

number of other societies in regiments in different parts of India, which have sought information from the same source. Ardent spirits make terrible havoc among the European soldiery in India.

BURMAH.—Mr. Bruce at Rangoon, has been induced to abandon the sale of ardent spirits in consequence of reading the 7th report of the American Temperance Society. The great curse of the Burmese at present is opium. A large portion of the inhabitants are completely besotted by it. It carries off immense numbers to an untimely grave. The disease which attacks opium chewers is commonly dysentery, and is almost sure to be fatal—no medicine being of any avail.

Extract of a Letter from C. Bennett to E. C. Delavan, Esq. dated Maulmein, India, March 8, 1837:—

MY DEAR SIR,—I must say I regret that I have not before answered your kind letter of "November, 1835," which reached me just about the time it was one year old; and with it a box of Temperance pamphlets and papers, which I have the pleasure to say have been dispersed, and the reading of them has been productive of good. Several have, since reading the papers, &c. discontinued the use of wine and beer, who before had used them. They express themselves convinced that the using of any thing which will intoxicate as a beverage is productive of an evil from the example merely, there being many tipplers who say, "We would not drink arrack if we could procure wine or beer. You use wine and beer, which is just as bad as our arrack." Thus a few, and O that it was more than a few, are willing to abandon a foolish habit or practice, which they acknowledge was productive of no real good, but are now convinced was producing evil, and they have become wholly cold water folks. This is encouraging, for it is a truth, "every individual has some influence over another," and these persons are now exerting a good influence, much of which is to be attributed to the papers sent by you. But after all, only a little is done, or doing, which I feel the cause demands in this country, and much must be done ere India shall be regenerated and saved.

The Temperance Society encountered much opposition, and from quarters, too, which ought to have aided their efforts. But through the good hand of our Heavenly Father, they were enabled to issue two 12mo. tracts of eight pages each—the first of fifteen hundred copies, the last of two thousand; and these little messengers have been dispersed in the Madras presidency, the Bengal presidency, Penang, Singapore, &c. &c., together with your publications, and been the means of increasing other Temperance societies, and forming some new ones. *Temperance must prevail before Christianity can.* This one truth I feel more and more. The heathen look upon all white faces as *Christians*; consequently, when they see them drunk, &c., they have a low opinion of the doctrine of the cross. A heathen sees a foreigner *drink*, he wonders what it is; whether it is good; desires to taste; goes to the arrack shop; spends two or three pice; likes the fiery stuff, perhaps; goes again and again; thus spending what little he gets; leads others there; destroys his character and standing, and says, perhaps, after all, when conversed with, "Well, Jesus Christ's disciples do so, too—we are all alike." O the awful account some will have to render at the judgment of the great day. But I can add no more.

I am, dear sir, yours, affectionately and faithfully,

C. BENNET.

AGRA.—Extract from the First Report of the Bengal European Regiment Auxiliary Temperance Society, February 27, 1836.

President—Brevet Captain and Adjutant T. V. Lysagh.

Vice-President—Sergeant-Major William Lennon.

Secretary—Quarter-Master Sergeant William Perry.

The Society consisted, on its first opening on the 23d December, 1834, of eleven non-commissioned officers and nine privates, and it steadily increased until it numbered in July last, two commissioned officers, twenty-eight non-commissioned officers, fifty-four drummers and privates, and eighteen women.

THE WINE QUESTION.

In our last Number a communication was acknowledged from the Rev. A. O. Hubbard, of Melbourne, on this subject, which has since received from the Committee that attentive consideration to which in many respects it was entitled. The ground taken by Mr. Hubbard, and in support of which he has quoted numerous passages from Scripture, is that the wine used by the Jews with the Divine approbation and made by the Saviour at the marriage feast was fermented, and consequently contained alcohol, and was capable of intoxicating. He further condemns as unsafe and unscriptural the views of those who hold that the wine spoken favourably of in Scripture was not fermented, and that the use of intoxicating liquors is morally wrong because containing alcohol, which, as a poison, is necessarily productive of injury to human life. Mr. H. contends also that the principle of expediency is the only and a sufficient one on which total abstinence can be urged; a view which in principle and practice he zealously advocates.

The Executive Committee, although divided on these points, are yet agreed, that the publication of the Essay would be productive of injury in the present stage of the temperance reformation. The question at issue, apart from the satisfaction of ascertaining the disputed nature of the wine, seems at the present to be of comparatively minor importance, for it cannot have a bearing at all on the wines in present use, which, in general, are compounds of deleterious substances and ardent spirits. If the wine sanctioned by Divine authority was capable of intoxicating, which several of the Committee disbelieve, it is in the highest degree improbable that it could prove so unless taken to great or at least considerable excess, as is the case with the wines generally used in wine-growing countries, when not mixed with spirits. To discuss the wine question, therefore, until the public mind has been first disabused of the erroneous idea attached to the name of "Wine;" and can separate between the meaning of what is called wine now, and what is meant by the pure, unbranded, wines of Judea—in the opinion of the Committee, would only tend to injure the cause of total abstinence to a greater extent than it can possibly suffer at present, by the prevalence of the views condemned by Mr. Hubbard. In withholding the publication of the Essay, the Committee are actuated also by the rule lately laid down of closing the columns of a paper so small and infrequent in its issues as the *Advocate*, against discussion.

Having stated the views of Mr. Hubbard as well as those of other promoters of total abstinence, the Committee would earnestly enjoin on all that mutual forbearance on these points, which the welfare of the cause renders imperative; and seeing that it is impracticable to obtain perfect unanimity on every point, let it suffice that all agree and unite zealously in promoting the practice of total abstinence.

Miscellaneous.

Power of Conscience.—When Wood, who committed suicide a few weeks since in jail at Keene, murdered Baker, both were intoxicated. The merchant who sold Wood the liquor, which excited him to commit the horrid deed, overwhelmed in the view of murder, to which he knew he had been accessory, immediately abandoned the traffic. The other merchant in Sullivan, and the merchant in Nelson did the same; so that for months no alcoholic liquor had been sold in either town.—*Providence Courier.*

Hard Times.—A gentleman in Mobile counted no less than thirty drinking houses on one street, the expenses caused by which are reckoned as follows—for rent, furniture, clerk hire, &c., 60,000 dollars.—They average 20 dollars a day each. Time lost by drinking 218,000 dollars. The sickness, distress, poverty, and crime of which they are the cause, no man can estimate in dollars and cents.