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The Late Dr. Newman Hall.

(The 'Temperance Record'.)

The Rev. Newman Hall, D.D., who died last February, was born in the town of Maidstone so far back as the year after Waterloo—to be exact, on May 22, 1816. He was educated at Totteridge School and Highbury College; graduated B.A. at London University, won a Law Scholarship, and took the LL.B. degree in 1855; some forty years later he received the degree of D.D. honoris causa from Edinburgh University. Dr. Hall was a wide student of humanity and a great traveller; he held tenaciously to opinions based upon his own reason and conscience; was a prolific writer of booklets and hymns designed to promote personal religion and to assist in moral reforms; he was a simple preacher of righteousness—without rhetoric or fireworks, but with a convincing eloquence and earnestness; a keen politician, he was a friend of many legislators, including Mr. Gladstone; a strong Nonconformist, he was on singularly familiar terms with numerous dignitaries of the State Church.

Dr. Hall began his stated ministry at Hull in 1842, and in 1854 came to London to succeed the Rev. James Sherman at Surrey Chapel, in the Blackfriars Road. In this connection may be quoted three verses from a 'tail-piece' by the late Deputy-Judge Payne, whose efforts in this direction must be remembered with affectionate amusement by many of our readers:—

'Old Man Sherman away has fled,
And New Man Hall has come in his stead;
Our sun has gone down and yet no light
Has followed its setting; but all's still bright.

'Old Man Sherman has got good looks,
And Old Man Sherman has written good books;

And New Man Hall, as the Public says,
Is very well off in the self-same ways.

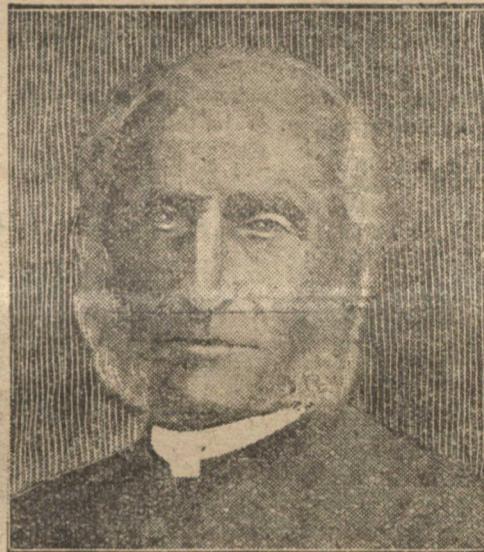
'And may we all when our course is run,
And our work for God upon earth is done,
Before the throne of His glory fall
With Old Man Sherman and New Man Hall.'

Following in the worthy succession of Rowland Hill, James Sherman and Newman Hall, Mr. F. B. Meyer at present preaches in a new Surrey Chapel that rejoices in the name of 'Christ Church,' in Westminster Bridge Road, and is in itself the greatest monument of the departed preacher. We well remember its building and the building of the fine organ which is one of its features; Mr. F. G. Edwards, who is now organist at St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church and editor of *Novello's 'Musical Times,'* personally supervised its erection, and played on it for a good many years.

Dr. Hall was a great champion of the anti-slavery movement, and took the side of the North in the American Civil War. He went to the United States after the war as a self-appointed messenger of concilia-

tion, to smooth away the friction that had arisen between England and the Americans. In this his influence was indicated by the readiness with which our cousins across the water subsequently contributed towards the handsome tower which commemorates the Liberator-President, Abraham Lincoln, and is the outward and truly visible sign of Dr. Hall's effort to promote 'international goodwill.'

No one who has read the 'Author of the Sinners' Friend,' a bulky autograph of his father, John Vine Hall, edited by his son can fail to see from what source Dr. Hall obtained his strong hatred of the drink curse, and founded his earnest labors for its suppression. His father's struggles in early life to overcome a craving for drink are strikingly portrayed, and the recital of his failures and successes has been helpful in innumerable instances in the reclamation of poor men and women who



REV. NEWMAN HALL.

have thought themselves to be held for ever in the grasp of habits of intemperance. In all his labors Newman Hall gave a high place to temperance work, and we well remember the splendid Band of Hope at Surrey Chapel carried on by Mr. A. J. Glasspool and the late Mrs. Thwaites and her daughters. The work at Christ Church and in its numerous mission stations perpetuates these pioneer days, and exerts a powerful influence for total abstinence.

In the year 1896, on the 21st of May, a remarkable reception was given by the National Temperance League to 'Octogenarian Teetotalers,' and at it Newman Hall gave 'as briefly and comprehensively as possible' his personal testimony, although as he said, he had no business to do so as he would not be an 'octogenarian' until the clock struck twelve. Dr. Hall told how in the year 1840 he had been persuaded to sign the pledge by Mrs. Sherman, the wife of his predecessor at Surrey Chapel. He argued against it, but Mr. Sherman said, 'Oh, dear friend, none of your logic; my wife has been praying for you that you might sign the pledge.' 'There is no withstanding a lady's prayers,' said Mr. Hall, 'I will try it for a

month.' On the eve of his eightieth birthday Dr. Hall told us, 'I did, and I have been trying it ever since.' Not only did he try it by personal practice but till the day of his death he advocated it wherever he had the chance. He had total abstinence societies in Hull, at Surrey Chapel and Christ Church, and on the occasion we are writing of he told how 'by and by I had the great help of my friend Mr. Murphy—Simeon Smithard and others—many men and women who have now passed away.' Now the voice that spoke the words is still—and, near his friend Mr. Murphy, the laborer is laid to rest at Abney Park.

There are numerous lessons to be derived from the contemplation of such a life, 'and the greatest of these is charity'; the 'great conciliator' would be a not unsuitable name for Newman Hall, he thoroughly believed in the 'soft answer that turneth away wrath' albeit he had 'a strong will of his own.' The combination is essential to any successful prophet of a public propaganda and the presentation of the value of persuasion as opposed to denunciation needs to be constantly reiterated in the ears of those who are engaged in service for the good of others. Denunciation should be confined to things inanimate; the persuasion of the souls of men is the royal route to the golden age; the diffusion of the light that has come into the world upon the temperance cause, as upon all other beneficent movements, is the means by which will be brought about the redemption of the world from the Evils of the Times.

One Benefit of Family Prayer

(American Paper.)

The good result of family devotion will never be fully known in this world. Many years ago a Christian family in a Western State lived in a lowly cabin on a little farm. Religious worship was conducted in that humble home regularly every night. The father was a devout man of God, who, amid the struggle with poverty which continued almost throughout his entire life, never neglected to commend his family to the care of the heavenly Father at the close of the day. The mother was also a pious Christian, who was not ashamed to let her light shine before her children. When her husband was absent from home, she gathered the children about her at nightfall, read a portion of Scripture, and, with a voice tremulous with emotion, offered a brief evening prayer. The cabin was lowly, the comforts of life meagre, but the fires of devotion were never allowed to die out from the family altar.

In that family were several sons growing up amid the temptations to which youths in rural districts are always subjected and before which thousands go down to ruin. One of those boys was very susceptible to these evil influences, and began early to yield to the pressure of sinful allurements. But one thing restrained him, even when out of sight of