

Joseph Livesey.

WHO has not heard of "the seven men of Preston," those first total abstainers in the days when temperance meant only moderation? Mr. Livesey, the leader of this earnest band, has lately died (in 1884), deeply regretted, at the ripe age of ninety. Joseph Livesey, a hand-loom weaver's son, was born at Walton, near Preston, March 5, 1794. In childhood he knew the discipline of trial, for he was left an orphan at seven, and his grandfather Livesey, who brought him up, was unsuccessful in the cotton trade, for which he had given up farming. The child was early put to work at weaving, and taught to turn his hand to anything. He had very little schooling, and learnt only to read the Testament and to write and cipher a little; but he was bent on improving, so he kept his book open on the weaving beam all day. When he was seventeen, through the influence of a religious family named Portlock, he began to attend public worship regularly, Sundays and week-days, and became a happy, earnest Christian. He married a Miss Williams in 1815. They had a very happy, though at first a straitened, home; their thirteen children (of whom nine grew up) were from the first brought up strictly and religiously, and on total abstinence principles.

The drinking in Preston in those days was excessive, especially on great occasions like the Christmas feast of the bell-ringers, of whom Livesey was one in early youth. Religious principle kept him from ever drinking immoderately, but he was not a total abstainer until 1831, when his first and last glass of whisky "took hold of him," and made him determine for his boys' sake and his own, never again to drink anything intoxicating. He soon began to urge it on others. He induced several young men to form a temper-

ance society. At their meetings there were many earnest discussions between the old school, who were moderate drinkers, and Livesey's new party of total abstainers. On September 1st, 1832, these last, seven in number, separated from the rest and signed the following pledge:—"We agree to abstain from all liquors of an intoxicating quality, whether ale, porter, wine, or ardent spirits, except as medicines."

Such is the brief history of the formation of the first total abstinence society.

It is only fifty-two years since Joseph Livesey inaugurated the total abstinence movement. Already there are 5,000,000 teetotallers in Great Britain—an army that would crowd London,—besides the numbers beyond the seas.

When we think of the benefit brought to thousands of homes, we thank the Lord for raising up this remarkable man, and pray Him to send forth more such labourers into His harvest.



THE LATE JOSEPH LIVESEY.

Eight Things Worth Knowing.

1. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. vi i. 28.)
2. "We know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him" (1 John v. 15).
3. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (1 John ii. 24).
4. "We know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him" (1 John ii. 2).
5. "We know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us" (1 John iii. 23).
6. "We know that we are of God" (1 John v. 19).
7. "We know that the Son of God is come" (1 John v. 20).
8. "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. v. 1).

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.