

fact that while intemperance is decreasing among men, it is increasing among women. Probably the most striking paragraph in the important report of the House of Lords Committee on Intemperance was that which stated that "intemperance among women is increasing on a scale so vast, and at a rate of progression so rapid, as to constitute a new reproach and danger." Speaking at Lambeth Palace a short time ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury alluded to a "very dark shadow" dogging the steps of the Church of England Temperance Society, viz., the increase of drinking among women. "If," said His Grace, "drinking is introduced among the women of our middle or still higher classes, by means of grocers' licenses, we need not think that it will confine itself wholly to them. No, depend upon it, if any practice of women's drinking comes into use, we shall see it in its most open and shameless form." These statements might be abundantly confirmed by reference to statistics and police returns. In London in 1880 no fewer than 16,520 women were convicted of drunkenness, but in 1882 the figure rose to 19,254, showing an increase of more than 1,300 each year; whilst in four hours on one evening, in one of our large cities, as many as 36,803 women were seen going into public-houses. In reviewing the evils of female intemperance, let it be remembered how habit is stronger in woman than in man, and in consequence how it tells with fearful force in this question of intemperance. "Sad to relate, it is beyond dispute that a far smaller proportion of women are ever recovered from habits of intemperance than men." Such are the words of an earnest worker in the cause. This is a sad, disheartening truth, and may well be urged in favor of preventive work among women and girls. Let it again be remembered how often the hereditary taint which the mother has transmitted is the true explanation of the easy fall into this sin in after life of the children whom she has borne. Let it further be remembered how from the very character of her home-life facilities for the indulgence of secret drinking abound, for which, alas! grocers' licenses furnish easy means for gratification. Recalling these facts, we feel that while total abstinence is of unspeakable importance to men, it is impossible to exaggerate the necessity of inducing our women to practice total abstinence themselves, and to train their children in the habit of entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks as beverages. The misery and ruin occasioned through the drinking of women are seen in every section of the community. Facts and figures abound on every hand. They meet us in the streets, the homes, the daily papers; and when once a woman begins to drink she loses her self-respect, and the train of other sins quickly follows. Who amongst us to-night can think without sorrowful indignation how women in the streets of Liverpool have been seen to drop a petticoat, or even two, in a public thoroughfare, and then hastening to the pawnshop, procure the means for drink at the corner house? Who amongst us can think without an aching heart of a sight which met the eye of a clergyman's wife only on Monday last? One tender child wheeling a barrow in which were two beautiful little children—one entirely naked, the other clad merely in a dirty rag. Who amongst us but must shudder at the untimely end of that little one, under twelve months old, who recently in Liverpool died raving mad through the gin which its drunken mother persistently poured down its throat? We have sinned, but these little lambs, what have they done? Who, once more I ask, among us as women, but must blush for shame at the thought of the thousand fallen sisters who walk the streets of Liverpool to-night debased by drink, living lives of unspeakable degradation, to die, in too many cases, deaths of unutterable sadness and shame? Thank God, however, that whilst we have to deplore this prevalence of female intemperance, we realize how strong is women's influence as an instrument for rescue and recovery. I will not dwell on the influence which some of our sex are anxious that women should directly exercise in the world of politics. Of one thing, however, I am certain: if women possessed the franchise, temperance reform would make prodigious strides, and no other question of home policy would be allowed to hold a superior place. As proof, I may allude to the fact that 47,056 women signed the petition in favor of the bill for the withdrawal of grocers' licenses a short time ago, while last year in one town—Burnley—1,200 women signed a petition for the same object. I may quote also the wives of Flaxton, who, when their husbands petitioned for a full license to a certain public-house, themselves petitioned against it; and I am happy to add, successfully. These cases fairly represent on this subject the women of England, and their conviction that if we women had the power this form of temptation would speedily be banished from our midst. The influence, however, of which I wish to speak is

that of home. It is in the sanctuary of home, after all, that the still small voice of persuasion is most effectually heard. There woman's "forte is her piano;" there, as our President gracefully expressed it, the power of gentle speech falls silently, softly, continuously like snow. If we may use the words reverently, woman need not strive nor cry, nor need her voice be heard in the streets. In an unseen way her loving example will quietly accomplish much, if in this matter she be but whole-hearted and true-hearted. I sincerely trust that the addresses and meeting to-night may result in a resolute effort to combat the prolific cause of so much sin and sorrow, misery and crime, disease and death, and in a determination to spare no self-sacrifice which will enable us to promote the temperance reformation and to sweep away that reproach of drunkenness which, shameful under any circumstances, can never be more shameful than when it disgraces the fair fame of the women of England.—*Temperance Record*.

MISS F. E. WILLARD.

Extract from annual address of Miss Frances E. Willard, of Chicago, Illinois, President of National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, given at Detroit, Mich., Oct. 1883.

THE WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

Finally, dear sisters, let me submit to you a plan which is the outgrowth of my special studies in this most eventful year. On the Pacific Coast I felt the pulsation of the newest America—which includes that true "garden of the gods" California, with its semi-tropical climate, and invites not only Europe but Asia to a seat in its banquet hall. I looked into the mystic face of the Orient, and rejoiced in the breezy breath of Japan, the France, even as China is the England, of the East Pacific Coast. I learned the magic transformation in the civilization of Japan, its readiness to take up western customs and the consequent danger lest our vices become domesticated there. I visited the opium dens of San Francisco, and was appalled by the degradation resulting from a poison habit which curses the victim more, but his home less, than does the frenzy of the alcohol dream. Meanwhile, missionaries to the Orient assured me that "since the crusade" a great temperance work is going on in the cities of India, China and Japan, among the English speaking population, and letters from our Connecticut President, Mrs. Treadwell, now travelling on the Continent of Europe, assure me that leading pastors of Paris are anxious to have a Woman's Christian Temperance Union organized in that Metropolis of the whole world. I knew our British cousins across the line and across the sea would heartily co-operate in the movement, and so resolved to urge my sisters to signalize the epoch we rejoice in, by the formation of an *International Woman's Christian Temperance Union* that shall belt the globe and join the east and west in an organized attack upon the poison habits of both Hemispheres. We can do no more at this convention than to authorize the initial steps of such a movement. For a year or two the work must be wholly carried on by correspondence and through the press. Few have as yet the international spirit. I found more of this class on the other coast than here. These friends, better informed than we, and not at present enlisted in temperance work, will largely aid in this new and most Catholic endeavor. I suggest little more to-day than that the prestige of our great society be the fulcrum for a preliminary lift in this splendid enterprise.

Beloved, we have given hostages, not to fortune, but to humanity, we are building better than we know. We stand not only for the cause of temperance, but for the diviner womanhood that shall ere long bring in the era of "sweeter manners, purer laws." We stand for the mighty forces which level up, not down, and which shall draw manhood up to woman's standard of purity in the personal conduct of life.

We are the prophets of a time when the present fashionable frivolities of women and money-worship of men shall find themselves confronted by God's higher law of a complete humanity resulting from:

"Two heads in counsel; two beside the hearth;
Two in the noisy business of the world,
Two in the liberal offices of life;
Two plummets dropped
To sound the abyss of science and the secrets of the mind."

For the world begins to see that

"No lasting links to bind two souls are wrought,
Where passion takes no deeper cast from thought."