



Temperance Department.

GETTING RID OF INTEMPERANCE.

BY JULIA COLMAN.

With the prevalent idea about the wholesomeness of "a little" for a great many purposes, largely in consequence of the deceitful nature of the stuff itself, there are many people in most communities who would not like to be known as other than temperance people, who yet make large mental reservations when drink is denounced. "Oh, yes, it does a vast amount of mischief; there is A and B and C who are killing themselves by it and ruining their families." "Something ought to be done." But, somehow, people who talk so fairly never go on and "do" anything unless they are dragged into it, and then not very effectively. In a surprising majority of such cases, if you could see into the thoughts or the life, you would find self excused for using a little. "Yes, it hurts others, but it is good for me;" "I could not get along without a little," "for medicine, you know;" and then follow some very peculiar ailments that "nothing else helps at all." They treat it as people sometimes do a friend who has fallen into bad repute. They can not defend him; public opinion is too strong to be stemmed, and appearances are too much against him, yet they associate with him privately, and in their hearts they believe in him. Of course, they will never take nor favor any effective public measures against him.

Now if we can convince these people that the drink is altogether bad, that it poisons them every time they take it, and deceives them besides, we take a long step toward waking them up and getting them to renounce it and denounce it and fight it. I do not say, and I do not think that this is the only thing to be done; but I do think it is one of the best things, and that it lies at the foundation of an immense amount of practical temperance work of all sorts. Some years ago I spent several weeks in the State of Maine, determined to find out, if possible, the secret of their success, and I found a large amount of intelligence and of intense feeling in this direction. Very many would not use alcohol for any purpose, even for medicine, and I had then met with very few such elsewhere. One quiet and undemonstrative lady, the wife of a public officer of high rank, took some pains to say that she had kept house for twenty-five years and never had had a drop of alcohol in the house for any purpose whatever—would not have it. Her husband was engaged in very active and practical educational work in the same line. It became easy to see how such sentiments, intelligently held, sustained the people there in very radical measures. There were mighty convictions behind the workers.

One of the features of the work had always been a large amount of reading and study about the real nature and effects of alcoholic drinks. When Gen. Neal Dow commenced operations, one of his "manœuvres" was to get up temperance concerts. He secured a choir, with one or two good voices well practised in temperance songs, and made engagements and routes for concerts all through the State. Every school district was visited, or nearly every one. The singing was sure to bring out the people, and this was interspersed with short temperance talks by himself and others, but the main feature was that every man, woman, and child present had a temperance tract to take home. This was only one of many ways in which the people were induced to read on the subject.

Another very important measure was the careful instruction of the children. Many years ago Bands of Hope were common in different parts of the State. One which I visited was faithfully attended by over one hundred children, and had been in existence twenty years. During that time it had turned out upward of sixteen hundred youth, who had received a large amount of drill and teaching on the nature and effects of alcoholic drinks. A large number of these Bands have been carried on at one time or another in different parts of the State, and often kept up for years. But this little institution in Maine differs from the Band of Hope else-

where, just as other temperance work there differs from temperance work elsewhere; for in the former the aim is study and information, while in the latter it is mostly performance, songs, recitation of "pieces," and a good time. Scholars drilled in primary studies make good readers of temperance truths.

And they were a reading people. I think that hardly stress enough has been laid on the fact that Maine was settled from Massachusetts, and has never had a large admixture of foreigners. They are therefore a people of ideas, and they have had it all their own way, with few to oppose them compared with other States. When they took up the temperance work, they went into it thoroughly, and they have kept at it without abatement. Their reading made them understand the first principles, so that there was no serious division in their ranks. And although outside of the State the Maine Law has given them their reputation, no people understand better than they do the value of moral suasion, and the necessity of it to their success. With this they built entirely at first. Hear what ex-Governor Dingley said last summer at Sebago Lake, than whom no man is better able to represent the facts: "In no other State has there been so general a use of moral agencies in promoting temperance as in Maine. The most potent moral movements that have ever been known had their origin here. The prohibitionists in this State have ever been foremost in moral work. They have simply used legal suasion as a buttress to moral suasion. They have done this in order that the men saved by moral agencies might be aided in keeping their good resolutions by the removal of the dram-shop temptations." Just as we said, it is the moral change that saves the man, it is the heart belief and the heart desires that mould the man and control his actions. You can "bend the twig" by temperance teaching as well as by other teaching. It is not enough to keep the temptation to drink away even from children. There should be strength of character, fortified by information within as well as favorable influences without, and of the two the former is by far the more important.

There is another very important difference between Maine and other States in their getting rid of intemperance. For a long time they were intelligently working for temperance as an ultimate object, and not for the law. Hear what Governor Dingley says again: "There is little doubt that when the Maine Law was enacted in 1851 as a buttress to moral suasion, a majority of our citizens doubted its wisdom and consented to it only as an experiment. The fact that the experiment has become a policy of over twenty years' growth (it was repealed once and re-enacted), and the policy so well established that no political party dares to set up the banner of repeal, is convincing proof that the people of Maine regard its wisdom as clearly established."

That is, the Maine people did not work very directly for a law until, by what are usually called moral measures, they had secured a majority, so that they had a reasonable prospect of passing a law and enforcing it. If they had undertaken it before they had educated a majority, they would have weakened themselves continually by appealing to the majority while that majority was against them. For these efforts for prohibition are nothing more nor less than appeals to the majority, while majorities are largely manufactured by other measures.

That is where Maine has had the advantage of us. She has studied her own work, and devised measures to suit its condition as she went along, while we have, many of us, been led away by appearances to imitate what we could not or would not fashion for ourselves. So in many of the States we passed "Maine Laws" and could not execute them after we got them because we had not Maine people and Maine ideas to help us in the work. Our main effort has been to "get the law," as if that would do everything. Hear Governor Dingley once more:

"Prohibitory laws will not largely execute themselves as other laws do, for the reason that the victim of the dram-seller usually endeavors to protect his greatest enemy, while the victim of the thief usually takes the lead in securing his apprehension."

It seems, then, that what we want at every turn is staunch temperance men and women. We know perhaps more or less such in every community. "Oh, if we only had a dozen such to meet the enemy at every turn, we should have some hope!"

This is the despairing cry. They seldom seem to think they can go to work and make such men by educating and training them in temperance schools, and by all moral and religious methods. But that is exactly what they have been doing in Maine, and hence they have the men that they can rely upon, men that hate alcohol more than they do any other poison.—*Phrenological Journal.*

MEN SERVANTS AND DRINK.

The main thing to be dreaded in men servants—next to downright dishonesty—is, of course, intoxication. If a man has been long in one's service and gets drunk for once and away, it may well be forgiven him; but when your new servant gets drunk, wait till he is sober enough to receive his wages, and then dismiss him—if you can. Not long ago I had occasion to discharge a butler for habitual intoxication; he was never quite drunk, but also never quite sober; he was a sot. I made him fetch a cab, and saw his luggage put upon it, and I tendered him his wages. But he refused to leave the house without board wages. Of course, I declined to pay him any such thing; and, as he persisted in leaning against the dining-room door murmuring at intervals, "I want my board wages," I sent for a policeman. "Be so good," I said, "as to turn this drunken person out of my house." "I daren't do it, sir," was the reply; "that would be to exceed my duty." "Then why are you here?" "I am here, sir, to see that you turn the man out yourself without using unnecessary violence." "The man" was six feet high, and as stout as a beer-barrel. I could no more have moved him than Skiddaw, and he knew it. "I stays here," he chanted in his maudlin way, "till I gets my board wages." Fortunately, two Oxford undergraduates happened to be in the house, to whom I mentioned my difficulty, and I shall not easily forget the delighted promptitude with which they seized upon the offender and "ran him out" into the street. He fled down the area steps at once with a celerity that convinced me he was accustomed to being turned out of houses, and tried to obtain re-admission at the back-door. It was fortunately locked, but when I said to the policeman, "Now, please to remove that man," he answered, "No, sir; that would be to exceed my duty; he is still upon your premises and a member of your household." As it was raining heavily, the delinquent, though sympathized with by a great crowd round the area railings, presently got tired of his position and went away. But supposing my young Oxford friends had not been in the house and he had fallen upon me (a little man) in the act of expulsion; or supposing I had been a widow lady with no protector, would that too faithful retainer have remained in my establishment for ever? —*Cor. Times.*

THINGS NOTABLE.

Mr. B. Whitworth, M.P., at a banquet at the Manchester Reform Club on Tuesday, said, at the close of his speech:—"I must not sit down without saying one word about my friends the brewers. I feel very sorry for them. You know in Ireland, when a man departs this world, they say, 'May his soul rest in peace.' The worst I can wish the brewers is that they may rest in peace. They will have time for reflection, and you may rely upon it that you will have divisions in the coming Parliament where there will be very few comparatively going into the wrong lobby. (Cheers.) New members will have a very different time of it to that which we have had for the last six years. (Hear, hear.) It was weary work treading along those lobbies knowing that we were to be beaten. It will be a great comfort now to go into a Parliament where it will be our own fault if good measures are not passed."

Fun says:—"There is not the slightest doubt that the Conservatives did themselves harm by going in for the publicans. Had they shown themselves equal to public interests that have no connection with taverns, it is possible they might not have been bungled up."

The Fountain says:—"The recent elections have inflicted a heavy blow upon the liquor traffic. No less than twelve brewers who had seats in the last Parliament have been rejected, whilst six others connected with the traffic, who sought to enter the House of Commons for the first time, have also been unsuccessful. Some of these candidates were men of great wealth and influence, among them being the three All-

sopps, Sir Arthur Guinness, and Sir Gilbert Greenall. The publicans staked everything on the success of the Tories, and they have lost. Not unnaturally they now begin to repent their folly, and dread the consequences. And well they may; for it is certain that we shall soon see some legislation which will not be at all to their taste. The new Liberal Government, whilst it may be trusted not to do anything out of mere spite toward the publicans, will at least be able to feel that it owes them nothing. It has nothing to hope from them; nor has it anything to fear. It has been raised to power in spite of the bitterest opposition of the liquor sellers, and consequently it will be able to act in the most free and independent manner. And there can be no doubt that the public opinion of the country is ripe for restrictive legislation of a very thorough and comprehensive character."

TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT of any who may have a love for tobacco which they wish to overcome, but think they cannot, I wish to say that my husband, who used it fifty (50) years, and believed he could not do without it, has left it off altogether, and says now that he has no craving for it. It cost him a struggle at first, but he has not tasted it for many months, and now he dislikes the smell of it, since he has set his mind against it and wonders how we lady folks ever bore it so patiently. When a stranger comes into his place of business with a lighted cigar or pipe, as soon as he has gone, he opens the doors, front and back, and fans out the smoke, and frequently expresses his gratitude for what he deems a great deliverance. The thought that decided the matter with him was this: "That if the master was here in person on earth, going about doing good, followed by His twelve disciples, would it be becoming for each of them to have a pipe?" Thinking himself a disciple, he judged it to be as absurd in himself as it would be in them.—*Cor. N. Y. Witness.*

BRAIN WORK.—An article in one of the leading American reviews, on Bayard Taylor, is thus concluded:—"Mental labor is not hostile to health and life; but I am more than ever convinced that a man who lives by his brain is of all men bound to avoid stimulating his brain. In this climate, to stimulate the brain by alcohol and tobacco is only a slow kind of suicide. Even the most moderate use of the mildest wine is not without danger, because the peculiar exhaustion caused by severe mental labor is a constant and urgent temptation to increase the quantity and strength of the potation. I would say to every young man in the United States, if I could reach him, if you mean to attain one of the prizes of your profession and live a cheerful life to the age of eighty, throw away your dirty old pipe, put your cigars in the stove, never buy any more, become an absolute teetotaler, take your dinner in the middle of the day, and rest one day in seven."

AN ILLUSTRIOUS ABSTAINER.—A correspondent sends in an extract from the *Wexford Recorder*. At the weekly meeting of the Gorey Board of Guardians Mr. Palmer reported having admitted an old woman, 112 years of age, to the infirmary, named Mary Byrne, who never carried a stick, and was strong, healthy, and active until a few weeks since, when she got something like paralysis. When sending her to the workhouse the medical officer ordered her a glass of wine to help her on the journey, but, when offered, she said she was too well able to go without it—that she never tasted wine or drink in her life. She came from Aske, Inch, Gorey. Dr. Allen said he offered her wine in the infirmary. She replied, "Do you want to poison me?" and would not take it. We commend Mary Byrne to Mr. Sherlock for his next volume of "Illustrious Abstainers."—*Hand and Heart.*

THE INNOCENT SUFFER WITH THE GUILTY.—The Rev. Wm. Searles, chaplain of the State Prison, gives a striking instance of the old law that the innocent suffer with the guilty. He shows that one-tenth of our population are brought into sorrow and disgrace by being connected with criminals. He says: "There are forty-four State Prisons in the United States, exclusive of penitentiaries and jails, and 40,000 prisoners in them. One-tenth of the criminals are in the State Prisons; so there are 400,000 in all. They have such relations to at least ten persons each as to carry sorrow and suffering to at least 4,000,000 of our people. What streams supply these prisons? Three—idleness, licentiousness and intemperance."