

associations and rallying all their forces against alcohol. They now publish a periodical, which is edited by one of themselves, called "Woman's Temperance Union," with a staff of contributors in every part of the Union. It will do good, and deserves to be scattered like leaves in autumn.

There is nothing to fear. Truth will win the day. The churches are more alive to temperance than at any former period. We regret that some ministers defend the intoxicating wine for sacramental purposes; but even here a change for the better is taking place. One thousand churches in the city of London are supplied with unfermented wines for the communion table by one firm alone.

Dr. Ritchie says: There are about 120 warnings and admonitions in Scripture against intoxicating drinks, while there are not over twenty instances of distinct approval of wine under all its names in the whole Bible. The approval is of the "pure juice of the grape" in its unfermented state. The Jews never used fermented liquor at their feasts. Dr. Isaacs, a Jewish Rabbi of New York, says: "Fermentation is to them always a symbol of corruption, as in nature and science it is in itself decay and rottenness."

We sometimes complain of the lack of principle among public men, but now and then we meet with noble specimens of sanctified humanity. Here is one:—Sir John Bennett, who was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of alderman in the city of London, said at the recent election: "Physical health is essential to the performance of an alderman's duty. For five and twenty years he had not had a headache. He had been able to give six hundred lectures, and never missed one engagement out of the number. When he filled the office of sheriff, he had attended to public business on more than 1,000 occasions—being more than three a day. They would thus see that he was not one to shrink from duty on the ground of physical indisposition. He had a good character from his last place. He had kept his head clear in his early days. He was a teetotaler for thirty years; ten pounds paid for all the wine he drank between thirty and forty; and since then, nobody could accuse him of forgetting his senses in the bottle."

Here is another. Alderman Fatham declined being Mayor of Leeds this year, assigning as his reason for doing so, that he could not conscientiously "extend civic hospitality to distinguished visitors and strangers in the usual way," and further said: "If I have a mission, it is to show the princes, dukes, and judges, magistrates, aldermen, councillors, and others, that intoxicating drinks are not necessary for their due and proper reception; and this I feel that both the council and the public at large are not ready to accept." The editor of the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle*, referring to this case, says: "Alas! these 'civic hospitalities' in London, Leeds, and such like places, are responsible for the flow of rivers of wine; and what is there to show for it? Year by year millions of money are simply washed away in this senseless and profitless channel—a bad example, and, alas! too easily copied."

At present, in addition to the lecturers that are employed by the various organisations, there are some distinguished labourers from the Old World who are aiding by their powerful advocacy the cause of temperance. We welcome Rev. John Ryan, J. Bell, and J. H. Raper, Esq., and bid them God-speed wherever they may go.

E. B.