

called upon several gentlemen to address the meeting. The names of the speakers upon the occasion are the Rev. Messrs. Smallwood, Francis, McDonnell, and Very, and Messrs. Thomas Ruddle, James Briggs, officers of the Portland Young Men's Society, Mr. W. H. Fisher, President of the St. John Young Men's Total Abstinence Society, and Mr. Kindred, President of the Carlton Young Men's Total Abstinence Society.—*Communicated.*

SCOTLAND.

DRINKING CUSTOMS AT FUNERALS.—DUNFERMLINE.—Some time ago, the Provost, magistrates, and ministers of Dunfermline, having taken into consideration, the prevailing custom of presenting liquors at funerals, appealed to the community, and recommended the abandonment of this useless and pernicious custom. In August last, the recommendation was made from the pulpits, and published in the local journals, and since that time the alteration has been effected without the least symptom of dissatisfaction from any party.—*Scotsman.*

SYDNEY.

Extract of a letter from Sydney.

The clergy (so called) do not assist in the work; they are almost all in favour of moderate drinking, and in fact, consider total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, in some degree, sinful. This latter opinion is entertained more especially by the bishop and clergy of the Established Church; there are a few exceptions amongst the dissenters. The Roman Catholic clergy only take an active part in the work. The number of members of this society, and its branches, are upwards of six thousand, they have scattered themselves in various parts of the colony, and wherever they have advocated its principles, their labours have been successful; but in the city of Sydney, the question has of late become somewhat dull; in fact, the members are so dead to the great benefits which would result to the society, if actively supported, that they will not support a newspaper to advocate their principles.

I remain (with respect),

Thy friend in the temperance cause,

JOHN MORING.

NEW ZEALAND.

We are glad to find that in the new settlement of New Zealand the cause is progressing. The Wellington Total Abstinence Society lately held their annual festival in the Wesleyan chapel in that place. We have not received any details of the proceedings, but in the *Wellington Spectator* we have this notice of the meeting:—"The proceedings of the meeting were harmonious, and the members of the association appear determined to wage war against the frightful evil of intemperance. We wish success to everything that can in any way benefit our species. The Rev. Messrs. Watkins and Inglis, and Messrs. Bradshaw, Harding, Hartley, and others, assisted in conducting the meeting. One of the chief attractions was the music and singing; there were several instrumentalists present, and their performances were excellent.—*New York Organ.*"

Miscellaneous.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.—On Saturday evening last a woman of the name of Elizabeth Ormand, who lives with her brother-in-law in Orchard Street, met her death under the following painful circumstances:—Her brother-in-law had gone to bed about midnight, on Saturday, and had left deceased sitting at the fire. It is supposed that a spark from her pipe had set her garments on fire, and ere assistance could be given her, her right side was burned almost to a cinder. She was taken to the House of Recovery, and died there in great agony, on Thursday evening. It is said that she had been drinking freely on Saturday night.—*Renfrewshire Advertiser.*

PURIFICATION OF THE CHURCH.—The conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Manesville, Ohio, has unanimously

determined, that it is the duty of the church to expel from its communion those members who, after having been duly admonished, continue to use to excess, or to abuse, ardent spirits, or who may be engaged in the sale of ardent spirits. We firmly believe that the day is coming when no person will be admitted to a Christian church, who uses intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

HELP THE POOR DRUNKARD.—At a late temperance meeting in T. an anti-license speech of three sentences in length, was made by an individual who probably never made a speech in public before. He was an unfortunate man who had fallen into the hands of rum-sellers, and been by them brought to destitution and misery. Assisted by a few benevolent persons, he was attempting to reform, and had signed the pledge, but in an evil hour overcome by the allurements of appetite and the invitations of old associates, he violated his pledge. He did not however wholly lose his self-control, but rallied his remaining energies, and recommenced his struggle for freedom from the galling chains of alcohol. Some of the speakers having alluded to his case, he arose and said, "I have drunk since I signed the pledge. I am very sorry for it. I hope you'll get the rum out of the way as soon as you can." That short speech was the most powerful anti-license argument which could be presented. Those few simple words were pregnant with great meaning. Rum-selling, by the authority of the State of Vermont, had made him a drunkard, had caused untold sufferings to his family, and now that he was trying to redeem himself from the evils that had befallen him, the State of Vermont was licensing men to put the bottle to his lips, and supply fuel for the half extinguished fire within him. Well might he call on the citizens of Vermont to withhold their sanction from the traffic.

At an immense meeting, held 21st December last, in Norfolk, Va., the following resolution was discussed by many of the ablest men of that city, and was unanimously adopted, viz:—

Resolved, That as the sale of intoxicating liquors, to be used as a beverage, tends to the increase of drunkenness, pauperism and crime, and in numerous ways to the lasting injury of the community, no one has or can have a moral right to pursue it; that as no man has a right to use his property in such a way as to injure others, and as the traffic of intoxicating poison manifestly does this, such traffic is evidently a GREAT EVIL, and the public good requires that it should be legally prohibited.

The London Christian Witness says:—"The American Temperance Union presents to the Christian philosopher a momentous theme of meditation. In spite of all the extravagance which has occasionally mingled with the movement, it is, beyond dispute, one of the most magnificent moral confederacies that the world has ever witnessed. Fools alone will laugh at it, and only he who is something more than a fool will lift a finger against it.

In Prussia there are 8,581 breweries, and 18,131 distilleries. The minister of War has addressed a circular to all Generals holding command, ordering them to allow every soldier who may be willing to give up his allowance of brandy, its value in money.

TONICS.—This word, derived from the Greek, signifies to give elasticity, and is employed by medical men to describe an elasticity of muscular fibre. That ardent spirits are not capable of giving this elasticity is well known. Anything which should give additional excitability to the brain, and increase the sensitiveness of the nerves, would be known to act diametrically opposite to tonic. The slight tanning principle in port wine may give it the character of a tonic, whilst the alcohol acting as an irritant impairs its value; and other tonics, such as bark, quinine, rhatany, columba, gentian, camomile, &c., may be applied with better effect, in infusions extracted by boiling water, or in making tea, or the dilute nitric or sulphuric acid, besides many preparations of iron. But for a moment we will suppose the wines to be tonic—if so, how long will a tonic medicine be beneficial? Every medical man knows that after a few weeks—say four at the most, generally at the end of half that time—a tonic becomes useless, and he has occasion to vary it and give another; but he will in the case of wine order it six months, and the patient will continue it for six years. Again, who ever heard a surgeon prescribing a tonic medicine to be taken on a full stomach? If a dose of any bitter infusion, or of acid, or of iron, is ordered, it is directed to be taken fasting; before breakfast, an hour before dinner, or at such times after dinner as that the stomach shall be unburdened; but in the case of wine, it is ordered at dinner-time, or generally after a full meal. Oh! the inconsistency and delusion of habit and custom, even upon scientific minds!