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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 1909.

"A reader for many years" sends us a clipping from a recent issue of the Dominion Presbyterian in which the acceptance of liquor advertisements is condemned, and mentions, at the same time, the appearance in our columns of a recipe for a Christmas cake in which "brandy" was named as one of the ingredients, and asks us how we reconcile the two. We shall not attempt to do so. It is a case of careless editing—nothing more. In over thirty years publishing of Presbyterian papers, we have refused many thousands of dollars worth of liquor advertisements, and certainly we have no intention to recommend the use of intoxicants in cooking recipes appearing in our "Health and Home Hints" department.

Is the time approaching when universal peace is to prevail? It may be that Great Britain is trusting more and more to her navy, while the land forces are considered of less account. An official statement issued recently by the War Office gives some startling facts with regard to the numbers in the army. In the three years since Mr. Haldane became Secretary of War there have been reductions in the regular army amounting to 18,653 officers and men. The special reserve has fewer men by 23,349 than there were in the militia in 1905. The territorial force is less than the volunteers were at that time by 73,726. To offset these reductions there are now 39,290 more men in the ordinary army reserve. The net loss under Mr. Haldane is therefore, according to official figures, 76,439. Little wonder then that Lord Roberts called attention to the condition of the army. But there is a growing disposition to settle international differences by arbitration and Mr. Haldane may be justified in reducing the number of non-productive fighting men.

BIBLE STUDY AND TEACHING.

In the midst of the modern emphasis upon the social problems of the Church and the newer aspects of Christian duty and service, it is interesting and significant to find in The Biblical World a strong plea for Bible study and teaching, as an essential element in the work of the Church. We quote from an editorial in that journal for December:

"The place of the Church in the task of bringing the nation up to its highest possibilities is supreme. The old description of religion as the mother of the arts and sciences has still a measure of truth. The need for inspiration and vision it is her inalienable right to supply; nowhere else is satisfaction to be found. Her task is to enable men to live courageous and God-fearing lives in the present age, to enable them to interpret the world as they know it in terms of God and goodness. To this end a knowledge of the spiritual problems and experiences of previous generations of the Church is practically indispensable. We learn to perform our task by observing the performance of others who have already learned. Hence arises the value of the Bible in the religious life of the race. It furnishes us when rightly interpreted a laboratory notebook of the experience of the greatest experts in religion the world has known. The free and untrammelled study of this record is of supreme importance. The nearer we can come to the hearts of the men whose inmost experiences are here writ down, the greater will be the benefit accruing to us. We see them fighting unflinchingly the battle of faith against enemies as real and powerful as any that ever confront us, and with weapons no better and no worse than those available to us. We realize our oneness with them in the struggle that was, that is, and that ever shall be. We are emboldened by their triumphs and fortified by their example, so that we renew our own contest with an access of courage and strength. It behooves us, therefore, to further in every possible way the effort to get at the real facts regarding the saints of old, and to make them and their work intelligible to the great body of the Church."

A recent report on marriage and divorce shows that for twenty years, ending in 1906, the number of divorces in the United States increased at a ratio three times greater than the increase of population. The rate in that country exceeds that of all other nations. But in Canada we are fast following in their footsteps. Although a divorce can only be secured by special act of Parliament, and is attended with much greater expense than in the United States, notice of application at the session of Parliament just opened has been given in no less than twenty cases.

In a religious census of the world which he has just published, Dr. H. Zeller, director of the Statistical Bureau in Stuttgart, estimates that of the 1,544,510,000 people in the world, 534,940,000 are Christians 175,290,000 are Mohammedans 10,860,000 are Jews, and 823,420,000 are heathens. Of these, 300,000,000 are Confucians, 214,000,000 are Brahmans and 121,000,000 Buddhists, with other bodies of lesser numbers. In other words out of every thousand of the earth's inhabitants 346 are Christian, 114 are Mohammedan, 7 are Israelite and 533 are of other religions. In 1885, in a table estimating the population of the world at 1,461,285,500, the number of Christians was put at 430,284,500; of Jews at 7,000,000; of Mohammedans at 230,000,000, and of heathen at 794,000,000.

EVICTIONS ON THE ESTATE OF LORD ALCOHOL.

By Knoxonian.

Lord Alcohol has many tenants. In Canada, or the United States, or Great Britain, his tenants outnumber the Irish peasants and Scotch crofters ten to one. They may be counted by tens of thousands in almost any highly civilized country. You find them in all parts of Canada—in the cities, in the rural districts, in the new settlements, anywhere, everywhere you go you are sure to find some tenants of this most ignoble Lord.

Lord Alcohol is most cruel and tyrannical in his dealings with his tenantry. He has turned more families out on the road than all the landlords in Ireland and Scotland put together. He thinks nothing of turning a delicate, poorly clad, poorly fed wife out in the cold, or of driving barefooted children into the snow. He has done this very thing ten thousand times. He is doing it every day.

* * *

The most mysterious thing about Lord Alcohol is that notwithstanding his double cruelties he is popular with many of his tenants. Even the tenants that he has evicted like him. He drives them out of their homes, kicks them through debt, disgrace, disease and delirium into a dishonored grave; and yet many of them stand by him to the last. It is said that when the poor Irish peasants are driven from their cabins they often unite in heaping curses upon those who have driven them out. Small wonder if they do. Lord Alcohol's tenants rarely curse at him. Some of them curse the Scott Act or local option advocates vigorously enough, but they are seldom, if ever, heard cursing at the ignoble Lord who evicts them. One point of difference between some evicted Irish peasants and some of Lord Alcohol's evicted tenants is this: The evicted Irish tenants swear at the landlord; the evicted tenant of Lord Alcohol sometimes swears for him—in the police court.

* * *

Let us sketch two or three specimen cases of the evictions that are taking place on Lord Alcohol's estates every day.

Mr. Pusher got a good commercial education in the Old Country. Fired with a praiseworthy ambition to rise in the world, he came out to Canada, got a good situation, and by honesty, industry and good business ability soon won the confidence of his employer. Having saved a little money he went into business for himself. He was successful from the start. As the business grew, young Pusher began to think that it is not good for man to be alone.

Now let us introduce ourselves to Mrs. Pusher as she sits in her drawing room going through that peculiar process known in modern civilization as "receiving calls." She is rather handsome. She talks fairly well, but on light subjects. A very brief conversation starts the fear in your mind that she is hardly the material out of which a solid, useful, influential woman—God's noblest work—can be made. But as you have seen several rather flighty girls round off into splendid women,