

Notwithstanding the predilection we may naturally be supposed to entertain regarding those measures which a considerable number of us have seen our duty to adopt, it would be absurd and going in the face of historical evidence to give all the credit of discovering the evils of distillation, and the demoralizing effects of ardent spirits, to Temperance Societies.

We have remarked in a former part of this Lecture that scarcely had the still been licensed, when drunkenness prevailed to such an extent, that the legislature interfered to check the growing evil. It is also a fact which can be proved from satisfactory evidence, that in the year 1766, when owing to the deficiency of the harvest in Scotland, a general apprehension was entertained of a famine, among other means to enable the nation to meet the approaching evil, the legislature again interfered, and stopped the distillation of spirits from grain, they even went farther, and ordered the grain which was stored up in the granaries of the distillers, to be retailed out to supply the necessities of the people.

Among those who entertained the opinion that distillation should be put down altogether by the strong arm of the law, was the talented and illustrious statesman, Mr. Pitt, who in a speech delivered in the House of Commons in the year 1797, on the agitated and exciting question of the Scotch distilleries observed—"That the measure before the House for augmenting the duties on distillation, was only meant as a temporary measure of experiment, and that the duties of all the distilleries of Scotland must be made much higher than they were at the time, or otherwise that the still must be stopt altogether, inasmuch as the state of that part of the country, and the regard that ought to be paid to public morals as well as to the health of the people, required that there should be a great increase in the price of spirits. That the question no doubt was a question of finance, but that the prospects of a revenue from ardent spirits must be given up, and distillation stopped altogether, the consumption of spirits could not be diminished, for excesses to which the immoderate use of them gave rise was enormous, and called loudly for a remedy."

[To be continued.]

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8--A Temperance Meeting of unusual interest was held last evening, at which Thomas McCall, M. C. from Kentucky, took the total abstinence pledge. Mr. M. gave the reasons which induced him to join the Society. On Thursday he had been in company, and indulged pretty freely. Coming to the House on Friday evening, he found himself nervously affected, to an extent that alarmed him, and this sensation was accompanied by a thirst for drink. Almost terrified at the extent of his passion, he solemnly and deliberately made up his mind to place himself as far as he could, beyond temptation. To this end he resolved to confess his sin before men and to unite with the Temperance Society. A meeting was held last evening, and Mr. Marshall voluntarily put his name to the pledge of the Society.

His confession upon this occasion, seems to have been thrillingly fluent and effective. His reasons, he said, for joining the Society were, that the hand of the tempter was too strong upon him, and he felt unable to resist the monster. He did for the first time in his life, in a

Temperance Society, and spoke for the first time in behalf of the cause of temperance. He had come to make a public confession. As far as memory had served him he had never committed any gross offence, except when under the influence of liquor. He had now put his name to the pledge, and he felt that to violate it, would be a disgrace upon that name forever.

All who were present spoke of the scene and of his speech as one of surpassing interest. Twenty-four hours since, his case was regarded as a hopeless one. "When I sat down," says he, "to put my name to the pledge, I felt almost overpowered, but no sooner had I signed my name than my heart was light and my step firm."

TEMPERANCE.—The sound has gone abroad over the face of the earth, that to be free, mankind must be temperate. The bottle heretofore has been made the Archimedian lever in the hands of political demagogues to hurl from their foundations, well organized governments founded upon reason and legitimate rights; but now upon every breeze is wafted the glorious tidings of reform. Human reason again resumes her exalted seat, and aways with influence irresistible, the destinies of nations. Man, guided by godlike reason, aspires to improvement, moral and intellectual.—[American paper.]

POPULAR EDUCATION.—FATHER MATHEW.—We have contended incessantly, in this journal and elsewhere, that teetotalism, among the other benefits which it would confer upon the community, would undoubtedly effect what Mechanics' Institutes and popular lecturers had long attempted—that it would create a desire for information and self-culture, and a taste for social improvement among the working classes. That there has been abundant evidence of the soundness of this opinion, in the formation of teetotal libraries and reading Societies in various parts of this province, our readers already know, and they know, also, that Father Mathew has, upon more than one occasion, expressed himself favourable to the joint diffusion of teetotalism and popular education: but we have the satisfaction of announcing that, during his recent visit to Moira, he marked his approval of the principle for which we contended in the most practical manner.—*Bel-fast Vindicator*.

Dr. Green, President of the Vermont Academy of Medicine, at a late Temperance meeting, related the following circumstance. In a village of New England, where he was some years since settled, he had seen the lamentable and dangerous effects of the old drinking customs among physicians. He was one of a club of ten or fifteen of various professions, who used to meet every few weeks for convivial purposes, wine being the beverage generally used. He soon found the tendency of such habits, and determined to break them off, warning his companions, also, at the same time, of their danger. About seven of them turned a deaf ear to his expostulations, and laughed at the idea of becoming intemperate; but five of those seven are now filling the drunkard's grave; by the bed-sides of three of whom he had stood and closed their eyes, amid the horrors of delirium tremens.