

ful ravages he had committed on the bodies and souls of men, to allow of any doubt as to the object of our warfare. If any thing ever deserved to be held up to public execration as a Colossal evil, it was Intemperance. This was the Moloch at whose shrine a greater number of human victims had been sacrificed, than to all the idols of the Heathen world, since the beginning of time. We hear, with shuddering, of the idol Jugeremur, and of the hundreds of his deluded votaries crushed under the wheels of his tremendous car, of the Sattues, the infanticide, the drownings, and all the other abominations of Hindooism; but what are these, compared to the nameless and numberless victims of Intemperance? War itself, with all its told and untold horrors—"the triumph or the harvest of the first great murderer, the devil"—is a far less sanguinary demon than Intemperance. It was dreadful to reflect upon a field of battle, where thousands of human beings are cut down at a stroke, and their bones left to whiten under the sun and the sky; but if war had slain its thousands, Intemperance had destroyed its tens of thousands, nay, its hundredreds of thousands. The carnage of the battle-field, however much to be deplored, is only occasional, and at intervals—the sword is sometimes sheathed, and the artillery ceases to roar; but Intemperance knows no cessation; it is always at work, every hour of every day and every night, in every nation and in every clime, where man can find means to effect his own destruction. By indulging the habit of intoxication, the drunkard wastes his property, ruins his health, wrecks his character, injures his family, spreads misery all around him, and finally plunges his soul into interminable woe. And all for what? For the miserable privilege of degrading himself to the level of the brutes that perish—nay, far below that condition, for a brute, with human reason, is a more despicable being than a brute without it. Should it not, then, be the earnest desire of every patriotic and benevolent man, especially of every Christian, to put a stop to so tremendous an evil? For this end Temperance Societies were formed; and it was delightful and encouraging to hear of their increasing progress in every part of the world. Mr. B. then adduced several facts and circumstances which tended to establish two points.—First, the destructive nature and extensive prevalence of the evil which Temperance Societies were endeavouring to eradicate; and—Secondly, the success which had, in very numerous instances, attended their efforts in the cause of moral renovation. Among others, he related a case of which he heard that morning, of a young man in the States, who, under the influence of liquor, had killed his own mother, and was found standing on the corpse as if exulting in his cruel deed, and even striking his heel upon the face of his murdered parent. Another case was that of a person in Lancashire, England, who, having been reduced by drinking to poverty, disease, and misery, heard of Temperance and its friends—and "thinking it a grand thing, resolved to have a do with it,"—the consequence was, reformation, health, and plenty. "What!" said he, in relating his case at the Preston meeting, "Temperance Societies done no good? If they had accomplished nothing more than they have done for me, they would be amply repaid for their labour." From Batoe, off the coast of Sumatra, a letter expresses the regret of the writer at the scenes of intemperance around him—and that formerly the practice of hard drinking had been found so pernicious at Padang, that it obtained the Malay name of Pakoe, (a nail), because the people said it drove one more nail into their coffins. It was Pakoe with a vengeance: was there ever an epithet more strikingly applied? Every instance of intoxication drives another nail into the drunkard's coffin, and helps to bring to a miserable and premature death, many a man who otherwise might have lived a blessing, instead of a curse to society, and died at last in peace. Had that country, however, the Temperance cause had found its way, and was extending its beneficial influence. After reciting other examples, the speaker adduced some statements to show the improved condition, in comfort and safety, of those merchant ships in which ardent spirits were laid aside, and the superior estimation in which they were held by Insurance Companies, from the fact, that returns were made to such ships on their arrival; he also produced the testimony of a Committee of the British House of Commons to the advantage of such abstinence, in the case of American vessels which could readily obtain freights, when those of other countries, which continued the use of spirits among the sailors on board, were often obliged to wait in vain. With reference to the

opics alluded to in the Report, he was pleased to learn that so great a number of publications had been circulated during the past year. Information was needed by the people generally, on the nature of the Society and its operations. Discussion was favourable to truth, and knowledge to virtue; and he would therefore cordially join the recommendation of the Committee to enlarge as much as possible their means of exciting attention to the object and doings of the Society. Lectures and public meetings of the nature of Soberies, might be rendered very serviceable to the same purpose, while they contributed to the mental improvement and moral efficiency of the friends of Temperance and man. The Committee had deemed it necessary to explain why more activity had not been used in procuring subscriptions and donations in aid of the Society, by urging that their time had been much taken up in preliminary arrangements, and in efforts to establish the Temperance Advocate. He thought they had made out a good case; but he trusted the Committee now to be chosen would feel themselves more at liberty, and be enabled to exert themselves more successfully in obtaining that pecuniary support which the Society required. He was sorry to learn that the Treasurer was in advance, to the amount of £22 11s. 4d. The balance due to that gentleman ought immediately to be provided for, as it was surely but reasonable that he who managed gratuitously the affairs of a Society, should be as much as possible guaranteed by its members from any pecuniary loss, or even temporary advance beyond the amount of income. He trusted, therefore, that every one present, and all who were friendly to so good a cause, as that which they had met to promote, would see it, and feel it, to be their duty to assist in providing funds, not only to liquidate the present debt, but also to enable the Society in future to carry on its beneficial operations, with increased vigour and effect. After various other observations, which want of space prevents being noticed, the Rev. Gentleman concluded his address by a strong appeal to all present, to put forth their utmost energies in attempting to rid the world of an evil more dreadful and destructive than pestilence, famine, or the sword.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. J. Fraser.—

2 That the following constitute the officers of this Society, with power to add to their number:—

Treasurer.—J. E. Mills.
Secretary.—J. Court.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Ministers of this city who shall be members of the Society.

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| Lt.-Col. Wilgress, R.A. | R. Morton, |
| J. De Witt, M.P.P. | C. Fitts, |
| W. Ivman, | W. Addy, |
| J. Dougall, | L. B. Ward, |
| I. Gregory, | D. W. Johnston, |
| J. T. Barrett, | W. Greig, |
| J. R. Orr, | W. Brewster, |
| J. Milne, | R. Campbell. |
| J. Fraser, | |

The third Resolution was moved by John Dougall, Esq. seconded by Mr. R. Morton.

That in the opinion of this Meeting, three-fourths of the poverty, diseases and crimes which afflict mankind are caused by the use of intoxicating drink.

It must be a matter of much satisfaction for the friends of Temperance, to obtain the address made by Mr. Dougall, of which the following is an entire report:—

In moving the above Resolution, JOHN DOUGALL, Esq. said:—The opinion embodied in this Resolution is a common one among Temperance men; but, although all assent to it, I doubt if many seriously consider its full meaning and importance. Certainly, if mankind were fully convinced of its truth, the use of intoxicating liquors would at once, and by common consent, cease for ever. I have recently had opportunities of judging, which lead me to believe that, instead of exaggerating, Temperance men have rather softened down the fact, in making the proportion of poverty, disease and crime, caused by intoxicating drinks, only three-fourths. My audience is aware that a House of Industry has recently been established in this city, into which nearly 500 persons have been admitted, who are dependent on public charity. I have had opportunities of seeing and knowing something of the character and history of a great number of these

paupers; and though, in many instances, their appearance and tales of distress induced me to believe at first that they were reduced to beggary by unavoidable misfortunes, yet, in almost every case, when I learned more about them, I found that drink was at the bottom of their distress. As facts are more important than theories, I shall make bold to occupy a little of your time with a few short instances, to illustrate what I have advanced.

1. The first who took refuge in the House of Industry was a worn-out drunkard and beggar, in the last stage, apparently, of disease. Now, after nearly three months abstinence, she is a decent-looking well-behaved woman. She nurses a little child, whose mother died, and appears nearly restored to health. She wishes me to take down an account of her former life, to show what mercy she has received in being enabled to reform, and she says she is firmly determined never to taste liquor again. She begged leave to join the Temperance Society, and shows a disposition to profit by the religious instruction which is afforded.

2. The next was a good-looking young widow, with two children, one of whom, a girl about ten years of age, got a situation as servant. I had no suspicion that the mother was given to liquor, till she one day came in drunk, quarrelled with the matron, and left the house, leaving her son in it. She has since procured three good places as servant, and lost them all through drunkenness and misconduct. She comes every now and then when drunk to the house where her daughter is at service, and threatens to take her away. Her daughter cries at this, and says she will rather drown herself than suffer again what she suffered with her mother, who used, when in liquor, to pull her children out of bed and beat them, and force them to go out begging frequently for money to drink. When this woman had liquor she forced her daughter to drink also. Her son, who is a very clever boy, wishes to stay in the poor-house, and not go back to his mother.

3. The next that I shall notice, is a middle-aged man, the near relation of an extensive merchant in this place, who has frequently supplied him with money and clothes, which were immediately converted into drink. This man was drunk when he applied for admission. He, like the greater part of the others, has improved greatly in appearance, and is now industrious, quiet and honest. One day, when I was describing all the miserable effects of the disease of drunkenness, and the sufferings which it caused to its victims, I remarked an unusual degree of attention among the men particularly; the greater part of whom, I was convinced, knew from experience the truth of what I said. Among them all, however, none seemed so deeply affected as the man of whom I am speaking—he became deadly pale, and absolutely trembled to hear the truth about the frightful state to which the drunkard is reduced. He afterwards begged to be admitted into the Temperance Society. I asked him if he would never drink any thing as long as he lived, for that was his only chance. He said he was determined never to drink again, and trusted he would be able to keep his determination. "Oh," he added, "that I had done this ten years ago!" The exclamation came from the heart.

4. Another man who applied for admittance, showed me a pawnbroker's ticket for his coat, to prove the distress to which he was reduced. But what showed far more clearly that he needed to be taken into the poor-house, was his being so drunk at the very time that he could hardly stand, although four children, who had the misfortune to call him father, were starving.

5. A woman who was long a notorious drunkard and beggar about town, was admitted, and improved rapidly in appearance. She was twice permitted to go out, and both times came back drunk. The second time she was carried in by the soldiers on guard, and her hands were severely frost-bitten. Indeed, whenever the paupers were allowed to go out for a day or two, they began to look worse and worse; and when they were kept in, they improved in appearance and cleanliness rapidly. When this woman was sober, her frost-bitten hands and wretched appearance were pointed out to her, and she was told that she punished herself more severely by drinking, than the Committee could do. She replied that though she got drunk now and then, and suffered for it, she would do as much work as any one in the house. Such was her infatuation, she could see no harm in drinking, although she suffered so severely by it. This woman