

Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance Notes.



Our last Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance meeting at the Tabernacle an open invitation was given, asking any one in the audience who could speak a good word for intoxicating drinks to do so. But as testimony after testimony was given it was altogether affirmative of the baneful and deceitful character of strong drink. Some declared how narrowly they had escaped its power, having been deceived by its flatteries in early youth. Many think that its exhilarating properties are real creators of strength and heart-gladness. Instead experience proves it is pleasure to-day at the risk of emptiness, wretchedness and disgrace to-morrow. The temporary madness and forgetfulness of intoxication is destructive to mental, physical and spiritual well-being. It is the essence of deceitfulness, while it paints delightful fancies and uses in its first entanglement of habit the siren coils of carnal pleasure. The end thereof is often too terrible for pen and ink to picture. Could one take the palsied hand of some poor drunken sot and victim when covered with the gore of its own butchery and press it on this page, its erratic trembling smear would, with all its horrible awakening of horror and disgust, but faintly picture the end and state of many who looked upon the wine when it was red and moved itself aright, until taste and will power held was fast, and the wretched victim, inoculated by the virus of the serpent's bite and adder's sting, lost in debauchery and sin all hope of inheritance in the kingdom of God, till at last, like the man among the tombs, whom no man could bind or tame, the wretched outcast becomes to himself a conscious terror, without hope or God in the present world, and with a fearful outlook and expectancy of torment when the time of final wreckage and death comes to sink him in his own place—the habitation of drunkards—a foretaste of which is often the hard drinker's lot in this present world, when with fevered brain and poisoned blood his friends become hideous and his home an habitation of devils to his heated imagination. Would that he could see the terror, poverty and wretchedness, the creation of his own vile selfishness—his cruel selfishness—which is starving out the life of her he calls wife, and of those ill fed, meanly clad little ones, who often in their fright cry, "Don't father! don't strike poor mother!" children who not only suffer from hunger's pinch with their parents, but whose almost bloodless frames show the mark of a drunkard's cruelty and spite. But enough of such picturing; it excites both pen and brain, until, forgetful of both brevity and punctuation, we fear our readers' patience and our own space will be exhausted. Thank God the day of hope is dawning. Men of all sorts and classes begin to see drink's ruinous wastefulness. At our last meeting fifty pinned on a bit of blue. Let every reader refrain from signing licenses, and work together for the good time coming when the sale and manufacture of alcoholic drinks shall be prohibited.

Archdeacon Farrar, speaking of his recent visit to America, said in his journeying this side he met fewer drunken persons than he had met in a single day in London: "He was bound to say that, in his

opinion, prohibition was productive of the most beneficial results in every single State where the moral condition of the people was sufficiently alive, and the conscience of the people sufficiently educated, to give that measure a hearty support. He visited Portland, the capital of the State of Maine, where the prohibition law was passed twenty-two years since, and had the honor of being entertained by the Hon. Neal Dow, the father of that measure, who was eighty-one years of age, and was a splendid specimen of a total abstainer. He became convinced more and more that the Maine Liquor Law was not, as some represented, a bad law. It had not only worked satisfactorily in the opinion of its supporters, but many of its opponents would not now allow it to be repealed. One great advantage of the Maine law is that it makes drunkenness difficult, and so indefinitely diminishes the amount of drunkenness. Under the present system in England we first of all do our best to lead men into temptation, and then put men into prison because they succumb to it. The diminution of drunkenness in Maine results in the diminution of crime. Equally satisfactory reports of prohibition come from other counties where it has had a fair trial.

Our Study Table—Review Notes.

*Sermons and Sayings*, by Sam Jones. Published by Southern Methodist Pub. House, Nashville, Tenn., and obtainable at the Methodist book rooms in Halifax and Toronto. Is a book of readable and very suggestive sermons, their peculiarities strikingly strike the attention, and one forgives the oddity of expression, because the good intention of the speaker is evident.

*Food Materials and Their Adulterations*, by Ellen Richards. Pub. by Estes & Lauriat, Boston. We have enjoyed reading this book, and find it useful and informing. It hangs out the danger flag, so that all can taste, test and judge for themselves what is what.

What incentive the commands and example of Christ's life should have to continuance and faithfulness in well doing. Be not weary, in due time the harvest is guaranteed by Jesus the risen One, who said, I go to prepare a place for you. Brethren, let our aim be to abound in the work of the Lord, for it is not in vain. When we think of how much we owe, the measure of our service seems small, but we are encouraged, knowing it is accepted according to what a man hath. The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and we quite agree with one who said, A single dollar may look large, but when spread out over a year it is too thin to lie down upon and pray, "Thy Kingdom come." It is astonishing how small are the gifts of some pretty big Christians who love in word only, and not in deed and in truth. But a book of remembrance is kept by the unerring Judge, who shall give to every man as his work shall be.

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