

Ribbon of Blue and Temperance Jottings.



ON THANKSGIVING DAY our Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance Meetings were recommenced. Should they continue as interesting we shall have much cause to be thankful. Many said it was one of our best. The Reverends Burns, D. D., Jordan and Baker, General Gray and Mr. Fairbanks gave much practical advice, and their words were with power. Expressing their surprise and gladness at such a gathering, they said the result must be great good. At the close the practicalness of their speeches was shown by many coming forward and pledging themselves. It is intended to hold a Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance meeting at the Tabernacle monthly.

Master Murray collected 65 cents for the Blue Ribbon Fund.

HARD FACTS.—According to the carefully prepared figures of Dr. Dorchester, our country expended for the objects mentioned in the year 1883 as follows: For foreign and home missions, \$5,500,000; for public education, \$91,000,000; for meat, \$308,000,000; for bread, \$505,000,000; for intoxicating liquors, \$900,000,000. All other economical national issues sink into the merest insignificance when compared with that which proposes to save the \$900,000,000 expended for intoxicating liquors and direct it to its proper use.

Mr. James Laing, the well-known shipbuilder of Sunderland, presiding at a meeting affirmed that since 1879 a total of four and a-half millions of money had been paid week by week to the artisans in the shipbuilding and allied trades in Sunderland. It was not difficult to show—the thing was too glaring—that drink was the main cause of the present distress. Not less than £150,000 year was received by the licensed houses in the town. During the last four years £600,000 had gone in drink alone in Sunderland. Deducting one-third for the higher-class licensed houses and hotels, they had the broad fact that £100,000 a year went out of the hard earnings of the labouring population into the publicans' hands. Did they require a cause for the present distress with such facts as those before them?

We fully endorse the following sentiments, that, the necessity for the prohibition of the liquor traffic is based upon the well established and conceded facts that this traffic is the producing cause of a large part of all the crime, poverty, insanity, suicide and diseases that exist in the land; that it is the great disturber of the public peace, as well as the destroyer of domestic peace and happiness; that it renders life, liberty and property insecure, and imposes upon the community heavy burdens of taxation without equivalent or consent.

Solomon shows his wisdom, by the strictness of his temperance pledge. How deep his insight into strong drinks, deceptive, alluring, destructive power. We pledge not to drink. Solomon said, *look not on the wine.* Not only shut the mouth, but the eyes and every avenue to appetite. *Why not sign the Pledge here?*

Signed.....

The eleventh annual report of the London Temperance Hospital is just issued, and though the managers are not bound by any rigid rule to reject alcohol, yet the second instance only of its administration since the establishment in 1884, occurred this year, followed, as was the first, with death of the patient.

It is gratifying to see how well the temperance agitation is being kept up in England. It is stated that there were 6,126 petitions with more than half a million signatures sent up to Parliament this year in favor of the Sunday Closing bill, and there was not a single petition against the bill. It will be remembered that Scotland secured a Sunday law many years ago, so that, if the English bill is passed, Sunday drinking will be largely put a stop to, throughout Great Britain.

A SERIOUS MATTER.—In the north of England on account of the depression in the ship building there are now 100,000 men out of employment. What to do with them, in justice to the struggling and sober poor, is by no means the easy thing that certain flippant writers would have one suppose. Only a few days ago, for instance, a large employer of labor in connection with the shipping interest in Newcastle-on-Tyne, a Christian and a Baptist, stated that men who for the last five years had been earning without intermission from £5 to £7, and in a few cases even £10 a week, were, after but a few days cessation of work, absolutely penniless. It was nothing but drink, drink, drink with the men all the week, and on Saturdays men and women would drink and quarrel together. This applied to Newcastle.

My Birds.

Not long since my good friend Mr. Gaston gave me two canaries, and now twice in the day they with their merry song and their loving and cheerful warbling notes cheer my heart. They teach me a lesson. Often I stop the pen and listen; they seem to say, "Praise ye the Lord, let everything that hath breath praise and bless His Holy name, every day will I praise thee." Sometimes when toil-worn and care-pressed, as their cheery notes have called my attention, I have mentally blessed the little songsters, and thought how glad ye seem. The damp and winter chill without stays not your glad some song, and out of the fulness of your heart, in simple trust to-day, you make the best of life, and care not for, or anticipate the morrow's sorrow, which may never come, or if it comes, be simply the bringer of mercies in disguise. O ye of little faith, are ye not of more worth than many sparrows? Why beat thyself against the cage of circumstances, and try to go beyond the boundary line of present limits? Having food and raiment, why not be thus sweetly content, and with a joyous song, wake music from some other, who like the songster may only want an awakening chirp to pour forth a flood of sweetness, at once cheering and refreshing, inspiring with the gladness of spring-tide hopefulness some wearied listening ones.

Burlington Hawkeye. A bachelor upon reading that "two lovers will sit up all night with one chair in the room," said it could not be done unless one of them sat on the floor. Such ignorance is painful.