

The Temperance Worker

SATURDAY, MARCH 21.

A FEARFUL MURDER.—One of the leading physicians in London, Dr. E. Sykes Thompson, speaking at a gathering in Lord Brabazon's house lately, stated that one in every twenty-five deaths in that city was directly caused by drink, and that indirectly one in seven was due to the same cause. That is, no less than eighteen percent of the Londoners die of liquor!

LIQUOR-SELLING on Sundays is still allowed in England, but it is doomed to the same prohibition that now applies in Scotland. We notice, by the bye, that in an address to a conference of workers in Manchester, on the 16th February, Mr. Thomas Linton, Public Prosecutor, for Edinburgh, described the working of the Sunday closing measure in that city, and said that not only had the result been approved by the citizens, but few, if any, of the publicans themselves would now desire any change.

THE HON. NEAL DOW has formally joined the National Prohibition party of the United States. At the Presidential Election he supported Mr. Blaine, as the Republicans had pledged themselves to give the legislation required to drive out the illegal liquor-selling in the large towns of Maine. The pledges have been broken, and the "Father of Prohibition" has washed his hands of a party which was once the party of progress; that title can now be only given to a third party, that of Prohibition and Purity.

"THE ONLY ENEMY that Britain has to fear is Drink." That was said by the late Prince Leopold. His brother, the Duke of Connaught, presided at a temperance meeting in Meerut, India, in January, and said that he abstained altogether from alcoholic liquor in the short Egyptian campaign, and his experience in that hot, trying climate convinced him of the advantages of having done so. Many a free liver was invalidated even during that short space. His Royal Highness said he, in common with other senior officers, was only too painfully aware that half, nay, three-fourths of the crimes of the army were due to drunkenness, that they regretted it, and all military authorities concurred in desiring the happiness, contentment, and thriftiness of all ranks, and their establishment in civil employment on discharge.

A "FASHION" TO BE CRUSHED OUT.—A recent writer in the *New York Tribune* says: "There has been a good deal of talk about drunkenness in Washington society this winter. There is no doubt that there has been a great increase in the direction of society drinking in the last five years. The punch-bowl has become one of the institutions of society. There is hardly a reception, afternoon or evening, where the punch-bowl is not found. Places where there are no punch-bowls are voted slow." Again, says the same writer: "This punch is drunk at receptions indiscriminately by young and old, without regard to sex. The young people are the greatest patrons, perhaps. Warmed up by the exercise of the dance, the young people rush to the punch-bowl to satisfy their thirst. It is not an uncommon sight to see young gentlemen drink five or six glasses, nearly a pint, of this strong mixture. I have seen young ladies drink from two to three glasses of this punch."

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Bills to reduce the capital of the Banque du Peuple, and of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company, have been referred to a sub-committee of the House of Commons. Mr. Belleau, M. P. for Levis, has been deprived of his seat by the Supreme Court; the Chief Justice said that the grossest bribery seemed to have prevailed in the election. Mr. Guillet, M. P. for West Northumberland, has been unseated for the same reason.

When the Public Accounts Committee was discussing the question of Secret Service money, Sir John Macdonald gave some interesting information regarding the work of the preventives in averting threatened attacks on life and property by dynamiters and other lawless individuals. He stated that information had come to him of numerous intended outrages, all of which with the exception of two had been checkmated by timely warning from the Government. These two exceptions were the cases of the blowing up of the Quebec Parliament buildings—of which he had received warning, but had neglected to put the Quebec authorities on their guard, believing that no one could have had evil designs in that quarter,—and the case of the dynamite outrages at Halifax, of which he had given warning, but the warning was disregarded. The Quebec explosion, he said, was carried out by one of the men who attempted to murder Phelan in New York city subsequently, and was therefore clearly the work of Fenians. He presented statements showing that the whole expenditure for the secret service account for the year has been about \$30,000.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT has established tea shops in Allahabad, Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Cawnpore, Fyzabad, Lucknow, Meerut, and Salarampore with the view of counteracting the use of spirituous liquors among the natives, and the Lieutenant-Governor has granted a sum of money to further the undertaking. That is all very well so far as it goes. But suppose a hungry tiger was tied up within reach of one side of the street, what would you think of the government that tried to keep curious people from going too near the wild beast by putting a horse on the other side of the way for them to look at? Why not kill the tiger?

"CITIZEN," writing to the *Boston Journal*, points out that publishers are bringing out many physiological books with special reference to the temperance question. "As with arithmetics or histories, some of these books dwell more upon one phrase of the subject and some upon another. All agree in one essential statement—alcoholic drinks are not healthful or safe beverages."

A MEDICAL PROFESSOR.—Dr. W. L. Reid, lecturer in the Western Medical School, Glasgow, affirms, from twenty years' experience, that the chief cause of the widespread immorality in the large towns is the too prevalent custom among young men of all classes of partaking of alcoholic drinks as beverages.

A KEEN BLADE.—"As to the Rum Power we have enlisted for the war, we shall not cease until the making, the selling, and the drinking of the liquid damnation are entirely prohibited in the land."—*Toledo Blade*.

WHEN THE PRINCE OF WALES has finished his trip through Ireland, on the 4th of May he will open a great International exhibition for inventors, in London.

A WAVE OF FIRE AT SEA.

The bark "Innerwick," during a voyage from Yokohama to Victoria, B. C., had a terrible experience on Feb. 24, the report of which excited much discussion in shipping circles. On that day about five o'clock in the morning, when the vessel was in latitude 37, longitude 70.50, the sky suddenly changed to a fiery red. All at once a large mass of fire appeared over the vessel. It seemed to waver a moment in space and then fell into the sea, about fifty yards to the leeward. It struck the water with a great hissing sound, the shock causing the bark to quiver from stem to stern. The masts creaked ominously and the ship lurched. A towering mass of white foam was then seen rapidly approaching the vessel. The bark was struck flat aback, and before there was time to touch a brace the sails filled again and the roaring white mass could be seen passing away ahead. Another sheet of flame than ran down the mizzenmast. From the rigging of the mast strands of sparks poured forth, and the strange redness of the sky lasted for twenty minutes. During all the time the sailors were appalled. There was not a speck of white or blue or black in the sky; all was a fiery red. When this faded the atmosphere took on a yellow tinge. Then it changed to blue and finally faded away in a mist. Suddenly the sun came up, and in an hour was dancing on the waters. The captain could give no explanation of the phenomenon. The mass of fire seemed to be 40 feet long and 20 wide.

An old sea captain, referring to the phenomenon, said to the *New York World's* reporter who writes this account: "I had a similar experience some years ago, while off the coast of Norway. It was in the fall of the year, and a more beautiful and calm sea one could not wish for. Our sails were flapping listlessly, and all on board shared in the general laziness which seemed to pervade the atmosphere. For some time the sea had been iridescent with phosphorus, floating and sparkling with the quiet ripples. Slowly the mass collected together, extending for half a mile around the ship, looking exactly like a sea of fire. Then the fire worked its way up our anchor chain to the bow of the boat, thence to the bowsprit, up the rigging to the foremast in a straight column to the sky. It was a sublime sight. The sky was red for half an hour. I think the experience of those on the "Innerwick" was the same as mine, the strange sight being the result of phosphorus on the water."

A TRUE GHOST STORY.

Here is a true ghost story, at last! On the road leading from Egremont, Mass., to Mt. Everett is a house which was once the home of a sea captain, who was murdered by the insubordinate crew of his ship. After that event, on stormy nights, his wife and daughter used to be disturbed by sounds of creaking cordage, flapping sails, clanking chains and other nautical sounds, which seemed to come from the garret. Above all the rest of the noise and turmoil, whoever was down stairs could hear angry voices, groans and cries for help. A great many people used to gather in the house on stormy nights to hear the unaccountable and alarming racket in the garret, but no one ever had enough courage to open the garret door and try to solve the mystery on such occasions. At length the widow and her daughter abandoned the house, the windows and doors of which were then boarded up.

All of this took place fifty years ago, and but few who have seen the ruined house know its singular history. A few days ago

a Mrs. Melius, a granddaughter of the old captain, living in Lowell, received a letter from a sailor from a South American port who says that he was on the ship with her grandfather on the night when the latter was killed. He says that the captain wanted him to go to Egremont and tell his wife and daughter that he had been murdered, and that enough money was buried in one corner of the cellar to keep them in comfort all the rest of their lives. The sailor went to Egremont as he had promised, but resolved to have the money in the cellar for himself. By an ingenious arrangement of chains and other available material he originated and kept up the supposed supernatural tumult which had driven the captain's widow and her daughter away from home. He then made a successful search in the cellar for the money, which he took with him to Peru. Remorse and the probability of immediate death induced him to write this letter of explanation to Mrs. Melius.

A TERRIBLE MISTAKE of a hunter near Jonesboro, Maine, last week, led to fatal consequences. John W. Feeny and Colby Pest, his son-in-law, had been at work during the winter lumbering, and, having finished the season's work, the two men were breaking camp. While this was in progress Pest says he saw a large wild-cat. He took his rifle and started in pursuit. For some time he could not see the animal, but kept close on its trail. At last he saw what he says he supposed was its head just appearing above the underbrush. He fired and heard a groan. Hastening to the clump of underbrush he found his father-in-law dying from a wound in the forehead caused by the ball from Pest's rifle. Feeny, he says, never spoke after the shot, and he cannot conceive how he came in such a place. All who know Pest say he is an honest, good-natured fellow.

"THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM," says somebody. At a collision at Spayten Duyvil, in January 1882, an Emigration Commissioner named Ulrich was injured and lost his baggage. He sued the New York Central and Hudson River Railway for damages. The company pointed out that Mr. Ulrich was travelling on a "free pass," on which it was expressly stated that he forfeited all claim in case of accident. Nevertheless, the company has lost the case! The passenger had bought and paid for an extra ticket for a seat in the Drawing Room Car, and though that car belonged to a different company it was drawn over the railway company's track and for its benefit; so the Court of Common Pleas at New York has decided in Mr. Ulrich's favor.

In most civilized countries it is usual to have the verdict before the sentence. This form of trial, however, does not satisfy the mad impatience of this "free continent." For instance, three negroes were arrested at Troy, Tennessee, last week, charged with being implicated in a murder at Montgomery, near the State line, in December, and while under guard at Union City the same night a mob of 100 men overpowered the guards, took out the prisoners, and hanged them just outside of the town. Their corpses were found in the morning suspended from a tree.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has raised the customs duties on grain, and the bakers have accordingly put up the price of bread, so that the people are savagely complaining of the increased difficulty of living.

THE EMIGRATION from Ireland last year amounted to 76,000; that is 40,000 less than in 1883.

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