

Mr. Gladstone having announced that the Local Option bills would not be further considered during the present session of Parliament, owing to the pressure of other matters, petitions and remonstrances from all parts of the Kingdom are poring in upon him, demanding that these bills should have preference over any and all others. It is possible—some think probable—that he may reverse his announced decision.—*Reformer*.

Five members of the British Cabinet are credited with being total abstainers, viz., Earl Granville, Lord Spencer, Sir Charles Dilke, Sir William Harcourt, and Mr. Childers.—*Ex*.

It was stated in the Life Boat Lodge a few nights since, by a brother from India, that the Good Templar Order was instituted there by blue jackets. There are now about 150 lodges in good working order.—*New South Wales Good Templar*.

At the annual meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society it was stated that the membership of the society now reached 428,076, while there were 24,019 members in the seamen's branch. The secretary computed that there are 25,000 total abstainers in the British army, and 12,000 in the Royal Navy.—*Angelic Churchman*.

Five bishops, seven Queen's chaplains, and 3000 clergymen of the Church of England are said to be total abstainers. The Wesleyans come next with 800 abstaining ministers, the Congregationalists following with 730, and the Baptists with upwards of 500.—*Ex*.

At the end of last year one million persons had donned the blue ribbon in England; 554,000 of which were new pledges. In Newcastle 10,000 have donned the blue ribbon; 56 public-houses have in consequence been closed, and four breweries, one being the largest in the town. At the temperance demonstration held there recently it is stated that 200,000 persons were present. In consequence three breweries and several public-houses have been closed. In St. Helen's (near Liverpool) a crowded meeting was held in the Volunteer Hall, which holds 3000. The town contains 50,000, and is one of the most drunken places in England; 11,000 in that town have joined the temperance army.—*Ex*.

The total membership of the I.O.G.T., under the Grand Lodge of England, R.W.G.L. of the World, is 91,557, an increase of 4,371 for the year. Of juveniles there are 51,064, a net gain of 1008 during the years.—*Ex*.

Seven hundred and fifty ministers of the Baptist Churches in England are total abstainers, and all the students in the six Baptist Colleges in England, except twelve, are pledged teetotalers. Out of two thousand Congregational ministers the abstainers number 1000, and in the training colleges 306 of the 369 are abstainers.—*Ex*.

THE TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.—From the Tenth Annual Report of the London Temperance Hospital, it appears that the in-patients admitted and treated during the year were 411, and from the opening of the Hospital, 8,765. There is also a large and increasing number of out-patients four times a week. The doctors have power to prescribe alcohol as a drug, but have seen no reason to do so, and they regard its absence as tending rather to rapidity of recovery and successful treatment of the most serious diseases. The mortality of the Hospital has been from the first extremely low. The accumulative facts and extending experience of the Temperance Hospital cannot fail to produce a powerful effect on the public and private practice of medical men in regard to the use of alcohol even in cases where it has been generally considered essential.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE OF 1883.

In each year since the temperance statistics of Methodism began to be officially collected, your committee have had to announce a large numerical increase. But this time the returns indicate an unprecedented growth. The thirty-five districts of Great Britain report a total of 2,644 Bands of Hope, with 271,700 enrolled members, an increase during the year of 299 Bands of Hope, and of 46,540 enrolled members. The addition of so many thousands of boys and girls to our Bands of Hope is a subject for devout thankfulness, but the fact that the Sunday School Union reports 841,951 Sunday scholars in connection with our churches, indicates that much has yet to be done before all our boys and girls enjoy the special and greatly needed protection of total abstinence. It is also a matter for regret that so many of our

Bands of Hope have not yet adopted the rules suggested by the Conference. Superintendent of circuits and Sunday School authorities might by a little personal attention to this matter secure to Bands of Hope all the advantages and safeguards of being constitutionally organized. Many of our Bands of Hope seem almost to be unaware that we have a temperance hymn-book and temperance declaration cards of our own, and that these and all other Band of Hope requisites can be obtained from the conference office or the Connexional Sunday School Union. The importance of introducing our own literature into Methodist Bands of Hope is obvious.

We report this year 321 Temperance Societies, with 28,414 enrolled members, an increase during the twelve months of 144 societies, and 17,502 members. The number of members in these adult societies has more than doubled since last Conference. This temperance work among men and women should receive special attention. The enrolment of boys and girls in our Bands of Hope will often prove a temporary and delusive gain unless we secure the intelligent and Christian sympathy of their parents. The foregoing statistics indicate that Methodism is feeling the force of the great Temperance wave that is now passing over the country. In order to guard against the natural tendency to reaction, it will be more necessary than ever to give due prominence to definite Scriptural and Physiological teaching, and to rely fundamentally upon the calm and abiding influences of the grace of God.

The great work of your committee during the last year has been to prepare, under the impulse of the President, a gigantic Methodist petition in favor of Sunday closing in England. As Scotland and Wales already enjoy that inestimable boon, the Scotch and Welsh circuits, though eager to participate, were not requested to sign the petition. The official returns of the House of Commons declare that 596,877 names were appended to the Wesleyan Methodist petition. We believe this is the largest petition ever presented, and is decisive of the practical unanimity of Methodism in demanding a public boon which Parliament still withholds from the people of England.

THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE commenced its sittings on Wednesday, July 25. Not a few of both laymen and ministers wore the blue or white ribbon. A committee appointed for the purpose presented returns from the Band of Hope and temperance departments. From such returns we gather that there are in the Sabbath Schools 5,994 teachers total abstainers, and 16,749 children belonging to Bands of Hope on the home stations.—*Temperance Record*.

Our Gasket.

BOIL IT DOWN.

Whatever you have to say, my friends,
Whether witty, or grave, or gay,
Condense as much as ever you can,
And say it in the clearest way;
And whether you write on rural affairs,
Or particular things in town,
Just a word of friendly advice—
Boil it down.

When writing an article for the press,
Whether prose or verse, just try
To utter your thoughts in the fewest words,
And let them be crisp and dry;
And when it is finished, and you suppose
It is done exactly brown,
Just look it over again, and then
Boil it down.

For editors do not like to print
An article lazily long,
And the general reader does not care
For a couple of yards of song.
So gather your wits in the smallest space
If you'd win the author's crown,
And every time you write, my friend,
Boil it down.