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India.

Thoughtful observers at home and abroad are impressed with the changes evidently going on in the popular mind, preparing India for the reception of the Gospel. The change has thus far made itself felt more strongly in some of the missions of other Boards than in those connected with the American Board. It would seem that the higher classes are being reached as never before. Many of the young men educated in the higher schools and colleges are organizing into societies which practically reject idolatry and are accepting theism. It is a recognition of the fact that the old superstitions and idolatry connected with them no longer suffice for thinking minds. The same thought is more or less recognized by the common people, and many villages are renouncing their idolatry and begging for Christian instruction. The one great want of India at this time is a native agency, well trained in the Gospel, and means to support them in making it known to these waiting multitudes. Never before have so many villages been reported as applying to the missionaries for instructions in the Gospel, and never before have missionaries been so much tried on account of their inability to improve the remarkable opportunities presented to them.—Dr. Clark in The Missionary Herald.

Why I Abstain From Strong Drink.

Because strong drink does injury to the body. It breeds disease. It disturbs, inflames, and excites one or other of the vital organs. Thousands die from strong drink who were never drunk in their lives. Many used to think that whiskey was both meat and drink, not only strengthening but comforting; that it made you warm when cold, and helped to keep you from catching cold when warm. But all that is nonsense. Medical men now tell us that it is no article of food, and can only be of use as a medical stimulant; that there is more real nourishment in a simple glass of milk than in a whole barrel of beer; and when people begin to take strong drink, they form a craving for it that leads them to take it often, and then their bodies get poisoned.

Once a good man told me that when he got his arm broken, it healed all the faster because his body had none of the poison of alcohol in it. Lately I was called in to see a man dying in a hospital. His disease was consumption, brought on by exposure when under the influence of drink. And we

are told that at least 120,000, or more than all the British army put together, die in Britain every year, not from consumption, but from strong drink. And if you will count you will see that if 120,000 die every year from strong drink, then 356 die every day, and about fifteen every hour. Solomon said, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? . . . who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine." Therefore, if you wish to have good health and live long, never begin to touch strong drink.

But again, I abstain because strong drink affects the mind. It weakens it, it darkens it, muddles it, deadens it, destroys it. What babblers and half-idiot men become when under the influence of alcohol. How it stirs up all the evil lying at the bottom of the heart; for when a man gets intoxicated, how often he begins to swear and use most horrible oaths and curses. And then how the fighting propensities rise up, leading often to outrage and murder. In Glasgow a poor man was hung on the gallows, because for four hours, under the influence of drink, he kicked, and bruised, and battered his wife to death. And when he was lying in the condemned cell he called in his son and said, "Oh, never touch strong drink, for it was that which brought me here!" It was too late for him, but not too late for you.

DR. ALEXANDER ANDREW, in Good News.

God Made Liquor.

God no more "made liquor" than he made a faro table, or a resort of debauchery. He no more made it than he made the tools of the burglar or the vile inventions which the customs seize. He made it only in the same sense as he made the dynamite bombs of the anarchist thugs. Wheat and corn and rye are wholly useful and wholesome food as nature yields them, but by the devices of man strong drink is produced from them, and it ruins men if they take too much of it, as many of them do if they drink it at all. Instead, therefore, of putting the responsibility for liquor on God, we advise the clergy to lay the whole blame for it on the men as a dangerous luxury which God compels them neither to produce nor to consume any more than he compels them to do anything else. Moreover, it is questionable whether the influence of the clergy in preventing the abuse of liquor would not be strengthened greatly if they refrained wholly from its use themselves. Besides, being usually emotional men of sedentary habits, they are better off without such a stimulant. The habit of drinking, dangerous for everybody, is especially dangerous for them in their own persons and in the example they set for other people.—New York Sun.

Don't Put It Off.

The necessity of a spring medicine is universally admitted. This is the best time of year in which to purify the blood, to restore the lost appetite, and to build up the entire system, as the body is now peculiarly susceptible to benefit from medicine. The great popularity attained by Hood's Sarsaparilla, owing to its real merit and its remarkable success, has established it as the very best medicine to take in the spring. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, and all humors, biliousness, dyspepsia, headache, kidney and liver complaints, catarrh, and all affections caused or promoted by a low state of the system or impure blood. Don't put it off, but take Hood's Sarsaparilla now. It will do you good.

The total number of Christians in Japan is about 100,000.—Ram's Horn.

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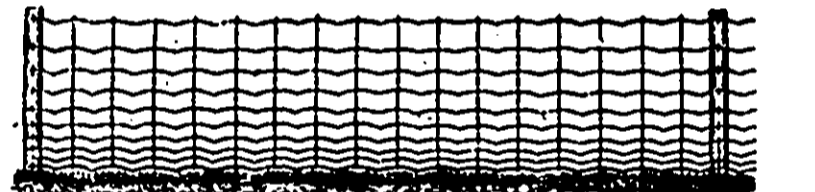
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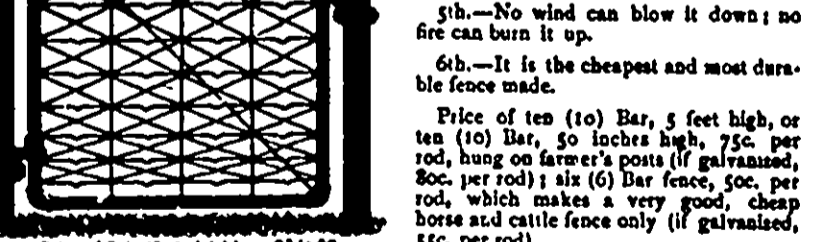
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