

## Liverpool Domestic Medical Society.

[We have just been reading a very interesting report by Francis Bishop, Minister at large in Liverpool, which like similar reports here, show how much may be done by this beneficent ministry. We make a few miscellaneous extracts.]

## THE TWO ENGINEERS.

One morning in October I was visiting a court, and went by mistake, into a house with whose inmates I was not acquainted; they, however, knew me, and I was pressed to sit down. An aged couple and three little children were in the room. In the course of conversation I ascertained that the children were the family of a son of the old man and woman, who with his wife had been in America for the last three years. "We had hard work to rub on," said the old man; "but we love the children, and should be sorry to part with them."

"You must, however," I remarked, "make up your mind for that, I suppose before long; and it is only right, you know, they should be with their parents."

"That's true, sir," he answered, when parents care about their children; but I am sorry to say of my son and his wife that they are not of that sort. "Why," he added with some bitterness, "they have not sent a farthing for the support of the children since they left the country."

"Perhaps they have not been able to do so," I suggested. "Nay, nay, I would soon think so if I could, but we know that he's regularly employed as engineer in a boat on the Mississippi, and has good wages."

"How then do you account for his forgetfulness of his children?"

"Sir," said the old man emphatically, "he's fond of the glass, and she helps him."

Whilst carrying on the above conversation I had in my pocket a letter which led me an hour or two afterwards to the north end of Liverpool, in search of the mother of a young man who was also employed as an engineer on board one of the Mississippi boats. The letter was from the brother of a merchant in Alabama, in whose employ the young man was living; and it mentioned that the latter was apprehensive that his mother was dead, as he had not heard from her for a long time—Through one of the crowded streets branching off from Waterloo-road, I made my way, and at last saw a name over the window of a little shop which answered to the name of the person of whom I was in quest. I knocked at the door, and an aged woman came out from a room behind the shop. "Is your name Mrs. R?"

"It is, sir," she replied. "You have a son in America have you not?" I added. At this remark her countenance immediately changed. Intense anxiety was marked on every line, and, looking at me with a steady and fixed gaze, she said, in a tone of deep emotion,—"I had a son in America, but I fear he's dead. I have sent two letters to him without getting any answer, and I sent a third yesterday; but," heaving a sigh, "I know it's of no use—it's all over with the poor boy;" and tears tickled down her face.

"Calm yourself," said I, "I am happy to tell you that your son is alive and well."

"Oh, Heaven be praised!" she exclaimed; "but come in, sir; come in and tell me all about it. God bless you for bringing me such good news!"

I followed her into the little room behind the shop, where a young woman was washing. "Margaret," said the old lady to the latter, this gentleman says that Tom's alive and well!" Margaret instantly ceased from her work, and turning round with her back to the wash-tub, waited in eager expectation for my replies to the hurried questions—"When did you see him sir—or have you seen him—or how do you know that he is alive?" with which the mother almost overwhelmed me.—I proceeded to explain my know-

ledge of her son, and how I had obtained it, and, taking the letter out of my pocket, I said "This is a letter I have received from a brother of one of your son's employers, and it contains a present to you from your son of £10." On hearing this the aged mother's feelings quite overpowered her. She burst into tears again, and for a minute or two those tears of joy choked her utterance. The daughter was scarcely less moved,—she sank into a chair and wept with her mother. It was a very affecting scene, and I am not ashamed to add that, unable to resist, I, too, was compelled to weep with those that wept, and share in the happiness with which they received this token of love from the long lost and almost despaired of member of their family. "Oh," said the poor woman when she had recovered herself, "he was always such a good boy, so sober and so thoughtful!"

The contrast between these two Mississippi engineers very much impressed me. The one meanly throwing upon his aged parents the support of his family, from his miserable habits of intemperance; the other from the fruits of his sobriety and virtue, sending tidings of joy and filial love to cheer a widowed mother's heart in his early and far-off home. I have so often had to be the bearer of sorrowful tidings to the homes of the poor,—such as the death of a husband or a son on the stormy deep, or the treacherous African coast,—that I feel quite thankful to the friend (the Rev. Mr. M'Alister, of Holywood,) through whom I was entrusted with the above pleasant mission.

## Independent Order of Rechabites.

"Jonadab the son of Rechab, shall not want a man to stand before me for ever."—Jeremiah xxxv. 19

The Chapter from which the above is taken is full of instruction on the subject of Temperance, and in our opinion fully bears out the Temperance men of the present day, in the means they have adopted to put away the evil which is filling the land with blood. It has been usual on the part of those who find it convenient to oppose our principles, to reply to the argument of the advocates of abstinence, founded on the text, that God's promise of favour, expressed in the words before us was only commendatory of the obedience of, and respect paid by the sons of Jonadab to their father's command. But we challenge any man after careful perusal of the Chapter, to dispute this other proposition,—That the manner of living pointed out by the Patriarch met with God's approval and concurrence. We have no intimation of the reason moving the head of the family for requiring his children to abstain. Probably it was the same that would induce any practical abstainer of the present day, to remove the temptation to drink as far as possible from his beloved offspring, and to persuade and even command them while subject to his parental authority, not to partake of the intoxicating cup. For although intemperance with its attendant evils, did not prevail to the same fearful extent, as at the present day, enough was known of its direful effects, from earliest ages, to convince the observer, of its debasing and demoralizing tendency:—Whatever was the motive, it is quite certain that Jonadab took the most effectual means to avoid the catastrophe which has visited millions, and even involved the ruin of whole nations; eventuating in the annihilation of races, as on this very continent. That means was the entire prohibition of the wine cup, and he more effectually to secure the blessing of temperance to his offspring the Patriarch's injunction even went to the extent of their leading a roving and pastoral life. The condition must have been weighty indeed, which could thus induce the founder of a family to adopt an expedient so entirely at variance with the means by which nations were wont to secure to themselves greatness and stability. "Neither shall ye build houses nor sow seed, nor plant vineyards nor have