

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

It will be gratifying news to our readers to know that the success of THE ADVOCATE has thus far been most encouraging, and that those who in the first instance subscribed for short terms are all renewing.

It must be acknowledged that the Connecticut Prohibitionists are liberal. They recognize the propriety of permitting the sale of liquor for medicinal and mechanical purposes. Prohibitionists generally do not go even as far as that.

PAUL PEFERBERG writes in the New York Mercury: "As for the good Satolli himself, I have been at dinner with him and know that he takes his glass of wine for his stomach's sake like a little man. There is nothing Puritanical about him, in some of my ill-informed contemporaries seem to think."

We get some idea of the loss of revenue which would fall on the United States Government by the exemption from tax of liquors used in medicine and in the arts when it is learned that a single manufacturer of bitters would be entitled to a rebate of \$158,000 on the basis of his last year's business. That would assist in making a very large hole in Uncle Sam's revenues.

The German hop harvest will equal the yield of the most favorable years in the past and in consequence American hops, which have been extensively used in Germany during the last year, will find few, if any buyers in that market. Reports from England are of similar tenor, and it is thought likely that Europe will raise more hops this year than will be required for home consumption. This is good news for beer drinkers and brewers, if not for the country's hop-growers.

Sir EDMUND E. A. LECHMERE, BART., member of the Imperial Parliament for the Brewhouse Division of Worcestershire, is trying the experiment of running a public-house in the parish of Hanley Chalk. He himself supplies the beer, but in order that the sale of intoxicating liquors should not be pushed, he allows his manager only a profit on the non-intoxicating articles and on the food, of which there is always a good supply. Sir Edward's idea being to make his public-house a refresh-

ment house within the full meaning of the term.

MR. GEORGE R. SIMS, the famous dramatic author, believes that drunkenness is largely due to depression in the air. It is narrated that he was once asked for a subscription towards the funds of a temperance society, and promised it conditionally, but it has not yet reached the society. "You can never drive temperance out of the land," Mr. Sims said, "till we get the New Climate. See what you can do towards bringing that about, and if you are successful, I will sell all I have and give the proceeds to your society." There may be something in Mr. Sims' argument, but we have occasionally seen men, according to this theory, very much depressed in exceedingly fine weather.

A STATISTICIAN'S field has been busy in Austria. He has collected alleged particulars of the quantity of beer consumed in the entire world during 1893. Among the producing nations Germany heads the list with 1,202,132,074 gallons, an increase of 34,000,000 over 1892, the rate of production being thirty-three gallons per head, ranging from sixty-two gallons in Bavaria to twelve gallons in Tothingen, Great Britain comes second with 1,105,752,000 gallons, or thirty gallons per head; America, including the whole of the Western hemisphere, is third, with more than a billion gallons, or sixteen gallons per head. The total for the world, not including Asia and Africa, is 4,500,000,000 gallons, requiring 7,270,000 tons of malt and 82,000 tons of hops.

THE recently organized Public House Reform Association, of England has adopted as its platform: (1) The union and organization of those who, recognizing that the public-house of entertainment is necessary for the comfort, recreation, and social intercourse of the people, are convinced that reform rather than abolition must be the aim of a sound temperance policy; (2) The extension to licensed victuallers of the familiar English method of placing affairs of exceptional public concern in English hands, giving to their management the character of a public trust, and eliminating from it as far as possible the motive of private gain; (3) The diffusion of information as to the working and results of the Scandinavian licensing system, and the kindred system of military cantons, with a view to securing legal facilities for a fair trial on suitably modified lines in our own country.

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OUR excellent contemporary, the *Licensed Victualler's Gazette*, points out that free trade in licensing practically exists on the continent of Europe, and that the natives are not reported to be any more given over to drunkenness on that account. On the contrary, they are often held up as models of sobriety. The account from Antwerp is this: "The 'licensing system' here does not appear to be carried on on very rigid lines, for on inquiring of the chief wholesale dealer what qualification was necessary to hold a license, he said: 'Oh, any decent sort of chap, as you say in England, can apply in a polite sort of way, and he gets it immediately.' It would appear that the obtaining of a new license here is about as simple as is the renewal of an 1809 beer-house in England, which, as is well-known, the owner can demand as long as he pays his rates and keeps himself 'a decent sort of chap.' At Rotterdam the question as to the wisdom of granting licenses upon the almost wholesale principle has again cropped up. All along the shore are comfortable hooded basket chairs, and all over the place are boys with trays soliciting orders for intoxicating drinks. This is a decided nuisance, and far worse than in the old days, when waiters were continually 'buzzing about' and touting for orders. At Schiedam beer gardens abound, and the same free and easy style of licensing seems to be carried on as elsewhere, magistrates not being particular.

WHEN we first made mention of Monsignor Satolli's decree we said that it only referred to a question of local self-government and that it by no means committed the Church to the total abstinence doctrine. Subsequent events have proved that our diagnosis was correct. But the explanation by Monsignor Schroeder of the Apostolic Delegate's reply to those who appealed against Bishop Waterson's ruling has caused walling and gnashing of teeth among the truly good who imagined the whole Roman Catholic Church had been converted to their narrow, would-be tyrannical ideas. The *Protestant Journal*, published at Philadelphia, appears to have taken a general view of the situation similar to ours, but while we exult at finding ourselves correct, the *Journal* gives vent to a wall of anguish after this fashion: "An authoritative exposition of the

meaning of Satolli's liquor letters will be found on another page. Our readers will observe that it sustains the interpretation which we have persisted in putting upon the action, against the almost unanimous explanation of the papers, religious and secular. It now appears, as we have contended, that it was very lean temperance action, indeed. Whether Satolli meant at first only what is now said, or whether he has receded, it is manifest that the liquor interest is too strong for him. Bishop Waterson has also published an account of the state of affairs in the diocese which led to the action. As to the meaning of the action, he is in harmony with the interpretation now given."

"TEMPERANCE AGITATOR," writing in the *Licensing World*, thus points a moral that will well bear pondering over: "If one desires to see the influence for good that moderate drinkers have exercised during the century, one has on! to go first of all to the Court, and next to the two Houses of Parliament. Certainly down into the days of the Regency drunkenness, if not exactly *de rigueur* at Court, was among the nobility the rule rather than the exception. As to the two Houses of Parliament, it is a matter of common knowledge that not only obscure members, but statesmen whose names will live as long as history continues to be written, thought nothing of drinking their two or three bottles of port after dinner, and not seldom addressed the House when their voices were decidedly 'thick,' and their phrases of the incoherent order. Not so very long ago at a public dinner I sat but a few yards from H.R.H. the Duke of York. As I noticed the well-nigh ladylike manner in which he 'sipped' from his glass, I could not help thinking of that other Duke of York whose usual place after dinner was beneath the table. As I had occasion to state a week or two since, Lord Salisbury, more than twenty years ago, without particularizing as I have just done, admitted that drunkenness was once rife among the upper classes, and that they had brought about a healthier condition of life, not by summary laws, but by setting up a higher or standard of decency and intelligence. In other words, it is the moderate drinker whose example has taken away from the Court and the Senate the reproach which, in the matter of drunkenness, it was once possible to hurl both at princes and legislators."

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