

Temperance Society as an institution which deserves the appellation of a *blessing* to mankind, I have never yet heard of *any one* argument against it, which could bear examination; I have heard *one* or two very respectable clergymen say, that they had rather that men should be taught to be sober and well-behaved by the *teaching of the Scriptures*, than by the Temperance Society. But who ever thought that Temperance was to be a teacher of Christianity? But this I do say, and will say, that tee-totalism is the *best preparative* for the reception of Christianity. It is a well known fact that hundreds of reclaimed drunkards go now regularly to places of worship, which they had not attended before, and which, they would *never have attended at all*, but for the temperance movement. 'This alone is a ground for supporting the society. I would have attended your meeting had it been in my power.'

THOMAS CLARESON.

Dr. Thompson, from New Zealand, said, I left Scotland, on the 9th of June, in the year 1842, in charge of 400 emigrants bound to the town of Auckland, and knowing the value to the health of total abstinence principles, more especially under the tropics, I was determined to establish those principles on board of the vessel in which we sailed. Feeling however that there would be some considerable difficulty in inducing the sailors to give up their grog, I was induced at first to try what persuasion would do; there were many prejudices to overcome, but I was well assisted by the captain and superior officers, and long before we got to the equator, I had succeeded in winning the confidence of the ship's crew, and they as well as the emigrants entrusted to my care were professed tee-totalers—(cheers.) Assisted by my friend, the captain, I drew up some rules, which were agreed to by all, and before we got to New Zealand, the effect of my plan was visible in the good health of all on board, and I was confirmed in my previous opinion, that total abstinence was the very best rule that could be adopted. After landing, the society which had worked so well on board ship, was established on the island; and so much good had it done there, that before I returned to England, I had the honour of receiving the thanks of the Governor. For my exertions in the cause for which we are met to-night—(crs.) Nothing I am sure will tend more to the advantage of good conduct among sailors, than the establishing of societies on board ships before they leave the ports of England. Looking at the effects of tee-totalism in a medical point of view, it will be found to be equally satisfactory. I visited Sydney, and had charge of a detachment of troops in that colony; and it was no unusual thing to see men carried off parade from bilious complaints, induced by the dissipations of the night before; I examined the soldiers who had died on their way to this country, and it was a sickening and a shocking sight to see the state of their stomachs, for they had been very dissipated men; I found also on looking over the statistics of the government hospitals, that the greater state of diseases were superinduced by intemperate habits; it was the great barrier to the progress of civilization. Fortunately now many meetings were held in the colonies, for the furtherance of total abstinence principles, and they were gaining fresh friends and supporters every day—(cheers.) In Sydney, dissipation had in former times been carried to an alarming extent, but now, thanks to the improved sense of morality, the vice was greatly on the decrease. To all who may wish to emigrate to tropical climates, I would say, avoid intoxicating drinks, their use is certain death; I have visited every climate, from the tropical sun to the northern iceberg, and I am confident, that my present good state of health, is solely to be attributed to my abstemious habits—(cheers.) I have heard it said, that it is dangerous for those who have lived what is called freely, to leave off intoxicating drinks at once, this is quite a mistaken notion, if you only try you will succeed; I have always found from my own experience, that the only sailors and sailors who returned to this country from the colonies, were the men of abstemious habits.

J. S. Buckingham, Esq., said, though the result of the evil is fearful here, yet in the colonies, it is even more so, in consequence of the example set to the Aborigines around them. Here, families are the sufferers; but in the colonies, not only is man more injured by intoxicating liquors, in consequence of the tropical climate, but the Aborigines cannot comprehend how a people can be sincere in their detestations of drink, when every step that touches their shores bears authority of alcoholic liquor, to poison and to ruin the inhabitants of whatever place they visit—(cheers.) That unfortunate people have been plundered of their lands, of their cattle, and of their liberties; they have been sent

to an early grave, in consequence of this intoxicating poison having been introduced amongst them. I have heard it from the Bushman of the Cape, and from the nobler Caffre, I have listened to the inhabitants of Ceylon, and the people of the southern world, I have constantly heard it thus said, "you theoretically no doubt believe that the religion of Christ is above that of Mahomet; but we would prefer, if your religion had not sent us the poisons which have sunk us into perdition"—(cheers.) But now a brighter day is dawning, and in the army and navy of our country, we find Generals and Admirals become Presidents and Vice-Presidents of similar Societies to our own. We find them at last admitting the fact, that drunkenness has been the parent of insubordination, and of anarchy. A person of high authority had said put down drink, and you put down the lash in our service. I had once, in conversation with his Grace the Duke of Wellington, spoken of doing away with corporeal punishments. His reply was, do away with intoxicating drinks, and then I will speak of doing away with the necessity for flogging—(cheers.) In an after conversation, he said that all his military experience led him to the belief, that drink was the bane of our armies—(cheers.) The late Governor of Greenwich Hospital bore precisely similar testimony with respect to seamen—(cheers.) I will now advert to a subject to which the latter part of the resolution has particular reference, namely, "that this meeting would rejoice to find the public and the legislature prepared to refuse a legal sanction to the immorality arising from the sale of spirituous liquors." In this respect, civilized countries might take a lesson from Queen Pomare, who exhibited a very great deal of common sense when she prohibited the entrance of French brandy into Tahiti, on the ground that whoever drank the brandy became a brute—(cheers.) What would be thought of the British merchant, who hearing of some distant island on the ocean where venomous reptiles were suffered to multiply, would as a matter of speculation, bring home a ship-load of them, and disperse them about the country, one to one family, and another to another family; and supposing, that one in every ten of these reptiles, perhaps sting an individual, we should soon hear of a bill in Parliament to stop this commerce I imagine, and the time would come, hastened too by your efforts, when the poisons of spirits, or wine, or beer shall be discarded from the table—when if such be seen on the table of any one, it will induce other individuals to rise and leave it—(cheers.) When I was in the House of Commons some years ago, a gentleman went to Mr. Wakely, the Coroner, and said, do you believe that Mr. Buckingham drinks nothing but water? Yes, said Mr. Wakely, he says so himself, I believe him to be a man of probity, why then should I doubt his word. O, yes! do you think that he could sustain the labour he does—it up so many hours, rise early and go to bed late, do you think he could do all upon water? Not upon water alone, said Mr. Wakely, no; I do believe that if he took water alone, he certainly could not do this, I suppose he takes some meat and some bread. Oh, said the person again, all this is very well; I believe he drinks porter of the best quality, and I am determined to find out his merchant—(laughter.) I may add, that three members of the House of Commons now, never take wine through the week; they do so on Saturday, but when taken during the sittings of the house, they declare that it incapacitates them for business—(cheers.) In my own house, where persons are visiting at all hours of the day, I tell them all that from the lowest cellar to the loftiest attic, there is no wine. We have the purest water, and find that we do not require the other; at dinner, the only fluid upon my table is water; yet I have often heard gentlemen say after the desert was over, "Well, upon my word, I did not think I could get over this so well!"—(laughter.) "Well, I have said, make a note in your diary, that on the 15th of March, 1844, you dined with Mr. Buckingham, and not having tasted any wine or intoxicating liquor, you find yourself much better in consequence"—(cheers.)

Benjamin Retch, said, It had been as far back as 200 years ago, propounded from the judicial bench by the great Lord Bacon, that drunkenness was the great cause of crime in Britain; at a later day, Judge Hale said, that if he divided crime into five classes, four of them would have their origin in, or be connected with the crime of drunkenness—(cheers.) Baron Alderson, the whom a more equitable judge never sat upon the bench, declares when on circuit, that the calendar he held in his hand, large as it is, as that calendar was, would melt into nothing if the crimes attributable to drunkenness, the curse and bane of our land, were expunged from it, and he called on the grand jury to think of this when they got home. I would say to my friends