

in that department he had taken, and hoped he had also afforded, delight; but he had also endeavored to show occasionally that he could be serious. He could assure them that he was serious at the present time, and having been a teetotaler for three years and a half, he thought he might add that he was perfectly sober (laughter). He had often been asked to give some account of the origin of his sketches of "the bottle" (hear, and cheers). The fact was, that although he had never entertained the idea of becoming a teetotaler, he had been very early impressed with the weightful extent and consequences of drunkenness, and endeavored, some years ago, to check it. He referred to his "Gin Juggerman," in which he endeavored to draw a comparison between the Hindoo deity, before whose wheels so many devotees prostrated themselves and were crushed, and the English god, at whose shrine so many voluntarily became victims (hear). It was frightful to think that in a Christian country such a thing should exist, and that the idol of India should cause the sacrifice of so many less than the idol of Britain. Many of the scenes which he had depicted in his work of "The Bottle" were witnessed by him in early life (hear). After alluding to the passages of the Scripture which were supposed to sanction the use of strong drinks, he observed, the object of that meeting was to effect a great moral change in the condition of humanity. He rejoiced that it was gaining ground every day, and he held that it was every man's duty to the utmost of his power to help forward so desirable a consummation (cheers).

After some remarks from the chair,

Mr. J. W. Green then read the following address:—

"The first series of Monthly Meetings in Exeter-Hall for the advocacy of Temperance, having been brought to a termination, the committee appointed to conduct them take this opportunity for presenting a brief statement of the origin and results of the movement.

"In the course of conversations which took place in the autumn of last year, as to the state of the Temperance Movement in the country, and more especially in the Metropolis, it was suggested by Mr. John Cassell, whose long connexion with that movement qualified him to give sound advice, that a series of public meetings on a large scale, in which addresses on specific topics should be delivered by intelligent advocates, and the circulation of the reports of such meetings through the medium of the public press, would be at once the most efficient and the most economical mode of advancing the Temperance Reformation. A committee of twelve gentlemen was formed, when it was proposed to hold six such meetings in Exeter-Hall, one on the first Monday evening in six successive months. To encourage the committee, Mr. Cassell generously proposed to assist this movement by a donation of £25, and also to employ his personal influence with others friendly to the Temperance cause, to induce them to subscribe towards the required fund.

"A circular, detailing the plan, and appealing for funds, was addressed to friends in various parts of the kingdom. To this prompt and generous replies were received. Exeter-Hall was then engaged, and, on the first Monday evening in October, the first meeting was held, and the committee were cheered by witnessing a crowded hall. Other five meetings have regularly followed. The subjects successively brought before the audience have been—

"I.—The Temperance Reformation, in its bearing upon the moral, political, and social elevation of the working classes. The speakers were, the chairman, Mr. J. Cassell; the Rev. Benjamin Parsons, Thomas Beggs, Esq., Mr. Robert Lowery, and Mr. T. A. Smith.

"II.—The influence of the Temperance Reformation on the extension of religion at home and abroad, and the moral obligation of professing Christians to promote it. Speakers: the chairman, the Rev. W. Morton; Mr. D. G. Paine, the Rev. S. Dunn, and the Rev. J. Kirk, of Edinburgh.

"III.—The claims of the Temperance Movement upon the teachers and friends of Sabbath schools. Speakers: the Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Burns, the Rev. James Sherran, Mr. T. B. Smith, who had collected for the occasion a large number of authentic returns from prisons and penitentiaries, for the purpose of showing that a considerable majority of the inmates of those places had received instruction in Sunday-schools. Statistics equal in importance to these have rarely been laid before the public. That meeting was addressed also by the Rev. Asa Mahan, President of Oberlin College, in the United States of America, in a speech which will not soon be forgotten.

"IV.—Intoxicating liquors not necessary for working men, either to assist them in their occupation, however laborious, or to promote their health and happiness. Speakers: Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham, in the chair, and Messrs. Parker, McCormack, West, McLachlan, Phipps, McCulloch, Stearne, Wood, Robinson, Mann, Reynolds, and Grove; also William Janson, Esq., and Mr. John Cassell.

"V.—Juvenile Depravity: its cause, consequences, and appropriate remedies. Speakers: Benjamin Kotch, Esq., chairman, one of Her Majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Middlesex, who brought with him four other magistrates: Mr. Jackson, Thomas Beggs, Esq., the Rev. Thomas Spencer, A. M., the Rev. Benjamin Parsons, and Mr. Woodward, one of the county magistrates.

"VI.—Intoxicating liquors not essential to health or comfort, and their entire abandonment promotive of the physical, intellectual, social, and religious welfare of the community."

Progress of the Cause.

ENGLAND.

LONDON.—The fifth of the series of monthly temperance meetings was held at Exeter Hall, on Monday evening, 4th February—the subject for consideration being, 'Juvenile Depravity, its Causes, Consequences, and appropriate Remedies.' The attendance was very numerous. Benjamin Kotch, Esq., B. C. L., was called to the chair, and, in course of his introductory address, said:—There were at that moment no less than 15,000 children in the prisons of this country—15,000 learning to be thieves, to break their country's laws; whose whole art, and skill, and talents, which in many cases were very great indeed, all being prostituted to the sad purpose of learning to be abandoned men; for that was all that prisons did for juvenile offenders. From his own experience, he could testify that one great cause of juvenile depravity—nay, he might almost say the greatest—was the neglect of children by drunken and dissipated parents. Very recently, in the Coldbath-fields prison, there were two boys confined, the one nine and the other eleven years of age. They were the sons of a man who was employed on the government works, and earned as much as two guineas and a-half a week. His wife was dead, and he himself was an inveterate drunkard. At six o'clock in the morning, when he went out to work, these children were turned into the streets, and when at night he returned home drunk, if they happened to be on the steps they were let in, otherwise they were allowed to spend their nights in the same way. As a natural consequence they fell into vice, and became the inmates of a prison, and the associates of the worst of characters.

SCARBOROUGH.—Six consecutive meetings of the Scarborough Temperance Society, were held during the third week in January, which, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, were crowded to excess, and on one or two of the evenings, many could not obtain admission. Each meeting was of two and a half hours' continuance. The zealous and indefatigable advocate, Mr. James Teare, of Preston, had been engaged for the occasion, and fully and satisfactorily proved the immorality of the traffic, and the evils of moderate drinking, calling especially upon ministers and professors of religion to adopt the principles of total abstinence. Mr. Teare's addresses were listened to with intense interest, and as a convincing proof of their power and efficiency, above 100 signatures were taken. On the last evening, a vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Teare, which was carried by acclamation, the whole assembly standing.

LEEDS.—The annual Christmas festival of the Leeds Temperance Society, was held on Christmas-day in the music hall. About 600 persons partook of tea, and the public were afterwards admitted at a small charge. After the tables had been cleared, the attendance was at least doubled, and Lawrence Heyworth, M. P., was called to the chair. The chairman delivered a powerful opening address, and was followed by Mr. S. Clayton, Rev. Alex. Wallace, Mr. William Logan, B. Mirfield, Esq., and the Rev. C. G. Finney, of America, author of 'Revivals of Religion,' etc., etc. At the close of the meeting, a number signed the pledge; and on the following Thursday evening another meeting was held in the Music Hall, addressed by twelve reformed characters.

BURY.—In Bury there is a population of 25,000; 16 places of worship; 22 Sunday schools; 9 booksellers; 123 provision