

As Hermon entered his bar-room, he started at the threadbare and shivering apparition before him. Bertha caught him by the hand and poured into his ear a tale which a damned one would dread to hear—a tale of grief, hunger, neglect and abuse. She knelt before the man and wet his hand, in spite of himself, with scalding tears, as she besought him for her mother's Bible, and that he would not sell her father rum. With an eloquence which is only woman's under similar circumstances, she told the history of cruelty in a drunkard's home.

"Don't come here to blubber, bold Miss. This is no place for woman. Better 'tend to your own business and go to work instead of begging round the neighborhood. Your father can take care of himself. Better leave, I say," and Hermon put his hand rudely upon the shoulder of the girl, and crowded her towards the door.

"That's (hic)—right, Miz-zer Hermon, turn the (hic)—hussy out, by——!" hiccoughed the shameless father, as he managed to rise from his chair, and thrust his hands into his torn pockets.

As Bertha stepped over the threshold upon the steps, slippery with frost, Hermon passionately slammed the door together. Striking her feet as she lingered, they were knocked from under her, and she fell quickly and heavily at full length upon the stones, shivered as the limbs extended, and lay still, the blood running freely from the nose and open mouth upon the step.

"God Almighty's curse upon ye, murderer of the innocent, and r'ber of men! The gibbet would scorn such carrion, and hell vomit you from its bowels, John Hermon!" literally howled Crazy Alf, between his fiercely set teeth, as he bounded over the prostrate body, and planted a crushing blow under the ear of the now sobered landlord, which would have felled a trio of such men. "Strike a woman, you cowardly savage" he hissed, and ground his heel into the face of the prostrate wretch.

Alf had seen her fall, and supposing that Hermon had struck her, his half-maniac nature boiled at the act.

"Murderers not all hung yet!" he muttered, as he glanced upon the landlord; then taking Bertha in his arms, he carried her to Doctor Howard's.

Minnie made another shroud, and another grave was dug in Potter's field. Bertha was with little Bernard at rest. The door of Heaven was not shut against them, or the prayer answered with a curse.

The Watt family were scattered. Their graves are wide apart in this land to-day. Three years ago, in _____ county, James Watt died a pauper by the roadside, and at the public expense was buried in Potter's field.

The Pilgrim blood of the Watt family, freighted with bitter memories, beats in living hearts, who with prayers of hope and faith await the day when a righteous enactment shall crush the evil which scourged them, and avenge their wrongs.

The Temperance Movement in Australia.

(To the Editor of the Weekly News and Chronicle.)

SIR,—I have just received from Mr. Alldis a Memorial, of which I send a copy, as it may be interesting to know what is doing there, and by one so well known and respected.—Yours truly, W. BARNLEY.

10, Windsor-street, Brighton.

MEMORIAL to the Honourable the Legislative Council of Victoria now assembled.—May it please your Honourable Council!—

We, the undersigned inhabitants of the colony of Victoria, having witnessed for some time with feelings of anxiety, regret, and alarm, the increased and increasing amount of immorality, crime, destitution, and domestic wretchedness, induced by habits of intemperance, do earnestly memorialise your Honourable Council to take so important a subject into mature consideration at your earliest-convenience, and enact a law similar to that which is now in operation in several states of North America, to the effect—

That it shall be illegal to manufacture, sell, or barter intoxicating drinks, save for mechanical or for medicinal purposes.

To prove that drunkenness is the cause of crime, we would refer your honourable house to the testimony of Chief Justice A'Beckett, who, on several occasions, expressed his opinion that three-fourths of the criminals convicted of offences against life and property were under the influence of drink when they committed the offences for which they forfeited their lives or liberty; and to Mr. Justice Williams, who attributes the prevalence of crime and immorality to the drinking habits of the people. In addition to such testimony, it is a well-ascertained fact, that murder is not unfrequently committed under the influence of crime-producing drink.

We would refer your honourable house to the drunkards' statistics as furnished by a month's observation at the Mayor's Court in Swanstone-street, inasmuch as it shows the prevalence of that degrading vice which destroys man's position in society here and his eternal prospects hereafter.

Note 1.—In the month of July 682 persons were convicted of drunkenness. some of whom paid the fines, and others suffered imprisonment. If each month contributed a like number, we should have 7,944 convictions in the year, or an average each day of 23, being 1 in 10 of 80,000 inhabitants; whereas London in 1851 only shows 1 in 81, without taking into consideration the tens of thousands who drink to excess at their own residences, or who escape the vigilance of the police.

Note 2.—Coroners' reports furnish us with additional evidence to lay before your honourable house, that and some such measure as that we have mentioned be enacted, in order that the lives of the people may not be endangered or sacrificed by the unrestricted use of licensed beverages.

Coroners' inquests during the half year ending 30th June, 1853. Deaths arising from intemperance (direct), 8; indirectly, 39; total, 47.

Lunatic Asylums and Gaol statistics, show that at least one third of the maniacs confined for lunacy, were driven to seek refuge in these establishments through the effects produced by drink.

We need not mention to your honourable house the catastrophes both by sea and land through excessive use of drink, as witnessed at our shores, in the loss of life and property, by reckless commanders. The destruction of "The Sea" and the incarceration of the captain of the "United," must be fresh in your recollection.—

(Note. 3.)

We would draw your attention to the following document signed by above 2,000 medical practitioners of the highest reputation, which fully justifies us in asserting