

BRITISH WORKMAN



No. 10.] PUBLISHED FOR THE EDITOR BY MESSES. PARTRIDGE & CO.; A. W. BENNETT; AND W. TWEEDIE, LONDON. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

CELEBRATED BARBERS.

SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT, the celebrated patentee of the Spinning Jenny, was originally a poor barber.

From that valuable work, "Parade of Knowledge under Difficulties," we gather the following condensed account of this noted character. His parents were very poor, and he was the youngest of a family of thirteen children; so that we may suppose the school education he received, if he ever was at school at all, was extremely limited. Indeed, but little learning would probably be deemed necessary for the profession to which he was bred. The business of a barber he continued to follow till he was nearly thirty years of age. About the year 1760, however, he gave up shaving, and commenced business as an itinerant dealer in hair, collecting that commodity by travelling up and down the country, and then after he had dressed it, selling it again to the wig makers, with whom he very soon acquired the character of keeping a better article than any of his rivals in the same trade. He had obtained possession, too, of a secret method of drying the hair, by which he doubtless contrived to augment his profits; and, perhaps, in his becoming acquainted with this little piece of chemistry, we may find the germ of that sensibility he soon began to manifest to the value of new and unpublished inventions in the arts, and of his passion for patent-rights, and the pleasures of monopoly.

It would appear that his first effort in mechanics was an attempt to discover the perpetual motion. In connection with this project he formed an acquaintance with a clock-maker, which had a powerful influence on his future career. In 1768 the two friends appeared together at Preston, and immediately began to occupy themselves in the erection of a machine for the spinning of cotton-thread, of which they had brought a model with them. At this time, Arkwright was so poor, that, an election contest having taken place in the town of which he was a burgess, it is asserted that his friends or party were obliged to subscribe to get him a decent suit of clothes before they could bring him into the poll-room. He shortly afterwards left Lancashire with his model, through fear of the hostility of the people, and went to Nottingham, where Messrs. Reed and Strutt were so well satisfied with his new machine as to take him into partnership with them. It required great energy, determination and tact, however, to overcome the multiplied difficulties that lay in his way, and for a long time the speculation was a hazardous and unprofitable one. It did not begin to pay, he tells us, till it had been persevered in for five years, and had swallowed up a capital of more than twelve thousand pounds. In time, however, his ingenuity and perseverance were rewarded,

and he found himself raised to a position of rank and affluence, and now he is regarded as the founder of a new branch of national industry, which occupies the first place among the manufactures of our country.

thirteen years of age, and was admitted to holy orders before he had attained the age of twenty-one. Though I suffered many changes of fortune during the civil commotions of the 17th century, yet his talents and worth

a native of Shrewsbury, and died in 1766. His father followed the trade of a barber, and tried to bring up his son to the same occupation; but such was the lad's unconquerable love of books, that his father was in utter despair of making Jack a good shaver, when his strong predilection for literature recommended him to the patronage of a gentleman of fortune, to whom he was chiefly indebted for the advantages of an academic education. For many years he gave his attention to law and classic literature, but in his forty-seventh year he took orders, and became rector of Lawford in 1751, archdeacon of Buckingham in 1753, and canon residentiary of St. Paul's in 1757.

LORD CHARLES ABBOTT TENTERDEN, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, who died in 1832, was the son of a Canterbury Barber. His father is described as a "tall, erect, primitive-looking man, with a large club pig-tail, going about with the instruments of his business, and attended frequently by his son CHARLES, a youth as decent, grave, and primitive-looking as himself."

LORD ST. LEONARDS, the Ex-Lord Chancellor of England, who is regarded by the "bar" as one of the most talented lawyers that ever occupied the woolsack, is the son of a hairdresser.

JOHN KERHAW, of Leeds, deserves a place in our list of celebrated barbers. When he commenced business for himself thirty years ago, he announced to his customers, "This shop is closed on Sundays." Some predicted his speedily having to close altogether. John became a Sunday-school teacher and employed his "day of rest" in doing and getting good. Being fond of reading, he purchased a few good periodicals and laid them in his shop for customers to read whilst waiting to be shaved. Some expressed a desire to purchase the papers monthly, and John undertook to supply them. This small beginning has led to important results, for at the present day there are issued from the barber's little shop in Meadow Lane, from 70,000 to 100,000 periodicals and tracts yearly!

The Sabbath-keeping barber has prospered, for he has recently opened a printing establishment, and JOHN KERHAW AND SON now appear in the list of publishers in the town of Leeds!

A BARBER is one who makes a trade of shaving or trimming the beards of other men for money. Antiently a lute, viol, or some such musical instrument, made part of the furniture of a barber's shop. Much then used to be frequented by persons above the ordinary level of the people, who resorted to the barber, either for the cure of wounds, or to undergo some surgical operation, or, as it was then called, to be trimmed, a word that signified either shaving, or cutting and curling the hair;—these, together with letting blood, formed the ancient occupation of the barber-surgeon. The instruments in his shop were for the entertainment of waiting customers, and answered the end of a newspaper.



JEREMY TAYLOR, a theologian of high reputation, Bishop of Down and Connor, and author of several valuable and well-known works was the son of a barber. He entered Cain college as a sizar, or poor scholar, when

attracted regard, and he received the honors which were his due. He died in the fifty-fifth year of his age, in the year 1667.

JOHN TAYLOR, LL.D., a very learned philologist, was



HARVEST HOME SUPPERS.

✓ The thanks of the working classes are due to the Earl of Albemarle, Earl of Leicester, Hon. and Rev. E. S. Keppel, Rev. W. Beal, Charles Buxton, Esq., and other landed proprietors of Norfolk, for the efforts they have recently made in seeking to break up the ruinous drinking customs associated with the Harvest Home Suppers of that county. Instead of the public-house scenes which have annually disgraced this county, the year 1855 has to record various interesting open-air festivals, tea meetings, and fruit services, at which not only the agricultural labourer, but also

his wife and children have not only been regaled with an excellent repast, but also gratified with the sweet strains of music, and various excellent speeches from the friends of the poor.

There is something pleasing in the blending of the wealthy with the workmen of our country, and we trust the good example set by Norfolk, will be followed in other counties. We hope that a somewhat similar movement will be made at the approaching Christmas relative to "baking suppers," which have, too frequently, proved an annual curse to the working man's family.

they had to undergo last winter. Forty or fifty men were busily at work removing the wood,

when, as we learn from the Correspondent of the "Times," of October 16—"Some drunken sailors who were rambling about were observed to enter, and one of these, it is asserted, fired a shot into some loose powder by the lighted candles of the pipe." The explosion to which we have referred, took place; the poor sailor belonging to the 21st Regiment of Fusiliers was killed on the spot, the other men, in escaping with their lives, and the immense provision for the poor soldiers was burnt to ashes. No scrap could be saved. The building shortly presented the appearance of a large Lancashire Cotton Mill turned on the bottom to the top. It was too bad of you, Jack!

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
ANOTHER communication cannot be noticed. We have to thank numerous correspondents for their interesting communications. If we have not replied in all requisite cases, it is because we could possibly do so for want of time. Ask the back numbers have been registered.

NEW AND CHEAP POSTAGE.
Packets of the "British Workman" may be had per year, by sending to address postage stamps as under to the publishers, Patridge, Oakley, and Co., Paternoster Row, London.
4 copies for 4d. Or for one year 4d. A packet containing numbers 12 to 24. 1 to 10 will be sent post free on 20 "lb. sd." 20s. receipt of ten postage stamps.
24 "lb. sd." 24s.

AN OFFER.
We are glad to find that many farmers and others in workshops are converting for new subscribers. To encourage such efforts we are willing to pay to any person procuring twelve new subscribers, for each more than three months, as extra copy gratis. A packet containing thirteen copies will be sent post free on 20 "lb. sd." 20s. receipt of ten postage stamps. Patridge, Oakley, and Co., Paternoster Row, London.
For 12 months, 12s. For 6 months, 6s. For 3 months, 3s.

SWEARING.
I CAN conceive no reason why a man should swear, but ten reasons why he should not.
1. It is mean.
2. It is vulgar; altogether too low for a decent man.
3. It is cowardly; implying a fear either of not being believed or of being outwitted.
4. It is ungentlemanly. A gentleman, according to Webster, is a gentleman, well-bred, refined. Such a one will no more swear than go into the street to throw mud with you.
5. It is indecent; offensive to decency, and extremely unfit for a gentleman.
6. It is foolish. "Want of decency is want of sense."
7. It is abusive—to the mind which conceives the oath, to the tongue which utters it, and to the person at whom it is aimed.
8. It is vain.
9. It is unchristian.
10. It is wicked; violating the divine law and provoking the displeasure of Him who will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Letters for the Editor, to be addressed to the Editor, The British Workman, Patridge, Oakley, and Co., Paternoster Row, London.
Printed by G. WATSON, 5, Grace Street, London, East-End.

THE QUEEN AND THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

On the arrival in England of Miss Stanley, one of the Ladies who so kindly offered their services to assist in the Hospital at Scutari, where our wounded and sick Soldiers and Sailors are sent, (but who was obliged to return home on account of her health), she was closely interrogated by the Queen as to the state of the Hospital where she had been employed, and she was particularly desired to say whether everything was provided for the poor sufferers that they required. Miss Stanley answered that they had everything they wanted, and that the Hospital was well supplied with all that was necessary. It appeared, however, that this answer was not quite satisfactory to the Queen, and further inquiry was made as to whether the poor men never expressed a wish for any articles of diet that the Hospital did not furnish. In reply to this close examination, Miss Stanley said that certainly there were few things occasionally asked for, and she added "your Majesty will be amused to hear that one man told me he thought he should soon recover if he could but have some trussard and bread for breakfast—and another said the same about gingerbread nuts." The Queen, who seemed much affected at this recital, made some compassionate remarks about their sufferings, and the conversation ended. In the week following this interview with Miss Stanley, when the account of expenses at Windsor Castle was submitted for payment to the Comptroller of the Household, there appeared to the astonishment of this gentleman two articles of unusual magnitude, namely, several hundred weight of gingerbread nuts, and a similar quantity of "last trussard," with a note of explanation, of "they had been sent to the Hospital of Scutari, for the use of the sick and wounded, by Her Majesty's special order!"

"SOMETHING MUST BE DONE."

At a recent agricultural meeting in Norfolk, the Earl of Leicester delivered a most powerful and touching address, and whilst mourning over England's beating vice, he called upon his hearers and the country at large to take action. "Something must be done," said the noble Earl, "to put a stop to intemperance." "Something should be done," said the brave Earl of Albemarle, recently, and he forthwith struck a blow at the drinking customs of the harvest home suppers, which has resounded through every part of the land. On *yes, something must be done, and done quickly, or England will sink in the scale of nations.* Our police reports daily bear lamentable evidence of the increase of intemperance amongst females. And with so many drunken mothers, what can be expected of their children?

There are societies and individuals who for years past have been striving to stem the fearful torrent, but gin palaces and beer shops rise as if by magic at nearly every corner of every street, and now the giant evil bids us defiance. Christians of England, Fathers and Mothers, "something must be done," or many of your church members and children will assuredly fall a sacrifice to the modern Moloch.

We think that much has been done, and much is still being done for the suppression of intemperance, by men who love their country and their kindred. But there is a loud call for more labours.

Perhaps there is no christian minister whose unvaried labours in this work during the last twenty years have been more signally blessed than the Rev. Robert Gray Mason. Although but few newspaper reports may have told of the efforts of this good man, he has gone from town to town, and from village to village throughout the three Kingdoms, living not only Temperance, but Christ the Sinner's Friend, without any more moral reformer can avail. Many, we doubt not, will in the great day of account, rise up to call him "blessed."

Endowed with a great constitution, and an energetic mind, he appears to have devoted his time and talents, to battling with this master vice of our land, and we rejoice to learn that from the pulpits of upwards of 300 Scotch churches Mr. Mason's voice has been heard. If every country would secure the services of a labourer in this great work, like Mr. Mason, temperance, frugality, and domestic peace, would in thousands of cases, soon supersede intemperance, profligacy, and domestic misery.

"Something must be done," and done quickly. Let each one be ready to bear his share of toil and cost in the conflict with the Hydra-headed monster—Intemperance.

WHATSOEVER
THY
HAND FINDER
TO DO,
DO IT WITH THY
MIGHT.

ROBERT GRAY MASON.

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READING FOR SOLDIERS.

WHATERS view may be entertained by our readers relative to the lamentable war in which this country is engaged, all will rejoice to learn that by a recent postal regulation, four ounces of printed matter can now be sent by any soldier or sailor in the Crimea, Turkey, or the Black Sea, for 1d.; 8 ounces for 2d.; and 16 ounces for 4d. We have reasons to believe that packets of the "British Workman" will be most acceptable of the poor soldiers during the approaching winter, and we trust that many of our readers will send out a supply. For One shilling will send out a packet of 12 copies POST FREE. A Liverpool lady has just forwarded us £2 for forty packets, which are to be sent to the care of Rev. D. A. R. at Sebastopol. We shall be glad to forward a few thousand packets.