

and Mr. James Winning of Paisley, were appointed to audit the Treasurer's cash-book, which they afterwards did, and certified to its correctness.

The office bearers for the ensuing year were then appointed as follow:—President, Robert Kettle, Esq., Glasgow. Vice-presidents, Rev. William Reid, Edinburgh; Rev. Thomas C. Wilson, Dunkeld; Rev. Joseph Brown, Dalketh; George M. Whiter, Esq., of Inglis Green, and Robert Smith, Esq., Glasgow. Treasurer, William Service, jun., Esq., Glasgow. Secretary, Mr. Robert Rae, Glasgow. An Executive Committee of fifteen members was also elected, together with a large Board of Honorary Directors, consisting of one minister of each denomination, and a number of influential laymen.

The proceedings connected with this anniversary have been much more interesting than on any other similar occasion since the formation of the League.

DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

We continue our extracts from the valuable paper lately read, at the meeting of the Dublin Statistical Society, by James Haughton, Esq.

I need not occupy your time with any further evidence than I have already afforded you in my first paper, in proof of the fact, that crime is much increased by the use of alcoholic drinks. Let us inquire now what effect they have on society in an economic point of view—how far they retard the increase of wealth in the community.

I will not enter into the question, whether what is termed luxury in a community has a tendency to create wealth or poverty; but I expect it will be admitted that all practices which tend to make man vicious and unhealthy, have a deteriorating effect on the temporal prosperity of the people; and, therefore, that all practices which have more of the germ of evil than of good in them, should be discontinued. Public safety renders it necessary that crime should be suppressed, and punished. This object can only be attained by an expensive process, which absorbs a considerable amount of the capital of the country that would otherwise be productively employed. Large numbers are maintained in a state of idleness as the inmates of prisons; this can only be effected by the labor of others; so that the virtuous and industrious portion of the community are not only mulcted of a large portion of their earnings, but they are obliged to labor more continuously for the comforts they enjoy than would otherwise be necessary—as they have not only to support themselves, but those who are in prison, who do nothing there for the production of wealth, or for the public good in any way. It is, therefore, clear, that crime acts injuriously on our wealth-producing power; and to the full extent to which intemperance conduces to crime, it is economically destructive in our country.

All customs which tend to make men unhealthy, and thus to limit the amount of their productive powers, must retard the growth of wealth. The evidence that intoxicating drinks have the most deteriorating effects on the physical nature of man is abundant. In the first place, alcohol is classed by all writers among the poisons, and these are to be avoided by all men when they are in a state of health. When the body is diseased, alcohol, like other medicines, or other poisons, may perhaps be beneficially used, but not otherwise.

The late Doctor Sewell, of New York, was so thoroughly persuaded of the baneful effects of alcohol on the human stomach, I say the human stomach, for no other animal but man will voluntarily swallow alcohol, that he made it a subject of particular inquiry, which resulted in the publication of a series of drawings of the stomach (a copy of which I have now the pleasure to exhibit), showing how injuriously that organ is affected by alcohol. Dr. Sewell also states, in relation to cholera, that in Park Hospital, New York, out of 294 cases only six were temperate persons, and that these had recovered; while 122 of the others, when he wrote, had died, and that the facts were similar in all the other hospitals. In the city of Albany 336 died, over 16 years of age, of whom 140 were temperate persons; 55 were free drinkers; 131 were habitual moderate drinkers; 5 were strictly temperate; 2 were members of temperance societies; 1 an idiot; 2 unknown; total, 336.

Dr. Beaumont, also of the United States, whose name is well known to the medical profession in Europe, published a series of

most interesting experiments which he made on a soldier named San Martin, who had an opening made into his stomach by a bullet, while engaged in trying to perform the same friendly office for his fellow creatures. This man survived, and, as I believe, still living. The hole made in his stomach was never entirely closed, and an orifice remained, through which the natural operations of the organ could be observed. Dr. Beaumont found that all these were injuriously affected by the use of alcoholic drinks. I could readily adduce the separate evidence of very many eminent members of the faculty in favor of this side of the question, whilst I have only heard of one physician who has advocated the habitual moderate use of strong drinks. But I need not dwell on individual evidence, for I can present you with the united testimony of nearly two thousand medical men, who recommend their entire abstinence; so that no man can, in future, seriously maintain that strong drinks are useful to men in health. This document comprises the names of the foremost members of the profession in the United Kingdom, and is a noble testimony to the value of the principles enunciated and pressed upon the public mind by the temperance reformers. It is as follows:—

We, the undersigned, are of opinion—

- I. That a very large portion of human misery, including poverty, disease, and crime, is induced by the use of alcoholic or fermented liquors as beverages.
- II. That the most perfect health is compatible with total abstinence from all such intoxicating beverages, whether in the form of ardent spirits, or as wine, beer, ale, porter, cider, &c.
- III. That persons accustomed to such drinks may, with perfect safety, discontinue them entirely, either at once, or gradually, after a short time.
- IV. That total and universal abstinence from alcoholic liquors, and intoxicating beverages of all sorts, would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human race.

To the above document are attached the signatures of Adams, Aldridge, Catto, Carmichael, Curran, Hamilton, Hill, Marsh, McDonald, McKeown, Murray, Sarsly, Wilde, and Wilnot, of Dublin—a few of the large number of physicians who have thus, in unmistakable language, borne testimony to the deteriorating effects of alcohol on the health of man.

Gentlemen, could proof stronger than this be given in evidence of the folly of expecting to derive health and strength from the use of alcoholic drinks? That delusion is at an end for ever. People use them, because they like their stimulating effects; and as these effects are proved to be physically injurious, I have, in this instance also, shown that they are detrimental to the production of wealth, and therefore economically injurious to our country.

It would appear from the following, cut from the *Liverpool Mail* of 11th July, that the Rechabites are a numerous body in that city. The contrast between the family of a drunkard and the family of a temperance man, was certainly a striking exhibition:—

RECHABITE ANNIVERSARY.—The sixteenth anniversary of the Rechabite Total Abstinence Society was celebrated in this town on Monday last. The various societies assembled at nine o'clock in the morning, in Williamson-square, and proceeded thence through the principal streets. The most remarkable feature in the procession was a building erected upon a lorry, divided into two compartments, one made to represent the home of the drunkard, and the other the home of the teetotaler. In the home of the drunkard there were two squalid and miserable looking children, seated on the floor. Behind them were their parents, sitting upon two bottomless chairs, at a filthy table. They were made to appear in a filthy state, and were clad in rags. The occasional snarl fights between husband and wife excited much amusement. At the opposite end of the house there was another apartment, which was neatly fitted up with pictures and curtains. Man and wife were seated at the table, reading, and the cheerful and happy looking children around were enjoying themselves with some toys. On the outside of the house were placed the words, "Look on this and on that; then judge for yourselves." The annual meeting of the several tents, &c., was held at the *Liver Theatre*, which was very tastefully fitted up, and crowded to excess in all parts.