

on the 12th inst., the following astounding fact is given to the country:—"In order to supply the deficiencies occasioned by the visitations of Providence, we imported corn at the cost of the importer alone, without taking into account the consumer at all, and the amount was equal to thirty-three millions sterling."

Say not, my Lord, that we had to resort to this immense importation of food because of any visitation from the Almighty depriving us of a sufficient quantity of corn for the supply of all our wants. For, although our potato crop was destroyed, the bounties of Providence were yet abundant and overflowing.

In a word, my Lord, we consumed more grain in our breweries and distilleries, during the last two years of famine, in the production of articles which thirteen hundred physicians in the United Kingdom have recently declared to be injurious to the "health, the happiness, and the morality" of the people, than would have sustained all who were in want, in health and vigour, and if this waste of food had not been committed, the enormous absorption of capital referred to by your Excellency would not have been required.

This waste, my Lord, is still going on.

I pray your Excellency to aid the teetotalers of these lands in their efforts to put a stop to this drain now, and for ever. You can aid us effectually. It is fashion which makes the drinking customs of society respectable. Make these pernicious customs unfashionable by your example and precept, and you will, my Lord, do a great service to the cause of morality and virtue; you will also help to place plenty within the reach of the poor man, by discouraging the destruction of food in the land; this destruction amounts annually to about sixty millions of bushels. A fearful waste this, my Lord, for us to contemplate, while the people are famishing with hunger.

Next to your own personal example, which I entreat your Excellency to give us, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of calling on government to decline raising any revenue from intoxicating drinks, on the ground that it would be as lawful in the sight of God, and as beneficial to the people of these kingdoms, to have our institutions sustained by taxes derived from all the crimes which exist amongst us, as from a tax raised from those drinks which are, in the estimation of the judges and magistrates, and physicians of the land, the great promoters of the crimes, and the miseries and the sorrows that afflict our people.

I appeal to your Excellency, and I ask you, Is it right! Is it wise! Is it expedient for our rulers to sustain our institutions by the produce of taxation which is cast into the Exchequer by the vices of the people.

If government were to relinquish all revenue from intoxicating drinks, on the ground that these drinks flooded the land with poverty and woe, the manufacture and use of such destroyers of human happiness would become disreputable, and their use unfashionable: peace and plenty would flow in upon us in a perennial stream, and the business of legislation would be freed from more than half its cares.

I entreat your Excellency to take these suggestions

into your consideration, and I beg of you to pardon me for thus obtruding them on your notice.

I subscribe myself, my Lord,

Most respectfully yours,

JAMES HAUGHTON.

25, Eccles Street, Dublin, 14th January, 1848.

Progress of the Cause.

ENGLAND.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—At a Delegates' Meeting, held lately at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, the report from Newbridge, a village about six miles from Newport, contained the following extract:—

"In the year 1840, there were in Newbridge not less than nine sly grog-shops, besides the licensed 'Horse and Jockey'; nearly 40 persons obtained their living by smuggling, drunkenness and wretchedness abounded, and the Sabbath day was but little observed. In 1847, through the determined conduct of a few teetotalers, a great radical change has taken place; all the men have abandoned smuggling, and obtain their living by honest labour. Every sly grog-shop is closed, and the 'Horse and Jockey' has quit the field, as drunkenness is now quite unknown, and almost all in the village have signed the pledge; but the best result of the labour bestowed is, that the places for divine worship are so crowded that an increase in their size is imperatively demanded, and must be had."—*N. T. Chronicle.*

JERSEY.—Mrs. Stamp delivered a series of lectures on Total Abstinence, in February last, which were well attended. Two lectures were also delivered exclusively to females, at the first of which, a "Ladies' Total Abstinence Society" was formed. Mrs. Stamp has since delivered a second series. Meetings have been held on the Government works at St. Catharine's bay, in rooms lent by Messrs. Lord and Dickson, the managers, which were well attended by the "Navies" employed thereon; great attention was paid to the lectures, and their orderly behaviour was highly creditable. About thirty of them signed the pledge. On the 21st ult., a Tea Soiree was held in the Temperance Hall, when the company was numerous, and highly respectable. The Revds. Williamson and Taplin, Admiral Gifford, and Mrs. Stamp, addressed the audience. A "Temperance Loan Tract Society," in connection with the "Ladies' Association," has also been established. Mrs. Stamp has been presented with a handsome present, as a token of respect and esteem from the subscribers, for her exertions to promote the well-being of all classes, both temporarily and spiritually, during her stay in the Island. Mrs. Stamp has, at her own expense, distributed many thousand tracts amongst the seamen of the various ports, and has otherwise rendered great service to the cause.

SCOTLAND.

SERMON BY DR. REID.—On Sabbath evening, 20th Feb., Rev. William Reid, President of the Scottish Temperance League, preached an eloquent and convincing discourse from Rom. xiv. 7, in Rev. Dr. Wardlaw's