

THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF THE TEMPERANCE ENTERPRISE.

The Temperance enterprise, embracing various organizations, the main object of which is to dispense with the customary use of alcoholic liquors, is an enterprise that deserves more extensive support than it has yet received. In its earlier stages, many were disposed to look upon it as Utopian, but its progress in the midst of long established usages, and the prejudices and hostility arising from ignorance, appetite, and interest, entitle it to our serious consideration. Its safety and practicability can no longer be called in question. Its numerous moral achievements are undeniable. Its beneficial effects are obvious to every observant mind. Its triumphs must be hailed by every well-wisher to the best interests of man. Its increasing success should be earnestly desired by every Christian.

So deep is our conviction of the importance of this enterprise, that we have for many years given it our hearty countenance. To it we have often adverted in the pulpit, and from thence prayer has ascended on its behalf. The fearful evils of intemperance are lamented in our public prayers; why should we not cordially unite in supplicating the blessings of the Most High on all reformatory measures to diminish and eradicate evils so disastrous? The spiritual welfare of our people is greatly endangered by the drinking usages of society. They constitute a formidable barrier to the intellectual, social, and moral interests of almost every community. The missionary abroad, the minister at home, the Sabbath School Teacher, Christian Parents, and all who are engaged in works of benevolence, would feel encouraged, and greatly rejoice, could this monster evil be held in greater check than it is, not only by moral suasion, but legal authority. May we not hope that such will be the case? It will of course take time, and require prudent and energetic efforts; but judging from the present aspect of things we proudly cherish the expectation of brighter days, for this moral reform. And we trust the readers of this Magazine will be found among its warmest friends.

As an illustration of the beneficial effects of this enterprise, the happy change wrought in Mr. James Stirling, of Scotland, may be referred to. We have before us a memoir of this honoured person, by the Rev. Alexander Wallace. A more interesting and instructive memoir we have not read for some time. There we see "some of the more striking and characteristic features of humble Scottish life." It is a sad picture of the utter debasement and wretchedness, and the ruin to business, body and soul, which follows in the wake of drinking habits. But there is a brighter side of the picture. The last thirty years of James Stirling's life formed a most cheering instance of the blessed change which takes place when the prostrate will acquires new strength, and asserts its supremacy over the fierce cravings of appetite: and the shattered frame, the enfeebled intellect, the debased moral nature, redeemed from the worst species of bondage, are brought under healing influences that usher in a new era and lead on to a better fate.

The single case of James Stirling, whilst it gives terrible reality and vividness to evils long endured, is at the same time a "silver lining" to the dark cloud—a sad illustration of the evils of drinking, and a standing testimony to the