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The Goliath of the Nineteenth Century.

An Allegory addressed to men only, February 10th, 1889, by HENRY FRANCIS ADAMS.

1 Samuel, 17, 4. "And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span." 10, "And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day: give me a man that we may fight together." 54. "And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem."

I. THE GIANT GOLIATH.

Goliath was evidently a man of very large proportions, being nine feet six inches in height. He was the military champion of a strong nation, enjoyed a position of great privileges, and occupied a very prominent place in the public eye. All this influence and eminence, all this power and prestige appears to have gathered about him on account of his lordly bigness and his sturdy strength. It is quite possible that no special notice was taken of him till his physical bulk, and his feats of strength made him conspicuous. As a babe, and as a boy he may have been more than of usual size, but it was when he was full grown that he stood out from ordinary men as a veritable Hercules. Then the nation's attention was drawn towards him, till admiration ripened into hero-worship, and he was exalted to be the idol of the Philistine's army, and the dread of all their enemies.

There was a time, when as compared to his present size, the modern Goliath, the liquor traffic, was a baby. And though always very hard to manage, even by the Mother-land, yet he did not draw towards himself in his early days very serious attention. In fact this baby Goliath had so many nurses among the rich and great, and even the religious, who fed and fondled him, that the kind of attention given him, instead of being serious, was a sort of competition, as to who should make him grow fatter and fattest. In boyhood he exhibited some evidence of being a little spoiled, in outbursts of temper, and more than usually impudent and over-bearing, for one of his age. The old folks could not help seeing his knavish ways and hearing his saucy tongue; and they inwardly thought that a little chastening would not do the growing boy any harm; still as a rule instead of administering any reproof to the lad when meeting him, they generally gave him in a jocose manner, a pat on the back, that imposed more of encouragement than reproof. Kings and Queens, Premiers and Nobles, Popes and Primates, Commoners and common people all contributed their mite of pap to the development of this fast growing lad. And how he grew? He grew great in corpulence, and great in opulence. In stature he outstripped all his fellows; in style he excelled the nobility, in finances he founded his own bank; and in general demeanor he was a perfect dictator. The day arrived when he attained unto full manhood, and at once it was conceded by all that he was the biggest man in the whole nation and the whole world.

We know that it is characteristic of human vanity to admire and voluntarily yield obeisance to big things. A big war, a big fire, a big forgery, a big railway, a big monument, are things that invite and easily obtain the homage of most people. So it was with this big fat Goliath, the liquor traffic. By this time he had vast distilleries and breweries built, covering many miles of valuable ground. Glowing descriptions of them were published by his newspaper friends. His wholesale and retail establishments increased at such a rapid rate, that his bigness overshadowed

everything else. He was so tall, and broad, and imperious, that whenever he went abroad the people easily fell into the habit of hero-worship; when they passed his magnificent palace they yielded to the feeling of wonder and admiration; and when they read in the newspapers that his income from the Mother, Britannia, and her Daughter, America, aggregated nearly two thousand million dollars, for his public needs and private uses, they only marvelled the more at the extraordinariness of the national pet. Feeling assured that the nations love for him was growing strong, he felt that now would be the time to ingratiate himself still further, by pursuing a policy of keen and cautious conduct.

The first part of his programme was to

(1.) MAKE QUITE SURE OF SOCIETY GENERALLY.

He fascinated the crowned heads; bewitched the nobility; charmed the different sections of the upper and lower classes of the merchants, manufacturers, and mechanics into his circle. In fact he worked all his plans so wisely and effectually, that it became fashionable to boast of alliance with this modern Goliath. A banquet that had no on its tables every variety of his products was considered behind the times; at small parties three or four richly cut decanters filled with Sherry, Port, Whiskey and Brandy were expected to be on the tables; weddings were a special occasion for a display of the ruby liquor, and no funeral was considered complete at which hired mourners and neighbours were not "treated." From the monarch on the throne down to the poorest man, no dinner was considered worth eating, if a glass of ale or beer was not beside each plate, and even the children got their little mugs full. No club room was fashionably and fully furnished that had not champagne, claret, and ale glasses for each member. And though in the quieter seclusion of their homes, the clergy had their barrels of bitter ale in their cellars, and bottles of port and sherry in the closet. The so-called Dissenting ministers were not all free from the social contagion, while the Priests quaffed liquor like Leviathan. Having convinced and converted society generally to support him in all the relations which men and women hold to each other in social life, his next point to secure was

(2.) TO ATTACH COMMERCE TO HIMSELF.

He sought to interweave his interests with almost every business in the world. He invested the enormous surplus of his income in such a variety of concerns, as to easily throw over the merchants and workmen a fear of his commanding presence, and a careful regard for his vast monetary power. It was seen by all that this modern Goliath was developing a great giant's power, and strode through the lands with almost irresistible force. He founded banking houses, built ships to carry his products abroad, laid great railroads to carry his wares from city to town and village; in fact there was scarcely a department of commerce that did not feel directly or indirectly the ever-widening influence of this great personage.

He so cleverly manipulated the markets, that he got it into the farmer's head that without the distillery his grain would remain on his hands unsold and unsaleable; he made hotel keepers believe that a house in their line could not be run profitably without his goods; he persuaded doctors that they could not get or retain a great many of his friends as their patients, unless they used his mixtures in their treatment; and grocers took a hint from him that their business would pay very much better, if their stores had rows of his bottles in them, which they accepted in many cases. The coopers were convinced that their trade would fall to the ground, if his business did not exist; and the glass blowers he readily converted to his way of thinking, on being doubly assured

Wm. H. C. C. C.
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