

**TEMPERANCE COLUMN.**

NOTES BY THE WAY.

*From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.*

A sad commentary on professing Christians:—The Turks are working to abolish saloons kept by "Christians" in Constantinople. All drinking places within 250 feet from the place of Turkish worship have been ordered to be closed, and the police are enforcing the decree. Truly our only religion is being degraded in the eyes of unbelievers, and can we hope to go unpunished for it?

In an article on alcohol and its evil effects upon the French people, Thomas Grimm advocates an antidote for the evil complained of. He says, "Take off the entire taxes from coffee and sugar; induce the people to drink good coffee, well sweetened, and you will cure them of alcoholism. And he goes on to show that in Sweden, where this experiment has been actually tried, and an example set by the king at the royal table, the results have been marvellous, reducing the consumption of alcohol to less than one-half of what it used to be in what was notoriously an intemperate country. This advice applies with even greater force to England. In France good coffee is common in England all but unknown.

THERE is a movement in Switzerland now which is much needed, as there is a great deal of drunkenness, probably more than in England. Before the English and Americans came in such numbers, the inhabitants used to eat their own poultry, eggs, and bacon, but now they turn them into drink, and live principally on bread, much to the detriment of their constitutions. They usually drink the common white wine of the country, and they also made an exceedingly powerful and deleterious drink from cherries, "kirschwasser." Since the temperance movement was started they have succeeded in reclaiming some of the worst characters in Switzerland, who are now ardent advocates for it; but I think it can hardly be said that the movement is as yet a popular one. A large number of "Cafes Temperances" have been started, and one can now be found in almost every place of any size. They are distinguished by a blue Maltese cross, either hung up outside or painted on the window, and are worth knowing, for you can get a large cup of coffee or chocolate for a penny, generally very good, and a couple of rolls for another penny. I have been into three or four with Mr. F—, who makes a point of visiting them whenever he has a chance, and if he finds the rooms inclined to be dirty, or the coffee, &c., of inferior quality, he reports it to the local committee. There appears to be great deadness in the religious life of the Swiss, large numbers not professing any religion at all; but there seems to be an awakening in this respect

also, as of course it goes hand in hand with temperance. One temperance lecturer, who came from foreign parts, gave tremendous offence here by telling the people they ought to pull up their vines. As this is about the most lucrative industry in the country, they naturally resented it. I like what I have seen of the Swiss as a whole, but I think some of the English have given themselves airs, and they are inclined to be suspicious till they know what one is like.

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