

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

SOME one has satirically said that "woman is a bundle of contradictions." Any one, however, needs only to study history of society to a slight extent to be satisfied that the spirit of contradiction and decided inconsistency runs very largely through the entire body.

There has never been a period in the world's history when so much attention was given to the subject of missionary work; never a time when the missionary spirit has taken hold of the people of civilized lands to so great an extent as the present.

This missionary spirit finds strong sympathizers in those who are not influenced by the same motive that actuates the preacher when he makes his appeal on behalf of heathen lands.

It is the ambition of a great commercial people at all times to be able to send their manufactures and their products to all parts of the world, but it needs to be the civilized world to make this commerce safe and satisfactory.

But just let us note here where one of those strange contradictions comes in. We take the great continent of Africa, and especially the new free State of the Congo, with its fifty millions of people.

Within the past few weeks an important deputation waited upon the American Congress, asking that they move in uniting with them the other Great Powers to stay this terrible state of affairs.

The petition as presented by him sets forth the fact "that America alone is estimated to have sent to the West Coast alone in 1884 an aggregate of 921,412 gallons of spirits; that the wholesale demoralization and ruin thus resulting from strong drink is a great injury to our legitimate commerce in our relations with Africa, as well as disastrous to the temporal and spiritual well-being of an untutored people, whom philanthropic and Christian men and women of our country seek to civilize and Christianize; and we

hereby earnestly ask you, in the exercise of the authority vested in you by the Constitution of the United States, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, promptly to adopt appropriate and effective measures for the discouragement and suppression of this wasteful and destructive African exportation of intoxicating liquors by American citizens."

Speaking to this petition, the Rev. Dr. Cuyler gives some startling facts. He asks Congress to recall the fact that when the Congo Conference was held, four of the representatives earnestly sought not only the entire suppression of the slave trade, but the prohibition of traffic in intoxicants with the native tribes.

Let the attention of every thoughtful man and woman be given to the figures we here quote. The importation of liquor into the State is frightful, "Germany importing 7,000,000 gallons, Holland 1,000,000 gallons, the United States, in 1886, from Boston alone, 733,000, the largest cargo of rum, it is claimed, ever sent out of Boston, in one solid cargo, to the coast of Africa."

That wonderful explorer, Stanley, together with commercial men and missionaries, are the authorities for saying that at once on the introduction of rum or spirituous liquors among the tribes of Africa, (which is something new,) a thirst is awakened to such a degree that a demand at once is made, on the arrival of vessels from this country or England, for strong drink.

Whilst this aggressive and earnest move is being made by the friends of Christianity and temperance in the United States, for some time past the Archbishop of Canterbury has been using his powerful influence to move the Christian people of England in a like direction, and petition after petition, and memorials, are being constantly sent to Parliament setting forth this terrible state of affairs.

Can there be found anything more antagonistic and sadly inconsistent with the Christian spirit of the age than the facts that we have narrated? Is it to be the case that the poor blind heathen is to point his finger to the Christian people of this and other countries and say, that, whilst they are moving with such energy to give to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they are also handing to them that cup which will undo all that has been accomplished, and damn every possible hope of them becoming the people that efforts are now being made to make them? And worse still it is feared, on the authority of the word itself, damns them for all eternity, for "no drunkard can inherit the Kingdom of Heaven."

The end will come God help and strengthen us day by day And serve us for the coming strife! Our foes are strong—they struggle for life— But God is stronger than they— The end will come."

PARASITES! The True Nature of the Liquor Business Exposed.

BY HON. JOHN B. FINCH.

The License System Illustrated. Take a leech press all the blood out of it. Now I will show you a trick of license economy. I take a lancet, draw a scratch on my arm, and say to the leech, "Suck." It does. Just look at it. It is growing respectable; it is getting sleek, and smooth, and fat. When it is full it will let go. There is this difference between insect leeches and human leeches. An insect leech ceases sucking when he is full, while a human leech will continue to suck as long as there is any money in the pockets of the victims or until he is choked off.

Build up a city, gentlemen? Just as well build up a man by putting lice on his head, as to hope to build up the material interests of a city by opening dram shops. In every business relation the liquor traffic of the country is an institution which receives value without returning it. It lives on society as parasites live on other bodies.

I suppose I ought to say, in justice to myself, that I never like to compare things unfavorably. I do not like to drag anything into a position where it ought not to be, and I feel like apologizing—to the bed-bug. You ask what I mean? I will tell you. I never knew one bed-bug to eat another bed-bug, or one louse to eat another louse. It remains for the last and highest order which God created in His own image, to develop the type which will live on their own kind and off their own species, who will fasten the fangs of parasitic avarice in the pulsating flesh of their own kin, their own blood, their own sex, and their own race, and grow rich, not by the destruction of other species, but by the destruction of other orders, but by the destruction of individual who feel the same, who enjoy the same, that they do. It is unfair to an order of parasitic life that lives on other forms of life, to compare it with a class low enough, vile enough, to live on its own kind without a feeling of sympathy, without a pulsation of regret.

It is a crime to aid a man in committing crime. Drunkenness is a crime. The man who sells the liquor aids the man to get drunk, and therefore commits a crime. The government that grants a license or permits the sale of liquor, aids the liquor dealer in committing a crime, and therefore commits a crime itself. The voter who votes to license a man to sell liquor, commits a crime, and so on. In the majority of cases is the first cause of crime, sin, sorrow, poverty, the expenses of the city and state, the populating of all criminal and charitable institutions, and the support of a tremendous number of sixth-rate politicians. Is there no remedy for all of this? The people are beginning to say, "Yes, try prohibition."

Those who sell this poison, murder Her Majesty's subjects by wholesale. Neither does their eye pity nor spare. They drive them to hell like sheep. And what is their gain? Is it not the blood of these men? Who, then, would envy their large estates and sumptuous palaces? A curse is in the midst of them, the curse of God cleaves to the stones, the timber, the furniture of them! The curse of God is in their gardens, their walls, their groves, a fire that burns to the nethermost hell! Blood, blood is there, the foundation, the floors, the walls, the roof, are stained with blood! And canst thou hope, O thou man of blood, though thou art "clothed in scarlet and fine linen, and farest sumptuously every day"—canst thou hope to deliver down thy fields of blood to the third generation? Not so, for there is a God in heaven, therefore, thy name shall soon be rooted out. Like as those whom thou hast destroyed, body and soul, "thy memorial shall perish with thee!"

Man's liberty ends, and it ought to end, when that liberty becomes the Curse of his neighbors. — [Archdeacon Farrar].

DE-LEGALIZE THE TRAFFIC And Save the Boys.

THE Scott Act kills the treating system. Degraded men, who have acquired the drinking habit, may manage to get liquor in disreputable dives and dens, even where the law is in operation, but the boys are not tempted by the seductiveness of the open bar, and the terrible traffic is robbed of its potent attractions of joviality, warmth, good-fellowship, sparkle, light and fun.

This fact was well brought out in reference to Maine some time ago by Mr. D. R. Locke, who visited the State named to inquire into the working of prohibition. He said—

A STRONG ARGUMENT. The best argument I found in Maine for prohibition was by an editor of a paper in Portland, who was, for political reasons, mildly opposed to it. I had a conversation with him which ran something like this: "Where were you born?" "In a village about sixty miles from Bangor." "Do you remember the condition of things prior to prohibition?" "Distinctly. There was a vast amount of drunkenness and consequent disorder and poverty." "What was the effect of prohibition?" "It shut up all the rum shops, and practically banished liquor from the village. It became one of the most quiet and prosperous places on the globe." "How long did you live in the village after prohibition?" "Eleven years, or until I was twenty-one years of age." "Then I went to Bangor." "Do you drink now?" "I never tasted a drop of liquor in my life." "Why?" "Up to the age of twenty-one I never saw it, and after that I did not care to take on the habit."

THEY WANT THE BOYS. That is all there is in it. If the boys of the country are not exposed to the infernalism, the men are very sure not to be. This man and his schoolmates were saved from rum by the fact that they could not get it until they were old enough to know better. Few men are drunkards who know not the poison till after they are twenty-one. It is the youth that the whiskey and beer men want.

AMERICAN.

The Great Chalk Talker. ROLLO Kirk Bryan, prohibition chalk talker, has finished up his work in the east, having met with much success and evoked great enthusiasm. He will be at Chicago about March 7, and thence will go west.

Wouldn't Consider It. THE Massachusetts House of Representatives, although voting to submit a prohibitory Constitutional Amendment to the people, has by a majority of nearly two to one refused to consider a bill presented to it for statutory prohibition.

A New Style of Fighting. IT is stated that a Pennsylvania woman who was thoroughly disgusted with her husband's persistent visits to a certain saloon, and got rid of the obnoxious institution in rather a novel manner. She trapped a sink which she hung into the premises, and succeeded thereby in driving out not only customers but proprietor as well.

Prohibition Work. THE report of the Chief of Police for the city of Providence will soon be issued, and in advance of its publication we have learned the following remarkable facts relating to the police record of that great and rapidly growing city. Our friends will bear in mind that the prohibitory law went into operation in Rhode Island, including the city of Providence, on the 1st of July, 1886.

Total criminal arrests for 1885 6,178 " " " " 1886 5,337 " " " " 1887 6,139

There is a good deal of complaint about the law not being sufficiently enforced, but the statistics quoted make it clear that, even as matters now stand, the crime in the great centre of population is steadily diminishing.

"If the community has no reason to be surprised at the combination of the Licensed Victuallers, they assuredly have no reason to be surprised at the rise of the Alliance. The ultimate issue of the struggle is certain. If anyone doubts the preponderance of good over evil in human nature, he has only to study the history of moral crusades. The enthusiastic energy and self-devotion with which a moral cause inspires its soldiers always have prevailed, and always will prevail, over any amount of self-interest or material power, arrayed on the other side. The Alliance is already powerful and growing in power. It will conquer." — [Prof. Goldwin Smith, in a letter on the United Kingdom Alliance].

The encouragement of drunkenness for the sake of gaining money is a more desperate form of assassination than has been adopted by the bravos of any country or age. — Thomas Carlyle.

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