

## RESULTS OF TEMPERANCE.

them Bibles or good books, very soon the word of life would be thrown into the pit; in fact, the pit mania has at length proceeded so far, that they very frequently throw their wives and children, and even themselves, into the pit; and in this manner, thousands annually are dashed to pieces; what if a few individuals, seeing all this waste, folly, and misery, were to unite themselves together, and agree to use every effort to fill up the pit; surely there are no persons alive that would exclaim, "If you fill up that pit, you will be substituting your 'pit filling' for the grace of God!"

If any one were to make such a remark, we should certainly conclude that his head was not marked with the organ of logic; and if we stooped to reply to such silliness, we should say, "My good friend, do you not see, that if we break down those walls you will have free access to the people to make known to them the gospel; and if we fill that pit, the people cannot throw their money, their clothes, their Bibles, and themselves into it; so that in fact, they will have clothes to wear, and will not be kept away from God's house by their filthiness and rags; they will read your Bibles and good books, and that will induce them to come to hear you preach; many that would now have been your hearers are already fallen into the pit, some of them so heavily laden with guilt, that they have gone to the bottomless abyss, but if the pit be stopped we shall prevent the occurrence of these disasters?" If an objector, however obtuse his intellect, were not satisfied with this reply, but still persisted that breaking down the wall, or filling up the pit, was, in a most infidel manner, to supersede the gospel, why then his sanity would be justly questionable.

The cases here supposed exactly accord with the object of the 'Total Abstinence Society, and its supposed interference with the grace of God. Alas! the great wall of intemperance, the devouring pit of drinking, are among us. If we go to distribute tracts or Bibles, this wall obstructs us; if we invite people to hear the gospel, intemperance like a huge wall, hinders them; if we attempt to feed them, clothe them, or instruct them, the horrible gulf of intemperance swallows up them and their substance, and we see not only money, clothing, and good books gone, but husbands, wives, and children sink beyond the voice of mercy. But break down the wall, and an effectual door will be opened for us to go in and preach the word of life; stop up this awful abyss, and thousands will be saved from misery and premature death, and will be the constant hearers of the word of salvation. "No one crime," says Lord Bacon, "destroys so many of the human race, nor alienates so much property as drunkenness." And the Rev. J. A. James, of Birmingham, observes, "Far from thinking this cause a sole means of converting sinners

from the error of their ways; we deem it to be but an auxiliary to the great cause of religious truth; it is intended not to supersede, but to make way for other means. And certainly, if we can stay the plague which destroys so many of the human race, far from opposing, we are aiding the cause of religion. We never affirm that total abstinence will save any one; we as firmly believe as any tippler or moderate drinker in the country, that "there is no name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved," but the name of Jesus; and, being fully assured of this fact, we are resolved as far as our power can extend, to remove from among men every hinderance that keeps them from Christ; and we certainly think, that in so doing, we are acting quite as evangelically as those who, by drinking intoxicating drinks, are encouraging others to use a liquor which stupefies them, renders them hard hearted, and keeps them from the Redeemer.

Were total abstinence adopted, the health of our countrymen would be greatly improved. We have seen what fine athletic people those are, and always have been, who drink nothing but water: and, on the contrary, what numbers of diseases are originated or cherished by the consumption of alcoholic poisons. I need not repeat these now, having so fully treated of them in a former part of the essay. But there is not a doubt that when this principle is reduced to practice, our hospitals, instead of being crowded, will have but few inmates; and lunatic asylums will be rarely visited. Scrofula—in most instances the effect of drinking—will be purged from the blood; consumptions, asthmas, and dropsies will rarely occur; fevers, influenzas, and inflammations will be rare; indigestion, bilious and bowel complaints will be unusual; and men will be nervous in the athletic sense of the word; and though it may require some years to purify us, as a nation, from the ill that alcoholic drinks have inflicted on our constitutions, yet human life will be gradually prolonged to its natural duration; and, instead of dying in the flower of their days, men shall come to their "graves in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season." Then shall that be repeated, which was said of man in that pristine period, when

"Labor prepared  
His simple fare, and Temperance ruled his board."  
Was yet a distant ill, by feeble arm  
Of age, his sole support, led slowly on."

As intemperance, more than any other vice, peoples our jails, let total abstinence be adopted; the sinevs of drunkenness will be cut, and the chief incentives to dishonesty, prostitution, and murder, be destroyed, and the consequence will be, that our prisons, which are now teeming with juvenile as well as other offenders, will stand forth, the monuments of crime of bygone years, rather than the monuments of existing iniquity.

It is a well-known fact, that bankruptcies