

ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF THE LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BAND OF HOPE UNION.

THE very extensive spread of temperance among the young affords abundant proof that the Band of Hope movement is designed by Almighty God to accomplish an important part in the social and moral improvement of our people. This movement, like the Sabbath School system, is a work of Christian benevolence, carried on by men whose ambition is to accelerate the removal of gigantic evils from life's pathway, that our sons and daughters may walk in moral excellence and the fear of God. The men who seek to reclaim the drunkard doubtless are engaged in a noble and Godly enterprise, but the repeated apostasy of their converts shows the difficulty of overcoming the force of habit while the allurements of strong drink are present, and has taught us the necessity of a movement that seeks to prevent the young from becoming drunkards. This effort has already been owned and blessed by God, and we feel assured will bring forth fruit in the sober and virtuous lives of thousands who will be the fathers and mothers of the next generation.

The opinion that "No Sabbath School is complete unless a Band of Hope be connected therewith," is fast becoming universally adopted, and hence, during the last few years, efforts have been put forth to establish Bands of Hope in connection with Sabbath Schools of almost every denomination. But, unfortunately, for want of some organization by which every Band of Hope should receive help and encouragement, many that began well ceased to exist, and others endured so feebly that they

accomplished little or no good. To obviate this state of things, Mr. William Hoyle, of Manchester, about two years ago, issued a circular, setting forth the necessity of a Band of Hope Union for Lancashire and Cheshire. A few earnest friends, interested in the measure, were thus brought together, to consider the best way to establish a Union. Several preliminary meetings followed, in the course of which rules were drawn up, and officers appointed, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union was fully established on the 6th of February, 1863.

The members of this Union do not seek to put temperance in the place of religion, but simply regard it as an important auxiliary in preserving our youth from an evil which, more perhaps than all others, robs the house of God and leads souls to perdition. The constitution of the Union is thoroughly unsectarian; it extends friendly aid to Bands of Hope wherever they may be found, without regard to sect or party; and by the formation of new Bands of Hope, it seeks to carry the principles of temperance to every Sabbath school and educational institution in the district. Since the commencement of the Union it has been rapidly increasing, and by the appointment of speakers and visitors, the spread of temperance literature, and other similar means, it is now rendering valuable aid to *sixty-five Bands of Hope*, and has thus brought within its influence, upwards of *twenty thousand young people* who are at stated periods addressed by a voluntary staff of eighty speakers.

the Free Trade Hall, and the COUNCIL MEETING.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union was held on Wednesday evening, June 14th, at 51, Piccadilly.

The chairman, Mr. E. Barton, presided. There was a very fair attendance of representatives from the various societies in the Union. The arrangements for the Annual Park Demonstration and Free Trade Hall Band of Hope Festival occupied most of the evening. It was decided that the demonstration for No. 1. District, in Queen's Park, should take place on Saturday, July 8th; that for No. 2 District, in Peel Park, on Saturday, July 22nd; and No. 3 District, in Philip's Park, on Saturday, August 6th.

The sub-committee reported their proceedings in regard to the Grand Festival in the Free Trade Hall, the greater portion of which were confirmed, and it was resolved that arrangements should be made for holding in 1868, between the 1st and 10th of October. It was also resolved that in future the Council meetings should be held on the second Thursday in each month, at 7.30 p.m., at 51, Piccadilly.

Orders for upwards of 2,000 copies of "ONWARD" were given in by the respective Secretaries, and the following resolutions were passed:—

Wm. Hoyle, Hon. Sec.