

The Temperance Worker

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16.

NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Secretary of the Blue Ribbon Gospel Temperance Union of St. John's, Newfoundland, sends us some interesting information about the temperance cause in our eastern neighbor. The union was organized in March 1883, as an entirely unsectarian body. It has now held sixty-four meetings, and has 670 members. It is now taking a more refined position against the drink custom and the drink traffic. Other temperance organizations throughout the colony are working with the ultimate object of prohibition, and all are progressive and successful. The second stronghold of the drink traffic in the colony (Harbor Grace electoral district) has recently been compelled to yield to the forces of local opinion, "and through this grand achievement," our correspondent writes, "we are now enabled to bring a more powerful temperance pressure to bear upon St. John's—and even upon the entire Island; and notwithstanding that the drink vendors still flout their signboards defiantly along our public highways, and curse us with their liquor slums, yet we think we are fully warranted in applying to the traffic—at least in Newfoundland—the mysterious words that once so terrified a drunken king;—*Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin.*"

There are of course plenty of good men who still support what they call "moderation." But to deal thoroughly with the evils of drink we need men and women with strong moral backbone; and these are not wanting in Newfoundland. The letter continues:

Our motto—our *'War Notes'*—is Total Abstinence. Our society looks no compromise with an unrighteous liquor business. We say, with an aged veteran in the cause of truth,—*"Down with the Rum Traffic and let it be hewed in pieces, as Samuel hewed Agag."*

Through the kindness of the society's president, the Hon. C. R. Ayre, the interest of the regular Sunday meetings has been very much enhanced by their distribution.

THE TRUE "BITTER CRY."

Dr. Jabez Hogg, at a scientific meeting in England, said that the force of social example was a fertile cause of inebriety, as was also badly cooked food, the latter leading man to resort to alcohol to give a zest to the food. Impure water also led to recourse to intoxicants, which engendered the crave that led on to inebriety. In the cause of temperance a supply of uncontaminated wholesome water was very important. The force of parental example was an influential source of the disease. Parents seemed to think that children could not grow up strong without beer or wine, which was a fatal mistake. In this way the young often unconsciously glided into inebriety. In overwork and business worry the "nips" of the merchant might give relief for the moment, but the effect was transient, and was followed by a depression which craved for more alcohol. Dr. Hogg was sure medical men in general prescribed alcohol now only in exceptional circumstances, with feeling, reason and science. Drunkenness produced degenerative changes in vital organs, with loss of brain power and alteration of nerve tissue. Alcohol was the true "bitter cry" of London, leading to disease and death, and it is also the curse of the army

and the country. It would, therefore, be a national shame if we did not endeavor to trace out the moral and physical causes of inebriety. It was cruel and unjust to regard the drink craver as a criminal. This would be to confirm the disease not to cure it. Shakespeare knew better, and held up the inebriate to pity, not to scorn.

"COMPULSORY TEETOTALERS."

Dr. Bucke, the well-known authority on insanity, and Medical Superintendent of the Asylum at London, Ontario, has the following paragraph in his last annual report

"DISUSE OF ALCOHOL."

"During the year just closed, no alcohol in any form has been prescribed at this Asylum either in sickness or health. This is the second year during which our nine hundred patients have been total abstainers, and so far I have seen no case in which the administration would have been beneficial. I am more and more satisfied that the use of alcohol either in sickness or in health is always a mistake and often a fatal one."

Such a declaration as this, and from such an authority, is another severe exposure for that potent deceiver and destroyer which some men persist in upholding as a "good gift of God."

DRINK AND INSANITY.—One newspaper, very zealous in behalf of the doomed drink trade, has been trying to pooh-pooh the terrible facts relating to drink and insanity.

It quotes from some asylum report to show that the majority of inmates have not come there by way of the saloon at all. Even supposing its figures to be perfectly correct, they show an appalling number of cases of insanity directly caused by alcohol. But a moment's thought will show that this is only a small portion of drink's destructive work on the human mind. Enquire into the individual histories of those masses of lunatics who put our civilization to shame,—and what will you find? In addition to those whose mind-power has been weakened by alcohol, and who, unable to bear up against domestic or business or religious difficulties, have gone to swell the ranks of those whose insanity is owing to those difficulties alone,—how many will you find whose insanity results from no fault of their own, but has been transmitted to them, a frightful heritage, by parents, or even grand-parents, who would not deny themselves even for the sake of their offspring. And, as to the drink-madness, or dipsomania itself, it is well known to be often inherited. At a meeting of the British Society for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, Dr. Raynor, of the famous Asylum at Hanwell, gave numerous examples of heredity in families, and declared that the operation of the law of heredity in alcohol was incontestable, and it might even be doubted if causes operating through two generations at least were not required to develop dipsomania. And Mr. W. J. Corbet, M.P., in a review of the question in the United Kingdom, shows that in England, Ireland, and Scotland insanity has increased by sixty per cent in twenty years. Among the causes assigned for this ominous exhibit, intemperance is chief. Out of a total of 13,504 cases in the United Kingdom in 1881, 1,730 were directly attributable to intemperate habits.

CONDEMNED BY AUTHORITY.—Dr. Keller, president of the Arkansas State Medical Society, has been quoting some Dr. Link as having proved the value of whiskey as a substitute for chloroform in operations, as well as a substitute for carbolic acid as an antiseptic, or preventer of decomposition.

As to the latter point, it has been proved that alcohol is only anti-septic in large quantities; in the small quantities taken by the "moderate drinker" it is the very reverse; and a remedy consisting of large quantities of alcohol will probably have worse results than the disease itself. There is the same terrible objection to using large doses of whiskey to render surgical patients unconscious,—in plain words to make them drunk. Such a proceeding might be quite enough to establish the fatal drink-craving which doctors now consider to be an absolute disease. And, considering only the immediate physical results, Dr. Link's treatment is condemned by the highest authority in Medical literature,—the *Lancet*. Here is what that journal says: "The manner of anesthetising the patient seems to be to administer one or two ounces of whiskey by the mouth every ten minutes 'until complete drunkenness is reached,' and then, with or without one or two inhalations of ether or chloroform, to proceed to operate. On the face of it, this procedure appears to be open to righteous condemnation. It is well known that acute gastritis may be set up by such means, and the onus of proving that such large imbibitions of alcohol are inoffensive rests with Drs. Link, Keller, and others who may choose to employ the drug. It is possible—anything is possible in medicine—that such treatment may be innocuous; but until more accurate knowledge is forthcoming we prefer to believe the contrary."

THE LONDON "GLOBE" mentions as "a startling result," a fact to which the Commissioners of Customs in the British Isles call attention,—"That if the rate of consumption of spirits per head had remained what it was in 1873-4 the yield for last year would have been \$15,000,000 more than was actually realized. Concurrently with the diminished revenue from wine and spirits, there has been a remarkable growth in that from tea and cocoa, the latter especially. Last year's yield of tea duty was nearly seven per cent in excess of the product in 1882-3, while cocoa showed an increase for the year of nine per cent, and no less than thirty-two per cent on the yield nine years ago. It is a moot point of controversy whether smoking is or is not conducive to intemperance, but there has been no decline in the use of tobacco corresponding to that in alcoholic stimulants. On the contrary, the yield of the duties indicates a small, though but a very small increase."

IN "A GLIMPSE OF HOLLAND," the Rev. Dr. Blaikie says:—"The people of Marken stand high in moral and religious character. In an account of Marken in De Coster's 'Tour du Monde,' it is said: 'There are but four little inns in the village; it is counted disgraceful to frequent them for drinking. An inhabitant of Marken who should go often to the public house would be despised and if he should come out drunk he would be followed by the shouts of the boys in the streets.' The fishermen, who are usually at sea all the week, make a point of returning home on Saturday and do not take to sea till the Monday following. The whole of the people are members of the Reformed Church of Holland, and are accustomed to attend church. When absent from home for longer periods they are noted for avoiding the taverns and all intoxicating liquors."

THE TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL on the Town Moor, Newcastle, last week was a very great success. Mr. W. D. Stephens, J. P., estimates that fully 100,000 people joined in the festivities, and out of that vast number there was not one single complaint of

drunkenness. Referring to the sports, the *Newcastle Journal* says:—"The ordinary wrestling went on in the centre of the ground during a greater portion of the afternoon, and no one of the vast assemblage seemed to relish the exciting bouts more than Bishop Wilberforce, who sat and watched the contests to a finish, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with the various points of this essentially north-country game."

THERE ARE NO LESS than 134,462 public house and beer house licenses in force in England, Scotland and Ireland at the present moment, besides 18,931 licenses for the sale of beer "not to be drunk on the premises," and 13,370 grocers:—a total of 166,763 places where liquor can be got. This is a little better than last year, when the number was 168,538.

A MEDICAL man writes to the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle*:—"I have been a total abstainer six years, and have worn 'the blue,' not quite two years. I can conscientiously say that my influence for temperance has been more since I put on the blue than during the four previous years."

A FOOLISH HUNTER named Jan, of Houcktown, Pike county, Pennsylvania, was nearly killed by a rattlesnake lately. He was one of a party of hunters who had been shooting some bears that had carried off a number of sheep, and he found a rattlesnake which he held by the neck so that it could not bite, and teased it for the amusement of his companions. He then put it down on the ground, when it coiled up and darted at Jan, burying its fangs in his finger. He used some remedies, and is recovering from the bite, although his hand was terribly swollen and he was expected to die. Another time he will know better than to play with a rattlesnake.

THE PASSENGERS from the wrecked steamship "Amsterdam," who were landed on Sable Island, near Nova Scotia, seem to have been badly treated there. The passengers say that although the supply of food that they received after landing on the island was not enough for them, part of it was taken away from them by the people living on the island. They say, too, that some of the islanders went on board the "Amsterdam" to get provisions for the people on shore, and got drunk instead. Mr. Hutchins, the Light-house Inspector, has gone to Sable Island to see about these and other charges.

AN EARTHQUAKE was felt in the United States on Sunday. The shock lasted about ten seconds and was felt as far south as Philadelphia, as far north as Vermont, and as far east as Portland, Maine. In some places there were two shocks. Houses were shaken a good deal, and some walls cracked, but nobody is reported to be hurt. The ships in the harbors were tossed about a good deal, several anchor ropes were broken.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT has complained to the English Government about a German vessel called the "Diederich" having been robbed by men from some English fishing smacks. It is thought, however, that the "Diederich" was a floating gin shop and that the affair complained of was a dispute about paying for the drinks.

SEVERAL THOUSAND Piegan Indian in Montana are starving, because the American Government has not issued enough for them to eat. Luckily there are plenty of wild berries, and it is said that they have also run off with several white men's horses.