

Northern Messenger

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'We have for quite a number of years taken the 'Messenger,' and we are well pleased with it.'—P. H. Hudson, Plympton, Man.

Twin Sonnets.

(John P. Hardisty, Leeds, in the 'Temperance Leader.')

DARKNESS.

I had a vision, dismal, dark, and drear:
A demon soar'd above a homely band,
And to the father beckoned with his hand.
The man left loving wife and children dear,
And, with the fiend, straightway his steps
did steer
Towards a temple, fascinating, grand,
The shrine of Bacchus, whose allurements
bland
Had won his heart from home-love, true, sin-
cere.
I saw an angel, and to him I cried:
'How long, bright soul, will men be blindly
led
By this vile fiend, who ages long has lied
And cheated them of love and truth?'—He
said:
'Until thy country earnestly has tried
These temples to suppress where weak ones
tread.'

Dawn.

I stood abash'd, in wonder and dismay,
When he who now had answer'd my request
Said: 'Come with me; I'll give thy soul
distrest
An antidote to this uncouth display
Of human weakness, which will show the
way
To future peace, the El Dorado blest,
Where highest life, and purest love, and
rest
Shall be enjoyed when dawns the happy day.'
We wander'd through ten thousand homes,
and there
A host of children, happy, smiling, sweet,
Looked up in rapture; in their faces fair
Was writ, in language plain: 'We will
defeat
The wily demon, track him to his lair,
And, with our Bands of Hope, his forces
beat!'

Drinking Places and Drunkenness.

It has been said that there is no relationship between drunkenness and opportunities for drinking. As a matter of fact there is an attempt to show that in Edinburgh, for instance, the shorter hours which public-houses are open has resulted in an increase of drunkenness. Some figures from Ireland seem to prove the contrary. There are 1,417 licenses less than in 1902, and there have been 14,014 less arrests for drunkenness in the same period.—'National Temperance Quarterly.'

Neglect of Children—Due to Drink.

(Hon. Geo. R. Sims in 'The Black Stain.')

'The Black Stain,' by Hon. George R. Sims, staff correspondent for the London 'Tribune,' is a book to stir the world's heart to righteous anger against the liquor traffic. In it the author conveys, in the brief limits of one hundred and seventy pages, a most terrific

indictment of the liquor traffic as it is related to cruelty and crime against children in the leading cities of England. The chapters in this book, as well as those of the previous companion series, 'The Cry of the Children,' appeared as serial articles in the 'Tribune' during the past year, and have attracted wide attention. The most startling fact which stands out from every page of this running narrative of conditions as they exist to-day in the drink-sodden districts of England's great manufacturing centres is the everywhere dominating influence of the drink curse in the ruin and degradation of British childhood. The facts stated are detailed without exaggeration, and must come home with tremendous emphasis to every intelligent man or woman the world over. In closing the volume Mr. Sims sums up his investigations with this significant paragraph:

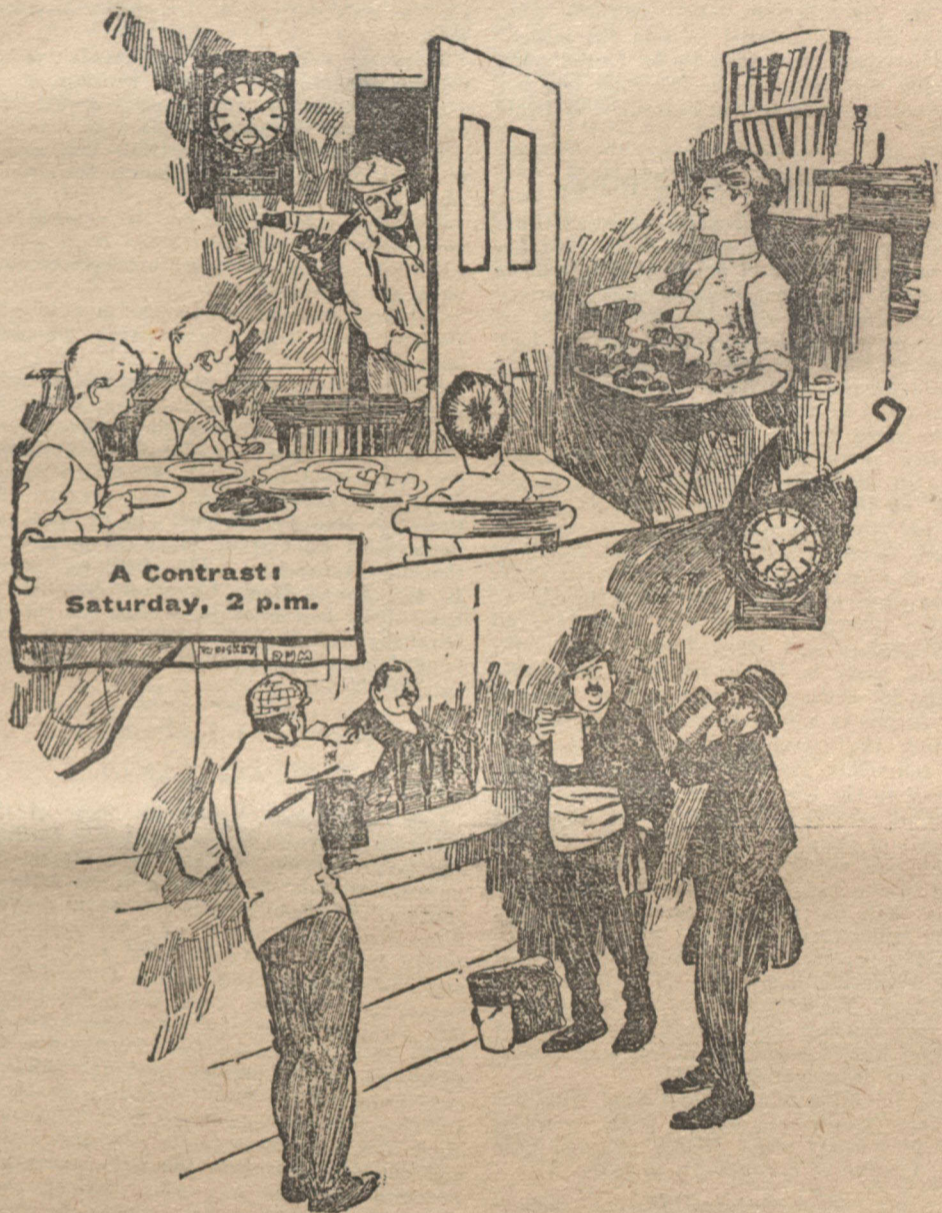
'We can leave poverty and environment

and the housing question out of the argument, for I shall have written in vain if I have not proved that poverty and housing conditions are not largely responsible for the evil. The home conditions are in most cases of child neglect vile, but they are of the parents' own making. We have, therefore, to recognize the dominant fact that where children are cruelly neglected there is in ninety percent of the cases a history of habitual intemperance in one or both parents.'

A Wife's Sad Mistake.

Mrs. Chapin, one of the W. C. T. U. workers, was once entertained in Mississippi at the home of a young married couple, and the wife said to her: 'Now, Mrs. Chapin, I'm willing to entertain you, but I don't want you to talk temperance, for if you should convert my husband then I'd have to banish

Saturday Dinner Time!



Which pays best for the Nation, For the Home, and For the Workman?

—Leaflet Published by the 'Alliance,' 16 Deansgate, Manchester.