

entertain takes the form of a dreadful reality. Temperance has prevailed. The instrument by which they have been drawn into the ways of evil, he knows—and God knows. It is no relief to his mind either, to reflect that the tempter appeared to them in the form of man. In his anguish, he again turns to the Bible, his only comforter, and, with a feeling in which is mingled both grief and gladness, he reads and applies to his own case those words which are the last resort of a heart bereft of all but its God. "Though my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure."

And now my friends, in concluding this discourse, I ask, is God indifferent while the sins and follies of men are thus rendering our world a place of weeping? Will He hold those guiltless who, for sake of gain, or for any selfish purpose, become the instruments in inflicting such miseries? Or will He excuse those who refuse to give their assistance, that the curse may be banished from our country? Oh no, God is merciful. The tears of the widow and orphan will not appeal to Him, in vain. Neither will the voice of a brother's blood cry to Him in vain. By personal effort, then—by example—by "sound speech that cannot be condemned"—and prayer for the blessing of God upon your efforts—seek to deliver your fellow men from the degradation and misery which intemperance has so long heaped upon our fallen world. Thus you will discharge a duty which rests upon you as members of the human family, and the subjects of God's holy and righteous law. You will by divine grace be saved from the snares which intemperance has spread around us all. You may also become the instrument of saving from ruin some who are already in imminent danger—and of bringing back sunshine and happiness to dwellings which at the present time are the abodes of misery. Then indeed you will be able to say, "The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy." "Seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widows."

May God bless his word. Amen.

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

We transcribe the following brief extract from a lecture recently delivered by Dr Guy, of London, on "Temperance in its physical and moral aspects." The statistics of Mr Neison, the eminent actuary, serve in a remarkable manner to support the views and statements of medical men, as to the poisonous effects of alcohol on the human system.

"Mr Neison's inquiries embrace, among other topics, the causes of the high mortality of intemperate persons; and he amply confirms the experience of medical men in this respect. It is well known among medical men that there is no poison in existence which gives rise to disease in a greater number of important organs than alcohol does. It occasions grave disorders of the stomach, liver, lungs, kidneys, and brain, is the acknowledged parent of gout, and, in extreme cases, so impairs and undermines the constitution as to make the most trifling external injury certainly fatal, and recovery from internal diseases of ordinary severity almost hopeless. Thus it is that a slight wound or scratch, which a temperate man would laugh at, often lays the brewer's drayman on a bed of sickness, and

baffles the skill of the most accomplished surgeon; and thus it is that an attack of consumption, from which a temperate man would recover for a time, proves quickly and certainly fatal to the drunkard.

"Mr Neison's returns confirm this experience of medical men. He finds that of the 357 deaths of intemperate persons, ninety-seven, or upwards of a fourth, are caused by diseases of the brain and nervous system. This is nearly three times as many in proportion as die from the like causes among the general population of England and Wales of the same sex and ages; 94 deaths, being about the same proportion of the total number of deaths, are found to be due to diseases of the digestive organs, the destruction of life from this class of causes being very nearly four times as great as among the general population of England and Wales. About the same proportion (another fourth, that is to say) is due to diseases of the chest, which are somewhat less frequent than among the general population, the destruction occasioned by diseases of the brain and digestive organs having left a smaller remnant to perish by diseases of the heart and lungs. These results are very striking; but Mr Neison's figures do not shew what every day's experience teaches the medical man, that it is very rarely indeed that the confirmed drunkard dies of one disease. Generally speaking, every important organ of the economy—heart, lungs, stomach, liver, kidneys, brain—is the seat of the same diseased condition, creating such a hindrance to the circulation of the blood and all the necessary processes of secretion, or separation of fluids useful or effete, as well as to the mechanical movements of the heart and lungs, that dropsy is the only possible relief—a relief necessarily temporary, and itself an indication of rapid decay."

"DRAWN FROM LIFE."

While some are busily searching the Scriptures for authority to rank themselves on our side, or poring over the multiplicity of contradictions afforded by medical opinions, to find vouchers for the plausibility of our doctrines; while many are wandering amid the mazes of legislation in ancient and modern times, to raise up phantom objections, and scare us with the terrible results of movements which they are pleased to call parallel with our own; while a lifetime is being spent, by many, in apparently applauding the principle, yet with holding their assistance and co-operation, upon the plea, perhaps, that our plan does not embrace some favourite project of theirs—why will these overlook the plain, the very simple truth upon which we have founded the basis of our Temperance edifice—that the dreadful evil of intoxication has been long becoming a burden, heavier and more loathsome to be borne by our country; that those guilty of the vice are not the only sufferers, since on the innocent are often inflicted the most lasting penalties; that abstinence alone can effectually remove this burden; that it pretends to do no more, and so satisfactorily has it been proved a sure, a safe, and expedient remedy, that no ancient saws or modern instances can be needed as warranty for its universal adoption? From the countless instances which every day is bringing before us, we now present our readers with one—a living, breathing example of the evil we seek to remedy, and we would ask of those whom we have mentioned, need they

to seek further for reasons to assure them when such proofs are hourly afforded of the urgency of the case—the necessity for a cure?

The subject of the present sketch is a tradesman, who only a few years ago possessed a thriving business in one of the leading thoroughfares of London, was a prosperous and happy man, and the father of a young family, whom it was his delight to teach and train in the right way. But one point was neglected in the example of home influences—intoxicating drink was the daily beverage. The mid-day and evening meal was not complete without it, and on any domestic festivity a greater indulgence in the tempting luxury formed a chief feature. All this bore no bad fruit that was visible for a time; but the evil day came.

A depression in the market, and the consequent diminution of the receipts, straitened the circumstances of the household at a moment when their expenses were necessarily increasing. But instead of being met by that economy which might have remedied the evil, the usual indulgences were continued. Soon trifling difficulties became serious embarrassments, and these thickening around, seemed to multiply, as only those know how who have experienced them. Yet years of industry and integrity had not been without their fruit, and even now the credit and esteem of all who knew him might have saved the unhappy man, had he taken courage to face the trouble and manfully to away the thing that was unconsciously sapping his energies. Did he do this? Nay, he took it yet closer to himself and to drown care he plunged deeper into the tide whose current was swiftly hurrying him to ruin. He drank to banish memory, but memory, rising again with yet more haggard aspect, still deeper and deeper draughts were called for to stifle her voice. All his ready money gone, first stock, then books, then clothes, were parted with. Credit lost, employment neglected, the family were turned from the house which had been their home since the birth of the eldest child, and in a narrow unhealthy lodging they took refuge. The man, to avoid actual starvation for his family, worked, assisted by his wife, as a journeyman, at the very business in which he had but a short time before held a good standing in society. Even the scanty pay which this afforded was not allowed to form the subsistence of the poor family. Too often the greater part was spent in procuring the drink which had now become a necessary of life to the wretched man, for he has positively assured us that with the best determination he was quite unable to begin a bit of work in the morning till his hand had been steadied by a dram. Truly there is no thrall-dom like that which this demon drink imposes on its vassals.

But when did one so infatuated stop midway in the downward course? and this example, alas! forms no exception. Every day the father became more callous to his children's wants; the husband less mindful of his wife's prayers; the man more indifferent to everything but the gratification of appetite, to which he scrupled not to sacrifice all else. Friends were not wanting who, out of pity for the family, at first afforded them some assistance; but after a while finding matters grew even worse, these too failed, and the unhappy wife was left almost entirely to her own resources. The husband, whenever he could procure any money, would absent himself frequently for whole days at a time, finding his