

the pledge. Others, although not advocating the cause by public lectures, have been, nevertheless, faithfully pleading it by private exhortations, in the School room, in the social circle, and by the way side.

The information which has been received from the various members is, upon the whole, very encouraging. While some report that intemperance still prevails to a lamentable extent, in many villages and country places; others give the cheering intelligence, that the Temperance Reformation has been making great progress, during the past year, in the respective districts in which they have been labouring, that taverns and other places, in which intoxicating liquors were sold, have greatly diminished in number, and that all have been closed on the Sabbath day. One member reports, that a temperance society, formed sometime ago, in connection with one of our country congregations, under the presidency of one of the elders, has been instrumental in closing all the taverns in the locality; so that at present, Bacchus has not a single salesman within the bounds of the congregation. Let us hope and pray, that in the good providence of God, the time may soon be ushered in, when this may be said of all our congregations.

While your Society has rendered active and valuable services to the cause of temperance in the United Province of Canada, it is pleasing to notice, that some of its members have diligently advocated our principle in the neighbouring States and even in Europe. And may we not cherish the hope, that ere many years shall have passed away, some of us may be found beyond even America and Europe, on the arid sands of Africa, and on the distant plains of India, telling the followers of the false prophet, and the votaries of a dark, lowering idolatry, that "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise," and convincing them by precept and example, that the pure principles of the Gospel always lead to the disuse of every thing which is wrong in itself, and hurtful to man; and thus, prove to them that "the cross shall never pale before the crescent," and that the teaching of the Bible is purer and more powerful than that of Mohammed and the worshipers of stocks and stones.

The repeated appeals, which have been made to the Provincial Legislature, have yet failed to secure to us an Anti-liquor-law, and consequently, many active and warm-hearted advocates of our cause are greatly discouraged. But there is no reason, whatever, that the friends of total abstinence should be discouraged or grow languid in the advocacy of their principles; for, "truth is powerful and shall ultimately prevail." Those appeals, made to the Legislature, have not been in vain. Although they have not yet issued in the enactment of a prohibitory liquor law, still they have been productive of much good.

Whatever languor and inactivity may be produced in others by repeated disappointments, let us arise above such feelings, and fight manfully for our principles. Let every disappointment be met with redoubled energy, and unbending determination to conquer. Let none faint nor grow weary in his effort to destroy the *upas tree* of Intemperance. In about a month, the most, if not all, of us, will be dispersed through various parts of the country, for a short season. Let every member avail himself of the opportunity to exercise his influence for good, and to plead faithfully and vigorously the cause of humanity. There is one feature, which characterized the public dinner, recently given to the late Brown-Darwin ministry, in Montreal, that deserves notice as auguring well for the future, namely, that no spirituous liquors were used. Let us hope that the intoxicating bowl, as on this oc-

casión, may in future be banished from all public entertainments, whether political, literary, or commercial.

A brief notice of the progress of temperance, in Great Britain and Ireland, may be both interesting and encouraging.

The progress during the last year has been considerable, especially in Scotland. There were no less than fifty temperance sermons preached in one day, in the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh alone. Five learned and popular lecturers have been employed by the Scottish League during the year. These lecturers are aided by the powerful influence of upwards of 600 Presbyterian Ministers, besides that of many eminent clergymen of other denominations and of hundreds of prominent laymen. The services of J. B. Gough, who is also labouring under the auspices of the League, have been eminently useful both in England and Scotland. Ireland has also experienced much progress. Should the course of total abstinence continue to progress in the United Empire as it has done during the past two years; we may hope to see, ere long, a prohibitory liquor law on the statute book of England.

It hardly needs to be mentioned here, that all those who have joined our ranks this year with a view to prepare for the Holy Ministry are confidently expected to join our ranks as members of this Society, and thereby strengthen our hands, and encourage our hearts. It can hardly be supposed that any one, among us, will advance, what has been elsewhere again and again reiterated, viz: that it is not respectable to sign the pledge, when some of the most prominent divines in this, and in other lands, as well as some of the first princes in science and literature have stamped upon it, the seal of their respectability.

In conclusion, your Committee, while, upon the whole, viewing with satisfaction the progress that has been made in the past, would strongly urge upon the members of the Society to continue to act with even more zeal and energy than ever in the cause of total abstinence. Vast numbers of our fellow men are bound fast in the chains of Intemperance, and will speedily go down to a drunkard's grave, unless set at liberty. And multitudes of the rising generation, will follow in their fatal steps, unless they are taught to shun the drunkard's paths. It behoves us to be vigorous and faithful in our opposition to the drinking usages of Society, for our own sake, for the sake of our Country, for the sake of the poor inebriate, for he is our neighbour still; and especially, for the sake of our beloved Zion. Then, in dependence upon him, who will never leave nor forsake those who put their trust in him, let us:

"Raise up the temperance banner high
On every hill and shore,
Till the drunkard's voice is never heard
O'er this wide world no more."

In resigning into your hands the trust, which the Society committed to our charge, we implore the blessing of God upon all its future operations, and would earnestly pray, that the favour of him, whose favour is life, and whose loving kindness is better than life, may rest upon our successors in office.

On behalf of the Committee.

D. H. FLETCHER, Secretary.

Knox's College Nov. 19th, 1858,

Missionary Intelligence.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

INDIA—CALCUTTA.—A letter from Dr. Duff, appears in the *Home and Foreign Record*, giving a general account of the progress of the mission, of the alternate hopes and disappoint-

ments experienced by the Missionaries during the past year, and announcing the admission into the Church of a young man, a student in the highest College class.

MADRAS.—Letters from the Rev. Messrs. Braidwood and McIntosh, give the particulars of a very interesting case,—a young man belonging to a high caste, remarkable for gross idolatry and worldliness and hitherto untouched by Christianity. The missionaries had repeated interviews with him and he continued firm in his purpose to renounce idolatry and embrace Christianity. His relatives brought the case before the Conference Court, swearing that he was under fourteen years of age, although he was really sixteen. The Judge decided, contrary to his own decision in 1854, that the youth should be given up to his friends. The Missionaries regard this decision as most unsatisfactory, as calculated to give a severe shock to their work. The youth himself is deeply to be felt for. He has written to the Missionaries still expressing his wish to follow Christ, his anxiety to follow the advice of the Missionaries. Let Christians bear him on their hearts at the throne of grace.

JAPAN.

We have compiled the following account of Japan from various sources; chiefly from an article from the *London Examiner* published in the *Globe* and from an article in the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*. We trust Christianity will soon be planted in Japan and bear abundant fruit.

The islands constituting the Japanese archipelago are said to amount to 1,000 in number, but the bulk of the land and population is confined to three, the rest being but rocks or islets.

The area of the whole empire is estimated at 170,000 square miles, which makes it above double the size of Britain. The whole lies between the 30th and 46th degrees of latitude, having, therefore, as far as latitude will express it, the climates of Egypt, Italy, France, and Spain, but, from its position so near to Kamtschatka and Siberia, the northern portion of the empire has the climate, not of France, but of Russia.

The country is eminently mountainous, and much of it of volcanic formation, volcanoes and earthquakes being so common, it is asserted, that the Japanese no more regard them than we do a storm, which, however, must be somewhat of an exaggeration, since some of the recent eruptions are known to have produced the loss 30,000 and 40,000 lives—results calculated to produce a more lasting impression than hurricanes or typhoons.

The population of Japan has been usually reckoned at 20,000,000, which makes it nearly the same as our own, and equal to that of an average of the eighteen provinces of China. It is great, however, for a country of which the mountains far exceed the plains and valleys, and its density is attended by the great and acknowledged poverty of the mass of the people, who, to live at all, have to live on the meanest food, and who, for two whole centuries, have not enjoyed the relief of emigration.

The Japanese, like the Hindoos, and wholly unlike the Chinese, who have no such senseless and mischievous institution, are divided into hereditary castes. Of these there are eight. The merchants form the sixth caste, skilled