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FRANCE AND THE REVOLUTION.

(From Journal of Am. Tem. Union.)

Once more the eyes of the world are turned upon beautiful France as the most interesting portion of the globe. Far back as the memory of most of the existing generation can reach, she was the scene of a revolution in which the throne, the altar, and the priest, were overturned, and the “blood was up to the horses’ bridles.” Soon after she became the subject of a military tyranny, which, like a great heat, scorched every green thing, and caused men to cry unto heaven for deliverance. For the last eighteen years, under her citizen king, she has been promising herself all that freedom and prosperity which could flow from a republic with a crowned head; but, year after year, she has found herself bound with cords, encircled with armies, and threatened with the extinction of the last spark of national freedom, until, burning with indignation, she has in a moment ejected the most potent of monarchs from his throne, and resumed all her rights as a free and independent republic. Amid excitement and agitation exceeded only by some convulsion of nature, when towns and cities are overthrown and swallowed up by an earthquake, she had laid broad her foundations for liberty and order, for public and private peace and prosperity—and is for sailing out upon the bosom of the mighty deep with all the calmness and dignity of a gallant ship, officered, manned, and provisioned for a long and prosperous voyage. But will she be able to hold on her course? Are there not within her the elements of a burning mountain, which will soon burst forth, and lay waste whatever is fair and beautiful in her magnificent structure.

It is now true as ever, that “righteousness exalteth a

nation;”—that there must be moral principle, mental sobriety, a control of the appetites and passions, regard to law as the rule of right, or no government can stand and prosper. Discord, anarchy, violence and bloodshed will roll over the fairest prospects, and the most brilliant morning be succeeded by a night of darkness that may be felt. France now is intoxicated with the spirit of liberty. She needs no unnatural stimulus to urge her onward to what may yet prove a terrible drama. Had she added to her mental quickness and patriotic ardor the sedateness of the German or the Briton, we might most reasonably expect to see a nation rise into existence most wise and powerful, and standing firm like an oak through many generations. But is there no ground of fear, when, to her natural ardor and enthusiasm, not to say occasional risings of passion most fearful and terrific, is added the stimulus of the intoxicating cup—*alcohol* running through all her veins, and quickening every fibre and tissue of her system.

France has been called a temperate nation. Her wines have been celebrated for their healthful and harmless character. There is no need there, we are told, of the temperance reformation; for there is no drunkenness in France. But what are the facts in the case? From a table prepared by R. M. Hartly, Esq., of New York, chiefly from official returns and other documents, it appears that the annual consumption of wine in France is 746,571,429 gallons; of brandy, 9,245,425; spirits, 2,250,000; cider, 221,705,450; beer, 74,021,550. In this aggregate consumption of 1,053,797,854 gallons, there is 137,298,767 gallons of pure alcohol, giving to each of the 32 millions of people no less than 4½ gallons of alcohol annually; considerably exceeding the amount of alcohol used by any other nation,—the average for great Britain being 1½; Sweden, 3½; Prussia, 1 1-16; United States, 1½. The question will be asked—why, then, is there not more visible drunkenness in France than in these other countries? The answer, we suppose, must be, that the greater proportion of alcohol is consumed in the wine cup, where it is usually about 15 per cent; whereas in England, Ireland, Scotland, and the United States, it is chiefly in brandy, rum and whisky, where it is more than 50 per cent. But there is more, far more of drunkenness or unnatural excitement from the use of intoxicating liquors in France, than the world are usually acquainted with. The Rev. E. N. Kirk, after residing sixteen months in that country, said, “The conviction produced on my mind by all I saw is, that no nation is more injured by the use of alcoholic drinks than France. I never saw the poorer classes of any other city than Paris so regularly, and in