

HOW FALSE REPORTS MAY ORIGINATE.

A curious illustration of this is found in an anecdote told in a lecture by Mr. Spurgeon. A minister lived opposite one of the deacons of his church. A report got abroad that the minister had been seen to beat his wife, and the matter was brought before a deacon's meeting. There the minister said he had traced the spreading of the report to the deacon's daughter. The good man, the deacon, said he would not have spoken, but his daughter's name having been mentioned, he must then state that when he was going to bed on a certain night, he did see (through the window blind of the lighted room) the minister beating his wife, and heard her scream. The minister was nonplussed: but he requested that his wife might be sent for and questioned. When she arrived she explained the whole matter. She said—"Don't you recollect there was a rat in the room that night, that it got up on my dress, that you got frightened, and took up the poker. This is the explanation of the whole affair." Well, then, the lecturer would remark to his hearers, the next time they heard a story against a good man, let them say at once, "There is a rat at the bottom of it, I know," and that some simple explanation may account for the whole thing.

Henry Wilson said: "If I could be heard by the people of the land, by the patriotic young men of this country, full of life, vigor and hope, I would say that it is among the first, the highest and the greatest duties which the country, God, and the love of humanity impose, to work for the cause of total abstinence."

Dr. Guthrie said: "Whiskey is good in its own place. There is nothing like whiskey in this world for preserving a man when he is dead. But it is one of the worst things in the world for preserving a man when he is living. If you want to keep a dead man, put him in whiskey; if you want to kill a living man, put whiskey into him." And again he said, as the result of his personal experience: "I have tried both ways; I speak from experience. I am in good spirits because I take no spirits; I am hale because I use no ale; I take no antidote in the form of drugs because I take no poison in the form of drinks. I have these four reasons for continuing to be one: 1st, my health is stronger; 2nd, my head is clearer; 3rd, my heart is lighter; 4th, my purse is heavier."

The money expended on drink would support all our churches, and have foreign missions and provide missionaries in abundance for every quarter and corner of the globe. Do away with strong drink and we could do away with nine out of every ten of our alms-houses, insane asylums, poor houses, police courts and prisons. For our own sakes, for others' sakes who will be influenced by our good or bad example, for the sake of humanity at large who are plunged into such evils, and robbed of so much good through strong drink, we ought to range ourselves, one and all, on the temperance side.