

Aberdonians very generally believe that the climate of their "northern city cold," requires a regular supply of toddy, punch, port, and other potent liquids, to enable them to brave its rigours. And being very considerate, and averse to innovation, they regard arguments in favour of the temperance reformation with the same air of polite incredulity and contempt, which every man who has attempted to reason on the subject with a Frenchman or German must have observed.

At the first establishment of a teetotal Society in Aberdeen, about a year before I visited the city, the management had fallen into the hands of freethinkers and chartists; and, with the upper classes in Aberdeen, the terms teetotaler and chartist were almost synonymous. The Society was therefore looked upon with any thing but a favourable eye. The religious part of the Society had, however, after a struggle, gained the ascendency, and were determined to conduct the temperance reformation as a moral and religious enterprise; and the President, a gentleman of worth, respectability, and judgment, and a zealous and active Committee, were "going ahead" with great zeal and success in the good work. At the request of the Committee, I addressed several meetings; and met with a reception which was very gratifying to my feelings. I was also invited to a Soiree, which passed off very pleasantly, and, I trust, profitably. The Society is rapidly increasing in numbers; but I am sorry to say, that only one of the clergymen of Aberdeen has as yet joined its ranks. A monthly temperance paper was commenced this spring; and, being ably conducted, promises to succeed well. Two or three temperance coffee-houses were also established.

I travelled through the counties of Forfar and Fife, in which the Temperance Reformation has made astonishing progress. These counties possess several distinguished and successful advocates, and many thriving Societies. Indeed, they are commonly considered the head-quarters of teetotalism in Scotland. In journeying south, I saw a fellow-passenger taken from the top of the coach, because he was so drunk that he could not sit. The guard and driver laid him by the side of the road, in the sight of some farm labourers. I scarcely ever found myself on a coach in Scotland without at least one drunken companion. Instead of being surprised at the number of accidents that happened through drunkenness, I was inclined to wonder that there were not more.

At Edinburgh, there was held on the 4th of June an Annual Meeting of the Scottish Temperance Union, consisting of Delegates from the different Scotch Societies, together with several of the most distinguished temperance men from England, and Mr. Delavan, from the United States. Being invited by the Executive Committee, I felt it my duty and privilege to attend. The business that occupied the Convention was chiefly the terms upon which Societies should join the Union; and I was sorry to see that very contracted notions respecting money matters prevailed, as well as local jealousies. If men engaged in the great and holy temperance cause cannot dwell together in unity, where may we look for peace? If they who owe so much to the temperance reformation will not give a portion of their means to extend the same benefits to others, to whom shall we look for liberality? Yet the formation of a Scottish Temperance Union of upwards of 100,000 members was obstructed, because the majority were not willing to assume any responsibility concerning a debt of about £70 which the former committee had incurred in carrying on temperance operations—and the jealousy between the east and west—Glasgow and Edinburgh—rendered them unable to agree upon the place which should be considered head quarters. Under these circumstances two Unions were formed, one for the east of Scotland, and one for the west; both likely to be active and efficient. I am sorry to say, however, that the rules of the eastern Union, although they call themselves teetotalers, make an exception in favour of one kind of intoxicating drink, viz., small beer, which they contend is a necessary exception on account of the prevalence of the practice of using it to porridge by the poorer classes, instead of milk. The glaring inconsistency of making an exception, and the absurdity of bartering principle for such wretched stuff as small beer, were dwelt upon by several of the strangers as well as the western teetotalers, but without effect.

The newspapers, always glad of a bit at the Temperance Society, showed up the inconsistency. One Editor asked, how small the beer was to be, for his part he had heard of three kinds of small beer: good-table, common-table, and lamien-table. The evil effects

of this departure from the simplicity and consistency of the temperance pledge will be visible in a very short time.

In Edinburgh, I saw for the first time, Mr. Joseph Livesey, of Preston, one of the greatest philanthropists of the age; he has a fine head, phrenologically speaking, and benevolence and love beam from every feature of his countenance. He is evidently willing, in imitation of Him who went about continually doing good, to spend and be spent in the cause of suffering humanity. I heard him deliver his "great delusion," or "malt liquor lecture," to a very large audience in the open air opposite the Parliament House of Edinburgh, and a more effective discourse I never heard. In fact, of all the temperance advocates that I have heard, and many of them possess talents of a high order, I like Mr. Livesey best. His argumentative affectionate style could not fail to produce great effect any where. In company with some other gentlemen, Mr. Livesey visited the most wretched abodes of drunkenness and vice in Edinburgh; held short meetings in private houses, and at corners of the streets; and exhorted the people to attend the great open air meeting at the Parliament House, and he said very feelingly and very truly, that if every occupier of a princely mansion in the new town of Edinburgh, were to devote part of his or her time to the same duty, they would not long have to complain of such fearful depravity and wretchedness as abound in the Cowgate, Cannongate, Grassmarket, and closes of the old town. I made the acquaintance of Mr. Livesey, and when I reflected that he had been instrumental in turning more than 100,000 human beings from the use of intoxicating drinks, I felt more honored than if I had made the acquaintance of the first nobleman or statesman in Great Britain. If merely regarded in an economical point of view, the importance of such an achievement is very great, for the saving of money, or rather the turning it from bad channels into good, is of great importance, but when we reflect that 100,000 individuals are now enjoying better health of body and mind, greater domestic peace and happiness, and that their children are much better educated than before, we cannot form an adequate conception of the amount of good effected. Mr. Delavan delivered a lecture in the Hopetown Assembly Rooms to a large and highly respectable audience, upon the rise, progress, and present state of the temperance reformation throughout the world, and a more perfect or interesting exposition of facts I never heard. It produced a great impression, and was reported at length for some of the Temperance Journals. I had likewise the pleasure of hearing John Dunlop, Esq., of Glen; Mr. Robert Grey Mason, Agent of the Edinburgh Society; Rev. Mr. Wight, of Edinburgh, a most indefatigable labourer; Rev. Mr. Baker, of London, Mr. James Tear, and several other eminent temperance men.

I witnessed a very interesting meeting in Edinburgh, being the Annual Soiree which the Messrs. Chambers (the proprietors of *Chambers' Journal*) give to the people in their employment, all of whom, men, women, and children, were gathered round the festive board of their employers to the number (I think) of about 150. A number of guests were also invited, among whom were James Simpson, Esq., the lecturer on education, and the benevolent Councillor Mr. Laren, who is building free schools in every district in Edinburgh out of the surplus funds of Heriot's Hospital. The entertainment was conducted on teetotal principles, and passed off exceedingly well, being enlivened by addresses, recitations, songs, and sentiments. If such occurrences were more frequent, how much better it would be for the world. The employer and the employed meeting together, and bringing their mothers, wives, and sisters with them to interchange good feelings, and give and receive information and innocent amusement, would soon break down the withering influence of custom, and man would learn to look upon his fellow-man as a brother, instead of an enemy. But strong drink must be banished from such assemblies, or else the women and children must be banished. Let any person of right feeling say which alternative he prefers.

The Chambers' are extraordinary men; and it was justly said by Simpson, that the name which they have made for themselves would be poorly exchanged for a patent of nobility. If they were thorough teetotalers, how much they might advance the cause! As it is, they have sometimes a good temperance article in their *Journal*; but it will, perhaps, be followed by instructions for making home-brewed ale, or something directly sanctioning the drinking usages, which are decimating society. The men who do