

Buds and Blossoms

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit"

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Gen. William Booth.

Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance Notes.

The other day visiting a sick man, he said: "Don't be discouraged, keep at it, only think if one is saved. I thank God for your first ribbon of blue meeting, it did me more good than anything else in my life. I pinned on the blue, thank God, it and the Gospel of His grace saved me." Keep at it, don't be discouraged. Yes, that is the secret of success in every good cause. A great deal has been done during the last few years in temperance work, but a great deal yet remains to be done. We believe in the principle involved in the saying of Sydney Smith, when he remarked that the man who first gave a truth to the world was not so much a discoverer as he who repeated it until he obliged a people to hear it. So with the workers in the temperance cause. Sir Wilfrid Lawson recently said the motto of the day should be:

"Early to bed and early to rise;
Wear the Blue Ribbon and advertise."

Yes let us advise and advertise. Let us continually set forth the evils of intemperance, and the blessings lost thereby in national and home-life.

A great deal is heard at present about the "Irish Question," but when it was borne in mind that the drink bill of Ireland amounts annually to two and a half millions more than the whole of the rentals of

Ireland, it is plainly evident where the shoe really pinched. Sweep away the liquor traffic from the Emerald Isle there would at once be peace and prosperity.

Mr Thompson writes in an exchange: The federal statistics show that there are in the United States "600,000 persons daily incapacitated for labor by reason of liquor." This number includes the drunkards, the insane, the criminals and paupers dragged down to these classes by the direct and recognized influence of using intoxicating drinks. At \$1 a day in a year of 300 days these 600,000 persons, placed hors du travail by the drinking habit, could have earned \$180,000,000, which, added to the other totals of money cost, and the loss of the service of army of makers and sellers, estimating these services on the wage basis only, amount to the aggregate of \$1,171,291,518 per annum.

"This vast sum, is \$23 per capita for every man, woman and child in the country. It is nearly equal to our gold, silver and paper circulation combined. It would build and equip 30,000 miles of railroad; pay the cost of the public schools for fifteen years; erect and maintain 12,000 colleges; send out and support 1,200,000 missionaries; pay the entire national debt of the country, national, state and municipal, in less than four years; construct 600 first-class ocean steamers; erect and maintain 3,750 hospitals, libraries or homes for the aged; provide one-third of the people in the United States with homesteads of 160 acres each; run the post office department for thirty-four years; support the navy for seventy-five years; pay our foreign consular service for 1,625 years; purchase, at \$7 a barrel 167,327,359 barrels of flour, and pay the salary of the President of the United States for 23,125 years."

We would call our readers attention to the thrilling words of the N. Y. Tribune: "No government can set aside this subject of drinking. Despotism, Russia and Republican America must both face it. For the evil is too enormous and atrocious to be hid; too destructive and cyclonic to be regulated; too insolent to be endured; too cruel not to excite indignation. It is true that the capital and influence invested in its defence are enormous and potent, but humanity and God are against it. Childhood and womanhood out of the depths lift up holy hands against it, and the "irrepressible conflict" must go on until our statesmen shall dare to assail in our halls at Washington any evil or monstrous wrong that is destructive to national welfare."

Why not sign the Pledge for Your Own Sake.—Have others no claim upon you. If on the side of God and temperance, let us resolve we will not be discouraged, but will wear our blue, and keep at it.