

2,160 persons perish in 25 days, in one town in Russia, says, "It is a remarkable circumstance, that persons given to drinking are swept away like flies. In Tiflis, containing 20,000 inhabitants, every drunkard has fallen—all are dead—not one remains." Dr. Sewal writing from New York says, that "of 204 cases of cholera in the Park Hospital, there were only six temperate persons, and that these had recovered, while 122 of the other had died when he wrote, and that facts were similar in all the other hospitals." So fully was this manifested as a scourge on drunkenness, that the Board of Health in the city of Washington, ordered that no spirits should be sold for 90 days, as a measure necessary to the life of the inhabitants.

Loss of Time and Labour resulting from it.

Time mis-spent, and productive labour lost, is another item that must enter into our calculations of the cost of drinking. It has been estimated that if the mechanics of London suspend their labours for one day, not less than £50,000 would be lost, and if London be reckoned at one-twentieth of the population of the United Kingdom, were all the labourers and mechanics in the country to play for one day, £1,000,000 would be lost, and were they to pass one day in idleness in every week in the year, then £52,000,000 would be annually lost. Now, though we are happy to say that every labourer and mechanic does not lose one day in a week by drinking, yet, as many drunkards spend two, three, or even four days in some weeks in the pot-house, and some spend nearly all their time there—we may conclude that the calculation just made is not very incorrect.

(To be Continued.)

PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE.

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
AMERICAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

Foreign Operations.

The Committee are happy to state that the foreign operations have been no less interesting during the year, than those in our own country.

In Ireland the wonderful work which has regenerated a nation, appears to stand steadfast. A recent letter from the Rev. Theobald Matthew, its favoured instrument in the hand of divine providence, says: "You will be pleased to learn that the temperance cause was never so prosperous in Ireland as at the present moment. This is a cause of gratulation to every friend of morality and human happiness; especially as it was expected that the agitated state of the country would lead to the abandonment of the principle of total abstinence. On the contrary, it has only proved the sincerity and magnanimity of the people."

The visit of this distinguished man to England, the last summer, was attended with important consequences. More than 70,000 persons were induced to sign the pledge, and among them several distinguished personages. The new National Temperance Society at London is in vigorous operation, circulating tracts and temperance intelligence. "The drinking customs," says "the Secretary in a recent letter," are gradually declining; in our high circles is a visible change; in respectable families it is no longer singular to refuse wine, and I am satisfied that the Temperance cause never stood in so favourable a position as at the present time, though there is less excitement than at former periods." The British Association is operating with great efficiency in the North of England. "In reviewing," says the Secretary, in a letter to us, "the last ten years, and looking at our present prospects, there is strong ground for encouragement, and for more vigorous exertion. Parliamentary returns show a decrease in the consumption of all intoxicating liquors, during the last year. The Press was never more active, and the demand for good Tracts is increasing. Those in the traffic are complaining most bitterly."

Special efforts are now making by the National Temperance Society to raise the sum of £2000 sterling, and by the British Association to raise £10,000 sterling, to extend the cause. To the latter, the city of Glasgow has contributed one thousand pounds.

Among the clergy and churches of all denominations, there is both in England and Scotland a strange indifference to total abstinence societies; and yet they are not without warm and

decided friends. Says one distinguished prelate, the Bishop of Norwich:

"Few indeed can bear more impartial testimony to their merits than myself, inasmuch as that, for a considerable length of time, I was opposed to them, on the supposition that they were visionary and impracticable. I have, however, long since been a convert, from a conviction founded on experience and observation, that they are most instrumental in raising thousands, and tens of thousands, from a degraded profligacy, to virtuous and industrious habits, and converting sinners from the ways of vice to those of religion. I need scarcely add, that I think every clergyman who has the welfare of his parishioners at heart, and is really zealous in the cause of his profession, ought to give them his support."

The western Scottish Temperance Union has been in existence five years, and has 200 societies. In Scotland 100,000 families have adopted the total abstinence principle, but also 400,000 families still continue to use intoxicating drinks. In Glasgow alone £1,200,000 are annually spent in intoxicating drink. Could the Free Church, now a vigorous shoot, be induced to engage in the temperance enterprise, she might soon save enough to herself to sustain her ministry, build her churches, and become a great benefactor to all the Scottish people.

But little temperance intelligence has been received during the year from the North of Europe. The great friend and patron of the cause, the King of Sweden, has recently died. In that nation there are more than 50,000 pledged temperance men. The work of reform is much in the hands of the clergy, favoured by the government.

In Germany, a Convention of high character was held in August last, at Hamburg. 103 regular representatives, 33 deputies from the different societies of Germany and 3 from Sweden, were present. The joy and friendship, says Dr. Selig, in a letter to our Secretary, felt and expressed at this meeting, were really great, and likewise the hospitality bestowed upon them by the citizens of Hamburg.

The Hong Kong Society is controlled by the Missionaries, and has a flourishing commencement. But at the Sandwich Islands, temperance, as well as religion, has realized its most extraordinary triumphs. By the introduction of French brandies, the cause for a season was thrown back, but again it is finding firm footing. The King continues steadfast to his pledge. At the late celebration of the anniversary of his restoration to power, a quantity of rum, brandy, and wine, which had remained untouched in his cellar from the time of his signing the pledge, was brought forth; and the question was asked what shall be done with it? Some proposed that it should be preserved to be used instead of spirits of turpentine for drying paint. "No," said the King, "let it be cast into the sea." And though the greatest temptations on that day were placed before him to drink, on board the British ships, the King nobly resisted them all. By the new treaty at Tahiti intoxicating liquors are contraband goods; and throughout all the isles of the Pacific the total abstinence principle is deeply rooted. Soon New England rum will cease doubling Cape Horn. On the 11th of December, the ship *Heber*, from Massachusetts, stopped at Honolulu with seventy hogsheads of rum. She had visited Mozambique, Madagascar, Sydney, New Holland, and New Zealand, without finding a market. It was put up at auction, and only five casks were sold. On the twenty-fifth of December, she reshipped her sixty-five casks and set sail, not knowing what to do with her rum. If she brings it back to Boston, may it show the sons of the Pilgrims the disgrace of endeavouring to flood the poor Pagans with rum!

In Canada and Nova Scotia in the North, and in Bermuda, the West Indies, and some parts of South America in the South, there is much to interest, instruct and gratify, which the Committee cannot here detail. The Montreal Society is full of engagement, and have invited a Convention of the Temperance Societies to meet for consultation and the furtherance of the cause at Montreal on the 4th of June.

Had the World's Convention, which was proposed to be held in London the coming July been suffered, your Committee doubt not it would have developed a much greater advance of the cause than we are at present aware of; while at the same time we should have learned far more than we now know of the evil we combat. Whenever the Committee at London shall see fit to call it again, we can assure them of a co-operation in the friends in America.