

which the property and the future interests of himself and family are involved. The profits therefore of his trade are fictitious; what he acquires on the one hand must be lost on the other, either to himself or the generation after him. Not so the profit of a business beneficial to the community; this, while it furnishes the means of subsistence, and compensates for the labour, care, and enterprise bestowed, adds to the general stock, and returns with blessings on all concerned for generations to come. Besides, who, for the sake of a little present gain, for filthy lucre's sake, even were it attainable, would incur the awful responsibility of conducting to the misery, wretchedness, and ruin of his fellowmen? Some may say, would you deprive us of the means by which we live? Must we shut up our houses and shops, and sit down in idleness? Not at all; we would call your attention to the more honourable, lawful, and beneficial employment of administering to the comforts, not the unhappiness,—the necessities, not the excesses,—of your fellow-men. And this you cannot do while you continue your present trade. Every gallon, nay, every gill, of spirituous liquor dealt out, except for some disorder, is so much to access to the injury and ruin of those to whom it is administered; and can this meet the approbation of Him to whom belongs "the earth and the fulness thereof?" No, he will assuredly, sooner or later, cause a blasting, a mildew, a curse, to rest upon it. Let but temperance obtain in the land; let men but cease to touch, taste, or handle, the deleterious liquid; and in consequence, let sobriety, industry, punctuality and enterprise, rise in the community; and then no fear of means for gaining a livelihood: facilities for acquiring property would open on the right and on the left. Then would "our sons be as plants grown up in their youth; our daughters as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace; our garners full, affording all manner of store; our sheep bring forth thousands, and tens of thousands in our streets; our oxen strong to labour, no breaking in nor going out; no complaining in our streets."

To consummate this state of things, as far as practicable, is the sole object of Temperance Societies. Who will unite—who will assist in the glorious cause? Abstinence from intoxicating drinks is the motto and means—universal benefit, without the least individual harm, the sure, the permanent, the desirable end.

J. KETCHUM, *Chairman.*

R. H. THORNTON, *Secretary.*

Toronto, Sept. 28, 1836.

#### American and British Shipping.

The British House of Commons, at their last session, having appointed a select committee to inquire into the cause of shipwrecks in the British merchant service, that committee, in August last, made a long and detailed report, which we find in the *London Courier* of the 18th and 20th August. The report contains the following deserved compliments to the mariners of the United States:—

21. *Experiments in American Vessels.*—That the happiest effects have resulted from the experiments tried in the American navy and merchant service to do without spirituous liquors as an habitual article of daily use; there being at present more than 1,000 sail of American vessels traversing all the seas of the world, in every climate, without the use of spirits by their officers and crews, and being, in consequence of this change, in so much a greater state of efficiency and safety than other vessels not adopting this regulation; that the public insurance companies in America make a return of five per cent, of the premium of insurance on vessels completing their voyages without the use of spirits, while the examples of British ships sailing from Liverpool on the same plan have been productive of the greatest benefit to the ship owners, underwriters, merchants, officers and crews.

45. *American Shipping.*—That the committee cannot conclude its labours without calling attention to the fact, that the ships of the United States of America, frequenting the ports of England, are stated by several witnesses to be superior to those of a similar class amongst the ships of Great Britain, the commanders and officers being generally considered to be more competent as seamen and navigators, and more uniformly persons of education than the commanders and officers of British ships of a similar size and class trading from England to America; while the seamen of the United States are considered to be more carefully selected, and to be more efficient; that American ships sailing from Liverpool to New York have a preference over English vessels sailing to the same port, both as to freight and to rate of insurance; and higher wages being given, their whole equipment is maintained in a higher state of perfection, so that fewer losses occur; and as the American shipping have increased of late years in the proportion of 12½ per cent, per annum, while the British shipping have increased within the same period only 1½ per cent, per annum, the constantly increasing demand for seamen by the increasing maritime service of the whole world, the numbers cut off by shipwreck, and the temptations offered by the superior wages of American vessels, causes a large number of British seamen

every year to leave the service of their own country, and to embark in that of the United States, and these comprising chiefly the most skillful and competent of our mariners, produce the double effect of improving the efficiency of American crews, and in the same ratio, diminishing the efficiency of the British merchant service.

#### Extracts from a Sermon at the Anniversary of the Church Missionary Society.

The Rev. Baptist Noel, at the anniversary of the Church Missionary Society, May, 1835, made the following estimates respecting the—

#### Small comparative Amount of Contributions to Missions.

"The total missionary income of this kingdom (including the income of the Serampore missions, because they are English; and those of the United Brethren, because chiefly raised in England) was last year, ending May 1834, £236,974; it may be now near £250,000, exclusive of the income of the Bible Society for foreign objects, which does not amount to £50,000; and therefore the whole missionary income of Great Britain is under £300,000. Now, the whole income of Great Britain and Ireland is about 514 millions: hence its missionary income is not one seventeen hundredth part of its whole income: and if one hundredth part of its income might not unreasonably be consecrated to foreign missions, then the missionary income ought to be £5,140,000—and it is £300,000. In this professedly Christian country, not one pound in every seventeen hundred of income is given for the dissemination of the gospel to the heathen world; and it is not one seventeenth part of what it ought to be, on the very lowest estimate of what ought at once to be given.

"I may further remark, that the duty levied on four articles of consumption, all of which are generally useless, or nearly so, is thirteen millions, or about forty-three times as much as the whole missionary income of Great Britain and Ireland! And if such be the amount of duty, what must be the value of the articles themselves? To instance only one of them: the amount of ardent spirits consumed in Great Britain and Ireland, in the year 1832, was nearly 26,000,000 gallons; the cost of which, to the consumer, was about £17,000,000. Thus, the people of this Christian country spend about fifty-six times as much, for one noxious gratification, as is given to enlighten and save the world! They spend now, to destroy their characters, to ruin health, to beggar their families, to destroy their bodies and their souls, to fill the hulks with criminals, and to supply the gallows with its