

Temperance Column.

"THE NEW ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICA."

We regret to say that at the present moment the vast continent of Africa presents a very urgent field for the operation of all philanthropists engaged in the work of suppressing the drink traffic. We extract the following remarks on the subject from a leader in the New York Churchman of the 11th ult., under the heading "The New Enslavement of Africa":—"In the hold of a single vessel recently sailing from Boston, bound for West Africa, were stored one hundred and thirty two thousand gallons of ardent spirits. A ship which sailed previously carried a few missionaries to the tribes on the Congo, and also bore five thousand two hundred gallons of rum to the same tribes. Vessels also leave New York and Philadelphia with similar cargoes for the same destination. England, which has been ruining China with opium, sends an immense quantity of the destructive 'fire-water' to many parts of the heathen world, and especially to Africa; and almost everywhere the work of her missionaries is hindered, and in some fields almost annihilated, by her traffickers in rum. The secretary of the Church Missionary Society's Mission on the Niger reports that he knows, from his own observation on the river, that the amount of intoxicating liquor introduced on the Niger is enormous, and that one vessel which lately arrived was laden with no less than twenty-five thousand cases of gin and demijohns of rum, and that this is the common article of barter with the natives. Formerly Liverpool and Glasgow supplied about nine-tenths of the intoxicants sent to the west coast of Africa and some other parts of the heathen world, but now Hamburg, Boston and New York are beginning to compete with them in this baneful traffic. New companies are being started in Hamburg to send liquor of the worst kind to the tribes on the Congo and the other parts of Africa. During the sessions of the Berlin West African Conference a deputation from the Church Missionary Society, consisting of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a number of bishops, deans, noblemen and members of Parliament attended at the British Foreign Office to urge upon the Government the importance in the negotiations at the conference of restraining the liquor traffic in the Niger and Congo regions. The memorialists stated that the traffic was becoming so enormous that there were grave reasons for alarm, lest not only the missions be ruined and the cause of Christianity be irreparably injured, but the native races be destroyed. The Bishop of Sierra Leone, who was to sail the next day for Africa, mentioned that the steamer he went in before was laden with rum and gin, and those of the very worst quality, all from Hamburg. Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, in a speech in the Senate in which he advocated that America's repre-

sentatives at the conference should use their influence to have the liquor traffic restricted, said that Europe and America by this baneful trade have been scattering the seeds of death in Africa more rapidly than the Christian Church, the International Association and all the other philanthropic associations had been scattering the seeds of life. But notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of our representatives, aided by the British members, the conference would do nothing, and the monstrous evil is to continue in all the vast regions which have been the scenes of the intrepidity and sufferings of Livingstone, Cameron and Stanley. Indeed the conference has indirectly been the means of giving a great impetus to the traffic, as the attention of European and American merchants has been more extensively drawn to the trade of the Congo and the Niger, and especially to the profits of the liquor business there. What a huge curse the unlimited and uncontrolled supply of alcoholic liquors, especially the chemically poisonous kind now furnished, is to the Africans, and what a formidable obstacle it is to the regeneration of 'the dark continent!'—*Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette.*

A proclamation issued to the Afghans in 1882 by the Ameer of Afghanistan has just been printed. It claims that the Afghans are descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel. It traces their descent from Adam through Jacob, their subjection in Egypt, their deliverance therefrom by Moses, their wanderings in the desert, their settlement in Syria under the Ameer'ship of Saul and Solomon, their Babylonian captivity, their release, their wanderings on the hills of Ghour, and their final settlement in Afghanistan. It concludes by exhorting the Afghans to trust in God, who will preserve them from their terrible enemy, Russia, who is waiting to devour them.

LOVE TO GOD PROVEN.—Our love to God does not depend upon the emotions of the moment. If you fancy you do not love Him enough, above all when Satan tempts you to look inward, go immediately and minister to others: visit the sick, perform some act of self-sacrifice or thanksgiving. Never mind how dull you may feel while doing it; the fact of your feeling excited proves nothing; the fact of your doing it proves that your will, your spiritual part, is on God's side, however tired or careless the poor flesh may be. The flesh must be brought into harmony with the spirit, not only by physical but by intellectual mortification.—*Kingsley.*

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Exchanges to P. O. Box 1950, Montreal.