

TEMPERANCE.

[SELECTED]

PARLIAMENT AND THE DOCTORS.—A Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed some time ago, "to inquire into the extent, causes, and consequences of the prevailing vice of intoxication, in the United Kingdom, produced, in their report, the following medical declarations, of the first eminence:—

Dublin:—"We the undersigned, hereby declare, that, in our opinion, nothing would tend so much to the improvement of the health of the community, as the entire disuse of ardent spirits."

Signed by Alexander Jackson, State Physician; John Crampton, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica; R. Carmichael; Philip Crampton, Surgeon General; J. Cheyne, M. D., Physician General; A. Colles, Professor of Surgery; H. Marsh, M. D., Professor, Medical Practitioner, College of Surgeons; and other medical practitioners; in all forty-nine.

Edinburgh:—"We, the undersigned, do hereby declare our conviction, that ardent spirits are not to be regarded as a nourishing article of diet; that the entire disuse of them would powerfully contribute to improve the health and comfort of the community."

This was signed by four Professors of the Medical Faculty in the University; eleven members of the College of Physicians; by the President, and twenty-seven of the Royal College of Surgeons; and by thirty-four other medical practitioners; seventy-seven in all.

Leith:—"We, the undersigned, do hereby declare our conviction, that ardent spirits in any form, are highly prejudicial to health: and that they contain no nutritive quality." Signed by Charles Anderson M. D., Robert Simms, M. D., Charles Cheye, surgeon; George Kirk, M. D., J. S. Combe, M. D., Thomas Latta, M. D., Thos. Craige, M. D., John Coldstream, M. D.

Fork.—This certificate declares, that ardent spirits are, to persons in health unnecessary, and, almost without exception, pernicious; that their disuse would greatly contribute to the health, morals, and comfort of the community. Signed by 24 medical gentlemen.

Brighton.—The certificate from this town is to the same effect as that of the above, and signed by forty-two names. That of Bradford to the same effect, is signed by thirteen; that of Berwick-upon-Tweed, is signed by eleven; that of Sheltenham is signed by twenty-six; that of Derby, by sixteen; that of Leeds, by forty-seven; that of Manchester by seventeen; that of Nottingham, by twenty-six; that of Worcester, by thirty-two; that of Gloucester, by fifteen; that of Kilmarnock, by eight; that of Lincoln, by twenty. To the preceding attestations, we have to add the opinion of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. who writes:—"No person has a greater hostility to dram drinking than myself; so much that I never suffer any ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits, and if the poor could witness the white livers, the dropsies, the shattered nervous systems which I have seen, as the consequences of drinking, they would be aware that spirits and poisons are synonymous terms."

Edward Turner, M. D., F. R. S. S., London and Edinburgh, Professor of Chemistry in the London University,

writes,—"It is my firm conviction, that ardent spirits are not a nourishing article of diet: that in this climate they may be entirely disused, with advantage to health and strength; that their habitual use tends to undermine the constitution, enfeeble the mind, and degrade the character."

The Committee, in their report to the House of Commons, state, that spirits produce "the following evils, among others:—The destruction of an immense amount of wholesome and nutritious grain, given by a bountiful Providence for the use of man, which is now converted, by distillation into a poison. The highest medical authorities, examined in great numbers before the Committee, are uniform in their testimony, that ardent spirits are absolute poisons to the human constitution, that in no case whatever are they necessary, or even useful, to persons in health; that they are always, and in every case, and of the smallest extent, deleterious, pernicious, or destructive, according to the proportions in which they may be taken into the system."

(Page 4. Parl. Rep.) In corroboration of this report, may be added the unerring test, practical experience. They give instances of habitual "bottle goers" abandoning, at an advanced age, the use of spirituous liquors, not only without injury, but with visible advantage to health.—*Toronto Examiner*.

THE INDIAN ARMY.—For some years temperance principles have been making way in the European portion of the East India Company's troops, and the following fact related by Major-General Sir Hugh Gough, in a recent despatch, is a remarkable instance of the progress which has been made. Had the soldiery before Canton, taking advantage of an opportunity offered, and brutalized themselves with the quantities of arrack which they accidentally became possessed of, the consequences might have been serious to the whole force engaged, and such consequences might have easily resulted from an indiscretion then common, but which we are proud to say has been greatly overcome by the exertions of the temperance mission, in inculcating rules fraught with incalculable advantages, moral, physical, and political. Sir Hugh Gough's remarks are as follows: Having now conveyed my approval of the conduct of the commanding officers of brigades and corps, and the heads of departments, permit me to draw your Lordship's special attention to the praiseworthy conduct of the sailors and soldiers under my command, which in my mind does them the highest credit. During the eight days this force was on shore (and many of the corps were unavoidably placed in situations where sham-shu was abundant), but two instances of drunkenness occurred; and I deem it but justice here to mention a strong fact. The soldiers of the 49th finding a quantity of sham-shu in the village they had taken, without order or previous knowledge of their officers, brought the jars containing this pernicious liquor, and broke them in front of their corps, without the occurrence of a single case of intoxication.

REFORMS.—Among the stupendous reforms of the present day, nothing excites more grateful astonishment than the Temperance reformation. It is vast as it is deep, and thorough as it is extensive. It does not merely pervade certain local sections, or the visible surface of society. It embraces the entire Union, and its healing influence extends