

shall we wrong the poor tavern keepers out of their honest dues?

"Look at this man by my side. For the accommodation of this neighbourhood, he has paid for a license, fitted up a bar, filled it with liquors, and has hung out his sign. Now, should you get all this community to sign the temperance pledge, he is down, I can tell you. All the travellers who pass this road will not drink enough to pay for his license. And what right have you, sir, or this meeting, to interfere with your neighbour's lawful business?" "Stick to the landlord," cried one. "Three cheers for the landlord!" shouted the whole crew; and the whole house rang again! When the uproar had ceased, the unknown agent saw evident signs that he would soon be waited upon to the door with his whole company. "Bear with me, Mr. President, a moment longer. I am an entire stranger to these people and to yourself. And I knew nothing of this meeting till I put up, a lone traveller, at the tavern. There I learnt about the meeting, and heard this company proposing to attend, provided they could get some one to speak for them. I volunteered my service, and you have heard my speech in their behalf. Now, sir, permit me to tell you, that I am a temperance man, a teetotaler. I know the dreadful evils of intemperance; and I know, also, the safety and the blessedness of the pledge.

"Sign away my liberty! No, sir; by taking the pledge I broke the cruel chains of slavery, by which I had been bound many years, and I became a freeman—as free as the water-brooks that course down your hills, or the winds that whistle round your mountain tops! Be more inclined to drink after signing the pledge! No, sir; it is a safeguard. It has a wonderful charm in soothing the troubled soul, and in quelling the craving appetite. As well talk of the signing of a note on a bond inclining men to dishonesty; or of the marriage vow inclining the husband to unfaithfulness!"

"Look again at this landlord. Was it necessary for him to open a tavern, in order to get a living? Has he not a good farm? and is he not already beginning to neglect that farm? Is the neighbourhood any more industrious, peaceful, and happy, since that sign was hung out?"

"Look at the company around him here to-night. These are his dupes. I never saw them before; but I could tell you much of their history. That tavern sign has lured them from their houses and their business; and that flaming bar is fast consuming their property, and drinking up their life-blood. Their families are even now suffering at home for the necessaries of life. And deeper and more awful sufferings are in reserve for them, unless these men quickly forsake that den of dragons! And the landlord is none the better off, but rather worse. He is even now beginning to drink with his customers; he is on the very brink of ruin! If he keep up that tavern sign a little longer, he will work out his own destruction. It will be a mercy to him to destroy his custom, and a blessing to his family. O that I could be the means of rescuing these my fellow-men from that awful gulph to which they are rapidly hastening. Come, my friends, I have come here to speak for you to-night, and for your good I will plead.

I know your trials—your craving appetite, your horrible nights, your gloomy days, and all your long train of sorrows! I pity you. I can sympathise with you. I speak as a friend. Come, take the teetotal pledge, and be free. The galling chains of slavery shall fall from your limbs; your horrors shall flee away; peace shall return to your dwellings, prosperity to your business, and joy to your souls!

Feel yourselves once more to be men, and walk up with me boldly to that stand, and take the pledge. I shall esteem it an honour to be a member of this total abstinence society; and it will be an honour to you. Come, here's my heart, and here's my hand." So saying, he took one, and another, and another by the hand, with tears in his eyes, compassion

in his look, and tenderness on his tongue. They could not resist; they were all melted down, and one by one went up and took the pledge. Many others in the house followed their example. The landlord was confounded, and looked blue. A new impulse was given to the cause; and the reformation went on with increasing interest and power in the neighbourhood.

The meeting closed, and the agent was advised not to venture himself again at the tavern. But he was not the man to be afraid. Taking his host again by the arm, he returned to his lodgings, and immediately retired. The next morning, as he called for his bill, the landlord said, "Sir, if you will go on your way, and never return here again, you are welcome to all you have now had." "That, sir, I shall not promise. Here is your money. But remember, if you continue your present business, you are planting thorns in your own pillow, and you are furnishing fuel for that flame that shall ere long burn in your bosom with quenchless anguish.

The agent went on his way, and in one year he received letters from three of the men whom he led up to the stand, and persuaded to take the pledge, stating that all he had told them had proved to be true, and more also. They had forsaken their evil ways, and had returned unto the Lord, who had had mercy on them, and to our God, who had abundantly pardoned. They felt themselves to be justified by faith, and were rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. "Thanks be unto the Lord," said the agent, as he told me the story, "for the privilege of spending that night in the valley of the mountains."

INTOXICATING DRINK.

[The following are a few extracts from the daily press of England. As the result of the drinking system of society, we invite serious attention to them.]

Marlborough street.—A young man of fashionable exterior, who gave the assumed name of Robert Wilson, was charged with having a pair of loaded pistols in his possession, with intent to commit suicide.

From the evidence of Webb, one of the waiters at the Colonnade hotel, Haymarket, it appeared that the defendant had been staying at the hotel for the last week or ten days. The defendant for several nights past had been in a state of intoxication. On Saturday the defendant loaded a pair of pistols, and said to witness that he must not be surprised if he did not see him again. The waiter believing that something serious was intended, followed the defendant and caused him to be taken into custody by the police.

The defendant admitted that he had been drinking too much wine, and that his mind had become excited by excess; but he denied that he intended any act of violence towards himself.

Mr. Bingham required the defendant to provide two good bail, as the best means of ensuring his safe delivery into the custody of his friends.

The defendant is reported to be a near relative of a distinguished and wealthy family.

Worship street.—Jane Gough, a young woman, was charged with having by her negligent and drunken conduct caused the death of her male infant, four weeks old.

Inspector Gravestock, of the G division, stated, that the prisoner, who was very much intoxicated, was brought in custody to the Featherstone street station-house at a late hour on Saturday night, with an infant in her arms, and, as it was quite manifest that she was not in a state to be intrusted with it, he sent the child to the workhouse, to insure its safety till the morning, and detained the prisoner upon the charge of being drunk and incapable of taking care of herself. On the following morning the infant was seen back by the workhouse authorities, and, as she had the