

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

To the bystander the Conservative attempt to annex the Patrons has a serious appearance.

As anti-treating bill which proposed to compel men to drink with the silence and secrecy of the numbered ballot, was recently thrown out by the Massachusetts Legislature.

It's strange but true that a man with an unusual name such as Valinodasky, in registering his name at a hotel will make an unintelligible scrawl, while "Smith" will write his name in copper-plate.

Was the last mail arrived the whole result of the voting on the licensing question in New Zealand had not been made public, but it appears positive that the Clutha district in Otago is the only one in which Prohibition has been carried. Of the sixty-two districts in the colony the voting of thirteen in the South Island and four in the North Island gave the necessary majority in favor of a reduction in the number of licenses.

ASSISTANT United States District Attorney Samuel Griffiths, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has given it as his opinion that a hotel keeper can legally refuse to lodge, and a restaurant keeper refuse to serve, a gentleman of color." He says the colored gentleman "might sue for damages, but all the defendant would have to do to establish his case would be to call white patrons to testify that they did not care to associate with colored people.

If we can take the Toronto Star for its word, Mayor Kennedy is not flesh or fowl or fish or herring. That paper says: Mayor Kennedy and ex-Mayor Fleming were both elected delegates to the prohibition convention now in session in Montreal, but Mayor Kennedy who, during and prior to the campaign, found temperance lodge meetings too unimportant to attend, has not seen fit to go to the big gathering where the political aims of Prohibition is to be considered. His worship is too busy chasing butterflies to go to Montreal, where he might have had to undergo defeat at the hands of Mr. Fleming for the chairmanship."

Dr. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P., in the last issue of his Weekly Sun, says: "Here is a story of Dizzy I heard the other

night. A young follower, beginning to take life and politics seriously, thought he would invite his great chief to a dinner. The dinner was set—the guests were not, and finally the young aspirant tremblingly asked the great man how he had enjoyed himself. 'Excellently, my dear R.—; your claret was delicious, true Falernian.' And then when the rooms were empty the happy host began to exchange notes with his wife, and repeated the compliment of Dizzy. 'Oh, the wicked man,' replied the wife to the lord of her bosom: 'he drank brandy and water the whole evening.'

WHAT with the strike of miners and the big railroad strike, every brewery in Chicago had to cease brewing last week. The scarcity of coal made such action necessary. Early in the week a number of officials of brewing companies got together and decided that unless their coal was saved for the ice machines they would not only be compelled to stop their machinery, but it would be impossible for them to save the beer in their refrigerators. It was finally decided to stop brewing and use fuel for nothing but the ice machines. None of the employees suffered by this move, as they were kept on the payrolls. It was also said that the supply of the beverage would be scarcely affected. There are about fifty large breweries in Chicago, and it is understood that 5,000 men were given vacations.

"MAYOR KENNEDY, of Toronto, refused to welcome the licensed hotel-keepers of Ontario to Toronto, because they were presumed to be liquor sellers. Toronto has the unenviable reputation of being the most intolerant city in America. It is the only large city in the world in which street cars are not allowed to run on Sunday. It is hard to conceive that a large population of such bigoted people as control the municipal affairs of Toronto can be found in any one place in this age of liberality and enlightenment."

—Daily America. This is pretty severe on the supposed-to-be-enlightened Queen City of the West, but it is thoroughly deserved.

The following paragraph is passing round among our exchanges. In view of the havoc that is being wrought we cannot see why ice-water should not be prohibited, that is, of course, if certain other things that never kill unless persistently and irritatingly provoked for many long

years, are similarly treated: "Ice-water is a more deadly poison than prussic acid in these hot summer days when gulped down in the reckless draughts with which the overheated person usually seeks to allay his or her burning thirst. Iced water or iced lemonade should be drunk cautiously in small quantities at a time. The medical authorities say that to inundate the stomach with it in large quantities at once is like pouring cold water on a heated stove, and is likely to crack the digestive furnace."

AN interesting article in the Pall Mall Magazine entitled "A Romance in Champagne," shows that the value of the champagne produced in the department of the Marne was, in 1844, only £265,400, while in 1891 it exceeded one million sterling, thus nearly quadrupling itself in the course of half a century. The strangest circumstance connected with champagne is that the French themselves have little liking for the vintage of Epernay. In fact your average Gaul rarely touches "fix," save on the occasions of marriages, birthdays, and grand balls; at the Carnival, and sometimes at race meetings. There is an immense amount of champagne drunk at first-class Paris restaurants, but the consumers are for the most part foreigners—English, Russians, Germans, and Americans.

ONE of the idols of the temperance party, to wit the Rev. J. H. Hector, commonly known as "the Black Knight," whose forte appears to be buffoonery, said at the closing meeting of last week's Prohibition convention in Montreal: "Some people imagine that the liquor business is a constitutional business. It is no such thing. The Canadian Government, by its constitution, has guaranteed to ensure tranquility to all its subjects. Liquor does not ensure tranquility." We don't imagine but we know that liquor selling is a legitimate business, that it is common to pretty nearly every nation, and that, therefore, it is as much a constitutional business as any other. We also know that liquor is quite as tranquilizing, and frequently more so, than the spouting of paid professors of religion without reason, be they black or white.

WATER has been receiving some very unkind cuts recently, but the unkindest of all has been administered by Dr. D. W. Stiles, of the Bureau of Animal In-

dustry at Washington, D. C., who declares that it causes the drinker thereof not to see snakes but to have them in his "innards." He calls them blood snakes, and says they are small white parasites, which effect an entrance into the veins of man as well as animals through the medium of drinking water. They are male and female. The eggs or larvae are found in all kinds of water. After the eggs hatch the snake attaches itself to a microscopic and harmless animalcule. These snakes are all taken into the stomach in the water. The sudden transformation kills the harmless animalcule, but fattens the vampire blood snake, which soon leaves the stomach and searches for the blood vessels. Once in the veins they breed with amazing rapidity, and soon devour the life-giving elements of the sanguine fluid. At first the sufferer is said to have poor blood, next rheumatism or some other disease accompanied by excruciating pains. This goes on until the victim succumbs to a real case of "snakes."

ALL nations have their vices in the shape of stimulants or narcotics. Almost all the peoples with which we are acquainted were familiar with the use of distilled or fermented liquors long before the time of Christ. The Egyptians were beer drinkers; the people of Israel were given to wine; the prophet Amos says that ordinary glasses were not large enough for them; they drank from "bowls," and the women clamored for "new wine." Later on the use of wine as an intoxicant was familiar to the Greeks and Romans. The appetite for alcoholic stimulants is, however, more conspicuous among Europeans and Americans than among Orientals—why, it were hard to say. Taste varies with fashion. In China and India the natives smoke opium, in Persia they prefer hashish. Climate and race have much to do with stimulants. Statistics show that the largest per capita consumption of spirits in the world is in Denmark and Scotland, yet neither the Danes nor the Scotch can be called a people of drunkards. It is a curious fact that the people which conquer the world and hold on to their conquests are hard-headed drinkers. They do not conquer because they drink, but there seems to be something in the conquering blood which demands the stimulation and pleasure to some extent of the flowing bowl.

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