

all actual contact with their fellow-men; yet there seems to be no prohibition to their going out beyond the walls of Jerusalem and begging by the road-side. Near the gate of Zion, on the road to Bethlehem, I saw many of them sitting on the rocks, their hideous faces uncovered, thrusting forth their scaly hands for alms. Their huts are rudely constructed of earth and stones, seldom with more than one apartment, and this is so filthy and loathsome that it seemed unfit to be occupied by swine. Here they live and propagate, whole families together, without distinction of sex; and their dreadful malady is perpetuated from generation to generation, and the groans of the aged and the dying are mingled with the feeble wail of the young that are brought forth branded for a life of misery. Strange and mournful thoughts arise in the contemplation of the sad condition and probable destiny of these ill-fated beings.—Among so many, there must be some in whose breasts the power of true love is implanted; love for woman in its purest sense, for a spring, for all the endearments of domestic life which the untainted are capable of feeling; yet doomed never to exercise the affections without perpetuating the curse; some, too, in whom there are hidden powers of mind unknown, save to themselves; ambition that corrodes with unavailing aspirations; a thirst for action that burns unceasingly within, yet never can be assuaged; all the ruling passions that are implanted in man for great and noble purposes, never, never to give one moment's pleasure, unmingled with the perpetual gloom of that curse which dwells in their blood. As I plodded my way, for the last time, through this den of sickening sights, a vision of human misery was impressed upon my mind, that time cannot efface. I passed when the rays of the sun were cold, and the sun was dim; and there came out from the rocking hovels leprous men, gaunt with famine, and they bared their hideous bodies, and howled like beasts; and women held out their loathsome babes, and tore away the rags that covered them, and, pointing to the shapeless mass, shrieked for alms! All was disease, and sin, and sorrow, wherever I went; and as I passed on, unable to relieve a thousandth part of the misery, howling curses followed me, and lepers crawled back into their hovels, to rot in their filth, and die when God willed.—*Letter from Palestine.*

TEMPERANCE.—There can be but one opinion as to the evils resulting from an indulgence in the unstrained use of intoxicating drinks. But it becomes an important matter of inquiry, as to how far it should be optional or discretionary with individuals, not favourable to total abstinence, to continue the habit of occasionally using strong drink. In other words, can even the moderate use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage be any longer defended on the ground of their being of any benefit? We think not. That their use may be beneficial in certain cases of sickness or ailment none will deny, and a prohibitory law would not exclude the imputation of use of alcoholic liquors for medicinal purposes, but that the moderate use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, is justifiable or expedient is a matter which, to say the least, cannot but admit of considerable doubt. And we are not without some reasons for making this assertion. What rule or limit, we ask, can be established by which to allow the use of moderate drinking, and yet preserve mankind from the evils of intemperance? None whatever.—A very small portion of alcoholic liquor may and often does prove as injurious, to some, in exciting the brain and inflaming the imagination, as a much larger proportion to others, and, in such circumstances, where or how is the boundary to be fixed? Or is it to be left to the discretion of each individual to judge of the extent to which he may go in the use of intoxicating drinks without doing himself real harm? The most moderate drinkers often exceed the limit arbitrarily fixed by themselves; and what will be said with regard to those who know no bounds, but who are daily rushing madly on in their blinded and degraded career until they are prematurely landed in a drunkard's grave. These are considerations, in our mind, far outweighing any fancied good to be derived from the habit of moderate drinking.

Whether we regard the physical and social happiness of man in this life, or his future and eternal well being in another world, we cannot but think that total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks is a matter deserving the serious attention of the ministers and office bearers of all our churches; and we see no way in which that end is to be accomplished other than by the introduction and passage of a prohibitory law. We trust that the experience of the present year, in marking the evils of intemperance, will lead the ministers

and elders of our own church to a decided conclusion on this all important subject, and be a means of inducing them to adopt a similar course to that pursued by the sister church in Canada.

PREACHING CHRIST.—"Present Christ in every sermon," is part of his directions to preachers, whose success give value, almost authority to his opinions. Those to whom He is precious will never weary of them.—Things both new and old are there which experience and Scripture knowledge bring forth. And by presenting Christ, something more is meant than preaching his precepts. The presentation is more personal, dwelling on his love, his power, his fellowship, his glory.

Walking away from Church, on a beautiful Sabbath, in company with a friend, the subject of conversation was the sermon just listened to; how profound, how searching, and how Scriptural too. "Yes," he said "but did you notice one thing? it lacked Jesus' name. The blessed Saviour was not mentioned once." And so it was.

A minister of the Gospel, sometime since, on going into the pulpit found a slip of paper on which were written the following words from St. John, 21, 51, "Sir, we would see Jesus." The hint brought a consciousness of his fault, which was acknowledged the next Sabbath by an evangelical sermon from another passage: "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord."

Dr. South gave some good directions of his own on preaching Christ:

1. He is text; and all preaching beside Christ, is beside the text; therefore keep to your text.
2. Christ is the very foundation and subject-matter of preaching; and all preaching without Christ is building castles in the air.
3. Christ is the life and soul of preaching; and all preaching without him, is like a body without life and spirit.
4. Christ is the great end of preaching, preaching is to manifest his glory; and when Christ is not preached, the great end is lost.

CHURCH BUILDING IN ST. HELENA.—Through the recommendation of the Bishop of Cape Town, Mr. Ferrey, of London, was the architect from whom plans were soon received. The next and most troublesome business was to raise the necessary money—a work of time and considerable difficulty; sufficient was, however, raised to make a beginning. A site was selected for the new church, in an open field on the ravines in that picturesque island. It is placed at an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above the level of the sea—rising this height in the short space of about three miles one furlong. It was determined to have all the timber and ornamental stone at once from England; and, under the superintendence of Mr. Ferrey, these were prepared and forwarded by Messrs. Holland of London, all of which arrived out in due course. As can be easily imagined, it was no trifling affair to drag these goods up to the side of the church at an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet. The very first road from the wharf to Ladder-hill raises upwards of six hundred feet in a distance of one mile: it ascends the mountain-side by steep zigzags or traverses, many of the turns so sharp as to prevent long timbers being carried up by carts. It was a work of some months to get all the stone and timber up to the churchyard, and many schemes were resorted to for effecting this necessary purpose. After nearly two years of fitful labour, often interrupted by want of money, the church was brought to a completion and opened with due ceremony. It looks very well, and makes quite a striking figure in the general landscape. Its Bath stone windows, quoins, and other arches, contrast very well with the deep gray of the lava ashlar wall, and it looks on the whole like a veritable Kentish church with its ragstone walls. The open timber roof was a novel feature to the worthy islanders. The windows were colored to keep out the glare of a tropical sun, and were an equal novelty to the people.—*Builder.*

THE PERKINS INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—The twenty-first annual report of the Trustees of this Institution has been published. The report of Dr. Howe, to the Trustees, states the present number of inmates to be 97. For several years past, the number has fluctuated from 99 to 116. The average age of the pupils is twelve years. The number of admissions to the junior department has not kept pace with the increase of population: but from this fact no inference can be drawn as to the increase or decrease of blindness. Pains have been taken to minutely investigate

all cases coming under treatment in the Institution, and by scattering the knowledge thus obtained to lessen the prevalence of the infirmity. The classes in the school have made satisfactory progress in their studies. The amount of sales of the labor of blind persons during the year 1852, was \$19,289 73, being an increase of \$919 60 over 1851. The Institution holds property to the amount of \$31,022 14. During the year, \$2000 has been received from the estate of the late Mr. James Ingersoll. More funds are needed for the purpose of procuring a library in raised characters for the use of the blind, the printing of books in raised characters having been suspended for want of funds.

FAMINE IN INDIA—WHOLESALE MORTALITY.—A late number of the Bombay Times, says:—

"We have famines occurring almost decennially, some of which, within our time, have swept their millions away. In 1833, 50,000 persons in the month of September in Lucknow; at Khanpore 1200 died of want; and £500,000 sterling were subscribed by the bountiful to relieve the destitute. In Guntour, 150,000 human beings, 74,000 bullocks, 159,000 milch cattle, and 300,000 sheep and goats, died of starvation. Fifty thousand people perished in Marwar; and in the north west provinces, 50,000 human lives are supposed to have been lost. The living preyed upon the dead, mothers devoured their children: and the human imagination could scarcely picture the scenes of horror that pervaded the land. In twenty months' time, 1,500,000 persons must have died of hunger or of its immediate consequences.

The direct pecuniary loss to the government by this single visitation exceeded £5,000,000 sterling—a sum which would have gone far to avert the calamity from which it arose, and it been expended in constructing thoroughfares to connect the interior with the sea-coast, or districts where scarcity prevailed with those where human food was to be had in abundance: or on camels to bear forth to the soil, thirsty and barren for want of moisture, the unbounded supplies our rivers carry to the ocean."

What a fearful picture: and in what broad contrast is our own happy country. How many reasons have we to be grateful! Here, the death of one individual by poverty or want is a rare occurrence, while in India thousands and tens of thousands are swept away every few years. Startling pictures like these are calculated to make us appreciate our position and our many blessings.

THE MORMONS.—If recent accounts from Great Salt Lake City be not exaggerated, Mormonism is working its own cure. That which persecution failed to do in Illinois, and which the constitution and laws of the United States have not reached in the Rocky Mountains, internal dissension seem in a fair way to accomplish. The community of the Latter Day Saints is a house divided against itself, and it cannot stand.—It is a wonder that it has not ere this shown symptoms of decay. With no civil or moral code for their guidance and government, but what is based upon the pretended revelations of a gross impostor, it is remarkable that so large a body of people should have remained so long subject to this base delusion. Internal dissensions are now prevalent in Utah, and threaten to scatter the Saints as wide and as completely as the confusion of tongues did the builders of Babel.

INDIA RUBBER TEETH.—The Scientific American says that this article, in the form of purified white India Rubber, has been patented in England for making artificial teeth, gums, and plates. It adds:—"The adhesion is complete. It can be moulded with perfection to suit every inequality of the gums and teeth, and supplies an artificial peristomium, as it were, to the teeth, when they become painful by the wasting away of the gum. Added to these is the elasticity of the material, which completely obviates the inconveniences that arise from any motion with artificial teeth made by other means."

The German ladies, with all their cultivation, take the most intimate interest in householdry, and they are remarkable for cheerfulness of temper, for natural and charming manners, and for the intelligence and vivacity of their conversational powers. Who knows but the terrible dearth of subjects of conversation among us might be somewhat mitigated if our ladies spent a part of every morning among the various cares and duties, on the proper performance of which so much of the comfort and happiness of life depends, and which call into action far higher powers than those required for the bald chit-chat of an evening party, or the inanities of a morning call?