

Temperance Column.

A SAD STORY.

General Hancock has left behind him a twin brother. It is said that his brother has been a failure financially for years, and the good old general has supported him. He was a lawyer, and very brilliant for a while. In his early practice he ascended up into the heavens of fame like a rocket; burnt out with the flames of alcohol, and came down as fast as he went up. He was making an income of about twenty thousand a year, when he fell a victim to fast company and wine. And for the last fifteen years he has been dependent on the generosity of the clever general.

This brother was engaged to a young lady about twenty years ago. He was then in the height of his fame; and the prospects were magnificent before the strong and skilful powers he exhibited. But the lady saw danger ahead. She felt the chill that assured her of a change towards a disastrous storm. She smelt it on her lover's breath. And she frankly told her ardent and handsome wooer that she could not marry him until he would forswear the flowing bowl and prove himself a thoroughly reformed man. He could not do that; no, not for the woman he loved from the heart. So desperate is the deadly clutch of intoxication upon the affections. The lady continued firm. She would not marry; she would not break her engagement. She has waited to this day, true to her loving promise, and true to her temperance convictions. And the degraded man, without fortune, without fame, without home or support, is dependent on this same woman to take care of him. She still loves him; she mourns over him; and she knows that her own life is a blighted flower of womanhood. There is now no hope of marriage and home happiness. But the world is full of such heroines.

Better not marry than marry a budding drunkard. Better be without a husband if the husband will not be without his foaming glass. —Christian Statesman.

A local option liquor law has passed the Legislature of Virginia. The wholesale liquor dealers of Richmond, as quoted in the Richmond Dispatch, agree in stating that the passage of the law has already seriously diminished their sales. Retail dealers are buying only from hand to mouth, not knowing how soon they may have to discontinue business. An enthusiastic conference of temperance workers of Richmond and vicinity was held on the 6th inst. A resolution was adopted calling a State Local Option Convention at an early day. A campaign fund was begun, and two hundred dollars subscribed on the spot. The work will be begun at once in all parts of the State. Under the law, one-fourth of those who voted at the last preceding election must sign a petition before a local option election can be ordered.

A Parliamentary return of all persons convicted for drunkenness on Sundays in England and Wales, between Sept. 29, 1884, and Sept. 29, 1885, was lately published. In England, out of a population of 24,618,926, 14,207 persons were convicted, 9,520 were bona fide residents of the police districts in which they were so fined, and 4,678 were non-residents of the district. In Wales, with a population of 1,360,513, there were 307 convictions of residents and 1,440 non-residents.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—At the latest accounts the prospects of the High License bill in the New York Legislature were considered favorable. The Chairman of the Excise Committee had sent to New York for a lawyer familiar with the bill to come to Albany, and go over the measure point by point. The object was to point out to the Committee the reasons which had led to drafting the bill in its several features, to indicate the strong points, and any possible defects, and to answer any questions which the Committee might raise concerning it. The measure was to have a thorough and careful examination, and it was believed that on an early day it would be reported favorably to the Assembly. —Temperance.

When the Church Temperance Society was formed in the fall of 1881, one of the first dioceses to give it a fair hearing at the diocesan convention was Massachusetts. The organization has moved slowly but certainly forward; and Massachusetts is now the only diocese, with the exception of New York, where a paid secretary is employed. At first it was doubted whether there was strength enough in the Church to stand alone and become the exponent of a new creed in temperance reform. The last remnant of that doubt fled when Tremont Temple was packed from floor to ceiling to hear the Bishop of Rochester and other speakers at their annual diocesan meeting in 1884. Bishop Paddock has used trenchant words on the duty of the Church to temperance in more than one of his convention addresses; and by far the best speech at the Temperance Centenary at Boston, arranged by the Law and Order League, was certainly his.—Robert Graham.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The Bishop of Liverpool presided at the annual meeting of the diocesan branch of this society, and in opening the proceedings said they were all banded together to resist the evil which was the cancer of society in England, and to promote the cause of temperance. How much of an evil it was he need not tell them, but he would earnestly impress upon them to relax no effort and strain every nerve to diminish intemperance throughout the land, and thereby to promote thrift, morality and religion. He firmly believed that every one who was con-

nected with the cause of temperance was also helping forward the cause of pure and undefiled religion. No man could walk through the streets of Liverpool without being struck by the extravagant number of drinking places to be found, and he trusted as long as that state of things existed they would go on shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, continually fighting on against the great enemy of Christ's cause, of true morality, and of the prosperity and welfare of the country in which they lived. He appealed to every patriot, to men of every political color, and to every Christian person, whether of the Church of England or the chapel, to come forward and help the cause they all had at heart.

Bishop Paddock, in his address before the Law and Order League of Boston, said: "All the salaries of all the ministers in America are only seventeen million, of dollars, and all the Church property, salaries, and contributions for missionary work here and in foreign lands, put together, amount only to four hundred and thirty millions; but intoxicating drink costs all that and five hundred and thirty-two million besides, and then ruins 100 bodies and souls where the churches can save one.

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