

## Temperance.

## ANOTHER SHOCKING TRAGEDY.

The annexed particulars need no remarks from us; but we cannot let the facts go before our readers, without entreating every one to consider his or her duty in reference to a business which leads to results so deplorably shocking. What father is there who does not sympathize with the bereaved Judge Keeler?

Yesterday, says the *Washingtonian & Reclabite of Albany, N. Y.*, Judge Keeler "called on us," and gave fuller particulars than had previously been published respecting the death of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Keeler.

Simon O. Keeler, the deceased, was about thirty-seven years of age. He was a man of good general character, industrious, well educated and enterprising, and was the owner of a good farm under cultivation, from which he derived his support. At the time of his decease, however, he was residing with his father, upon a farm owned by Judge Keeler. Mrs. Keeler, the wife of Simon O. Keeler, was about thirty years of age, who was also well educated, intelligent, and of excellent moral character, unblemished reputation, correct deportment, and refinement. As a general rule, the utmost affection and confidence prevailed between this couple. The deceased husband, however, was subject at times to excessive drinking, which continued upon him sometimes for weeks together, and which affected his nervous system to a great extent, rendering him almost insane. At such times, he was beset with jealousy towards his wife, which rendered him fierce and overbearing in his deportment toward her, and at such times their previous good understanding and affection were replaced by feelings in entire contrast to those of their real nature.

On Friday, March 25, Judge Keeler went from his residence, to be gone until Sunday the 27th, leaving his son and wife the only persons at home. For about three weeks previous to that day, Simon O. Keeler had been constantly indulging to excess in the use of liquor, so much so that his appetite for food had forsaken him. Before leaving home, Judge Keeler (between whom and his son and wife the strongest affection subsisted) took occasion to admonish his son that his drinking, if persevered in, would soon lead him to the drunkard's grave. Judge Keeler exhorted him to put his foot down and promise that he would not drink another drop of liquor, until the 1st of January, 1854, promising him, in case he would so promise, and knowing from his character that if he so promised, he would perform, to give him the free use of the farm, which is well stocked, with a span of horses, waggon and harness, two yoke of working oxen, twenty-five hogs, cows, sheep, &c., and with all necessary farming utensils, and to make him a present besides of hay, provisions, &c., amounting in all to about \$5000. The son admitted that he was killing himself with liquor, but evaded making the promise desired by his father, and saying, "Well, father, I will think it over, and when you come home, we will make it all right." These were the last words ever spoken between them.

Judge Keeler departed on his business, and the awful tragedy which followed was not witnessed by mortal eye, so far as is known. Sunday afternoon Judge Keeler returned to his home finding the house shut. Failing to arouse the inmates, and with foreboding of evil, he effected entrance into the house, when the first object that met his eyes was the corpse of his daughter-in-law, decently disposed upon the floor of the sitting room, her face bound up with a handkerchief as if for burial, and the limbs straitened and stiff with death. A pillow was under her head, and by her side were evidences that another person had lain down. She had been shot through the heart. Upon entering the bed room through the open door, he discovered the body of his son, stiff in death, but distorted and convulsed, as though he dragged himself in the agony of dying from the side of his wife to the bed which they usually occupied; and had there died in extreme torture. Upon searching for the cause of his death, the father found that a large piece had been shaved off from a lump of opium, and to this agent he attributed the death of his son, though a post mortem examination failed to give evidence of that or any other positive cause.

Judge Keeler, who of course was intimately acquainted with the habits and character of his son, is strongly of opinion that he never intended the death of his wife, even under the sudden influence of passion caused by strong drink, but rather supposes that in one of his temporary fits of jealousy, he sought to work upon the fears of his wife, and that the shot itself was accidental, and being seized with despair and remorse at what he had

done, he took means to terminate his own life. Appearances indicate that he had taken every possible means to restore animation to the body of his wife, before committing the last fatal act against himself.

The grief of Judge Keeler, who, to use his own words, is now "an old man," was touching in two extremes. He gave me the foregoing particulars in youthful simplicity, and as we believe earnest truthfulness. His words were broken and choked by the powerful and agonizing emotions with which his heart was filled.—The monition must furnish its own comments. It is not for us to add a drop to the overflowing cup of sorrow which an inscrutable Providence presents to the lips of this worthy and heart-stricken old man, nor is such comment necessary. His frank and full statement gives of itself a stronger and deeper lesson to all who read it, than any attempt on our part to enlarge or moralize upon it as a rule.

## News Department.

## IRELAND.

**RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.**—At the Mayo assizes there are a number of cases for trial, in which assaults and misdemeanors of various kinds have been committed by the Roman Catholic clergy, or abetted by them, and by which a system of terrorism has been maintained there for some months past. We find the following on this subject in the Mayo Constitution of Tuesday:—"We have had too much religious intolerance before, but within the last six or seven months it has risen to a pitch hitherto unparalleled. The spirit of persecution has recently multiplied its energies, and spread itself over the length and breadth of this county. Within the period that we have named, the principal Petty Sessions' Courts of this county have been occupied again and again, and amid scenes the most exciting and in some instances most disgraceful.—Within the space we have mentioned, outrages have been perpetrated at the Monastery of Partry, in Ballinrobe, Hollymount, Ballyheane, Castlebar, Keltimogh, Bangor, Belmullet, Newport, and Achill. Within that period, the Rev. H. Townsend, the Rev. B. Mollon, the Rev. H. Tait, the Rev. P. Foley, the Rev. W. Kilbride, and the Rev. Joseph Barker, have been personally assaulted. A monk was convicted and fined for an assault upon a clergyman. The Rev. Joseph Magennis, R. C. C., was bound to keep the peace on account of violent and threatening language to a Scripture-reader's wife. The Rev. James Henry, R. C. C., was convicted, and fined £5, for an assault on a Scripture-reader. The Rev. James Henry, R. C. C., and the Rev. William Scully, R. C. C., are to be put on their trial at the assizes, for several cases of assault. At Ballyheane, three daring outrages were committed within a short period, some of which have been sent to the assizes. At Hollymount, a man, in broad daylight, deliberately took aim and fired at a Scripture-reader. At Castlebar, the windows of the Mall school-house were broken, a convert had his collar bone dislocated by a beating, and a Scripture-reader was violently attacked some distance from town. At Cullinmogh, there are five cases for assault at the coming assizes. The windows of the house where the Scripture-readers lodge were twice broken. Police rewards were four times offered for outrage. The constabulary force has been more than doubled. Once a policeman, and on another occasion a Roman Catholic Gentleman, delivered Scripture-readers from almost certain murder. Near Newport, a very respectable and inoffensive man, a Scripture-reader was savagely beaten. At Bangor, an attempt was made to burn the house of the Rev. A. Tait. Near Belmullet, the Rev. P. Foley was assaulted on the public highway. At Achill there are cases for trial at the assizes for assaulting clergymen, throwing down a dwelling-house, forcibly entering schools and dragging out the scholars, and several assaults by large bodies of the people headed by two priests. An aged and inoffensive man was nearly killed by the blow of a stone.—And lest it might be imagined that this sets forth the whole extent of persecution, we are obliged to observe that exclusive dealing is carried on every day, and that shouting, hooting, and calling offensive names, are matters of every day occurrence. It was sworn in evidence that the Rev. H. Townsend hardly ever passes the Monastery of Partry without being insulted, or assaulted, or both. It was sworn in evidence, by a Roman Catholic policeman, that he was obliged to assist in escorting a convert to and from church at Ballyheane. It was sworn in evidence that Scripture-readers are constantly, and especially in going to church on Sundays, hooded and insulted at Keltimogh."

**LORD DONOUGHMORE.**—One of the Dublin papers having stated that Lord Donoughmore had sent a cargo of Bibles to America as a commercial speculation, his lordship, in a letter addressed to the *Clonmel Chronicle*, after mentioning the fact that he had assisted a large number of his poor tenantry to emigrate, says:

1. It is but fair and just towards the poor people themselves, that it should be known that they were not altogether indebted to my purse for their passage to the "land of hope," every one of them having contributed small sums from their weekly earnings; and having thus given evidence that their expatriation was their own choice, and not the result of my influence.

2. The writer of your article appears to doubt the fact of my having presented to each departing emi-

grant a copy of the Holy Scriptures. Sir, I can assure him that it is true, and further, that I am not ashamed of it. I had stored their boxes with bodily food sufficient for the voyage, why should I omit to supply them with food for the soul? In this unhappy land, where an unholy terrorism crushes every independent thought, and visits the man who dares to read the Book of God with the penalties of social ostracism, it would be, under ordinary circumstances, a hopeless task for a hundred proprietors to offer the Holy Scriptures to his Roman Catholic neighbors. But in America it is far otherwise. There no social tyranny exists: there each man has power to read or not to read, as best pleases him; and, believe me, Sir, that power is largely used by those who depart weeping from our shores, to the great discomfiture of their spiritual guides, and to their own eternal gain.

The *Cambridge Press* says that a respectable woman named Wilkinson, living at Eynesbury, who had been totally blind for 20 years, fell down stairs; and the shock caused to her system by this fall resulted in the complete recovery of her sight.

On the 8th ult., nearly 200 hundred gentlemen in Edinburgh agreed to ascertain the actual amount of Sunday traffic in the public houses of that city, and their report, entering into the statistics of each house, the character of the visitors, &c., has just been published. There are in all 464 licensed houses in Edinburgh, and 312 of these were opened on the Sunday referred to. The visitors were—33,202 men, 11,938 women, 4631 children under 14 years of age, and 3032 children under 8 years of age. Total during the day, 41,796.

The Earl of Ellesmere and his colleagues, representatives of Great Britain at the New York Industrial Exhibition, are to be conveyed to America in the *Zander*, 50 gun frigate, one of the most efficient men-of-war in the Royal Navy of England.

Among the new companies lately started at Sydney is an Australian Clothes Washing Association, in 5000 shares of £1 each.

## UNITED STATES.

**THE NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE.**—The progress of the construction of the Crystal Palace, on Reservoir Square, attracts much attention. A large portion of the counters are made, and others are being made; and as goods are to be received on the 16th, we suppose we may look for the opening of the exhibition by the 15th of June, or thereabouts.

Every person who sees the building is delighted with its proportions. It bids fair to be a great permanent ornament to our city. Mr. Hogg's gardeners are occupied with preparing the two triangles on Sixth avenue for the reception of the horticultural and floral contributions.—*N. Y. Herald.*

**NATURAL GAS.**—The *Holmes County (Ohio) Farmer* states that a wonderful natural curiosity has been discovered in that county, in the shape of natural gas. The discovery was made on the farm of a Mr. Purdy, some eight or ten rods south of his house, in a curious kind of earth resembling dark sawdust. The owner for years has been aware of the existence of some wonderful phenomena. The place on which the discovery has been made, was cultivated for a number of years, and it has been observed that in a number of places every thing planted or sown, and all kinds of vegetation, would dwindle or die, and seemingly turn up. After the late rains the water was discovered to be agitated, and to bubble up in a number of places, which led Mr. Purdy and others to experiment, by collecting a bottle of this gas and setting it on fire. When the instant a lighted match touched to it, the vapour ignited, and sent the bottle whizzing through the house.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

We regret to announce that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was violently thrown from his horse on Saturday last, and badly fractured one of his ribs in the fall. The accident occurred a short distance below the city, and the removal of His Excellency to Government House occasioned him great pain. He has since suffered severely from difficult respiration, but is now progressing favorably, and will shortly it is believed and hoped, be entirely recovered.—*Fredericton Head Quarters.*

**SAILORS' HOME.**—This capacious building, at the west end of Britain-st., will be open for the reception of boarders on Monday next, and upon very reasonable terms. The Sailors' Home is neatly fitted up, and the Committee of Superintendance, John Owens, Esq., and the Revs. Messrs. Harris and Scovil, deserve great credit for the manner in which they have discharged their duty. As this laudable establishment is under the charge of a faithful and efficient Superintendent, and is in every respect adapted to the comfort and convenience of those for whom it is especially intended, we trust that it may be liberally patronized.

**INTERCOURSE WITH PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.**—In consequence mainly of the establishment of the line of steamers which ply regularly between this City and the Bend of Petitediac, our commercial intercourse with P. E. Island has very materially increased of late. Produce from this fertile Island is landed at Shediac, thence brought over land—14 miles—to the Bend, and from this point it is forwarded to St. John by the steamers. When the railway between the Bend and Shediac is completed, this traffic will be greatly improved, as well as our commercial intercourse with the northern part of this Province, and the eastern portions of Canada.—*St. John Chron.*