

A TESTED REMEDY.

It is related that Bishop Kavanagh was one day walking, when he met a prominent physician, who offered him a seat in his carriage. The physician was an infidel, and the conversation turned upon religion.

"I am surprised," said the doctor, "that such an intelligent man as you should believe such an old fable as that."

The bishop said, "Doctor, suppose years ago some one had recommended to you a prescription for pulmonary consumption, and you had procured the prescription and taken it according to order, and had been cured of that terrible disease, what would you say of the man who would not try your prescription?"

"I should say he was a fool."

"Twenty-five years ago," said Kavanagh, "I tried the power of God's grace. It made a different man of me. All these years I have preached salvation, and, wherever accepted, have never known it to fail."

What could the Dr. say to such a testimony as that? And such testimonies are what men need to turn them from the error of their ways, to the personal experience of the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"How would you prove the divinity of Christ?" said some ministers to a young backwoods preacher whom they were examining.

"What?" said he, puzzled by the question.

"How would you prove the divinity of Christ?"

"Why, *he saved my soul*," was the triumphant reply.

But to give this answer one must be saved, and know it in his heart, and show it in his life, and he then becomes a living epistle known and read of all men.—*Selected.*

The drink bill of Great Britain the past year stands at \$614,528,925 as against 616,349,530 for 1885, being a decrease of \$1,820,605 in one year. The enormous sum of twenty-two billion five hundred million dollars has been spent in intoxicating liquors during Victoria's reign. Had not this sum been devoted to the purchase of so much poverty, crime and death, it might have blotted out the national debt five times over, or covered the whole land with beautiful and happy homes.—*Sel.*

THE CHINESE AND THEIR CUSTOMS.

BY FANNIE ROPER FEUDGE.

(Mrs. Foster, a missionary at home on furlough; and Misses Annie, Lucy, Pearl and Fannie, four young ladies who are about going out as co-workers with Mrs Foster, on her return to China.)

ANNIE.—"Please tell me, Mrs. Foster, do you find the Chinese, as a nation, as far inferior to our own people, as many writers have portrayed them?"

MRS. FOSTER.—"By no means, my dear. The idea of calling the Chinese a semi-barbarous people, has been quite exploded; and that upon the testimony of nearly every tourist who has penetrated 'The Flowery Kingdom,' beyond its seaports, and seen the Chinese in their own homes.

"In the refinements of social life, in genuine courtesy, in harmonious affections between the several members of the family circle, and especially in filial reverence and love they are certainly our equals, and in many respects our superiors. If, within the last century or two, we have outstripped them in scientific development, we have still to confess that many of our arts, and especially our luxuries, have come to us from the East, and that the Chinese were already a settled nation, having a well organized government, with both schools and colleges, and a very respectable literature, while our ancestors were roaming the forests, clothed in skins, and our language without even an alphabet."

LUCY.—"Is there any marked difference between their social customs and ours?"

MRS. F.—"Yes, this is everywhere apparent when you come to mingle freely with the Chinese in every day life. Indeed, their rules of etiquette, no less than their modes of life seem almost at antipodes with ours. We often surround the house with a garden or flower yard; but in China, they build the house around the garden, or if there is no room for a garden the house encloses a court-yard, upon which nearly all the rooms open from the rear, so that the court or garden is more secluded from public view than the house. The bed-rooms are usually on the ground-floor, and they have simply paper screens to the windows and doors, that let in the light, and secure privacy, but do not impede the ingress or egress of sounds.

"As in other countries, the poor live in