

Temperance Column.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION FROM A MEDICAL STANDPOINT.

By Mr. Vaughan Hughes, M. D. (1847).

(Concluded.)

Such a mode of passing through this life must be condemned as a farcical drama unworthy of a man of common sense and sound reasoning, even taken from a worldly, social, or national standpoint, but how much more less becoming in the professing Christian, who with his eyes open to its bitter fruits, obstinately refuses to give up his daily luxury (or even its occasional use), which prevents him from keeping the body in subjection to his rational mind and thought, and which clouds over every refined feeling of our nature. Let us look the above facts fearlessly in the face of truth and science, and may we not justly say that they constitute a keynote to the argument against the continuous use of alcoholic drinking, and, further, form the basis of our indictment against them as daily human beverages. It is to be hoped some good will eventuate to the reader when he reflects that we cannot alter by one iota the peculiar characteristics of alcohol when it is once within us; and, secondly, let him be thoroughly convinced and warned this evil spirit has an irresistible tendency to accumulate within us, and set up disease in our vital organs, notably the heart, brain, and lungs.

Let all those struggling young members who are desirous of getting on and succeeding in either of the professions, or in any of our competitive commercial pursuits, remember and take to heart that nothing tends so much to obstruct their progress as alcoholic drinking, leaving alone excessive smoking. Let them record deeply the stubborn facts which have been laid down for their guidance in the log-book of their memories, so that they will serve them as an unshakable rock upon which they can rest their faith and practice, and also base their replies when asked for their reasons for total abstinence, or, if not total abstainers, for ceasing to be daily and habitual drinkers of an alcoholic beverage.

There are 400 honest, courageous, and patriotic medical men in London who have associated together to give up alcohol, and not to prescribe it for their patients if possible, and then only as a drug. And I shall be excused if I agree with them, for after fifty years of my life spent amid the sufferings of my fellow beings, and witnessing the fearful evils arising

from drink in active warfare and in peace time, also in my hospital and private practice in London, embracing every rank in society, graduating down from the peer to the pauper—the evils involving in their destruction and ruin the high and the low, the rich and the poor, men, women, and children indiscriminately—my large and sad experience will not allow me to sit passively down and do nothing to reclaim and reform them. My conscience is in a painful state of unrest at the idea. I feel I must be up and doing, otherwise my better and higher nature tells me that I should be indeed recreant to all that is good, lovely, and Christ-like, if I did not proclaim aloud without a sense of fear or favour the shocking and heartrending scenes I have witnessed, and condemn their cause and origin in language of no uncertain sound, and exert all my humble energies in support of the Gospel of Temperance, the pioneer of that still greater thing, the ever blessed Gospel of the Saviour. What is the dictum which I find in the good Old-Book with respect to doing good? Why this (see St. James iv. 18): "Therefore to him that knoweth how to do good and doeth it not, to him it is a sin." Before I quit this important subject I would like to have just a little say in respect to the indulgence in drink, even to a moderate extent, upon the prospects of a professional man in London. This will be endorsed by many a poor talented fellow who has taken early warning by the forelock, but this I shall leave for a future article.—*The Temperance Chronicle.*

OFF FOR THE LABRADOR.

ACADIAN RECORDER, Halifax, N.S.

Prof. W. M. Reid, J. D. Scomborger, Lyle Vincent and W. D. Vincent, arrived by the Halifax last night. They are some of the party who go to Labrador in the schooner *Evelina* in the interests of the World's Fair to secure an Esquimaux village with some fifty inhabitants and all appurtenances thereto belonging. The schooner left Cunningham & Curren's wharf to-day on her mission.

A Recorder reporter was talking to-day to Capt. Wm. McConnell, of Port Hillford, Guysboro, who is in charge of the vessel. An interesting incident was mentioned (and although it sounds like a "puff" of a patent medicine it is worth nothing.) "Do you see that man over there," said a friend, "that is Capt. McConnell, who is going after Esquimaux. I have known him for years, and he was that bad with asthma that he had sometimes to be held up on board his vessel. You see him"—(he was piloting wood in a could measure to take on board)—"he is a well man; and he attributes it to some of Dr. William's Pink Pills that he took, two after each meal."

Out of curiosity, the reporter secured an introduction to the captain, and after some talk about the expedition, remarked: "Is that correct, Captain, about your recovery from asthma, and that you attribute it to those pills?"

"Well, I don't know anything else. I recovered after taking them."

"And haven't been troubled since?"

"No. Of course we will see what this winter may bring forth; I haven't said anything about it."

"But last winter?"

"I began taking them in December, and found the change brought in my condition, which Dr. Parker, of Halifax, said was about as bad as it could be."

It isn't often that a patent medicine gets such a big boom in the incidence of news-gathering, as is furnished in the above; but it is all set down just as it transpired, incidentally.

The whole Labrador party consists of Messrs. Tabor and Vincent, Prof. Reid, of Harvard College; Mr. Lyle Vincent, St. Louis; Dr. Baur, Philadelphia, a distinguished naturalist; Prof. Gillette, New Haven, Conn., and Hon. W. F. Ryder, Quebec. They expect to return with about 50 Esquimaux, with dogs, komaticks, kayacks, and a general collection of curiosities from Esquimaux land. The schooner is a handsome model, 95 tons, and is a fast sailer. John Silver & Co. furnished the supplies.

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