

speedily vanish. The majority of men have a secret misgiving that, somehow or other, these deaths are associated with the drinking customs which they sanction and support, and they therefore maintain a timid silence; but let a few honest, plain-speaking teetotallers broach the subject, and the common sense and good feeling of our middle-classes will soon make it as odious to assist in poisoning with alcohol as with arsenic or strychnine.—*Weekly Record*.

**THE HAPPY COSTERMONGER.**—A costermonger is, properly speaking, one who sells apples, but the name is not confined exclusively to the dealers in this kind of merchandise alone, but it is applied to all those who, as it is technically termed, get their living in the streets—who hawk about fish, vegetables, &c. The most aristocratic possess a cart and donkey, the next class a truck or barrow, the lowest have their little all contained in a basket. Their earnings are necessarily most precarious. Vendors of watercresses, onions, oranges, apples, and fried fish, generally carry their stock in a basket, and their profits vary from 2d. to 2s. or 3s. per day. Vendors of garden stuff, flowers, fruit, and fresh fish, these go about with a barrow, and their earnings vary from 10s. downwards, and sometimes they are out of pocket owing to their goods being spoilt. Makers and hawkers of children's toys—their profits on their best days are 7s., and sometimes they do not clear 2d. Some of them have to borrow money to buy their stock, and for this they have to pay interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per day.—Some of them are not so fortunate as to possess a barrow, and they have to hire one, which they can do by paying from 3d. or 4d. per job, or 2s. per week. From this it will be seen that their earnings are very precarious, and for the most part they are very poor. At the same time I believe that a man can do very well at this business if he chooses, and it is prudent he may get a tolerably comfortable livelihood. I was much struck one day visiting in a house in my parish, on ascending the stairs, to hear most unwonted sounds proceeding from a room on the first floor. It was the voice of a man singing cheerfully, as if he was happy. It was no vulgar boisterous mirth, but the cheering notes which proclaim a light heart. So struck was I with these sounds in this dreary quarter, that I made some excuse to go in and see what it was all about. When I entered I found a cheerful looking little man, surrounded by baskets of very excellent fruit, seemingly engaged in arranging them, and getting them into order for going out to sell them in the streets. After the usual salutation, I said, "You seem happy and comfortable." "Yes, I am, sir," he said.—"God has been very good to me." "What has happened," I said. "Well, sir," he said, "it has pleased God to take away my old missis, and I have been a happy man ever since.—You see all this fruit—this is my stock-in-trade, and I have saved £20, and I intend this summer to buy a cart and pony, and to do the thing in style." "But what," I said, "has this to do with your wife's death." "Everything, sir, for she drank and was my ruin. A year and a-half ago, sir, I had not a stick of furniture, not even a bed to lie down upon, and now you see what I am. Lord bless you, sir, if I go on as I am, I shall soon be a gentleman." I mention this as illustrating what I said, that a costermonger may do very well indeed in his business if he is only prudent

and temperate.—*Rev. W. Rogers in a paper read before the Society of Arts.*

**COFFEE versus BEER.**—During a discussion which followed the reading of the Rev. W. Rogers's paper, Mr Wallis, of the Government School of Design, Birmingham, offered some remarks. We take one extract:—

The second point to which he wished to allude, was that of providing some really effectual means of counteracting the attraction of the gin-palace and beer-shops, by an improvement in the character of the coffee-shops, as mentioned in the paper. The allusion Mr Rogers had made to this point, brought to his (Mr Wallis's) mind an experiment which an eminent glass manufacturer at Birmingham, (Mr Follat Osler,) had some time ago described to him. No doubt every person present was aware that the process of glass manufacture was a very warm one, and consequently the workmen consumed a great quantity of beer. Now Mr Osler had been constantly annoyed at that, and resolved to try the experiment of a substitute for this incessant "beering," so he adopted a plan by which he supplied a really good cup of coffee to his workmen at a cheap rate. When this plan was so far matured as to be brought into operation, there was, as a matter of course some opposition on the part of the confirmed beer-drinkers, but as the experiment progressed the workmen found that the coffee they got at the works was so superior to that which they got in their own houses, that they preferred breakfasting there, and ultimately the coffee took the place of beer as the working beverage.—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

**MR MIALL AND THE ROCHDALE ELECTION.**—The *Nonconformist* declares the main instrument in losing Mr Miall the election was money. "Money cleverly employed at the right moment, used without stint, and applied to the introduction of elements of evil without the remotest reference to morality, truth, or religion." Further down the writer explains what he means by these *elements of evil*. "The beerhouses, the owners of which had leagued against Mr Miall, were filled with sots on Sunday night." "Money and beer were stirring." "Such a prevalence of drunkenness was never witnessed, at one time, in Rochdale, and a large proportion of Sir A Ramsay's voters were brought up to the poll in a state of beastly intoxication. The verdict was, in no sense, a political one. It was the verdict of Rochdale drunk, or rather, that portion of Rochdale that could be approached through the medium of brutal propensities, and made to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage." The *Nonconformist* has been one of the eager opponents of the Alliance; but if we had had the Maine-law in England, there would have been very little need for the *Nonconformist* to lament the result of the late Rochdale election. The beerhouses would not have been found leagued against Mr Miall, nor filled with sots on the Sunday, because there would have been no beerhouses, and no sots except such as got besotted at home. There would have been none of this lamentable prevalence of drunkenness in Rochdale, no voters "beastly intoxicated in cabs." The verdict would have been the verdict of Rochdale sober; and if the electors sold their birthright, they would have elected the sale undrugged and undrank. We beg to commend once more, the Maine-law to Mr Miall's candid consideration.—*Alliance Weekly News*

**REDRUTH.—REMARKABLE RESOLUTION AT A RATEPAYER'S ANNUAL MEETING.**—The following resolution was passed at the annual meeting of the poor-rate payers of Redruth, held in the Town Hall, March 25th, of the present year, the Rev. J. W. Harrkaley, M. A. in the chair: "That a committee of five individuals be appointed by this meeting to draw up a petition to parliament, praying the legislature to pass a law to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors throughout the kingdom; this meeting fully believing that the sale of intoxicating drinks is the direct cause of by far the greatest portion of the poverty in existence in this country, and the source, too, of the principal part of the demand for poor rates in this parish; and that copies of the petition, when prepared, be deposited in suitable places for obtaining the signatures of the public."—Bravo, Ratepayers of Redruth! They are evidently awakening to a perception of the truth, which must ultimately be appreciated by all the ratepayers in the kingdom.—*Ibid.*

**INTEMPERANCE AND INSANITY.**—From the annual report of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the insane, we learn that intemperance is still a frequent cause of insanity. The report states that "it has been the ascribed cause of insanity in 12.8 per cent. of the whole of the males admitted, and deducting those in whom the cause was unknown, of 15 per cent., or nearly one in seven. Of those admitted during the past year, sixty-three have already recovered. Of the patients recovered (108 in number), only fifteen had been under treatment more than one year showing the small proportion who recover after the lapse of a year."

**DON'T DO IT.**—There are people who, if they taste strong drink, must go to excess—they lose all restraint. We have known such men; and in many instances, after recording and keeping a vow of abstinence, they have been led to taste again, it may be years subsequent to the vow, and "returned like sows to their wallowing in the mire." Dr Abernethy once had a patient who was instructed to keep himself perfectly still; and one morning he remarked to his eccentric leech, "Doctor, whenever I lift my head up to my head I feel an acute pain." "Then don't do it," was the brusque reply. So when people suffer by lifting their hands to their mouths, the obvious counsel is—"Don't do it."

**AN EXAMPLE TO CHRISTIAN PREACHERS.**—The Isle of Wight "Bible Christian" Preachers' Quarterly Plan, just issued, bears the following resolution printed upon it:—"Resolved, at the Preachers' Meeting.—That as this meeting has considered the vast amount of injury done by the use of intoxicating drinks, we most earnestly and affectionately request our local brethren, officials, and friends generally, to abstain from the use of such beverages; believing them to be the devil's great agent, God's great enemy, and the world's great curse."

**THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN ON TEETOTALISM.**—The present Lord Mayor of Dublin, Richard Atkinson, Esq., on taking office, made the following statement to the council—Many years ago, I became a total abstainer from all intoxicating drinks.—I consider it my duty as an employer to make precept and example harmonize; and I believe my doing so has not been without good results, not alone to those in my immediate employment, but also to others. I also found an