

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It seems strange that men and women, who have in the struggle of life attained so much shrewdness in their dealings with the business world, should surround the disposition of their property, after their death, with so many ridiculous conditions and peculiarities. In this matter of will-making it is not the men and women who have accumulated several thousand of dollars out of their earnings that are the greatest offenders. Business men who have manipulated millions of dollars in their undertakings where clear-eyedness in every detail is essential when connected with the question of making their wills, commit the gravest blunders. Whether it is because the very idea of will-making unnerves them, or that they are imbued with the desire to make matters as irrevocable as possible for their family or their heirs generally, it is difficult to say; but the fact remains that cool, level-headed business men construct paragraphs and paragraphs which they would consider the act of an imbecile in the halcyon days of their business career. They seem to relish, so to speak, the task of encircling their gold with an iron band. The same may be said of professional men, especially those will doctors who have so often given advice to others. A case in point came up in the New York courts last week where one relative had willed to another the sum of \$10,000, to be paid him at the age of thirty years, providing he was at that time of such moral character as to encourage the belief that he would invest the money properly. The will was not probated until some time after the beneficiary had passed the age of thirty years. The contention of the latter was that the administrator of the estate could not hold the \$10,000 and that the level of morality upon which the young man was being judged by the administrator was greatly above the average, and one reached by few young men. The Circuit Court held that the young man was not entitled to the money, because of the lie he was leading. This decision was reversed in the Circuit Court, but in the Supreme Court the decision of the Circuit Court was upheld.

The following has been going the rounds of the daily press in Canada and the United States:

"It is doubtful if in any other civilized country in the world such a product as that credited to William Redmond, the Irish irreconcilable, would be tolerated. The treasonable fellow, at a time when the United Kingdom has serious controversy with France and war is one of the probabilities, while addressing a Home Rule meeting in Dublin, calls for cheers for Marchand and declares that the sympathies of Irishmen are with France." It is certainly a tribute to Britain's greatness that it can afford to permit fellows like Redmond to go unimpaired or out of jail. We wonder what would have been done with a man in the United States if he had called for cheers for Spain when the United States and Spain were at war? "United States was imminent?"

Many of Mr. Redmond's fellow-countrymen the world over may consider that in speaking as he did he failed to give evidence of good policy. Yet to those who know the history of Ireland, and who have witnessed the era of coercion through which Mr. Redmond and his fellow-members have passed, the matter does not appear quite so strange. A few days ago the Irish people of this city tendered a grand farewell demonstration to Lord and Lady Aberdeen. In this they gave evidence of the generous recognition for fair and kind treatment that the Irish people have always been noted for. They cannot resist kindness, and had a generous policy been adopted in Ireland, England would not only have her sons fighting her battles to day in Egypt and in other lands as the leading men in her armies, she could not merely count upon those who are available in her navy, but throughout Ireland she would have millions of true friends and allies. That generous treatment has been denied, and in its stead we have had penal laws and oppression. Thank God better days have dawned upon the Old Land, through Gladstone and other noble spirits; but if we have Mr. Redmond wishing success to France in Ireland, and the Irishmen of Canada cheering for Lord and Lady Aberdeen, the reason is that Ireland has been a sovereign while Canada has been a Home-ruled.

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

A praiseworthy step, which could be facilitated with advantage in the large Canadian cities has been taken by the governors of the city of Dublin Technical Schools in submitting for competition amongst the pupils of the institutions a number of scholarships to be awarded according to the results of the examinations held at the close of the winter session of 1898-99. These scholarships are to be fifteen in number; ten scholarships of £2 each, and five of £5 each. The former, or "Class A" Scholarships, are intended to provide free instruction in the following session, together with the necessary books, instruments, apparatus, etc., for the course of instruction to be pursued. The subjects for examination in this class will be:—Obligatory—Mathematics, including arithmetic, algebra, and Euclid; geometrical drawing, elementary physics, and one of the optional subjects—Freehand drawing, practical plane and solid geometry, machine construction and drawing, building construction and drawing, mathematics, mechanics, sound, light, and heat, magnetism and electricity, and inorganic chemistry.

The latter, or "Class B" Scholarships, will be awarded at the same time as the others, and are intended for competition by those who have attended the schools for two or more years, and who intend continuing their studies for another year or more in some special direction. The subjects in this class will be:—Obligatory. Group I—Mathematics and practical plane and solid geometry. Group II—Two of the following subjects:—Applied mechanical chemistry, inorganic; sound, light, and heat. And Group III, one of the following subjects—Freehand drawing, machine drawing, building drawing, applied mechanics, electricity, chemistry, inorganic, theoretical; chemistry, practical; chemistry, organic; and steam. The syllabus in this class will correspond also with the school syllabus, and the payment and condition of terms of the scholarships will be similar to those of "Class A." The object of the scheme is to encourage the pupils to take up a course of two or three science subjects, and the Government have wisely insisted on the importance of including geometrical drawing amongst the list of subjects.

DOMINICAN MISSION AT ST. PATRICK'S.

The Rev. Father Quinlivan, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, announced last Sunday that, for the first time in any of the English speaking parishes in Montreal, retreats for young men and young women would be given by the celebrated Dominican Fathers, the Order with which the great Father Tom Burke had been associated,—for the latter commencing on Sunday, December 4, and for the former on Sunday, December 11. Our young women require no words of exhortation to induce them to attend retreats. It can be said to their credit that, as a general rule, they are never absent from the duty of being present at the solemnities of the Church.

As to the young men, not a few of those who were young men a decade or so ago are not loth to believe that they are not what they should be in regard to their spiritual and temporal interests. We are of opinion that there is much to complain of in the way in which English speaking Catholic young men discharge their duties as parishioners—in some things, for instance, as

preaching, as attending High Mass regularly, and as joining in the special devotions which the Church enjoins upon all the faithful.

As to their ambitions from a temporary point of view we do not altogether agree with their critics, especially when we remember that conditions have undergone a change in our midst during the past ten or twelve years, such as the fiercer competition in trade, the little intervals when bigotry is displayed, and the mutations in monetary matters generally, all of which have tended to handicap our young men.

Then, again, it may be said that their elders—their fathers and brothers—might reasonably do a little more for them than they do in helping them along in life, either by financial aid or other means which, we are aware many fathers take to advance the interests of their sons in professional and commercial circles.

We hope that advantage will be taken of the great opportunities afforded to our young men in the forthcoming retreat. Every English-speaking Catholic young man should make

It is his duty to attend the retreats, for the less they will learn while the means of not only enabling them to form a just appreciation of the value of their souls but of urging them to greater achievements in temporal affairs.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A writer in the Outlook, in discussing some conditions of affairs in Japan, says:—

Her navy, at present 300,000 tons, is being greatly increased; her army, when on a war footing, is half a million, while her officers are some of the best in the world. The danger is that she will spend too much money in her efforts to place herself on a level with leading European nations, for already her national debt amounts to 417,401,325 yen, or over 208 million dollars. It is only fair to add that this huge sum has not all been spent in war equipment, for, to give one illustration only, Japan during the past few years has improved her educational system. She has now 26,000 schools.

Here are some figures quoted by Susan Gavan Duffy in her very interesting sketch of the great apostle of temperance in Ireland. They illustrate, as only statistics can, the result of Father Mathew's labors. They show an amazing decrease in the whiskey trade from the year Father Mathew identified himself with the movement, till the beginning of the famine in 1845 when many of his broken down and straggling followers fell away from him and sought forgetfulness of their utter misery in whiskey drinking:

Year	Gallons	Duty
1839	12,236,000	£1,134,573
1840	10,815,708	1,261,812
1841	7,401,051	936,126
1842	6,485,443	894,725
1843	5,290,650	604,906
1844	5,536,483	852,418

An American syndicate having secured important concessions in southern China, General W. B. Pease, a well known engineer of New York, has gone to investigate and report upon their probable paying value. If the report is favorable, it is said that a railway will be built by American capital from Hong Kong northerly to Han Kau, an important commercial city on the Yang-tze-kiang the object being to open up and work the iron and coal deposits through which the railway is to pass.

A remarkable feat of swimming was accomplished when James Finney, champion swimmer of the world, swam from the North Pier, Blackpool, to the St. Anne's Pier, a distance of five miles, says the New York Herald. In pursuance of the terms of a wager of \$1,000, Finney divided from the North Pier shortly before a quarter to two in the presence of a large body of spectators. The sea was by no means smooth, and the tide being at ebb rendered the task a somewhat difficult one. The match was a question rather of endurance than of the establishment of a speed record. As the conditions of the wager required that he should approach the pier by water, a tedious wait of two hours followed, during which Finney swam about, and by frequent changes of position succeeded in keeping afloat until the tide came in, when he swam to the pier and went ashore at five minutes to 8, having spent five hours eleven minutes in the water.

More than 15,000,000 visits are paid annually to London pawnbrokers, or, to be more exact, 41,100 a day on an average. The number of pledges deposited throughout the country is said to amount to \$100,000,000 every year.

BRIEF NOTES OF NEWS.

The duty collected at Toronto during October was \$352,262.29, against \$324,197.85 in October last year.

Customs collectors at Ottawa last month amounted to \$35,614, against \$27,508 for October, 1897. If the present rate keeps up or the remaining two months of 1898 the receipts this year will exceed \$500,000.

The annual statement of the Montreal Street Railway shows that the gross receipts for 1898 were \$1,471,930, an increase of \$120,571, or 9.65 per cent, over 1897. The operating expenses were \$764,884, an increase of \$23,455, or 3.16 per cent. The net earnings were \$707,055, an increase of \$101,116 or 16.69 per cent. The passengers carried were 35,353,966, or 3,305,719 more than in 1897. The net income was 13 per cent of the capital, as compared with 12.41 per cent. in 1897.

O. P. R. land sales for last month were: 13,327.64 acres were sold for \$42,536; on the Manitoba and South-western sections 3,699 acres were sold for \$13,034; in the corresponding month last year 14,486.44 acres on the O. P. R. were sold for \$43,861; on the South-western 10,787 acres were sold for \$30,070.

There was a substantial increase in the customs receipts at Montreal last month, the total being \$64,731, an increase over last year of \$98,651.

Vienna telephone girls are required to change their dresses and wear a uniform when on duty, as the dirt they brought in from the streets affected the instruments. Their costume is a dark skirt, and waist with sleeves striped, black and yellow, the Austrian national colors.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

By Rev. A. P. Doyle, in the "Catholic World" Magazine.

A most interesting volume dealing with the Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem has just been issued by the National Department of Labor, under the supervision of Carroll D. Wright. This volume is of very great value because it represents the results of extensive and searching investigation into the condition of the liquor traffic as it exists here and now in the United States. It possesses additional value inasmuch as the investigations have been carried on with no other purpose in view than a sincere desire to get at the facts. There is no endeavor to exaggerate the drink evil in order to emphasize any one of the reputed remedial measures, nor is there any evident design of marshalling figures in order to antagonize any one of the well-known popular methods in dealing with the liquor problem. The fact that the report is made by the government over the name of so eminent a statistician as Commissioner Wright is the fullest guarantee of its accuracy and its completeness.

We are quite unconscious of the fact that in gathering material for such a report it is very easy for any one to obtain a one-sided view. The questions may be framed in such a way as to show the animus of the questioner. They may be tactfully put so as to draw out answers that will serve to support some preconceived notions, or, even after figures have been ever so truthfully gathered, returns may be manipulated in such a way as to exaggerate certain conclusions which would not in any sense be warranted by a more honest interpretation of the data in hand. Figures never lie only when there is a prevaricator behind them, and in no department of statistics have there been such varied conclusions drawn as those which are quoted in regard to the evil of intemperance. This is quite natural because, perchance, around no other topics have such bitter personal contentions raged as about the liquor interests of the country. There are almost as many pet theories proposed for the remedy of the drink plague as there are for the cure of consumption, or for the relief of the Cuban fevers. We have not been able to detect a particular bias in a single paragraph of this report, or any leaning to one theory or another. The calm and consistent mathematical calculation as well as the cold and colorless deduction are the chief merits of this report under consideration.

The first thing that impresses one in analyzing its varied tables and multi-form investigations is the tremendous proportions to which the liquor interests of the country have attained. With the growth of the population there has been a steady increase in the consumption of intoxicating drink. Sometimes we temperance people lay the flattering unction to our souls that matters are not as bad in this present year of grace as they were a generation ago, and from many signs of the times we are often justified in these opinions. Undoubtedly with all the agitation that has gone on, and the strenuous efforts that have been made by legal as well as persuasive agencies, there is less drinking in many quarters and there is more condemnation for drinking habits to-day than there were a quarter of a century ago. The business of selling liquor is less respectable and the public use of drink more apt to be frowned down with us than it was with our forefathers, and figures bear out the statement that there is less public intoxication. In spite of this consumption of liquor of all kinds has gone on increasing from 4.17 gallons per capita in 1840 to 16.42 gallons per capita in 1898. This very large increase is due to the introduction of distilled spirits. The actual use of distilled spirits has declined from 2.52 gallons per capita in 1840 to 1.07 gallon in 1898, while the use of malt liquors has increased from 1.38 gallons in 1840, to 15.60 gallons in 1898.

One might hastily conclude that the decrease of intoxication is due to the introduction of beers, but the observation of experienced men goes to prove that there is far more intemperance from beer these days than from the stronger drinks; especially is this the case among young women. In the city of New York alone, during the last year, there were 23,295 arrests for disorderly conduct, principally on account of intoxication, and there were 21,890 persons arrested for mere intoxication besides, making 44,925 arrests in all on account of the abuse of liquor. Of this 44,925, nearly 40 per cent. were women.

One might imagine that the period of industrial depression through which we have just passed would naturally increase the consumption of intoxicating drinks, since among the very poor it is more economical to use cheap beer as a beverage than to get tea or coffee, and to light fires to cook victuals; but it is gratifying to note that hard times have contributed to a notable diminution in the use of all kinds of beverages, but particularly of spirits. Possibly the bicycle, the use of which has become so common, has contributed to decrease the patronage of saloons. But whatever the cause, while there has been a steady increase when meas-

ured alcoholic stimulants has not increased, moreover the use of the milder beverages has barely been steady, and the general total of all kinds has increased from 17.04 gallons per capita in 1892 to 16.42 gallons in 1898.

The people of the United States are an exceedingly thirsty nation. They drank in 1898, 692,678,219 gallons of intoxicating drink, and if one counts out the children, each adult must have consumed on the average 80 gallons. Considering that a quart would go pretty far in making the head reel and the feet unsteady, and there are 120 quarts in 30 gallons, each adult could get pretty well on to drunkenness every third day. Verily no one would accuse us of being a sober race.

Commissioner Wright's report reduces the number of places where liquors are retailed to 161,433. This represents the number of retail saloons in the country—one saloon to 433 of the population, and by eliminating the children, one saloon to every 200 adults. In order to make a living out of 200 adults ways must be devised to encourage constant drinking. A great many must drink to excess to make up for the many that do not drink at all. So that we are in this country confronted by this state of affairs: a huge organization, with millions of capital invested, infesting the cities and hamlets of the country; ever on the alert to cultivate drinking habits by a code of etiquette all its own; defying the just laws enacted for its restraint, by a political influence: claiming all day to do its work, and then stealing the small hours of the night and the consecrated time of Sunday. In order that the 161,433 retail places of the country may make a paying interest on the capital invested, excessive drinking must be produced. The relation of the retail liquor traffic as it exists here and now to the vice of intemperance is one cause of the effect, and so energetic is the cause there is little wonder that it claims its victims by the thousands, and it is not at all surprising that there are public-spirited men who consider it a terrible menace to our homes and our liberty, and who are willing to pledge their fortunes, their lives, and their sacred honor to banish it from this fair land.

Yet, what will one do? There are \$97,162,907 of capital invested. It gives employment to 211,756 hands. It yields a revenue to the government in one way or other, by special taxes, fines, and custom duties, of \$133,213,121.31. This is the statement of the financial status of the liquor traffic. What are we going to do about it? Abolish it entirely?

Suppose legal prohibition should prevail for a time. Suppose by some strange political combination, as occurred in Canada a few weeks ago, it would be the will of the people, as manifested at the polls, that the government should use its mighty hand to suppress the manufacture and sale of intoxicants; the next day, after a night of nervous strain and excitement about the polls, undoubtedly some of the very ones who voted for prohibition would be the first to clamor for something to steady the overstrained nerves or to whip up the flagging vitality. The tremendous drain on one's vital forces that is occasioned by the effort to keep up with the pace that is set by the intellectual and commercial life in this country demands a stimulant. Without doubt, the only reason there is so much drunkenness in this country is the very same reason that makes us a nation of neuroathenics. Were we living a quiet peaceful life, content with but few things, and not ambitious for place, nor covetous for gain, nor eager for pre-eminence, there would not be the same demand for alcoholics. Alcohol is the goad, and when the beat flags, after days of work and nights of revelry with no rest, goad him on till he drops in his tracks or winds up in an asylum for paralytics.

If, however, in our judgment, the policy of prohibition will never be realized, the efforts spent in fighting the saloon are not without their beneficial results. Prohibitionists are men with all the enthusiasm of high ideals and heroic measures. They spend and are spent in the effort to suppress drunkenness. They disseminate thousands of dollars and tons of literature, and throngs of people who have been saved from the withering scourge of drunkenness rise up and call them blessed. I have no special condemnation for them. They mean well, but are mistaken; but I cannot withhold my condemnation for the many who, seeing the ravages of the drink evil, do nothing and say nothing, though a word would mean a great deal from them.

The continual growth of the liquor traffic may be expected. It is full of energy. It is backed by plenty of capital. It has its thousands of minions. Its capacious maw has plenty of victims to feed on.

In order to restrain the evil tendencies of the liquor traffic the Supreme Court of the United States decreed on the 10th of November, 1890, in the case of Crowley vs. Christensen, that the sale of liquor is the proper subject for restrictive legislation. "The police power of each State," it says, "is fully competent to regulate the business, to mitigate its evils, or to suppress it entirely. There is no inherent right in any citizen to thus sell intoxicating liquor by retail."

The larger the number and the more efficacious the quality of the restraining influences that are thrown about

the more quickly and more completely will the evils resulting therefrom be eliminated.

But more potent than any legislative action is the influence of something which will be felt in the saloon. The saloon is the unmitigated evil. It does satisfy certain legitimate wants. Around it as a center gathers a great deal of the social life of the plain people. The sense of freedom, the political talk, the free-lunch counter, the good-fellowship, the daily paper, and many other little things that enter into the rest and recreation of a working-man when away from the dull and hard routine of work, are well provided for by the saloon. The problem is to provide all this in just an abundant measure, but without the sting of alcohol. If men of wealth, who do not care to identify themselves with the organized temperance work for one reason or another, would devote their efforts and money to the creation of settlement houses, athletic clubs, gymnasia, lunch-wagons, cheap but well supervised theatres, they would do not a little to neutralize the baneful effects of the saloon.

In addition to the statistical knowledge concerning the liquor business itself, the report furnishes us with an amount of very interesting information concerning the extent of the use of liquor by employees who are subject to night-work, exposure, and overwork; concerning the relation of pay-day and Sunday intoxication, and also to what extent the manufacturing, agricultural and transportation interests of the country are contributing to the salubrity of their employees. The latter is of special interest, because an extension of this same work too will help to solve to a very large extent the question of drunkenness among the working-men of the country. Investigation was made among 6,970 employees, where 1,745,923 hands were employed, and of this number 3,527, or more than 50 per cent., require that their employees shall not use liquor when on duty, and many insist on total abstinence both on and off duty as a condition of employment. If still other employers were as strict in the condemnation of the abuse of intoxicating drink among their employees, we may readily see that it would not take long to eliminate intemperance from among the working-people.

I consider a human soul without education like a marble quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties until the skill of the polisher fetches out the colors, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot, and vein that runs throughout the body of it. Education, after the same manner, when it works upon a noble mind, draws out to view every latent virtue and perfection which, without such helps, are never able to make their appearance.—Joseph Addison.

A Protestant layman may determine and propound all by himself the terms of salvation; we are bigots and despots if we do but proclaim what a thousand years have sanctioned.—Cardinal Newman.

A liqueur and cigar cabinet in the shape of a coffin with "skull, bones, dice, hourglass, scythe, snakes, frogs, spade, and other fittings," is offered for sale in London.

Think of living a year or two after one of the practical details and purposes—dead, with the autograph of death inscribed on brow and cheek and lip.

Thousands of women live for a year or two after all happiness and happiness have gone out of their lives. When a woman becomes hopelessly helpless and unhappy she is practically dead. The young woman to whom the future is a dreary waste, the young wife who is a helpless, nervous invalid, the mother whose babes are a burden instead of a blessing,—all these, unless they take the right measures to recover their health, are better dead than living. In the majority of cases these ghosts of women owe their condition to weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism. Frequently they have been deceived by the incorrect diagnosis of some obscure physician and do not understand the true nature of their trouble. It only costs a two-cent postage stamp to request to write and describe her condition to Dr. R. V. Pierce, an eminent and skillful specialist, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y. He will answer letters from sick women without charge. He is the discoverer of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, the greatest of all known medicines for women. It acts directly on the delicate organs concerned in maternity and makes them strong, healthy and vigorous. It banishes the innumerable baby's coming easy and almost painless. It cures all disorders and displacements and checks exhausting drains.

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