

an old soldier of his country and Bacchus. It appears that he, in some way, procured a keg of whiskey, and with it went into the woods and built a house of brush, and drank at his keg for a number of days and died, and was not found for some days after, with his keg empty! 5th. We have just buried an "English Gentleman" that died with the *delirium tremens*. While I have been writing this, I have heard of a young man, while intoxicated, falling from his wagon, and the wheel, passing over his head, he is not expected to live. My business called me to the Court-house a few moments last Queen's Bench, when was being tried a man for setting fire to his rented house while drunk, and burning it, with its contents to the ground; his object was, he said, to burn to death his wife—he is now in Kingston. In the above cases I have confined myself entirely to this place, and such cases as no one can dispute having been caused by drink.

The next Town-ship [B.] not long since, a bricklayer (that lately lived in this place,) got drunk at the house of Mr. M. and died behind his barn, and was not found for some days, and then the hogs had eaten part of him! It is often stated that the evils of drinking are exaggerated by over-zealous advocates; and at the number that die annually in Canada being mentioned, they look amazed at the "lie." But a little calculation would soon convince them to the contrary; for instance, the town of W. in which the above five cases have occurred in less than six months, must either be the most drunken place in Upper Canada, or that there are 5,000 die annually in it! which as an inhabitant of W., I cannot admit; for we have no "low progeries," and but five taverns, and them, most of the best class. To check this evil, as far as the Province is concerned, I know of nothing that will more effectually do so than the Niagara Society again exerting its influence. Will not some of the good friends in St. Catharines revive it in that District—Mr. Phelps, for instance, that good old friend to the cause, through whose influence was induced to join, the Secretary of our Society, (who in fact kept it in existence) and the writer. And on the other hand, if they remain in their present sleepy state, it will be a death-blow to the cause in the Province, in the humble opinion of your obedient servant.—OBSERVER.

ENGLAND.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The committee, desirous of extending their operations, and diffusing a knowledge of their principles, have engaged four agents, who, in addition to lecturing and addressing public meetings, are employed in collecting funds to enable the society to make efforts commensurate with the greatness of the object. These gentlemen, Messrs Whittaker, Inwards, Hudson, and Culverwell, have been holding a series of meetings, in the metropolis and its neighbourhood. One of the meetings took place on Wednesday evening, August 11th, in Bishopsgate-street chapel, Rev. H. Townley's, which was filled by a highly respectable and intelligent audience. The chair was occupied by James Silk Buckingham, Esq., who, on entering the chapel, was received with loud applause.

He addressed the meeting as follows:—They had assembled to all attention to what had been very properly called the Temperance Reformation. They remembered the time when temperance principles were laughed at. None of them then thought to see it so short a time taken into such favour, received into the high places of the earth, and acknowledged by all as one of the greatest of moral reforms. Even those who did not act on their principles commended them for what they were doing.—(Hear.) These things afforded them great encouragement, and should stimulate them to make greater exertions. One of the chief difficulties, as he thought, had been, that those who from their superior position in society, should have aided them, had stood aloof, and in some instances, had opposed them. Not only the makers, and those interested in the traffic, but intelligent, influential persons, and those whose piety could not be doubted, had been found amongst this number. He, however, believed that before

long, these individuals would be brought in.—(Hear.) He believed that truth was great and would prevail. They were anxious to have with them, medical men, magistrates, and above all, on account of their number and influence, ministers of religion. Some of these had thought that they were putting teetotalism in the place of the Gospel. It was inconceivable how men could come to such conclusions. There was ground, nevertheless, for encouragement. He remembered presiding at a similar meeting about two years ago in the schoolroom, underneath that chapel, it being a question with the authorities as to whether it would be right to allow the chapel for that purpose. But there they were, and he doubted not that had even a better place been at the disposal of the friends it would have been at their service.—(Cheers.) That was a thing worth rejoicing over; because, although there was nothing in the act of holding a meeting in a chapel, any more than in a school-room, for the place was consecrated by the purpose for which it was used, yet it did indicate a difference in the state of public opinion.—(Applause.)

Mr. Thomas Hudson, who was the first speaker introduced, was cordially received. The observations he should have the honour to offer, must be regarded as a mere statement of the case; those who would succeed him would make the appeal. He trusted the statements and the appeal would be of such a character as to oblige that respectable meeting, before its separation, to tender their sympathy and co-operation.—(Hear.) He thought that at no period had so much activity been displayed by the people of this country in the acquisition of riches. Yet they took but little notice of the economical principles of the Temperance Reformation. He held that strong drinks were the dearest things that entered a man's house.—(Hear.) Yet millions were spent every year, not simply by the drunken and the profligate, but even by the respectable members of society.—(Hear, hear.) In proof of this, the speaker entered into some ingenious calculations, by which he threw the onus on all who were in the practice of patronising the drinking system.—(Cheers.) Proof was at hand, that at least 75 per cent. of the £8,000,000 raised in this country, were applied to the maintenance of drunken paupers, or those who had been reduced by intemperance. There was no institution that was not injured and grossly imposed upon in consequence of drink—there was none that would not be greatly benefited by the diffusion of temperance principles.—(Hear.) In the month of December, of last year, out of fourteen cases of casualties admitted to the Bristol infirmary, three were directly traceable to drunkenness, and the fourth was a presumptive case. The speaker then stated the details of the cases in corroboration. He thought, then, the temperance cause worthy of general support. It sought to lessen the poor-rates, to supersede the necessity of men becoming dependent paupers and burthen on upon the charity of others, and it sought above all to make the homes of this nation become, what they were fitted to be, the happiest homes in the world.—(Applause.)

Mr. Thomas Beggs, Secretary of the National Temperance Society, who was much cheered, showed the bearings of the temperance question upon education. He complained that in the discussions which had taken place on the subject of Government Education, little or no attention had been paid to the causes of our juvenile ignorance and depravity. It was too much the case that men mistook cause for effect, and attacked the more proximate causes of an evil instead of the primary ones. As an illustration, there were a class of minds, who, whenever it was proved that there was a great neglect of religion among the people, could think of no other remedy than building churches. He thought it would be far better to institute a preliminary inquiry—Why are those we have already not filled?—(Cheers.) And thus with ignorance: it was undoubted that a great amount existed. He could, if necessary produce a whole library of statistics to prove it. It was proved by the records of crime and the reports of prisons. On this immense amount of ignorance being exhibited, some minds suggested schools, teachers, and education. He knew that more schools were wanted and better teachers too; but it would have only a partial effect so long as those seminaries of sin—the gin-shops and public-houses, were kept open. He had caused some inquiries to be made in the immediate neighbourhood of the place in which he then stood, and he found that there were no less than fifty houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks, while there were only sixteen sabbath and week-day schools, including all kinds of schools, and it might be fairly computed that there were at least 1500 children without instruction. There were fearful facts to