

work, but abstinence societies remove most formidable obstacles out of the way of its doing it; and on this account, as a Christian man, and as a Christian minister, I rejoice in their progress. I feel persuaded that, were the Christian ministry at large to take this view of the subject, and use abstinence societies as an instrument for these ends, that the elevation of the masses, about which some are almost ready to despair, would be immediately and immensely advanced.

After showing that experience favoured his view, the speaker looked into the distant future, and with the Bible in his hand, anticipated a glorious issue to the moral enterprise in which he and others were engaged. "The time for labour is short; but the reward is as sure as it will be brilliant." We are not surprised that at the conclusion of Mr. Robertson's speech there was "great applause."

The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Wilson and the meeting separated.

On Tuesday morning, the 15th, about 180 members and friends of the League met at breakfast in the Trades' Hall. After the repast, various addresses were delivered, the Rev. W. Reid being in the chair. The speakers were: the Chairman, Mr. G. Johnstone, of Edinburgh, Mr. Marshall of Dundee, the Rev. Mr. Blythe of Jamaica, the Rev. F. Ferguson of Aberdeen, Mr. Dawson of Kelso, Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw of Bombay, and Mr. Simpson of Annan. In all these addresses favorable accounts were given of the general progress of the Temperance cause.

The business meeting of the League was held the same day in the same place, and was attended by about 120 members and delegates. Robert Kettle, Esq., took the chair, and after prayer by the Rev. G. Paterson, the Secretary read the Annual Report for 1850-51. We gladly make room for the following extracts:

The Executive Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the operations of the League during the past year have been more than usually extensive and successful.

An increase has taken place in the membership of the association to the extent of 600 individuals, and 166 societies; the number of individual members being at present 2,525, and of auxiliary societies, 199.

Five agents have been employed for longer or shorter periods during the year, in the public advocacy of the temperance question. They have addressed upwards of 800 public meetings, and have extended the membership of the League, as well as the circulation of the various publications. They have also endeavored to impart to societies and committees such advice as seemed to be needful regarding the best modes of conducting their operations. Twenty-five sermons have been preached in Glasgow under the auspices of the League, and about 100 addresses have been given at country meetings and soirees by city missionaries, gentlemen in business, and others, who have kindly aided the committee in meeting the numerous applications which have been received for assistance of this description.

Your committee are deeply impressed with the conviction that the present state of the temperance movement in Scotland demands that an immediate effort be made to secure an increased staff of efficient travelling advocates.

But as a sum of £750 will be needed to pay the salaries and travelling expenses of such a staff as is deemed requisite, the proposed object can only be accomplished by a liberal and extensive co-operation on the part of members and friends of the association.

The Publication department of the League's operations has, during the past year, been sustained with unimpaired efficiency. Although the *Review* has been raised in price, its circulation has not fallen off; and the influence which it exerts for the advancement of temperance reform is gradually extending, not only throughout Great Britain, but in many distant parts of the world.

The entire number of copies of publications issued from the office during the year has been 601,250, comprising 7,285,000 pages.

The financial affairs of the League are in a most satisfactory condition. The deficiency of £73, which existed at last annual

meeting, has been made up; and there is now a balance of £127 in favor of the association.

The general aspect of the temperance cause in Scotland is exceedingly encouraging. Many of the local abstinence societies are in a most prosperous condition, and in several places the fruits of well-directed exertion are becoming strikingly manifest. A notable instance of this is to be found in the town of Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, where the society has for several years been managed by an intelligent, active, and united committee; and although the difficulties to be surmounted were at least equal to those generally met with in similar localities, a great proportion, if not a majority of the population, have become abstainers, and public sentiment has undergone a most gratifying and decided change. This pleasing result is mainly to be attributed to the enlightened and systematic course of action invariably pursued by the committee, and furnishes decisive proof, if such be needed, of the vast importance of entrusting to proper parties the management of temperance associations.

After referring to the successful and profitable operations among the young, the report continues—

The abstinence societies connected with the Established, Free, and United Presbyterian Churches, have received some additions to their membership during the year, but their general operations have been comparatively limited. The number of abstaining ministers of all denomination in Scotland is now 400, being an increase of forty since last year. At the recent Assembly of the Free Church the subject of intemperance was discussed at considerable length, and a deiverance was given of a much more hopeful character than those of preceding years.

The Scottish Association for the Suppression of Drunkenness has issued a series of publications, exhibiting the varied evils which flow from the use of intoxicating liquors. Most of the tracts contain valuable facts and statistics, similar to those which have been promulgated in temperance publications for a number of years. A crusade against the abuses connected with the licensing system has been conducted by influential members of the association in numerous districts of the country, and at their instance a bill was lately prepared by Lord Kinnaird, the design of which is to limit the number of licensed public-houses, and to prevent spirits from being sold on Sabbaths, or on the same premises with groceries. The measure was passed by the House of Lords; but on being introduced to the Lower House, a few days ago, it met with strenuous opposition, and was immediately withdrawn. The public attention which has been awakened to this subject, as well as to other measures of "social reform," is well calculated to prove indirectly advantageous to the temperance movement. It will probably impel many of those excellent men who are engaged in various departments of Christian and benevolent enterprise, to investigate more thoroughly the nature and effects of the drinking system; and the inevitable result of such an investigation will be the conviction that intemperance must be overcome before their efforts can possibly be successful. It may also cause many to doubt the efficacy of the remedial measures they have been agitating, and induce them to take a more favorable view of the simple and rational mode of cure proposed by temperance reformers.

After gratefully acknowledging the aid rendered by the newspaper press, the report thus concludes:—

Your committee are far from thinking that there are no discouraging circumstances to report in connection with the temperance movement. Many powerful and insidious agencies are at work for perpetuating the drinking system, which it will be extremely difficult to uproot or neutralise; but great as these obstacles are, they may ultimately be overcome by a faithful and persevering inculcation of the doctrines of abstinence. Experience has triumphantly demonstrated that the temperance movement is fully adequate to accomplish the task which it has undertaken, if its conditions be complied with; and if all abstainers efficiently perform the part which they have voluntarily chosen, the work of reformation will go on steadily and surely, gathering strength as it proceeds, until it sweeps away not merely the grosser and more offensive form of intemperance, but also those numerous, and still respectable social customs, which are undoubtedly the deep-seated sources of the evil we are united to eradicate.

Several important resolutions were then adopted, and the officers chosen for the current year. It may be interesting to many