

A Ribbon of Blue, or our Temperance Jottings and Notes.



HIEN Quin was in a coffee house he heard one man say, "Waiter a glass of brandy; I'm hot." In a few minutes another customer cried out, "Waiter a glass of brandy; I'm cold." Exasperated by the dishonesty he halloaed, "Waiter a glass of brandy; I like it."

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise: Because it matters not how rightly it may move itself in the cup should the colour and charm thereof lead thee to taste and drink. In the Book of Books it is written, Prov. xxiii. 32. It biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder; read on, and it warns further of the awful and shameful influence of strong drink: The 33 verse shows it to be an exciter of lust and all manner of foolishness, yet so dangerous is the fascination and power thereof that the poor wounded sot saith, verse 35, "I will seek it again."

An inebriate, lying in the snow before his house door said. How is it? Have I been dreaming, while I was lying snugly in bed, that I come down a cropper of snow; or am I really lying in the snow, and have I been only dreaming I was in bed?

Some say, why rob a poor man of his beer? We reply because it can be proved a mocker. Some say, I could not keep up without my glass of ale or beer. Why? It makes me strong. What does? Certainly not what is actually in the drink.

Malt we all know, is vegetated barley. Barley is food next in nutrition to wheat, and all we have to do is to ascertain how much of this feeding substance is found in the beer when men drink it. The brewing process will give us that, tracing which we shall find that every step the object is, not to secure a feeding, but an intoxicating liquor, and to obtain this the feeding properties of the barley are sacrificed at every stage.

In making a gallon of beer six pounds of barley are used, which to commence with is six pounds of nutriment.

Now in this gallon of beer how much of the barley is there left? At the onset you had some six pounds, or ninety-six ounces. What is there now? Less than ten ounces. The truth of this you can easily ascertain. Get a pint of ale or beer and place it in a saucepan, then gently boil it over the fire. The fluid part will go—the solid part will remain. Thus every grain of solid matter can be obtained and the properties and amount fully ascertained.

What then, may we ask is there to support and strengthen a man in a pint of ale or beer? Its contents are fourteen ounces of water, part of an ounce of the extract of barley, and nearly an ounce of alcohol. Science demonstrates that one gallon of malt liquor contains less than ten ounces of solid matter.

The *Western Recorder* well says that to quarantine small-pox and hang out a danger flag, while whiskey goes free is a most absurd thing to do. For while small-pox kills one whiskey kill thousands. And yet that is the madness and folly of society and the authorities. The gigantic evils allowed to flourish while the petty ones are condemned and suppressed.

The drink statistics of Great Britain are appalling. They are in comparison with other items of national expense thus given in pounds sterling: For bread, 70,000,000; rent of houses, 70,000,000; rent of farms, 60,000,000; woolen goods, 16,000,000; cotton goods, 14,000,000; butter and cheese 35,000,000; milk, 30,000,000; sugar, 25,000,000; coal for household purposes, 15,000,000; for education 11,000,000; for Christian missions, 1,050,000; FOR INTOXICATING LIQUORS, £136,000,000—besides this enormous bill \$100,000,000 more is lost annually from taxes, labor, accidents, disease, etc., through the drink.

The drink traffic we consider to be Wholesale and Retail robbery. Read *Habbakkuk* 2. 15.

Laws will not enforce themselves: and on this point The Examiner says:—

Rev. Theodor L. Cuyler recently wrote in his trenchant way: "Righteous laws of suppression are essential in their place; but the only permanent cure for dram-selling is to break up the demand, and to dissuade people from wishing to buy or to drink." This goes to the root of the matter. Laws will not enforce themselves. Unless the moral sense, the aroused conscience of the community is behind it, the best law that can be devised will not be worth a straw. And the only possible way to secure such a pervading moral sentiment as will insist on the enforcement of whatever laws there are, is to win over a majority of the liquor-drinkers to the temperance side.

Hints and Helps for Workers; or Thoughts and Gatherings from the Study.

"There is a time, we know not when,  
A point, we know not where,  
That marks the destiny of men  
To glory, or despair."

"There is a time, by us unseen,  
That crosses every path;  
The hidden boundary between  
God's patience and his wrath.

To pass that limit is to die,  
To die as if by stealth."

This is one of the most successful and impressive versifications ever made of advanced doctrine; but most Christians prefer not to dogmatize on such a subject, and by a disputed interpretation of doubtful texts to "limit" the mercy of God and the salvation of man.

ARE YOU SAVED?—Then seek the salvation of others, show your faith by your works. Christ said, by their fruits you shall know them; deeds not creeds prove our soundness in the faith once delivered to the saints by Him who went about doing good. Wherever the love is present, the product is a work, a beautiful work of God. Every act inspired by love is a treasure laid up in heaven. We have not been thinking of that, but of the efforts for the good of others, specially for the salvation of their souls. We live in a world of souls—for the most part lost. Most earnestly do we plead then to become a worker. The soul of the Son of Man is in travail. When He looks around his Father's house He sees room enough, and to spare—so many empty places that might be filled—and when He looks outside, can He weep still?