

Asia has long been the world's pest-house. When the cholera comes forth to terrify and scourge the nations it comes from the East. The swarming together of multitudes in a hot climate, without sanitary arrangements, with neither cleanliness nor care, must breed disease. And these conditions are found, both in the crowded cities of the East and the thronged *Melas* or pilgrim gatherings for heathen ceremonies. Until the twin sisters of Christianity and civilization visit and regenerate these peoples, cleansing their persons and their cities, and especially breaking up these great heathen gatherings of fanaticism and filth that prove but hotbeds of disease, the world must suffer. When the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of Christ, and cleanliness and Godliness bless the whole earth, cholera quarantines will be needed no more.

Recent Requests.

We call attention to the recent large bequests to various schemes of the church, not for the purpose of chronicling the events, for that will be duly done in the proper place, but to emphasize a most important duty, that of Christian people giving back to the Lord, when he calls them to give up their stewardship, some goodly part of what he has entrusted to them as stewards. When God prospers men, he merely entrusts to them more or less of the silver and gold and the cattle on a thousand hills, not for their own personal gratification, but to enable them to do more in helping and blessing the world. But what is their duty when their work is ended? Just as the property was not their own for selfish gratification while they lived, so it is not their own to give wholly to friends when they die, but, in some part or measure should be returned in this way, to Him whose stewards they were. Bequests are as much a duty of Christian men and women as is giving from week to week to the Lord.

Alliteration has been so widely prevalent, and for so long a time, that anything new in that line is somewhat of a surprise. Whether it be a treat or no, depends upon individual taste. The latest I have seen is in the call of our Home Mission leaders in the North West for a missionary to labor at Eldorado in the Rocky Mountains. They want a good man possessing "*grace, grit, go, and gumption.*" Whatever opinion one may entertain as to the elegance of the expression there can be no doubt as to its forcefulness, and the excellence of the qualifications named, and their indispensability to success, whether in the more quiet congregations of the east or the rougher mission stations of the far North West; whether in the Home or the Foreign Field.

Facts, not Opinions.

With the intention of Government in the appointment of the Royal Commission on prohibition, and the aims and efforts of the men composing the Commission, these lines have nothing to do. Public men, in discharging public duty, should receive all possible encouragement and help. The result, however, as seen in the testimony of witnesses before the Commission from day to day, shows that much of the proceedings is simply a huge farce. "He thought"—or—"He did not think"—"That liquor is hurtful"—"That prohibition is the best way of dealing with the traffic"—"That a prohibitory law, if passed, could be carried out." Such is the burden of much of the testimony. The idea of spending thousands of dollars on a Royal Commission to find out what this or that man thinks regarding what would probably happen in certain circumstances, is about as laughable an absurdity as can well be imagined. It would tax the powers of a subtler satirist than Bengough, to do it justice.

What the country wants is facts, not opinions. It wants to know from Customs officials and revenue returns how much liquor is made and imported. It wants to know, as nearly as can be ascertained, how much our Dominion spends for strong drink. It wants to know from municipal and city officials how many liquor shops there are, and from real estate agents, how these shops affect the value of property in their neighborhood. It wants to know from employers of labor how the use of strong drink affects the skill and trustworthiness of their employees, and from shopkeepers, how far it is responsible for the bad debts upon their books. It wants to know from the batoned guardians of the peace that patrol our streets, what part drinking has in the assaults and brawls that call for their presence; from magistrate and judges, what proportion of trials and commitments are due directly or indirectly to its use; from prison officials and from managers of homes and asylums for the the poor, the unfortunate, and the insane, what proportion of their inmates have been sent to them directly or indirectly by this means; from charitable agencies and societies as to its part in creating work for them; from physicians as to the influence it has had on the physical and mental well being of the community; and, from ministers of the gospel as to its help or hindrance in their efforts to lift the land to a higher, purer, holier life.

Such are some of the things the country wants to know, and the knowledge would have been far more easily, cheaply, and effectively obtained by circulars addressed to each of these official classes. Since, however, another means has been employed, let us hope that it will seek to justify its existence, and present to the country, as a result of its labors, the *facts* regarding the traffic in strong drink in Canada.