

TREATING IS SINFUL

Priests and Pastors Denounce the System.

Attack Against Saloons—The League of the Cross Arrived for Battle—Encouraging Anti-Treatment in the City of Brooklyn.

(N. Y. Telegram.)

Do not treat your friends in saloons. Do not allow the saloon-keeper, although he gives liberally to the church, to grow rich at the expense of the workingmen and poor mechanics with large families to support.

Such is the advice of Father Francis, of St. Peter's parish, Brooklyn, and of his co-workers in the crusade against the saloons and the American system of treating.

OPPOSED TO TREATING.

For several months past the priests of Brooklyn have taken particular notice of the rapid increase in the number of saloons in the various parishes, and last January, after several meetings had been held and the subject discussed, it was decided by the Fathers to make an attempt to keep their parishioners from spending all their money in saloons by stopping, as far as was in their power, the system of treating.

THE LEAGUE OF THE CROSS.

The first object of the movement is the promotion of the cause of temperance; the second, the suppression of the many temptations to intemperance in this country, and especially the custom of treating and drinking in saloons. It was with this object in view that the above priests started in on their work the first of this year, and proceeded to organize among their parishioners the League of the Cross. The League is similar in many respects to the Church of England Temperance Society, and the American Temperance Society, but at the same time the League of the Cross has among its members both total and partial abstainers, and it is among the latter class that the crusade against treating is being waged.

Any person who so desires may join the League and at the same time serve wives and liquor to friends in his own home, and not violate any pledge, but if that same person enters a public drinking place and asks a friend to drink a glass of beer with him, or drinks alone, he violates his pledge to the League.

TOO MANY SALOONS.

To a reporter who called on Father Francis and asked him concerning his crusade against treating in saloons he said:

"My intention is to make an earnest effort to purify the parish by enrolling members in the League of the Cross and thus raise the moral tone of the neighborhood. In St. Peter's parish which covers a territory of only four blocks by six there are sixty-five saloons. Such a large number of saloons in so small a territory is productive of many evils. They keep men who have families away from home, they keep the laboring man from earning wages, they should go to his family; they are the direct cause of a great deal of poverty in the parish, and we have started the League of the Cross with the intention of reducing the number of saloons, not only in the parish, but in others, and thus putting a check upon the poverty which afflicts the people."

THOUSANDS IN THE RANKS.

Branches of the League of the Cross have been established in many of the Catholic parishes of Brooklyn. There are now nearly fifteen hundred members of the League. Three weeks ago a branch was started in St. Anthony's parish at Greenpoint. Last Sunday night Father Fitzpatrick addressed a meeting in that parish upon the subject of temperance, and at the close of the meeting he gave out five hundred cards to persons who desired to become members of the League. They are male and female of every age, and the object of the League, as stated in the pledge, is aimed at inducing all men to become members of the League of the Cross and take a pledge against entering a saloon for the purpose of drinking or treating therein.

POLITICS TO BLAME.

Father Fitzpatrick, when interviewed by a reporter upon this subject, said:

"We intend to remove as far as possible the temptation for the people to drink and thus remove one great cause of poverty. By reducing the number of saloons the people are induced to save their money, and in place of misery, wretchedness and the crime which now exists here love, hope, progress and prosperity. Our object is, as ministers of God, to serve and root out the evil. There is, of course, great opposition to our work on the part of saloon keepers, the politics of the day being largely to blame."

"A MATTER OF OPINION."

"Then we can place no dependence on the Exotic Commission? Not at all," said Mr. Schlemmer, replied to Father Francis, when asked to refuse a license to a man who was "blocked" from the church. "It is a matter of opinion with us whether the existence of saloons increases the drinking habit of the people. They are also in favor of high license because they have a tendency to diminish the number of saloons."

As an example of the good done by high license, let me tell you that four years ago in Omaha, Neb., there was a population of 30,000 and 180 saloons, run under a low license law. To-day, with high license, there is a population of 50,000 persons, but only eighty-five saloons. The effect has been as striking in Philadelphia, while in the city of New York, where, of Lowell, Mass., where I was formerly stationed, there was a population of over 55,000 and 1,000 saloons, but now there are only sixty-five saloons in the city."

AN INVERSE RATIO.

"Bloomington, Ill., has a high license law, a population of 20,000 and thirty-two saloons. In all places where the number of saloons has decreased, drunkenness and crime have proportionately diminished. We have asked the Legislature for a strict enforcement of the Sunday closing law, and have received the reply that "there is no fortune." What can we do? "Saloon keepers are forbidden to sell liquor to minors, but it is done to such an extent that a city like Chicago was not long ago horrified to discover that from 25,000 to 30,000 children, boys and girls of tender years, passed and repassed the open doors of saloons and even entered these places, seeing and learning the ways of evil. It is our mission to do our utmost to decrease this rule of intemperance and crime in our midst, and having the interests at heart of home, church and State, we have established the League of the Cross in our various parishes."

FELICITATES AT WORK.

The League of the Cross is the idea of Cardinal Manning, and as a recent movement held in the Crystal Palace, London, England, 20,000 persons were present to show how much at heart they had the cause of temperance and to tell of the danger of drinking in saloons. Bishop Ireland, who is active in advancing the cause of temperance among the people of the United States, has recently obtained many statistics bearing upon the question. He is an authority for the statement that there is, on an average, in the cities and towns of this country one saloon to each thirty-five persons. In New York the total number of saloons exceeds the total number of all kinds of provision stores combined. In Chicago there are 3,000 saloons, but only 1,000 provision stores. In the city of New York, for every twenty-five families, several of whom use no liquor, there is one family in charge of a saloon.

WHOLESALE DEALERS' GRIPE.

In many of the cases, Bishop Ireland asserts, the wholesale dealers have the capital upon which the retailers work. In Buffalo one large

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