

## TEMPERANCE NOTES.

BISMARCK says: "The wide-spread use of beer is much to be deplored. Beer drinking makes men stupid, lazy and impotent. It is the cause of all the Democratic pot-politics which people talk over."

HORACE MANN once said: "Let there be an entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks throughout the country during the period of a single generation, and a mob would be as impossible as combustion without oxygen."

J. B. GOUGH, after a life-long study of this great question of drinking, affirms his solemn belief that the only safeguard is to be found in uncompromising abstinence. He is also sure that the reformation of nebrates is so difficult that seldom is it accomplished except by the mighty power of God's grace.

GENERAL HARNEY, the veteran Indian fighter, testified before a Congressional Committee, that whiskey caused most of our Indian wars. Being asked how whiskey selling could be suppressed, he replied that liquor dealers ought to be hanged or shot by the nearest military official, and he would cheerfully detail an officer to attend to that duty, if he had the authority.

DR. LIVINGSTONE gave his testimony in favour of total abstinence in the following words: "I have acted on the principles of total abstinence from all alcoholic liquors during more than twenty years. My individual opinion is, that the most severe labours or privations may be undergone without alcoholic stimulants, because those of us who have endured the most had nothing else than water, and not always enough of that."

DR. NORMAN KERR, of London, began investigations some time since, with the purpose of refuting the statement that 60,000 drunkards die every year in the United Kingdom. He says he is now compelled to admit that at least twice that number die of alcoholic excess. He makes the following statement: "The returns of the Madras army to the English Government shew the percentage of mortality to be among total abstainers 11.1 per thousand; among the moderate drinkers, 23.1; and the intemperate, 44.5."

DR. CUYLER, of Brooklyn, who has been actively engaged in the temperance crusade all his life, says: "The chief peril in all our cities is from the dram-shops, which are the nurseries of crime, Sabbath desecration and all iniquities. Strong drink does more to hinder the kingdom of Christ than any other one evil known on our globe. Yet this momentous question is ignored in church councils, in prayer meetings, and a vast number of pulpits. It is seldom discussed by eminent lawyers and judges; it is tabooed as 'ungentle' in polished circles, and is ostracised as 'fanatical' by the easy going ethics which allow every man to be a law unto himself without reference to his weaker neighbour."

DR. WILLARD PARKER in a paper on "The Hereditary Influence of Alcohol," affirms that alcohol is not confined to the propagation of drunkards, but that it is the prolific cause of insanity, idiocy, epilepsy, and other affections of the brain and nervous system, and that these diseases are transmitted to the children of the drinker. He quotes Dr. Howe, who attributes one half the cases of idiocy in the State of Massachusetts to intemperance, and he is sustained in his opinion by the most reliable authorities. One family is instanced with seven idiot children, both of whose parents were drunkards. It is claimed that one-half of the idiots of England are of drunken parentage, and that the same is true of Sweden, and probably of most European countries; that in St. Petersburg most of the idiots come from drunken parents. This is a terrible charge against alcohol, and one that should put it under the ban of the law forever.

CANON FARRAR recently addressed a large audience at Oxford University, defending the principle of total abstinence. To the Bishop who in opposition to the temperance cause said he would rather have England to be free than England to be sober, Canon Farrar made the following reply: "Do not let us then be frightened from the clear, imperative path of na-

tional duty by the bugbear of violated liberty. The moth is not free which is only free to plunge into the flame. The ship is not free which is only free to run straight upon the iron shore in the fury of the storm, with no hand of the steersman upon her helm. If freedom is to be another name for 99,000 public houses; for 39,000 beer shops, for 1,337,656 persons arrested for drunkenness and disorder in ten years; for 100,422 cases of assault in one year, of which 2,736 were "aggravated assaults on women and children;" for 16,525 women drunk and disorderly in London alone last year, and if these be but items in the hideous total of such a freedom - if freedom is to hear the wail of myriads of savage beasts, myriads of desolated homes, then in Heaven's name let us have instead of it the beneficent bondage of virtue, the salutary restraint of Christian legislation for such bondage is above such liberty."

WOMEN AND DRINK. - Last year in London, Eng., there were 16,525 women arrested as "drunk and disorderly." J. B. Gough in a recent speech in New York on his return from England, said: "I am afraid that drinking among ladies is increasing. It is customary, in England, to see young ladies passing from one confectionery to another, and drinking their glasses of sherry together. It is getting to be fashionable for them to carry highly ornamented flasks filled with sherry. The drunkenness of women in Great Britain is frightful." - A correspondent of the "Boston Congregationalist," writing recently from England, says: "I saw recently twenty women standing at a bar, all drinking; I have seen drunken women clinging to lamp-posts, and one lying drunk at full length in Hyde Park. The half-holiday system which prevails quite generally is proving a curse. To obtain Saturday afternoon for recreation, the working people begin labour at six o'clock, an hour earlier than Americans. So great is the debauch of Saturday and Sunday that few works are started in full till Tuesday morning." - Another writer says: "One of the most lamentable features of the traffic is the fact that over one hundred thousand women in England are acting as barmaids, an attractive face and form being a requisite qualification. In the Strand, London, the Gaiety restaurant employs a dozen pretty girls neatly clothed in black. We have counted over a hundred well-dressed young men, standing at the bar drinking and smoking. This is but one of two hundred and fifty such places owned by a single firm." - From another source we learn that a lady who devoted a large portion of her fortune to a Home, in London, for women who had fallen into intemperance, provided accommodations for thirty, supposing that not that many would be found. In nine months there were five hundred applications for admission, and of these forty-two were from women of rank. Let us not be ignorant of the fact that women as well as men fall before this temptation. Girls must be put upon their guard.

## THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

BY THE REV. HUGH PEDLEY.

One of the great problems of modern church life is the financial one. How to keep accounts square with minister, sexton, gas company, insurance company, etc., to say nothing of debt on the building, is a question that seriously troubles a great many church treasurers, and finance committees. In some churches it gets to be the question of questions, the question in which all the other concerns of the church are completely absorbed. Money is the oil which keeps ecclesiastical machinery going, as well as secular, and for lack of it there is often a sad amount of creaking and groaning.

It is not my intention in this article to enter into any very lengthy discussion, though I should be very well pleased if other pens were stimulated to deal with the question. Why not have a symposium after the fashion of high-toned periodicals in the old country? A few short, pointed articles from church treasurers, both in town and country, wouldn't hurt the INDEPENDENT, and might help some who are in perplexity.

My wish at present is simply to touch upon one

point, viz., the loss sustained in many cases by slighting the contributions of the poor. In money matters some churches have exposed themselves to the cutting censure of the apostle James, "Ye have despised the poor." They have forgotten the fact, for a fact it is, that the poor saint's dime is as valuable according to the Divine estimate as the rich saint's dollar. This error has resulted in two evils.

In the first place, it has caused a good many people to feel less interest in the church than they would feel if they were doing something to help it along. No matter what the institution may be, it lies nearer the heart of the man who is practically interested in it than that of the mere spectator. The boy who carried a brick to help build the new church, thought all the more of the church because his brick was in the wall. This is just human nature, and if the idea were carried out more fully in the churches it would tend greatly to consolidate the floating part of the congregation. Goldwin Smith's latest literary venture is called the "Bystander." "Grip" greeted the first number with a cartoon representing the learned editor in the thick of the political strife, while underneath were the words "strange conduct on the part of a bystander." We have too many in our churches who are *bona fide* bystanders. They are not expected to do anything, so they look languidly on. They need to be changed from the Passive Voice to the Active, from ordinary bystanders to energetic bystanders of the Goldwin Smith type. There is no better way of doing this than to let them know that their gifts, however small, will be acceptable. Let them have some stake in the church, and their adherence to it will be somewhat less transient than is usually the case.

The second evil I refer to, is the loss of a considerable amount of money. The deficits which cloud the faces of church treasurers are not usually very large. But they are serious—serious because they are deficits. Now, I believe that in a number of instances the amount of the deficit is lacking simply because the poorer members of the congregation are neglected. In a medium-sized church you will find subscriptions ranging from \$100, or over, down to \$10. When the amounts get below the \$10 they are not hunted after very keenly. There may be twenty people in the church whose contributions would average \$5 each per annum. These would give another \$100, and that \$100 would often make the difference between a lop-sided annual sheet and an evenly-balanced one, between solvency and insolvency, between a treasurer's face seamed with lines of grim care, and the same face beaming with satisfaction.

In my own experience, this principle of looking after the smaller subscriptions has worked well. We have tried it with good results in Cobourg and Coldsprings, in our missionary collections. We hope to develop it more thoroughly in our regular church work. I hold that no one should be insulted by being passed over. Certainly, a man's lowly position in life should not expose him to such a humiliation. The poorer people have as warm hearts towards the heavenly kingdom as the richer ones. The temple was as dear to the widow as to the rulers, and Christ's Church may be as fondly loved by mechanics and washerwomen as by merchants and bankers. Though all may, not be wealthy enough to bring their alabaster box, with its three hundred pence worth of fragrant nard, yet let each have abundant opportunity to win the golden approval, "She hath done what she could."

## THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

Thoughtful Christians to-day have far less dread of the assaults of infidelity in any or all of its forms upon the Church, than they have of the encroachments of the world. That there is reason for alarm in this direction cannot be doubted; the indications are plain. Even writers who have no special concern about religion as a personal matter, see and speak of this tendency with apprehension. There seems to be a general assault for the purpose of breaking down all distinction between the Church and the world—between professing Christians and those who do not make and do not intend to make any confession of