

Temperance Column.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Under the title of "The saloon curse" the Editor of The Arena in the November number says that in Chicago there are about 5600 saloons. During the year ending March 1st, 1891, the author of "Chicago's Dark Places" states that the expenditure for beer in Chicago alone was no less than forty million of dollars. The population being about one million two hundred thousand this makes an average of thirty three and one quarter for every man, woman and child. "And these results are gained after the most conservative figuring." This would give 53 gallons of beer to be consumed by every man, woman and child in that City." The estimate in Germany is only 25 gallons per head, and Germany is called "the beer drinking country."

If Chicago's expenditure, for beer only, amounts to forty million dollars the writer thinks that it may safely be said that the expenditure for all kinds of intoxicating beverages, including wines and distilled liquors, must have been in that year upwards of eighty millions of dollars.

On a certain evening in Milwaukee, 468 persons were seen to enter a single saloon, most of whom were young men and boys.

In Albany, Ind., one evening within one hour and a half, 983 young men and boys were seen to enter 19 saloons in that place.

The author of "Chicago's Dark Places" is said to be, "an earnest Christian gentleman who has had a committee of conscientious men and woman investigating the actual condition of the social sceler of Chicago."

If the clergymen of our great cities would carry out the example set by their Master, would refuse to take the words of those who are blinded and callous by conventional thought and the indifference which comes to sordid natures long accustomed to mingle with wretchedness, and themselves frequently visit the exiles of society in the cities where they dwell: if its members would for one day in each week visit the miserables of society, I doubt not that the pulpit would soon become a most powerful battery of moral power and light, which would, in a surprisingly short time, revolutionize our conditions, so that in the place of thousands of people, sandwiched in dens of indistinguishable squalor, we would see healthful apartment houses: instead of horrible drinking dens and rendezvous of degredation and debauchery, flourishing and rank as tropical forests, we would find temperance eating houses: social club houses where every evening the poor man and his family could spend an hour, looking through the paper of the day, enjoying the illustrations and intellectual worth of our periodical literature, or, if they choose, hear in other rooms lectures or charcoal talks dealing with practical pictures of life, of history, travels, social problems, and other themes of value, and where at a very moderate price healthful and nutritious food may be enjoyed, well-

supported industrial schools would also blossom where now only here and there we find a school struggling for existence and handicapped for want of means for its proper carrying on.

The people of the United States States in 1889 spent over one billion of dollars for liquor. This is the way it looks: \$1,034,177,918.—*Southern Churchman.*

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