

# 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.

Terms of Subscription:—Four Shillings per Quarter, payable in advance.—Five Shillings if left to the end of the Quarter.

SYDNEY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1843.

VOL. 11.—NO. 70.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Your communication is received and under consideration for next week.

### THE GROG TRAFFIC, THE RUIN OF ALL LEGITIMATE COMMERCE, AND THE GREAT DISORGANIZER OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY.

To the Merchants and Settlers in the Colony of New South Wales.

GENTLEMEN,—The pecuniary embarrassment and real distress in which many of you are involved, have now assumed so serious an aspect that we deem it unnecessary to make any apology for addressing you in terms of unfeigned sympathy, of earnest appeal, and of sober counsel. We readily admit, however, that you have made no direct application to us for this, except it be in your oft-repeated announcement, that the colony is ruined—is ruined—thereby meaning, we presume yourselves; at least, including yourselves in the general catastrophe which, you say has come over us. But though you have made no direct appeal to us; and though we admit still farther, that we are probably among the very last, to whom you would think of coming for advice, yet, we shall cheerfully give you the benefit of the Divine injunction—to which we consider it a pleasure as well as a duty to yield implicit obedience—"Weep with those who weep." Besides, you are now in adversity; and as adversity is one of the best of teachers—particularly when it disposes the mind to reflection, and brings it to take a dispassionate and just view of its past transactions, and to a readiness and willingness to abandon that which may have caused or occasioned its downfall, and to embrace that which may lead to a recovery of its lost prosperity on a stable and lasting basis—we are not without a faint hope that some of you will give us a candid perusal, and award us, at least, honesty of intention to benefit you.

We are well aware that several of the conductors of the public press have already been very liberal with their advice and assistance, in pointing out what they consider the great causes of your pecuniary embarrassments, and suggesting various remedies in the form of *infallible specifics*, or panaceas for all your monetary ills; and had we the same faith in these, which they seem to possess in them, we should not trouble you with any *new* advice. But, as we happen not to possess this, and believe that, if the blind lead the blind, both leaders and led are very likely to fall into the ditch, we proceed to show you *our* opinion also. And, as we do this without either *fee* or expectation of favour, all we ask of you is, that you will give us a fair and patient hearing, and follow our counsel, if you think it will be for your good, and the good of the community.

It may be stated as a generally admitted fact, that a great part of your embarrassment has arisen from the large amount of imports into the colony. But, whilst we give our assent to this as a correct view of the case, we differ entirely from most, if not all of our contemporaries in regard to some of the specifications on which this opinion rests. Thus, among the imported articles which are specified as having caused this embarrassment, we find various necessaries of life enumerated—such as bread stuffs and salt provisions; but nothing, we feel persuaded, can be more erroneous than to view them in this light. And for this reason:—You yourselves have admitted that you could not heretofore produce them at so cheap a rate, as you have had them thus brought to your very doors; and by means of them you have been able to live cheaper, and to support your establishments cheaper, than you could otherwise have done. By means of them also, you have been able to employ a greater amount of the effective labour of the country in producing your only really profitable exportable materials than you could otherwise have done; whilst all vessels engaged in the colonial whaling and coasting trade, have been provisioned at a cheaper rate than they could otherwise have been; all of which, has been an actual saving in the expense

connected with producing what has hitherto been your exports—which exports have been your only available means of bringing money into the colony. To represent these imports, therefore, as in any sense the *cause* of your embarrassment is, we feel most thoroughly persuaded, a gross mistake, which your own common sense should have led you long ago to detect, if it did not altogether protect you against it. But, whilst we pass by these as no cause of your distress, and others, though no doubt injurious to your interests, yet altogether of too insignificant a character to have been the production of such serious mischief as that which has come upon you, we beg to call your serious attention to the traffic in grog as the ruin of all legitimate commerce, and the great disorganizer of the monetary affairs of the country.

By legitimate commerce among nations, we mean the exchange which takes place between them of their superabundant necessary—useful—and profitable productions; that is, such productions form the materials of a legitimate commerce between nations; as all, who engage in it, will be sure to receive a necessary, useful, and profitable equivalent in return for what they part with. And, unless such an equivalent be received in return, no wise man will, as a matter of course, engage in it. Or, if he should unhappily do so, it must be at a certain loss; which loss will be continually accumulating the longer he perseveres in it. Or, if he parts with his productions for that which is not only useless and unnecessary to him, but proves a fruitful source of mischief and ruin, it is quite obvious that such commerce cannot be persevered in without sooner or later affecting him in *all his interests*, as regards his general comfort, his ability as a producing power, and his competency as a *pur-chasing* power. Now, the grog traffic is precisely such a commerce as we have here supposed; for it is not only an unnecessary and useless article to us, when viewed as one of common use, but one that has universally proved itself to be the most fruitful agent that exists in producing all the ills which affect the common weal. The history of grog indeed—thereby meaning all intoxicating liquors—is little else than the history of disease, of general degradation of character, of neglect of business, of wild and reckless speculation, of poverty, of dreadful disasters, of crime in all its forms, and of vast multitudes of premature and awful deaths. To part then with useful and valuable commodities, or money, in return for that which is universally known to be the most powerful agent that exists for producing all these, is certainly not an action which comports with wisdom, or with any regard to individual and general well-being. Had you done so, however only to a trifling amount, we readily admit that your prosperity may have been such as to have in a great measure raised you above it. But, it is not so, but far otherwise. The amount indeed which you have long been annually expending upon them, has been of the most appalling character; more, probably, by a great deal than many of you are aware of. Thus in the year 1838,—39,—40,—41, the liquors which you imported are stated in the Custom-house returns, which give only the invoice price of them, to have amounted to £1,186,831. But, in order to approximate to the real amount which has been thus expended, we must add a considerable sum to this for freight and charges, and to allow for smuggling. Now, the right way to look at this matter, is this. During these years—and they are only a fair sample of what has been your common course—you parted with this large amount of your wealth for that which was not only *useless and unnecessary*, but which has proved the fruitful source of the various evils, to yourselves and the community at large, to which we have just referred. And, can it be—think you—that you could thus extract so large an amount from your wealth, and spend it for that which was constantly producing only evil to you, without in the end feeling it affecting all your interests, and throwing them into disorganization and ruin? The thing is impossible.

Some of your political *wisacres* have attri-

buted your distresses to the amount that was paid out of the colony, during five years, for emigration. This, they have stated at £829,840; but, how stands your Foreign Grog Bill during the years 1840 and 1841? Why, during these *two* years alone, you spent on Foreign Grog—at the invoice price, without allowing any thing for freight and other charges—£22,229 more than you did during these five years on emigration! Yet, these political wisacres could see this, and still never refer to it, as a cause of your ruin! "Blind leaders of the blind," you followed them; and where have they led you but "into the ditch?" It is indeed high time that the Legislative affairs of this great country, were in other and *wiser* hands. What consummate nonsense to represent your *emigration* as the cause of your ruin, and to pass by *unnoticed* the amazing amount of your Foreign Grog Bill! It is not saying too much of the men who did this, that they manifested a degree of intellectual incapacity, or of ignorance, which quite unfitted them for grappling with the difficulties of their situation as Legislators of this colony. No, Gentlemen; your Emigration has not ruined you; but supplied you with much effective labour, which you might have turned into a fruitful source of wealth. But, your Grog—your Foreign Grog Bill has robbed you of your wealth—has burdened you with an overwhelming load of debt—and has paralyzed your efforts, by taking away the money to pay for it which ought to have been expended in increasing the outlay connected with your enterprises for bringing out the resources of the country. This, you have not the means of meeting as you ought to have, and might have had but for your Foreign Grog Bill. Thus, by your own act, and deed, you have most seriously injured your capabilities as a producing power; and, so long as you allow the Grog Importer to absorb your wealth in supplying you with that in return which is indescribably worse than *nothing*, your power also to purchase those articles which are really necessary and useful to you, will be diminished; and, just in proportion as these are affected, will the interests of legitimate commerce be injured, and your monetary affairs, and those of the colony in general, will be thrown into confusion; and ultimate ruin, should you unhappily persevere in your present Grog-importing, and Grog-drinking course, will be sure to overtake you. Indeed, without any exaggeration, it may truly be affirmed that, the traffic in Grog is the greatest foe, or obstacle, which exists, to all legitimate commerce between the nations of the earth. Wherever it prevails, the demand and the capability of paying for any thing else, will diminish; so that the traffic in intoxicating liquors is the great disorganizer and ruin of all the branches of legitimate commerce. And, if Great Britain would have her general commerce to prosper, she must *stop* her traffic in Grog; for, just in proportion as she carries on this, will she pervert her own resources into mischief, and diminish the capabilities of her customers to purchase her superabundant productions of a necessary and useful character; for, as drunkenness in the individual, who is addicted to it, is sure to lead to poverty, so the same effect will be sure to follow from it to the community, in which it prevails; and, as poverty pervades a community, just so in the same proportion will its ability as a profitable consumer of Foreign produce be affected. Your pecuniary interests therefore, viewed collectively, as well as individually, are most intimately connected with Teetotalism. If you embrace *this*, and put forth your energies as a virtuous and Teetotal community, you will yet rise like a Phoenix from her ashes, and your path will be onward to a state of prosperity and happiness, such as Australia has never yet seen. But, if unhappily you should still, through some strange infatuation, persevere in your *drinking* course, your ruin is *inevitable*.

That God may give you the wisdom, and the resolution, for ever to renounce the use of all intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, and yet bless you with prosperity and happiness, is the sincere and fervent prayer,

Gentlemen,  
Of your sincere well-wisher,  
THE TEETOTALLER.

### WHO AMONG THE GENTLEMEN OF AUSTRALIA WILL FOLLOW THIS NOBLE EXAMPLE?

"An old man of more than four-score years, afflicted with a bodily infirmity, for which he had been advised by a physician, to use ardent spirit as a medicine, was presented with a constitution of a Temperance Society on the plan of Total Abstinence. He read it, and said, "That is the thing to save our country; I will join it." "No," said one, "you must not join it, because ardent spirit is necessary for you as a medicine." "I know" said he, "that I have used it, but if something is not done, our country will be ruined; and I will not be accessory to the ruin of my country, I will join the Society." "Then," said another, "you will die." "Well," said the old man, "for my country I can die;" and signed the constitution, gave up his medicine, and his disease fled away. It was the remedy that kept up the disease; and when he had renounced the one, he was relieved of the other."—*Temperance Anecdotes and Facts.*

Who the noble-minded man was, who gave utterance to the above sentiments, we know not. Did we know his name, we should propose that it find a most conspicuous place in the roll of the Patriots of his native land, and that his noble resolution should be held up to the imitation of the World. Men of Australia! Intemperance has brought your country to the verge of ruin, and something must be done, or that ruin is inevitable. Embrace and practice the principle of Total Abstinence, from all intoxicating liquors, and you may yet be able to roll back the tide of ruin which threatens to sweep every thing before it; but if you will not do this, your destruction seems inevitable!

(From the *Maitland Mercury*.)

DEATH BY DROWNING.—An untimely death, caused, as it is in most cases, by the accursed habit of drinking, took place last week in our district. A shoemaker named Bryan Egan, a lately arrived immigrant, was found drowned, after a search of five days, in the Cockfighter's Creek. On enquiry by the police magistrate into the particulars of the man's death, it appeared that the deceased had been drinking with some other men until a late hour, at a short distance from his own home. When he started to go home he was accompanied by one of the party with whom he had been drinking, who subsequently left him by the way side, helplessly drunk, at a short distance from the scene of their debauch. It is supposed that the deceased afterwards attempted to cross the creek, which lay between him and his home, and that he fell in and perished. As the man who left him to his fate did not appear at the inquest, he was brought by summons before the bench on Tuesday last, where he underwent a strict examination, and his conduct was justly censured in the strongest terms by the magistrate.

The run on the Saving's Bank which continued during two days of last week, and which would no doubt have gone on, had not the Bank Directors interfered and required the legal notice of the withdrawal of Deposits, seems to have been the result of a malicious hostility against Mr. Miller. By those who are well acquainted with the Sureties which this Bank holds for its Loans, and whose knowledge of the state of things in general in the Colony, enables them to form an opinion which may safely be depended upon, it is stated that no just cause whatever exists for the excitement which was got up on the subject. For the sake of the real interests of the industrious Mechanics and labourers who have money deposited in it, we earnestly hope that they will not allow themselves any longer to be made the dupes of the designing, whose only object, at least their is reason to believe in some instances, is, to induce them to squander their money in the Grog Shop, in place of keeping it up for days of sickness or adversity.

