

Intemperance. The extent to which this vice was carried on shore by many classes, as well as sailors, would be attested by the immense number of gin-palaces which were springing up in almost every street in the metropolis, and in all the great towns of the kingdom. Many in the meeting were not aware, that, by a recent regulation in the navy, there had been a reduction in the amount of spirits issued to each seaman per day. Before that reduction, the allowance to each man per day was one half-pint of strong spirits, diluted, of course; but still it was a large allowance for one man every day. So that, in a three decker, the quantity of spirits consumed each day would be not less than fifty gallons. Now, in his opinion, and he spoke from considerable experience, there could not, in the perverted ingenuity of man, be any contrivance more calculated to destroy discipline and relax morals amongst a ship's crew than this daily use of so much intoxicating drink; and the man who should succeed in putting an end to it, would deserve well of his country. He had mentioned that there had recently been a reduction in the daily allowance of spirits to each seaman in the navy, and he would, as an act of justice to the gallant Officer through whom the change was first effected, state the circumstances under which it took place. Sir John Phillimore, when in the command of the *Thetis*, found the discipline of his ship much relaxed, and that drunkenness was the cause. Tired of inflicting punishments which failed of producing any improvement in the crew, he one day on a voyage homeward called them aft, and said, "Now, lads, I find that you are always doing wrong, and that I am always flogging you; and still you do not improve. I find that too free an use of spirits is at the bottom of it all. You are allowed a half-pint of spirits each day, and I am bound to give it to you unless your misconduct justifies me in stopping it. I have now a proposition to make to you, which you can accept or not just as you like. I will give you the value of half your allowance of grog in tea and sugar, and at the end of the month if there should be any difference in your favour, you shall have it in money." The men at once accepted the proposition, and the effect was like magic. The discipline of the ship became at once improved, and of course the punishments ceased, and by the time the vessel reached port, the men were as attached to their tea as once they had been to their grog. The vessel and her crew became an object of derision to the crews of other vessels. She was called the "Tea-cher," and other names in scorn and contempt; but the men persevered, and the regulation, when known at the Admiralty, was approved of, and made general in all the ships in the navy. (Hear, hear.) He had often had occasion in New South Wales to make the contrast between the conduct of the crews of some temperance ships which came from America, and that of British seamen. The former were seen walking quietly and peaceably about, while the latter were rolling through the streets in a state of beastly intoxication. Such was the confidence which the captains of some of those temperance ships reposed in the good conduct of their crews, that they allowed the vessels to make voyages from Sydney to some of the South Sea Islands, while they remained behind, and waited their return. Such also was the general feeling in favour of temperance ships, that in this country as well as in America, the rate of insurance on them and on goods shipped in them was much less than on others, where the use of spirits was allowed. The use of spirits as an article of diet for sailors had been defended, on the ground that it would keep the cold out. He would assert—and he spoke from some experience of what cold was ("Hear," and a laugh)—that on the contrary, it would let the cold in. When the ships under his command were wintering near the North Pole, the men got spirits, because they could not stop it all at once; but when any of the crew were suffering from cold and exhaustion, he directed the cook to boil a kettle of water and make tea for them, and that restored them much better than grog. There were, he admitted, cases of great weakness and exhaustion, where the use of spirits would act mediinally, and to that extent the rules of the Society did not condemn its use. It was a source of great satisfaction to him to have been instrumental in the formation of a Temperance Society in New South Wales. The meeting would admit that such a Society was much wanted there, when he stated, that in a population of 60,000, the consumption of spirits in one year was not less than 245,000 gallons, being an average of four gallons a-year to every human creature in the colony, convicts excepted. The formation of a Temperance Society

had, he hoped, worked much good in the colony. His wife, he was happy to say, was the first that signed the pledge of the Society. (Hear, hear.) That would not be considered necessary here, but in New South Wales, the very extraordinary consumption, compared with the population, would warrant, without any want of charity, the supposition, that the ladies must have sipped a little as well as the men. ("Hear," and a laugh.) He was sorry to find that the clergy of the Church of England did not take up this cause more generally, but it was a satisfaction to find the Society patronised by two distinguished prelates.

At this moment the Bishop of London came on the platform: and was most warmly greeted by the Meeting. The Right Rev. Prelate having taken the chair, from which the Bishop of Norwich had retired on his approach,

Sir EDWARD PAURY resumed, and after briefly pointing out some other advantages of Temperance Societies, concluded by submitting the Resolution.

Admiral Sir JAMES HILLYAR, in seconding the motion, said, it were much to be desired that the clergy of the Church of England would take this matter up more warmly and more generally than, he was sorry to say, they appeared yet to have done. If the causes of the intemperance of seamen were inquired into, he had no doubt they would be found to have their origin while they were in port. If the same pains were taken with sailors while on shore as were while they were on board ship at sea, they would soon acquire better habits. He had not long ago been rowed by a boat's crew on board a man-of-war, and as they pulled along, he asked them whether any of them belonged to the Temperance Society. They hung down their heads while they answered in the negative.—"That man at the after-oar must belong to a temperance Society," he (the Admiral) remarked, "as he has the temperance mark over his eye." The man had got a severe black eye. The poor fellow hung down his head, looked abashed, and was silent. He (the Admiral) repeated, that a little more attention paid to sailors while on shore would induce them to forego intemperate habits. Let the Society exert itself—let every member of it exert himself or herself—and he spoke particularly of the ladies, for their influence was most powerful in the advocacy of all good and charitable institutions. Let each and all exert themselves, and there could be no doubt that in a very short time the sphere of the Society's usefulness would be greatly extended. (Hear, hear.)

The BISHOP OF LONDON, before putting the Resolution, begged to apologize to the meeting for not having been present at the commencement of the proceedings; but he assured them that his absence had been caused by a press of other engagements, from which he could not escape sooner.

The Resolution was then put, and carried.

The Hon. and Rev. B. W. NOEL moved the second Resolution, expressing the grateful acknowledgements of the meeting for the most gracious condescension of Her Majesty Queen Victoria in becoming the Patroness of the Society. The Hon. and Rev. Gentleman said, that this was not the only instance in which Her Majesty had shown that she had the moral and religious well-being of her people at heart. (Loud applause.) Her Majesty had also graciously condescended to become the patroness of the Home and Colonial Infant School Society. From this direction of Her Majesty's mind to objects so important to the welfare of her people, we must of course expect to see that the example of a moral and religious Court would, with God's blessing, be powerful in checking, if not repressing, the gigantic vice of intemperance. (Applause.) He hailed those gracious and beneficent acts of our young Queen the more cordially, from the attempt which had been made to get a sort of constructive sanction of Her Majesty to the Hippodrome (applause); a plan which, disguise it as they would, was no other than an attempt to concentrate in the metropolis all the vices and iniquities of Epson, Doncaster, and Newmarket. (Loud applause.) He was not opposed to the amusements of the people, but he could not class under that head a scheme which would be productive of so many vices. Amongst other effects already produced by this Hippodrome was one which would forcibly illustrate its real character, namely, that since its commencement thirteen new gin-shops have been established in its vicinity\*. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. Gentleman, after some other remarks in support of the object of Temperance Societies concluded by submitting the motion.

\* Let the advocates of horse-racing pay attention to this.—E. C. T. A.