

Society, under his own blessing, the means of thus enlarging his spiritual empire and promoting his eternal praise!

From the Temperance Penny Magazine.

ANOTHER RECLAIMED DRUNKARD

The following is the copy of a letter from Mr. Little, master of a vessel at Southsea, near Portsmouth, to his minister, the Rev. William Harland.

SOUTHSEA, Nov. 28, 1835

DEAR SIR,—I have understood you are going into Yorkshire: I cannot be so ungrateful as to let this opportunity pass without returning thanks for your kindness since I have been acquainted with you. It is now about six months since by your recommendation I became a member of the Temperance Society, which is one of the best of all societies; and I am not going too far in saying, it will be the means of causing all who join becoming members of some religious society. I will now point out some of the benefits of my being a member of the Temperance Society. I was in the habit for more than twenty years of going from my work to some public-house, and remaining there drinking till two or three o'clock in the morning, sometimes later; often going home drunk, or what is called "half-and-half," not able to work next day; or, if I did, it was with the head-ache, heart-ache, and the pocket-ache. Since I joined the society I have never taken any spirits; I go from my work to my home, I never go to a public-house except on business. I now save at least five shillings a week: I feel a desire to go to chapel, which I have neglected for more than twenty years: I would not on any account violate my pledge, considering it sacred. My former companions say, they are sure I would, in the dark. I can challenge any of them to come to me in public or private, and say I have tasted the hateful drug since I have been a member of the society. I am now forty-six years old, and ever since I left off drinking spirits I feel myself so much improved in health, and so much stronger, that if I did not know my age, I should believe myself a young man of twenty-seven. I feel under great obligations to the Temperance Society, and will do all in my power to promote the benevolent objects it contemplates. I hope you may hold meetings in some of the ships in Yorkshire, and I hope there will soon be meetings on board all the ships in this port. I shall be happy to tell poor sailors all I know, and what good they have done me. Excuse my bad writing: I conclude with wishing you a safe journey and a speedy return

JOHN LITTLE.

Dreadful effects of Spirit Drinking.

NO. IV.

I proceed next to illustrate the effects of the use of spirituous liquors by producing evidence of its being the principal cause of:

VII. Breaches of Discipline in the Army and Navy.

The testimony of Lord Aylmer, from his connection with Canada, seems worthy of being first brought forward:—

*Important Testimony of Lord Aylmer, to the evil effects of Spirituous Liquors in the Army; extracted from his General Order, on giving up the command of the Troops in British North America, dated Quebec, 17th Sept., 1835.*

The Commander of the Forces also desires that the non-commissioned officers and sol-

diers of this army will receive his thanks for their general good conduct. He has only to qualify this expression of approbation by advertising to the propensity of the soldiers to indulge too freely in the use of strong liquors—a propensity which he deeply laments, as the source of almost every crime, and even of almost every irregularity which occurs in a British army.

Upon the present occasion, the Commander of the Forces thinks it unnecessary to urge upon the consideration of the Generals and other officers, the importance of encouraging sobriety amongst the troops, well knowing how unremitting are their efforts to that effect; but he now at parting, addresses himself directly to the soldiers themselves, and earnestly entreats them to avoid indulging in the moderate use of strong liquors, which leads them into difficulties, injures their health, and throws a shade over those bright qualities for which they have ever been distinguished as soldiers, and the possession of which has never been denied them even by their enemies.—*Quebec paper.*

Capt. Davies, late of the 8th Regiment, states:—"I can conceive there would be no punishment necessary were it not for drunkenness, ninety-nine out of one hundred punishments in the army take place in consequence of drunkenness." And again, "I never found a soldier insolent, but under the effects of drunkenness."—(Parliamentary Evidence, page 233.)

The evidence of Col. Leicester Stanhope, (page 245 and 249,) is equally pointed:—"Have you served in India? I have.

During the period of your service did you observe intemperance prevail among the British troops? Very universally and leading to great crimes.

Do you conceive that the habit of drunkenness, acting upon the heat of the climate, has the effect of disposing British soldiers to commit these crimes? Yes, from the heat of the climate they are kept in their barracks; much of their time is unoccupied, which produces a great degree of ennui and feverishness: from these circumstances they are led to drink for the sake of stimulus, which is very apt to drive them to commit great enormities.

Will you enumerate those offences which you call enormous? Repeated destruction of life; murders, and other crimes of great enormity.

Did any of them arise, to your own knowledge, in consequence of drunkenness? I should say nine out of ten.

Are not the greater part of those who are flogged intemperate men? Yes.

And generally, the crimes for which men are flogged originate in drunkenness? I should say nine-tenths of the crimes committed in the army."

Capt. E. P. Brenton, R. N., was asked: (page 426.) "You have described now the consequences of drunkenness upon the

health and serviceability of the crews, and the amount of loss of property in ships and men occasioned by it; what effect has the habit of intemperance upon the discipline of the men generally? As the Captain of a ship of war for thirteen years, during the last war, the most painful part of my duty, indeed the only painful part, was superintending punishment; this punishment was almost invariably occasioned by drunkenness; it was seldom or ever that a man got into a scrape for any thing else; very rarely indeed. This was not the case in one ship alone, but in every ship I commanded; I commanded nine during the war.

What proportion do the punishments for mere drunkenness bear to the punishments for other crimes? If you will take my word from memory, I should say, at least 95 per cent. in drunkenness."

The Duke of Wellington, in the Regimental Orders issued to the Grenadier Guards, in October of the last year, 1833, dwells at large on the fact of increased crime in the Army, resulting from increased drunkenness; and attributes all the breaches of discipline and other offences principally to this cause: a fact also, which has been tacitly admitted by the Secretary of War, who recently expressed his apprehension at the proposal to abolish Military flogging, because insubordination and crime had latterly increased in the British army. The cause of that increase was clearly seen by the Duke of Wellington, as arising from increased drunkenness; and that increased drunkenness arose from those increased facilities created by the gin-shops, staring the passenger in the face at every step of his way through almost every part of the great thoroughfares of the metropolis.—*Mr. Buckingham's speech in the House of Commons.*

When the Duke of Wellington was examined before the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject of Military punishments, he gave the following pithy answer to a question on drunkenness in the army. Lord Wharncliffe inquired, "is drunkenness the great parent of crime in the British army in your opinion?" The answer of the great Captain was given in a single word.—"Invariably."

Of soldiers and sailors, and those interested in their happiness and honour, (and who among us is not!) let me request an attentive perusal and consideration to the foregoing statements. Drunkenness needs not proof of its being the cause of the greatest evils of society; it is what is called the moderate or temperate use of spirituous liquors, which has to be proved injurious.—This can be easily done. None were born with a taste for ardent spirits. The example of others causes the boy or youth to drink, for the sickness attending it at first,