

"Another addition, a son ; your wife is very ill ; return at once."

"Another !" he gasped. "Great Jupiter !"

He rushed to the station and took the next train home, and, dashing into the house in a state of frenzy, demanded to know what had happened. The servant confessed all. The next day there was a vacancy for an intelligent, honest girl in the traveller's household.

"Catharine D," who has on previous occasions delighted readers of THE HOME JOURNAL, is evidently convinced that it would be a good thing to close up saloons every day in the year. She writes :

WOULD THAT EVERY DAY WERE ELECTION DAY !

Who could question the wisdom and purity of Section 24 of the Electorates and Elections Acts? What proof positive that the authorities clearly recognize what a danger and a menace to liberty, to purity, to humanity are "spirituous and fermented drinks !" Like a wise and tender mother, seeking the best interests of her children, the law, on election day, forbids the sale or distribution of "spirituous or fermented liquors or strong drinks to any voter." The law knows that no man whose brain is befogged by whiskey or other intoxicant is, or can be, master of his intellect ; that the voter whose perceptions are not clear and unclouded, can not vote with the distinctness and precision which he should display in exercising the highest and greatest privilege of mortal being—the ballot.

I doubt not there are many women in the fair city of Victoria, as well as throughout the Province, who think of Section 24 of the Electorates and Elections Acts much as I think of it : If it is wise and in the best interests of the country that intoxicants shall not be sold or furnished to any voter on election day, why would it not be wise and in the best interests of the country that such sales or distribution be prohibited on all days? Since the right of franchise is not extended to women, and they are denied a voice in making the laws which govern them, and man deems it his noblest prerogative to protect women and children from the trials and cares of life—to comfort and cheer, to bring joy and happiness into the life of her who rocks the cradle of his children, it is devoutly to be hoped that those who have the power to crush out evils will exercise it to shield helpless women and children from the fearful consequences of drink.

It is a fallacy to say man has a right to drink, but if he drinks, he must bear the consequences—the consequences have always been borne by women and child-

ren. To-day, the bitter tears and anguished hearts of millions of women and children are vainly appealing to the law-makers of the nations for protection against these same dread consequences. Surely the sanctity of the nation's homes, the lives of the nation's mothers should be as carefully guarded as the nation's ballot boxes ! Man can not be higher than the source whence he springs, and woman can not bear children of great parts if her life be not serene and tranquil. How can such be the case with the drunkard's wife? Her days and nights are filled with an agony and a terror which no language can depict ; a terror which makes of her a moral coward, and a mother's temperament must be transmitted to her child.

A very short time since, the Chinese laundrymen of the city were in a great flurry and flutter because there was a prospect of the enforcement of a Christian law, prohibiting the conveying of bundles and baskets of washed and unwashed apparel along the streets on the Sabbath day—a consummation much to be desired in any Christian community. Our eyes are offended and made sad by the sights of this heathen desecration of the Lord's Day in our land ; but what is to be said of our Caucasian brothers who convey much worse burdens along the streets of our city on the Sabbath—burdens under which men reel and totter in a manner which honest age would never produce?

A few Sundays ago, I sat by my window looking out upon the human throng which flitted past in quest of innocent recreation and diversion. I saw groups of merry children who gaily laughed and chatted as they tripped along. I saw young men and girls who showed the world all too plainly their interest in one another ; father and mother taking their broods out into the fresh air and sunshine ; old men and women who walked as lovingly beside each other as when the fires of youth quickened their movements. I saw several Chinamen carrying huge baskets of clothing, and I saw, degrading sight ! I saw a drunken man, like a ship in a storm, rolling helplessly along the streets of our own dear Victoria where we all know there is a "Sunday closing law." I wondered why the police could not see that the burden carried by that man along the streets on Sunday was an unlawful burden? I wondered why some "guardian of the peace" could not find and bring to punishment the party who furnished the drink which sent that husband home a brute, instead of a man? I lost interest in the scene which had before furnished me such pleasant reflections. I could now think only of the sinking heart, the grief-filled eyes of the unhappy wife when she should behold this "lord of creation" staggering in from his Sabbath

debauch. I pictured the cowering fear of his little children as they sped away from his maudlin presence ; and I could not but say "Is this man's vaunted love for women and children?"

Mothers, we can not too earnestly impress upon our sons to avoid the first drink—if the first is never taken, the last will be an impossibility. As drunkenness leads to all other crimes :

"Beware, proud man, the first approach to crime—Indulgence is most dangerous—may fatal—Resist, or soon resistance is in vain. The first leads to the second, then the third, The fourth succeeds, until familiar grown With vice, we start not at our own misdeeds."

CATHARINE D.

A correspondent takes exception to the remarks of THE HOME JOURNAL on the subject of the recent prosecutions under the Vagrancy Act. This paper, while it is still convinced of the force of the arguments put forward last week, is liberal enough to give the other side of the question :

Will you permit me to disagree with remark of yours last week to the effect there is an impression abroad that the authorities are displaying altogether too much vigilance in their prosecutions under the Vagrancy Act. It is my humble idea that the authorities have been altogether too lenient. So far as the reports of the daily papers go, it will be seen that no one suffering from "enforced idleness" has been meddled with, but rather a wholly different and most undesirable fraternity, to whom THE HOME JOURNAL has more than once professed itself bitterly opposed. Any attempt to reduce the number of low gamblers and idlers, disfigurements on the face of society, should receive the warm support of every respectable person, instead of shielding these characters as has been done by giving them nominal employment in order to technically evade the law. I am not defending the police who, goodness knows, have faults enough, but let us sympathize all we can in any movement to reduce these social cut-throats, the professional gamblers. No honest man so far, has been interfered with, and let me say that it is a disgrace to the party who circumvented the course of justice in a few of the prosecutions.

NIGHT HAWK.

According to an exchange, the inscriptions on Cleopatra's Needle, which stands on the Thames embankment, are suffering from exposure to the English climate, and on one side of the great obelisk the writing has almost disappeared. A few years, under English sun and rain and storms, are doing to this monument what thousands of years in the dry climate of Egypt failed to effect. If Englishmen have been guilty of the vandalism of bringing the precious