

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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THEIR HONORS THE JUDGES.

By a Return lately furnished to the Legislative Council, it will be seen that the amount of litigation is enormous for so small a community, consequently, the labour of the Judges is enormous.

We are peculiarly fortunate in this country in having three able, upright, and conscientious men to discharge the very important duties which devolve upon the Judges. This being the case, we are desirous to see their Honors in some measure relieved from the pressure which is now made upon them, that they may have that time for "relaxation and repose" which the nature of their duties demands; it is not advisable that they should, to use the words of the Chief Justice in the Council, "die in harness."

Some persons may be ready to say, what has the severe labour imposed on the Judges to do with Teetotalism? To this we answer, their Honors must be relieved in some way; the country cannot afford at the present time to pay any more Judges; we know that the majority of the criminal cases, and a great number of the civil cases are caused, directly or indirectly, by the use of intoxicating drinks, we therefore propose to lighten the labours of their Honors, by the spread of Teetotalism.

The proportion of cases which arise from the use of intoxicating drinks, is very large: take, for instance, one single case—the barefaced attempt at smuggling a lot of spirits under the name of Benecarlo Wine. A great deal of the time of the Chief Justice has been occupied in hearing and deciding upon that case in the Vice-Admiralty Court, judgment has been pronounced, and yet, last week, the defendant had the effrontery to come again before the Court and a special Jury, and to occupy their time with endeavouring to prove that a mixture, which upon being analysed, is found to contain 27 per cent of alcohol, is wine.

In proof of what we have asserted, that a great deal of the litigation in the Supreme Court arises from the use of intoxicating drinks, we will relate one case, which made a strong impression on our mind. An old man, who resided near Scone, Patrick's Plains, a weaver by trade, received payment for some work he had performed in orders, one for £2 8s., and another for 10s. He called at the house of his son-in-law, a publican in Scone, and got something to drink. He got so much, that his son-in-law would not serve him with any more. The old man left the public house, the only one in the place, highly exasperated. At the moment he remembered that there resided in the village, a blacksmith, who was fond of a drop. The old man hied away to this place, and gave the blacksmith's wife the order for 10s. to get some brandy. After the old man had drunk one glass, he laid down and went to sleep. About ten o'clock at night, his son-in-law heard that he was there, and fetched him away; when he got him to his house, he found that the order for £2 8s. was missing. The woman had changed it at a store, and bought some articles of dress with it, she said that the old man gave it to her; the son-in-law, not satisfied with her story, gave her in charge for a robbery. She was confined one month in the lock-up, waiting the arrival of the Police Magistrate, when the case came on for trial, the old man would not swear that he had been robbed, and the woman was discharged.

The blacksmith commenced an action against the son-in-law, to recover damages for false imprisonment: the case was heard in Sydney before Mr. Justice STEPHEN, and a verdict given for the defendant.

A motion was then made before the three Judges for a new trial: the motion was granted, likewise a special jury.

The witnesses were again brought down the country, some of them from New England. One of the most respectable juries we have ever seen, were engaged in listening to the case from ten in the morning till seven at night; they then returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 1s. The Judge remarked that perjury had been committed by some of the party.

We have been informed that the cost in these actions ultimately paid by the inn-keeper, amounted to £480.

No wonder that the subject of Total Abstinence, whenever it is incidentally mentioned in the Supreme Court, excites a smile or a sneer from some of the gentlemen of the long robe.

If their Honors the Judges would lend their aid in carrying out the great moral movement of the day, the same results would undoubtedly follow here, as those which have already taken place in Ireland. If Teetotalism prevails, there will be far less duty for their Honors to perform, which will be as agreeable to their over-taxed bodily powers, as it will be gratifying to every well-regulated mind.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot insert any correspondence in reference to the circular issued by Mr. Currey, sen.; we refused to insert it as a letter. Those who wish to answer it, must go to the same expense which he has done. We would recommend to all Teetotalers at the present time, the consideration of the commandment,—"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Teetotalism is a most important thing, but it is not every thing—it will not supply the place of morality, justice, and religion.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

An animated debate took place in the Council on Tuesday, the 23rd instant, on the rights of the Aborigines. The sentiments expressed by the Governor and the Bishop on this subject, were most excellent. We are sorry that our limits will not allow us to enter into the subject; we will, however, give one sentence from the Bishop's speech. "The Charter on which the earth was originally granted to man's use, was, that he should replenish and subdue it; but we must have no one-sided view of the law laid down by our creator; we must not pretend to be replenishing and subduing the soil, while we are taking measures which must lead to its depopulation, by destroying those who were originally placed in it." Such sentiments are worthy of attention at the present time. We understand that the whites are becoming very troublesome to the blacks at Moreton Bay.

A Clause to prevent distillation has very properly been inserted in the bill for incorporating the Australasian Sugar Company.

THE CIRCUIT COURTS.—The Judges have arranged their Circuits. The Chief Justice opens the Court at Maitland, on Monday, the 5th September; Mr. Justice Stephen at Berri-ma, on Wednesday, the 14th; and Mr. Justice Burton at Bathurst, on Monday, the 26th.

AUSTRALIAN TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—The usual Meeting of this Society was held on Thursday night; Mr. Rowe in the chair. In consequence of the space occupied by the report of the meeting for the election of officers, we have not room for the speeches made on the occasion.

ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.—This Society has divided into two parties; one held their meeting in Castlereagh-street, the Rev. P. Farrelly in the chair; and the other in the Olympic Theatre, Mr. M'Guigan in the chair. Both places were well attended.

INQUEST.—An Inquest was held a few days ago, on the body of a woman residing in Queens' Place, who hung herself while in a state of intoxication. She has left six children unprovided for. The inquest was held at the Crooked Billet, the nearest public-house.

INSOLVENT COURT.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25.

The examination of J. B. Hewson, formerly a publican at the Wollombi, was resumed.

William Chambers, also a publican at the Wollombi, deposed:

I have known the insolvent for some years. I recollect a man of the name of Smith being in his employ, who came to my house in the month of May last; he was then returning from Maitland, with a horse and cart, in company with two bullock teams; he was tipsy at the time, as well as the other persons with him; when I saw that he was tipsy, I wanted him to stop at my house all night, as he had a load of valuable things; I unloaded the cart, and before I went to bed, Smith said, that he had some money, and took some notes out of his pocket and counted them over to me; there were either two or three £5 notes, and I think some £1 notes.

The Chief Commissioner told Chambers at the conclusion of his examination, that the prevaricating manner in which he had answered, showed him to be an improper man for a publican.

George Ingray, called by Mr. Michie, deposed: I am a constable; I live at the Wollombi; I know the "Rising Sun" at the Wollombi, of which the landlord is Mr. Chambers; I recollect being there on or about the 14th or 15th of May last, when the man Smith was there; Chambers came out to me; I saw some money on that occasion; I cannot say the amount; I saw the notes in Chambers's hand, and he told me that he had taken some £5 notes, and some £1 notes from the man Smith; the money was not counted before me; I did not see it counted back either to Smith or Hewson; I never to my knowledge told any one that I saw one hundred five and one pound notes, or a great number of notes counted out to Chambers; I won't swear that I did not say so at Wollombi or at Sydney, or not; I might have said so when I was drunk; I did not see a hundred five pound notes; I swear I did not say so to any one when I was sober; I do not know a man named Sergeant Lee; there was a sergeant there drinking with the rest of us, but I do not know whether his name was Lee or not; I won't swear that I did not say to him that I saw one hundred five pound notes counted out.

The Chief Commissioner said, that although he was morally satisfied there was fraud somewhere, still there was no legal evidence before him to warrant a committal, and therefore the insolvent must be dismissed. He would however, forward a letter to the Police Magistrate of the District, recommending that Ingray may be dismissed from the Police.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Windsor, August 26th, 1842.

DEAR SIR,—

On Wednesday last, we had another teetotal meeting here. The place seemed in an uproar again. The Landlords were up in arms; the same man as before had his decanters at the windows, dressed out in full uniform. Mr. Lewis was from town, and I had to fill his place. At 7 o'clock the room was crammed full. Mr. Samuel Paul addressed the meeting first, Mr. Hambley followed. Mr. Paul then arose again to relate his own experience. He had been a drunkard when young, he spent money at the public-house; the Publican charged, on the following day, two shillings and sixpence for the liquor he had had, which only amounted to one shilling and two pence. The publican urged him to rob his parents to discharge the debt. This last exasperated the publicans, and disorder and confusion reigned. The Publicans spoke loudly and largely against this fact, till a teetotaler, who formerly was a great drunkard, told the Meeting that he could prove the same of the Windsor Publicans. This settled them, and the Teetotalers stood up to a man, and gave three hearty good Hurrahs! Messrs. Jones and Powers followed Mr. Paul, and afterwards your humble servant. I was interrupted by a drunken man, who wished to enter into an argument, but he was so drunk that I think he could only hear my voice; I don't think he could see. Some of the opposers spoke through him; but every argument of theirs tended to weaken their own cause. Eleven signed at the time, and twenty-seven pledges were given in, making in all 38. After the meeting numbers remained at the door; and a drunkard or two, who had become Teetotalers, let the cat out of the bag, and gave it to the Publicans in fine style.

Our next meeting is to be held on Wednesday next, when we shall be very happy to see yourself and as many of the Sydney Teetotalers as can come. The people on every hand are anxious and desirous of seeing Teetotalism planted in every part of the surrounding districts, and we do anticipate a great and glorious victory over intemperance in this part. Perhaps you will give particulars to Mr. Currey to put this in the "Teetotaler." Write me by return of post.

I remain, yours, &c.,

JOHN WATSFORD.

To Mr. JOHN NEALE.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

To the Editor of the Teetotaler.

Newcastle, August 16, 1842.

SIR—I have now the honour to report to you on a subject that is near and dear to my heart, it having afforded me a peace of mind I had until then long been a stranger to, namely, the Total Abstinence Society, which, as a subscriber, I should feel obliged by your inserting the same in your valuable and much esteemed Journal.

It is now about a month since the town of Newcastle and its vicinity was favoured with a visit from that well-known gentleman, Mr. Currey, who spared neither labour nor expense to promote a cause which he has for years been endeavouring to achieve, namely, abstaining from all intoxicating liquors. A doctrine, if persevered in, will speedily do away with the many evils which have so long and painfully existed in this immoral country. To that never to be forgotten visit, I am, thank God, indebted for my present feelings, and what I now can boast of. I am a mechanic, and since the period of Mr. C.'s visit, up to the present date, I have saved £8, and made over-time nearly as much more; a duty I owe to the public at large induces me to give publicity to the same, that all those who read it may go and do likewise. Believe me, I feel that I have arrived at the brightest era of my life; and proud I am to acknowledge that at length I am aroused from that fatal lethargy that had so long, alas! embittered the past. I am no longer "mine host's" friend; no longer a dread to my house—having worked long enough for the rum-palaces, fines and batons no longer disturb my repose. I have conquered that deadly foe. Experience has taught me a more useful lesson—one of easy digestion. My present prospects contrasted to my former, is without a parallel. Thomas is himself again—using the language of an immortal bard. I therefore entreat and conjure every man and woman not to lose the golden opportunity, but at once hasten before it is too late to join the pledge; to say the least, give it a trial! It will bring them to a sense of their recollection, by blushing at the past.

I will now conclude by stating, had I been of the same opinion and acting as I now am, this day would have found me at my ease. I therefore earnestly implore every one to do their part to facilitate so good and laudable a cause, the accomplishment of which, we may all with one voice cry out, Advance Australia!

Yours, &c. &c.,

THOMAS REYNOLDS,
Carpenter.

To the Editor of the Teetotaler.

Newcastle, August 23, 1842.

DEAR SIR—When I wrote you yesterday, I was not aware that our friend T—— intended to visit Sydney so early. I hoped to have leisure for a letter containing all our proceedings since the Teetotal banner has been unfurled at Newcastle. I informed you yesterday, of the intended meeting of last night. Mr. Blain called on the Chief Magistrate, who readily granted the use of the Court-house; the chair was taken at seven o'clock, by Mr. McGraw. After stating the object of the meeting, the Chairman called on Mr. Blain, who came forward and introduced the subject, by comparing himself to a Crown Prosecutor having a most notorious monster to bring before the court, (the name of the monster, Alcohol,) accused of every crime by the prosecutor; who continued his accusation for upwards of two hours, amidst repeated applause from a crowded assembly, who listened with the deepest attention to the subject, and repeatedly expressed their approbation of the trial. During the trial, (lecture) the worthy gentleman introduced a variety of cases of swindling, seduction, suicide, murder, &c. &c., that had come under his own knowledge, and concluded by calling on the assembled multitude to come forward and enroll their names, as the Jury, who, he was satisfied, would condemn the monster, and banish him from Society. I much wished for your pen, to have taken the whole of the lecture, it would have afforded you much pleasure, and furnished matter for the paper; we require thirteen copies every week, and the back numbers since the 12 have been sent, likewise some printed receipts for the paper. Our next meeting will be on Monday next, and every fortnight, till further notice.

I almost forgot to say we gave the pledge to the Chief Constable, and a few others after the lecture. The Steamer is in sight, so I must conclude.

Yours truly,

J. THURM.