

children, and upon policemen, by drunken men.—*News and Chronicle.*

POPULAR HOLIDAYS.—RAMSBURY, WILTSHIRE.—The Committee of the Ramsbury Temperance Society lately deputed certain of their number with a memorial to the inhabitants, respectfully soliciting them to close their shops and make a general holiday; and though some were at first unwilling, yet they were overruled by numbers, and all finally agreed, with but about one exception, to close the trading engagements of the day at twelve o'clock. The next thing was to make the event known through the district, and people from Marlborough, Newbury, Chalford, and towns and villages around, came flocking in by every variety of vehicle, from the stage coach to the donkey-cart; and the race-ground near Sir Robert Burdett's estate, kindly lent for the occasion, became thickly crowded. Gentlemen lent the Committee rick-cloths and poles; others furnished canvas for the sides; and, with the aid of stakes, a capacious tent was erected, with the union-jack flying at either end. Seats and tables for tea were supplied most generously, one gentleman sending word that the forms in the justice-room were at the disposal of the Committee. Another sent word that the clergyman gave ready consent that the forms of the National School might be had. Indeed, the whole neighbourhood vied with each other to give completeness to the work the Teetotalers had begun. Even wine and spirit merchants closed their premises, and gave a holiday and tickets of admission to their hands. At about one o'clock a band of brass musical instruments made their appearance at the head of the village, and, after playing two or three tunes to call the people together, a procession was formed, and the long line marched down to the grounds, where the tea-mixers were busy. Several hundred-weight of plum-cake, bread and butter, and all the extras, were profusely and readily prepared. After various games, addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. A. Harrison (Independent minister), Mr. J. White, the deputation from the London Temperance League. Outside the tent the groups were addressed by working-men. Mr. White has since lectured in the Temperance Hall.—*ib.*

THE PROPS OF THE POLICE COURT.—"Were it not for the intemperate habits of too many of our people," says the *Gateshead Observer*, "the occupation of our magistrates would be mainly gone—our police courts would be in peril of falling to the ground. Of nine cases which came before the Town-hall petty sessions, on Tuesday morning, eight were more or less mixed up with intemperance. Six were pure cases of drunkenness, and in two of them the offenders were well-dressed men, one of whom had been picked up at his own door, bleeding and insensible. Another, to meet, it seems, an extraordinary demand for soap, had been employed all Sunday in its manufacture, and getting drunk at night with his extra wages, become a laughing-stock for the children on the street. Two young men, smiths, having a title with others, to a surplus sum, remaining after a division of wages, made it an excuse for a glass. Drunkenness followed; they quarrelled about they knew not what; fought on the Windmill Hills; and fell into the hands of the police. The only case not infected with intemperance was that of a young lad, charged with stealing whips from a stable—an Arab of the streets—a homeless orphan—who leads the life of one of the inferior animals, or frequenter of fairs, markets, railway stations—a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles—now sojourning in a house of correction, whence he will shortly return without amendment.—*ib.*

TEMPERANCE MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH.—The weekly Tuesday evening meetings in Richmond-street Chapel, Edinburgh, are regularly continued, and, notwithstanding the fineness of the summer nights, and the consequent inducement to an evening ramble, the attendance continues to be numerous, and the audiences exhibit unabated interest in the subjects brought before them.—On Tuesday last, addresses were delivered by two gentlemen from England, who are engaged in lecturing on science in another part of the city. Mr. Jackson's remarks embraced the effects of intemperance on the political, social, intellectual and moral well-being of society. He showed that drunkenness sapped the foundation of national prosperity, by exhausting the resources of the State, and that the attempt to enlarge the political liberties of an intemperate constituency would be almost sure to prove abortive, and even if successful, would confer no subsequent advantages, as such a class of men were ever purchaseable by the highest bidder.—Mr. Davey followed with some interesting remarks on various scripture characters. He also made some

observations on the general state of the cause, and narrated some anecdotes, illustrative of his experience in almost every portion of the empire. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that ninety-four fresh members had joined the association.—*ib.*

TOTTENHAM AND EDMONTON TEMPERANCE GALA.—Through the liberality of J. L. Lawford, Esq., of Downhills, the Committee of this Association were enabled to offer the inhabitants of Tottenham a day's recreation of an innocent and instructive character. Several hundreds availed themselves of the privilege of entering the grounds. Companies might be seen all over the park, enjoying themselves to their hearts' content, some donkey-riding, some cricket-playing, others dancing, &c. A few shooting at the target with bow and arrow, reminded one that it was possible for archery to be as dangerous to the friends as to the foes of such an army. At six o'clock a camp-meeting was held to advocate the claims of the Temperance movement, when Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., M. P., presided, and the meeting was addressed by William Janson, Esq., George Cruikshank, Esq., Rev. Henry Solly, Edmund Fry, Esq., Rev. Dr. Burns, Mr. Plato, of Chesham, Mr. Tweedie, and John Taylor, Esq. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs Lawford for their liberality.—*ib.*

The Temperance Reformation in Ireland.

The following letter from one of the most active reformers in Ireland, has been addressed to the editor of the *Armagh Guardian* :—

"45, Eccles-street, June 28, 1853.

"Sir,—I wish, with your permission, again to call the attention of your readers to that important subject, the Temperance Reformation, as I feel assured the more it is made a subject of inquiry, the more it will become apparent that upon its success depends the real progress and permanence of civilisation. Let none imagine that this is an idea adopted without sufficient reflection by a few enthusiasts, who fancy that if their notions were realised, this earth would become a paradise, into which vice and crime would no more find an entrance. The advocates of teetotalism entertain no such Utopian notions as these; neither are we reformers who promulgate opinions that are

"Like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Which leaves not a wreck behind."

Our propositions are founded on facts and impregnable statistics, extending over long periods of time, and verified by thousands and millions of the human family.

"What do these facts demonstrate? They prove that the drinking customs of society are the fertile source of more misery to man than has arisen from any other known cause; that vice and crime, wretchedness and demoralisation, poverty and woe, sickness and sorrow, are their perennial products; and that they do not bring in their train any blessings to counteract all this mighty mass of misery of which they are the prolific parent.

"Our jails are filled with the victims of strong drink, who are taken from every class in society; our poorhouses are crowded by those whom honest poverty never reduced to the humiliating condition, but who owe their wretchedness to an unnatural appetite for intoxicating liquors. Our hospitals and lunatic asylums are tenanted by thousands who have ruined their health and dethroned their reason by a love for that ruthless destroyer of both.

"Here are my proofs that these strong statements are not stronger than the case demands—than the facts warrant—that a very large portion of human misery, including poverty, disease, and crime, is induced by the use of alcoholic or fermented liquors as beverages.—That total and universal abstinence from alcoholic liquors and intoxicating beverages of all sorts would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human race."

"Such is a testimony to the truth and value of the principles promulgated by Teetotalers, signed by about two thousand medical men of the United Kingdom, among whom are to be found the following names, than whom no greater are to be met with in the walks of science:—Abercrombie, Brodie, Clarke, Davies, Adams, Aldridge, Carmichael, Carte, Crampton, Cullen, Curran, Marsh, Macdonnell, Wilde, Wilmot, and a host of others known to fame.

"The judges of the land justify our agitation of this great question by constant declarations that but for strong drink, so far as