

art of speaking. Philip Melancthon and Justus Jones are learned men, and well skilled in the Scripture. I would not make a step into the pulpit for them.

It is said that Melancthon on some occasion arose to preach a sermon on the text, "I am the good shepherd." On looking around upon his numerous and respectable audience, his natural timidity overcame him, and he could only repeat the text over and over again. Luther, who was in the desk with him, at length exclaimed, "You are a very good sheep!" and telling him to sit down, took the same text, and preached an excellent discourse from it.

A DRUNKEN BLACKSMITH CONVERTED.

At a Bible Society Meeting, held in the Town Hall of Henley-upon-Thames, the Rev. Mr. Rowland stated the following fact, which had fallen under his own personal observation :—

There was a blacksmith, with a wife and five children, a skilful workman, and, as such, valued by his master, but, unhappily, addicted to drinking. This sinful propensity proved very injurious to himself, his wife, and children : all was disorder and wretchedness in the family. But it providentially happened that two kind ladies, connected with a Bible Association, called and entered into a friendly conversation with the wife, and ascertained that neither her husband nor herself could read, but they had a daughter who could. After much friendly conversation, they prevailed on the wife, and she upon her husband, to subscribe a penny per week for a Bible. When they got it, the girl was very fond of reading it in the hearing of her father : by degrees, he attentively listened, felt interested, accepted the offer of his daughter to instruct him in reading, and finally succeeded in his efforts. He began to attend a place of worship ; became enlightened, and convinced of the sinfulness of his practices ; a true penitent, and a sincere believer in Christ ; broke off his sinful habits ; made his wife and children comfortable ; and so adorned his Christian profession that his change produced a favourable impression in his neighbourhood ; so that, by degrees, no less than three other families derived lasting benefit from his friendly admonitions and bright Christian example.

DRUNKENNESS.

A habit of drinking ardent spirits cannot be guarded against with too great care and assiduity. When once this most pernicious habit is formed, then farewell happiness and hope ! The drunkard is already miserable ; and he is prepared for every crime. The burning thirst for drink torments him ; and he is in the direct road to beggary and death. In the south of Ireland, such is the conviction of the intimate connexion between drunkenness and poverty, that a common