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NOTE AND COMMENT

It is encouraging to note that there has been a steady decline in the consumption of spirituous liquors in Great Britain for the past seven years. This applies both to beer and distilled liquors.

A Chicago judge recently warned a physician that if he ever again prescribed liquor for a man on parole he would go to the county jail. The court threatened him, not for prescribing liquor, but for prescribing it without a knowledge of the case, and for a prisoner on parole.

Perhaps the next best linguist to the King of England among those sitting upon European thrones, says London "Tit-bits," is the Kaiser, whose French is extraordinarily pure and idiomatic and who also speaks excellent English, although he has never been able to rid himself of a strong German accent.

China is winning her way to recognition in various parts of the world. For the first time the University of Berlin has conferred a degree upon a Chinaman. The fortunate recipient is "Dr." Ma Do Yuen, a Chinese student of presumable talent—as he must be to receive a doctoral degree from such a famous institution.

Sir John Thomas, of Brook House, Woburn, Bucks, one of the most recently-created knights, has a record which, the Star thinks, is probably unique among similarly honored personages. He has been a total abstainer for over twenty years, and no one in the country has done more in championing the cause of temperance.

What can Sunday school teachers do to get ready for the revival? They can prepare the way for the revival by faithful teaching as to the lost condition of all who have come to the years of accountability and are still without personal faith in Christ. Do teachers in the Sunday school understand that their teaching means heaven or hell for those under their care?

A correspondent writes to a London paper apropos of the approaching marriage of Princess Marie Bonaparte to the son of the King of Greece, and a nephew of our own Queen. It is of interest (he says) to mark the fact that there is still living at Lienv, in Belgium, a woman who actually spoke to the great Napoleon ninety-two years ago, on the battlefield; and at Writtle, near Chelmsford, a lady named Brooks is living who saw him on H.M.S. Belterophon, in Plymouth Sound, when she was four years old.

William Bardell, American Consul at Bamberg, Germany, has reported to the bureau of manufacturers the discovery of Dr. Radard, a Geneva dentist, that blue rays of light can be used as an anaesthetic in the extraction of teeth. Dr. Radard says that a complete narcosis can be obtained if the rays of a blue electric light are brought to bear on the human eye while all other rays of light, particularly of daylight, are kept off to it. The narcosis thus obtained is so complete that dental operations, such as pulling or filling teeth, etc., can be executed without causing the patient the least amount of pain.

The Medical Society of Jefferson County, Alabama, has placed itself on record as opposed to the indiscriminate prescribing of alcohol by physicians, and suggests, in order to limit such prescriptions, that every prescription be recorded in a book open to inspection by the county health officer, the record to show the prescriber, date, amount, kind of liquor, etc.

Opportunity must be taken by the forelock because it is held behind, and can not be seized after it has passed by. A German proverb holds up to ridicule the man who sits in an armchair with his mouth wide open waiting for a roast pigeon to fly in. A Chinese adage points out the folly of one who, finding a hare asleep, first wakes him and then attempts to run him down. "Four things come not back again," says an Oriental proverb: "The spoken word, the spent arrow, the past life, and the lost opportunity."

The German Government propose to enforce Sunday rest much more strictly than heretofore. Factory inspectors (says the "Daily Telegraph") have been making inquiries into the possibility of closing the factories in various branches of industry which until now have been accorded permission to work seven days a week. The result of their activity has been that the Minister decided not to renew the permissions at their expiration in a large number of cases. Shops are already closed on Sundays in both town and country during church hours in the morning, and the whole afternoon and evening.

To obey the laws must be the first rule of the home, the first rule of the school, the first rule of the citizen in his dealings with his fellows. Law is of God and who resisteth the law resisteth the ordinance of God. In this connection, how impressive are the words of Lincoln: "Let reverence for the laws be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, and grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars."

There are at least 10,000 Italians living in Detroit and the colony is increasing at the rate of about 1,000 a year. This statement is made in a report in the Michigan Presbyterian on evangelistic work among Italians. These people are hard workers, thrifty and temperate. As to the religious side of their character, a Roman Catholic lady is quoted as saying: "The relation between the Roman Catholic Church and the mass of the Italians in this country is a source of grief." Whether her severe strictures are accepted or not, the fact is beyond question that great multitudes of the Italians have lost all interest in the Roman Catholic Church. They believe the Roman church tried to prevent Italian unity and liberty. Many of them upon coming to America abandon all connection with that church and yet are accessible to Evangelical Christianity. There would seem to be room for evangelical work among the Italians who are coming to Canada.

In Nottingham, England, a few weeks ago, a teamster loaded his waggon so heavily that the horses could not start. He began lashing them and swearing, and a crowd gathered, but no one would take a lift at the wheels and help the horses get a move on the waggon. The driver was still lashing away when a grocer's horse standing across the road rushed at him with open mouth and seized him by the arm and bit him so savagely that he had to go to the hospital for treatment. "Sensible horse! We can find abundance of work for him in Ottawa."

There is no adequate support for the impression that the early morning hours are in any way more wholesome or healthful than later periods of the day. Except in summer time they are apt to be damp, foggy, chilly and among the least desirable hours of daylight. It is quite true that during the summer there is a sense of exhilaration about being abroad in these early morning hours, but this evaporates with the dew and is apt to be succeeded by a corresponding depression and loss of working power later in the day.

It was asserted by Aristotle that no animal dies near the sea except at the ebbing of the tide. Such a notion (writes a practitioner in "The Hospital," in an interesting article entitled "A Curious Bit of Folklore") I find still exists at Gravesend. An old salt, who used to sit by a dying man in an ale-house on the shore of the Thames, told me he noticed my patient was always worse at the turn of the tide, and then got better after the tide had turned. Readers of Dickens cannot forget the account in "David Copperfield" of Mr. Barkis "going out with the tide."

The Spirit and Wine Circular gives voice to this discouraged wail: "With more than one-half of the geographical limits of this great country under laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages; with Tennessee passing through her Legislature a bill that almost amounts to State prohibition; with the West Virginia Legislature passing a measure to submit the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of wines and spirits to a vote of the people; with Texas providing that express companies transporting wines and spirits shall take out a \$5,000 license; with the Illinois Legislature considering a county unit local option measure and Indiana a \$1,000 license for the few saloons that the Remonstrance law will leave in that State; with Kentucky almost a dry State and facing probably a legislative session that will submit a prohibitory amendment; and with an organization opposing us and sworn to our destruction that seems to lack nothing in the way of money or brains, enthusiasm or persistent, untiring work—what, may we ask, is the wine and spirit trade doing to arrest the current of events or to alter in any way the radical conclusions which are being forced upon the people in every State, county and precinct? If there is one thing that seems settled beyond question it is that the retail liquor trade of this country must either mend its way materially or be prohibited in all places save the business or tenderloin precincts of our larger cities." The hand-writing on the wall has no comfort for the liquor traffic and its sponsors.