

For the Pearl.

The following address was read by Beamish Murdoch, Esq. President of the Halifax Temperance Society—at a meeting of the Committee on Monday evening 28th August.

TEMPERANCE.

Gentlemen of the Committee,—

On your entering upon the duties of that office, to which you have been appointed by the unanimous voice of this Society—it seems necessary that the task you have voluntarily undertaken to perform, should be thoroughly understood.

The following statement of duties is not produced by a dictatorial spirit on the part of those who make it: but by an earnest desire to benefit the cause in which we all are, or ought to be, heartily engaged. Members of committee, and Junior ones especially, may not be aware, that on accepting office, they should be more than ordinarily circumspect in their conduct both in private and public; that the opponents of the Temperance Reform may not gain any advantage, nor be able to triumph through the errors of those, who are probably seriously devoted to the advancement of this benevolent work.

The objects of the Society must be accomplished (under the divine blessing) by means, the most obvious, are the activity and zeal of its officers.

The Chairman and Secretaries cannot be expected under ordinary circumstances, to do much more than to organize meetings, conduct the routine business of notices, &c. with the care of making public occasionally the proceedings of the Society—lists of members, comparative progress, etc. Very important duties therefore, devolve on the members of the committee, and unless they consider their office something more than nominal, the society must be paralyzed in its efforts, and lose ground in lieu of making advances.

It appears to be the necessary duty of a committee man:

1st. To attend every meeting of the Society unless prevented by actual illness, and endeavour to prevail on all others, whether members or not, to do the same—committee meetings should also be punctually attended.

2nd. To add to the numbers of members as far as he is able: and to facilitate increase,—the distribution of Tracts and papers on the subject of Temperance becomes his imperative duty.

3rd. The list of names handed to him by the Secretary, should be considered as a commission—and be carefully preserved; be produced at every meeting of the Society, and the additions be taken by the Secretary for insertion in the Society's Books.

4th. To visit where there is any prospect of making converts, particularly among the labouring classes and seafaring people; and not to go singly, but with two or three others, members or committee men, that their arguments, which should always be in kindness and without temper, may have more weight.

Finally:—Whenever occasion suggests any thing for the good of the cause, to communicate frankly with the other officers of the society: to endeavour by amicable concessions and good will to check discord; also, to study carefully the principles of Temperance, in order to be able to defend the cause with sound reasons, when prudent or necessary so to do.

Having in view a great moral benefit, to be conferred first on ourselves, and next on those around us, we should not suffer ourselves to be discouraged by appearances, however gloomy or lowering. The united perseverance of even a few resolved minds, bent on an honourable object which conscience will at all times approve, if governed by prudence, strengthened by zeal, and conducted with method and order, must lead inevitably to the most gratifying results. If we could do no more than to preserve in our minds the good resolutions, and in our personal habits the self denying practices enjoined by the pledge of the Institution—how delightful and pleasing will be our reflections in the closing period of life, when we reflect that we have not only secured ourselves from many evils that necessarily attend on an opposite course; but that we have in our day and generation, as far as we could, set an example of good conduct, and tried our utmost to diffuse moral light and moral good among our fellow men. This we can secure without doubt, by pursuing that wisdom in whose right hand is length of days, and in her left riches and honour; and as to the more distinguished blessings, and more glorious results that are hoped and wished for in the general and extensive reign of Temperance, let us do our part, and leave the result in the hands of the Almighty disposer of events.

AUGUST—The month of the great Cæsar—is here. The summer has reached her last moon. Already her fresh living beauty wears the shadow of change on her green trees and gay flowers. But still Summer is lovely—more refined and touching in the character of her beauty appears her gentle approaches to decay than even, in the full burst of brightness, which the laughing June diffuses around. Like the tender smile on the cheek of some fair girl, where the seal of Consumption is only shown by the peculiar delicacy of the beauty it is perfecting for the grave,

so the flowers and foliage of August are rendered lovelier to our heart by the softness of the shadow over their bloom, which whispers they must soon pass away. Must, but not yet. Much remains to enjoy. The ripe fruits are now to become, in their turn, a beauty and a blessing. As the dreams and hopes of childhood and youth are succeeded by the happiness of real friendships and loves, and the pleasures of social intercourse and benevolent virtues, so the buds of the Spring, and fresh verdure of the early summer give place to the richer maturity of the vegetable creation; thus assuring us that the harvest time will be the crowning grace in the beauty of the seasons.

Who that has the privilege of witnessing the progressive changes of Nature can feel ennuï?—And has not the quiet pleasure of a secluded residence in the country, this charming season, been more truly happy to many a family, whose broken fortunes have compelled them to study economy instead of straining to appear among the *haut ton*, than they have heretofore enjoyed in their Summer tours to the Springs, or a residence at a crowded fashionable watering place?

Oh! it is thoughtful of peace, that best position of the soul's happiness, to reflect on the stability of those blessings which no change of outward circumstances can wrest from the person who has health, liberty, a clear conscience and a heart to appreciate the riches of Nature;—for

“Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her! 'Tis her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life, to lead
From joy to joy, for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts, that neither evil tongues,
Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men,
Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all
The dreary intercourse of common life
Shall e'er prevail against us, or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all that we behold
Is full of blessings.”

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX SATURDAY, SEPT. 2, 1837.

By her Majesty's Packet Hope which arrived here on Wednesday, we have received our file of London papers to the 2nd of August. Those items of most interest to the generality of our readers, will be found below:—

LONDON JULY 17.

THE PROROGATION—BY THE QUEEN.

The novelty of a Queen of England going to meet Her Parliament was not the least attractive inducement to the immense crowds who assembled at an early hour.

The Queen, accompanied by the Grand Officers of State reached the House of Lords amid the acclamations of the people, at two o'clock, and having entered the House, the Commons were summoned to the bar as usual, when Her Majesty read the following most gracious

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“I have been anxious to seize the first opportunity of meeting you, in order that I might repeat in person my cordial thanks for your condolence upon the death of his late Majesty, and for the expression of attachment and affection with which you have congratulated me upon my accession to the throne. I am very desirous of renewing the assurance of my determination to maintain the Protestant religion as established by law—to secure to all, the free exercise of the rights of conscience—to protect the liberties and to promote the welfare of all classes of the community.

“I rejoice that in ascending the throne I find the country in amity with all Foreign powers; and while I faithfully perform the engagements of the Crown, and carefully watch over the interests of my subjects, it shall be the constant object of my solicitude to enjoy the blessings of peace.

“Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

“I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have granted for the public service of the year, as well as for the provision which you have made to meet the payments usually chargeable for the civil list.

“I will give directions that the public expenditure in all its branches be administered with the strictest economy.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“In taking leave of this Parliament, I return you my thanks for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourself to the public business of the country.

“Although your labours have been unexpectedly interrupted by the melancholy event which has taken place, I trust they will have the beneficial effect of advancing the progress of legislation in a new Parliament. I perceive with

satisfaction that you have brought to maturity some useful measures, amongst which I regard with peculiar interest the amendment of the criminal code, and the reduction of the number of capital punishments. I hail this mitigation of the severity of the law as an auspicious commencement of my reign.

“I ascend the Throne with a deep sense of the responsibility which is imposed on me, but I am supported by the consciousness of my own right intentions, and by thy dependence on Almighty God—It will be my care to strengthen our institutions, civil and ecclesiastical, by discreet improvement wherever improvement is required, and to do all in my power to compose and allay animosity and discord.

“Acting upon these principles I shall upon all occasions look with confidence to the wisdom of Parliament, and the affections of my people, which form the true support of the dignity of the Crown, and ensure the stability of the Constitution.”

Lord John Russell, by command of her Majesty, had forwarded a despatch to Lord Mulgrave, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. As this is the most decided political expression of her Majesty, which has appeared since her accession, we copy it here.

Whitehall, July 18.

“My Lord—In confiding again to your Excellency the important charge of administering the affairs of Ireland in her Majesty's name, the Queen has commanded me to express to your Excellency her Majesty's entire approbation of your past conduct, and her desire that you should continue to be guided by the same principles on which you have hitherto acted.

“The Queen willingly recognizes in her Irish subjects a spirit of loyalty and devotion towards her person and government.

“Her Majesty is desirous to see them in the full enjoyment of that Civil and Political equality to which, by recent statute, they are fully entitled; and her Majesty is persuaded that when invidious distinctions are altogether obliterated, her Throne will be still more secure, and her People more truly united.

“The Queen has seen with satisfaction the tranquillity which has lately prevailed in Ireland, and has learned with pleasure that the general habits of the people are in a state of progressive improvement, arising from their confidence in the just administration of the powers of government.

“I am commanded to express to you her Majesty's cordial wishes for the continued success of your Administration, and your Excellency may be assured that your efforts will meet with firm support from her Majesty.

“The Queen further desires that you will assure her Irish subjects of her impartial protection.

“I have, &c.

(Signed) “J. RUSSELL”

INSURRECTION IN PORTUGAL.—On Saturday a letter was received in London from Lisbon, dated the 22nd of July, containing the following cautiously worded proclamation issued by the Queen:—

“PROCLAMATION.

“Portuguese! It is with grief that I see disturbed the repose and happiness of my beloved people: the scourge of civil war again threatens the country. Superior to the hatred and passions of parties, who improperly make use of my name against the national cause, I perceive in concord and reconciliation alone the means of preserving the country from the precipice which is opening before us. Portugueses! I call you to concord and reconciliation, in order not to be obliged to proceed with all the rigour of the laws for the preservation of that order and tranquillity, without which no people will be happy.

“THE QUEEN.

“Palace of Necessidades, July 21, 1837.”

The latest accounts from Lisbon seem to attach much more importance to this insurrection in favour of the Charter of Don Pedro than it was at first viewed with. The insurrection was evidently spreading, and an estimate of the extent of its ramifications may be formed from the fact of its having broken out simultaneously at Estramos, which is in the south of Portugal, and at Valencia, in the North. Although the authorities at Lisbon pretended to attach but little importance to this movement, the extraordinary character of the measures which they had recourse to indicates that they must have viewed it with considerable apprehension.

SPAIN.—Colonel Lacey, of the artillery, is, it is said, to proceed immediately to Spain to settle, if possible, in an amicable manner, the differences between the Queen and Don Carlos; and, if unsuccessful, to intimate that British troops will be employed to put an end to the continued and fruitless destruction of human life. Colonel Lacey is to be accompanied by a small Staff.—*Observer.*