

Christian friends, I can scarcely imagine for what purpose the resolution which I hold in my hand was committed to my care. It is a resolution of congratulation to those who have come to this meeting for the purpose of signing the total abstinence pledge, and of course, in order to be consistent, ought only to be moved by one who had himself set the example. I can only therefore regard my situation, as the mover, as a sort of conspiracy, for it is well known that although I have for the last seven years entirely abstained from the habitual use of alcoholic liquors, that still I have not signed the pledge. I have not done so for two reasons; first, I entertained a high value for that which I considered my liberty, and regarded the pledge as savouring too much of the yoke of bondage, to feel very willing to become entangled with; and secondly, I entertained an opinion, that whilst wine was altogether unnecessary on ordinary occasions, that there were circumstances in which its use was both proper and necessary; and I regarded my severe exertions on the sabbath-day as one of these. On those accounts, as well as several other reasons which it is not necessary to recite, I have hitherto refused to take the pledge. But a few minutes before I ascended this platform, a gentleman (to whom wine and strong drink have been for years a dreadful snare) asked me whether I could say that I never took wine, and how long it was since I drank the last glass. This question was to me a stunning blow. I remembered that last Sabbath, when exhausted and streaming with perspiration, I entered my house from the pulpit, well knowing that in little more than two hours I should be obliged to return to my anxious and arduous labours. I drank a glass of port; I took it, conscientiously believing that it was under such circumstances justifiable; but I then saw that that single glass of wine had robbed me of my strength in fighting the battles of temperance; that that single glass of wine, in my case excusable, if not absolutely indispensable, might be employed in order to justify the excessive and sinful use of the same intoxicating drug; it was new light suddenly bursting on my mind, and brought to my recollection subjects of the most painful interest. I thought to myself how important was the position which I occupied; I am placed in the providence of God over a Church and congregation, consisting of twelve deacons, thirty-three leaders, and three thousand people, to whom I am not only to teach the truths of the everlasting gospel, but to present a pattern of all holy conversation and godliness. And ought I to indulge in anything by which my ministry might, by any possibility, be hindered? Ought I to consider any sacrifice too great, if by it the torrents of vice and drunkenness which are overwhelming our land, may be arrested, and the temporal good, and everlasting interests of precious souls advanced? I feel that I ought not. I was ashamed and confounded, because, for one poor glass of wine a week, I had lost an opportunity of doing good to one who greatly needs it, and given an excuse to many for the indulgence of a debasing and destructive vice. On this account, Mr. Chairman, I feel that this resolution ought not to have been placed in my hands. I am not fit to congratulate others for signing, when I have abstained from signing myself; but I shall do so no longer. I return to you Mr. Chairman, the resolution which I cannot move, because I have made up my mind to place myself among the number of those who are the honoured objects of its congratulations and its prayer. I will sign the pledge myself (Great excitement and loud cheers). The Rev. Gent. continued his observations, of which we can only furnish a brief abstract. He could not conceal from himself the fact that the use of intoxicating drinks was increasing to a fearful extent; that in the city of Kingston alone there were not less than one hundred rum-shops; and in conversation with an eminent merchant a few days since, he showed him a statement of the rum duties which had been paid by the one house with which he was connected, for the last six months which amounted to no less than £1782 18s. which at 1s. 6d. per gallon, represents no less than 23,772 gallons sold by one establishment in six months. Now, supposing that to be one-fourth of the entire quantity sold, it amounts to the enormous quantity of 190,176 gallons of rum per annum consumed in Kingston, being no less than 4 gallons and 3 quarts per head for every man, woman, and child, who constitute the 40,000 of our population; besides wine and porter, in equal proportion. With such a fact as this before us (said the Rev. Gent.) can we wonder that our churches and chapels are not better attended, that our schools are almost empty, whilst our prisons are full? The Rev. Gent., sat down amidst loud cheering.

Rev. G. Rouse, took up the resolution laid down by the preceding speaker, and which read thus:—"That this meeting rejoices in witnessing respectable and influential persons, with others of the working classes, pledging themselves to abstain from alcoholic drinks, and would fervently and affectionately commend them to the care of Almighty God." This, he stated, had been the happiest evening he had spent in Jamaica, and he did rejoice with all his heart in witnessing not only so many influential persons, with others of the working classes, coming forward and uniting themselves to the total abstinence society; but also, and especially, his dear friend and brother, the Rev. S. Oughton, and he earnestly commended them all to the care of God.

Mr. H. B. NEWHALL, rose to second the resolution. It is always gratifying to behold men placing themselves under the banner of total abstinence, but very gratifying when mechanics and working men come to the rescue. And if there is not joy in heaven to-night, there is joy on earth. It is said that the mechanics of Jamaica have crooked eyes; cannot place a board straight upon the side of a house. When men are drunk, they see double, and perhaps, when mechanics have taken what the doctors call a "little," they see a little crooked. Total abstinence would soon straighten their eyes.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was then moved by W. Whitehorse, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Westley; after which the pledge of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks was signed by 112 persons, among whom were the Rev. S. Oughton, William and David Smith, Esqrs., Dr. McEayden, and other gentlemen, and most of the clerks, engineers, apprentices, and men connected with the railway establishment.

The following day the Rev. G. Rouse the Secretary of the Society, visited the Railway Station, and the pledge was administered to 32 more, so that now 94 (being nearly every person employed on the Railway) are total abstainers.—*Abridged from the Kingston Morning Journal.*

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The Temperance Societies of Hamakua embrace all the churches and all the schools. The pledge precludes the use of tobacco as well as intoxicating liquors. Mr. Lyons found that few comparatively had violated their engagement, and most of these renewed their pledge. The different societies had their annual celebration in January. One of these celebrations, held last March amid the beautiful scenery of Waipio, is described below. The whole valley seemed full of life. The four schools, and multitudes of adults, assembled at the appointed place, midway between the extremes, and, forming a procession, marched to the shore. Waving banners, fantastic dresses, imitations of caps and plumes, and the rough music of rude Hawaiian drums, gave the procession a military aspect. Performing several evolutions along the shore, amid the deafening roar of the dashing surf, the procession formed into several columns, opening in the centre, and facing each other. Hymns, songs, and portions of Scripture were repeated in concert; after which the two choirs of singers, one belonging to the valley, and the other from abroad, united in singing an appropriate hymn. Prayer followed, and then all proceeded to a spacious yard, and sat down beneath an overspreading awning to the temperance banquet. This being ended, a meeting was held, the exercises of which consisted of singing, addresses, —one by a blind man,—and a dialogue between a farmer and a schoolmaster. At the close, the contribution towards the missionary's support was brought forward, and exhibited before the whole assembly. This consisted of a purse of money, containing fifteen dollars; and four large rolls of kapa cloth, a bridle, &c., the whole amounting to about sixty dollars. It was contributed by the church members and some forty or fifty children, and was their first effort to aid in supporting their own missionary. Prayer closed the exercises of the day.—*Missionary Herald.*

UNITED STATES.

LAW IN MAINE.—The law in Maine, which strictly prohibits the sale of intoxicating beverages, is said to be working well. The people are determined to sustain it. In many places the rum-sellers have abandoned the business. In other places they persist in their lawless course. At East Corinth, some thirty cases were preferred against one of the principal rum-sellers, and