

What do you think my dear children, were the effects of this anecdote ?

Next morning we had a public breakfast in another room of the Queen Street Hall, where many friends of missions were assembled together, and I was astonished as one letter came to me after another. I am sure you will like to read them One ran thus :—

“ My Dear Sir,—It was with great pleasure that I heard you on Sabbath, and last night at the Queen Street Hall, advocating the cause of the London Missionary Society. I am very sorry that the Society is so deeply in debt, but I trust that great efforts will be made to supply the deficiency. Will you accept of the enclosed sovereign, and add it to the contributions from a young lady who quite agrees with Mary in thinking that we ought not to wear fine bonnets if we cannot afford to give liberal subscriptions to the missionary cause.”

Another came in :—

“ Dear Sir,—I wear a *good* bonnet, and I live in a *good* house, but I had not a *good* donation to give to the Society last night. Be so good as to accept of the enclosed two pounds for the Missionary Society.

(Signed)

“ A FRIEND TO AFRICA.”

A third followed :—

“ A lady who has just had related to her the interesting anecdote which you told at the Missionary Meeting last night, feels that she has not been so consistent in her givings as she ought to have been, and has the pleasure of enclosing a sovereign to the Missionary Society.”

I can assure you my dear children, that the anecdote of Mary and her bonnet has always been very successful while pleading the Missionary cause; and as it is a very nice story, I hope you will read it to your parents, and to those servants whom you know, that they may cherish Mary's spirit, and follow Mary's example. And trusting that it may have a good effect upon yourselves,—I am, my dear children, yours affectionately,

A FRIEND TO INDIA.

ORIGIN OF TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

An address on the “ Progress and Principles of the Temperance Reformation ” was lately delivered at Kingston by the Rev. R. F. Burns of St. Catharines, and published by special request—The following is his account of the commencement of the Cause :—

The movement started on the other side of the line at an association meeting of congregational ministers in the State of Massachusetts. In 1810 drinking was so prevalent that every man, woman and child, through the whole United States, drank on an average $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of ardent spirits each, every year. The attention of that ecclesiastical convention held in 1811 was directed to this sad state of matters—and a committee was appointed to consider what should be done. As the result of the deliberations of this committee, a Temperance Society was formed, but the preliminary arrangements were gone through with extreme caution, and it was not till 1813 the society was fairly in operation. The pledge of abstinence was limited to whisky, rum, gin and brandy, what were known strictly as ardent spirits. It did not take in wine, beer, ale and the numerous other drinks which in a lesser degree contain alcohol, and thus it continued long. It was indeed an extremely moderate affair revealing in its limitations and exceptions the hold drinking customs had taken, and the opposition that was looked for. It sounds curiously at this advanced stage in the agitation, reading such a clause as the following in the constitution of the first Temperance Society :

“ Any member of this association who shall be convicted of intoxication, shall be fined two shillings, unless such act of intoxication shall take place on the Fourth of July, or on any regularly appointed military muster.”

On these “ high days ” they might get as high as they pleased, or wallow as low, without risk.

To reach even this was a wonderful step in advance. Except, however, an effort made in 1815 to lessen drinking at funerals and among ministers and the publication of a few addresses very little was done till after 1820.

The crushing of a drunken teamster under the wheel of his waggon, and the burning of a drunken miner when lying on a bundle of straw near the mouth of