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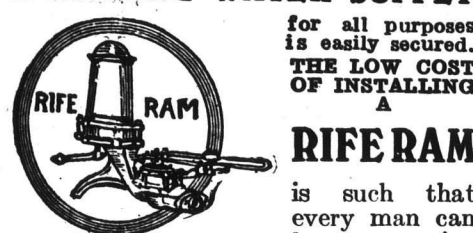
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of escape is to wait a moment, and cut off the clinging seed-vessels carefully, and then, when clear of the bush, remove them one by one. This plant was often fatal to the English soldiers in the Kaffir wars, seizing and holding a man prisoner until the weapon of the wary Kaffir chafed his heart.

Every drinking saloon is a living, matured grapple plant. And so long as they are licensed places of resort they will be sure of plenty of victims. Once caught, it is almost impossible to escape. Only an entire cutting off can save one. When the sword of the law can sever the root of the error, there will be hope. If a man is too tightly held to free himself, and if the plant still is left to throw out its enticement to him, either he will fall, or in some way must be taken beyond the reach of the snare.

The safest thing to be done is to root out the plant altogether. And if this cannot be done, and a continual contest is to be kept up with those constantly and newly caught in old branches, let us do all we can to prevent their spreading, and to save such as we may from those that do infest the land.—W. H. Eagler, in "Church Advocate."

Not Another Drop

A commercial traveller entered a railway carriage. A shout of welcome rose from a number of his acquaintances who were there before him. They had drunk with them and in them, and they offered him the bottle. He refused. They pressed him to drink, but in vain. Their solicitations, jeers and mocking laughter had no effect upon him. What had made him thus suddenly turn abstainer? they asked, and he told them as follows:

"Yesterday I was in Chicago. Down on South Clark Street a customer of mine keeps a pawn shop in connection with his other business. I called on him, and while I was there a young man of not more than 25, wearing threadbare clothes, and looking as hard as if he had not seen a sober day for a month, came in with a little package in his hand. Tremblingly he unwrapped it, and handed the article to the pawnbroker, saying, 'Give me ten cents.' And, boys, what do you think it was? A pair of baby shoes; little things with the buttons only a trifle soiled, as if they had been worn once or twice.

"Where did you get these?" asked the pawnbroker.

"Got 'em at home," replied the man, who had an intelligent face and the manner of a gentleman, despite his sad condition. My wife bought them for our baby. Give me ten cents for 'm; I want a drink."

"You had better take those back to your wife. The baby will need them," said the pawnbroker.

"No, she won't, because she's dead. She's lying at home, now; died last night."

As he said this the poor fellow broke down bowed his head on the show case, and cried like a child. "Boys," said the traveller, "you can laugh if you please, but I—I have a baby of my own at home, and I'll never drink another drop." Then he got up and went into another car. His companions glanced at each other in silence. No one laughed, the bottle disappeared, and soon each was sitting in a seat by himself reading a newspaper.—The Spectator.

Bare Feet are Shod

The public-houses had all been closed in an Eastern American village. A leading merchant of the town tells the following story:—

A woman, poorly dressed and very timid, came into his store one day. She had not been used to buying many things.

"What can I do for you," inquired the merchant.

"I want a pair of shoes for a little girl."

"What number?"

"She is twelve years old."

"But what number does she wear?"

"I do not know."

"But what number did you buy when you bought the last pair for her?"

"She never had a pair in her life. You see, sir, her father used to drink when we had public-houses, but now they are closed he does not drink any more, and this morning he said to me, 'Mother, I want you to go to town to-day and get Sissy a pair of shoes, for she never had a pair in her life.' I thought, sir, if I told you how old she was you would know just what size to give me."

Regulating the Elephant

Everybody had heard that the great elephant was loose, and several families whose gardens he had torn up and whose boys he had trampled on were sure of it. There was great excitement, and the town held a meeting to decide what should be done. They did not want to exterminate him; in fact, many of them did not believe they could exterminate him, for he was a pretty big elephant. Besides, he was useful in his proper place—in shows, in India, and in story books.

"Our best plan is to try and regulate him," said an enthusiastic speaker. "Let us build toll-gates all along the route he is going to take, and make him pay."

"Yes, but that leaves him roaming round," shrieked an old woman, "and I don't want my boy killed."

"Keep your boy away from him; that's your business. Why, madam, don't you know that an elephant's hide and tusks are valuable for mechanical and surgical purposes, and that he is useful in India? Besides, means get money enough into the public treasury to build schools for a good many boys who are not trampled to death."

"That's the plan; regulate him, regulate him," shouted the crowd. So they appointed a great many committees, and drafted constitution and by-laws and circulated petitions, and by the time the elephant had killed several more boys and trampled down a number of gardens they had erected very comfortable toll-houses for the gatekeepers, and gates for the elephant; and then they waited in great satisfaction to see the elephant regulated.

Slowly the great feet tramped onward; slowly the great proboscis appeared in view; and with a sniff of contempt the elephant lifted the gate from its hinges and walked off with it, while the crowd stared after him in dismay.

"Well," exclaimed the keeper, catching his breath, "we haven't made much money so far, but the regulating plan would have worked first rate if the elephant hadn't been a little too strong for obstruction."

The elephant's name was whisky.—Alliance News.

Take a Drop.

"Come in, Patrick, and take a drop of something," said one Irishman to another.

"No, Mike; I'm afraid of drops ever since Tim Flaherty died."

"Well, what about Tim?"

"He was one of the liveliest fellows in these parts. But he began to drop business in Garney Shannon's saloon. It was a drop of something out of a little bottle at first. But in a little while Tim took a few drops too much, and then he dropped into the gutter. He dropped his place, he dropped his coat and hat, he dropped his money; he dropped everything. Poor Tim! But the worst is to come. He got crazy with drink one day and killed a man. And the last time I saw him he was taking his last drop, with a slipping noose around his neck. I have quit the dropping business, Mike. I have seen too many good fellows when whisky had the drop on them. They took just a drop from the bottle then they dropped into the gutter, and then they dropped into the grave. No rum-seller can get a drop in me any more, and if you don't drop him, Mike, he will drop you."—Selected.

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