

quired the tavern is substituted for home; drinking too often leads to gambling; gambling to fraud or theft; and then other evil practices follow, till the victim finds himself a miserable outcast, and in many instances finishes his days in the hulks or at the gallows.

In the present imperfect state of things we hold it to be the duty of temperance men to ascertain and report violations of the law in regard to the sale of intoxicating drinks. There must be no squeamishness on this subject. Although our legislators have refused to plant the battery of prohibition we may give the enemy a taste of rifle practice.

But "fair play is a jewel." We must deal honourably even with a rumseller. And if through any inadvertence, or misapprehension, or incorrectness of report, an unfounded accusation is brought against a man, justice must be done to him.

In our last number a letter from "A Son of Temperance, No. 79, Albion Mines," was inserted, giving a circumstantial account of the manner in which a member of the Division had been inveigled into a grogshop, from which he was carried home in a state of intoxication; and how he had again visited the groggery, and then lay at the point of death, "venting execrations against those who led him to break his pledge."

The narration was so plain and straightforward that we had no difficulty about it, especially as it was penned by a Son of Temperance residing on the spot. It appears, however, that our informant had fallen into error. Not as to the main fact. The man was induced to break his pledge; there is no doubt on *that* score, although his illness must have been greatly exaggerated, as he is now in usual health. But a person was wrongly accused. Mr James Corbet, who was said to have "persuaded" the delinquent to "enter a low rum-hole," denies all share in the transaction, assures us that he has not for some time past tasted liquor, and expresses a natural indignation at being held up to public gaze as a tempter to vice. He has forwarded a communication from the writer of the letter, which is as follows:—

ALBION MINES, 1st June, 1857.

MR. EDITOR,—

Sir,—In my communication of 14th April to you, I mentioned a person named

Corbet as inducing Jones to drink. This I am sorry to say was an unfounded assertion, Corbet being a respectable and temperate man.

As the publication of his name has considerably hurt his character where the paper has gone, the publication of this apology is the least that can be done in reparation.

I am, your obedient servant,
ROBERT LATHAM.

This is plain enough. But our correspondent offers no explanation. He does not say by what means he gained a knowledge of the facts, nor how he fell into such a mistake—whether it was through giving credit to some flying report, without taking the trouble to ascertain its correctness—or in any other way. He simply acknowledges that Corbet was unjustly charged, and withdraws the charge. We are sorry to say that this is very unsatisfactory to us, and extremely damaging to the trustworthiness of the writer. And we regret exceedingly that Mr Corbet has been subjected to the annoyance and vexation necessarily connected with such an affair. It must be intensely painful to "a respectable and temperate man" to be pointed at as a seducer to the degrading habit of intoxication.

Having thus done justice to all parties we must add a remark or two. It is sometimes difficult to decide as to the degree of publicity that ought to be given to occurrences of the kind now under consideration. Due regard to the public weal may require to be modified and softened by benevolent feelings towards individuals who are not unfrequently as much sinned against as sinning. On the other hand, the case may be so enormously flagitious that unmerciful exposure is by common consent demanded.—There may be varieties of instances between these extremes calling for the exercise of no small amount of tact and discretion. The general question is, whether names of persons and places should always be mentioned. The practice of the public journals with respect to the Police Office is in favour of such mention: if John Hodge and Thomas Jackson are picked up drunk in the streets, placed in the Lock-up for the night, and taken before his Worship in the morning to be fined, or perhaps sent to Bridewell, their names are placed in record in next day's papers. We would pursue the same

course with the drunkard-maker as with the drunkard; he is often the greater criminal of the two. And we would include all who aid and abet. They should all be shown up, whenever the interests of justice and humanity require it, without favour or distinction.

But there must be sacred regard to truth, as well as the exercise of sound judgment. We ask our friends throughout the Province to send us well-authenticated reports of such cases as occur in their respective neighbourhoods. In every instance, however, we must have the real name and address of the writer, and we desire to have such accounts only as can be substantiated in a court of justice. These conditions being observed, let our correspondents tell us more of rum's doings, that what is done in darkness may be brought to the light of day, and the vile perpetrators endure the withering scorn which they deserve.

The venerable Dr Nott's popular Lectures on Temperance are about to be republished in New York. They have done excellent service to the cause, and their republication at the present time is well-advised.

THE SALE OF POISONS.—In the House of Lords on Monday, Lord Campbell wished to call the attention of the House to the necessity of further regulations with respect to the sale of poisons. He knew that the Secretary of State for the Home Department had been actively employed for some time past in obtaining information upon the subject, and he believed the right hon. gentleman had collected a great deal of very valuable information upon which some measure might be introduced. Legislation ought to be directed, not only against the administration of poison by design, which had received a salutary check, but against the administration of poison by accident. Some precautions were absolutely necessary to prevent the recurrence of cases of poisoning by mistake.

The Lord Chancellor said, the subject had received the careful consideration of the government, and a bill would be introduced in a few days by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. *The subject was beset with difficulties. When a dozen poisons were enumerated, the ingenuity of chemists discovered as many more, and it was almost impossible to define the limits of medicines and poisons.* It was intended to take precautions both against wilful and accidental poisoning, and, if the bill did not wholly remove, it