



## Who is to Blame?

(Frank Beard, in 'Ram's Horn.')

The saloon is wide open in our little town,  
And doing its best to succeed  
In debauching our morals, and dragging  
us down  
To serve the saloon-keeper's greed.  
There are some who think  
An occasional drink  
Is a thing at which good people surely  
might wink;  
Though their talk is all nonsense, their  
reasoning lame,  
The saloon is wide open,

And  
who  
is to  
blame?

And then there are others you will not find  
loath  
Each argument, threadbare, to seize,  
To decry moral law—and affirm with an  
oath,  
The right to do just as they please.  
And such people will,  
Of course, guzzle and swill,  
And deposit their funds in the bar-keeper's  
till;  
Unlimited license and freedom they claim,  
The saloon keeps wide open,

And  
who  
is to  
blame?

We have plenty of churches and good peo-  
ple too,  
As respectable folk we are great;  
In comparison drunkards and brawlers are  
few  
To the many who keep themselves  
straight.  
We have, by the way,  
A Y. M. C. A.,  
And devotional service at noon every day;  
Yet the truth must be spoken with sorrow  
and shame,  
The saloon is still open,

And  
who  
is to  
blame?

## Chili and the Drink Question

Chili is credited with being the most drunken country in the world, with the exception of Bolivia; but she is waking up now to her duty. Her recent legislation is remarkable for its comprehensiveness and boldness. For the first time she has laid her hand on the traffic, and with a firmness which has aroused the ire of all those who are engaged in it. The new law has sixteen chapters and 169 clauses.

By one stride she has taken a foremost place in grappling with the curse of strong drink. But she has aroused the friends of the traffic; they see that their trade is seriously endangered, and so they have set themselves to neutralize as far as they can this new legislation. The wine growers are up in arms against it, and have formed a league to secure its modification.

And this has brought an Anti-alcoholic League into the field. Its members are not all teetotal, but they are working for total abstinence. They have issued a handbook which is characterized as being out and out teetotal, and has a chapter on the non-use of alcohol as medicine. And as showing the influential character of this League, we are told that the president of the Santiago branch is the Prime Minister, and that a first cousin of the present

President of the Republic is one of the abstaining directors.

Now, what has led to such vigorous action against the drink? Just the social and moral evils which it has produced. Patriotic Chilians see their country destroyed by this terrible curse. Hitherto it has been little restricted, and so has wrought appalling mischief. The good men of the country feel that if their nation is to be saved, the use of strong drink must be vastly restricted, and those who give way to intemperance severely punished. If they have been long in acting, they have redeemed themselves by the action they have taken. The drink traffic is to die hard! The Temperance Chilians have just entered on a struggle which will tax all their energies.

We regard ourselves as being farther advanced in everything civilized than Chili; but our temperance legislation is behind hers. The drink interest with us is one of great power, and spares neither expense nor effort to maintain and extend itself. But this is only a fresh call to all temperance reformers to increase their efforts against it. We shall rejoice when we see our own anti-liquor legislation as drastic as Chili's. Meanwhile, we are in the very thick of the battle; and we have no fear of abstainers failing to win the day. God is on the side of right and goodness.—'League Journal.'

## Temperance Essays by Children.

The 'Union Signal' reports as follows on the 'Essays by School Children on Alcoholic Drinks':—Dr. Cordelia A. Greene, of Castile, N.Y., and Elizabeth P. Gordon, a few months since offered prizes for the best essays on alcoholic drinks. The subject of these essays was divided into four parts:—

What effect do alcoholic liquors have upon the human body?

Is the appetite for them natural and healthy, or unnatural and diseased?

Is the saloon a school for education into virtue or vice?

Is it right for the national or state government to sustain it by law?

The children were requested to give, in their essays, notable examples of those who had suffered from the use of drink.

The effect of this offer was to get the boys and girls, as well as their parents and friends, to reading and thinking along all these lines, and so many books on temperance were never taken from the library. Material showing the evil effects of alcohol and giving arguments for right, temperate living which never had been heard of before, were unearthed. Over twenty dollars was spent in prizes. Every one who even tried received a nice book and even the following brief lines received a suitable reward:

'The meaning of alcohol is devil, and it does the devil's work well, ever seeking to destroy soul and body, and bringing misery and want into thousands of happy homes.'

The following is taken from a letter written by a L. T. L. girl to Miss Gordon, and gives the children's point of view:

'I do not think anyone who wrote is sorry they did. I am sure I am very glad. I wish something could be done that would wipe the terrible saloons from this world of ours. If some of the saloon-keepers could read some of the essays perhaps they would think differently than they do now.'

## Workingmen's Restaurants in Russia.

Russian temperance committees do much to make happier the lives of their country's poor. In Moscow one year saw twelve huge 'Norodny Dows' or 'People's Houses' opened, which contain workingmen's restaurants, clubs, libraries, labor bureaus and much besides. Wholesome, nutritious food is served at a price suited to all pockets. The restaurants are crowded with a motley company. Workers of all kinds

from skilled artisans to road-cleaners, small office holders, and tramps of every sort, peasants from neighboring villages, criminals just released from jail, and persons only recently compelled to economize. Entertainments are frequently furnished into which temperance is skilfully woven, music and art playing their part. Schools are few and far between in Russia, and the poor are heavily burdened. It would be difficult, therefore, to over-estimate the value of the work the Moscow Committee is doing in thus bringing instruction within the reach of all classes, and trying to give at least a touch of interest and of pleasure, sweetness and light to lives so fraught with hardship and gloom.—'Union Signal.'

Several hundred persons were delayed more than an hour in getting into the city the other morning, because one freight car had got off the track. The derailling of a single car was sufficient to block the traffic of the railway for hours. It is so when a young man goes wrong; he does more than hinder his own progress, or hurt his own character, for he interferes with the progress of others.

Any one of the many articles in 'World Wide' will give three cents' worth of pleasure. Surely, ten or fifteen hundred such articles during the course of a year are well worth a dollar.

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The following are the contents of the issue of Dec. 23, of 'World Wide':

### ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Mr. Charlton on Reciprocity with Canada—American Papers.  
An Appeal for Arbitration—The Springfield 'Republican.'  
Hudson Bay—Providence Journal, Rhode Island.  
An Indictment of our Move on Tibet—The 'Daily News,' London.  
For or Against Mr. Chamberlain—An Interesting Plebiscite—The Dundee 'Courier.'  
Joey's British Bus—One of the Songs of the Halls.  
For and Against Mr. Bradford's Facts—The 'Spectator,' London; the 'Times,' London.  
Our Limit of Colonial Expansion—The 'Standard,' London.  
Mr. Austen Chamberlain at Halifax—English Papers.  
Mr. Winston Churchill's Estimate on the Situation—English Papers.  
Change the Subject and be Forgiven—G. K. Chesterton on the Fiscal Question—The 'Daily News.'

### SOMETHING ABOUT THE ARTS.

The Art of Furnishing—On Nurseries—By Mrs. George Tweedie, in the 'Onlooker,' London.  
John Ruskin: A Vindication—Address to British Workingmen—'St. George,' (the organ of the English Ruskin Societies).

### CONCERNING THINGS LITERARY.

The Old Year—Poem. By Whittier.  
A Song. The Wise Forget, Dear Heart—By Jeannette Bliss Gillespy.  
Wandering Things—Poem, from the 'St. James Gazette.'  
'This Year Also'—A short sermon for the New Year—By C. H. Spurgeon.  
Two Poets of the Irish Movement—W. B. Yeats and Lionel Johnson—By P. E. M., in the New York 'Evening Post.'  
The Creed of a Credulous Person—Pumpkins and Possibility—By G. K. Chesterton, in 'Black and White,' London.  
Readers at the British Museum—'T. P.'s Weekly,' London.  
The Man in Leather—The 'Academy and Literature.'

### HINTS OF THE PROGRESS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The Material Pillar of Society—The 'Spectator,' London.  
Sir Oliver Lodge on Social Regeneration—The Manchester 'Guardian.'  
'Solidified Foam of the Sea'—The New York 'Tribune.'  
Plant Food from the Air—The 'Sun,' New York.  
'Searchlights'—Westminster Gazette.  
Science Notes.

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