

Woman's Christian Publication Association of Chicago, more than corroborates the statements in Dr. Taylor's resolution relative to the terribly demoralizing and brutalizing effects of Christian rum on the semi-savage races. Says the author, page 79 :

"I have already pointed out the fact that the natives of Africa, whenever liquor is introduced among them, have developed a passionate craving for it almost without a parallel. Knowing but little of the horde of evils that follow in the train of drunkenness, caring nothing for the future, and fearing no evils they are unacquainted with, the African savage thinks only of the pleasure of getting drunk. When sober, he feels no remorse of conscience, for he is not conscious of having done wrong. Did not the white man make and furnish the rum? The white man not only sells it to him, but he drinks it himself. Why should he not do as the white man who knows everything? He says to himself: The black man has few pleasures, and the greatest of them is getting drunk on fire-water. I have plenty of palm-oil and fire-water is cheap; therefore, why should I not get drunk every day?"

Count Van der Straten adds his testimony to that of the author as follows :

"The negro does not yield physically to drunkenness; he succumbs morally. If the Powers do not save him from this vice, they will make of him a monster who will destroy the work of the Conference."

The author urges a crusade by the Christian ministry everywhere in behalf of legislation that shall prevent the shipping of alcoholic liquors into savage territory. "What an incalculable amount of labor, lives and treasure the Christian Church might have saved by barring the doors of Africa at the right time against alcohol! Now a world of mischief is already done. A little longer and it will be too late to accomplish anything there [in the line of missions] on a grand scale."

Burial Reform.

REV. F. LAWRENCE, Vicar of Nes-tow, Yorkshire, and Honorary Secretary of the Church of England Burial, Funeral and Mourning Reform Association, preached a recent sermon in

this city which has attracted marked attention. He strongly advocated the burial of the dead in coffins made of readily perishable material, and spoke against the burdensome custom of unnecessary expense and show at funerals.

The strong coffins used in our present mode of burial prevent and retard the decomposition of the body, while such changes should be expected and welcomed; and the gases thus formed and confined within the imperishable coffin become virulent and death-producing, sooner or later to find their way out where they can do harm; whereas a rational and unretarded decomposition of the body after being placed in the earth is harmless.

The great cost which is now lavished on the dead at funerals, being as one authority puts it, at the lowest estimate, an average of \$50 each in London, becomes a social burden, which the poor are far from being able to bear. The living have often to go without proper food and clothing that the demands of fashion may be met as regards the dead. Twenty-five million dollars are annually spent for funerals in England and Wales alone. The wealthy and the middle classes are asked to set an example in the matter of simpler burials, both for the good health and the prosperity of the people.

Editorial Note.

PROF. WILLIAM C. WILKINSON.

We gladly note the return of our highly esteemed contributor from an extended foreign tour, which embraced Palestine, Greece and other countries of interest to the religious and literary world. He made all his journey under the convoy of those world-famed excursionists, Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son. He returns in good health, and with no abatement of interest in his professional work, as his article on Goethe's "Faust" in this number will show.