

colours, and a band of musicians. The united companies formed into a regular line, about 1200 strong, with numerous flags and banners, and proceeded through the principal portion of the town, and then back to Broomfield. Thousands were attracted by the procession and music, amongst whom the tea-totallers distributed a large quantity of appropriate tracts, not omitting the groups assembled round each public-house door, who, to say the truth, behaved more decorously than has been usual on such occasions. James Christy, Esq., of Broomfield, had generously offered the use of his grounds for this rural fete. There seemed to be no lack either of appetite or of provision, and the scene which presented itself was of a most animated and pleasing description. Dinner ended, the company began to amuse themselves in various ways. About three o'clock some hundreds had arrived on the ground who were not tea-totallers. Messrs. Teare, Whitaker, Green, Booth, Walters, Mildenhall, and others, therefore repaired to the shade of a large tree, and, by the singing of a hymn, a large company were attracted to the spot. After a brief address from Mr. Green, impressive speeches were delivered by Mr. Booth, Mr. Whitaker, and Mr. Teare, the audience greatly increasing, and listening with marked attention. Addresses were delivered on the grounds, by Messrs. Catton, Hill, Thompson, Johnson, Walters, and others, till about half-past seven o'clock, when the party began to wend its way to the railway station. At six o'clock, a meeting was also held in the Chelmsford Institute, filled to overflowing. The chair was taken by S. C. Hall, Esq., F.R.S., who had been a very attentive observer of the whole proceedings. Many, he said, were of the opinion that tea-totallers were dull, heavy persons; but it was evident, as his late friend Mr. T. Hood was accustomed to say, they could be 'merry and wise, without being merry and otherwise.' They had spent the day as joyously as any lover of strong drink would have done, and certainly far more rationally. They were now not to engage in what would be useful to themselves and others, and they would return home with the full knowledge that they had done nothing which could excite regret, which would promote headache or other bodily indisposition, or with which their friends and acquaintances could reproach them. Mr. Martin, of Cork, gave a brief account of the rise and progress of the tea-total movement in Ireland. On the 10th of April, 1838, he prevailed on Father Mathew to sign the total abstinence pledge; 57 persons then followed his example, and from that period the work had gone on, till the society now numbered over 5,000,000! Mr. T. Whitaker stated his obligations to tea-totalism; and said that having himself tasted its sweets, he was convinced that if all were acquainted with its true merits, it would be generally, if not universally, adopted. The chairman said, that in referring to the influence of strong drink in abridging the lives of men of great talent, he had intended to have referred to the case of the late lamented Thomas Campbell, the author of the 'Pleasures of Hope' and other celebrated poems. He had at one time given himself up to habits of intoxication, and finding his health greatly impaired by it, he made a vow that he would drink no more wine. He, however, took to the use of brandy, and again greatly injured himself. Then he vowed that he would take no more brandy, and he took to use porter. After suffering greatly from that practice, he vowed against porter. Finally, he took to the use of small beer and actually made himself drunk by drinking very large quantities of that beverage. He died, it was true, a sober man, but with a shattered constitution, and a heart broken by self-reproach! It was melancholy to reflect that a man so highly gifted, should be so brought down by the use of strong drink. Mr. Booth related some particulars of his experience, both as a lover of strong drink and as a total abstinence. He had often, while in his drinking career, been relieved by the benevolent, and advised by the religious, but was abandoned by both, because he was an incorrigible drunkard. Since he had become a tea-totaller, he had been restored to personal and domestic comfort. Mr. J. Teare referred to the evidence which had been produced before the Committee of the House of Commons, from which it appeared that intemperance was one of the most serious evils that afflicted the country. In olden times, the advocates of temperance were accustomed to attack drunkenness—the tea-totallers attacked strong drink; formerly, excess was attacked—now, any use of the liquor was denounced: once they attacked the effect—now, more philosophically, they attacked the cause. Let men call the use of strong drink by whatever name they might, still it could not be denied that it was the use of that drink which led to drunkenness and all its subsequent miseries.

INDIA.

A medical gentleman, lately arrived from the East Indies, in conversation with a member of the Executive Committee of the National Temperance Society, stated from his own personal observation, that the mortality in the hospitals of Calcutta was only 2 per cent. amongst total abstinents, while it was 10 per cent. amongst those who drank alcoholic liquors! This fact is peculiarly valuable at the present time, when the cholera is raging so extensively in India.

In a letter we have recently received from Mr. G. Drago, Aqueduct Serjeant, Poona, near Bombay, an encouraging statement is given of the progress of temperance in the Indian army. The society of H. M. 22nd regiment at Poona, numbers 100 members. This is immediately after a harassing campaign of nearly seven months in the southern Mahratta country. The following passage affords proof however of the fact, that the effects of strong drink are the same in all quarters of the world.

"A petition to government," says Mr. Drago, "is in course of preparation for signature, beseeching that some energetic measures may be adopted to prevent the awful desecration of the Sabbath, now common on the Island (Bombay). Hotels and taverns, where music and inducements of the most vicious kinds to intemperance are kept up through the whole of Sunday, are the chief resorts of 'sailors and soldiers upon leave,' and the most disgusting and demoralizing scenes are frequently enacted, disgraceful to the character of our nation. Many of these taverns are kept by Europeans, and have European musicians, &c.; and it may be readily conceived, how seriously this must injure the fair fame of our Christian creed in a land of idolatry. Cannot a Brahmin, or a Parsee, who knows not the distinction between a real and nominal Christian, turn upon us and say, 'Would you propagate a faith that produces such results as these?'"

ARCOT.

Left Wing H. M. 57th Regimental Society.—On the march, the thermometer averaged 100° from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. in tent, yet the tea-totallers marched with ease, pitching their tents and performing fatigue-duties in camp with alacrity and cheerfulness.

Major Rantoloph, the commanding officer, paid the hire of a bandy which went in advance every evening, in order to have coffee and biscuit in readiness on arrival of the wing in the morning. The society has a commodious reading and coffee-room inside barracks. Strength 80.

The half-yearly inspection took place on the 23rd ultimo, when Major-General, Sir E. K. Williams, K.C.B. and K.C.T. and S., commanding the centre division, visited our coffee-room; he was delighted with its appearance, and was pleased to express his approbation of the constitution, the publications on the reading table, and the object of the Association.

The Roman Catholics in the wing have formed a branch society, and opened a reading-room, where coffee, &c., are furnished to members. Strength 38.

SIAM.

In an interesting letter, dated Bangkok, from the Rev. J. Caswell to the Rev. J. Marsh, Corres. Secretary of American Temperance Union, the writer gives the following melancholy picture of the effects of strong drink on the Siamese people.

"Ten years since, a drunken man was a rare sight here, except among the Indo-Portuguese. But since then the enemy has come in like a flood, and now, drunken Siamese are exceedingly common,—so much so, that I much dread meeting a large company, even for the purpose of preaching the gospel to them, being almost sure to find a number in the different stages of intoxication; and I therefore fix my hour for preaching in the bazaar at 9 A.M., although I should be sure of having three or four times as many in the afternoon. There are thirty or more distilleries in the kingdom, all conducted by Chinese men. The owners of these distilleries pay an immense sum of money to the King for the privilege they enjoy, and it is for their interest to make and sell as much as they can. Thus the evil is rapidly and constantly increasing."

There is, however, some hope. Mr. Caswell remarks—"All the mission families are frequently visited by priests and noblemen who might be easily interested in the subject of temperance, had we but the right means. The priests are forbidden the use of intoxicating drinks, but most of them spend but a short time in the priesthood, say from one to five years. Could they be thoroughly enlightened while in the priesthood, we might hope much from them when they leave it."