

THE TEETOTALLER,

AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.—Rom. c. 14, v. 21.

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THE LICENSING SYSTEM.

BELIEVING as we do that the making and vending of intoxicating liquors, except for the Arts and Sciences, are both morally and politically wrong, so it is also our decided conviction that the duty of Government in relation to them is of a very different character from that of Licensing them. But, to License them under the cognomen of "victuals," and to dignify those who are empowered by law to sell them, with the honorable title of "Licensed Victuallers," is a perfect insult to the understanding of men, and as complete a misnomer as has ever obtained currency in human language. Every Chymist knows, or may know that, in the process of making alcoholic liquors, nearly every particle of nutriment, or "victuals," that was originally in the substance from which they are produced, is lost, and that which is produced, in its influence on the human system, operates only as poison. This is absolutely true, in reference to all pure distilled liquors, and very nearly so also in reference to all malt liquors; for, according to the best analysis, beer is not found to contain more than six per cent. of anything that can be nourishing to the human system. If any such liquor contains more, it must be something that is put into it over and above what is produced from the pure malt and hops. Supposing then that it is pure beer—that is, that the liquor is what comes, without any adulteration, or "Doctoring," from the pure malt and hops, let us see what an amazing loss the community sustains by this abuse and perversion of what is one of the good gifts of God to us.

Barley, from which malt is made, is one of the most nourishing of all the grains that we possess. According to Sir Humphry Davy, who is justly considered to have been one of the most accurate experimental Agricultural Chymists of modern times, it contains no less than 92 per cent. of nutriment; but, in the process of turning this good, wholesome grain into Beer, no less than 86 per cent. are totally lost! Such is the enormous waste, which the production of one of our mildest intoxicating drinks occasions to the community! In the production of distilled Spirits, as we have already stated, it is a complete loss. Yes; every particle of nourishment is gone, and nothing is left in its place but "an inflammatory, stimulating, and poisonous liquid!" And what man is there, who is guided by the dictates of reason, or by the principles of humanity or an enlightened patriotism, can maintain, in the face of such an appalling fact, that it is the duty of Government to License such practices? License them! No, no; rather than this, Government ought to use its best efforts to enlighten the community, by the universal diffusion of just views on the subject, and, as soon as possible, to put a stop to the manufacture of all Alcoholic liquors, except for the Arts and Sciences.

And if it is a complete misapplication of the powers with which Governments are entrusted by the great Sovereign of the Universe, thus to sanction the destruction and perversion of his good gifts by the arts of Brewing and Distilling, how can it be any thing else when the same powers are exercised to sanction and protect the vending of them by Licensing Taverns and Grog Shops? Every observer of what takes place around him knows full well that "each of these soon begins to attract its train of drinking customers, and within a moderate period becomes surrounded by its circle of drunkards. There is scarcely a greater nuisance to society than houses of this nature; in which spirituous liquors are sold in small quantities to the neighbouring inhabitants. Millions of the human race have, in these baleful haunts, taken the first fatal step towards perdition," and by continuing to frequent them, have never stopped till health, wealth, character, and soul, were for ever and irretrievably lost. To license such places under the representation of their being necessary, or designed for the accommodation of the stranger and the traveller, is to lend the sanction of Government to what is at once a disgraceful delusion, and a gross imposition. The plain unvarnished truth is that, the great object which the persons have in view, who either erect or keep them, is merely to sell as

much of their alcoholic poison as they can allure persons to purchase and pay for. Houses for the accommodation of the stranger and the traveller, are no doubt necessary in all countries, but, they should be very different places from our modern Taverns and Grog Shops. The mischief which these have done, and are still doing here, and in all countries where they have been permitted and sanctioned, is incalculably great; for, wherever they exist, they are invariably found to be the haunts of the unprincipled and vicious of every name, who, through the influence of the liquor which they there obtain, are enabled to exercise a far more baleful influence on society around them than they otherwise could do, whilst others—the young and the unwary, are often there entrapped in their snare, and thus increase this ever active mass of evil-doers, who act as a moral pestilence wherever they exist. Indeed, our modern Taverns and Grog Shops are little else than manufactories of drunkards, paupers, and criminals; and rather than License such sources of degradation of character, and of individual and domestic ruin, every parent, and every well-wisher of man, should exert whatever influence they possess in endeavouring to effect their entire and perpetual suppression. But, how devoutly soever this is to be wished, we fear it is too great an advance in the moral regeneration of society to be at present effected—particularly in the still existing prevalence of our drinking customs. Something, however, might easily be done, and should be done, to remedy the glaring defects of the present Licensing System; and, as a tavern, or grog shop, invariably proves a nuisance to the neighbourhood where it is opened, we think it nothing more than an act of justice to allow the residents in that neighbourhood an opportunity beforehand of expressing their opinions and wishes respecting it; and, according to their representations, and not the uncontrolled will of the magistrates, the licenses should be withheld or granted. Due notice, too, of the intention of such and such persons intending to apply for license, should be publicly given, at least a month before the licensing day, in order that all persons whose comfort and property may be affected by it, may have an opportunity of exerting themselves in time to prevent its being granted. No magistrate, too, whose interests would be promoted by the granting of any of the licenses, either as a dealer in intoxicating liquors, or as the proprietor of the house, or houses proposed to be licensed, should have anything to do with the granting of them. Again, no person who is in any way connected with the manufacturing or vending of intoxicating liquors, should be received as the surety of the applicant for the license. In all cases also where a drunkard is brought up for punishment, evidence should be sought of the house in which he obtained the liquor that made him drunk; and if it appears in evidence that he drunk it on the premises, or that it was sold to him knowing him to be drunk at the time, then, in all such cases, the keeper of the house should suffer precisely the same punishment as the drunkard. Were these regulations to be observed, in addition to the salutary restrictions of the existing law, in the working of the system, it would not be so bad as it at present is. Nothing, however, will prove an effectual remedy for the dreadful evils which spring from grog-selling, but a complete and universal revolution in men's views as to the nature and effects of grog itself: and in order that this intellectual and moral revolution in the views and practices of modern society may be effected, the intelligent and virtuous of every rank should give their influence to the cause of teetotalism. Were this done, there cannot be a doubt that it would soon commend itself to the practice and support of every well wisher of the peace, the comfort, the purity, and the everlasting happiness of man. In the mean time, whilst we cheerfully leave others to think and act for themselves in this matter, we beg respectfully to record our solemn protest against the renewal of a single license for the retail of intoxicating liquors, but for the arts and sciences. To memorialise the bench of magistrates any

more on this subject, as we respectfully and earnestly did on the two past years, seems utterly useless. One thing however, we can still do, and that is, to protest against the present system, and labour and pray, and pray and labour, that a better state of things may soon be introduced. If Teetotalers will only persevere in acting thus, they need fear no opposition to their cause; for, it has truth on its side, which is not only invincible, but, in the end, is always sure to be VICTORIOUS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

YOUTHS' TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION.

This Society held its usual weekly meeting in the Rehoboth Chapel, Pitt-street, on Wednesday Evening the 5th instant.—Mr. M'Kaig, in the chair.

The cause of Teetotalism was advocated in the course of the evening by Messrs. Hogan, Dunsdon, Gunning and Waring, after which the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of this Association was also held at Windsor, on Tuesday last, 4th instant, at the Society's Rooms, Macquarie-street, for the purpose of forming a Branch Society.—Mr. Alfred Neale, in the chair, and several gentlemen attended, Messrs. G. M'Kenny, Marsden, Jones, as also Mr. Dunsdon from Sydney, addressed the meeting on that occasion.

THE disclosures which have been made during the week of certain money lending transactions of the Bank of Australia, have excited great attention among our Mercantile community. We greatly fear that these, and Mr. Macalister's address "to the Capitalists of Great Britain who have invested money in this Colony," will have a very unfavourable effect in depreciating its value and importance in the estimation of the money lending interests of Great Britain. Our situation, however, bad though it confessedly is, is not yet hopeless; if our Merchants and Settlers would only become teetotalers, and order the proceeds of their wool and oil to be sent out to them in solid cash, in place of intoxicating liquors. If they would only do this, it would do more towards retrieving the lost prosperity of the country than all the quack remedies which have been yet recommended.

AUSTRALIAN TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—We forbear making any observations on the uproar and revolutionary anarchy which marked the proceedings of certain parties at the special meeting that was held of this Society last Thursday evening. The parties referred to proposed, and persisted in carrying into effect, certain resolutions, which not only subverted the authority of the Committee, who called the meeting only for a special purpose, but actually set aside its existence, and the existence of the Society itself, since September last. All this was done after the chairman had refused to put them to the meeting, and had declared that no such resolutions could be legally put by any one to that meeting, as they were subversive of the constitution of the Society, and destructive of its very existence. As the Committee was thus prevented by these proceedings from effecting the object for which the meeting was called, and as the chairman, on leaving the chair, declared those proceedings to be utterly subversive of the constitution of the Society, and therefore null and void, he has called another meeting of the members of the Society who still adhere to the constitution, to be held this evening in Mr. Vercoe's Temperance Coffee House, to enable the Committee to carry on its business. (See the advertisement.)

THE SMUGGLED TOBACCO.—The result of the prosecution for this offence has been that Captain Britton, Commander of the *Duchess of Kent*, has been found guilty of aiding and assisting in carrying, conveying, and concealing twelve tierces of tobacco, valued at £810, which have been forfeited, whilst he has been sentenced to pay the sum of £2,430, being treble the value of the goods, and £5 5s. costs and in default of payment, his goods to be seized and sold, and in default of sufficient distress, to be confined in Her Majesty's jail for six months. What trouble people sometimes bring upon themselves by evil doing!

A SOMEWHAT SENSIBLE OBSERVATION.—In an account that has been published of what took place at a recent meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Australia, Mr. Reid is said to have observed in his reply to Mr. Walker, "that it appeared by the list that there were several heavy debtors, who rolled about in their carriages in the city of Sydney; and that he, for one, would not pay a single fraction until he saw the price of their carriages, as sold at auction, applied to the liquidation of the debt: that it was proper that those gentlemen, rather than he, should go through the Insolvent Court. The Chairman said, certainly."

ENGLISH NEWS.

By way of Hobart Town, we have been put in possession of news from England, of a few days later date than those previously received, from which we are grieved to learn that the commercial distress, which has so long spread gloom and want over all the manufacturing districts of our native land, still continues to be very great. It is gratifying, however, to learn that Divine Providence had mercifully granted an abundant harvest, by means of which, and the importation of foreign meat and cattle, according to the duties of the new Tariff, the provision market was kept at a low price; a circumstance which would no doubt have a happy effect in meliorating the condition of the poor during the severity of the winter.

The amicable relations which, for many years past, have existed between Great Britain and France, seem to be again threatened with a serious rupture. The ostensible cause is right of search of suspected slave vessels, which is claimed by Great Britain for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade; but the real cause, we apprehend, is, a deep rooted hostility against British interests, and a hope of succeeding, in the present depressed state of the resources of our "Father-land," in crippling her power and influence. Our fervent prayer, however is, that God may yet avert the horrid scourge of war from the nations of Europe, and purify them by his Word and Spirit, rather than chastize and humble them by the miseries which invariably flow from it.

The news of the termination of hostilities in China, reached London on the 20th November, and were received by the usual demonstrations of joy; the Tower and Park guns being fired on the 24th. The news seems to have had an immediate effect on Commercial speculations; wool having advanced one half-penny per pound, and would have gone considerably more but for a suspicion of Chinese sincerity. Our fervent wish is, that this peace may never be broken, and that it may prove of the greatest benefit to both Nations: and, that it may be so, let Britain aid China in her endeavours to put a stop to the disgraceful traffic in Opium.

Parliament had been prorogued till the 13th December, but was not likely to meet for business till some time in January. The Queen and the Royal Family were still in the enjoyment of excellent health. May God long continue it to them.

Since writing the above, the 'Clarendon' has arrived from Greenock, which she left on the 25th of November last. The effect of the news of the termination of hostilities in China was still more decidedly felt than at the date of our previous advices from England, and something like activity in the wool market, and a revival of the spirit of manufacturing and commercial enterprise, were beginning again to manifest themselves. Should this improved state of things continue, and most fervently do we wish it may, it may prove a greater alleviation of the distress of the poor than has been experienced for the last three years.

ELECTRICITY.—It has been ascertained, from careful and often repeated experiments, that the electric fluid travels at the astonishing and inconceivable velocity of "two hundred thousand miles in a single second of time!" So that if a wire were passed round this globe of ours, this subtle agent would traverse the circumference (about 24,000 miles) in about the eighth part of a second.

POETRY.

A FATHER TO HIS DAUGHTER.

My daughter, oft thy father's heart
Turns from the world to dwell on thee;
I fondly think on what thou art,
And fondly hope what thou wilt be.

The days of youth with swiftness fly,
Happy with trifles, toys and flowers;
Grief can but gain a passing sigh,
From rosy childhood's laughing hours.

Oh! may thy heart be ever gay,
Nor bleed but for another's woes;
May flowers still blossom in thy way,
Nor thorns disturb thy sweet repose.

But as time passes on, thy mind
Must for enjoyment higher soar,
And with an intellect refined,
More lofty scenes of life explore.

Then tears may dim those smiling eyes,
And cares increase with lengthening days;
But if in innocence they rise,
They're transient as the meteor's rays.

Let virtue then be thy sure guide;—
Thy mother still thy dearest friend,
To her thy every thought confide;
The promptings of her love attend.

Oh! be like her, as good, as pure—
'Tis all I ask of Heaven for thee,
Then in thy innocence secure,
Thou'lt safely pass life's stormy sea.

D. B.

A MANUAL

OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETIES.—CONTINUED.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Extent of Intemperance.—Injurious effects of intoxicating liquors to the body, the mind, and the circumstances of individuals.—To the morals and prosperity of Society—and to the Cause of Religion.

23 Q.—Are intoxicating liquors much used?

A.—In London, the number of public-houses and spirit establishments is about 5,435. The beer shops for beer and ale only, about 524. From actual observation it has been ascertained, that in one day, upwards of six thousand persons visited a single gin-palace! And in one week, two hundred and sixty-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-seven persons entered fourteen of the principal spirit shops!

The consumption of these liquors also in private families is enormous; besides their ordinary and daily use, births, marriages, and even deaths, are eagerly seized upon as occasions for taking them, and very frequently to excess.

24 Q.—To what extent does the vice of drunkenness prevail?

A.—It has been calculated, that the number of habitual drunkards in Great Britain exceeds six hundred thousand, of whom, sixty thousand die annually, the wretched victims of this vice!

25 Q.—Are there many persons who profit by the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors?

A.—Yes, Malsters, Brewers, Distillers, Wine-Merchants, Tavern-Keepers, Publicans, and Beer-Retailers; and a variety of other trades connected with them.

26 Q.—Is the sale of intoxicating liquors injurious to those engaged in it?

A.—Yes: the landlords, and frequently their wives, and children, acquire habits of drinking to excess. Their morals become contaminated, their health often ruined, and a premature grave their portion. The practice too of administering, for the sake of gain, the liquid poison to persons in disease, in a state of destitution, or when already under the influence of liquor, must tend to deaden every kindly feeling, and to harden the heart against human distress and moral principle.

27 Q.—What are the general effects produced by the prevalent vice of intemperance?

A.—It has been estimated, that one half of all the insanity, three-fourths of all the poverty, and four-fifths of all the crime in the country, are occasioned by drunkenness!

28 Q.—In what way is the health injured by the use of spirits?

A. 1.—It may be truly said, that while war has slain its thousands, ardent spirits have destroyed their tens of thousands! By the first, the body perishes; by the last, body and soul are lost! They may be slow or quick in their operation, according to the strength and quantity taken, but their fatal and poisonous effects are certain! They neither satisfy hunger, nor quench thirst. They produce a general state of inflammation in the system, and elevate the spirits of their victim, only to cast him down exhausted and depressed.

2. It has been ascertained, that they possess no kind of nourishment; nor do they ever assimilate with the system, but when found in the blood, or in the brain, they still retain the same exciting, irritating, and inflammatory qualities.

29 Q.—How are wines injurious?

A. 1.—They overheat and irritate the system without giving strength, and are the cause of more than half of our chronic diseases. Dr. Anthony Carlisle has pronounced the acid qualities of fermented liquors to be not less injurious than the spirit which they contain.

2. The same observations apply to wine, as to any liquors containing alcohol. As it regards nutriment in wine, it has been demonstrated by actual experiment, that the quantity in a wine glass is equal to no more than one-third part of the flour in a single grain of wheat. The feeling of strength which it seems to impart is delusive and transitory,—the mere effect of undue stimulus.

30 Q.—What effects are produced on the human system by malt liquors?

A. 1.—Their ordinary effects are drowsiness and stupefaction. They generate bile, incline to unhealthy corpulence, and oppress the chest. In seven cases out of ten, intemperate drinkers of malt liquors die of palsy or apoplexy.*

* "I have found so much benefit," says a Manchester traveller, "by abstaining from all intoxicating drink, that I believe an angel from heaven would fall in the attempt to prove that the moderate use of even malt liquor was good for me."

2. The nutritious quality of malt liquors will bear no proportion to their injurious properties; for, independently of their baleful character of intoxication, it has been ascertained that the nutriment in a gallon of ale, which has cost two shillings, is not worth a penny! Indeed, the glutinous matter which remains after the spirit has been extracted, is of so repulsive a nature that no animal would use it for food, much less is it fit for any human being.

31 Q.—In what manner is the mind affected by the use of intoxicating liquors?

A.—Its faculties become weakened, its perceptions obscured, its energies diminished; and, by excess, the period of its destruction is accelerated.

Many individuals of highly cultivated minds and deserved reputation, have had their talents and acquirements engulfed in this vortex of intemperance, and sinking into the depths of moral degradation have often, very often, terminated a miserable life in a madhouse!

32 Q.—In what way does the use of intoxicating drinks affect the circumstances and comfort of those who take them?

A. 1. By drinking habits, a person loses the inclination, as well as the ability, to attend to his business; his business consequently declines, and this increases his propensity for intoxicating liquors, till ruin is the result.

2. On the other hand, by abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, money and time are saved, business is never neglected, and prosperity and comfort, personal and domestic, are secured.

3. Many delightful instances are continually occurring of a rapid and extraordinary improvement in the circumstances and happiness of those who have abandoned the use of intoxicating drinks. By habits of excess they had reduced themselves and their families to poverty and woe. Their prospects were blighted, their credit destroyed, and their characters lost! But, by the blessing of God on the principles of total abstinence from these liquors, they have again surrounded themselves with comfort, regained their characters and credit, and become, in many instances, sincere Christians.

33 Q.—What will be the consequences of a habit of intemperance as it regards a future state of existence?

A.—It is impossible to contemplate the character and conduct of a drunkard, without being convinced that such a person is altogether unfit for the society of the blessed in heaven; and the Scriptures are very explicit upon the subject—"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, &c., shall inherit the kingdom of God."—1 Cor. vi. 10.

34 Q.—Are the interests of society injured by the use of intoxicating liquors?

A.—Alas! by their alluring, insidious, and baleful qualities, they have produced more misery and want than the famine!—they have slain more people than the sword!—they have destroyed more victims than the plague!—they have made thousands of widows, and tens of thousands of orphans!—and have hurried multitudes of immortal unprepared beings into an eternal world!—Society is injured,

1. By the quantity of grain they consume, and the consequent unprofitable occupation of the land. More than two millions of acres of land are employed to produce a species of grain, which, though good in itself, is wasted in the manufacture of intoxicating liquors.

2. By the great loss of time and labour which attends the manufacturing, selling, and especially consuming these pernicious beverages.

The industrious employment of time, constitutes a principal source of the wealth and power of a nation. It has been computed that fifty millions per annum are lost to this country, merely from the waste of time and consequent loss of labour owing to habits of intemperance! How important then, in a social point of view, is the cause of entire abstinence from these worse than useless beverages.

3. Society is injured by the annual loss of thousands of useful lives, and much valuable property, occasioned by intoxicating liquors;—on the land, by fires, and other casualties; and on the sea by shipwrecks.

4. Society is injured by the great expense of supporting the wretched impoverished victims of drunkenness, with their wives and children; and a considerable portion of paupers are of this unhappy class.

5. Nor is it mere parochial expenditure which is increased by intemperance. Heavy demands are made privately upon the pockets of the benevolent and Christian public, which have been occasioned by the allurements of the costly gin-palace, and which, it is too well known, often pass immediately from the hand of charity, to the maintenance of such splendid establishments.

6. Society is injured by the commission and increase of crime; it having been estimated that three criminals out of every four become so through habits of intemperance. Hence it follows

7. That three-fourths of all the expenses for the prosecution, imprisonment, transportation, or execution of criminals are occasioned by intoxicating liquors.

"If these statements be true, and who can dispute them, then," says the Rev. Richard Knill, "it ought to awaken the patriotism and the religion of the British public, to raise their hands and their voices against this destruction of *corn, and morals, and life, and souls!*"

35 Q.—In what way, and to what extent are the morals of society injured by the use of intoxicating liquors?

A.—1. They weaken the feelings of moral and religious duty, they produce a disinclination as well as an incapacity for the pure worship of God, or the exercise of benevolence towards man.

2. The use of these liquors leads into society, where the language of infidelity, and profanity, is often heard; and where it is impossible the mind should escape the fatal contagion.

3. Truth, integrity, industry, and every moral and social duty have through intemperance, been outraged by multitudes, who once stood high in public estimation for the possession of these virtues.

4. Thus it is, that persons descend lower and lower in the scale of immorality, until they become familiar with vice, and hardened in crime.

36 Q.—Are intoxicating liquors hostile to the interests of religion?

A.—1. Whatever affects morality, must be injurious

to the cause of Christianity. The use of these liquors, it is well known, has kept, and is keeping numbers away from places of worship, and from the perusal of the Scriptures.

2. Neglect and violation of the Sabbath are very general consequences of intemperate drinking. There is probably far more dissipation and intemperate drinking on the Sabbath, than on any other day in the week.

3. They contribute to the spread of infidelity. The lovers of strong drink may well desire that there should be no God, nor any religious obligation.

4. A greater number of Christians have apostatised from the faith of Christ, through habits of drinking, than from any other cause.

5. Ministers, who have never indulged in excess, have nevertheless acknowledged that their devotion and usefulness have suffered from even the moderate use of these liquors.

6. There is no class of mankind apparently further removed from the influence of religion, and all hope of salvation, than the drunkard.

7. It is a melancholy fact, that there is scarcely a country to which missionaries have been sent, where their labours have not been paralyzed by the introduction and influence of intoxicating liquors.

37 Q.—What encouragement is given to the use of these liquors by ministers, and professing Christians?

A.—1. Ministers give encouragement to the use of intoxicating liquors by drinking wine, beer, or spirits at their own tables, and in social Christian intercourse. Is there not abundant reason for them to set an example of decided abstinence from these things, when they consider the number of persons, some perhaps in their own congregations, who have been overcome by strong drinks, and others who may be verging towards intemperance?

2. It has been calculated that there are in Great Britain ten million three hundred thousand persons making a religious profession. Supposing each of these persons to spend on an average only sixpence a week for intoxicating liquors, the annual amount will be £13,390,000.

38 Q.—How might this enormous sum, thus uselessly squandered, be advantageously employed by Christian professors?

A.—1. It would support sixty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty missionaries, at £200 per annum for each; or,

2. It would found thirteen thousand three hundred and ninety Christian churches among the heathen nations, allowing £1,000 for each; or,

3. If devoted to the relief of the destitute at home, it would give employment to four hundred and forty-six thousand three hundred and thirty-three labourers, at £30 per annum; or,

4. It would pay all the poor-rates and ministers' salaries in the country; or, Lastly,—It would furnish instruction to eight million nine hundred and twenty-six thousand, six hundred children, allowing £150 for teachers to each school of one hundred scholars.

[To be continued.]

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF RECHABITES.

On Wednesday evening last the Independent Order of Rechabites held their first Anniversary, according to announcement, at Mr. Vercoe's. On which occasion upwards of sixty persons sat down to a substantial dinner, which was got up in Mrs. Vercoe's usual style.

The Australian Total Abstinence band was in attendance, and acquitted themselves in such a way that would have done credit to any band in the colony; and we take this opportunity of congratulating the total abstinence public on such an acquisition, so that when seasons of festivity occur, and where music is required, it can be had without the fear of having the order and propriety of the meeting violated by the inebriated musician, as has too often been the case. The arrangements were admirable, having a table across the top of the room, and one down each side, by which an open space was left in the centre of the room which was occupied by the band. The chair was occupied by Chief Ruler Chapman, supported by Mr. Garrett on the right, and Mr. Gowland on the left; the Vice-chairs were occupied by Dr. Whittell and Mr. T. Iredale.

When the cloth was withdrawn, the Chairman gave as the first toast of the evening, "The Queen." If we may judge by the reception that this toast met with, we would say that the Rechabites are a most loyal Order.

This toast was responded to by Dr. Whittell in an appropriate speech, which was highly creditable to his head and heart.

The next toast was, "Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family."

Mr. Milward responded to this toast in his usual neat style:

"The Army and Navy," was the next toast. Responded to by Mr. Chapman, who said that it had been his privilege to serve his country for a short period in a ship of war, though in a humble capacity. He felt an interest in all that related to it, and he was satisfied that what had been often said, was well said, that England was indebted for the proud pre-eminence she held amongst the nations, to her Navy.

The Chairman then gave, "Sir George Gipps, the friend of Temperance."

Mr. Vercoe, in replying to this toast, said, he was satisfied that Sir George Gipps was not only the friend of temperance, but of every institution by which the moral and physical condition of the community could be promoted; he had proved himself the friend of the working

classes; and he was sure, that so long as the working classes maintained the character they now possessed for intelligence and industry, so long might they look to Sir George Gipps as "The tyrant's foe," and the poor man's friend. It would be out of place to speak of politics, on an occasion like the present, yet he would say, that if Sir George Gipps had been permitted to carry out his own plans, without being shackled by his instructions from home, and the opposition of an interested clique here, the colony would have been in far different circumstances from that in which it now was.

Upon introducing the next toast, the Chairman said it was one in which all present were deeply interested, viz.: *The land we live in.*

Mr. Hughes responded to this toast, and commenced by saying that this was truly a great country; here is the germ of a mighty nation, only think, fifty years ago, and the ground we now stand upon was a wilderness, but look at it now, you have a City of fair proportion, whose Commercial transactions are of considerable extent, which bespeak her future greatness, and at no distant period she will become the centre of Commerce for this hemisphere. Look at the intelligence of her inhabitants, who, he was sure, would bear comparison in this respect, with any community in the world of the same extent; and though it had been said, that morality was at a very low ebb in the colony, yet he felt proud to say that that charge could no longer be sustained, for there was a vast improvement in the morals of the people,—that both morality and religion were on the increase; and he had no doubt that this City would emulate the mistress of the world in the variety of her institutions, for the advance and spread of religion, and all its concomitants.

The Chairman said, the next toast might be called the toast of the evening, and he had no doubt but it would be responded to heartily by all present: *May the tree of Rechabitism flourish, and may its branches spread and cover the whole earth.*

Mr. Garrett, in replying to this toast, observed, that he stood in an enviable position, considering the relationship he sustained to the brethren present. It was his privilege to introduce the Order into this Colony, and comparing the present number with the number assembled in that room on that day twelve-months, there was much to be proud of. They then numbered five, but the number present, and the Brethren that were absent would make about ninety in one short year; and let it be remembered that this was done in the face of an opposition that was as fruitless as uncalled for. This opposition appeared to have its origin in a fear entertained by some of the *Benefit men*, that if Rechabitism was successful, they must of necessity suffer therefrom; hence they gave it all the opposition in their power. And the very means they took to retard its progress, had a contrary effect; for by their clamour our order was brought into notice, many were led to enquire respecting it, and the result is seen in the number and respectability of the present meeting. He then took a brief view of the rise of the Order in England, in doing which, he observed, that Total Abstinence Societies were instrumental of much good, but they were destitute in themselves of any thing like a bond of Union that was proof against the designs of factious and interested men, and to preserve them from internal eruptions. He illustrated this sentiment by reference to the present state of the Australian Total Abstinence Society, in which were a few men destitute of any thing like ability to manage such a society, who, for the mere gratification of personal feeling, or to promote their own interested end, sacrificed the best interest of the society, the more peaceable retire in disgust, and in too many instances, to their intemperate habits. To remedy those evils, several means have been suggested. In the first place it has been said, engraft teetotalism on religion, and then you have a bond that would prove sufficient. This might do in the case of Churches, were Total Abstinence Societies to become Congregational, and every Church to have its society, the same as the Roman Catholics have in this City, where the Authority of the Church is brought to bear on the conduct of the members,—but what would you do with those who belong to no Church—the inebriate—the abandoned and profligate of society, how will you meet their case, by a congregational society? "I row not," Are they to be left to the tender mercies of the dealers in intoxicating drinks? Or are means to be devised in order to reclaim them? I may be told that the Australian Total Abstinence Society is free from all sectarianism in religion, or party in politics, and therefore is open for all, as a means to bring them to the adoption of total abstinence. I admit it is sufficient, but when they are got into the fold, it

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