

MORNING STAR.

Jaffna, Thursday, April 22, 1852.

TEMPERANCE MEETING AT POINT PEIRO.

On Friday, the 16th inst., at 4 o'clock P. M., a meeting was held in the Court House at Point Peiro, at the suggestion of L. Liesching, Esq., to take into consideration the expediency of forming in that place a temperance society on the principle of total abstinence (as a beverage) from all that intoxicates. It was ascertained that upwards of one thousand natives were present on the occasion. Two of the patrons, together with the Secretary, of the Jaffna Total Abstinence Society were in attendance.

Mr. Liesching was called to the chair, and opened the business of the meeting, by briefly stating the reasons for his appearing in public on such an occasion and for recommending the formation of a total abstinence society in that locality.

Mr. Liesching was followed by five or six individuals, European and Tamil, who addressed the meeting, in connection with proposing and seconding a series of resolutions framed for the occasion.

Great interest was manifested by the assembly at what was in progress. After the pledge was introduced and its nature and bearings explained, it was formally signed, first, by the Chairman, then by two European gentlemen present, a sub-collector and a retired magistrate, who were followed by 192 natives. Others would have signed, but night drew on, and operations were suspended. Requests were made that similar meetings might be held in the adjacent villages.

The legitimate use of the temperance pledge is strikingly illustrated in reference to two classes of Hindus,—those who never commenced the use of alcoholic drinks, and those who have, to some extent, been reluctantly brought under their power and influence. The former class are greatly pleased, that there is a legitimate and an approved method of giving expression to their views and feelings, in deprecating any further extension of the ravages of intoxicating liquors in the community. And moderate drinkers, of recent growth, who have not yet lost their character, their property, and their situations, are quite willing to abandon the use of these drinks, when they know that their companions and friends, and also their superiors, whose example they are impelled to imitate, have pledged themselves to do the same.

In the framing of the pledge in English, there was a modification of the usual form which deserves some special notice as bearing favorably, on the whole, upon the progress of reform. As nearly as we can recollect the pledge runs thus: "We solemnly promise henceforth totally to abstain from the use of alcoholic drinks ourselves (excepting for medicinal and sacramental purposes,) and to use our best discretion both by precept and example to discourage the use of them by others." The palpable advantage of its form of the pledge is, that it allows the person who has subscribed to it, to furnish the accustomed drinks to a guest, if he conscientiously believe, that by so doing, he shall on the whole better serve the cause of total abstinence, or in the farther hope of bringing his guest into the light of truth on this subject, than by refusing to administer to him the desired draught.

We are, however, of the opinion that the best discretion of a majority of those who have pledged themselves, will prompt them not to furnish such drinks for their guests, seeing it is fully competent for them to furnish their own tables according to their own convictions as to what it is proper to provide, and as to what is the best mode of testifying to the truth and importance of the temperance principles and practices they have adopted.

FROM THE CAPE.—FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE AT SEA.—Papers from the Cape to the 4th of March have been received at Colombo. The Kaffirs had obtained a truce, but the period had expired and hostilities had been resumed. The item, however, of the most intense and painful interest, is the loss of Her Majesty's steamer *Birkenhead*, having on board 650 persons, mostly soldiers and seamen, all of whom perished, excepting about 50 persons who saved themselves by the steamer's boats. The loss of the splendid vessel and hapless inmates, was caused by the steamer's striking a rock, soon after leaving Simon's Bay.

PROGRESS OF THE MAINE LAW.—Very great exertions are being made in several States of the American Union to secure the passage of an anti-liquor law, similar to the famous and excellent Maine law. We wish them every success in so good a work. Such a law commends itself to the good sense and sound judgment of the great mass of intelligent lovers of progress, right, and humanity.

ACCIDENTS.—A seaman was drowned at Colombo recently, having fallen from the side of the vessel where he was at work. Another was killed on board the ship *Waterloo*, just as she was setting sail for England. The poor fellow fell from the main top sail yard to the deck, and was so injured that he died almost immediately.

For the Morning Star.

REASONS FOR BEING A TEETOTALER.

The following reasons for becoming a teetotaler are addressed to those of my friends who have hitherto in common with myself been opposed to the principles of the movement. I have arranged them in the form of a dialogue as best expressing the workings of my mind.

CONSCIENCE AND REASON.

Con. Is the moderate use of wine forbidden in Scripture?
 Reas. (Emphatically) No!

Con. Is drunkenness increasing among the natives of this island?
 Reas. It has hitherto been rapidly increasing. Statistics and observation show it.

Con. Do Europeans and Bachelors think you, drink on the whole less or more than is good for their health?
 Reas. My experience leads me to believe that by far the larger proportion drink more than is good for them, leaving altogether out of the question, actual drunkards.

Con. Is it not your Christian duty as a member of society, to endeavor to find out the best means of checking the evil?
 Reas. It is imperatively so.

Con. If when found, a personal sacrifice be necessary will you make it?
 Reas. I will.

Con. But would Scripture warrant your sacrificing the moderate enjoyment of that which it permits?
 Reas. Certainly, under certain circumstances. St. Paul practiced celibacy and recommended it, while he expressly says marriage is lawful and honorable.

Con. Do you believe that recommending natives to be moderate in the use of alcohol will check the evil?
 Reas. I do not. They have never learned to regulate or control their passions; and experience and the testimony of the most respectable among themselves show, that as a rule—to which there are, of course exceptions—a native who commences by using, ends by abusing intoxicating liquors.

Con. Would the rising generation, European and native, be happier than the present were the principles of teetotalism to be now adopted by the world in general?
 Reas. If we may judge from the past it would be infinitely more so. We cannot tell what delusions, or evils, worse than drunkenness, may await the world; but humanly speaking thousands of children around us, sporting in innocence and health, are, if the present state of things is to continue, the marked victims of that fiend, *intemperance*, which lurks in the halls of conviviality, mingles in our social feasts, and, unseen, sates his victim in an unguarded hour while he holds the cup of pleasure to his lips.

Con. But is not the preaching of the gospel the surest and most scriptural cure for the evil you lament?
 Reas. It is; and wherever its power is left, intemperance vanishes before it. But drunkenness is a sore obstacle to its spread. It raises barriers no moral arm can break; and none surely will contend, while holding that Christianity is the main weapon, that no means are to be used for clearing the way for its reception. The principle is admitted in all our missionary and educational establishments.

Con. Can you recommend teetotalism without practicing it?
 Reas. Not consistently nor effectually.

Con. Had you a dear relation living with you in danger of intemperance, could you be assured for excluding alcohol from your table?
 Reas. It would be most dangerous for me to do otherwise.

Con. May you not then give your philanthropy wider range and exclude it for the sake of brethren throughout the world?
 Reas. I may and will.

Con. But will not your health suffer?
 Reas. I have suffered much—often from excess than from abstinence; but I do not consider a very moderate drinker, and the experience I have made for some weeks convinces me I not only do not require alcohol as a beverage but am much better without it.

Con. One question more and I have done. Are there not dangers on the side of teetotalism which we have not considered?
 Reas. There are. We may become intoxicated with the preaching abstinence, and turn our heads on the subject of its advantages; look on it as the panacea for all evils; give it a position which Scripture does not warrant, and censure the many excellent of the earth who do not look on the subject in the same light with ourselves. Ultra teetotalers of this kind there undoubtedly are; and they are unaccountably among the worst enemies of the cause; and this eagerness must be carefully and prayerfully guarded against.

I would now submit for the consideration of all who read this, three questions, namely:

1. Do you believe that as a European and a Christian, placed by the providence of God in a heathen country, it is your duty to endeavor to advance the good of the people? Is the best thing you could do to check the intemperance which is prevailing to such an extent among the people?

2. Has any better course than teetotalism occurred to you? If so I pray you proclaim it to the world; it will be one of the greatest boons you can confer on it.

Point Peiro, April 18, 1852.

The Pledge.—I do solemnly declare that I will abstain from all intoxicating drinks and drugs, and discourage their use throughout the community both by precept and example.

*This does not apply to religious or medical purposes.

NATIVE FEMALE EDUCATION.—The *Englishman* informs us, that Noindra Singh, the Rajah of Coorg, has arrived in Calcutta on his way to England, whither he intends to carry his daughter to complete her education. She has already been partially educated by an English lady, and it was reported about six months ago, that she had been married to Jung Bahadour, and had proceeded with him to Nepal. The departure of a native princess to England solely for the purpose of being educated in western accomplishments is one of the most remarkable events of the day.

Friend of India.

REMINISCENCES OF A RECENT VISIT TO AMERICA, NO. 11.

At White's Hill, a hamlet in Stroud parish Gloucestershire, Mrs. Poor and myself met with a cordial reception in the family of Mr. John Knight. Mr. Knight is an old gentleman, then in his 86th year, but retaining an unusual degree of vigor both of body and mind. It was creditable by his whole appearance that he was indeed the father of the late Rev. Joseph Knight, the founder of the Church Mission in this province, and one of my earliest associates in mission labors. My long and intimate acquaintance with his son Joseph, and his own deep interest in the missionary cause furnished subject matter for many protracted conversations;—so that my intercourse with him seemed to furnish some approximation to what might have been his joy and surprise, had he received a visit from his deceased son after many years absence; especially was this the case, if we take into the account an actual visit, at the same time, from his eldest daughter whom he had expected never more to see on earth. Mr. Knight for upwards of 30 years officiated as a deacon, or reader in a dissenting chapel of lady Huntington's "Connection" at Ebley. This situation had furnished him opportunity for an extensive acquaintance with dissenting ministers, and with the state of dissenting churches throughout that vicinity;—nor was he altogether unacquainted with the affairs of "the church," from which he is a dissenter. He took a lively interest also in the affairs of the state as well as of the church. It was therefore a matter of some special interest to me, after my long residence in the land of the benighted, to have free intercourse with one of the "operatives" of England, who for upwards of 80 years had evidently been making close observations upon men and things in such a country. The character and demeanor of this venerable man were in full accordance with the best impressions I had ever cherished regarding my puritan ancestors of other times. I could not therefore but regard it as an after part of my marriage dowry, that I might call him father. As I had never any desire to live beyond the age of "three-score years and ten," I began, on seeing the vigor and usefulness of this venerable patriarch, to question the propriety of having entreated such a sentiment, and to cast in my mind the desirableness of witnessing the progress of the campaign in the mission field yet for another generation. It then became a matter of inquiry in my mind as to what had been the means and appliances by which Mr. Knight had, to so great an extent, retained the vigor of youth, and had attained to so great an expansion of thought and feeling, both on things earthly and heavenly. Though I was unable fully to analyze the matter, it was most evident that the fact, together with its manifold bearings, of his having given up three children—two only remaining sons and a daughter to the foreign mission service,—was by no means the last of the inferences by which his character in the largest and best sense of the word, had been formed. For I perceived, that while he is a full blooded Englishman, he is, in his sympathies and interests, also an Asiatic islander and an African,—inasmuch as his second son, the Rev. Charles Knight, a missionary to western Africa, now sleeps in dust at Freetown—and his eldest son, after a life of usefulness in Jaffna, now lies entombed at Cotta,—both waiting, we trust, in joyful hope, for the resurrection morn.

As some of our youthful native readers may not fully apprehend the bearings of giving up three children to the foreign missionary enterprise upon one's own mind, in the way of enlarging and elevating the thoughts and feelings, I will give an illustration of the subject, on lower grounds, by relating an incident that came to my knowledge during my absence from the mission field. On one Saturday afternoon John A. B. was seen running down street, when he was earnestly hailed by C. D. "Stop John, stop; where are you going? We are going to have a game of ball in E. F.'s orchard and you must go with us." "Can't stop," replied John. "I am going down to the school-house." "What are you going there for to-day? Don't you know it is Saturday?" "I am going to the missionary meeting, I can't stop now." "But why do you want to go to such a meeting and not come and play with us?" "O" replied John, "I have got a share in the concern. I have given six pence, and I want to know what they are going to do." Though John might not have been the son of a nobleman, he was assuredly a noble little fellow, and I should like much to know his after history. And does not this little incident furnish a solution of the problem, as to how it happens that many high-minded and right-minded persons have no share or interest in many weighty concerns which are ever at hand courted their attention, viz: that they have never contributed six pence in aid of them.

INC.—We learn from the Examiner that a cargo of ice from Boston, U. S., Dec. 29, arrived at Colombo on the 9th inst. A constant supply of this luxury may be expected at Colombo.

We have an article from a correspondent, on Native Marriages, which, though in type, we are obliged, by press of matter, to defer to a future number.

