

TEMPERANCE COLUMN. THE YOUNG CORPORAL.

A lad, a corporal in the French army, when drunk, struck his superior officer. This was a very serious offence. He was tried by court martial and sentenced to be shot, and cast into prison to await the execution of the sentence.

The colonial went to prison to inform the condemned young corporal of his pardon.

"Ah! colonel," said the happy young man, as the officer entered, "you see what my folly has brought me too."

"Suppose," said the colonel, "that I should tell you that on condition that you never drink again a pardon is extended to you."

A gleam of hope brightened the young face.

"Your life being the forfeit if ever you taste liquor again," added the colonel.

"Impossible!" said the poor lad. "I cannot live and not drink. Must I never drink?"

"Never."

The poor young fellow relapsed into hopelessness.

"Nothing could keep me from it. It would be impossible to keep the condition."

"I want your word and pledge of honor as a soldier," said the colonel, appealing to the military spirit and high sense of honor he so well knew the youth to possess.

The lad's soul kindled within him. The appeal wrought the effect intended. "See, colonel," cried the young soldier. "See here and now," and he lifted his arm towards heaven, "that never to my dying day will I put liquor to my lips again."

That lad became commander of the Imperial Guards whose very name became such a power, and he kept the pledge in the same spirit that characterized his memorable utterance, "The Old Guard dies, but never surrenders."

Now, you see how much that sting of the liquor serpent costs. It came very near costing that brave young corporal his life. It is a costly sting to this country in dollars and cents. It costs us three hundred and sixty times as much as it does to pay the salaries of all the ministers of the gospel.

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