

this again, and mark its illustration of the proverb, "A prudent man foreseeth evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on and are punished."

### The Gleaner.

We quote the following from Williams' *Narrative of Missionary Enterprise*. This is perhaps the most popular, and altogether the best missionary work ever published; and we know that there are many who deservedly hold the author in great veneration, who yet either stand aloof from the abstinence movement, though favourable to it, or are actually hostile to it. To such we earnestly recommend the calm perusal of this extract. Mr. Williams saw the evil, and recommended the appropriate remedy. He acted on the conviction that drunkenness was to be removed, not by commending the moderate use of intoxicating drink, but by entire abstinence from them. This is the only rational method of attempting the cure. After being absent from his station nearly a year, Mr. Williams thus writes on his return to it:—

"On arriving at Raiatea, I was perfectly astounded at beholding the scenes of drunkenness which prevailed in my formerly flourishing station. There were scarcely a hundred people who had not disgraced themselves; and persons who had made a consistent profession of religion for years had been drawn into the vortex. The son and successor of old Tamatoa was a very dissipated young man, and when he succeeded to the government, instead of following his father's good example, he sanctioned the introduction of ardent spirits. Encouraged by him, and taking advantage of my absence, a trading Captain brought a small cask on shore, and sold it to the natives. This revived their dormant appetite, and like pent-up waters, the disposition burst forth, and, with the impetuosity of a resistless torrent, carried the people before it, so that they appeared maddened with infatuation. I could scarcely imagine that they were the same persons with whom I had lived so long, and of whom I had thought so highly.

"As the small cask which had been imported was sufficient only to awaken the desire for more, they had actually prepared nearly twenty stills, which were in active operation when I arrived. A meeting was immediately called, which I was requested to attend, when resolutions were passed that all the stills should forthwith be destroyed. A new Judge was nominated, the laws were re-established, and persons selected to go round the island, and carry the resolutions into effect. In some districts these met with considerable opposition, but in others they succeeded without difficulty. The following week they were dispatched again, when they destroyed several more; but in their last journey they were accompanied by the late excellent Mahara of Iuahu, the favourite daughter of our good old King, who had come to Raiatea, with some respectable officers from her own island, for the purpose of completing the destruction of the stills. Thus they happily accomplished; for, on their return from their last circuit of the island, they reported that every still was demolished, and every still-house burnt to the ground. Some of the natives, however, determined to purchase ardent spirits from the ships; but the majority wished me to form a Temperance Society, with a view to its entire abolition; but, as I could not remain to superintend its operation, I did not think it advisable to accede to their request. This, however, has been effected since I left: and a letter just received from my formerly dissipated young chief, afforded me much satisfaction. It is dated Raiatea, April 30, 1839:—

DEAR FRIEND,—"Blessing on you, Mr. Williams, from the true God, through Jesus Christ, the King of Peace, the Saviour in whom alone we can be saved.

"This is my little communion to you. The spirit about which your thoughts were evil towards me, I have entirely done away with, because my heart is sick of that bad path, and I am now pressing towards the mark for the prize of my high calling." These are now my thoughts, that God may become my own God. This is really my wish. I am commending myself to God and to the word of his grace." &c., &c.

"Whether there be a real change of heart or not in this individual, I cannot say, but I am truly thankful—and in this feeling every friend of missions will participate—that the people, with their chief, have been brought to see their folly, and abandon the use of that which was unfitting them for earth and heaven, by rendering them poor, profligate, and miserable. The circumstances under which the use of ardent spirits was abandoned at Tahiti were of the most interesting character. The evil had become so alarming that the Missionaries felt that something must be attempted, and

therefore determined to set the people an example, by abstaining entirely from the use of ardent spirits, and by forming Temperance Societies. These worked exceedingly well, especially at Papeete, the station occupied by our venerable and indefatigable brother, Mr. Davis. The beneficial results were so apparent to the natives themselves that all the inhabitants of the district agreed that no ardent spirits should be introduced into their settlement. Most of the people of the other districts, observing their prosperity, followed their example. At this time the parliament met; and, since they have been brought under the influence of Christianity, the representative form of government has been adopted. On this occasion and before the members proceeded to business, they sent a message to the Queen to know upon what principles they were to act. She returned a copy of the New Testament, saying, "Let the principles contained in that book be the foundation of all your proceedings;" and immediately they enacted a law to prohibit trading with any vessel which brought ardent spirits for sale; and now there is but one island in the group. Poropora, where these are allowed."—*Scottish Temperance Journal*.

### PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE.

No. 35 ECCLES STREET, DUBLIN, Sept. 19, 1844.—I am happy to tell you that the good Father Mathew continues his heaven-directed labor with untiring perseverance, and that our people receive him with warmth and affection wherever he goes. In this city he has a noble coadjutor in the person of the Rev. Dr. Spratt, who is most zealous in our cause. Since May last he has held ten open air meetings, on Sunday evenings—many, very many thousands of the people assembled at each of them; they were the largest and most enthusiastic meetings I ever saw; they were all held in the city and in its vicinity, and about 10,000 persons took the pledge at them. We have the people quite with us, but the wealthy classes all keep aloof still. Their hearts are too strong to be softened by the miseries of their poorer brethren.—Yet there is a growing improvement in the habits of these classes; they praise teetotalism although they have not the manliness or the virtue to adopt it. I hope, however, that the good conduct of the poor will yet work so beneficial a change in public opinion, as will bring the rich within our ranks. Co-operation on their part, and on the part of the clergy (who are generally quite as backward in the performance of their duties in this respect, as any other portion of society) would soon enable us to banish intoxicating drinks altogether out of the land. I wish you and all your co-workers in Canada God speed in your labors; it is a great and noble cause to be engaged in, and the blessing of Heaven will be with us, if we be faithful.—JAMES HAUGHTON.

WELLINGTON SQUARE, C. W. Oct. 13, 1844.—I have just terminated an engagement at Wellington Square, where I held a protracted temperance meeting. I found the Society asleep, the priests of Bacchus awake, and tipplers just budding into topihood. Several had died in that neighbourhood of delirium tremens, since I first lectured there. This place was somewhat noted for its opposition to the temperance cause. But the cause is revived, and many inebriates have been reclaimed, moderate drinkers reformed, and good old friends encouraged. I am credibly informed that the founder of this Society has withdrawn from the cause. I visited the place in compliance with the request of Mr. E. Moore, a liberal and staunch supporter of the temperance reformation.—G. W. BUNGEY.

WATERDOWN, Oct. 23, 1844.—I am now engaged in a protracted temperance meeting in this place. The meetings have been numerously attended, and many signatures have been added to the pledge. Last night, a renegade from our ranks who was making preparations to open a slaughter-house in this beautiful and romantic village, marched into our meeting, and faced the assembly with a brow of brass, until the shot and shell of fact and argument, began to whiz about his ears when he dropped his head. He went home hurling anathemas against one of the oldest and most devoted friends of temperance in the district. Gore. Two dens of drunkenness have been burned down here, and yet their proprietor has the hardihood to erect a third, where the poison can be procured on short notice. There is also a merchant's shop where the Lethan exhalation which flows from the putrid lake of liquid fire can be obtained; one of the man's customers tore his shirt to shreds when he attempted to thrust him out of his establishment the other day. Had his