

OLD COUNTRY NEWS.

Saccharine in Beer—Dr. Richardson's Plea for Simple Foods—Ho "Quit" the Company—Rev Jackson Wray Becomes an Abstainer—The Fight Over the Compensation Clause—The New Visitation Plan.

Fraudulently Kept Sober.

The dry light of science, says the Pall Mall Budget, usually sputters and sparkles whenever the House of Commons discusses beer or blended spirits. Sir Lyon Playfair's amendment about saccharine did not promise this quiet at first, but when the Chancellor of the Exchequer began to discourse about "the gravity of the beer," there were naturally odd smiles in unexpected corners, and upon even the immobile features of temperance reformers.

Fruits or Flesh?

Dr. B. W. Richardson has been lecturing on "Foods for Man." He says—By weighing the facts that now lie before us the inference is justified that in spite of the very long time during which man has been subjected to an animal diet, he retains, in preponderance, his original and natural cast for an innocent diet derived from the first fruits of the earth.

No License for the New Gallery.

The grand "new gallery" in Regent Street has been refused a refreshment license by the Middlesex magistrates. Surely this is a remarkable sign of the tendency of the times.

The "Dubs." of the "Pubs."

Under the title of "How our Pubs are Dubbed," the Pall Mall Gazette publishes a long list of the oddities of public-house sign boards, from which it appears that there are fifty-three "Red Lions" in London, six "Black Lions," and seventeen "White Lions," each of which are free to do their work of slaughter for nineteen hours daily.

Self Rule First.

The Bishop of Peterborough, speaking at Leicester, said the masses, if they were to be trusted to rule the nation, must first learn to rule themselves. When workmen, as a class, realized drunkenness to be a degradation, and treated the drunken workman as a disgrace to his order, they would rise in the supremacy of their power, and show that they could rule in righteousness.

It Would Not Remain.

A British exchange is answerable for the following:—Once a pig was lying by the side of the road. On the other side was a man. The pig was sober, the man was drunk. The pig had a ring in his nose, the man had a ring on his finger. Some one passing exclaimed, so that the pig heard it, "One is judged from the company he keeps." Instantly the pig arose, and went away.

Compelled to Come In.

The Rev. Jackson Wray, one of the most noted among British preachers has just declared himself an abstainer saying: "I am now compelled, as the results of my observations at home and abroad, to join the ranks of those who make deadliest war against strong drink; and, as I did on Saturday to my comrades at the meeting, so now, I declare myself to be a Total Abstainer, and propose to do my best, in courteous fashion and in a Christian spirit, to induce others to follow my example of this, more hereafter."

Sunday Morning Visitation.

Mrs. Lewis, in connection with her teetotal mission, has made a new departure of some importance, by which the objects of the mission will be more effectively gained. It is well known that the best time to find at home the victims of the drink traffic is Sunday morning, when the public houses are closed. At that time the subjects of the Saturday night's dissipation are generally sitting on the "stool of repentance," and a word wisely and kindly spoken under such circumstances

would have a greater effect than at other times. In order to take advantage of this, Mrs. Lewis summoned a meeting of her workers at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, about fifty persons responding to her appeal. Another meeting will be held to-morrow, when it is expected that a larger number of willing workers will be present. It has been decided to make a thorough visitation of the homes cursed by drink, and to make a personal and pointed appeal on behalf of total abstinence. The visitors will be armed with pledge cards, tracts, etc., and will commence work at nine o'clock in the morning, and continue the visiting as long as there are drinking homes unsewn. An order has been given for 16,000 tracts. Last Sunday's meeting was most encouraging to the new movement, great eagerness being manifested to engage in the work. The new departure is a noble one, and if judiciously and wisely carried out, cannot fail to result in a great amount of good.

Eden in the East End.

For the sad state of the east end of "the world's great metropolis" the celebrated Dr. Parker has a speedy and effectual remedy. These are his words: "I could make a garden of Eden in the East-end of London in three months, if I had my own way. I should do nothing but burn down all the breweries and shut up all the public-houses. The deadliest enemy with which the social constitution has to contend is the damnable drink-shop."

The Compensation Clause

Continue to meet with strong opposition, and although the Government is still firm, the influence of numberless meetings to protest, and above all the open disaffection of many Temperance men who otherwise give the Government their support, is said to be alarming them somewhat. The Manchester Guardian thus expresses the growing conviction. "There is reason to believe that the Government have taken alarm at the growing hostility to the licensing clauses in the Unionist ranks. Mr. Chamberlain's adoption of the principle of compensation had its effect at the time, but this effect is steadily working off, and if the Government insist on the provisions in their present form they will run a strong risk of incurring a Parliamentary defeat, as they cannot count on the unanimous support even of their own party in this matter. It is stated that from 30 to 35 Unionists have intimated their intention to vote against the clauses unless they are modified. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that Mr. Ritchie is seriously reconsidering his position in the matter, and I believe that a proposal has actually been submitted for the consideration of certain members directly concerned, the adoption of which will morally change the whole aspect of the licensing question. The terms of the proposal are at present kept secret, but I hear that they are much more likely to be popular with the brewers than with the publicans.

A Mighty Protest.

Against compensation was made by the citizens of London when recently they filled Exeter Hall to overflowing to pass resolutions condemning the action of the Government. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., was chairman and in addition to a dozen members of Parliament there were on the platform leading men of every department of the Christian church, leading physicians and lawyers. The speakers included Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Cardinal Manning, A. Cideancon Farrar, George Livesey, (son of Joseph Livesey), Mr J H Kayse and others.

A High-License Catechism.

Q. What is high license? A. It is a law which, for a stipulated sum, authorizes the rum-seller to manufacture drunkards. Q. What raw material does the rum-seller use in such manufacture? A. Boys. Q. Whose boys? A. Anybody's boys. Q. What benefit is to be derived from a high-license law? A. It will elevate the business. Q. What business? A. The business of making drunkards. Q. How does it propose to do this? A. By shutting up the dead-falls, and making the palace saloons more attractive. Q. What is the difference between a dead-fall and a palace saloon? A. A palace saloon is where the boys take their first lesson in crime; the dead-fall is where they graduate. Q. What is the difference between a Prohibitionist and a high licensist? A. High licensists believe in putting whisky into a boy through a \$1,000 funnel, and then putting the boy into the gutter. The Prohibitionists believe in putting the whisky into the gutter and saving the boy. —Waco Advance.

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