

lers, on the other the solemn and earnest singing of some simple revival hymn. Extremes often meet in this world!

The popularity of the mission-services soon began to tell upon the numbers who nightly frequented the "Castle." The tent was filled every evening to a great extent by those who had formerly thronged the bar and theatre of the public-house opposite; the consequence was the trade began to decline.

From this and other causes it so happened that the famous "Edinburgh Castle" was advertised one morning for sale. Dr. Barnardo, who was all along the presiding genius of the movement, could not regard this in any other light than a providential opening. He was in sad need of a permanent place in which to establish and extend the work of God already commenced. He had been praying for such a place, and here was one exactly suited to his purpose. It was in the very best position, and well-known in the district; at a very trifling cost it could be adapted to all the purposes of the mission. The large theatre would make a splendid hall for public services, the public-house could be turned into a coffee-palace, and there would be ample accommodation for reading-rooms, and rooms for any and every purpose the work of God might require. Although he had not a penny in hand, a busy canvass amongst his friends soon secured the necessary funds, and in less than three weeks he had paid the purchase-money, (£4,200) just in time to save it from passing into the hands of a large music-hall proprietor. Thus it came to pass that the once famous "Edinburgh Castle" was transformed into a house of prayer, and became the centre of a real and extending work of God. The external appearance of the place has been changed but very little; the old sign-board is left outside the house, but instead of "Courage & Co.'s Entire," "Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, & Co.'s" or "Charrington & Head's Splendid Ales," we read the solemn words, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." Over the gateway there is a large illumination of the words "God is Love," shedding a welcome light on the dingy street. In the windows of the public-house, where formerly the words "Gin, Brandy, and Rum" were conspicuous in gilt letters, in equally

brilliant characters, we now read, "Rich Cocoa," "To-day's Papers," and similar announcements. Outside the large gates leading to the theatre, there is, as formerly, an immense notice board, but instead of the announcement of some popular singer, or entertainment, we read, "Dr. Barnardo will preach here to-night at eight o'clock," or "A Bible-class will be held this evening," concluding with an earnest invitation for all to come. Externally the old public-house appearance has been wisely preserved as much as possible. Let us enter and see what is going on inside. In the bar we find instead of the noisy, cursing, drinking group of former days, a number of honest-looking working-men sitting round little tables, with their hot coffee, reading the papers or engaged in earnest conversation about some prominent question of the day. On the wall we read the following inscription: "The Edinburgh Castle, used formerly as a gin-palace, was opened on Friday, Feb. 14, 1873, as a Working Men's Club and Coffee Palace, by the Earl of Shaftesbury." Further inside there is a reading-room supplied with the first periodical literature of the day. Upstairs a library for the use of those who will pay a small weekly fee. These rooms are crowded every night with working-men who thoroughly appreciate the provision made for their comfort. There are all the attractions of a public-house minus the drink and its attendant evils.

In the mission-hall close by there is every evening some kind of popular religious service, and from the bar and reading-rooms of the palace many stray into the hall and hear words whereby they are saved. The former concert-hall has been enlarged and admirably fitted up for religious meetings. It is well lighted, well warmed, and comfortably seated, the walls all round being decorated with appropriate passages of Scripture. How much all these things have to do with the success of the work, no one can say. Thomas Collins used to say, "No man can get his soul saved when his toes are cold," and there is much philosophy in it. Dr. Barnardo rightly believes in making a place of worship comfortable and attractive. We wish all good Christian people had as much common sense. At the end of the room there is a suite of vestries, and here