

TEETOTALISM *versus* INFIDELITY.

The following extract from the report of a home missionary, which appeared in the *Christian Witness*, for October last, furnishes a striking, though by no means an uncommon, illustration of the influence of society to induce habits of serious reflection, leading to the profession and enjoyment of true religion. A respected correspondent has sent it to us as "a proper paragraph for the Rev. Edward Bickersteth," there is, however, a large portion of Christian professors and ministers upon whose opinions and practices it ought to produce a powerful effect.

"By my repeated visits to the four villages where I preach, I have seen more of the effects of ignorance and heathenism than ever I expected to witness in this—a land of Bibles! And yet, in some of these villages where I have called upon every family, I have found sixty out of every hundred have had neither Bible nor Testament, and very many could not read them if they had them. . . . I went into a house at S. H.—, with a tract. . . . What a scene presented itself to me when I entered! The house bare of all furniture, the children in rags, the Father (unworthy of the name) was lying in a corner in a state of intoxication—his wife, poor creature, was crying. I tried to comfort her in her misery. She told me they had no Bible now, her husband had destroyed it because he believed it all lies. She had been obliged to sell all the furniture to buy food for herself and children; for though her husband could earn 4s 6d a day, he spent it all in drink. I left her a tract, and promised to call again. When I did so, I found her husband had seen the tract, 'What do you get by gin-drinking?' He told me he had read the tract, and that he was convinced drinking was wrong, but he was sure there was no truth in religion. I reasoned with him on the subject—induced him and his wife to attend the meeting, and gave him another tract, 'Believe and be saved.' The mists of infidelity have by these means been cleared away. He has bought a Bible, and regularly attends our meetings on the Sabbath, and as often as his work will permit in the week."

Progress of the Cause.

LOWER PORTS.

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Young Men's Total Abstinence Society, was held at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 25th ult. The President of the Society occupied the Chair.

The Secretary brought in a Report from the Committee appointed to manage a Soiree in connection with this Society, by which it appeared that the Soiree was held at Masonic Hall on the 28th Dec., and that the sum of £38 0s 10d had been paid to the Treasurer of the Society, being the nett proceeds thereof.

Moved by Mr. T. Keefer, seconded by Mr. W. Noble, and Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to address the Ladies, who provided the refreshments for the Soiree of the Society, on the 28th Dec., making known the nett amount realized on that occasion, and conveying the thanks of the Society for the valuable services they rendered by supplying so rich and bountiful a repast, which was more than commensurate to the wants of those who were present—and for the great exertions which they used to make the entertainment give general satisfaction, in which they most happily succeeded.

Moved by Mr. A. Patterson, seconded by Mr. J. Thompson, and Resolved, That a donation of £5 from the proceeds of the Soiree be presented to the Ladies' Temperance and Benevolent Society, in aid of the funds of that Society.

The President having informed the Society that Mr. Edward Sullivan had presented the Society with a handsome Table, the Secretary was directed to convey to that gentleman the hearty thanks of the Society for his handsome present.

Moved by Mr. T. Keefer, seconded by Mr. Philp, and Resolved, That a list be opened to which the names of mem-

bers be solicited, pledging themselves always to be ready to deliver an address at any meeting of the Society when called upon.

Moved by Mr. Keefer, seconded by Mr. Weeks, and Resolved, That this Hall be placed at the disposal of this Society, on one night in each week, for the purpose of debating subjects connected with the Total Abstinence cause.

Messrs James Belcher, T. Keefer, J. L. Whytal, J. H. Stewart, L. Sterns, A. C. Fife, and A. Patterson, were appointed a Committee to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Moved by Mr. A. C. Fife, seconded by Mr. Weeks, and Resolved, That the Secretary publish the proceedings of the meeting in one of the newspapers of the city.

After the passing of this Resolution the meeting adjourned. The Society will meet on Tuesday evening next, in accordance with the Resolution to that effect, for the purpose of debating some subject connected with the cause of Total Abstinence. The topic selected for that evening's discussion is, the strict meaning of the last clause in the Society's Pledge, binding members to "consistently discountenance all causes of Intemperance."

A. PATTERSON,
Secretary.

—Halifax Morning Courier.

NOVA SCOTIA.—We have received a Communication from Shelburne, N. S., which affords us the gratifying intelligence that the Grand Juries, with the Sessions, are doing all they can to suppress the traffic in strong drinks by withholding tavern licences; but our informant complains that notwithstanding this, much evil is being wrought by the clandestine sale, which he thinks would be more effectually checked by imprisonment than by fine. The suggestion is worthy of consideration. The disgrace of this species of punishment might operate more powerfully on the mind than the pecuniary penalty, which as a punishment only affects the pocket. We should like to see the matter brought before the notice of all the Temperance Societies in this Province, as well as Nova Scotia. Will they see to it?

UNITED STATES.

MR. BENJAMIN'S LECTURES.—During the last two weeks, our citizens have been several times addressed at Washington Hall and elsewhere, on the subject of Temperance, by Mr. George W. Bungay, a young Canadian gentleman of genuine talents, glowing eloquence, and earnest devotion to the cause. The lectures have been well attended and highly instructive. Mr. B. is a very thorough master of the subject; his array of fact and argument is most ample, pertinent and convincing; his powers of description are nearly unrivalled; and his thrilling appeals to the hearts, consciences and better judgment of his auditors have found, we trust, an answering chord in hundreds of bosoms in this place.—Mr. B. devoted one or two evenings to the refutation of the numerous objections which ignorant and unprincipled persons are evermore bringing against the advocates of this benevolent and blessed cause; and never were objections more thoroughly exposed or more completely demolished. He also spent one evening in a masterly presentation of the Scripture doctrine relative to the use of intoxicating liquors; and another evening was devoted to an address to the youth on the general subject. We should think that no advocate of the cause has at any time produced a deeper or more salutary impression in this place than Mr. B. has done.—It should be added, that the community here is largely indebted to the active and efficient efforts of the 'Sons of Temperance' for the privilege of hearing these eloquent and admirable lectures.—*Herkimer Freeman.*

THE UNION BENEVOLENT TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—The above Society was organized on Friday evening last, at the Bethel in Morris-Street, when 76 persons came forward and signed the Pledge; the greater part of whom were ladies and gentlemen of colour. The meeting was organized and conducted in the following manner: Mr. Thomas Todd being appointed Chairman, called upon James R. Currie, Esq., Dr. Estabrooks, and Mr. Wm. Fisher, to address the meeting; the former of whom explained the objects in view in forming the Society, and warmly entreated the audience to come forward and sign the Pledge—and the latter, in his usual good style, made some very appropriate remarks, while the Pledge book (to prevent confusion) was being passed round for signatures; Mr. J. G. Bunting warmly addressed the meeting, after which a vote of thanks being passed to the Chairman for his able conduct during the evening, the meeting was adjourned. The officers