

peals of laughter, and who were extremely desirous of turning the whole matter into ridicule and contempt. This did not serve to embolden the lecturer, but he proceeded; he did not wish to draw back, and he delivered his lecture. That lecture was attended with much greater success than the talents or capabilities of the lecturer would have led to have supposed. Next day, a considerable sensation in town was made, and that day the lecturer remained in a certain vestry from 10 o'clock in the forenoon till 4 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of meeting any gentleman who might wish to get further information, with the view to establish temperance societies in this country. The first person that the lecturer found at 10 o'clock that morning was one of the five students, who had been sent as a deputation from the other students, to express their sorrow at having behaved in the manner they did on that evening. That student said that they were so convinced of the truth of what was stated by the lecturer, that they were prepared to join the movement, and wished that their names should be put down first on the list.

Several other gentlemen spoke heartily in the cause, and we may think it well to give some of the speeches in our next number. Next morning there was a public breakfast, and at eleven, forenoon, the annual meeting for receiving the report. It presents nothing of marked interest with which our readers are not already acquainted. With reference to the *Scottish Temperance Review*, they say:

Laborious and expensive efforts have been made to extend its circulation, and although a considerable number of new subscribers have been obtained through various channels, the average circulation has not exceeded 2400 copies monthly. This circulation falls considerably short of the quantity necessary to pay the expense of paper and printing; and your committee therefore trust that you will give their successors in office such instructions regarding its continuance, as will enable them to make it self-sustaining. Unless the circulation be increased, or the size diminished, a sum must be set apart to meet the deficiency occasioned by its publication.

We hope this will not induce any to say, "Well, we are no worse than others in our support of temperance publications," but will rather induce fresh effort to lead the way to what ought to be. The following is better for an example:

At the repeated solicitations of friends in different parts of the country, your committee have started a cheap periodical for circulation by societies and others. The first number appeared on 1st November, 1847, under the title of *The Adviser*; and has continued to be regularly issued since, its average circulation being about 12,500 copies monthly.

In October last, your committee published the twelve tracts to which a premium of two guineas each had been awarded, and are happy to state that they have received a very extensive circulation, not fewer than 140,000 copies having already been disposed of.

A general conference took place on Wednesday morning, to resolve on future operations, and on Thursday night a demonstration of juvenile abstainers took place, in the Rev. Dr. Robson's church, Wellington Street. This our young friends deserve to have an account of, which they shall have in our next number.

These meetings seem to have encouraged the friends in Scotland, as they must encourage us. We conclude in the words of the *Scottish Temperance Review*:

Let us all, then, to the work anew. If our movement have the attractions of a moral enterprise, let it be remem-

bered that it has also its conditions, and these are patient, persevering application. If in the past we have accomplished so much with means so limited—if, with prejudice, and interest, and custom, and influence against us, we have nevertheless secured the verdict of a wide spread sentiment in our favour, what may we not accomplish with the friends and experience we have obtained, now that prejudice is being disarmed, interest abashed, and the church coming round?

#### EQUALIZATION OF TAXATION.

The subject of the following letter deserves consideration. We do not expect that the proposal of the writer could be carried out before the millenium, and long ere that time, we hope, that those whom it is suggested thus to tax will have disappeared from the community. Such a petition, however, would have its own influence in calling attention to what we know to be true, that the great proportion of crime, lunacy, and poverty, results from the use of intoxicating drinks.

(To the Editor of the *Teetotal Times*.)

DEAR SIR,—We have much talk in the present day about the equalization of taxation. While lately reflecting upon the businesses of the spirit merchant, maltster, brewer, and publican, it occurred to me that as they are known, through the influence of their traffic, to be the producers of three-fourths of the crime, insanity, and poverty, which now afflict society, it would be but just were they obliged to pay their relative proportion of taxes for the punishment of criminals, the maintenance of the insane, and the sustenance of paupers. I do not see why one small portion of the community should be allowed to engage in a traffic which increases to the extent of seventy-five per cent the amount of taxation borne by the remainder. I would, therefore, suggest that the friends of temperance and justice throughout the united kingdom, petition Parliament for an inquiry into the evils accruing to society in consequence of the present sale and use of intoxicating drinks; and, after such an inquiry has been obtained, and it has shown that a large proportion of our present taxation is occasioned by the expense incurred in the support of gaols, poorhouses, &c. &c., then petition that those who live by the sale of intoxicating drinks, the consequences of which is the increase of crime and pauperism, be at least taxed in proportion to the amount of evil which they inflict.

If the government refuse to appoint such a committee of inquiry, then I suppose that we assume what we know to be true, viz., that the major part of our national crime, lunacy, and poverty, is occasioned by the sale and use of intoxicating drinks, and pour in petitions from every town and village in the country, praying for an equalization of taxation, and demanding that the manufacturers and sellers of intoxicating drinks be taxed according to the proportions above stated.

Would it not be well to form a committee of the friends of temperance, to make arrangements for carrying into effect the above named project, and if the object be not attained, the movement will at least direct public attention to the subject, and be the means of largely promoting the Glorious Temperance reformation.—Yours respectfully,

J. P. BARKAS.

Newcastle on Tyne, May 12, 1848.

CORNWALL, 25th August, 1848.—During the present summer we have kept up our meetings pretty regularly, at the greater number of which, the labour principally devolved upon our worthy President, George Macdonell, Esq.; recently, however, we have obtained assistance from several