

NIAGARA.

Arise! thou slug rd : thy death is near!

On one of the mightiest of those mighty streams which flow across America, and with which our largest rivers are in comparison but little brooks, is the noblest fall of water known in the world. The width of the river, and the enormous volume of water which comes roaring and splashing down an unbroken height of 100 feet, make it impossible for any boat to shoot the fall without being torn to atoms in the "hell of waters" below, nor is ever any vestige found of the vessel which has once plunged into the unathomed and unfathomable gulf.

Above this frightful scene, two or three miles up the stream, an Indian canoe was one day observed floating quietly along, with its paddle upon its side. At first it was supposed to be empty; no one could imagine that a man would expose himself to such well known and imminent danger. But a turn in the current soon gave the travellers a sight of an Indian, lying idly asleep at the bottom. They were shocked. They called aloud, but he did not hear: they shouted in an agony of pity and alarm, but he was deaf to their saving cry. It chanced that the current, which was now hurrying along with increased speed as it neared the fatal precipice, drove the little boat against a point of rock with such violence, that it was whirled round and round several times. He's safe! cried the spectators joyfully: the man is safe; that shock must wake him. But, alas! no! Fatigue or drunkenness (to which savages are particularly addicted) had so oppressed his senses, that it seemed more like death than sleep which held him;—it was, indeed, the sleep of death. All chance was gone, and they hurried along the shore, more in alarm than hope, to see the end. It soon came; for the torrent was now rushing so rapidly, that they could scarcely keep pace with the object of their interest. At length the roar of the water, which had been hitherto almost buried within the high banks below, by a sudden change of the wind, broke upon them with double violence. This dreadful noise, with which the Indian ear was so familiar, did at last arouse him. He was seen to start up, and snatch his paddle. But it was too late: the same dinning sound which had roused him from insensibility, told him at the same time that it was in vain to seek for safety now by rowing; nor, indeed, had he time to try—upright, as he stood, he went over the precipice, and the boat and its occupant were seen no more.

Reader, the river is the current of life—the falls, are man's end—the travellers, the Ministers of the Gospel; listen thou to their call, for the boatman is, perhaps, thyself!

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society took place at Exeter Hall on Thursday evening last, when Samuel Bowley, Esq., of Gloucester, presided.—The Chairman said, he held in his hand a list of the various anniversary meetings which had been held in the metropolis during the present month, sixteen of which had been held in that spacious hall, and he would venture to offer it as his deliberate opinion, that not one of those meetings had been of greater importance to the welfare of mankind, than the one in which they were then assembled. The Temperance Society he considered to be the foundation stone of all the other benevolent societies; and every man who wished to advance those various societies, could not do better than sign the temperance pledge. After replying to several objections urged against the temperance movement, and showing the evil effects of trusting to the practice of moderation, the Chairman concluded, amidst loud cheers, by the Secretary to read the report.

The Secretary then read a considerable portion of a lengthened report of the proceedings of the National Temperance Society during the past year. It stated that, although the triumph of the temperance principles was not complete, the storms of opposition had subsided, and calmness and sunshine invited them to labor bravely to spread the truths they had espoused. In calling attention to the various fields cultivated by the different branches of his friends of temperance, the committee very properly placed at

the head of their list the British Association, which continued to hold on its way, having been the means of delivering 190 lectures on week days, addressing 450 religious and Sabbath school meetings on Sundays, procuring upwards of 7000 signatures to the pledge, and reclaiming more than 400 drunkards. The Wesleyan Union of Total Abstemers, which commenced in 1846, included 30 ministers of that body, and about 2500 of its members. The Central Association had sustained a heavy loss in the death of the late G. S. Kenrick, Esq., but was still laboring to spread the principles of which he was so worthy a patron and so warm a friend. The Sunday School Teachers' Temperance Society, under the presidency of the Rev. J. Sherman, was diligently pursuing their important work of spreading information amongst the young. The Scottish Temperance League was laboring on, manfully, intelligently, and successfully, in the northern part of the kingdom and deserved well of the temperance body for its general labors and its admirable publications. In referring to its own operations, reports were read in the labors of the agents of the society in various parts of the kingdom. With a view of securing the attention of the working classes, two prizes of £20 and of £10 had been offered to the competition of the working classes, for the best essays, showing "that the general spread of temperance principles will tend to the physical, mental, social, and religious elevation of the working classes."

The Treasurer then produced the accounts of the past year, which showed a balance of £73 16s 4d.

The Rev. W. W. Robinson moved the first resolution:—

"That this meeting, convinced that intemperance is one of the most costly, degrading, and ruinous evils with which society is afflicted; and persuaded that no sufficient remedy has yet been devised except total abstinence from all that intoxicates, rejoices in the continued and persevering labors of the National Temperance Society, and all other local and general organizations for the advocacy and advancement of temperance principles, and pledges itself to do its utmost to sustain their efforts."

Josiah Hunt, Esq., seconded the resolution.

Dr. Lovell spoke advisedly, and in the presence of several eminent medical men, when he said—and it was after thirty years' experience:—that three-fourths of all the disease and disorder we have to contend with, is brought on through using intoxicating drinks. Upon taking a retrospective view, from the extensive practice in which he was engaged, up to about fourteen years ago, he had no hesitation in saying, that all the cases of insanity that came under his notice during very nearly thirty years' extensive practice, with the exception of one case, he could clearly trace to the effects of intoxicating drinks. The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. John Kennedy moved the second resolution:—

"That this meeting, convinced of the paramount importance of securing for the temperance reformation a larger amount of direct religious influence, and more constant appeal to religious convictions, and a more powerful presentation of Christian motives, affectionately and earnestly commends its claims to the prayerful consideration of ministers of the Gospel, members of Christian Churches, and all who labor for the advancement of religion, and the alleviation of the sufferings and sorrows of mankind, and would advise the formation of Congregational Temperance Societies wherever practicable."

Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., M.P., said: It had been his great pleasure, and he might say his honor, to advocate that good cause for something like fourteen or fifteen years, and he could bear testimony to the fact stated by a previous speaker, that during the whole of that time he had never had occasion, even for sickness, to take one single drop of alcoholic drink.

Rev. Dr. Burns supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

B. Rotch, Esq., in a speech of great power, eloquence, and benevolence of purpose, moved the third resolution:—

"That this meeting, affected with the extent and increase of juvenile depravity (as recently developed in the prize essays on that subject), and deeply convinced that all efforts to arrest its progress will be inefficient while the drinking customs prevail, affectionately urges a consideration of temperance principles upon all superintendents, teachers, and committees of Sunday and day-schools, ragged schools, and all other institutions that seek to instruct youthful minds, and to surround youthful virtue and simplicity with such safeguards as benevolence must desire and prudence can suggest."