

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 3.

TORONTO, JULY 25, 1895.

\$1.50 per Annum

Over Land and Sea.

An interesting and momentous struggle is now in progress in New York City with reference to the enforcement of certain laws restrictive of the liquor traffic. The State has had a law in existence for many years forbidding the sale of intoxicants on Sunday, but in New York City it has been loosely construed and very imperfectly enforced. Under Tammany rule no one of the municipal officers from the Mayor down was in sympathy with the law, and the chief use made of it was as a blackmailing instrument. It was shown during the course of the Lexow investigation that the police and others had regularly and systematically collected money from the saloon keepers on condition that they be allowed to remain open on Sunday. This state of affairs continued until very recently, when President Theodore Roosevelt of the Board of Police Commissioners gave out orders that the police must do their duty with reference to the Sunday closing of liquor shops. The result has been a number of what are known in newspaper parlance as "dry Sundays." Such dryness, in fact, has not been known in this city for many years. This enforcement of law has raised a great clamor in several quarters—among the saloon keepers and saloon patrons, and among the newspapers which presume to speak for the so called liberal element. The changes are rung on the miserable sophistry about the poor man's hardships and the rich man's privileges, about Puritanical laws and fanatical reformers. All this does not appear to disturb President Roosevelt and his associates. They take the only proper and rational ground that it is their duty not to interpret law but to enforce it. It is not a question for them to consider whether this law or any other law is good or bad. They are not legislators or judges, but officials whose sworn duty it is to execute the laws upon the statute books. This was a view of the case which Dr. Parkhurst endeavored, but vainly, to impress upon the late Superintendent Byrnes and his superiors. It is encouraging in the highest degree to find men in office in this city who not only know their duties, but have the courage to perform them. As to this fight over Sunday closing, we have little fear but what it will result in the general recognition and vindication of the law. Neither do we believe that all the threats and vaporings about the Sunday law will secure its repeal nor its modification in any important feature. If it were left to a popular vote in this city it is quite probable that Sunday opening would be favored by a majority, but that test will not be made very soon if at all.

The people of Pennsylvania, a year or two ago, became aware that Roman Catholic nuns were being employed in some of the public schools and while so

engaged were wearing their habits, rosaries, crucifixes and other insignia of Rome. Immediately the feeling was expressed that if these women were employed in any public school they had no right to go there as nuns to impress the children with Romish educational devices. The case was carried to the courts, and the Supreme Court of the State decided that there was nothing in the law to prevent these women from dressing in this way. So the Legislature made a law in opposition to it and Governor Hastings has signed it. Public money is not to be paid out for the propagation of Romanism in any form.

A French statistician has taken the trouble to ascertain the number of breweries at present existing in several great countries, and the quantity of beer annually brewed by them. There are in the entire world he declares, 51,000 breweries. Germany easily heads the list, with 26,240, which produce every year 4,750,000,000 litres of beer—the litre being equal to about one and three fourths pints, English measure. Next comes England, with 12,874 breweries and an output of 2,600,000,000 litres: then the United States, with 2,300 breweries and 3,500,000,000 litres, Austria, 1,942 breweries and 1,300,000,000 litres; Belgium, with 1,270 breweries and 1,000,000,000 litres, and France with 1,044 breweries and 800,000,000 litres. In Bavaria, the annual allowance of beer per head of the population, is 221 litres; in Berlin 191; in Belgium 169; in England 143; in Switzerland 31; in Denmark 33; in the United States 21; in Sweden 11 and in Russia 5.

Bishop Potter, says *The Christian Inquirer*, recently told the following story: "Several years ago some of us were assembled in Calvary Church, New York, to bear our testimony to the life and influence of the late Dr. Edward Washburn. I may venture now to violate the confidence of a domestic incident which transpired then, and which I think you will own to have its significance and appropriateness here. One after another, Phillips Brooks, and others like him, rose in their places in that crowded study to tell what they owed to the genius, to the high spirit, to the unswerving loyalty to duty, to the splendid courage, to the rare scholarship, to the philosophic insight, to the prophetic utterance of Edward Washburn. The testimony was done. At the door all the time there stood a slender woman, who had stood during his life nearest to him of whom we spoke. I never shall forget her face, the passion of it and the pathos of it, nor the power, tender but reproachful, with which she spoke, when at length we were still: 'Oh, if you loved Edward so, why didn't you tell him of it while he lived?'"