

among the rank and file. In the full conviction that negroes when they die go to Africa, poor Quacko was wont to hang himself *en grand tenue*, his knapsack stuffed with all his little belongings, as a sort of provision for a new life in fatherland. Strong measures became necessary. The colonel therefore paraded the men one Sunday morning, and addressed them as follows: "Men! You are hanging yourselves because you think that you are going back to the Gold Coast. Nothing of the sort. When you die, you go to a much warmer place; and, by Jove, the next man who hangs himself, I'll do the same; and I'll make it ten times hotter for him there than here!" The result was an immediate cessation of suicides.

THE *Révue Scientifique* publishes a paper on alcohol and alcoholism which presents statistics and conclusions of a startling nature. The author, M. Fournier de Flaix, affirms that the outcry against alcohol is utterly unmerited, as it does far more good than harm. To demonstrate this, M. de Flaix furnishes tabular statements to show that not only in the French departments, but in all other countries the birth-rate is lower and the death-rate higher wherever the consumption of alcohol is small. It is further argued from these figures that neither criminality nor suicide is in proportion to alcoholic consumption. In the Seine et Oise the consumption of alcohol is just about half what it is in the Seine Inférieure, yet the suicide rate is double in the former. In England, again, more alcohol is consumed than in France, and yet in France, the writer points out, the birth-rate, the death-rate, the statistics of crime and suicide, are less favourable than in England. The comparisons for Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Austria, and Germany show analagous results. M. de Flaix's conclusion is that it is the nations with the most vital powers, the greatest wealth, and the best morals who consume the most alcohol.

In theory, education in Egypt is gratuitous and universal; the most ardent supporter of free education could find no fault with the Egyptian system, which adopts a child from the moment of its birth, and for a charge amounting to about eight cents per head per annum on the whole population provides it with a curriculum that could hardly be equalled outside of the larger European Universities. The young Egyptian of six years of age may, if he chooses, attend a primary school; at the age of eleven he may go to a secondary one; and at sixteen may continue his studies at one of seven colleges. A Ministerial report shows that in June, 1885, out of a population of 6,800,000 souls, 8,587 were receiving instruction. For the instruction of these 8,587 scholars, 504 professors are employed, an average, that is, of one teacher to every seventeen taught. The total budget for the Ministry in 1885 was £84,689, but of this £17,470 went to administrative expenses, to feeding some of the scholars, and other charges, so that the actual charge for education alone was only £67,219, which it may be interesting to note is about £7 16s. 6d. per scholar—five cents per head of the entire population—and would allow £133 for each professor.

BUT the report gives other information which is of interest as showing the working of free education in Egypt. From the figures given it might be supposed that the main difficulty was to procure pupils, but Egypt is a land where everything goes by contraries, and it is amusing to notice that the chief complaint is the impossibility of getting rid of these few but ardent scholars. It would appear that the Egyptians, if not as a class thirsty for knowledge, are yet in particular instances very tenacious about receiving the full value for their five cents. Thus we find at the primary schools youths of 19, at the secondary ones men of 22; and this does not imply that they are seeking the advantages of education late in life, but that, having found a benevolent Government who will educate, and even partially feed them, gratuitously, they are in no hurry to find other means of livelihood. In fact, the Minister complains that these ungrateful children of a paternal Government actually demand as a right that that Government should find them employment, and to an Egyptian mind no idea would appear more logical. From their point of view they have, instead of being useful to their parents in the fields, obliged the Government by wasting their early years in what is almost considered a State department; and it would be obviously unjust that when thus, as they consider, rendered useless they should be expected to make their own living. In fact, a boy educated by the State considers the State, *in loco parentis*, bound to provide for his future.

THE *Queen* states that some instructive information respecting "temperance drinks," as they are called, is to be found in the report for the past year of the Principal of the Laboratory of the Inland Revenue office; and a contemporary observes that among the analyses of beer and wort made

by the department during the twelvemonth, were 425 samples of "botanic beer" and other temperance beverages, more than one-half of which, it is stated, contains over the legal 2 per cent. proof spirit, the range extending from a mere trace up to 25 per cent. In nineteen of the latter cases the samples, although represented as non-intoxicating, contained as much spirit as, or more than, ordinary ale and porter. On the label of a professedly non-alcoholic beverage which was analysed a short time ago, it was asserted that total abstainers who consumed it were both pleased and surprised at its "comforting and exhilarating effects." The reason of their pleasure and surprise was, the Principal of the Laboratory cynically remarks, obvious, inasmuch as the beverage in question contained no less than 23 per cent. of proof spirit. It is by no means improbable that "temperance drinks" will be discovered, one day, to be a prolific source of vice and crime. It is, however, consoling to reflect that their extreme nastiness, as a rule, is likely to prevent their widespread consumption.

MR. TUKE's report on his distribution of seed-potatoes to the islands off the West Coast of Ireland, from Achill southwards, just published, contains an account of his eighth visit during recent years to this poverty-stricken coast, and is well worth careful reading. Of the small agricultural holdings on these islands, and even on the shore of the mainland, Mr. Tuke is more and more thoroughly persuaded on every visit he makes that even if held rent-free, they would not keep the heads of their occupants above water. "The fact that the small holdings of worn-out land cannot support the crowded population is no longer a debateable question. It is unanimously borne witness to. From priest, or landlord, or tenant, there is but one response: 'Without other means of earning money, there is no possibility of living out of the land.' 'The living isn't in it, rent or no rent, yer honour!' And can it be otherwise? Consider Achill, with its thousand families, of whom three-fourths are living on holdings so small that the rental or valuation does not exceed 30s. a year each,—and few of the remainder exceed £4 a year! Take another instance in Connemara, of one thousand families attempting to live on 1,700 acres of arable bog-land, mere patches of soil lying among great boulders." On the other hand, Mr. Tuke is convinced that fisheries might be made to take the place of land-tillage, especially if the Tramways Act were carried out so as to give these fisheries the means of sending their fish to suitable markets. Mr. Tuke also believes heartily in very carefully superintended emigration, but is convinced that without careful superintendence the expenditure on emigration might do pure mischief. The question now arises—of what good to these poor people would be the substitution of the National League of professional agitators and politicians, without money or credit, for the British Government, with its unlimited means of help?

As we anticipated, none in England but the wilfully blind or the foolish have been deceived by the farce played lately at the Chicago Fenian Convention, or are likely to mistake the purpose of the present lull in the operations of the Irish Murder League. The *St. James's Gazette* says, in reference to this peaceful interlude:—It is not generally known, perhaps, that Mr. Labouchere is a contributor to the columns of the Irish-American press. A copy of the *Boston Pilot* of the 19th of June is before us, with a communication signed by the member for Northampton, and headed, "Special Correspondence of the *Pilot*. Labouchere's Excellent Advice to Irish-Americans." The excellent advice is as follows:—

The Irish in America must not frighten the English by any rant or exaggeration. *They should lie low*. Every exaggeration is still further exaggerated here and produces a most deplorable effect. It is absurd to suppose that the English people can be bullied into Home Rule by the use of either big words or dynamite. Parnell is one of the ablest tacticians that I know, and if the cause is to be won it can only be by leaving him a free hand. . . . Mr. Gladstone seems very hale and hearty, but if anything were to happen to him I am afraid that Home Rule in the sense that he and we mean would be relegated to a very distant future. Mr. Blaine would do well to be more careful in his utterances respecting Lord Salisbury and others. The English do not like American Presidential candidates to lecture English statesmen, of whatever complexion their politics may be. *My advice, therefore*, to the Irish in America is to be exceedingly careful just now, and to keep as quiet as they possibly can. Gladstone and Parnell have acted in perfect harmony since the meeting of Parliament; and with the democracy of England and Ireland behind them they will eventually win if they continue to do so, and if they both live a year or two.

The charming simplicity of Mr. Labouchere is most instructive. The American-Irish are to lie as low as they can with dignity to themselves, and we have the measure of their moderation in "Home Rule or else —." England cannot be bullied, but she can be cheated and chicaned into believing a lie by a combination of kid-gloved revolutionists of the Labouchere species and violent ruffians like Sullivan and Finerty.