

Naismith and Robert Reid. Newcastle (Ladies' Association)—Chairman, Mr. John Benson; Speakers, Messrs. Edward Grubb, and E. P. Hood.—*1b.*

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS.—We understand that this important meeting is to take place at Manchester on the 12th April. The opening services are fixed to begin on Sabbath, 9th April. The Committee is to meet on Tuesday afternoon, and the Convention will open on Wednesday morning. The Glasgow and Liverpool Steam Packet Companies have generously agreed to convey all ministers who wish to attend the Conference, to and from Liverpool for one fare. We trust that the attendance of Scottish ministers will be numerous, and that all will be imbued with such a spirit of earnestness and determination as will render their deliberations practically beneficial to the cause, which they are desirous to advance.—*1b.*

PLOUGHING MATCH ON ABSTINENCE PRINCIPLES.—On Tuesday, 15th February, a match of this description took place on the farm of Millikin, near Kilbarchan, which is at present occupied by Mr. John Fraser, a well-known abstainer. Twenty-four ploughs were on the ground. Abundance of food of various kinds, with coffee, &c., was provided, and all seemed highly satisfied with their wholesome and substantial fare. If our agricultural friends in other quarters would give this plan a trial, its superiority over the drinking system would soon be acknowledged by all.—*1b.*

#### UNITED STATES. CONNECTICUT.

A New Haven correspondent of the Sun, states the following facts, shewing an increase of drunkenness in N. H. County:

During the year ending March 31, 1846, there were committed to our County prison, *one hundred and ninety-six* persons. Of this number, *eighty-six* were sent up for the crime of drunkenness, *sixty* for crimes emanating directly from intemperance. Grand juror expenses for the same year ending November, 1845, \$810.70. Places of all grades for the sale of alcoholic drinks, about *one hundred*.

During the year ending March 31, 1847, there were *two hundred and fifty-two* commitments in the Court prison. Of these *one hundred and thirty-eight* were for drunkenness, and *seventy-five* for offences originating directly in the use of intoxicating drinks. Grand juror expenses \$1122.43. Drinking establishments *one hundred and fourteen*.

During the eight months of the present year, there have been committed *one hundred and fifty-six, ninety* of which were for drunkenness, and *forty-eight* for crimes emanating from the same cause. Grand juror expenses, \$1489.68. Drinking establishments about *one hundred and twenty-five*; thus showing a gradual increase of intemperance, crime, and expense to the town, during the past three years.

In 1846 there were five criminals sent to the State prison, and one hung. During the past eight months, *eight* criminals have been sent to the State prison, one for murder committed when drunk; one *rum-seller* for forgery—and two have died in prison with the *delirium*.

*tremens*. A short time since, four poor wretches, confined by bolts and bars, were suffering with the drunkard's dreadful scourge, at the same time making night hideous with their unearthly groans; and turning their prison-house into the very receptacle of damned spirits.

A round seven-eighths of all the causes of committal were instigated by the use of intoxicating drinks; in fact, so nicely connected are the links in the chain of circumstances which led to the offences of the remaining eighth, that one half of even this small proportion might be with truth charged to the same cause. I have perhaps been more minute than will be agreeable to the reader, or necessary to prove my position; yet facts in these matters are so many strong arguments in favour of the temperance cause, and reasons why every well wisher of his kind should add his personal effort to the work of reform.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Legislative Temperance Society have held another public meeting in the State House during the month. The number of members is now one hundred and seven. Deacon Moses Grant, being called upon by the President, remarked that the evils of intemperance don't "begin to be known." We can't go low enough to fathom the abyss of drunkenness. Who supports the grog shops? The poor. Who supports the poor? The almshouse; and who the almshouse? There's the rub. He described most graphically some scenes of misery which had recently come under his observation. His Honor, the Lt. Governor, closed with some pertinent, eloquent, and appropriate remarks. His heart is in the cause. "On the whole," says a correspondent of the Worcester Cataract, "the exercises were such as would have caused the limpid streams of your Cataractorial Fountain to gush out anew, and impart additional life to its sparkling waters."

#### Miscellaneous.

A COMMON CASE.—In the parish of Dunfermline, in Scotland, there are 157 public houses, and it is afflicted with pauperism! According to the last report of the parochial board there are somewhere about 700 paupers on the roll. From May, 1846, to May, 1847, the outdoor payments were £2343 5s 6d, the in-door, £755 1s 10d, and a batch of miscellaneous disbursements, together with the expenses of the general financial management, somewhere about £1085 2s 5d, thus making the gross expenditure for the year nearly £4200. This sum divided by 700 gives £6 as the average annual cost of each pauper.—*Scottish Temperance Review*.

The keeper of the Greenock Prison, in a journal kept by him, gives the following curious reason for the decreased number of prisoners at present: "I cannot attribute the falling off to any decided reformation in the morals of the people, but from a want of means to expend on their intemperate habits on account of the stagnation of trade." The expression "curious reason" for an inspector of prisons in Britain to make, is curious indeed. If he has studied his calling, he will find that strong drink is the *legitimate reason*; and by its use or disuse, prisons are filled or emptied. Really it is shameful for Great Britain and Ireland to ask America to assist in