every friend of temperance and prohibition must have learned with regret of the resignation of Mr. Duncan M'Laren, M.P. for the City of Edinburgh, and must have felt at the same time that their regrets have been shared by the best politicians of all parties. For sixteen years he has faithfully re-

presented the interests of the City of Edinburgh, and done great services besides to his country. As a temperance reformer he can show a record of brilliant services in connection with the Scottish Licensing Act, and the Irish Sunday Closing Act, but more than these the Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill and Local Option resolution. No one in the Lobby was more accessible, or more willing to render substantial services to the leaders of the prohibitory movement, promoting the interests of the Bill or Resolution in the lobby of the House of Commons, and no one has so often introduced Scottish deputations of prohibitionists into the presence of Lord Advocates or Home Secretaries. At a moment when weighted with the burden of age he retires from the fierce heat that beats upon the political stage of life, we bear our humble but emphatic testimony to his noble service since his entrance into Parliament to the temperance reformation and to the unflagging support he was so ready to render Sir Wilfrid Lawson on every division that has taken place on his Bill and resolution. May the remainder of his life be passed in the quiet and reverence of family affection, and may the remembrance of what he has been enabled to do for the benefit of his fellow men gild his declining years!

The London Temperance Hospital has now been seven years in existence, and with what blessed results we can easily ascertain. Since it was opened, 9336 patients have been admitted; 942 or 10 per cent. were treated within and the rest outside the Hospital. Two-thirds of the applicants declared themselves abstainers; the others non-abstainers; Only two deaths under the surgeon's hands are recorded, and of the 942 only 40 or 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. died—a mortality much below that of the other London hospitals. The cases in the surgical wards included Cæsarian section, lithotomy, ligature of the carotid artery, excisions of tumours, etc. Nothing could be more gratifying than the results of these cases, or is so fitted to strengthen the convictions of abstainers in the non-alcoholic treatment of disease. It is perhaps not so well known as it deserves to be that, although any of the medical officers can prescribe alcohol, yet it is never done. As a pharmaceutical solvent, for which alcohol is now so largely used, the ordinary alcoholic tinctures have been superseded in the Hospital by tinctures made with a solution of glycerine. These tinctures have proved to be perfectly efficient. Their cost is only one-fifth that of the ordinary alcoholic tinctures, and they are never drunk surreptitiously by people about the dispensary. As an article of diet, alcohol is formally excluded from the Hospital, and alcoholic beverages are never admitted to the meal table. Can any statement be more decisive against the use of alcohol in any form or shape as a drug or as diet? or have we ever had such emphatic testimony as to alcohol being neither food, fuel, or physic? We have not, and our friends, we hope, will not fail to support an institution which by the undeviating courage of its committee,

and the eminent ability of its medical officers, has so signally contributed to the final triumph of the great temperance reformation.

The Unfermented Wine Vigilance Committee in London are doing a very necessary piece of service to the temperance movement by publishing the report of Mr. J. Carter Bell, the Salford Burgh Analyst, on unfermented wines. From the report, which appears in *extenso* in the advertisement columns of the annual report of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, Mr. Bell examined eleven samples of wine submitted to the public by seven different parties, and in his report we have an excellent guide to them all. The first three samples belong to the great firm of W. & A. Gilbey, who assert that their wines are unfermented, which is true, but they are not non-alcoholic: two having 14 and one 40 per cent. proof spirits. Messrs. Kinloch & Co.'s sacramental wine is both fermented and alcoholic, having 26 per cent. of proof spirit. Messrs. Kramer & Strauss' "pure and genuine unfermented fruit of the vine" is carelessly prepared and has 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of proof spirit. Bell & Co. have three samples "unfermented juice of the grape," but they do not contain any juice of the grape, being simply carelessly prepared artificial compounds. Fairlie's new wine is not pure grape juice, and it contains 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of proof spirit. Wyndham & Co.'s purest unfermented wine contains 30 per cent. of proof spirit, showing not only that means have not been taken to remove the spirit as alleged, but that spirits have actually been added. Frank Wright's wine is the eleventh sample. He styles it "unfermented wine, free from alcohol and unintoxicating, preserved in vacuo by Frank Wright, 68 High St., Kensington, W. This wine is prepared from grapes specially imported from Andalusia, Burgundy, and the Medoc, for this purpose. It is guaranteed to be the true fruit of the wine." Mr. Bell, in his report on this sample says, "My examination of this sample confirms the statement made upon the label that it is pure grape juice and free from alcohol. An exhaustive analysis of the ash shows it to be the same in amount and to consist of the same constituents as the ash from grape juice pressed from the fruit by myself. In this respect there is a marked distinction between this and all the other samples referred to." Mr. Bell's exhaustive report is signed on the 25th Sept. last. We have several times in these columns and in the interests of true temperance reform fearlessly exposed the discreditable attempts being made to foist a sham sacramental wine upon the temperance community, and we point to Mr. Bell's report with pleasure as supplying the best information procurable on the subject. After his exposure "surely in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird."

On the 18th ult. Mr. M'Laren, M.P. for Edinburgh, applied for and accepted the stewardship of

the Chiltern Hundreds. The event was wholly unexpected. His son, the Hon. John M'Laren, Lord-Advocate, immediately sought the suffrages of the electors, and issued his address. To all appearance it seemed as if he were to be returned unopposed, Mr. Trayner generously giving way in his favour. Mr. Edward Jenkins, who, on the last Parliament was one of the members for the burgh of Dundee, and a Liberal, unexpectedly entered the field against his Lordship. He did so, he said, on the grounds that as a citizen of this country he had a perfect right to contest any vacant seat—this right is not denied, it is its judicious exercise at the present time which is in question—and that as a private member he could attend better to the interests of the city than as an official of the Government, who by his position is under reticence or restraint. We are glad that both candidates are in favour of Local Option. Mr. Jenkins has voted both for the Permissive Bill and Local Option resolution of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and spoke in their behalf both in and out of Parliament. His Lordship has repeatedly declared himself in favour of the principle for which the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association contends, and there is every reason to believe that in Parliament he will give that principle his support, and render to the Scottish Permissive Prohibitory movement as valuable service as his father. Both candidates being agreed on this issue, the battle will be fought out at the poll on other grounds. We hope by delaying the issue of our magazine, to announce to our readers the result of the poll.

Unenviable as are the reputations of the Glasgow music-halls, they are, with one exception, deprived of the power of dispensing alcoholic liquors to their frequenters. That exception is the Royal Music Hall in Dunlop Street, known more particularly as "Davie Brown's." Mr. Brown has recently died, and we observe that the hall, drinking-bar, &c., is to let. Not many years ago, the magistrates of the city had an opportunity of withdrawing the license from this hall, but shrunk from availing themselves of it on the plea of being invidious as regards Mr. Brown, and since that the bar has been left to exercise its dangerous influence upon those who frequented the hall and craved for liquors. The mischief done by the sale of liquors in such places is incalculable, for the ideas of amusement and drinking get inextricably associated in the mind, and intoxicating liquors are held indispensable to all enjoyment. Seeing that the other music-halls in the city are carried on without the adjunct of a drinking bar, and yet are successful, we think our city magistrates should on no account allow of the transfer of the late Mr. Brown's license to a new tenant. They are responsible for the morals as well as the peace of the city, and are bound to remove, as far as is in their power, every source of public corruption; and in our opinion a drinking-bar in a theatre or music-hall is a manifest element of social corruption that should not be tolerated.

The editor of the *Christian News* replies to the article in our last issue on his criticism on the now famous deputation to the Lord Advocate. We will pass over his opinion of either the style of our article or the status of its writer. It is, we suspect, a matter of indifference to the members of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association who edits the *Social Reformer*, provided its advocacy and teachings are in harmony with the principles and aims of the Association, and while we maintain that they are, our members are the best judges whether or not such is the case. The real issue between the writer and ourselves lies in this, that he ignores the fact that union on the basis of our full, pure, radical veto between the leading Scottish temperance organisations has been attained. The writer says we have declared in favour of our veto and also in favour of restrictions on the liquor traffic, and because we have done this we have failed in our duty at this time. We on the other hand maintain, and we point to our statement as proof, that we have in no degree resiled from our position, and that we have secured the alliance of the Scottish temperance reformers in a determined legislative effort to secure our veto. Before the Lord Advocate a statement was made by our representative calculated to remove all misconceptions in his Lordship's mind as to our position and our demand, and yet the writer never once judges us by that. We had, we believe, a ground of complaint, and we are sorry to find that in his second article the writer never once refers to that official statement. It is evidently in vain for us to ask to be judged by our own official documents, but notwithstanding we cannot submit to be tried by any other. A generous interpretation of our position would have been given no doubt if the writer had remembered how often we have declared that license was inherently mischievous, and yet that we invariably declined to oppose any restrictions on the liquor traffic which might be imposed. We have resolved, time after time, as an association, that no legislation would be satisfactory that did not embody our veto, and we have declared that we would accept any Government measure not reactionary which did contain the veto we demand. If the licensing clauses in the famous six points were in operation, they would never harm the community nor obstruct the adoption of the veto. Take Glasgow for example: were her public houses closed at 8 p.m. on lawful days there would be a considerable amount of the temptation removed at the time when it was peculiarly formidable; were our theatres and our music hall purged of their drinking bars, a dangerous evil would be removed. Were the 34 hotels prohibited from supplying the 4000 *mala-fide* travellers that infest Glasgow all the Sabbaths of the year, it would be better for the church and the world. But will any one affirm that the operations of any or all of these licensing clauses would do more than impose a feeble check on the operations of the liquor traffic, or render the adoption of the veto by the citizens of

St. Mungo less of a necessity. The organisation that made these clauses the condition of its support to the veto does not believe that. If the Government brings in a licensing measure embodying our demand, it would, we thoroughly believe, receive the vigorous support of the staunchest friends of prohibition, not on account of the restrictions it would impose, but solely on account of the veto it would contain. We accept the alloy of restriction because of the pure gold of suppression which will be easier to procure. It is not at all probable that all the burghs in Scotland will immediately accept the veto, and it may be in those burghs that are pleased to wait until the veto has been in successful operation elsewhere, that restrictive clauses such as 3, 4, 5 and 6, may limit in some degree the power for evil of the traffic, but we are convinced that all our cities and burghs will never rest satisfied with any remedy that comes short of suppression by the votes of the ratepayers. Hence our belief that in getting the temperance movement united on our demand, we are promoting the best interests of the agitation by showing the Government that the veto we desire is the demand of every section of the movement, and must sooner or later become the law of the country. We have already said that we believed that we had the approval of the best friends of prohibition for the course we have taken, and although we are very desirous of giving earnest heed to what the writer has to say on the matter, we not only see no occasion to alter our opinion, but good grounds for holding it more firmly. Our friends judge us by our statement, the writer excludes it altogether from his consideration. We are not disposed to enter upon a discussion with the writer upon the existence or extinction of the association. Neither we nor he can of ourselves determine either the one way or the other. But we shall certainly never plead for a tolerated existence. We do not care who completes the victory we have fought for, provided that victory is won. We leave the association in the hands of its supporters, whose province it is to determine the nature and length of its existence. Certainly we should not like to see it perish merely because we have displeased the writer while so much remains for it to do. Its work in the warfare against the liquor traffic will bear investigation, and the executive need not shrink from a scrutiny of its efforts, come when it may. The writer fails to perceive the relation of this association to the Scottish permissive prohibitory movement. But for the failure of his perception his judgment would have been in its favour rather than against it. The association sprang into being to combine the power of the Scottish abstainers with all moral reformers (whether abstainers or not) against the liquor traffic, and now that such union has been attained, the writer declares that the desert of the association is extinction. Notwithstanding that it has been unfortunate enough to fall under his displeasure, we believe that it will advance rapidly towards the goal of its efforts, growing in

numbers, influence, and power, reaping as it moves success, and when its warfare ends in a decisive final victory we shall welcome its last sigh as joyfully as the bold Free Traders witnessed the obsequies of the Anti-Corn Law League.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

THE Parliamentary session opened on the 6th ult. The proceedings were wholly devoid of State ceremonial. The crowd was smaller than is usually the case. Her Majesty appears certainly far from being impartial as regards the great parties in the State. The Queen's Speech was a lengthy document, but contained no reference to the liquor traffic. On the reassembling of the House of Commons in the afternoon, an immense array of notices of questions and motions were put. Among these were a notice of motion by Sir Henry James as to corrupt practices at elections; the Welsh Sunday Closing Bill, by Mr. Roberts; bill to amend the law relating to the custody and treatment of lunatics, by Mr. Dillwyn; Married Women's Property Bill, Mr. Hinde Palmer; the English Sunday Closing Bill, Mr. Stevenson; Resolution on Local Taxation, Sir B. Leighton; appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the incidence of Local Taxation, Mr. Duckham; bill for the closing of public houses during the hours of Parliamentary polling, an hon. member (Mr. Carbutt); resolution on the opium traffic, Mr. Pease; Married Women's Property Bill (Scotland), Mr. Anderson; question by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, "On Monday next, 10th ult., to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government intend to introduce any measure during the present session for carrying out the resolutions of the House with respect to the licensing system and local option."

On Friday, 7th, Mr. Roberts was successful in balloting for a place, and his Welsh Sunday Closing Bill stands at first order on Wednesday, 4th May, when the second reading will be discussed.

On Saturday morning 8th, Mr. Stevenson's Sunday Closing Bill became the victim of the order of the House, which decrees that opposed motions cannot be taken up after 12:30 A.M. Mr. Callan blocked the way.

On Monday, 10th, Sir Wilfrid Lawson put his question to the Prime Minister. Mr. Gladstone's reply was a negative one. He concluded by saying that he hoped his hon. friend would not be surprised when he (Mr. Gladstone) said that there was no likelihood of the Government being able to deal with the licensing laws. He then sat down amid the perfect silence of the House. During the sitting Mr. Stevenson got Wednesday 6th July for the second reading of the English Sunday Closing Bill.

On Tuesday, 11th, Sir Wilfrid Lawson gave notice that on the earliest possible day he would move "that in the opinion of this House the resolution passed by the House on the 18th June, 1880, which affirms the justice of local communities being entrusted with the power to protect themselves from the operation of the liquor traffic, ought without delay to be embodied by the Government in a bill giving effect to such resolution."

On Wednesday, 12th, Sir Charles Dilke moved for a return of the number of electors in each constituency in the United Kingdom, and Mr. Carbutt's bill for the closing of public houses during polling at Parliamentary elections was read a first time.

On Tuesday, 18th, Mr. Pugh gave notice of a bill to amend the licensing act of 1873, so far as related to the qualification of the licensing justices.

THE LATE PRINCE IMPERIAL ON PROHIBITION.—
"The suppression of public-houses solves, in a great measure, the social question of the working man's independence."—"Life of Prince Imperial." Page 260. Griffith & Farran.

DEATH FROM ONE POISON INSTEAD OF ANOTHER.—A young man, Walker, died at Berwick through drinking, on New-Year's day, a glass of vitrol, which he had mistaken for whisky. He died, you see, from not being a teetotaler.

THE GOVERNMENT AND TOTAL ABSTINENCE.—The following members of Government are total abstainers:—Lord Granville, Lord Spencer, Sir C. Dilke, Bart, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Mundella. Of these, three are members of the cabinet.

There are 20,000 total abstainers in the British army—8,000 of them belong to the army in India. 7,000 abstainers are in the navy; 158 of them officers. Of the 4,000 boys in training ships, nearly a-half are abstainers. In the navy it is said the pledged and unpledged abstainers number nearly 10,000.—*Times*.

The inmates in Falmouth Union number 149. Only one half-pint of beer is consumed there daily, and it is by a man ninety-five years of age. The medical officer for Falmouth town and parish, and also the parish of Budeock, says, no pauper in these places has one drop of intoxicating drink by my order. I prescribe and order milk freely for them.

Joseph Livesey has entered on the fiftieth year of his life of total abstinence. He took his last and his best glass of liquor—whisky and water—in 1831, at M'Kie's in Lune Street. Somehow, it caused him to reflect and vow he would never take another, and he has kept his word. Eternity only will tell how many last glasses have been taken under the influence of his cogent arguments and impressive appeals.

MILK IN SUMMER AND WINTER.—It is well known that milk is now largely sold in glasses, and highly appreciated in summer. To stimulate its sale in winter, some clever person has invented a heating apparatus, so that it may be had warm. Baked 'taters, hot and warm milk, with a piece of bread, should furnish a luxurious meal for cabmen, policemen, porters, and similarly exposed public servants.

The Journal of Applied Science enlightens the nations on the production of beer, number of brewers, and the consumption of beer per head in Europe. We learn that Great Britain has 26,214 breweries, which produce 1,050,000,000 gallons of beer, the consumption of which, by her population, averages 32 gallons a-head. Norway has no breweries, yet she produces 16,500,000 gallons, and consumes 8 gallons a-head. The Belgians consume 38 gallons per head, and are consequently the greatest beer swilling nation in Europe—a most unenviable notoriety.

STRONG DRINK.—The art of distilling was discovered by an Arabian chemist in the ninth or tenth century. Europe and America have been the places where this *poison* has been the most extensively used, and there it has degraded and ruined millions, and is yearly sweeping tens of thousands unprepared into a wretched eternity. There is no scourge, whether pestilence or war, so fatally destructive of the best interests of man, or any custom so paralysing to all benevolent exertions to train the young in the love and fear of the Lord as the use of distilled and fermented liquors. Through their use thousands of almost broken-hearted mothers, who would delight to send their children to the Sabbath school, are compelled to keep them clothed in rags confined in their squalid homes.—*Mimpriss' Gospel Treasury*.

"The following is the position I occupied, and the language I used to the American people, at one of the darkest periods known in the conflict with the slave power. Slavery must be overthrown. No matter how formidable the obstacles, or how strong the foes to be vanquished, slavery must cease to pollute the land. No matter whether the event be near or remote, whether the taskmaster willingly or unwillingly relinquish his arbitrary power, whether by a peaceful or a bloody process, slavery must die. No matter though, to effect it, every party should be torn by dissensions, every sect dashed into fragments, the national compact dissolved, the land filled with the

horrors of a civil and a servile war, still slavery must be buried in the grave of infamy, beyond the possibility of a resurrection. If the State cannot survive the anti-slavery agitation, let the State perish. If the Church must be cast down by the strugglings of humanity to be free, let the Church fall, nevermore to curse the earth. If the American Union cannot be maintained except by immolating human freedom upon the altar of tyranny, let the American Union be smitten to the dust, and no tear be shed over its ashes. Abolitionists! remember that the foe with whom you are in conflict is 'full of all deceivableness of unrighteousness,' and will resort to every device to make you quit the field. 'Put on the whole armour of God;' so shall you be invincible. The war admits of no parley. No flag of truce must be sent or received by you; you must neither give nor take any quarter. As Samuel hewed Agag in pieces, so with the battle-axe of truth you must cleave the monster Slavery in twain, and thereby purge our guilty land."—WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON. This is a specimen of the faith that can remove mountains, and of which many soldiers in the British army of drink suppressionists would be better of a more ample portion. No wrong could maintain its existence in the face of a stalwart faith like Mr. Garrison's.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLOR HOPE, W.S.—A deputation from the committee appointed to draw up and present an address to Councillor John Hope, W.S., from the abstainers of Edinburgh and neighbourhood, waited upon that gentleman at his residence, 31 Moray Place, on Saturday, 15th ult. There were present—Councillor Somerville; Revs. J. Kay, F. L. Armitage; Messrs. J. Steel, S.S.C., J. Coutts, S.S.C.; Messrs. J. Nisbet, J. Armstrong, J. Linkie, W. Laing, J. M. Naughton, and J. H. Waterston. Mr. Waterston, secretary to the committee, and once a boy of the British Temperance League, introduced the deputation, and called on the Rev. J. Kay to make the presentation. Mr. Kay, chairman of the committee, briefly recapitulated the great services which Councillor Hope had rendered to the temperance movement. At a time when the cause of temperance was not so popular as now, Mr. Hope had had the sagacity to perceive that it lay at the foundation of all true social progress, and had held on his way with steadfast purpose, till at last it had been given him to see abundant fruit of his self-denying toil, and such an increase in the ranks of the abstainers from all intoxicants, that the day-dawn of their victory might be said to have arrived. He concluded by asking Councillor Hope's acceptance of an album, in which he would find inscribed the names of between three and four thousand of abstainers, all of whom had gracefully recognised Mr. Hope's eminent services to the temperance reformation. Councillor Hope returned his warmest thanks for the address, and for the kind wishes with which it was accompanied. The address recalled many things to his memory. The first of these was the principles on which the British League was founded. Those who professed abstinence at that time adopted it on the ground of expediency; while the view of the League was that God never intended alcoholic liquor, or tobacco, or opium, as articles of diet or beverage for healthy man. On this principle it was that they trained the children not to drink, just the same as that they were not to tell lies or steal. It was curious to find medical men now affirming this principle on scientific grounds—that alcohol was not a diet or a beverage for healthy man. The League was further founded on the recognition in Scripture of two sorts of wine—fermented and unfermented. They acknowledged both, but they did not acknowledge divine sanction to use the alcoholic wine. He had certainly expected greater results from these long years of work. He had always been told that he had begun at the right end in beginning with the young. One important question for the abstainers of the present day was the communion wine question. Its presence at the Lord's table gave alcohol a great prestige. It must be left to each congregation to act according to its circumstances; but he believed that this thing, which had become so fixed into our religious

system, could be gradually removed, though it was not to be done by the sudden operation of a decision in the Church courts. Nothing, however, would give a greater stimulus to the cause of abstinence than the removal of alcohol from the Lord's table. A fearful responsibility attached to those ministers and sessions who forced it on persons so young as to be yet ignorant whether there was in them any hereditary tendency or desire for alcohol. The plea of Christian charity, however, required that provision be made for both parties in the Church. His position was that there should be that provision, that one part of the Church should be served with alcoholic, and the other with unfermented wine at the same communion. It was his opinion, that though they had the Permissive Bill now, they would not be able to carry prohibition generally throughout the country unless they first were able to remove alcoholic liquor from the Lord's table. After a few words from the Rev. Mr. Armitage, St. Leonard's, and Councillor Somerville, the Rev. Mr. Kay thanked Mr. Hope for their reception, and the deputation withdrew. The album was of large-quarto size, and of considerable thickness. It was bound in morocco, with gilt lines and edges, and contained many pages of signatures, following an address beautifully written in illuminated letters, the work of Mr. James Watson, writing master of the Young Ladies' College. It set forth in expressive and appropriate language the varied aspects of the long and faithful work of Mr. Hope in the temperance movement; the institution of the British League of Juvenile Abstainers, and the great educational effort in connection with that famous organization, which placed within the reach of thousands the benefits of a literary, temperance, and religious education. Allusion was made to other spheres in which Councillor Hope has striven to promote the temperance cause, and it was stated that, in carrying on his patriotic and benevolent work, he had not only given freely of his valuable professional time, but spent, ungrudgingly, a large portion of a princely fortune in doing good to his fellow-men, and concluded with the fervent prayers of the signatories that he might abide in grace and strength till the end comes, and be greeted on his entrance to the kingdom of heaven with the welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Books, &c., for Review, and communications for the Editor, should be forwarded, not later than the 12th of each month, and as much earlier as possible, to the Offices, 30 Hope Street.

The Right Hand Cut Off: A sermon. By the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D. London: "Home Words" Publishing Office, 1 Paternoster Buildings. One penny, or 6s. a hundred. Fifth thousand. A most practical sermon, distinguished by sound teaching and impressive appeal. Eminently worthy of the author of "the Temperance Witness Box." It deserves a circulation not of five but of fifty thousand.

The Mother's Prayer; The Cabman's Wife; The Mason's Home. By Mary Brighton. London: Jarrold & Son, 3 Paternoster Row. Twopence each. A delightful series of stories in verse admirably told. None can read these intensely interesting stories without having his or her sympathies with the struggling honest poor greatly enlarged. We are glad to see the first is in its fifteenth thousand and the third in its thirtieth thousand. The second is newly issued, and will enjoy no doubt a large circulation.

A Word about Work. By Mrs. W. Lockhart, Liverpool. London: Jarrold & Son, 3 Paternoster Row. Twopence. This is among the best productions on labour we have yet read from the pen of a lady. She has quite a masculine grasp of her subject, and labour has no more loyal or more trenchant advocate than she. Her remarks on the dignity and the use of labour are invaluable: and her treatment of the freedom of labour is most incisive and telling. We only wish that such

views on labour animated the minds of the toiling masses. It would be for the permanent advantage of themselves and their country. It is worth fifty times its cost.

The National Temperance Hymnal. London: National Temperance Publication Depot, 337 Strand, W.C. Parts 14 and 15, 2d. each. These parts bring up the melodies to the number of 427: and we notice among other admired pieces: "The National Anthem;" "Father, Come Home;" "Home, Sweet Home," a very fine version; "Never Forget the Dear Ones." The music is clearly printed, and may be had in the old or new notation. When completed this will truly be the "National Temperance Hymnal."

The National Temperance Year Book for 1881: A Directory of Temperance Work and Workers. Compiled by John Kempster. London: John Kempster & Co. (Limited), 9 and 10 Bride's Avenue, Fleet Street, E.C. Paper covers, 1s.; cloth, 1s. 6d. Mr. Kempster must have set a high ideal before him, else he never could have produced such an admirable volume. There is the usual temperance calendar with echoes of the bye-past year admirably presented by Mr. Wagstaff. "Papers on the Temperance Question;" "Facts and Statistics for Advocates;" "Writings and Sayings of Permanent Value;" "Local Option Division Lists;" and a mass of other valuable information. It is indispensable to every society and every advocate of the temperance enterprise.

Beacon Flashes—Tales to Enforce Temperance. By the Rev. John Thomas, M.I.V. (London: F. Longley, 39 Warwick Lane, E.C.) Price 2s. The author in his preface states that his only object was, in writing these stories, "to set forth the evils of drinking and the advantages of true temperance, that some readers might be induced to give up the former and adopt the latter, both in principle and practice." The twenty-six stories which the book contains testify to the ability of the writer, and to the success with which he has followed out the object he set himself to accomplish. We cordially recommend the volume as presenting a first rate collection of simple stories for temperance meetings; all of them fitted to impressively enforce the benefits of total abstinence. The book is so handsomely got up that it would make a suitable present to a young man or woman desirous of forming a temperance library for themselves.

The Right Sort of Papers to Support.—As a general rule we have no kindly welcome for new temperance journals. If we had our own way, more than half of those existing would be formally prohibited, and that too in the highest and best interests of the movement itself. In great part, they are a disgrace to the work, and the only satisfactory thing about them is that none of them pay. If they realized five per cent. on the outlay, it would be a calamity for the temperance movement. Of course, in these remarks, we do not refer to the standard organs of the temperance cause, Journals such as the *Alliance News*, *The Record*, *The League Journal*, *The Social Reformer*, and *Irish League Journal*, and others that have a distinct mission and aim. It is to the whole tribe of worthless illiterate rags, edited by nobodies, who have, many of them, to learn the A B C of the movement, that we refer.—*Irish Temperance Banner.*

Sunday Closing in Ireland. Fact versus Theory. Pamphlet issued by the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance. Dublin: 28 Eustace Street. This is a neat pamphlet, containing an extract from the annual report of the above Association, and a telling extract it is. 1st, It meets the objection to the Act, that during its operation "there would be more drinking than ever," by showing that during the first year of Sunday closing there was a reduction of the consumption of ardent and fermented liquors of not less than £1,576,634; and also that, in the first half of the second year of the operations of the Act, the decrease in the consumption was even greater. There was a reduction of 1,968,696 gallons in the six months. Another objection, that "there would be more arrests

for drunkenness" is met by the fact that, in the first fifteen months of the "Act's operation there was a decrease of 12,000 cases; and as regards the day itself, a reduction of 60 per cent. in the arrests. The committee add, "there have been no riots, drinking and drunkenness have been largely diminished, ordinary crime has gone down, and Sunday is quiet. These were precisely the results anticipated from it, and they constitute an overwhelming cause for its renewal and extension." They are right. If a prohibition of one-seventh of a week can, wherever tried, result in so much benefit, the advantage of a prohibition extending over all the seven days of a week, would be incalculable.

Annual Report of the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society. 1880. The present is the forty-fourth annual issue of the society's report, and is a valuable document. The present report is, as usual, full of interest to all temperance reformers. The annual festival, jubilee festival, weekly meetings, open-air meetings, and temperance sermons make up a most creditable amount of work, and the committee are to be heartily congratulated on the result of their efforts during the year. The accounts, too, are most satisfactory. The income, from all sources, is £329 5s. 9d., and there is a balance of fully £23 to carry forward. A very excellent summary of the Parliamentary proceedings connected with local option is embodied in the report, and from it we also learn that during 1879, 1662 males, and 1009 females = 2671 drunk and incapable persons were arrested in Edinburgh—a decrease on the year of 85; and that 4319 males and 2908 females = 7227 persons were arrested for being drunk and disorderly—a decrease on the year of 1344.

Wheat-Meal Bread. By M. Yates, Hon. Sec. Bread Reform League. Jarrold & Son, 3 Paternoster Row, E.C. Twopence. This is without qualification the best pamphlet on wheat-meal bread which we remember to have seen. The writer is thoroughly mistress of her subject, and elucidates her theme in a way that will bring conviction to most of her readers. No housewife should miss having a copy of this little essay. She will find it invaluable from the sound views it enforces and the practical teachings it affords. Our tract distributors would do a world of good in circulating it throughout the households of their districts. We quote a pregnant sentence: "Now, if a man's food sustained him properly he would not require a stimulant, and would never have that sinking feeling which impels many a one to seek in the public house that power which he ignorantly thinks can be there obtained to do his work, when he can secure the real strength in wheat-meal bread at one twentieth the cost: for it will be remembered, that the strength which can be obtained at the bakers for $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ will cost 7s. 6d. at the public house (?), and without paying the penalty which Dr. Richardson says is done of injuring health and diminishing vital strength and energy by every glass of spirits taken."

Heroes in the Strife; or, the Temperance Testimonies of some eminent men. By Frederick Sherlock, author of "Illustrious Abstainers." London: Hodder & Stoughton, 27 Paternoster Row, E.C. 3s. 6d. Mr. Sherlock has apparently been induced by the great success of his highly prized volume "Illustrious Abstainers," to give the reading public a companion volume on "Heroes in the Strife." The conception is eminently wise, the selection of heroes made most admirable, and the design carried out with rare ability and talent. We believe that this volume will largely increase Mr. Sherlock's literary reputation, for his style is fluent, glowing, and graceful, and his subject brings before his readers the men who have played a noble part in the stage of life. The temperance world owes Mr. Sherlock a deep debt of gratitude for this most valuable contribution to the literature of total abstinence. We should have liked to have seen some heroines in his pleasant pages, but we suppose that that is an agreeable surprise which he has in store for his many friendly readers. This volume is a choice specimen of the bookseller's art, and deserves a con-

spicuous place in a valued library of temperance literature.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—*The Martyr's Tree.* By Mrs. Sewell. *Methodist Temperance Magazine*; *Half Hour Temperance Readings*, &c.

POETRY.

THE WIDOW TO HER HUSBAND'S PORTRAIT.

Painted just as he used to stand,
With a thoughtful face;
His white cheek rests on his slender hand,
With languid grace;

I think I can hear his low, soft voice,
Fall on mine ear.
Whate'er were my sorrows my heart would rejoice
When it's sound I'd hear.

He died ere one year of our wedded life
Had passed away.
Snatch'd from the side of his loving wife
In youth's sweet day.

And my heart grew hard with its dismal load:
I mourned alone.
And many months pass'd ere I'd say to my God,
Thy will be done.

I thought I must die in that fatal hour
When his spirit fled.
For forty long years I have groaned and mourned
My beloved dead.

That he still will be young seems strange to me,
When we meet far away.
And I whom he left so fair to see,
Shall be old and gray.

MARY GRANT.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT RUSSELL NICOL, NEW RATRAY.—We deeply regret to have to announce the death of this devoted Christian and thorough temperance reformer. Mr. Nicol was a young man, in the prime of life, at his death. His usual good health was enjoyed up to within a few weeks of the close of the year, when he complained of cold and severe headaches, and as he felt rather worse, he left his work on the 8th December, hoping that a day or two's rest would make him all right, but he gradually got worse, the medical adviser considering him in a very dangerous state with gastric fever, until on New Year's morning his soul passed away. He was very much respected in the village and wherever known. His interest in the temperance cause, especially of the prohibitory aspect of it, remained, like that of his lately deceased father, unabated to the very close of his life. His faithful devotion to the cause of temperance and religion was characteristic of him from childhood. He was a consistent and respected member of the U.P. Church, and took an active part in the Children's Mission Church at Rattray. The children were all present at his funeral, and made a very deep and solemn impression upon all present at the grave, when they sang with their sweet voices, "I love to think of the heavenly land, &c." We rejoice to think that what is loss to us is gain to him, that now he is singing in that happy land the song of Moses and the Lamb. His end was peace. R. S.

The fearful effects of drink were well expressed to his flock by an Irish parish priest the other day. "What is it, me bhoys, that degrades ye to the level of the bastes of the field? Oi tell ye it's dhrink! What is it that deprives ye of your nerve? The dhrink! What is it that makes you shoot at your landlord—and miss him? It's the dhrink, an' nothin' but the dhrink!"

THE

Social Reformer.

MARCH, 1881.

STATE PROTECTION AND HIGH DUTY ON LIQUORS.*

THE very courteous and frank manner in which the Rev. James Mackenzie criticises the objects of the *Social Reformer* merits an equally courteous and frank rejoinder. He affirms that its objects might be better attained in three ways:—1, By using moral and religious influences alone; 2, by an agitation for free trade in intoxicating drinks; and 3, by compelling the law of the land to treat intoxication in every stage as a crime.

He asks us, in the first place, to abandon the Permissive Bill agitation in favour of a liquor traffic unlicensed and uncontrolled, but with heavy penal consequences on its effects. We should then have no interest in it but to crush it wherever its use was proved in any degree to be inimical to society. The reverend gentleman has no idea of what the liquor traffic would be were it the chartered libertine he desires to see it. And it is not possible at the present moment to point him to any civilized nation where there is Free Trade. There is not a nation in the world a remove or two from barbarism but has been compelled to lay restrictions on the sale of liquors. But there was free trade among them all at one time, yet it answered so ill that they have with greater or less stringency put drink-selling under control. That does not say much for Free Trade. We had Free Trade in England from the reign of Anne till at least the reign of the Second George. Anne's law permitted tradesmen to sell without a license, provided they did not allow tipping in their shops or houses. The 6th of George II. imposes a penalty of £10 on the retail sale of spirits except sold in dwelling-houses, thus virtually making every householder a publican, and as Smollet the historian remarks, "without making any regulation for preventing the excessive use of such liquors." This is quite the opposite result from that expected by the reverend gentleman. Nay, the Parliamentary history of the period (vol. xii., page 1213) records the fact that signs were publicly hoisted, "Drunk for 1d.; dead drunk for 2d.; clean straw for nothing." So much for the great Free Trade experiment of more than one hundred years ago. The same might be said of the Beer Act of 1830 and the great free licensing scheme at Liverpool in 1866. The opportunity to drink was extended in the latter place, and eagerly seized, until 31,227 inhabitants and 123 medical practitioners prayed the Licensing Bench to refuse to grant more licenses. We must really have some evidence of blessing under a Free Trade regime before we abandon our efforts for prohibition or relax our present restrictions on the drink trade, unsatisfactory as they are.

Mr. Mackenzie alleges that the present protective system is most unfair. We quite agree with him, and while he would abolish the drink making and selling monopoly in the interests of Free Trade, we would abolish it by making the manufacture and sale of alco-

holic liquors a felony. He says it is inconsistent to retain protection in the sole case of strong drink. That is a strong phrase which our legislators will not readily accept. The State *controls* the liquor traffic, and its declared object is to abate the evils attending it. The exercise is a sanction rather than a protection—a control rather than a defence. The authorities intend to make it a public benefit rather than a public bane, and the 400 Acts of Parliament passed for its regulation clearly show that this traffic cannot safely be left to itself. It is not, therefore, inconsistent in dealing stringently with such an avowed source of disorder. It would be more consistent, however, to suppress it. Besides this, liquor, as we have seen, when free, does not benefit as other articles of commerce do. When the duties on articles of legitimate consumption are reduced or removed, increased consumption, with benefit, is the result. The reason is in their nature. The removal of the duty on corn gave plenty to all, but it hardly induced gluttony; the law of supply and demand was operative, and people just sought enough and no more. In the case of liquor it is not so. The more one drinks, the more insatiable his craving for liquors becomes, and if one even tastes there may be a possibility that he may generate a craving for the liquor that will injure and may ruin him. The law of supply and demand is set at defiance. Being exceptional, then, the traffic must be treated exceptionally. Hence when the fetters are being as rapidly as possible struck off the productions of trade and the objects of commerce, public safety requires that they should be more firmly riveted on the liquor traffic. Mr. Mackenzie puts it thus:—"If it be a necessary, or even a luxury, our people should be able to manufacture or buy without restriction." Nay, gunpowder is more a necessary than alcohol, but as it *may* cause explosions, it is under most stringent legal control, and yet the sale of gunpowder, the necessary, is not so fatal in its results as alcohol, which is not necessary to life or pleasure, else thousands of abstainers to-day would be near death's door from privation. Viewed in regard, then, to the nature and results of the liquor traffic, its legal restriction is not inconsistent with the law of these realms.

Mr. Mackenzie says, "with all this these measures are doubly objectionable, because they will not cure the evil at which they profess to be directed. Though they may limit the number of public houses, it by no means follows that they will lessen drinking or drunkenness. If there be two houses in a district, the abolition of one of them only doubles the drink consumed in the remaining house, and also the income of the publican." This will clearly show that the reverend gentleman fails entirely in his criticism, for one cannot criticise what they don't know; and he does not know the nature of the Permissive law. Where and when that measure is operative there will neither be public-house nor publican; the first will doubtless be turned to better uses, and the last will be liable to, if not under a charge of felony. "Abolish both houses," he says, "and the custom for drink is only sent to the next parish or the nearest city or village." Well, if that proves anything, it certainly proves that

* *Social Reformer*, Feb., 1881. Letter on State Protection and High Duty on Liquors, by Rev. Jas. Mackenzie, Manse of Little Dunkeld.

the Permissive law is effective in the place so purged, and if the adjoining parishes were infested by immigrants in search of liquor, they could use the remedy that had been so effective in the parish or place whence the thirsty people have come. Now we have a very simple test to put our question to. There are about 140 parishes in Scotland where no sale of liquors takes place. Let the rev. gentleman enquire if in these places all the evils he sums up as the result of suppressing the traffic takes place, and if successful, he will earn the thanks of every enemy of prohibition in this country. He goes on to say, "Protection and high duty cause adulteration of the liquors with deadly poisons. Free trade would abolish this wholly." Now, all investigations into this painful subject conclusively show that none of the poisons are more deleterious than alcohol is itself; that they, being cheaper, are used to enhance the profits of the publican, whose income is threatened by the severe competition with which he has to contend. How Free Trade would diminish this competition he does not tell us; but one thing we know, the Permissive Act would most effectually do so by rendering the sale of liquors penal. Where no sale exists no adulteration could occur. Again he says that excise duty and license are objectionable as being attempts to regulate vice and self-indulgence which should be left to their natural consequences of vice and ruin." We object as strongly to excise duty and license as we do to leaving drinkers to the natural consequences of their acts. We would abolish excise duty and license, and by prohibiting all drink-selling would prevent the drinker from the lacerations and agonies of his self-indulgence. Natural consequences indeed! What cares the drinker for natural consequences? What has he ever cared for consequences? Did not Solomon picture him truly when he says, "thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea. They have stricken me shalt thou say and I was not sick, they have beaten me and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." I leave him to settle his difference with Solomon in this matter, and shall not press him to reconcile his views with the general experience of mankind. He says, "If liquor were freed from State control it would not have the respectability now attaching to it. It would be cheap and vulgar." We have seen that when it was easy to get drunk for a penny, drink trampled on respectability. A cask of spirits burst on the street, and a crowd were on their knees laving and lapping it up. They showed how much they valued respectability in the presence of such a chance. Men sell their political birthright for a pot of beer. What comes of their respectability? When drink obtains the mastery, it is like the cuckoo fledging with the eggs it finds in the nest it usurps; all virtues must go overboard to make room for the seven other devils it calls in to the drinker's heart with itself.

But he, under his fourth head, joins issue with himself. We quote—"The dark, hideous thing swaying there [on the gallows] on the morning breeze was a great gain to our publican and our parental State. He might have come to the same end under 'Free Trade' in drink! If he did, we would have no complicity with him in his self-destruction, and if it happened often—were there no personal interest at stake—the community and the nation would rise in indignation and stamp out or 'Lynch' the trade. The Government would take strong drink from the people as it does firearms from those who give themselves up to midnight assassination or rebellion." Loading the gallows is frightfully common. Last month, in Chester Castle, a man who murdered his wife with a red-hot poker was hung, and in the petition asking for a commutation of his sentence the plea was he was drunk. But though common enough under regulation, it would be tenfold more under "Free Trade." And the very drastic lynching he considers necessary would have to be applied. But it was

because we had at first Free Trade drinking and its horrors that we have now regulation, and because such regulation is unsatisfactory, impolitic, and immoral that we seek the Permissive Act. Then the essence of that Act is not that Government steps in and treat its subjects like children who were putting their toys to a dangerous use, or as rebels subversive of Government, but simply that the legislature declares the traffic wrong everywhere, and confers powers on the people to suppress it, when a due regard for their welfare urges them to do so. We agree with him that under "Free Trade" there would be no claim for compensation. But we are not to brave its horrors to get rid of compensation. We will rather wait to see what like the claim is before we give ourselves much trouble about it. There will be good reasons for not entertaining any claim the publican may prefer. An Irish publican, on his bankruptcy examination, stated that the Sunday Closing Act had ruined him; and yet when P. J. Smyth, M.P., pleaded for compensation to the 1600 publicans, whose Sunday business was to be extirpated, he was laughed at by "The House." Compensation is, in our opinion, a "bogle" to frighten prohibitionists from their attempts to extinguish the traffic; but seeing the sheet, the turnip, the candle, and the stick, they laugh and press on. Again, we have a proof that the heart of the reverend gentleman is right, if his head be astray on this subject. He says—"As Britain drinks, and becomes at the same time pastoral, she must make her liquor out of foreign grain and be drained of her capital. With such laws operating, we should soon drink ourselves out of house and home." But if the restrictive laws we have can scarcely suffice to restrain us to destroying nearly 70,000,000 bushels of grain, besides sugar and fruits, how shall we be when these restraints are removed, and we have no duty and dirt-cheap liquor? The Middlesex magistrates, when Free Trade prevailed, deliberately affirmed that "the low price of spirituous liquors is the principal inducement to the excessive and pernicious use thereof." And Sydney Smith, witnessing the effect of Free Trade in beer in 1830, wrote—"The sovereign people is in a beastly state, and those not singing are sprawling." We are drinking ourselves out of house and home, with high duty and dear drink, under restriction; we should only the more rapidly do so under "Free" Trade. Under a Permissive Law this thing could not happen, because neither makers nor sellers could produce nor dispense liquors; therefore the people could not buy, and consequently we would have cheaper bread and more wealth. But he says "Free Trade" would not directly remedy our depletion of capital through purchasing grain to make drink from, but indirectly it would. It would set the nation free from what is working ruin to our people. We doubt it, and he offers no proof. The traffic would certainly be free, and we know the consequences. We say the best and the permanent way to free the people is to extinguish the traffic. This is not a theory, but a fact, and one ounce of fact is far better than a bushel of theory. His concluding lines are most suggestive—"All the remedial and repressive action, both of religion and the State, would press on the viper until it was crushed beneath its heel." Precisely so. He has come to our goal at last, if we may take the sense rather than the literal meaning of his words. Indeed, he does so in the opening sentences of his letter. Only repression, with religious action, will not kill, it will only scotch the viper. Suppression with these influences will do. There is all the difference between repression and suppression that there is between restriction and prohibition. We are glad to believe, with him, that the Church and the State, menaced by the liquor traffic, will be compelled in self-defence to not merely arrest and repress, but unite to destroy the traffic.

We cannot abandon our agitation for a Permissive Bill in favour of a doubtful remedy which its pro-

pounder himself misapprehends. He confounds restriction with our proposal, and only sees "men as trees walking." Through the evidence of a dire experience, fortified by the cumulative testimony of history, "the liquor traffic stands condemned as essentially mischievous and unchangeably dangerous." The very publicans repudiate Free Trade as a remedial measure, on the one hand, as in 1854 they declare that "to throw open the trade would be to throw open the floodgates of vice and drunkenness;" and, on the other hand, their solicitor Wire (1853) declares before a committee of the House of Commons, in answer to the question 10,190, "If the trade were thrown open?"—"In the end public morals would be outraged. You will find that no publican, no assembly, no large number of Englishmen have asked that the license system be destroyed and the trade thrown open [instead] . . . a person who is licensed as a publican ought to have a district assigned to him which will give him a legitimate trade, as he deals in a dangerous article." The cry for Free Trade is, we believe, hushed for ever; and even sympathy with regulation is fast dying out. "Regulation may repress but cannot extinguish the evil issues of the traffic. It is a traffic implacably hostile to the true interests of society, to moral culture, to industry and independence. Britain has tried—other nations have tried—restriction and regulation. The experiment is a manifest failure." The evil is not in the hours in which, or place where, or the men by whom the traffic is conducted; it is in the drink itself. And the failure in regulation consists in this, that it does not prevent the temptation put forth by the vendor, nor prevent the grossest indulgence on the part of those who buy. Mr. Mackenzie's own eloquent denunciation of restriction should not be forgotten.

We prohibitionists are simply asking Parliament to give the people power to purge their district most effectively of its hateful and dangerous presence. And we have a confident hope that this measure of justice will be granted as freely as the Ten-hours Bill that emancipated labour, as Free Trade that emancipated food, as the Reform Bill that extended the political liberties of the nation. No Government will long venture to resist the righteous demands of a nation for adequate power to quench the sources of its own vices, and none worthy of the name of Scotchmen will hesitate to exercise that power in the interest of their wives, their families, their laws, their institutions, or the country that gave them birth.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

DUNSE AUXILIARY OF THE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

To the Nobility, Gentry, Ministers of the Gospel, Moral and Social Reformers in the County of Berwick—

YOUR Committee have never on any former occasion come before you with a deeper conviction of the soundness of their principles, or with such hopeful anticipations of their ultimate adoption as a rule of life by the community at large. The agitation in their favour is ever widening, and promises soon to embrace all ranks and conditions of society. The year now passed away has been distinguished above its predecessors by the marked progress of the movement in all directions—moral, social, and political. The social usages of society have been greatly modified by the diffusion of temperance truth. Commerce and manufactures are finding to their cost that industry, skill, and integrity are incompatible with the gross indulgence of the bottle. The working classes are faintly discerning that bad times will never disappear so long as the public-house is allowed to tempt those in its neighbourhood to spend at "the bar" what should have purchased substantial comforts for "the home." Corporations are becoming increasingly aware of how impossible it is to preserve the peace and good order of a town where public-houses abound, and of the difficulty of carrying out measures for the improvement of the dwellings of the labouring classes while the liquor traffic is allowed to exercise a corrupting and debasing influence. The

church is seeing far more clearly that further progress and greater triumphs are almost impossible until the intemperance of the land, fostered as it is by ignorance, fashion, custom, and the public-house is entirely abated. Encouraged by these growing indications of the spread of temperance truth, and the result of their own labours during the year, your Committee gladly submit their usual annual statement.

MEETINGS.—Year by year it has been the conviction of your Committee that deputational meetings should be held in the county during winter, that sermons should be preached as often as opportunities would allow, and that, through out-door meetings during summer, the great mass of the people should be reached. This year they are glad to state that they have been peculiarly fortunate with their arrangements, several deputations having visited the locality, and your Committee have had the eloquent advocacy and valuable testimony of the following temperance reformers:—Rev. William Adamson, D.D., Edinburgh; ex-Bailie Lewis, J.P., Edinburgh; John Steel, Esq., Edinburgh; Messrs. Alexr. Black and J. P. Lossock; and your respected district agent, Mr. J. H. Waterston. The meetings addressed by the deputations were uniformly successful, and the speakers' efforts so cordially appreciated that your Committee believe that the movement has been deepened and extended in the county during the year. Mr. Waterston's sermons are a source of much edification to his hearers, as they admit of the question of temperance being unfolded in its most impressive aspect. Your Committee trust that their successors may be as fortunate in sustaining the highly successful character of the meetings held under the auspices of your Auxiliary.

LITERATURE.—In the formation of public opinion in favour of the temperance enterprise it is impossible to overrate the influence of the press. Mindful of how much of the power of the drink is derived from the ignorance of the people regarding its terrible nature and dreadful consequences, your Committee have always, to the fullest extent their funds would warrant, availed themselves of the advantages obtained from the distribution of a sound and healthy literature. They are glad to state that the literature they have put into circulation this year is calculated to dispel ignorance of the nature of alcoholic liquors, and to enlist sympathy with their efforts to induce every Christian professor and every drinker to abstain from its use. The New-Year's Tract issued by them was written by the Rev. Horatius Bonar, D.D., of Edinburgh, and cannot fail to solemnly impress those into whose hands it may happily fall. The *Alliance News* and the *Social Reformer* are as usual widely circulated, but your Committee are of opinion that their farther circulation would be of immense benefit to the cause. Pamphlets and tracts dealing with the varied aspects of the question have been as widely distributed as the resources at their disposal would permit. When one earnest temperance reformer was asked to account for the sobriety so evident in his neighbourhood, he is said to have exclaimed—"O, I sowed it knee deep with temperance literature." Your Committee have, they believe, an equally vivid sense of the importance of sowing broadcast the productions of the temperance press, and they trust by the increasing liberality of the friends of temperance in the county that their successors will be able to report most favourably upon this important branch of their operations.

While diligently doing the work committed to their care and discharge, your Committee have been greatly encouraged by the rapid advance of the enterprise everywhere. In society, the sobriety of hard times promises to continue, now that better times are beaming on the country—counteractive to the seductions of the public-house are now no longer rare—parochial and church temperance societies are being established in many parishes with the most beneficial results; and were the churches to combine energetically against intemperance and ordination dinners, and to foster the solemnization of marriages, baptisms, and funerals, apart from intoxicating liquors, a most manifest social reform would speedily take place. Your Committee

rejoice, too, that the legislature are becoming more deeply interested in the operations of the licensing system, and have declared that some efficient system of Local Option, whereby public-houses should not be forced upon communities averse to their presence, should become the law of the land. There are signs everywhere apparent that moral and social reformers will shortly, in the interests of their country and humanity, combine for the overthrow of the whole drinking system, which is a menace to our liberties and the scourge of our civilization. Your Committee venture to think that their friends might take a still greater interest in the temperance reform in the county when it is borne in mind that the removal of the drinking system, social and legal, is the indispensable condition of a higher and purer state of society, and of a holier religious profession and practice among all classes. Drink, even in moderate quantities, neither gives human nature nor spiritual agencies fair play. "It pollutes and dims the fresh and pure perceptions of youth, poisons the atmosphere of social intercourse, lowers the tone of our moral nature and spiritual life, and tends to depress in all our daily relations of business and pleasure the exercise of high and generous virtues." Your Committee labour to remove this foul agency from the path of human life, that none may fall into its fearful pit, and that those wallowing in it may be saved and restored to the possibilities of a life devoted to their own salvation and the glory of God.

Your Committee heartily tender their heartfelt thanks to all those friends whose sympathy and active help have lightened their labours and contributed to the highly satisfactory progress of the movement during the past year.

They desire to place on record their profound sense of the loss which the Auxiliary has sustained through the removal by death of their late esteemed president—the Rev. Daniel Kerr, A.M. They, in common with all who knew him, feel that his death is a most serious blow to the Auxiliary, and that its effects can only be averted in some degree by the redoubled energy of those friends who are still spared.

They would earnestly recommend the Auxiliary and its labours to all friends of the cause in the county. Final success is simply a question of funds. Every additional subscription will assist in having more meetings, in distributing more literature, in reaching a helping hand to those who have fallen, in preventing those as yet scatheless from becoming the victims of intemperance, and in bringing about the happy time when law shall have utterly suppressed the whole traffic in those liquors which are the stain and bane of our land.

Your continued and, if possible, increased support to the funds of the Auxiliary is earnestly requested by—

GEORGE BRUCE, President.
WM. SMITH, Treasurer.
DAVID PATERSON, Secretary.
J. H. WATERSTON, District Superintendent.

Dunse, Jan., 1881.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected communications, nor hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

DO PUBLIC HOUSES CONDITION DRUNKENNESS?

To the Editor of the "Social Reformer."

It is to be regretted that Bailie Lewis is correctly reported in saying that if we put into operation honestly the clauses that are to be found within the existing license laws of Scotland, we could do a mighty deal to arrest the progress of drunkenness. In this sentence he apologises for the drink trade as it is, and accepts it, not in a prohibitive sense, if honestly administered, as the means of sobriety, ready made to our hands. Observe it is only the progress of drunken-

ness that the Bailie would arrest. That is all, and it is nothing more than has ever been contemplated by the statesmen who have maintained the drink trade for revenue out of regulated drunkenness. The Bailie's arrestment of progressive drunkenness just amounts to regulated drunkenness. He would administer drinking to make drunkenness stationary, while the history of drinking, legally administered, demonstrates developed drunkenness. It is for this that the Bailie would now divert the current of temperance effort from ensuring prohibition. The temperance controversy does not present, in one sentence so short and clear as this, a statement so utterly opposed not only to prohibition, but to all reform of the licensing laws.

Drunkenness, arrested or regulated, is drunkenness cultivated. For it is impossible to *maintain* the drink trade and restrain it from dispensing drink; and to *dispense* drink is to *cultivate* drunkenness. This is obvious, and temperance reformers will have to guard against the appetite so produced when the drink trade is prohibited. Even then the drink craving, intensified by the legal sale, may call into existence an illegal sale. Until the appetite for drink is starved out by prohibition, the temptation to supply it will be responded to at the risk of breaking the prohibitive law. But the Bailie does not contend for the starvation of the drink appetite; he stands up merely for the degree of restraint which *should* arrest the progress of drunkenness.

After this, astonishment fails to impress; as the Bailie solemnly declares that from 1848 to 1874 it has been a palpable truth that the number of drink shops condition the amount of drunkenness. This palpable truth, he says, must be believed on the authority of a General Assembly's report, so long out of date that it is thirty years of age, and has no more reference to the drink trade as it now remains than if it had been issued from the ark of Noah. And that Scottish ecclesiastical authority may be helped to stamp out well-sifted *knowledge*, he backs it up with an English ecclesiastical report, which says that when the *facilities* for obtaining drink are increased drunkenness increases also. But if the *facilities* here referred to are licensed drink-shops, drunkenness should have been diminished, for the number of drinking places is less, especially in the centres of population, than they were in 1848. At this period the annual drink bill was only £72,000,000; now it is £136,000,000. With public houses diminished in number, while the drink bill increases at this rate, it is a palpable *untruth* that drunkenness is conditioned by the *number* of public houses—an *untruth* not at all to be *made* a truth by any authority.

The above result demonstrates that the facilities for getting drunk are as prolific in a small number as in a large number of drinking places. And it does not become me to say that the appetite for drink is less or more, according to the number of drinking places, as well as from drinking. How does the Bailie conclude that I should go this length, and ignore increasing drunkenness as it rushes forth from the reduced number of drinking places in which it is thus fostered?

The Bailie is confused about the facilities and temptations to drunkenness. In fact facilities and temptations prevail more in 1800 houses now in Glasgow than they did in 8000 thirty years ago. From the loose way he mixes up drinking facilities with less or more public houses, he may leave the impression that a few attractive, well-supplied houses facilitate drinking *less* than a large number, limited in attraction, accommodation, and supply. This is not the case. Facilities for drinking, with temptations to drink, have increased in proportion as the small, old-fashioned public houses have been swept away to give place to a diminished number of well-appointed houses. The Bailie confounds the facilities to drink with the number of places in which drink is sold. A little close observation might enable him to see that the appetite for drink was created by the supply of drink, and that from its resistless nature it grows to command an increased supply, however the drink trade may be regulated. From the nature of the drink, it is impossible to make honesty to bear on the regulations of the drink

trade in arresting drunkenness: and drunkenness has increased in spite of every effort to regulate drinking. Let the Bailie look at this fact, and he must see that I am right when I say that drunkenness is conditioned by drinking and by the appetite for drink created by drinking. Drinking has its source in the drink trade; and while the trade is maintained, the craving for drink must operate to develop the trade. The trade has begotten the appetite, and however the trade is managed, the appetite develops the trade. The appetite for drink is therefore not to be arrested by an increased supply of drink at its own command in a diminished number of large houses, made alluring with increased attractiveness.

Large houses for small ones is the modern form of the drink system; and if the Bailie looks observantly at this form rather than at defunct General Assembly reports, he will no longer counsel its honest administration to arrest the progress of drunkenness. He will rather demand its abrogation, and, in doing so, disseminate sound temperance truth. This would become him rather than to apologise for the licensing system as it is, with the view of encouraging the people to enforce its salutary provisions. All this brings out a new feature in the Bailie's temperance career. It seems as if he were not even a licensing reformer; for he is at war with those who would reform the licensing laws, while they ally their alterations with a veto power in the people to prohibit them altogether. The Bailie is so far on the loose that it is hard to say where he may be next found.

He declares that I have caused him grave concern in saying that if there were no drunkenness except that represented by the arrests of the helplessly drunk, we would be a comparatively sober people. And the gravity of his concern is not enough. He even goes the length of tendering against it his solemn protest. But grave concern and solemn protest are only strong phrases full of weakness, that do not in the least affect the case. It must take more than grave concern and solemn protest to overturn the fact that the helplessly drunk are aught else than a small outcome of the existing license laws, with their *salutary* provisions, which the Bailie would honestly administer. While these laws hurl one hundred thousand prematurely every year to the grave, they waste our wealth, cultivate our bankruptcies, cripple our industry, fill our poor-houses, people our jails, and benumb the mind of the nation, so that earnest, enlightened, public opinion is in abeyance, and realised and prospective progress are in jeopardy.

All this being the outcome of legalised drinking, the Bailie might have refrained from being so gravely concerned, while he solemnly protested against the helplessly drunk, on their way to the police cells, as being an incalculable distance from illustrating the extent and consequences of our drunkenness.

JOHN PATON.

(To the Editor of the "Social Reformer.")

SIR,—I have again to acknowledge your courtesy in forwarding me proof of Mr. Paton's somewhat rambling communication, which for obvious reasons it will not be expected that I should deal with consecutively. This, however, is the less necessary as I have long since learned that words are only useful in so far as they express ideas. I shall therefore endeavour to extract such ideas as the letter contains, and submit the impression which I derived from its perusal.

1st. It is notable that, for reasons best known to himself, Mr. Paton finds it convenient altogether to overlook the important points established by my former communication, affecting the question of drunken arrests, the effect of forcing additional liquor shops into certain districts, and the advantages which would follow the shutting up of large numbers of public houses by the faithful administration of existing license laws by the magistrates and police. I am therefore entitled to assume that on each of these points your correspondent finds reply to be impossible.

2nd. Your correspondent coolly affirms that those who approve of the enforcement of the existing license

laws by compelling magistrates, procurator fiscals, and police officers to discharge their statutory duty, thereby "apologises for the drink trade," and is "opposed not only to prohibition but to all reform of the license laws." This astounding assertion, which brings every temperance reformer with whom I am acquainted under the sweep of Mr. Paton's condemnation, is such transparent nonsense as to render any reply superfluous. The propagation of such a stupid and uncharitable theory by any recognised advocate of the temperance movement is certainly to be deplored, and can only result in creating prejudice in the minds of the intelligent, and in bringing the prohibitory agitation into contempt.

3rd. Another noticeable feature in Mr. Paton's letter is the number of truisms which it contains. Seeing that these truisms will be admitted by every child in our Bands of Hope, I am at a loss to discover what object he could possibly have in importing them into this discussion, unless it be simply to occupy your space.

Let us look at a few of them:—"It is impossible to maintain the drink trade and restrain it from dispensing drink." "To dispense drink is to cultivate drunkenness." "The legal sale may call into existence an illegal sale." "The appetite for drink was created by the supply of drink." "Drunkenness has increased in spite of every effort to regulate drinking." "However the trade is managed, the appetite develops the trade." Wherein consists the relevancy of such self-evident truisms in replying to my former communication, I am utterly at a loss to comprehend. Surely it will not be supposed that either I or any of your readers require to be informed on points so elementary.

4th. Mr. Paton, in dealing with the "English ecclesiastical report" of the province of Canterbury, shows that in whatever quality he may be deficient as a controversialist, it is certainly not in lack of courage. He is not only sufficiently courageous to discard the testimony of upwards of 13,000 clergymen of the Church of England, but also the accumulated official testimony by which it is supported. Seeing that this cloud of witnesses, lay and clerical, has failed to convince Mr. Paton, I am not so self-confident as to believe that anything I can say will be more successful. Your correspondent most ungenerously, as I think, endeavours to throw discredit upon the testimony and report of these 13,000 clergymen. Indeed, he so far forgets himself as to say, "If the facilities referred to in the report are licensed drink shops, . . . it is a palpable untruth that drunkenness is conditioned by the number of public houses,—an untruth not at all made a truth by any authority." I feel pained to think that this unwarranted and grave accusation should have been preferred against such a noble band of Christian temperance reformers by any one associated with the prohibitory agitation. No one knows better than Mr. Paton that the clergymen responsible for publication of said report neither said nor meant to convey the impression that the facilities for drinking and drunkenness were conditioned merely and exclusively by the number of public houses, without regard to the accommodation or temptative power presented by them.

5th. Mr. Paton, says the Bailie, "from the loose way he mixes up drinking facilities with less or more public houses, he may leave the impression that a few attractive, well-supplied houses facilitate drinking less than a large number limited in attraction, accommodation, and supply." Certainly, and why not? In receiving such an "impression," your readers would possibly be right, in the absence of Mr. Paton, in defining what number he meant to be represented by a "few" and what he meant a "large" number to signify. Surely Mr. Paton does not mean to say that *two* (a few) attractive, well-supplied houses would not facilitate drinking less than five hundred (a large number) limited in attraction, accommodation, and supply. I hope your correspondent will now see the awkward position in which he places himself "from the loose way he mixes up drinking facilities with less or more public houses," while he forgets to explain what he means his undefined

numbers to represent. If there is one fallacy more than another which I have laboured assiduously to expose during the last quarter of a century, it is the notion that the mere reduction of the number of public houses is any guarantee for the diminution of drinking and drunkenness, if those that remain are allowed to increase their accommodation, display, and temptative powers.

I scarcely require to repeat in your columns, what I have so often repeated in your hearing and elsewhere, that *unless all things are equal*, any merely numerical comparison as to the results of public houses must, in the very nature of things, prove fallacious.

I am glad to observe that notwithstanding Mr. Paton's fierce hostility to the reduction of public houses and his opposition to the more honest and faithful administration of our license laws, he appears to recognise in some degree the principle here indicated.

6th. Mr. Paton, in his last, told us that "drunkenness is conditioned by drinking and by the appetite for drink created by drinking." In reply I recommended that he should go a step further and state "why the appetite for drinking?" and I am glad to observe that I have succeeded in inducing him to take that step by his now admitting that "drinking has its source in the drink trade." This is certainly one good result of the discussion.

Finally. Your correspondent is displeased at my protesting against his loose views in regard to public drunkenness, as exhibited in his having stated that "if there was no drunkenness except that represented by the arrests of the helplessly drunk, we would be a comparatively sober people." I have before me the criminal returns of the Glasgow police for 1880, kindly forwarded me by your excellent Superintendent. From that report I find that during last year there were no fewer than 40,772 police apprehensions for simple assaults, drunkenness, &c., in your city. This is nearly 10,000 more than in the former year. Notwithstanding the displeasure of Mr. Paton, I must, in view of these appalling police returns, again tender my solemn protest against the terms of complacency with which he, as an acknowledged temperance advocate, speaks of this startling state of affairs. Such teaching from one in his position cannot fail to exercise a most pernicious influence upon the public mind, and at the same time strengthen the hands and embolden the hearts of those licensed traffickers in our national degradation and dishonour. I feel assured that although there had not been another case of drunkenness in your important city than those referred to in Captain M'Call's most invaluable and saddening report, it would be difficult to find another man in Scotland associated with the temperance reformation—other than Mr. Paton—who would venture to characterise the population of Glasgow as "a comparatively sober people." I am delighted to observe that your honoured ex-Lord Provost Collins teaches a very different doctrine.—I am, truly yours,

DAVID LEWIS.

Roselea Villa, Grange, Edinburgh,
18th Feb., 1881.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

MEETINGS have been addressed by the representatives and friends of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association from 15th August to 31st December, 1880, inclusive. During that period 375 meetings were held, 82 being deputationary and 293 ordinary. At these meetings 496 addresses were given.

The following is a summary of each speaker's work:

Mr. J. H. Waterston has visited Newhaven, Pathhead, Dysart, Ayton, Eyemouth, Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Dunfermline, Ceres, Bo'ness, Kinross, Braehead, Forth, Ratho, Paisley, Leith, Chirnside, Roslin, Linlithgow, Broxburn, Dunipace, Dunbar, Dunse, Clarkston, Coatbridge, Freuchie, Glasgow, Stenhousemuir, Peebles, Burntisland, and Addiewell, and addressed 89 meetings.

Mr. William Blackwood has visited Portsoy, Cullen, Woodside, Laurencekirk, Inverurie, Peterhead, Huntly, Keith, Aberdeen, Lossiemouth, Forres, Nairn, Gran-

town, Kinross, Glasgow, Marykirk, St. Combs, Inveralochy, Fraserburgh, Buckie, Cove, Gourdon, Bervie, Ballater, Banchory, Montrose, Stonehaven, Ellon, Lumphanan, Fochabers, Banff, Tarland, and Kemnay, and addressed 84 meetings.

Mr. R. Stevenson has visited Partick, Glasgow, Campbeltown, Greenock, Helensburgh, Kilmalcolm, Knackerty, Govan, Lawhope, Coatbridge, Bothwell, Montrose, Barrhead, Rutherglen, Troon, Kirkintilloch, Dailly, Creetown, Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie, Dumfries, Annan, Lockerbie, Leadhills, Airdrie, Pollokshaws, Rutherglen, Whiteinch, and Prestwick, and addressed 73 meetings.

Mr. John Paton has visited Dundee, Montrose, Ferryden, Rothesay, Glasgow, Alloa, Gateside, Perth, Dunfermline, Dumbarton, Arbroath, Barrhead, Brechin, Blairgowrie, Auchterarder, Kilsyth, Coatbridge, Dollar, Falkirk, Hamilton, Ayr, Milngavie, Gourcock, Greenock, and Frioekheim, and addressed 46 meetings.

Mr. R. Dransfield has visited Glasgow, Partick, Bonhill, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, Milngavie, Paisley, Armadale, Uddingston, and Pollokshaws, and addressed 39 meetings.

Mr. R. Mackay has visited Partick, Glasgow, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dumfries, and addressed 22 meetings.

Mr. W. Kesson has visited Glasgow, Partick, and Govan, and addressed 12 meetings.

Mr. John Steel has addressed 10 meetings in Edinburgh, Dunse, Dunbar, Leith, and Peebles.

Ex-Bailie Torrens has addressed 8 meetings in Glasgow, Uddingston, and Greenock.

Bailie Selkirk has addressed 6 meetings in Glasgow, Mearns, and Greenock.

R. M'Callum has addressed 4 meetings in Glasgow.

Provost Campbell has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow and Greenock.

Captain Brochie has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow and Lawhope.

Ex-Bailie Lewis has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow, Portobello, and Loanhead.

Mr. James Winning has addressed 3 meetings in Glasgow and Pollokshaws.

Rev. Dr. Adamson has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Dr. Stuart has addressed 2 meetings in Chirnside and Dunse.

Dr. M'ulloch has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Dumfries.

Mr. James Paterson has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. J. D. Glass has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. J. W. Mackay has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow.

Mr. W. H. Gilbert has addressed 2 meetings in Glasgow and Govan.

Mr. J. P. Lossock has addressed 2 meetings in Peebles.

The following gentlemen have each taken part in the proceedings of meetings in the places which follow their names:—The Hon. Lord Provost Collins, Glasgow; Hon. A. Vidal, Edinburgh; W. Shepherd Allan, Esq., M.P., Glasgow; W. S. Caine, Esq., M.P., Glasgow; James Stewart, Esq., M.P., Greenock; Rev. Professor Hunter, Leith; Rev. Drs. Joseph Brown, Glasgow, and William Ritchie, Dunse; Revs. R. Paterson, Glasgow; R. Wallace, Glasgow; R. Crombie, Glasgow; J. Douglass, Glasgow; S. Sleith, Glasgow; Thos. Evans, Glasgow; J. A. Johnstone, Glasgow; S. Harding, Glasgow; F. L. Armitage, Edinburgh; J. Wisely, Montrose; A. White, Alloa; A. Luke, Broxburn; R. W. Primrose, Broxburn; W. Arnott, Glasgow; John Pollock, Glasgow; J. Robertson, Dunipace; J. Kirk, jun., Edinburgh; T. Rutherford, Chirnside; H. M. Jack, Dunse; W. Tooley, Dumfries; J. Rae, Greenock; and E. Thomson, Greenock; Ex-Provost Morton, Greenock; Treasurer Hamilton, J.P., Glasgow; Ex-Bailie Lewis, Edinburgh; Councillor Johnson, Dumfries; Messrs. W. Robertson, Glasgow; J. Drysdale, Glasgow; A. Bennett, Pathhead; M. Edwards, Aberdeen; E. Mackay, Glasgow; A. Shanks, Glasgow; W. Davidson, Glasgow; J. Williams, Glasgow; H. W. Reid, Glas-

gow; W. Gibson, Glasgow; J. Millar, Glasgow; J. H. Raper, Glasgow; W. M. Scott, Glasgow; W. Freer, Glasgow; J. Wilson, Glasgow; J. Adamson, Ferryden; A. Pert, Ferryden; J. Anderson, Ferryden; James Horne, Glasgow; R. Murray, Glasgow; J. Lynas, Glasgow; J. M. Cunningham, Glasgow; A. Malcolm, Glasgow; Gilbert Archer, Leith; R. Sutherland, Broxburn; S. E. Brambly, Edinburgh; Russell, Glasgow; J. Davie, Glasgow; Shearer, Glasgow; J. Bone, Leith; Reid, Dunipace; Kelman, Dunipace; Hunter, Dunipace; T. T. Pendreigh, Dunbar; John Newbigging, Dunse; Kinlayside, Dunse; W. M. Hutchison, Dunbar; John Tait, Dunbar; Wm. Wilkinson, Dunbar; W. J. Wood, Glasgow; Williamson, Glasgow; R. Storr, Peebles; J. B. Lyall, Peebles; T. Robertson, Peebles; and R. Russell, Peebles, &c.

THE WANDERER.

By the Author of "Paradise Restored," "Dick Saunde's Error," &c.

CHAPTER VI.

There was the usual party at breakfast next morning, and more, for just as the Vernons and Milbank had seated themselves, in walked Wentworth, to the astonishment of them all. Dora ran to him, shook hands warmly, and offered her cheek. Wentworth kissed her fondly, and then the breakfast was resumed. There was at first some constraint, but Dora, discreet, watchful Dora, drew her brother into conversation and into a promise to drive her out that afternoon to see an old friend of the family, whose residence was about half a score miles away, adding Papa would easily drive their guest over to the railway station. This amicable arrangement was barely concluded ere Jones turned up with a message from Mrs. Ingram to Mr. Milbank—"It was very urgent, and must have his immediate attention."

"Never mind us, Mr. Milbank, but attend to it. Mrs. Ingram is very peremptory where business is concerned."

Dora's eye followed Milbank to the window. She saw him open the note, turn pale, drop into a chair, and cover his face with his hands. All rose hastily from their seats, but with an effort Milbank told them not to be alarmed, the news received was really terrible, but it only concerned himself—it was the death by accident in the hunting field of an elder brother, and the news coming so unexpectedly upon him, was for a moment too much for his self control. He was sorry to say that he would have to ask their counsel, and perhaps their assistance; but he would be grateful for the one, and amply repay the other.

"You will kindly excuse me, Mr. Vernon, from family worship this morning, as I have to answer the messenger; and if you would drive me to Woodgreen instead of to the station I can dismiss the messenger at once."

"Certainly, my good sir, I will only be too glad to do that, and anything else in my power."

After the morning devotions were over, Mr. Milbank was returning to the drawing-room to his wondering friends, when he met Wentworth ascending the stairs. They met.

"May I see you for a minute in your room, Mr. Vernon?"

"Certainly; although I cannot see reason for my being honoured with an interview. I hardly deserve it. I fear, Mr. Milbank, I have not done the right thing by you; but I am here to ask your forgiveness, and to ask you to believe me when I say that I feel truly ashamed that I should have been so tardy in showing you how grateful I feel for your brave kindness to my sister."

"You have lifted a load of anxiety from my heart. You are aware of my intention to leave your father's hospitable mansion this day. The message just received increases my eagerness to be gone; but I resolved that, having received the friendship of your father, I should not go until after I had made an effort to ask that of his son. Yesterday, to make such a request might have been, even in my eyes, akin to pre-

sumption; to-day, it is a duty due by gentlemen to gentlemen. Shall we say farewell meantime as friends?"

"No, no. I shall see you away, and drive papa and you over to the village or the station whenever you are ready."

"Oh, many, many thanks."

Mr. Milbank, on entering the drawing-room, found his best friends there waiting him. The old man spoke first.

"My dear sir, we were all downcast at the thought of your leaving us to-day. We had up to the moment of your receipt of that mournful message hoped to have been able to induce you to stay, but we cannot press you in your sad circumstances—only, you will allow me to be your banker for any sum your present necessities require, and you must give us a promise that you will return as soon after the settlement of your brother's affairs as possible. We shall be so glad to see you when we find Mr. Wentworth so changed in his feelings towards you."

"I am made glad—extremely glad—by your invitation. I am not, I am glad to say, requiring any pecuniary assistance. If I had, I should not hesitate to accept your proffered kindness. If you will spare me the use of one of your horses to convey me home you will render me a great service."

"With all my heart, with all my heart. When do you require him?"

"Within an hour. But as you will know all about my brother's death within the next twenty-four hours, if you will do me the honour to listen I hope to not merely enjoy your sympathy and kindness, but your friendship."

"Go on, go on—pray believe me we are all attention."

It was true. Mrs. Vernon, however, seemed quite amazed at the turn things had taken that day. Mr. Wentworth staying at home after all and meeting their unknown guest at breakfast; Mrs. Ingram sending a special message to him; then, most mysterious of all, his refusing money, and yet asking a horse—wanting to be driven to the station, and then preferring to leave on horseback. She could not fathom the mystery, so she quietly submitted to its dominion over her. Dora was certainly perplexed. She could not sufficiently realise the sudden change in her brother, nor account for the undecided conduct of her father's guest. She was also somewhat chilled by his refusal of money from her father, when he was so evidently poor. Mr. Milbank, too, had not paid her the attention he had accustomed her to receive from him, and then there was quite an uncertainty about his return. She was painfully thinking over the fast crowding events flitting before her, and as she began to listen as directed it was with a strained attention.

"Well," began Mr. Milbank, "I am, or rather was yesterday, the younger of two sons. My father and mother, and an only sister, younger than myself, are still alive, and no doubt plunged into poignant sorrow by the sad event of yesterday. I grew up as most lads at home do until the time arrived when I was sent to school. I was a favourite pupil and successful student there, but do all I could I could not secure the affection of my brother. I was clever, and instead of recognising this and being my best friend, inciting me to become fitted for a successful professional career, he seemed glad of every opportunity of retarding my progress and drawing upon me the suspicion and the hostility of my play-fellows. Unfortunately for him his disposition to wound and thwart me could no longer be hidden nor tolerated, and at last his conduct provoked retaliation from my school-fellows, and he was driven from the school. When I went home for the holidays, I saw that he had entered with determination upon schemes whose object was to set my parents and my sister against me. My mother he could not sway. Had I been as discreet as I ought to have been I might have frankly exposed his tactics at school, and effectually withstood his attempts to injure me in the estimation of my parents; but I was so offended at my father even hinting his suspicions that I resolved to let him

harbour them against me. At length I went to college and entered with great zest into my studies, and passed with credit my early examinations; but my unnatural brother, bent on my ruin, sent home accounts of my conduct which added to the uneasiness of those at home, and brought down upon me the severe rebuke of my father. Still stubborn, I maintained a surly silence; and rushed into dissipation merely to give my brother all the more matter for his malicious reports. About this time a chum suffered heavy gambling losses through, as it afterwards turned out, my own brother. I was not aware of this at the time, and gave my chum all my spare cash, and pledged my credit to a large amount in his behalf. My brother somehow came to know this, and urged my debtors to foreclose my securities. This was done; and I, getting really frightened, wrote my father asking him for money to clear off this debt, and also some of my own. He wrote demanding explanations. I answered, but begged to be excused giving him the name of my chum. My father sent me a cheque, upbraiding me for my taking to low, vicious courses, and saying that he was prepared to hear the most dreadful accounts of my conduct. I went off at once, paid my own and my chum's debts in full, sent home the accounts with a letter couched in the most bitter terms protesting against his so misjudging me, and plainly hinting that my brother was poisoning his feelings against me. I told him that college being now up, I had sent him the reports of my tutors regarding my progress, and adding that from henceforth I was never again to trouble him or my mother and sister. I concluded with the hope that Time's effacing fingers would blot me from his memory.

"With a mere trifle I went to London, and for some time managed to make just a living at literature. I, however, wrought too hard, fell ill with a low fever, and but for a young fellow, a corrector of the press, I verily believe would have died. I recovered slowly; but while doing so my little savings melted away till I had nothing. My clothes were next disposed of; and in the ones you saw me in I was on my way to a friend for assistance, when the peril in which I found Miss Dora afforded me the happy opportunity of making your acquaintance and that of Mrs. and Miss Vernon."

"It was my full intention, with that assistance on which I counted with perfect certainty, to have gone to Australia and somehow or other carved out an honourable existence for myself. I relied on repaying the assistance thus received from the sum I advanced to my chum, who hoped in two years more to fully discharge the debt he owed me, and who never dreamed that my desire to oblige him had cost me so dear, else I am sure he would have flown to my sick-bed. I knew, however, that he would betray my whereabouts to my friends, and I was in no mood to stoop to that. I am happily saved the necessity of being pressed to this extremity by the death of my brother, whose removal so suddenly none do more mourn than I do, will, I hope, pave the way of reconciliation with my father."

The first to break the silence which followed the narrative was Miss Dora, who rose, and, advancing to Mr. Milbank, said,

"Papa, allow me to introduce to you the son of a dear old friend, Mr. Henry Estcourt of the Lea."

"Can it be possible?" said her father; "can it be? My dear sir, allow me to congratulate you on your good fortune, and on the prospect you have of soon being reconciled to my good friend, your father. But my dear, why did you keep the knowledge of the identity of Mr. Milbank with Mr. Estcourt back from me?"

"My dear papa, I only knew that identity as Mr. Estcourt's story unfolded itself. You know the great interest we all took in the mystery surrounding his disappearance from Oxford. Yet it may be a mystery still, for Mr. Estcourt does not resume his name nor renounce the *alias*."

"Miss Vernon, I pray, pardon me. I was so surprised that you should have so easily penetrated the mystery, that I failed to acknowledge the kind intro-

duction of me under my real name to your papa. I am Henry Estcourt."

"Well, my dear sir, you are, I hope, at the end of all your troubles, and it will give me pleasure to place any of my stud or my carriage at your disposal to enable you to return to the Lea, and great pleasure to see you at any time under my roof. You have placed me under obligations to you which I will, although hopeless of fully discharging them, always be ready to acknowledge and strive in some measure to fulfil."

Later in the afternoon, Henry Estcourt, Mr. and Wentworth Vernon left for the Lea, Mrs. Vernon and her daughter bidding them farewell. Dora did not feel quite sure on which side the obligation of her preservation lay, for while she was earnest in her grateful expressions, Estcourt was fervent in his assurances that he would never forget how much he owed to her, and all the afternoon that problem held steady possession of her mind, but the solution never came.

How Jones did out-herod himself that night in the servants' hall by a rehearsal of the great fight at Wantage Inn between his late master and the "illustrious stranger that had just gone." Falstaff's description of his fight an hour by Shrewsbury clock was nothing to it. One would have thought that they fought in coats of mail, and that the floor was slippery with gore. The delighted audience saw no improbabilities in Jones' glowing story, but incited him to draw the more deeply on his imagination by their "Oh dear!" "Oh my!" "Did you ever?" and "Goodness me!" and many more equally approving and expressive interjections.

"I tell you," says Jones, "that that e're plucky un 'ill be here again in no time. To-night it is the prodigal returned, as our good parson would say, only with a difference. The bad un, the real prodigal, got flung and broke his neck; the real downright good un 'ill get all that the old man has, and he'll be seized with a uncommon desire to get somebody to spend it with him; and I know who, too."

"Oh Jones, do tell."

"Oh my, how blind you are; why, who would it be but Miss Dora? He saved her, and so out of gratitude she will marry him, and they will live happy ever arter." And here Jones set off on a glowing account of his interview with his young lady, enriching his narrative with some confidential touches that moved some of his hearers with envy. Miss Vernon's own maid, not being at all observant, had nothing to add or subtract from the young gentleman's veracious narrative, which was all the more readily believed on that account.

Mr. Estcourt's sorrow at the sudden death of his son and heir was tempered by the joy which he felt at seeing the son he had almost given over for lost restored. He had long ago learned the truth, and was all the more sorrowful that he should have been so severe. He welcomed the Vernons. He found great comfort in the society of Mr. Vernon, whose condolences moderated his great grief at his loss. Amid all the pomp with which wealth can garnish death, the remains of Estcourt were placed in their last low resting-place, but, saving his father and brother, none present shed a tear; and many, as they turned homewards, expressed their satisfaction at an event which had opened the way for the honours of the Lea to fall upon so fine a young man as Henry Estcourt had proved himself to be, notwithstanding his taking to a wandering sort of life. "He will all the better sympathise with the poor and the unfortunate," said they.

On Christmas eve there was a gay and numerous party at Elmfield Hall, and enjoyment was manifest on every face. Stories were told, charades were acted, dancing was continued far into the night. Many a heart was exchanged for another that night. Estcourt was among the number of those who made the happy exchange. He had often seen Dora since he had taken up his residence once more at the Leas, and often Miss Dora had gone over with her father to see Mr. and Mrs. Estcourt. The more the two saw of each, the more their hearts went out to each other. Henry was now his father's right hand, had brought his culture and his

dear-bought experience of the world into his conduct of business, and had gained the good opinion of landlord and tenant. Many a door was opened at his approach, and many a lady was proud of a smile from the young master; but Dora Vernon was the object of his longing affection. She had defended him when all were against him. She was more than grateful for his services, and she, he knew, was willing to befriend him then, come what may. Was it any wonder that on that Christmas evening he should whisper in her willing ear his desire to live in future for her alone, and any wonder that she should yield to his ardent wishes, and blushing refer him to her papa? Before the festivities ended, Dora and Henry were plighted lovers, and a lovelier pair was not to be seen in all the countryside, or one on whose future showers of kind good wishes more abundantly fell.

Another Christmas had not quite travelled its round when they were wed, mated,—not merely married. Henry found in her dear society the incitements to resolute exertion and beneficence; and she, by her wise counsel, by her constant affection, nerved him to efforts for the welfare of his tenantry and the benefit of his country that brought honours from a grateful Sovereign and the rich blessing of a nation's gratitude.

R. G.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION—II.

Jan. 19.—Dr. Cameron's Municipal Franchise Bill (Scotland) was read a second time.

Jan. 20.—Mr. Hugh Mason gave notice of motion to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women having equal qualifications to men and who vote in municipal affairs.

Jan. 23.—Mr. Baxter gave notice that this day week he would ask the first Lord of the Treasury if it is his intention to make such arrangements as will ensure during some portion of this session, legislation for England and Scotland as well as Ireland. (Hear, hear.)

Jan. 27.—Mr. J. W. Pease gave notice that on this day four weeks he would move his resolution on the Opium Traffic.

Jan. 30.—Mr. Gladstone replied to Mr. Baxter that legislation for England and Scotland "has not escaped our notice—that it is kept carefully in view, and that we shall be prepared to take whatever steps may on the whole seem advisable" (Hear, hear.)

Feb. 4.—Mr. M'Iver gave notice that he should ask the Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give any information with regard to the present position of the commercial treaty negotiations between France, Spain, and Portugal, and particularly in regard to the wine duties.

Feb. 7.—Sir B. Leighton asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in making the financial arrangements for the coming year as to the beer duty, he would consider the propriety of extending the limit of the £10 house value to £20, seeing it had been found that under the present arrangement the farmer class (who are compelled more than other employers to pay wages in beer), are now charged more than formerly, and as there is a difficulty in assessing a house at a £10 value which would not occur if the assessment followed the house duty. Mr. Gladstone said he could not reply as the matter was a subject for discussion; meantime he was indisposed to reply in the affirmative.

Feb. 9.—The Municipal Franchise (Scotland) Bill. This Bill passed through committee and was reported *pro forma* without amendment.

Feb. 14.—Mr. Caine gave notice on going into committee of supply on the naval estimate that he would move a resolution to the effect that in the opinion of this House it would promote good conduct and sobriety amongst the men and boys of the Royal Navy if the spirit ration were henceforth discontinued and some equivalent given of the value of the same in the form of improved food and increased wages.

Feb. 15.—Capt. Price gave notice that when the member for Scarborough brought forward his motion for stopping the sailors' grog he would propose an amendment. (Laughter.)

POETRY.

MY RIGHTS.

Yes, God has made me a woman,
And I am content to be
Just what He meant—not reaching out
For other things, since He
Who knows me best, and loves me most, has ordered
this for me.

A woman, to live my life out
In quiet, womanly ways,
Hearing the far-off battle,
Seeing, as through a haze,
The crowding, struggling world of men, fight through
their busy days.

I am not strong nor valiant,
I would not join the fight,
Or jostle with crowds in the highways,
To sully my garments white;
But I have rights as a woman, and here I claim my
right.

The right of a rose to bloom
In its own sweet, separate way,
With none to question the perfumed pink,
With none to utter a nay,
If it reaches a root, or points a thorn, as even a rose-
tree may.

The right of a lady-birch to grow,
To grow as the Lord shall please,
By never a sturdy oak rebuked,
Denied not sun nor breeze,
For all is pliant slenderness, kin to the stronger trees.

The right to a life of my own—
Not merely a casual bit
Of somebody else's life, flung out
That, taking hold of it,
I may stand as a cipher does after a numeral writ.

The right to gather and glean
What food I need and can,
From the garnered stores of knowledge
Which man has heaped for man,
Taking with free hands freely, and after an ordered
plan.

The right—ah, best and sweetest!—
To stand all undismayed,
Whenever sorrow, or want, or sin,
Calls for a woman's aid,
With none to cavil or question, by never a look gainsaid.

I do not ask for a ballot;
Though very life were at stake,
I would beg for the nobler justice
That men, for manhood's sake,
Should give ungrudgingly, nor withhold till I must
fight and take.

The fleet foot and the feeble foot
Both seek the selfsame goal:
The weakest soldier's name is writ
On the great army roll;
And God who made man's body strong, made, too, the
woman's soul.

SUSAN COOLIDGE, in *Our Union*.

"Whenever I see a man begin a journey by drinking beer, or brandy and water, or whisky, I know that he is not fit to be the travelling companion of any true lover of nature—he will be more or less thrown off his balance, his nerves will be over-excited, he will come in at the end of the day with a headache, and during the journey he will be heavy, lumpy, and stupid. A glass of milk or a cup of tea is all the drink anybody needs when out for a jaunt, and many a time here I walked all day long without getting so much as either, contenting myself with a draught of water at a spring, or even going on without a drink of any kind."—*The London Correspondent of the New York World*.

THE FUNDS.

** *Members, friends, and Societies subscribing to the Funds of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association are respectfully informed that Subscriptions to the Association, if not already paid, are now due, and will be gladly received by the Agents and at the Offices, 30 Hope Street, Glasgow. The demands upon the Association are increasing, and it would materially assist the Executive in promptly meeting these, were subscriptions paid in the former rather than the latter part of the financial year, which will close on 20th September, 1881.*

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

GLASGOW, MARCH, 1881.

** Notwithstanding that we give a supplement to the present issue, we are unable to get ahead of our arrears. We have done our best. We have reluctantly abridged our own summaries. If our friends will write briefly and pertinently in the forthcoming volume there will be more space and less arrears. In our next, articles by Rev. W. Tooley, Bailie Selkirk, "Robin Goodfellow," and others, will appear.

Justice Dunken, of the Superior Court of Quebec, who died last month at a ripe age, deserves a passing notice. He was a Conservative. He brought in a Permissive Prohibitory Bill, which went by his name. It was, although not a perfect, still a most effective measure, and produced satisfactory results, especially in country districts. Notwithstanding innumerable allegations of its failure, it has had a powerful educational influence on the Canadian community, who, notwithstanding its admitted inadequacy to cope with all the difficulties of the liquor traffic, never dreaming of returning to the old licensing system previous to 1864, profited by their observation of its working, and enacted the vastly superior Scott Temperance Act of 1878. This is the one great lesson to be learned from legislation on the drink traffic. That under all circumstances the tendency is to greater stringency in the law. If one Act is not so conceived as to suppress the evil the nation is not to draw the conclusion that there shall be no law, or even no legislative progress; but rather, having a profound conviction of the power of law over disorder, its duty is to seek out new methods of invoking that power to render the practice of temperance possible to all under its rule. Justice Dunken, therefore, deserves an honourable place among those who, as pioneers, have initiated great reforms if they have not had the good fortune to inaugurate permanent legislation.

Our admiration of the brave, busy female temperance reformers in the American States deepens every time we hear of them or their doings. Who can read without a fulness of heart of the special notice issued by the superintendent—Mrs. S.

M. J. Henry—National Evangelical Department, Women's National Christian Temperance Union. That notice is issued to every branch of the Union, calling on them to see that prayers be requested in all churches for the Union—for God and home and native land. Prayers for our workers in the field at large and in our own town; prayers for all pledged men and their families; prayers for all drinking men and their families; prayers for young men and women; prayers for all who are in the traffic in strong drink that they may see their sin; and prayers for all men who vote for this traffic that they may see the sin of complicity with this evil. Such a notice marks the fundamental distinction between temperance reformers and their opponents. The voice of prayer may rise from publican's hearths and bars, but of what avail without the clean hands and the forsaking of evil? Of no more avail than are the efforts of a prayerless, self-sufficient temperance reformer. Let all our readers, as they offer their daily orisons, bear the temperance and prohibitory movement in their hearts before the Lord, and that movement shall be not only rapid but invincible in its progress, and should ultimately conquer through the power of the answer to their prayers, which God shall vouchsafe to them for his beloved Son's sake. Women here cannot yet vote, but they can pray; and their prayers, mingling with those sent up to heaven by their sisters across the sea, shall fall in abundant blessing on the noble efforts being put forth by men and women to lift up the prostrate inebriate and compass the entire destruction of that system of temptation before which he has fallen.

It has never fallen to the lot of the *Social Reformer* to chronicle so many deputation meetings as are in the present issue. Our readers will find no less than eleven meetings reported as fully as our space would allow of. The first series of four were addressed by Mr. J. W. Manning, and included Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Kirkcaldy, and Galashiels. These meetings were on the whole, and despite the inclemency of the weather, successful—some of them signally so, the Galashiels meeting being the most successful held there for years. We believe that the admirable way in which Mr. Manning stated the question as a theory and as a fact must have largely conduced to deepen the sympathy and evoke the energy of his hearers. The thanks of the members of the Association are due to Mr. Jas Winning, Rev. S. Harding, and Rev. Dr. Adamson for accompanying Mr. Manning and affording him such able support. The Alliance deputation followed Mr. Manning, and consisted of Rev. H. H. Pereira, rector of St. Laurence, Southampton. He laboured under a double disadvantage: he was unknown and he was alone. His tour included Dumfries, Irvine, Montrose, Aberdeen, and Greenock. All the meetings he addressed were largely attended, notwithstanding the severity of the weather. We must except Aberdeen, where the storm raged furiously,

and so affected Mr. Pereira that he was unable to go to Linlithgow and Cupar, which were down in his programme. His place was taken at the first named town by Bailie Selkirk, and at Cupar by Mr. D. Fyfe, Dundee. The Association is deeply indebted to Rev. S. Harding, Mr. Winning, Mr. Smith, Balgeordie; Rev. W. J. Boon, and Rev. J. H. Paterson, who represented the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the deputation. We refer our readers to our intelligence columns for full particulars, and in doing so only wish we were able to present them with equally substantial results of the agitation every time we went to press. Such a movement as ours should have means at its disposal to enable it to do that and more.

With the present number the fifteenth volume of *The Social Reformer* ends. Its conductors have the proud satisfaction of knowing that those principles and that policy which fifteen years ago it was established to expound and defend have during the currency of the present volume been triumphantly vindicated in the country, at the polling booth and in Parliament; and that at the present moment the Premier stands pledged to embody that policy in the forthcoming Government legislation on the liquor traffic. Scotland stands peculiarly prominent in the agitation: by a vote of two to one her Parliamentary representation, on the 18th June last, affirmed the right of the people to declare whether they are or are not to continue to be affected injuriously by the liquor traffic beside and among them. Not more than one twelfth of her Parliamentary representatives could be got to poll in favour of the publican traffic. Encouraged by this signal and substantial outcome of the agitation to whose interests the *Social Reformer* has been from the first unswervingly devoted, its conductors will avail themselves of every means within their reach to make it in the future, as in the past, the unflinching advocate of the right of the people to veto the liquor traffic whenever their interests and those of their families render such a veto necessary. At such a moment a word might be said about its circulation. It is finding, though slowly, an increasing circle of readers; is receiving numerous kindly notices from the Press; and many friends now contribute to its pages. We heartily acknowledge our deep indebtedness to all who have spoken a good word in its favour, who have enriched its pages, and have in any way made it worthier of the Association and the movement it represents. May we hope that a number of friends will be found contributing to its pages during the currency of the coming volume, and assisting in securing a larger circulation. By recommending it to the notice of friends, sending a copy when read to a friend, or asking booksellers to keep a supply, paying them for what remains unsold, and posting these to friends, are ways in which substantial helps might be afforded at little cost and trouble. The conductors will feel deeply grateful for any little help in this direction that may be tendered, and be

stimulated to be worthy of such generous exertions. They hope to introduce new features in the coming volume, specially aiming at greater excellence. While they bid friends farewell in the present issue, they hope to cordially bid them welcome when they introduce the first number of the new volume to their notice. With that number the index and title page to the present volume will appear.

Recently there was a conference on Local Option in the Fair City of Perth, followed by a public meeting, at which a petition in favour of Licensing Boards was adopted. The petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Parker, the Parliamentary representative, who, as is usually the case, writes, informing the sender—in this case Mr. Robt. Puller—that he had presented it. Mr. Parker does more; he expresses his opinion on the prayer of the petition, and we are, although sorry, not surprised that it is favourable. Mr. Parker rejoices that at a public meeting of his constituents a petition in favour of licensing boards has been resolved upon. He therefore does not want the liquor traffic removed. Indeed we know that he does not, and that in committee he will decidedly vote against power being conferred on his own or any other constituency to suppress the public-house operations of their neighbourhood. We are sorry for the electors of Perth. Their representative would, in the first place, deny them the judgment and ability which Lawson believes that they possess. He would allow them power to institute a licensing board for the perpetuation of a licensing authority in a new name, and so render their children and their children's children liable to all the miseries, wrongs, and burdens that result to themselves from the present magisterial control of the drink system. There is in his case the joy of an ignorant and inexperienced man; for if he knew of the havoc which drink inflicts upon the working classes, and the specious plea put forth for planting drinking premises thickly in their neighbourhood—that of public convenience—he would demand power—imperial powers—to sweep every public house from the land without exception and without delay. It is this inability to discern the true scope and statesmanship of the Permissive Bill and not the want of goodness that makes the member for the city of Perth its avowed enemy; but evil is wrought by want of thought as well as want of heart. We should have been glad to have found Mr. Parker like his predecessor—the Hon. Arthur, now Lord Kinnaid—spending some portion of “the recess” in investigating the various practical proposals to grapple with drunkenness as far as possible in action. Mr. Kinnaid went over to Sweden to see for himself the nature of the Gothenburg scheme, and he returned to publicly declare his deeper sympathy for the Permissive Bill. Mr. Parker seems glad that a number of his constituents have given him a reason, of which he eagerly avails himself, to express a fervid admiration of the licensing board remedy for the liquor traffic, ignorant that in the

present magisterial administration of the licensing laws we may see painful failure daily writ large. But should his constituents rest content with the views of their representative on so vitally important a matter to them, however much we may deplore their apathy, we shall not be cast down. The day is now past when a constituency can of itself retard the passage of our proposal; and the stage of the agitation has arrived when it will be no credit to any burgh constituency in Scotland to resist the march of the Permissive Bill through Parliament. By sustaining their representative in offering fruitless opposition, they are libelling themselves, or what is worse, confessing, we believe unconsciously, that they are unworthy to possess the legal power to forever close the chief fountain of their own vices—the liquor traffic. Had Mr. Parker come nobly forward in support of the means to emancipate Perth from the operations of its drink traffic, all good men would have been proud of him; but as he merely seeks a change of jurisdiction over the traffic in strong drink—a change that will not seriously abate the evils of the licensing system—he will fail to earn a reputation as a statesman and will decidedly imperil his claim to be one of the Liberal party. What attitude he will take in the future to the Permissive Bill will entirely depend upon the attitude his constituents will assume towards him. If they endorse his present position, they slander themselves, but if they resolutely give him to know that he must give them a true option, they will, even if unsuccessful, have vindicated themselves and imposed upon him a responsibility which we dare hardly believe he will venture to accept—that of misrepresenting his own constituency by refusing to support the Permissive Bill, one of the worthiest and most urgent reforms of the day. As for his allegations against reformers like ourselves, who insist upon a direct appeal to the ratepayers upon the existence or extinction of the liquor traffic, we have no apology to offer. Permissive Bill reformers don't want licensing boards because they don't believe in them and because they don't want the traffic on any terms. They want that in all future legislation on the traffic a clause be embodied, vesting power in the people to remove the public-house system by which they are affected. That done, these reformers will be content. If the people won't use this power, why then it will rest unused, and no harm will accrue to any one; but if the people cry out by reason of the evil inflictions of the traffic, who is he that will dare say they should not have powers of self-relief? We readily admit that the Permissive Bill never commanded a majority in the British Parliament. England has never yet given a vote in favour of either Local Option or the Permissive Bill, but Scotland has often. Seven times have a majority of her Parliamentary representatives voted for the principle of both, so that if a majority is simply wanted to make the Permissive Bill right, Scotland shows it; and seeing that it is so, why

should Mr. Parker punish Scotland by mooring her to beer-besotted England, and inflict upon her electors, who have so often declared for liberty to live uncursed and uninjured by the liquor traffic, the merely restrictive legislation that England, judging her by the voice of her representatives in Parliament, desires to retain? No reasonable answer can be given. We hope none will petition, in Scotland at least, for licensing boards and thus help to strengthen the member for Perth in his misguided course.

INTELLIGENCE.

MR. J. W. MANNING IN SCOTLAND.

KILMARNOCK.

On Monday, 31st January, a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association—Mr. J. W. Manning, Mr. J. Winning, and Mr. R. Mackay, secretary—visited us. At six a tea and conference took place in the Temperance Hotel at which much interesting interchange of sentiment took place. Messrs. Winning, Hart, and Mackay representing the association, while Messrs. Jack, N. B. Cameron, Little, and others of the local friends took part.

PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL OPTION.

A public meeting in connection with the agitation for the promotion of temperance legislation was held in King Street U.P. Church on Monday evening. There was a fair attendance—the Rev. Mr. M'Queen presiding. In introducing the proceedings,

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the time had not long gone by when those who sought to advance the Permissive Bill were looked upon as cherishing an Utopian idea. But things had changed in Scotland. By an overwhelming majority of its representatives in Parliament it had declared in favour of the principles of this bill. Parliament itself had also, by a considerable majority, declared in its favour, and but for that Irish obstruction which was interfering with the whole work of Parliament at present we might have the immediate prospect of seeing the principle of the Permissive Bill more or less embodied in the law of the land. That was not yet, but they had every reason to hope that it would be soon, and it became them to labour to bring it about, so that our country might be delivered from that which had been so long an obstruction in the way of all good and real progress, and a great curse, in every sense, to our fellow-men. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. D. KING moved as follows:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the traffic in alcoholic liquors is the principal cause of the abounding intemperance of the country with its appalling results, and earnestly calls upon the friends of social improvement, moral reform, and religious progress to unite in a national effort to induce her Majesty's Government to grant the ratepayers of Scotland a direct and effective veto on the operations of a traffic so essentially at variance with the best interests of the nation." He said all real friends of reform ought to be banded together so that those in high places might be induced to pass a law whereby the ratepayers would be enabled to abolish the prevailing drunkenness of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. A. D. STEWART seconded the resolution.

Mr. WINNING, Paisley, in supporting the resolution, said the Scottish Permissive Bill Association had arrived at the conclusion that the liquor traffic could only be dealt with by being suppressed. He quoted the testimony of various men of eminence in regard to the evil results of the liquor traffic, and adduced statistics to show the burden it imposed on the ratepayers of the country. The Board of Supervision returns for the last year showed that there were 9805 pauper lunatics—an increase of 2197 in ten years—and he had it on good authority that in 90 out of every 100 of these cases the lunacy had been caused by drink, while

every lunatic cost the country £26 a year. It was also shown that 120,000 people died every year, either directly or indirectly, from the excessive use of strong drink: and with regard to crime, the governor of Paisley prison had assured him that of 60,000 persons he had passed through his hands 50,000 or 55,000 owed their incarceration directly to drink. The pauperism of the country, which cost about a million annually, was almost entirely the result of intemperance. Referring to the progress which had been made by the present agitation, the speaker remarked that the traffic had been suppressed already in one-seventh of the entire parishes of Scotland, and no fewer than 43 of the Scottish members of Parliament had voted in favour of the local option resolution, while only 5 voted against it, including the member for North Ayrshire, and 12 were absent. There was not a single Scottish burgh member who voted against the resolution. The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. JAMES FULTON moved the second resolution as follows:—"That this meeting rejoices that the House of Commons has, by its acceptance of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Local Option Resolution, resolved to deal effectively with the evils of the licensing system, by an efficient measure of Local Option, urges her Majesty's Government to give immediate effect to that resolution, and thereby enable the ratepayers of burghs, parishes, and other districts to prevent public-houses being placed or continued in their midst against their will." He was glad to tell the deputation that the burgh member was in favour of local option not because they wished him to be so but because he was thoroughly convinced that it was right and proper in order to deal effectually with this accursed system. (Applause.)

Bailie LITTLE in seconding the resolution said that during the few days he attended Parliament with the deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill Association in June last, he was told by members of the House that such a vigorously conducted agitation in the lobby had never been witnessed, and its success was most gratifying. (Applause.)

Mr. MANNING after tracing the rise and progress of the temperance reformation and its apparent failure to diminish intemperance, said temperance reformers were bid to look about for the cause of this, which was found to be that in every quarter, almost in every street, house after house was licensed by law to place temptation in the way of weak and erring men; and the conclusion was inevitable that nothing of a permanent nature could be accomplished to remedy the evil until the people had the power of closing these places of temptation. Hence they formed the United Kingdom Alliance and the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. These societies did not declare war with the moral suasion movement, but they set themselves to create a public opinion which would obtain the power of taking away the present hindrances to the progress of temperance. In taking up a position of that kind they were bound to show that it was just in theory and principle, and that it could be successful in application. As to the question of theory, Mr. Manning said that he could rest it on this point, that the traffic in intoxicating liquors increased the pecuniary burdens of the people; and on the good old principle that taxation without representation was tyranny and ought to be resisted, it was just in theory that the people should have the power of determining whether this traffic should be allowed to continue. The theory of the matter simply came to this, that it was the people governing themselves. If there was one claim more than another which was set up by those engaged in the traffic it was this, that they existed for the public convenience. Let licensing boards determine as to the qualifications of publicans and the suitability of public-houses, when it was decided that these should be established; but when the question was whether the public convenience required these houses or not, then let that be decided by the ratepayers—let the applicants be heard on one side and the objectors on the other, and let the public, as an intelligent jury be called upon to decide. But they were told that Local Option, or the Permissive

Bill, while it was all very well in theory, could not be made successful in practice. He would show, however, that it was at present being successfully carried out both in Canada and the United States. The Dominion of Canada is divided into seven provinces, each of which has a legislature for the management of its own particular affairs. In Nova Scotia the people have the power of vetoing the traffic in this way, that unless an applicant obtains the signatures of two-thirds of the ratepayers in support of his application he cannot obtain a license, so that the people are enabled to reduce the number of houses or abolish them altogether, as they might think fit. But supposing a man gets the necessary number of signatures he has to send his application to the Municipal Council, by whom it is remitted to a licensing committee, and a two-thirds majority of that committee is necessary, besides a majority of the Council itself, in order to obtain license. The result of this law is that out of eighteen counties into which the province is divided there are sixteen in which no license is held for the sale of intoxicating liquors. But there is also another local option provided for by legislation of the Dominion as a whole. It only came into operation in March 1879, but already in New Brunswick, where it was applied first, there has been a vote taken in sixteen counties and cities, and in fifteen of these cases the prohibitionists have been victorious. They have also been victorious in four contests embracing the whole province of Prince Edward's Island. Referring to the beneficial results of this prohibition, the speaker remarked that if the liquor traffic is the cause of abounding evils, we have only to put our veto on it to remove that which is injurious to the best interests of the nation. He contended that similar results would follow prohibition in this country, and concluded by impressing upon his hearers the importance of bringing pressure to bear upon Parliament with a view to the speedy and satisfactory solution of this great question. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted, as was also the following motion, which was moved by Councillor Cairnie, seconded by Mr. J. Auld, and supported by Mr. Robt. Mackay:—"That this meeting cordially tenders its thanks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson and to the 245 members of Parliament who voted and carried his Local Option Resolution last session, and that copies of the resolutions adopted at this meeting be signed by the chairman, and sent to the members of Parliament for the burgh and county, the Prime Minister, the Lord Advocate, and the Home Secretary." The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the deputation and the chairman on the motion of Mr. A. P. Brown.—*Kilmarnock Standard abridged.*

DUMBARTON.

On February 1st a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association—Mr. J. Manning, Rev. Samuel Harding, and Mr. R. Mackay—visited this burgh, and was received in the Lennox Temperance Hotel by a numerous party of the leading temperance reformers in the town and neighbourhood. After tea, the meeting resolved itself into a conference, and Bailie Kennedy was called to the chair. Rev. S. Harding opened the proceedings of the conference with an eminently practical address. Several local friends delivered stirring remarks, after which those present adjourned to the Burgh Hall, where a meeting, under the auspices of the Dumbarton Total Abstinence Society, was held to receive the deputation. There was a good attendance of the inhabitants, amongst whom were a goodly number of ladies. Bailie Kennedy presided, and beside him on the platform were:—Revs. Jas. MacBain, J. W. Jones, J. Downie, and J. H. Paterson, Dumbarton; J. Colvin, Renton; and Thomas Collins, Bonhill; ex-Provost Rogerson, ex-Bailie Buchanan, Treasurer Brown, and ex-Dean of Guild Roy, ex-Treasurer Douglas, Mr. John Robertson, J.P., and Messrs. Thomas Campbell, John M'Nidder, A. Brown, R. Stewart, H. Stoddart, and a number of other leaders in the temperance cause here.

The Chairman, in introducing the deputation, expressed the pleasure and pride he had in performing that task.

Ex-Provost Rogerson moved the first resolution, which was similar in terms to those adopted at Kilmarnock. He contended that the resolution contained a simple statement of facts, and as to the means to abate the social evil of drunkenness he agreed with the resolution.

Rev Mr. Colvin seconded the resolution in a few racy sentences.

Rev. Mr. Harding, Paisley, supported it. If the resolution was correct, then he held that a terrible indictment had been made out against the liquor traffic. The resolution had been carefully worded. There had been no hard words introduced; but if they would allow him, he would let them into a secret—at least, he would give them really and truly what the resolution meant. The resolution meant that the liquor traffic as carried on in licensed houses of whatever sort was sinful and demoralising—was a curse to the community, giving rise to pauperism, insanity, immorality, disease, premature death, domestic misery, bad trade, waste and loss of property, bringing in unnecessarily heavy taxation, besides forming one of the greatest hindrances to the moral and religious improvement of society, and to the spread of the everlasting gospel of our blessed God. The resolution meant that, and nothing more and nothing less. These were the necessary and the inevitable and unavoidable results of the liquor traffic. (Applause.) He urged on them to organise, to agitate, and to consecrate themselves to the work, and the victory was certain. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried.

Ex-Treasurer Douglas moved a resolution urging Government to pass a Local Option law. He held that the people generally should have the same right to do for themselves what the rich had the power to do for themselves. No rich man would allow a public-house at his door, and the public generally should have the same power to say they would not allow a public-house put down at their close mouth. (Applause.)

Treasurer Brown seconded the resolution.

Mr. Manning supported it.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. John M'Nidder proposed—"That this meeting cordially tenders its thanks to Sir Wilfrid Lawson and to the 245 members of Parliament who voted and carried his Local Option Resolution last session, and that copies of the resolutions adopted at this meeting be signed by the Chairman, and sent to the members of Parliament for the burgh and county, the Prime Minister, the Lord Advocate, and the Home Secretary."

Rev. Mr. Paterson seconded the motion.

Mr. R. Mackay supported the motion, which like the others was carried amid applause.

Votes of thanks brought a pleasant meeting to a close.—*Lennox Herald abridged.*

KIRKCALDY—TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

A public meeting, under the auspices of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, was held on Thursday 3rd ult., in the Congregational Church, Kirkcaldy. There was a good attendance. Provost Swan occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Rev. Dr. Adamson, Edinburgh; Rev. Mr. M'Millan, Abbotshall Free Church; Rev. E. J. Boon, E.U. Church, Pathhead; J. W. Manning, Esq., Ontario; J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; Bailie Speedie, and Messrs. J. Hogarth, A. Beattie, J. Wishart, G. Gillespie, W. J. Galloway, and A. Bennett.

The first resolution was moved by Dr. Adamson. It called on social and moral reformers to combine against the liquor traffic. In speaking to the resolution the Dr. said he was sure that even the magistrates would bear him out in saying that wherever there was a public-house there was drinking, and wherever there was drinking there was crime. Some time ago they had got a Forbes M'Kenzie Act to prevent the drink being sold on the Sabbath. He only wished they had one for every day of the week. In a town like Kirkcaldy there were bakers, tailors, shoemakers, &c. All were producers, and assisted in the general prosperity of the town, but the publican was non-productive. The commodity he trafficked in did no good to the community, but, on the contrary, was prolific of much

harm. He could not tell what good the publican might be doing, but he could tell what harm he was doing, and would pray daily that none of his friends might become a publican. (Applause.) He wished only that they had a little more Home Rule, so that the people might say to the magistrates, "You are not to put down a public-house where we do not want one." (Applause.) The people had the election of magistrates in their own hands, and why should they not have the right to put down the licenses? It was singular, perhaps, that public-houses were only put down where the poorer classes lived. In Edinburgh they swarmed in the Cowgate, but in Murray Place or Newington there were none, for the simple reason that the rich did not wish them beside them. He did not doubt that the hands of Sir Wilfrid Lawson would be strengthened by the report of the present meeting, and would do something to influence the Government in the passing of such a measure for Scotland. Then Scotland would become great, and hold up her head to other nations, asking them to follow her in doing away with this great curse. (Applause.)

The Chairman hoped the meeting would have the effect of helping the cause of temperance in petitioning Parliament at once for this power. It would be a good thing for the country, and the people at large. He was invited to the Licensing Court the other day, but did not go, because he did not like to grant these licenses.

The Rev. Mr. M'Millan cordially seconded the resolution.

The second resolution calling on the Government to embody Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Resolution in law was moved by Rev. W. J. Boon. His speech was peculiarly happy and rapturously applauded.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Manning, who delivered an eloquent speech, which was received with unstinted applause.

The third resolution, asking the meeting to instruct the Chairman to forward the resolutions adopted by the meeting to Sir G. Campbell, Bart., Hon. E. P. Bruce, M.P.; Prime Minister, Lord Advocate, was proposed by Mr. Waterston, seconded by Mr. John Hogarth, West Mills, and unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Jas. Wishart, the deputation were cordially thanked, and on the motion of Mr. A. Beattie a similar compliment was paid to the Chairman, when the meeting then broke up.—*Fifehire Advertiser abridged.*

GALASHIELS.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

—A public meeting, under the auspices of the Galashiels Total Abstinence Association, was held in the Public Hall on Friday, 4th ult., to hear addresses by a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association, consisting of Rev. Dr. Adamson, of Edinburgh; Mr. J. W. Manning of Ontario; and Mr. J. H. Waterston, of Edinburgh. The Rev. W. W. Smith, of Galashiels Free Church, presided, and there was a large attendance. On the platform were also—Rev. Mr. Nesbitt, Pastor Alex. Thomson, Bailie Burns, Ex-Bailie Cowan, Treasurer Messer, Mr. F. Lynn, and others. Dr. Adamson opened the meeting with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the proceedings, said he was glad to have an opportunity of hearing so able an observer and reporter as Mr. Manning in reference to prohibition, and so far as the general question was concerned he was completely in favour of the principle of the Permissive Bill. (Applause.)

Bailie BURNS moved the first resolution condemnatory of the liquor traffic, and calling on all good citizens to combine for its overthrow. Rev. Dr. Adamson seconded. He said—The pressing duty of the hour was to continue to urge the question of local option on the attention of Parliament, and if the demand was made firmly and persistently, he felt perfectly sure that no one hearing him would be three years older before the power was granted to the people to put an end to the drink traffic among them if they would. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. NESBITT moved the second resolution

to the effect that the Government embody the principle of local option in their promised legislation on the drink traffic.

Mr. MANNING seconded the resolution. He said he had been told since he came into the town that it had a population of about 15,000 persons, and that there were 37 individuals entrusted with the privilege of selling intoxicating liquor. Consequently there were 14,963 people to whom the law said "Thou shalt not sell intoxicating liquor." What he and the other members of the deputation had come to do was to argue for such a change in the law as would enable the 14,963 to say to the 37, "Neither shall you." (Cheers). That was only asking that the enormous majority should be entitled to say that these privileged few should be put on the same footing as themselves. If intemperance, with its train of evils, was to be got rid of, the cause must be removed. While temperance men were engaged in trying to persuade others to become abstainers, other men, under the sanction of the Government, were doing all they could to render their work of no avail; and the time had now come when it was the duty of the country to deal in an effectual manner with the evil. It had often been objected that intemperance could not be put down by law; they could never succeed. He was there to tell them that they had succeeded to a very great extent on the other side of the Atlantic, and what prohibition had done there it was equally powerful to do here. (Applause). Mr. Manning proceeded to sketch the progress of legislation which had led up to the present temperance enactments in Canada. The people of that country had asked the Legislature at different times for a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors, because they believed in striking a blow at the root of the evil. (Cheers). In 1874, the Governor-General was empowered to make a commission of inquiry to visit Maine and ascertain the state of affairs. The Governor appointed an anti-prohibitionist and himself to make the inquiry. They received their commission from the Government and told to go where they pleased, get information from whom they pleased, and come back with their report. (Applause). They took evidence from any and every person able to give it, without knowing or asking whether they were for or against prohibition. Amongst the witnesses were governors, ex-governors, secretaries of state, clergymen of all denominations, officers of the army, senators, members of Congress, judges, mayors, overseers of the poor, gaolers, city marshals, editors of newspapers, chiefs of police, employers of labour, and influential citizens. They divided the inquiry into four questions:—(1) What are the provisions of the law in each State? (2) Is the law enforced; and, if not, why not? (3) What has been the result of any change from prohibition to license, or *vice versa*? (4) What have been the effects of prohibition upon the social and moral condition of the people? Those four questions were thoroughly exhaustive, and formed the basis for their action. They laid the evidence before the Governor-General and Parliament, and it was considered in the subsequent session. In the Senate a report was adopted, of which the following was the concluding clause:—"That the report of the Government Commission shows clearly that the prohibitory law of the States of Maine and Vermont has been well enforced, and has largely diminished crime and pauperism, and that its beneficial effects upon the community have been so fully proved by the experience of over twenty years, that there is now no attempt made to repeal it; while in the other States visited—although the law was not so generally enforced—wherever it was brought into operation, the same result of diminution of crime followed. In cases where the prohibitory law was for a short time repealed, intemperance and crime immediately increased in so marked a degree that prohibition was soon re-enacted. That in view of all these facts and considerations, it appears that the time has now arrived when the attention of the Government should be given to this important question, with a view to the introduction of a bill to prohibit the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for

mechanical and medicinal purposes, throughout the Dominion, at the earliest date compatible with the public interests." In the House of Commons a resolution was passed declaring that the report afforded incontestable proof that a prohibitory law was the only effectual remedy for the evils of intemperance, and that it was the duty of Government to introduce such a law into Canada. These resolutions were passed in 1876, and were the conclusion of both houses of the Canadian Parliament. His fellow-commissioner, who had been appointed on account of his anti-prohibition proclivities, in giving an account some weeks after his return home at a Young Men's Christian Association meeting of his mission and its results, declared that the investigation fully convinced him that a prohibitory liquor law was desirable for the Dominion of Canada. (Cheers). In conclusion he urged that the people of this country should continue to demand from Parliament a measure which would enable them to deal with the traffic. If the nation was to get its heel on the neck of the liquor traffic, they would inaugurate a new era in the history of the country which had never been seen in the past, and a day would have dawned which would lead to grander, nobler, and greater results than had ever yet been reached. It was the duty of all to see that the advent of that day was not delayed, and might God himself hasten it! (Loud cheers).

Ex-Bailie COWAN moved and Mr. Waterston seconded the sending of the foregoing reasons to the proper quarter. The various reasons were carried by acclamation. On the motion of Mr. F. Lynn, votes of thanks to chairman and speakers were heartily responded to. All the speakers were warmly applauded, and the Galashiels Free Church Band of Hope sang several pieces during the evening.—*Southern Reporter abridged.*

ALLIANCE DEPUTATION.

DUMFRIES.—LOCAL OPTION MEETING.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on Tuesday, 8th ult., in the Tabernacle, under the auspices of Dumfries and Maxwelltown Temperance Union, to hear addresses in support of the Local Option resolution. The night was not a favourable one, but there was a considerable attendance. Dr. M'Culloch presided: and with him on the platform were the Rev. J. D. M'Kinnon, Rev. G. W. Tooley, and Rev. F. Binns, Dumfries; Rev. H. H. Pereira, rector of St. Laurence, Southampton, from the United Kingdom Alliance; and Rev. S. Harding, Paisley, and Mr. Stevenson, from the Scottish Permissive Bill Association.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the meeting that on the 18th June last the House of Commons endorsed Sir Wilfrid Lawson's proposal to give the ratepayers power to control the liquor traffic. That was not, however, an Act of Parliament, but a resolution. The object of this, and of hundreds of other meetings being held over the country was to remind not only the Government but the members for every constituency that we looked to them to do their duty by giving effect to the declared opinion of the House of Commons. (Cheers.)

Rev. Mr. TOOLEY moved the first resolution, which charged the liquor traffic as the principal cause of the abounding intemperance, and asked all good men to unite to stop it. He briefly reviewed some of the arguments commonly brought against the position of abstainers when they traced the evils of intemperance to the public-house as its source, and contended that the presence of large numbers of licensed houses, by presenting an outward temptation, stimulated an inward appetite to an unhealthy degree. He pointed out that the State already interferes with individual liberty in cases where the exercise of that liberty would be prejudicial to the public good, as, for example, when it compelled the owner of a ricketty house to take it down and required that every child should be vaccinated, even if its parents were opposed to vaccination. They only asked that the constitutional principle of government by majorities should be applied by giving to the people power to veto or to sanction the liquor traffic. They asked for the great body of the people,

who bore the burden of drink-caused taxation, and who had personal knowledge of the wants of the district, the same right which was at present enjoyed by a few local magistrates. (Cheers.)

Rev. Mr. HARDING supported the resolution. He expressed the pleasure which it afforded him to meet for the first time with Dr. M'Culloch, whom he had long known by report as one of our leading abstaining medical practitioners. (Cheers.) He confessed that he belonged to the radical school of teetotalers. As a member of that school he went on to interpret the resolution as meaning that the liquor traffic, as carried on in licensed houses of whatever kind, was sinful and demoralising, that it was a curse to the community, giving rise to pauperism, crime, insanity, immorality, premature death, and domestic misery, causing bad trade to the community, waste of property, and unnecessarily heavy taxation, besides forming the greatest outward obstacle to the moral and social improvement of society, and to the spread of the gospel throughout the land; and not only so, but that these were the necessary and inevitable consequences of that traffic, as its whole history proved. What then, he asked, should be their attitude in relation to this great and terrible evil? He submitted that the proper attitude was that expressed by the resolution, which called upon the legislature to give to the people power to put a stop to it. (Cheers.) He went on to show that this resolution should commend itself to philanthropists, because the evil at which it aimed lay at the root of the greater part of the miseries which philanthropy sought to mitigate; to patriots, because the liquor traffic was the chief obstacle which prevented the country becoming yet more emphatically great, good, and free; and to Christians, because every Christian man and woman was bound to imitate Christ's example, who went about continually doing good. (Applause.) The resolution was unanimously adopted, by a show of hands.

Rev. Mr. M'KINNON next moved a resolution urging her Majesty's Government to confer suppressive power on the ratepayers over the liquor traffic. He was glad the Government was now waking up to the fact that what had been long legalised was not necessarily right. (Cheers.) He pointed out that in the case of an epidemic, even affecting only our cattle, stringent measures were promptly adopted to prevent its spread, while in intemperance we had a persistent epidemic, which was constantly among us, but which our Government, seared by long familiarity, regarded with apathy. Agitation in Ireland was at once met with special legislation; but the case of the liquor traffic was still more clamant, for while in Ireland the agitators slew their tens, that traffic was annually slaying its tens of thousands. (Cheers.) A local option or prohibitive measure would exercise a great—it might be a slow, but it would be a sure—influence in regenerating society. (Applause.)

Rev. Mr. PEREIRA supported the resolution in an able speech. He came to Scotland, he said, not to teach, but rather to learn, for he remembered that politically we were further advanced than they were in England, having set them the example of Sunday closing, and all the representatives of Scotland in Parliament, except five, being supporters of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's resolution. (Cheers.) Although politically the people of Scotland were far advanced on this subject, he feared from the amount of drunkenness which he had observed during a visit to the country, that many of the people were personally asleep in regard to it. He defied any person to tell him the virtues of alcohol. It would do them no good, but it might do them untold mischief. (Cheers.) He spoke of this question as a Christian one, and expressed his satisfaction that, in face of the great evil of intemperance, members of different religious bodies were losing sight of their differences, and in opposing it those were meeting who had perhaps never before stood together on any common platform. (Applause.) This resolution having also been adopted,

Rev. Mr. BINNS moved the third, which was a request to the chairman to send on the resolution adopted to city and county M.P.'s and officers of the

Government. Their gratitude in this case might, he said, be correctly described as a "lively sense of favours expected;" and he asked them to determine to assist, so far as lay in their power, to bring about the realisation of their hopes, reminding them that the British House of Commons was but the reflex of the opinion of the British people. (Cheers.) Mr. R. Stevenson supported this resolution, which was also adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. J. Strachan, seconded by Mr. T. C. Farries, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the members of the deputation; and a similar tribute having been paid to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. Pereira, the proceedings terminated.—*Dunfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser* abridged.

IRVINE—GOVERNMENT AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

On Wednesday evening, 9th ult., a deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance and Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association addressed a public meeting on the above question in the Good Templars' Hall. J. B. Lindsay, Esq., occupied the chair. The deputation included the Rev. H. H. Pereira, A.M., Rector of St. Laurence, Southampton; J. Winning, Esq., Paisley; and Mr. R. Stevenson, district-superintendent. There were also on the platform the Rev. R. S. Macauley, Capt. Breckenridge, Mr. Geo. Paulin, Mr. William Millar, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. James Smith, and Mr. William M'Cormick. There was a good attendance.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said they must look to legislation for a relief of the burden which had been laid upon them by the drink traffic; it rested solely with themselves, and it would require a determined effort to pass the measure in which they were so much interested. The Government, with wars abroad and with the Irish question at home, had enough to do in the meantime; but next in importance was the object in which they were engaged, which required immediate action, and according to Mr. Gladstone it was a matter of life and death. (Applause.)

The Rev. R. S. Macauley, in moving the first resolution, said the movement had his hearty sympathy, and would have his utmost support. He moved the resolution, which pointed to the liquor as a chief cause of the national intemperance, and appealed to moral reformers to unite to put it down. Such a resolution as that did not need one single word in support of it; but, as Mr. Lindsay had said, it must be by continual efforts, and by that we will gain more than we desire. Let the movement be on a broad basis, and gone into by all the friends of social improvement, moral reform, and religious progress. (Applause.) Mr. R. Brown, in seconding the motion, said it was only right that the ratepayers of Scotland should have a voice in the regulation of public-houses. Such a movement had been long in his mind, and he was happy to say it had been gaining popularity every day.

Mr. Winning, in support of the resolution, said the Scottish Permissive Bill Association, whom he represented, existed for the sole purpose of assisting in procuring the suppression of the liquor traffic by the power of the national will, and through the form of a legislative enactment. To attain this consummation so devoutly to be wished for, it has fought through good report and evil report for twenty-two years, and with unswerving purpose and fixity of aim it will go on, he trusted, till the necessity for its existence shall cease to be. (Applause.) In asking the meeting to adopt the resolution, he quoted from Sir Richard Cross, the late Home Secretary: in a speech which he delivered in the debate on Mr. Rodwell's bill, he said no license ought to be granted unless it was the express wish of a neighbourhood that that should be done. Mr. Gladstone, also on the debate, said with the principle itself he was quite friendly, and he earnestly hoped that at some not very distant period it may be found practicable to deal with the licensing laws, and in dealing with the licensing laws to include the reasonable and great measure for which his hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Lawson) pleads. After giving the opinion of Lord Hartington, Mr. Bright, the Archbishop of

York, Miss Florence Nightingale, and others, who were all favourable to the movement, he said that his friend Mr. Bird, governor of Paisley prison, said he had passed over 60,000 prisoners through his hands, and that 55,000 at least were there through drink. During the last seven years he had had two lawyers, one writer to the signet, four bankers, and three clergymen. One of the latter held a benefice of £600 a year, and was put in prison for selling the blankets off his bed—he and his wife being in lodgings. The interminable Irish question was at present blocking the way of Government in introducing the promised measure, and whilst they were anxious to get it settled, they thought the importance of the liquor traffic could not be overlooked any longer; and by steady, persistent pressure on Government he trusted to see a measure speedily introduced embracing a direct and effective veto on the present licensing liquor laws. (Applause.)

Mr. George Paulin said it would be imprudent for him to detain the meeting for anything he could say, as they were going to hear from one far more competent to speak on the liquor traffic than he was. He begged to submit the second resolution, which rejoiced over the adoption by Parliament of the Local Option resolution, and urged its immediate embodiment into law. Captain Breckenridge seconded the resolution with hearty good-will, merely because he was sure they ought to have a say in a matter which affected their interests.

The Rev. Mr. Pereira, in support of the resolution, in the course of a very eloquent and impressive speech, referred to the action of the Church of England in the matter. He was thankful to be able to say that over 9,000 of the clergymen of the Church of England were already enrolled members of the Church of England Temperance Society. What reason could there be advanced against the principle of Local Option? They were trusted with returning to Parliament a member to deal with the affairs of the State; they were also trusted to elect the School Board, who were to have the governing and educating of their children, and in church matters it is the same. They elected their office-bearers: then what reason is there in the public not having a say as to whether they should have public-houses in their midst or not? How can the magistrates judge the question? It is the working man's question. They can't keep the gin-shop away, and yet the magistrates, who keep them from their own doors, say it is needful for the working man. Now, as the magistrates have made such a great mistake in this direction, the working man should have it in his power to say we don't want these in our midst. But don't let us forget there are some places which would not take advantage of the Local Option when it becomes law, they will still go on as they are, and hug and nourish this poisonous serpent in their breasts; but I am convinced that when we have Local Option the places which will take advantage of it will be the bulk of the nation. (Applause.) In concluding he recommended them to work like men and to pray like Christians, till their great object was accomplished. (Great applause.) The resolution was then put to the meeting, and, like the previous one, was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Miller—The resolution I have to move is one asking the meeting to thank Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his supporters, and also the chairman to send the resolution which it adopts to the parties named in it. I need not say a single sentence in support of this. Sir Wilfrid has fought against great odds, and fought with a courage which is almost superhuman, but no doubt encouraged by the fact that he was fighting in a good cause. The name of Sir Wilfrid Lawson will be immortalised as the greatest friend of the drunkard. (Applause.) Mr. Smith said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion, because Sir Wilfrid was worthy of it. Some years ago he was characterised as the only child of the movement, and now he had 245 children to stand by and support him in the matter. Knowing that the Church had failed so much in the matter, they naturally turned to Parliament, and looked for the hammer of law to come down on it.

Mr. R. Stevenson, in support of the resolution, said, in the course of a very interesting address, that they wanted the member who represented this respected burgh not only to support the bill, but to carry out the Act so as to derive the advantages gained therefrom. There was nothing wrong with the public-house, it was the drink, and the man behind the counter was perhaps as good a man as his certificate entitled him to be. (Great laughter.) They wanted to get rid of the whisky, and sweep away the liquor out of the houses. That is what they wanted to do—not to sweep away the houses, but the liquor. (Applause.) The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. John Yuille, seconded by Mr. Paulin, a vote of thanks was accorded to the deputation; and on the motion of Mr. Findlay a similar compliment was paid to the chairman.—*Irvine Express abridged.*

MONTROSE—TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting on the temperance question was held in the Guild Hall on 10th ult. Previous to the meeting a conference of the friends of temperance was held in the Council Room, where a large company of the leading temperance reformers in Montrose assembled under the presidency of ex-Bailie Lyall. After partaking of an excellent tea, short addresses were delivered by the chairman and others. The company afterwards adjourned to the public meeting in the Guild Hall. Provost Jaap presided. The first resolution condemning the liquor traffic and calling upon the friends of social order to combine for its suppression, was moved by W. D. Johnstone, seconded by Bailie Hutcheson, and supported by the Rev. Samuel Warding. The Rev. Mr. Ross moved the second resolution, which urged Parliament to legislate in accordance with Sir W. Lawson's resolution. Mr. Jas. Mudie seconded the resolution, and it was supported by the Rev. Mr. Pereira. The third resolution, thanking Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his supporters, and asking the Chairman to forward copies of the resolutions passed at this meeting, was moved by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Dean of Guild Scott, and supported by Mr. R. Stevenson. Rev. S. Harding, Rev. H. H. Pereira, and Mr. R. Stevenson formed a deputation from the United Kingdom Alliance, and the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association.—*Montrose, Arbroath, and Brechin Review much abridged.*

ABERDEEN—LOCAL OPTION MEETING.

A public meeting was held in the hall adjoining the Young Men's Christian Institute, Aberdeen, on Friday, 11th ult., for the purpose of hearing addresses by a deputation from the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association on the subject of temperance as affected by the principle of the Permissive Bill. Mr. A. S. Cook, chairman of the Aberdeen Temperance Society, occupied the chair, and on the platform were Major Ross, Mr. R. Adams, Mr. Wm. Blackwood, Mr. John Clark, Mr. Alex. Badenoch, Mr. James Paterson, draper; Rev. H. H. Pereira, M.A., rector of St. Laurence, Southampton; Rev. Samuel Harding, Paisley; W. Smith, Esq., Balzeordie, &c. Owing to the severe inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not large.

The Chairman, in the course of a few introductory remarks, stated that in Aberdeen there were 410 persons engaged in the liquor traffic. Their engagement in that traffic was restricted by such measures as would naturally lead one to suppose that the progress of crime was not being assisted, but although in 1880 there were 84 fewer licensed houses in Aberdeen than in 1872, in the former year 780 persons were convicted for being drunk and incapable in the Aberdeen Police Court, against 787 in 1872. The conclusion was this, that although in Aberdeen the number of licences was being reduced, the capacity of those licensed places left behind was not lessened; in short, although places for drinking were fewer in Aberdeen in 1880 than in 1872, the facilities for the sale of drink were greater now than they were nine years ago. Mr. Cook referred to the past agitation on the question at issue, remarking

that Dr. Webster, member for the city, had voted conscientiously and honestly in favour of Local Option in the House of Commons since his entry to St. Stephens. (Applause.)

Mr. James Paterson moved that the traffic was an active evil, and called upon all good citizens to unite for its suppression.

Rev. Mr. Harding, in seconding the resolution, expressed the hope that the people of Scotland were as firmly united for the purpose of obtaining Local Option as the people in Ireland were in endeavouring to obtain redress in the matter of land laws. He denounced in scathing terms the prevalence of the drink traffic, whether in grand hotel or unattractive public house, remarking that alcohol produced insanity, pauperism, premature death, domestic misery, bad trade, waste and loss of property, unnecessarily heavy taxation—(hear, hear)—besides forming one of the greatest obstacles to the moral and social improvement of society, and the spread and triumph of the gospel. As patriots he asked all Scotchmen to help to wipe out from a blurred escutcheon the horrible blot of intemperance that was spreading havoc and destruction on every side. He begged the friends of the temperance cause to observe (1) a principle that was being closely followed out in Ireland at the present moment, viz., organisation; (2) agitation—agitation such as the Land League were engaging in that country—and by such means, and by providing the sinews of war, they would aid in bringing about temperance. (Applause.)—The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Paterson having taken the chair in room of Mr. Cook, who had to leave the meeting, Mr. William Blackwood proposed the second resolution, urging the Government to introduce the principle of Local Option into their forthcoming legislation.

Mr. Pereira seconded the resolution, and spoke at some length on the various kinds of "temperance reformers." Speaking of the question of compensation to the publican for his being deprived of the means of making his livelihood, he argued that the establishment in a property of a public-house, the consequent depreciation of surrounding property, along with the rise in value of the property itself, and the immense profits realised in the traffic, rendered the idea of compensation utterly absurd. (Applause.) On being put to the meeting, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. John Clark moved the third resolution, which was a request to the Chairman to forward the resolutions agreed to at that meeting to the proper quarter. Mr. Robt. Adams seconded the resolution. Mr. Smith, Balzeordie, also gave a brief address in its support, and on being put to the meeting it was carried with acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. William Davidson, a vote of thanks was accorded to the deputation for their addresses, and a similar compliment having been paid to the chairman, the proceedings terminated.—*Daily Free Press*, abridged.

GREENOCK—SERMON BY REV. H. H. PEREIRA.—On Sabbath evening, 13th ult., under the auspices of the Greenock Total Abstinence Society, the Rev. H. H. Pereira, M.A., rector of St. Laurence parish, Southampton, and a prominent member of the Church of England Temperance Society, paid a visit to Greenock and preached a discourse on temperance in Free Middle Church. The weather was most unpropitious, but several hundreds waded through the snow and slush to be present. The devotional services were by the assistant minister of the East Church, the Rev. Alex. Young. It was a somewhat unusual sight to see two clergymen—one of the Church of England and the other of the Church of Scotland—occupying as they did at one and the same time the pulpit of one of our most prominent Free Churches. The Rev. Mr. Pereira preached an eloquent sermon from 2nd Samuel xiv. chapter and 14th verse—"For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person; yet doth He devise means that His banished be not expelled from Him." He made an impressive appeal to all Christians of all denominations to come

forward to the help of the temperance enterprise. A collection was made, to be handed over to the Greenock Charitable Society.—*Greenock Telegraph*, abridged.

LINLITHGOW—TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

A temperance demonstration in connection with the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association took place in the Town Hall on Monday evening, 14th ult. Ex-Bailie Dougal occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance. Among the gentlemen on the platform were Rev. Messrs. Ferguson, Dr. Nicolson, Burns, and Rae, Linlithgow; and J. H. Paterson, Dumbarton; Councillor Hutton, Linlithgow; Bailie Selkirk, Glasgow; J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh; and a deputation from Bo'ness.

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson opened the proceedings with prayer.

The first resolution, which denounced the evils of the liquor traffic, and called on reformers to unite for its abolition, was moved by the Rev. Mr. Burns in an able speech, seconded *pro forma* by Dr. Nicolson, and supported by the Rev. Mr. Paterson.

The Rev. Mr. Rae moved the second resolution, which was to the effect that the meeting rejoiced that Government had adopted the local option, and called on them to fulfil the pledge given to pass a measure embodying such legislation.

Councillor Hutton seconded the motion, and Bailie Selkirk, in a vigorous address, supported it.

The third resolution was moved by Councillor M'Alpine, and seconded by Geo. Dougal, Esq., Lochend Villa, gratefully acknowledging Sir Wilfrid Lawson's efforts, and requesting the chairman to forward the resolutions adopted to prominent members of the Government.

Mr. J. H. Waterston, in supporting the resolution, gave some very interesting and humorous information regarding his dealings with the Members of Parliament and others in the House of Commons.

The Rev. Dr. Nicolson moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had come from a distance to speak at the meeting, and a vote of thanks to the chairman was moved by Mr. James Dymock, Bo'ness. All the motions and resolutions were unanimously agreed to. The Rev. Mr. Paterson closed the meeting with the benediction.—*West Lothian Courier*, etc., abridged.

CUPAR FIFE SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

A public meeting was held under the auspices of the above Association in Union Street Hall on Tuesday, 15th ult.—Mr. D. Stenhouse, manufacturer, in the chair. The usual resolutions were moved by Messrs. Alexander Ramsay, Adamson, and Cooper, and supported by a deputation, consisting of Mr. D. Fyfe, Dundee; the Rev. E. J. Boon, Kirkcaldy; and Mr. J. H. Waterston, Edinburgh. Much gratification was expressed in the speeches made at the passing of the local option resolution, and the recognition on the part of the Government of the necessity of legislation on the subject. Satisfaction was also expressed at Mr. Williamson, M.P. for the St. Andrews Burghs, being at his post when the division was taken, and voting with the majority; while Mr. Bruce's (the County Member) absence from the House on the night in question was alluded to as disappointing. Mr. Nicol moved a vote of thanks to the deputation, and a similar compliment to the chairman closed the proceedings.—*Fife News*.

A DISTILLER'S PROFITS.—Archibald Walker, distiller, 8 Crown Terrace, Downhill, has left by inventory £148,602 0s. 11d.

Mrs. Annie E. Garrison of South Bay, Wis., obtained a verdict for 10,000 dollars in a civil damage suit against a liquor dealer, who sold her husband liquor.

The London Temperance Hospital, 112 Gower Street, has now no in-patients, though outones are being attended to as usual. The establishment is in course of removal to the new hospital in the Hampstead Road, which will be opened by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London and Middlesex in state on Friday, 4th March.

The expenses incurred by J. B. Balfour, M.P., in his uncontested election for Clackmannan and Kinross-shires, amount to £310.

The expenses incurred by Alex. Crum, Esq., M.P., in his uncontested election for the county of Renfrew, were £227 10s., chiefly made up of agents' charges and advertising expenses.

THE SCOTT ACT IN CANADA.—Mr. G. H. Hale, of the Orillia Packet, writing to Mr. R. Mackay, secretary, says, "Our cause is attracting more than usual attention just now, partly because of efforts in various places to secure the adoption of the Scott Act and partly from the efforts of the licenced victuallers to obtain various modifications of the restrictions upon 'the Trade.' There is very little prospect indeed of these efforts of theirs proving successful, as our people appear to be fully aroused."

EVADING THE BEER TAX.—In Boxford, Essex, the sapient authorities have been trying to evade the beer tax. This is how it stands. If the annual value of a house does not exceed £10, there is no tax for beer brewed therein. This is how they try to do it. They have reduced the value of every house to under £10 by isolating the house from its ground, outhouses, &c. It would be a good thing for an abstainer to live there; he would scarcely have anything to pay. We shall be glad to hear of the issue of this transparent trick.

HIGHLAND TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—The first annual social meeting of this League took place in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on the 2nd ult. Alexander Allan, Esq., of Aros, presided. There was a large attendance. Addresses were delivered during the evening by ex-Lord Provost Collins, Rev. Wm. Ross, ex-Bailie Ross, Revs. G. G. McLeod, D. M. Duncan, Captain Hatfield, Messrs. Robert Stevenson (Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association), R. Simpson, J. Black, &c. The year's report of the League's operation was quite satisfactory.

PUBLICANS' PROFITS.—Some idea may be formed of the profits made by dealers in excisable liquors from the fact that on the 3rd ult., in the Faculty Hall, West George Street, Mr. Edmiston, auctioneer, disposed of the goodwill of the business carried on by the late J. R. Campsie, at corner of Great Wellington Street and Paisley Road, opposite the toll-house on Paisley Road, at the enormous figure of £1765, exclusive of stock or fittings. The purchaser is in business in the same line in Govan district. A shop, also belonging to the same deceased publican, on the opposite side of the road at the Toll, which was afterwards put up, realized £480 for the goodwill alone.—*Daily Mail*.

HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN WORK.—At a conversation in connection with Aberdeen Temperance Society last month, Mr. C. Sheriffs read a paper on "Hindrances to Christian work." There were indifference and unbelief, drinking and drunkenness, money-making and extravagance. Speaking of drinking, he said that if Christian citizens knew the relation of drinking to drunkenness, and the barriers that it put in the way of the good work they had at heart, many of them, he held, would stop their drinking, and that would stop drunkenness by and by. He also stated that he had collected the testimony of a number of Bible-women, which was to the effect that intemperance was one of the chief hindrances to the successful prosecution of their work.—*Daily Review*.

MONTROSE.—A large and enthusiastic public meeting was held in the E.U. Hall, John Street, on Friday evening, 11th ult., being the anniversary soiree of the "City of Refuge" Lodge, I.O.G.T. Brother George Lamb, W.C.T. presided. After tea, a programme of unusual interest was gone through. Eloquent addresses were given by the chairman, Bro. Rev. G. Wisely, and Bro. R. Stevenson, the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association. At intervals vocal and instrumental music and recitations, together with a temperance dialogue, were rendered in a manner which merited and received hearty applause. Additional pleasure was afforded by the address of Brother J. W. Campbell, who, in a speech of marked ability, on be-

half of the lodge, presented Bro. A. Mackay, P.W.C.T., with an elegant writing desk as an expression of the esteem and good wishes cherished towards him on the occasion of his leaving Montrose. A handsome tea caddy for Mrs. Mackay was also presented in graceful terms by the chairman. Both gifts were suitably acknowledged by Bro. Mackay. The usual votes of thanks being heartily awarded, the meeting dispersed.

THE PERMISSIVE BILL.—**ROTHESAY WORKING MEN'S CLUB PRIZE ESSAYS.**—The late Mr. A. B. Stewart of Ascog Hall having offered £20, divided into three prizes, for the three best essays on the Permissive Bill argument, for and against, the judges—viz., Rev. Dr. Williamson, Rev. Messrs. M'Farlane and Thomson—have just given their awards as follows:—First prize (£10), Hugh Thomson, letter carrier; second and third, equal (£5 each), James Fisher, seed merchant's assistant; and John C. Harvey, compositor. We understand that the judges were greatly pleased with the literary merits of the essays, and were much surprised when they came to learn that the authors were *bona fide* working men.—*Daily Mail*. [We understand that the conclusions of the essayists are in favour of the Permissive Bill.—Ed. S. R.]

FAILURE OF MASSACHUSETTS LAW AGAINST DRUNKARDS.—The County Commissioners declare the law punishing drunkenness by a dollar fine a failure. It has increased the rates and also drunkenness, and the increased cost of prosecution has not, as anticipated, lessened the jail expenses, for more men have been sent to jail through default of payment than was the case under the old law. The prisoners themselves ridicule the idea of securing sobriety by a dollar fine. If it had been seven dollars they would have had to quit drinking through lack of money, but they stumped up their dollar and still had something with which to get drunk. Massachusetts would have been better with prohibition. As well dam up Niagara with a spade as secure sobriety by fining or confining the drinker. Let them imprison the drink, and their jail expenses will be *nil* for drunkenness.

MANUFACTURE AND CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS.—From the report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the year ending March 31st, 1880, it appears the quantity of spirits charged with duty in the United Kingdom was 28,213,721 gallons, being a decrease as compared with the previous year of 1,576,413 gallons. The quantity retained for consumption as beverage in the United Kingdom was 27,286,952 gallons, a decrease as compared with the previous year of 1,647,843 gallons. The quantity consumed per head of the population in 1879 was 0.640 gallons in England, 1.677 in Scotland, and 0.946 in Ireland. In giving these figures, the Commissioners say:—"There are not wanting indications of a growing disposition on the part of many in all classes to reduce if not to discontinue the use of spirits as an ordinary beverage, and probably the decrease in the aggregate consumption is in part due to this cause."

Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world, is the triumph of some enthusiasm. The victories of the Arabs after Mahomet, who, in a few years from a small and mean beginning, established a larger empire than that of Rome, is an example. They did they knew not what. The naked Derar horsed on an idea was found an overmatch for a troop of Roman cavalry. The women fought like men and conquered the Roman men. They were miserably equipped, miserably fed. They were temperance troops. There was neither brandy nor flesh needed to feed them. They conquered Asia, Africa, and Spain on barley. The caliph Omar's walking-stick struck more terror into those that saw it than another man's sword. His diet was barley bread; his sauce was salt; and ofttimes by way of abstinence he ate his bread without salt. His drink was water. His palace was built of mud, and when he left Medina to go to the conquest of Jerusalem, he rode on a red camel with a wooden platter hanging at his girdle, with a bottle of water and two sacks, one holding barley and the other dried fruits.—*Man the Reformer*—by Emerson.

FALKIRK TEMPERANCE ELECTORAL UNION AND PERMISSIVE BILL ASSOCIATION.—This union met in Johnston's hotel on Friday 21st Jan.—Mr. Robt. Clark, president in the chair. There was a good attendance. After preliminary remarks congratulatory of the progress of the association, the chairman called upon Mr. John Wallace, the secretary, to read the annual report. We give the following extracts:—In our last report we had to record the sending of a memorial to our Parliamentary representative, Mr. Ramsay, M.P., asking him to support the local option resolution. In this report we have to record that we have done the same thing and although he did not do it to the full extent of our desires, yet the combined action of the temperance and prohibitory movement on the last division was sufficient to secure a pledge from the Government that during the present Parliament they would deal with the licensing laws, and in doing so give power to the ratepayers to protect themselves against the operations of the drink trade. Your committee hope that the Government may soon see its way to work out the ways and means needful to give due effect to our principle. Our next business was of a local nature. Seeing that other towns, large and small, near and far, had not failed to take notice of the intention of Lord Zetland to enforce the prohibition contained in his few charters in Grangemouth, we felt it to be our duty as temperance reformers to recognize his lordship's efforts and to signify our sense of the important step proposed by his lordship. We sent on a memorial which afterwards appeared in the *Falkirk Herald*. In November we had a visit from Mr. John Paton of the Scottish Permissive Bill Association. The meetings he addressed were held in Graham's Road U.P. Hall, but on account of other entertainments in the Town Hall, the attendance was small, and in a pecuniary sense unprofitable. Having thus briefly glanced over our past history, we can survey the great object for which we are banded together as being advanced a step farther in progress, and though we cannot as a body claim the victory of last session, yet we know it was won by united effort, and our little item was not wanting in the great total. Though we do not realize victory as yet, still let us not weary in well-doing, but having set our resolute hearts to the work, we must, like our great champion, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, labour perseveringly through sunshine and cloud and ultimately, over apparently insurmountable difficulties, we will triumph victoriously. Let our motto for the coming year be, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." The report on the motion of Mr. Stewart M'Waters, seconded by Mr. James Rae, was unanimously adopted. Vacancies in the committee were then filled up. During the year a motion was adopted for the enlargement of the committee, and each of the Good Templar lodges was asked to send four representatives, which was heartily complied with. These twelve representatives took their seats at this meeting and will henceforth with the original committee form a compact and strong body. With such a strong, and it is hoped, working committee, the Association may look forward to the work of the coming year with the feeling that it is now somewhat equal to the task. The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Half Hour Temperance Readings. First series. By Rev. Charles Courtenay, curate of St. Paul's, Onslow square, London. Jarrold & Sons, 3 Paternoster Buildings. Price One Shilling. We have here one dozen of temperance stories, interesting, exciting, thrilling, and entralling. As temperance stories they could not be surpassed for truthful presentation of the nature and duty of abstinence; they are pervaded by a fine pawky humour and an exquisite sense of what really should constitute a reading of a half hour's duration. Squire Armitage, Dr. Sharp's stories, Betsy Trollope's jug, and John Bowling are each worth the sum charged for the entire book. We cordially recommend them all.

The Martyr's Tree. By Mrs. Sewell. London: Jarrold & Son, 3 Paternoster Buildings. This is a metrical version of the martyrdom of William Hunter at Brentwood, in Queen Mary Tudor's time. It is told with true pathos and with remarkable fidelity to the language and spirit of that age.

The Methodist Temperance Magazine. Vol. xiii., 1880. London: Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row. A volume of abiding interest to all followers of Wesley. It reflects clearly the decided opinions on temperance cherished and expounded by the founder of Methodism. No other evidence of its value and excellence need be offered than this, that it has the Rev. Chas. Garrett for its chief editor.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

The late Mr. Alex. Lamberton, Kilbirnie. We regret to have to record the death of this well-known gentleman after a short illness, on the 4th ult., at the ripe age of 75 years. The immediate cause of death was apoplexy. Born in Kilmaurs he settled here when 35 years, and during the long period of 40 years was known as a schoolmaster and latterly as a merchant. He was an abstainer since his 30th year, and was a staunch supporter of the temperance and prohibitory movements. A widow and grown-up family are left to mourn their irreparable loss.

STANDARD TEMPERANCE WORKS.

- T**HE Temperance Bible Commentary. By Dr. F. R. Lees and Rev. Dawson Burns, M.A. 6s.
- Alcohol and the State. Law as applied to the Liquor Traffic. By Judge Pitman, Massachusetts, U.S. 5s.
- The Basis of Temperance Reform. Rev. D. Burns, M.A. 1s., paper; 1s. 6d., cloth.
- The Cantor Lectures on Alcohol. By Dr. W. B. Richardson. 1s.
- The Condensed Argument. By Dr. F. R. Lees. 6d.
- Our National Resources, an omitted Chapter in Political Economy. By W. Hoyle. 3s., 1s., and 4d.
- The Alcohol Controversy: an Examination in the form of Dialogues of Articles. By Sir James Paget and others in the *Contemporary Review*. Second edition. 1s.
- Bible Hygiene; or, Health Hints. By a Physician. 5s.
- Illustrious Abstainers. By Frederick Sherlock. Short racy biographies of such men as Sir W. Lawson, Sir Garnet Wolseley, Canon Farrar, Dr. Richardson, Father Matthew. An attractive Gift Book. 3s. 6d.
- The Bible Wine Question. Parts I. and II. By Dr. F. R. Lees. 1s.
- Four Pillars of Temperance. By J. Kirkton. 1s., and 1s. 6d. cloth.
- Ten Lectures on Bible Temperance. By the late Dr. Nott, of America. 1s.
- Drops of Water; a selection of Temperance Poems and Recitations. 2s.
- The Trial of Sir Jasper; a Temperance Tale in verse. By S. C. Hall, F.C.A., Editor of *Art Journal*. Illustrated by the best Artists. 1s.
- The Mysterious Parchment; an American Story. Revised and edited by J. W. Kirton. 1s. 6d.
- The Widow's Son; a Tale. By T. S. Arthur, author of "Ten Nights in a Bar-room." Illustrated. 1s.
- All post free at published prices. *The usual discount if purchased at the Offices.*
- SCOTTISH PERMISSIVE BILL AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, 30 HOPE STREET, GLASGOW.

