

## THE FATHER OF TEETOTALISM.

BY THE REV. FREDERIC WAGSTAFF, F.R.H.S.

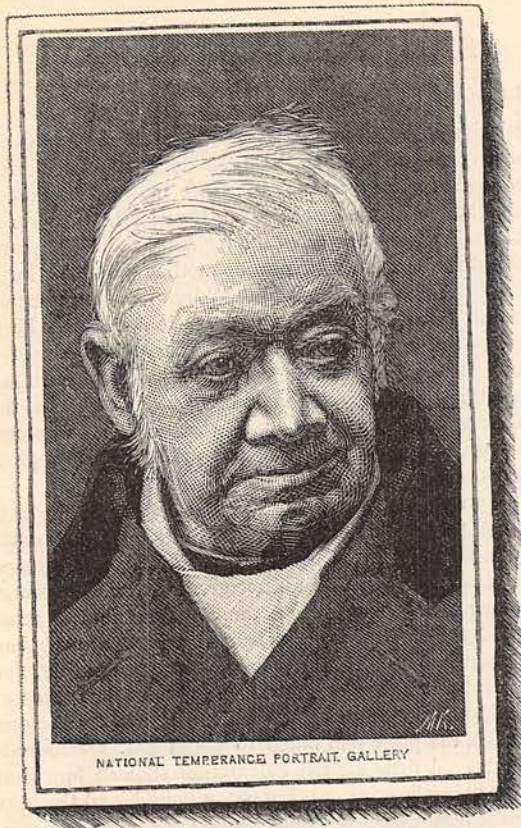


**I**T is the privilege of few men to originate well-nigh single-handed a great social reform. Fewer still are permitted to see the movements of which they are the founders attain a position commanding universal respect, if not of almost world-wide adoption. Among the very few thus favoured is the venerable Joseph Livesey, of Preston, who on the 5th of March, 1882, will have completed his eighty-eighth year, and who is thus spared to witness the jubilee of the Temperance or "Teetotal" movement, of which he is admittedly the father and founder. It was in the little village of Walton, on the banks of the Ribble, about a mile and a half from Preston, that Joseph Livesey first drew the breath of life on the 5th of March, 1794. His grandparents were both small farmers in the same parish, and his father, John Livesey, carried on a small business as a weaver, being one of the earliest makers of cotton goods in the district. Joseph lost both parents by death within a few weeks before he had completed his seventh year, and was taken charge of by his paternal grandfather, who gave up his farm to continue the cotton business, assisted by a son. Their knowledge of the trade being limited, three or four years brought the concern to an end; and, his capital being exhausted, the old man, with his son and the orphan boy, were compelled to take shelter in a miserable dwelling, earning a scanty livelihood at the loom. The cellar in which they worked was always damp, being constantly subject to flooding from the river, and there Joseph toiled till he was twenty-one, attributing his escape from an untimely death from rheumatism to the incessant activity of every limb required by his work.

Up to the age mentioned he had had but little "schooling," having learned no more than enabled him to read the New Testament, write a little, and do simple sums. To use his own words, the cellar was his college, the breast-beam of the loom was his desk, and he was his own tutor. In those days there were but few schools, no Mechanics' Institutes, no Free Libraries, no cheap books or publications of any kind; and if there had been the weaver lad could have purchased but few, as his pocket-money was long confined to his "Sunday penny." As he grew older, and procured a few pence by adding "over-time" to his already long hours of toil, he bought a grammar and a few other books, arranging his library on a couple of small shelves suspended by a cord. So proud of his treasures was he, that he could never leave the room in which they were kept without turning back to cast an admiring glance at them. A

relative having left Joseph a legacy of £30, payable when he came of age, he then deemed himself rich enough to marry, and found a wife in Miss Williams, daughter of a master-rigger at Liverpool, with whom he lived a happy wedded life for more than fifty years, till death took the beloved mother from the large family of children and grandchildren who had risen up to call her blessed. The wedding took place in May, 1815—the year when the Corn Laws were passed—and in due time the struggling pair received an addition to their responsibilities and cares in the birth of twin boys; so that, what with high prices, low wages, and bad health, the young weaver's prospects were exceedingly gloomy.

It was at this juncture, when things seemed at their worst, that Joseph Livesey was strangely led to enter upon another line of business, in which, in after-years, he attained competence if not great wealth. A doctor having ordered him to eat more food, including some bread and cheese for luncheon, he proceeded to buy a pound of the latter, of very common quality, for which he had to pay 7d. or 8d. It was at the time of the Lancaster cheese fair, and he overheard some one remark the price had fallen to about 50s. a hundred-weight. A little mental calculation showed him that the wholesale price was but 5d. a pound, and the idea struck him that if he could purchase a whole cheese, and divide it with his neighbours, he should obtain an advantage. In those days farmers stood in the markets with cheese, and he found one who had just two left unsold, which, to effect a clearance, he was willing to sell for 4½d. a pound. Having a good reputation, Livesey was able to borrow a sovereign from a tradesman, and carried home his purchase in triumph. Borrowing a pair of scales, he began retailing the cheese among his neighbours at 5½d., carrying a table into the street on Saturday afternoon in order to clear out the remainder. Finding that he had thus made a greater profit than he could have earned by weaving, and the fame of his cheap cheese having brought him many applicants for that article, he continued for awhile at the weaving during the week, taking his cheese into the market on Saturdays, and soon succeeded in retailing two or three hundred-weight in a day. After awhile his wife took her stand with the table for the retail business, while the husband gradually extended his operations as a "wholesale" man, selling whole cheeses, and sometimes as much as a hundredweight at a time. Of his wife he says, "She was quite as active, as persevering, and as successful as myself. Winter though it was, we stood out in all weathers, caring little for present comfort in hope of future success." Gradually extending his operations to the neighbouring markets of Blackburn, Wigan, and Chorley, Mr. Livesey abandoned the weaving altogether, making a present of his loom to a poor man; from whom, some years later,



CARTE-DE-VISITE OF JOSEPH LIVESEY.

he bought it, in order that out of its various parts a writing-table might be made. We have seen him, fifty years later, sitting at this table, on which have been written thousands of the letters by which the veteran has sought to promote the principles of temperance, when no longer able, through age and infirmity, to advocate them in other ways. The cheese trade continually expanded, and three or four of Mr. Livesey's numerous sons found occupation in the business when they grew up.

Having felt the pinch of hard times, Mr. Livesey was induced early to take a share in the agitation which eventually culminated in the repeal of the Corn Laws; and years before the Anti-Corn-Law League was fairly at work, he was advocating its principles in a paper which he had started. At first this periodical was printed by other hands, but in 1832 he added the printing business to his other trade, and out of this in 1844 sprang the *Preston Guardian*, now one of the ablest and most widely circulated papers in Lancashire. For nearly five years prior to the triumph of the Free Trade movement, Mr. Livesey aided it by the weekly issue of a halfpenny paper called the *Struggle*, the last number of which appeared the very week that witnessed the Royal assent to the Repeal Bill. Each number contained an illustration, or cartoon, and at one period the circulation reached 15,000 weekly.

The name of Joseph Livesey being so prominently identified with the Temperance movement, it becomes necessary to describe how that connection was brought about. Early in the year 1831, having to transact some business at a house where the whiskey-bottle was placed on the table as a matter of course, he tasted that spirit for the first time. Feeling very unwell after it, he resolved never again to take intoxicating liquor of any kind, a resolution which, at that time, he formed chiefly on account of his large family of boys. At that time "Temperance" societies were being formed, the pledge of which proscribed spirituous liquors, but allowed the "moderate" use of wine and beer. Mr. Livesey took an active part in a society of that kind at Preston. Hundreds of drunkards signed that pledge, but great numbers of them lapsed. What followed thereupon may be told in the veteran abstainer's own words:—

"It was soon discovered that the liberty to take ale and wine in moderation was a fatal source of backsliding. Hence arose a fierce controversy, which lasted for some time, as to the pledge, many who had become thorough abstainers maintaining that all liquors alike containing alcohol should be excluded. I, with many others, felt that there was no safety for our members without this, and we were determined to bring about the change. One Thursday (August 23rd, 1832), John King was passing my shop in Church Street, and I invited him in, and after discussing this question—upon which we were both agreed—I asked him if he would sign a pledge of total abstinence? to which he consented. I then went to the desk and wrote one out, the precise words of which I don't remember. He came up to the desk and I said, 'Thee sign it first.' He did so, and I signed after him. This first step led to the rest, for in the course of a few days notice of a special meeting was given, at which this subject was warmly discussed. At the close of the meeting I remember well a group of us gathering together, still further debating the matter, which ended in seven persons signing a new pledge."

Of this interesting document, which is still preserved, and which bears the date of September 1st, 1832, the following is a copy:—

"We agree to abstain from all liquors of any intoxicating quality, whether ale, porter, wine, or ardent spirits, except as medicine.

"JOHN GRATREX.

"EDWD. DICKINSON.

"JOHN BROADBENT.

"JNO. SMITH.

"JOSEPH LIVESEY.

"DAVID ANDERTON.

"JNO. KING."

These were the "seven men of Preston," from whose labours emanated that agitation against the use of all intoxicating drinks as beverages, which has today assumed such proportions as to command the attention and respect, if not the adhesion, of the entire community.

This sketch would be incomplete without a brief reference to the word by which total abstainers are commonly known. Many explanations have been given of the word "teetotal," but the following is the correct one. Among the early converts was Richard Turner, a hawker of fish, whose speech was fluent if not refined. Richard would coin words to express his meaning when others failed. About twelve months after the above-mentioned pledge was signed, and while the controversy with those who only abstained from spirits was still warm, Richard delivered a fervid speech, in which he spoke against any half-

measures, and declared that "nothing but the teetotal would do." Mr. Livesey, who was present, at once exclaimed, "That shall be the name!" The meeting cheered, and from that time the word "teetotal" was everywhere applied to entire as contrasted with partial abstinence. The author of the name was a staunch advocate of the cause for many years, and at his death he was followed to the grave by hundreds of teetotalers, the streets being thronged by spectators. An inscription over his grave, in Preston Churchyard, says:—"Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Richard Turner, author of the word Teetotal, as applied to abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, who departed this life on the 27th day of October, 1846, aged 56 years."

Although the name of Joseph Livesey is, as we have seen, so inseparably and conspicuously associated with the Temperance movement, it would be a great mistake to think or speak of him in any sense as a man wedded to "one idea." In the course of his long residence in Preston he has filled many important public offices, and was a member of the first Town

Council elected under the Municipal Reform Bill. As long ago as 1845, he began to organise an annual trip by railway to Southport, Blackpool, or some other sea-side resort, by which "the halt, the lame, and the blind, the scavengers, the sweeps, and the workhouse people," were taken from their unpleasant surroundings to breathe a purer air for a few hours. Accustomed always to take an active interest in every effort to relieve distress, he was naturally one of the foremost workers during the long and dreary time known as the "Cotton Famine," devoting almost all his spare hours to the work of the Relief Committee during two years. Soon after his marriage, assisted by his wife he took part in teaching others less educated than himself, and in 1825 he hired a large room in Shepherd Street, Preston, where he started a free Sunday school, "for youth of both sexes from fourteen to twenty-one years of age." Upon all these, and many other useful labours, he can now look back peacefully, as he spends his closing days in the town which knows no name more sincerely venerated than that of Joseph Livesey.

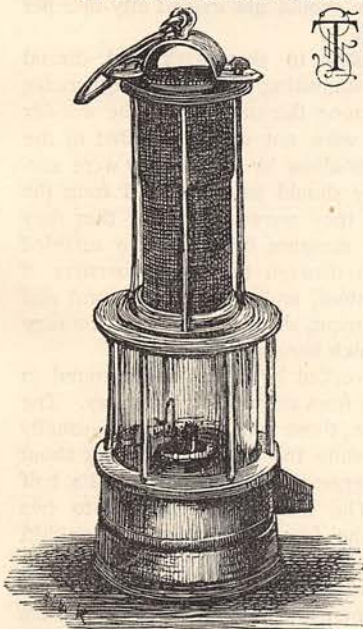
UNDER THE CRUST: THE TYNESIDE COLLIER.

BY THOMAS BURT, M.P.

"Think on us, hinnies, if ye please,  
An' it were but to show yor pity;

For a' the toils and tears it g'ies,  
Te warn the shins o' Lunnun city."  
"THE PITMAN'S PAY."

IN TWO CHAPTERS.—CHAPTER THE FIRST.



THE first authentic record of the raising of coal for fuel in Great Britain dates as far back as 1239. In that year King Henry III. granted a charter for the purpose of working coal to the inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The valley of the Tyne, which was the cradle of this great industry, is still the centre of the most active and the most productive coal-mining district of the world. The

Northern coal trade from small beginnings has developed to enormous proportions. In the year 1704, the Tyne and Wear together shipped off 647,344 tons of coal, while in 1880 Northumberland and Durham

produced more than 34,000,000 tons of the same material. To work and raise this coal to the surface more than 76,000 men and boys are now employed. This hardy and industrious population have a character and an individuality of their own—different from anything else to be found in other parts of the world. To the stranger from a distance—especially to the man of education and refinement—there is much that will appear rough and unattractive, if not absolutely repulsive, in the demeanour of the Northern pitman; but he will soon find that under this somewhat coarse exterior are sterling qualities, which will reveal and approve themselves on closer inspection and better acquaintance.

The first thing that will strike any one at all familiar with the past history of the miners in looking at their present condition, is the wonderful progress made by them during the last fifty years.

In Cobbett's works there appears a very curious passage bearing upon the colliers of these Northern parts. Writing from the city of Durham, in his "Tour in Scotland and the Four Northern Counties of England," under date Sept. 27th, 1832, he says:—"The great business of life relates to the produce of the subsoil still more than that which comes from the surface. The collieries are the chief part of the property of the county. Sunderland, the two Shieldses and Gateshead, and Newcastle itself have been created by these collieries. Here is the most surprising thing