

CARBONATE OF SODA IN BURNS.—Several of our readers have derived great benefit from the use of bi-carb. soda in burns, a treatment suggested some time ago in this paper, copied from the *Medical Journal*. The following is from Dr. Ely McClellan, of the *Louisville Medical Times*, who reports the case of a child suffering from a scald, involving the hand and fore-arm of right side. When brought to the doctor, the child was in a terror of agony, and almost unmanageable. The injured arm was carefully wrapped in soft cotton cloth which was soaked with a saturated solution of the bi-carbonate of soda, and in a few moments the pain was entirely relieved, and the child was sleeping. The use of the solution of soda was continued, no other treatment being necessary, and the convalescence was rapid.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FREEMASONRY IN BRAZIL.

SIR,—In connection with the recent outrage upon the civil liberty of Protestants in this Province, I am reminded of an occurrence in Brazil about four years ago. Brazil is a Roman Catholic country, but its ruler and his ministers are nearly all Freemasons. Of course Freemasonry comes under the ban of the Roman Catholic Church; and the Bishop of Pernambuco excommunicated the Masonic members of his churches. The Government—this Roman Catholic government—instantly decreed that unless its sanction were first obtained, any repetition of this clerical anathema would be punished. The Bishop then came out with a decree of the Pope himself against the Masons. Now that St. Peter had spoken, “no dog was to open its mouth.” But, strange to say, this Roman Catholic Government in this Roman Catholic country arrested this Roman Catholic Bishop, and sent him to prison for five years for disobeying the civil law.

No doubt these Masons are Orangemen in disguise!

FACT.

THE PROCESSION OF THE HOST ILLEGAL.

SIR,—The Protestants of this Province, as well as the whole Protestant community of the Dominion, are beginning to look up the actual position of the Church of Rome in Quebec. Upon one point I think we have so much law and justice on our side that I trust our Catholic friends who are so anxious to apply laws to others will not forget to apply this law to themselves. I refer to the procession of the Host in the public streets. It is no argument whatever to say that in the primitive condition of affairs in Quebec, when the population was small, the Host was saluted by the troops, etc. Evidently the mistaken generosity and conciliation of the English commanders at the time led to the assumption that this salutation was a right.

The argument is in a nutshell. The carrying of the Host is *contrary to law*, because the same articles of capitulation which granted full liberty to the Roman Catholic religion also allowed the free exercise of their religious rites *in so far as they are not contrary to the laws of England*. The procession of the Host was not and is not allowed in the streets of England. There was never the shadow of argument to make this claim a right. It has been nothing more nor less than a simple case of that extreme toleration which has characterized the dealings of England with the people of countries she has conquered, and for which the pagans of India, etc., have been more grateful than the Irish Catholic demagogue and Ultramontane priest.

CIVIS.

SUNSTROKE AND ITS PREVENTIVES.

SIR,—Sunstroke is caused by the action of the solar rays upon the brain and upper spinal cord. The calamity may generally be described as the result of human or civic negligence, for without such negligence the heat of the sun would not be capable of destroying life in the healthy subject. It is by exposing ourselves to the sun's direct rays that we are smitten down and die. Thus, in all healthy constitutions, it is the direct ray that has chiefly to be guarded against. It is useless to fence with the truth of this matter, as some journals have done. There has been much less sunstroke so far this year in Canada than in the United States. The difference may be supposed to result mainly from additional care exercised. Next year our neighbours might have the advantage, although common sense once gained is not easily discarded. It can hardly be said—with one or two exceptions in southern cities—that the degrees of heat reached in Canada have been less. The real difficulty has hitherto been to get any care at all taken in the vast number of instances. When things are so, it is folly to make it a mere personal question. Civic and other municipalities should arouse themselves to this beneficent and life-saving work, and here their “proclamations” would not be thrown away. Let us at least hope for more thoughtfulness everywhere on so grave and awfully impressive a subject. The preventives are really numerous, but if any reader should feel interested sufficiently to address “Inventor,” care of the Young Men's Christian Association, Quebec, he will receive, free of charge, a design for a refrigerating head-gear on a new plan, which it cannot be doubted would be very available. There is no intention to patent the plan, and professional hatters would be equally welcome with others to the communication of this invention, which indeed cannot well be carried out without their assistance.

PUR.

THE NEW MODE OF RAISING REVENUE.

SIR,—I observed an article in the *Montreal Daily Witness* of the 13th June, treating of the new mode of raising revenue now adopted by some of the States on the other side of the line, by means of levying a tax on malt and alcoholic liquors sold by the glass, instead of as now practiced by granting licenses. It would seem that where this new mode is adopted, a “bell register” or “recorder” is used to mark the number of glasses of liquor sold, it being the duty of the bar-tender to keep the account correct. Each glass of liquor sold is taxed so much, be it beer, ale, or spirits. I agree with the editor of the *Witness* in thinking that this new mode of raising revenue is a matter well worth the attention of the people of Canada at large; and in calling attention to the statements in the article that he published, he said, amongst other things,

that this new system of raising revenue would go far towards settling the difficult social problem connected with the liquor question in Canada. Grant no licenses—they are immoral in their nature, involving a partnership in vice; but tax the drink. In the same paper, in its issue of the 11th inst., another article appeared, calling the attention of the public to the same object, and expressing a desire to have the matter discussed. Since the appearance of the above articles in the *Witness*, an editorial appeared in the *Star* of the 10th inst., referring to this new mode of taxation. It goes on to state that a Special Committee of the City Council of St. Louis, United States, had made a report strongly advocating the adoption of this new mode of collecting revenue from liquor. They say, upon information furnished by a distinguished Virginian, they are satisfied that the revenue in Virginia this year will be nearly double what it was last year; and the Auditor of the State asserts that its working is satisfactory to saloon proprietors and to the people to such an extent that if it were put to the vote in Virginia now it would be passed by more than nine to one.

The Committee claims that the tax is not an involuntary one, but a voluntary tribute by the consumer; he is not compelled to take the drinks, and the saloon keeper is not charged with the tax until he has collected it from the consumer. The effect of the law would be, measurably, to lessen the number of cheap whiskey shops, and to increase the consumption of beer. The statistics in Richmond, Va., for two months show this. In that city, in September, 1877, the alcoholic registrations were 126,860, and the malt liquor registrations were 135,536. In the month of April, 1878, after the law had been in full operation for some time, the number of alcoholic registrations were 119,535, and of malt liquors, 156,807. The Committee were opinion that upon the diminution of alcoholic consumption may be safely predicted an increase of sobriety and diminution of crime, thus decreasing the necessary expenditures for police and the criminal courts and jails. Coming to the important question of revenue, the Committee estimates that \$600,000 would be realised in St. Louis from the sale of beer alone, and that the sale of whiskey and other alcoholic drinks would certainly double that sum; showing a revenue from this mode of taxation of over \$2,000,000 a year! Besides the floating population, strangers as well as residents would thus help to bear the burden of taxation. “Here is a subject,” as the *Star* says, which may well have the attention of our temperance reformers, as well as of those who at present find it difficult to collect the revenue that accrues in this direction.”

The article first referred to, published in the *Witness*, showed that by a tax of 5 mills levied on each glass of liquor consumed in the City of Montreal, a revenue of over one million dollars per annum could be collected at a less cost, much more easily, certainly, and equitably than at present. The present revenue collected from all sources from liquors only amounts to the beggarly sum of \$6,096 per annum! What a contrast between that and a \$1,000,000! How soon would such a princely revenue from that source alone pay off the enormous debt of our city, and lighten the burden of our taxation?

Do you not, Mr. Editor, think that this subject is worthy the attention of the citizens of Montreal?

REVENUE.

[No. I do not think the subject worthy of anybody's attention, except perhaps the few impractical men who dream in a diseased sort of way and then write down what they are pleased to call their schemes for reform. If it is immoral to grant a license for the sale of intoxicating liquor, surely it is just as immoral to tax the liquor. The only difference is that by the system of licensing, the Government has some control over it—by imposing a tax on the liquor that control would cease. No, the Editor of the *Witness* has not found a new and easy way to morality. That would be a peculiar kind of ethics which could be affected by a change from license granted to a person, to taxation put upon the liquor.

The question of increasing the revenue is quite different. Put a tax on every glass of liquor sold—or every theatre ticket—or every piano—or every pair of boots—or every mutton pie—or every newspaper. It would be all the same if only revenue is the question.—EDITOR.]

LA PETITE MADELAINE.

BY MRS. SOUTHEY.

Walter was really concerned at the bonne femme's account of his little friend, but at that moment he could spare but a passing thought to any subject save one; and having gleaned all the intelligence he was likely to obtain respecting it, he cut short the colloquy with a hasty “Bon soir,” and bounded on his way with such impetuous speed, that the entrance-gate of St. Hilaire was still vibrating with the swing with which it had closed behind him, when he was half through the avenue, and just at one of its side openings into a little grove, or labyrinth, in which was a building, called Le Pavillon de Diane. He stopped to gaze for a moment at the gleam of its white walls, discernible through an opening in the thicket, for the sight was associated with many “blissful memories.” But the present was all to him, and again he was starting onward, when his steps were arrested by sounds that mingled with the cooing of the wood-pigeon among “umbrageous multitude of leaves.”

Other sounds were none at that stillest hour of the still sultry evening; and among the mingled tones, Walter's ear caught some not to be mistaken, for the voice that uttered them was that of Adrienne. Its breathings were, however, in a higher and less mellifluous key than those of the plaintive bird; but a third voice, sweeter than either, uttered a low undertone, and that voice was the voice of Madelaine. Quick was the ear of Walter to recognise and distinguish those familiar accents, but its sense of melody yielded of course to the fond prejudice, which could not have been expected to find harshness in the tones of his mistress, or allow superior sweetness to those of another voice. Whatever were his secret thoughts on that head, it is not to be supposed that at such a moment he stopped to compare the “wood-notes wild,” as coolly and critically as if he were weighing the merits of a pair of opera-singers. No—after a second of attention—not half a one of doubt—he sprang aside from the road leading to the mansion, and was lightly and swiftly threading the tortuous