



## *Temperance Lecture*

A very interesting and augumentative lecture was given on the Market Cross on Monday evening, by Mr. Matthew, agent to the Western Temperance League, the subject being, "Why rob a poor man of his beer?" There was a very good attendance, numbering at one time probably upwards of 500, who listened to the lecturer with much attention, until a diversion was created by a man named Bennett, who began singing and dancing in front of the Bear Hotel, and for a time drew away a portion of the audience. The majority, however, remained and on Mr. T. Smith, of Potterne, striking up a well-known temperance melody, with the chorus, "Rule Brittainia," most of Mr. Bennett's followers seceded, and resumed their original position. Mr. Matthew then concluded a very able and powerful address, full of sound and convincing argument and common sense, and which was evidently appreciated by the working men, of whom, principally, his audience consisted. At the close of the address, the three brothers Smith sang a trio, "Barmaid at the Golden Bear," which occasioned a good deal of merriment, and several working men and others signed the pledge. A well-known sporting farmer then desired to address the meeting, and room was made for him on the steps of the Market Cross, and he commenced a speech, but having imbibed somewhat liberally previously, he was evidently under the erroneous impression that the meeting was held on the Agricultural Labourer's Union question, against which his remarks, though somewhat incoherent, very understood as being directed. He was listened to patiently for a time, but finding he was not sufficiently sober to talk reasonably, the audience struck up a verse of "God Save the Queen" and dispersed.

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