

that the arrival of a ship, with a cargo of spirituous liquors, is a fatal calamity to an infant church in heathen lands; and that it sends forth, over fields that are becoming "white unto the harvest," a tempest that sweeps away, almost in one night, the pious labours of the Missionaries for years; what ought you to do? Are you still to commend it, and defend the use of it as "a good creature of God;" and give all the weight of your influence and example to uphold the use of it, and the traffic in it? Can you do so, and be innocent? It ought to be recollected that the reason why it is sent abroad, as an article of *export*, is because of the *high standing* which it has obtained at home; and it has obtained that standing chiefly through the excellence of your characters. Now, when an effort is made to banish these drinks from society, you cannot, surely, remain neutral; much less stand out as their advocates and supporters, when you consider that their influence upon the cause of religion, is most *malign*.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS EVERY WHERE PROVE A CURSE.—In the evidence given before the Select Committee on Aborigines (British Settlements), by Mr. Coates, one of the Secretaries of the Church Missionary Society, Mr. C. forcibly urges the necessity of discouraging the introduction of ardent spirits amongst the native inhabitants of countries where British Settlements are made. Upon this topic, the Rev. Mr. Ellis, who has had much experience as a Missionary, and now sustains the office of Secretary to the London Missionary Society, remarks, in the course of his evidence:—

"I would also beg leave to add, the desirableness of preventing, by every practicable means, the introduction of ardent spirits among the inhabitants of the countries we may visit or colonize. There is nothing more injurious to the South Sea Islanders than seamen, who have absconded from ships, setting up huts for the retail of ardent spirits, called grog-shops, which are the resort of the indolent and vicious of the crews of the vessels, and in which, under the influence of intoxication, scenes of immorality, and even murder, have been exhibited, almost beyond what the natives witnessed among themselves while they were heathens. The impediments to the civilization and prosperity of the people, that have resulted from the activity of foreign traders in ardent spirits, have been painful in the extreme. In one year, it is estimated, that the sum of 12,000 dollars was expended in Tahiti alone, chiefly by the natives, for ardent spirits. I am, however, thankful to be able to state, that the principles of Temperance Societies have been introduced, and the happiest results have followed."

Progress of the Temperance Reform.

PERTH, U. C. TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

PLEDGE.

"We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, nor traffic in them—that we will not provide them as an article of entertainment, or for persons in our employment—and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community."

This Society was formed in January, 1832, requiring then, abstinence from ardent spirits only.

The number of members at first was only thirty-two; but these gradually increased, till in 1837 there were upwards of 600 on the list. It must be observed, however, that at the time when the number was greatest, there were many on the list who, by death, removal, or transgression of the rules, had ceased to be members of the Society; so that, probably, there were not at any time, more than about 400 members in good standing.

Prosperous as the Society had been for a time, and increasing in numerical strength, it soon began to appear to a number of its supporters, that the pledge of abstinence from ardent spirits merely, was not sufficient to secure the ultimate success of the cause, and accordingly in July, 1836, notwithstanding considerable opposition, a resolution was passed expressing this conviction, and recommending to all the members of the Society, to subscribe the total abstin-

ence pledge, which was then added to the original Constitution. A considerable number complied with this recommendation; still many kept back, and from various irregularities and inconsistencies on the part of many of those members who would not abstain from all intoxicating drink, the Society had become so inefficient, and even in some measure disreputable, that early in 1837 some of its friends considered it necessary to propose, that the old pledge should be abolished, and the present one substituted in its place. This was at last happily effected at the annual meeting in January, 1838.

Considerable fear was for a while entertained, even by some of the best friends of the Society, that its prosperity and success would be hindered by this change. The Society was never more vigorous than at present, and though little exertion has been made, since the alteration of the pledge, to obtain new members, there are already 214 on the list, with the prospect of many more, who, it is expected, will subscribe the pledge as soon as an opportunity is afforded them. It is a pleasing and cheering circumstance, that many are now becoming members, who, for years, have been staunch and influential opponents.

The effects produced in this part of the country, by the Society directly or indirectly, since its formation, are quite astonishing, and they are visible to all. Drunkenness is comparatively rare, intoxicating liquor is banished from almost all the respectable stores, and the traffic is becoming more and more disreputable; logging bees and raising bees, &c. are now carried on without drink of any kind except water, and generally, throughout the settlement, a most decided change for the better is evident to all.

Not a great many confirmed drunkards have been altogether reclaimed, still there have been a few, and some of these, to all appearance at one time, the most hopeless cases. There are individuals, now consistent members of the Society, who feel that but for it, they would at this day, have been yet miserable drunkards, or perhaps have gone to the drunkard's grave.

One person of this class, once a daily drunkard, has repeatedly declared to the writer of this sketch, that a blessing from God seems to have rested upon him, since the day he subscribed the total abstinence pledge.

The prospect before us of success never seemed brighter than at present. The subject has taken hold on the minds of thinking people generally, in a way which bids fair for greater triumphs yet to come, and though there is still some opposition, and much lukewarmness, the cause is steadily gaining ground, prejudices are gradually dying away, and unless a very great change takes place for the worse, intemperance will never recover the power which it has lost. The Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel is on our side. Let us go forward in his name, and final victory is certain. In his name let us set up our banners, and he will send us help from the sanctuary, and strengthen us out of Zion; he will make us glad according to the days wherein we have seen evil; he will establish the work of our hands.

Perth, U. C., April 17, 1838.

T. C. W.

MARTINTOWN.—A letter has been received from the Secretary of the Martintown Temperance Society, in which he informs us, that the cause has not made such rapid progress there as in some other places, yet indulges the hope that a time of increasing prosperity is approaching. We are also glad to see from the above letter, that they are prepared to act on the "total plan."

In Dumfries and Annan, Temperance Soirees have been much in vogue, and what is more surprising, some of the largest and most fashionable halls that took place last winter, were conducted without any kind of intoxicating drink. In fact, Teetotalism is making extraordinary progress throughout Galloway, and bids fair shortly to number the majority of the people on its side.

Miscellaneous.

DISCOVERY AND USE OF ALCOHOL.—The following curious account of the first use of alcoholic liquors is from a French work, entitled *Sa Semeur*, (The Sower):—"Who, at the time when an Arabian chemist, devoted to the search after a universal solvent, by means of which he could transmute metals, discovered alcohol,