

everybody that came his way, learned all he could, had a lively humour, was a good story-teller, and left behind him an affectionate memory. He was not one of your faultless creatures, and consequently he made many mistakes. These often added to his personal fascination, for they were usually the mistakes of a warm, impulsive, generous nature. His biographers write in an amusingly patronizing way of letters, and even quote Burnaby's "condescension" to literary men as a proof of his *bonhomie*. From this it would almost appear that Messrs. Ware and Mann are soldiers. They evidently forgot, however, that Burnaby went twice to war as a newspaper correspondent, in which capacity, it is needless to say, he took care to get into the thick of the bullets. In fact, as Mr. Labouchere once pertinently said of him, Burnaby's chief object in living seemed to be to look about for his death. His restless energies, finding no legitimate outlet, led him into all sorts of mad escapades—including political warfare. Somehow fortune failed him at his best to place him face to face with his country's foes, and when the opportunity at length arrived disease and envy combined had marked him for their own, and he was forbidden to go. But he did go in spite of authority, and fell at last in the front of battle. He was, perhaps, as destitute of all sense of danger as any man that ever lived. He was undoubtedly a noble fellow. He claimed to be descended from Edward I., whom he resembled in strength and great stature. The reflection is a sad one that his magnificent physique was practically sapped and gone; that consumption itself had fixed its seat in those gigantic lungs. It is hard to think of the daring fellow dying inch by inch of an insidious disease. Consumption is not incurable, and he might have recovered if he had joined his wife at Davos Platz; but Burnaby could never have lived a slumberous life on a Swiss mountain. He was a born fighter, and it seems to be right that he died fighting.

ONE reads with amazement at times the serious trivialities with which Churchmen vex themselves. All the world is now engaged upon matters of real importance. Everywhere great issues are being decided. But a correspondent of the *London Guardian*, who must surely be a country parson, is disturbed by an awful speculation. "Is water a necessary part of baptism?" he asked with a voice of anxious doubt. Then he tells his story. A native Christian, travelling in the desert, became a father upon his journey at a place where not one drop of water was to be had. There were no liquids in the caravan save some red wine and some flasks of olive oil. The parents in despair signed the cross on the infant's forehead, and said the prayers without use of water. Has the child received baptism? Can there be any baptism without water? Of course, one sees at once that momentous consequences are supposed to flow from the answer. But what a notion of the Divinity must there be in the mind of anybody who regards such a question as serious—as though the Supreme would require, or judge because of, an impossibility.

THE uses of the Atlantic cable are manifold; but the use to which it has been put by a very well-known Englishman lately is novel. The gentleman in question visited America last year, and fell in with a very thoughtful lady, who hailed from one of the chief of the cities of the United States. For five days they discussed together science and philosophy, and the deepest needs of the human mind. They found presently, after they had parted—he to England, she to her home of brotherly love—that the deeper needs of their own minds required that the controversy should be continued by letter. Their correspondence revealed that deep answered unto deep. Philosophy became the handmaid of love; and the greatest achievement of science was called in to assist in bringing about an understanding. Athene was employed to direct the shafts of Eros. A telegram was sent under the Atlantic passionately entreating the philosophic maiden to be kind to the scientific swain; and presently the electric wire received again the avowal of a requited passion. So Puck's girdle was made the minister of love to feed his flame. Pity it is that no Spenser is now alive to write an epithalamium—that "all the waves (instead of 'woods') might answer, and the echo ring." But electricity will probably become the symbol henceforth of impatient love. At all events, the fact that an offer of marriage has been made by the Atlantic cable, and accepted by the same, is worthy to rank as a precedent.

THE *New York Town Topics* says: Instead of a craze for old china, there is now a craze for old silver. It is not uncommon, we are told, now to see a silver wine cooler made the base of a velvet or satin pin-cushion and used on toilet table or work table. All kinds of old silver ornaments are being raked out of oblivion—book clasps, waist buckles and the like; and these, joined together, are made to form mirror or photograph frames on a background of dark velvet. Every kind of old silver nick-nack is now laid out on tables in drawing-rooms. The mania is a very harmless one, and will bring many curious old relics into the light of day.

PALEY had one of the most orderly minds ever given to man. A vein of shrewd and humorous sarcasm, together with an under-current of quiet selfishness, made him a very pleasant companion. "I cannot afford to keep a conscience any more than a carriage," he said. "Our delight was," writes an old Johnian who knew him well, "to get old Paley on a cold winter night to put up his legs, stir the fire, and fill a long Dutch pipe. He would talk away, sir, like a being of a higher sphere. He formally declined any punch, but nevertheless drank it up as fast as we replenished his glass. He would smoke any given quantity of tobacco, and drink any given quantity of punch."

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROHIBITION AND LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—The Inspector's Seventeenth Annual Report on the Asylums for the Insane in the Province of Ontario, recently issued, for the year ending 30th September, 1884, contains some interesting figures bearing on the much discussed Prohibition question. On page 8 of the Report is a table giving the predisposing and exciting causes of insanity in those admitted, the totals of which I give below, omitting the distinction of sexes, for the information of the general reader, as these Official Reports are seen by but comparatively few of the people:—

	Predisposing cause.	Exciting cause.
Domestic troubles.....	1	23
Religious excitement.....	..	31
Adverse circumstances, etc.....	4	24
Love affairs.....	..	7
Mental anxiety.....	1	31
Fright and nervous shocks.....	..	5
Intemperance in drink.....	7	19
Intemperance, sexual.....	2	1
Venereal disease.....	1	1
Self-abuse, sexual.....	5	23
Overwork.....	1	8
Sunstroke.....	..	7
Accident or injury.....	1	10
Pregnancy.....	..	3
Puerperal.....	..	13
Lactation.....	1	1
Puberty and change of life.....	..	7
Uterine disorders.....	1	11
Brain disease with paralysis.....	..	6
“ “ epilepsy.....	6	22
Other forms of brain disease.....	..	4
Other bodily diseases, etc.....	..	16
Fevers.....	..	6
Hereditary, with other causes.....	90	..
“ “ with causes not ascertained.....	57	..
Congenital causes.....	5	..
Unknown.....	258	237
	441	516

From the above table it will be seen that intemperance in drinking, instead of being the most prolific cause of insanity, instead of filling our asylums with insane, as Prohibition speakers and writers are constantly but untruthfully reiterating before the public, stands seventh on the list as an exciting cause, and reached only 7 out of 441 known and unknown predisposing causes. Religious excitement heads the list of exciting causes with 31; mental anxiety, 31; business troubles, 24; domestic troubles, 23; self abuse, 23; brain disease, 22; against 19 attributed to intemperance. It is plain from these figures that were a general prohibitory liquor law in force to-morrow, we would not require one asylum the less, and there would not be one asylum bed unoccupied, as the Report states (page 6) that there is a large number of patients in the county gaols waiting admission to the asylums. So far then as asylum expenses are concerned, the liquor traffic may be thrown out of the question as too insignificant a contributory cause to be considered of any account. Commenting on the causes of insanity, the Report says (page 8): "If a patient has been addicted to any particular vice or excess, or has recently suffered from any important accident or illness, one of these, right or wrong, is set down as the cause of the insanity; and as these histories are generally written by unskilled persons, it will be easily understood that they are, when so written, . . . of very little value." Owing, however, to the wide-spread morbid and hysterical excitement pervading certain classes of the people on intemperance, caused by the Scott Act agitation, a natural proneness would exist, and no doubt does exist, unconsciously it may be, to catch at any flimsy pretext in order to cast the blame on intemperance as the cause of the derangement; and the number of insane, small as it is, attributed to intemperance as the exciting cause, may be safely regarded as rather over than understated; while the converse will hold good in regard to religious excitement. Alcohol is made the scapegoat to bear the sins of all the people, and the wrong-doer tries to excuse himself and escape odium and punishment by repeating the hackneyed phrase, "whiskey did it," well knowing that the excuse will be eagerly grasped at by enthusiasts unaccustomed to study motives, and whose judgments are warped and biased by blind zeal for a hobby. This Report dispels another delusion that pretty generally prevails, that insanity is on the increase in the country. On page 9 it is stated that in "1870-71 the population of the Province of Ontario was 1,620,851, while the number of persons of unsound mind was 4,081, or about 1 in 400. In 1880-81, the population of the Province was 1,923,228, of whom 4,340, or about 1 in 442 were classed as of unsound mind. So far then as the evidence goes, the tendency seems to be in the direction of decrease rather than increase." Prohibitionists, however, are constantly reiterating that intemperance is vastly on the increase, and that the country is going all to the bad through drink; but whatever evils may result from the drinking usages of society, or wherever the people may be tending through intemperance, they are certainly not going to the lunatic asylums. Prohibition writers and lecturers, however, with characteristic disingenuousness, studiously avoid all reference to the figures in asylum and prison reports, and manufacture their criminal statistics on the decimal system, as witness the ten thousand deaths per annum worked out in this way by the Rev. Mr. Lucas. A few units more or less might give the assertion an air of credibility, but would materially mar the sensational beauty of the decimal system when doing duty in platform gush. To support the Scott Act theory, the asylums should be full of lunatics sent there through strong drink, and therefore they must be, the facts and figures in the Official Reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

Perth, July, 1885.

C. RICE.

P.S.—The above has been refused publication in the daily press on both sides of politics, and probably for the same reason, dread of the clerical lash that deters so many members of the House of Commons from giving an honest vote on the Prohibition question.—C. R.

THE COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS OF THE DOMINION WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

To the Editor of *The Week*:

SIR,—The strained relations existing between the Governments of the Dominion and the Ocean Province are calculated to excite apprehension. Acts of hostile legislation are too common, the most recent initiative being taken by the Dominion in the statutory exclusion from Canadian markets of Newfoundland and Labrador herring, upon the plea