

WIDE AWAKE

HERE'S a labour to be wrought,
There's a race that we must run,
There's a battle to be fought,
And a victory to be won
For a cheated nation's sake
Ho! ye people, plumbred all
By the slaves of alcohol,
Rouse, the demon's arm to break
Wide awake, boys! wide awake!

In the councils of the great,
In the hovels of the low,
In the very hall of state,
Sits the desecrating foe;
Only human life can slake
His infernal thirst for blood;
Up, ye virtuous brotherhood,
Smite him till his vessels quake,
Wide awake, boys! wide awake!

See him, in the holy place,
Lauking in the blessed wine;
Glaning through the beaded lace,
How his deadly eyelids shine!
Coiling like a venomous snake
In the parlor's social ring,
Strength and beauty feel his sting,
Hurl him to his burning lake!
Wide awake, boys! wide awake!

Where the dens of haggard crime
Draw the wretch to deeper slime,
Louthsome in his evil slime,
Blacker vices than we name
Of the demon's cup partake;
All his garnered fruits are there,
Bathing in the poisoned air,
Though his fun quick clearance make,
Wide awake, boys! wide awake!

THE PRISONER OF THE VATICAN.

BY THE EDITOR.

WHEN I was in Italy, traveling one day from Bologna to Venice, I made the acquaintance of three Roman Catholic priests from Baltimore, Maryland. Finding that I spoke English, they became very friendly and communicative. They were just dying, they said, to talk to some one who understood their native language. One of the first questions they asked was whether I had been to see the Pope when at Rome. I told them I had not, at which they seemed very greatly surprised. I did not like to tell them that I thought I could use my time to better advantage, but that was my opinion. It was by no means difficult to procure an interview. All that one had to do was to send in his card on a reception day. A swallow tail coat even was not necessary to a presentation.

The Pope's palace, known as the Vatican, is the most extensive in the world, and contains the most precious treasures of art in existence. The oldest parts are over five hundred years old. It has 11,000 halls, chapels, and private apartments, many of them of great magnificence. Most of these are show rooms to which the public are admitted by ticket, which however are obtained without any fee. Here are the great picture and sculpture galleries, the library and museum containing the disinterred treasures of the old Roman world. The Pope's private apartments are said to be comparatively plain.

The Pope's income is largely derived from the oil-rings of Roman Catholics in all parts of the world known as "Peter's Pence." You will remember that the demand for these from England, under one of the early kings led to a serious rupture between that country and Rome. The engraving shows a reception in the Vatican, some of whose precious marbles are shown, and in the background a couple of the Pope's famous Swiss Guards, magnificent looking fellows, dressed in mediæval cos-

tumes of black, crimson, and yellow, with burnished armour.

I once heard in the Jesuit Chapel in Montreal a priest preaching about the imprisonment of the Pope, and the hardships he had to undergo. I have even heard that another priest used to show straws from the Pope's bed, as proofs of his sufferings. And all the while no monarch in Europe was so magnificently housed, and he was at perfect liberty to go where he pleased. For fourteen years the Pope, it is true, have refused to leave the Vatican; but it has vast and magnificent gardens where they could drive and walk, and the windows of the palace command one of the grandest and most varied prospects in the world—the Seven Hills city, and its far surrounding plains, and the distant Sabine mountains, all domed by the blue Italian sky, and brilliant with living green or waving gold.

The late Dr. Ryerson, when making his educational tour, was furnished by the Home Government with special introductions to the British Ambassadors of the countries he was about to visit, and was by them introduced to the leading statesmen and educational authorities of those countries. The late Pope Pius IX. having heard of his educational work in Canada, wished to see the man who had devised a system of such equal justice to all denominations. I once heard the Doctor describe this interview as he beguiled the tedium of a railway journey with his reminiscences of the past. Several foreign dignitaries were waiting in an ante room an audience with the Pope, but the Methodist preacher received precedence of them all. "Are you a clergyman?" asked the chancellor who conducted him to the Pope's presence. "I am a Wesleyan minister," he replied. "Ah! John Wesley. I've heard of him," said the chancellor, as he shrugged his shoulders in surprise that this heretic should be so honoured above orthodox sons of the Church. After an interview of some length the Pope, addressing two young ladies by whom Dr. Ryerson was accompanied—his daughter, now Mrs. Harris, of London, and a daughter of Earl Grey, who had rolls of paper in their hands—said, "What have you there, my children?" They replied that they wished to procure his autograph, when the fatherly old man wrote in Latin the benediction: "Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord," and then kindly gave them also the pen with which it was written.

"HAVING SOME FUN."

NOW, boys, I will tell you how we can have some fun," said Charlie to his companions, who had assembled one bright moonlight evening for sliding, snow-balling, and fun generally.

"What is it?" asked several at once.

"You shall see," replied Charlie. "Who's got a wood-saw?"

"I have." "So have I," replied three of the boys.

"Get them, and you and Freddy and Nathan each get an axe, and I will get a shovel. Let's be back in fifteen minutes."

The boys separated to go on their several errands, each wondering of what use wood-saws, and axes, and

shovels could be in the play. But Charlie was a favourite with all, and they fully believed in his promises, and were soon assembled again.

"Now," said he, "Widow Maude, in yonder cottage, has gone to a neighbour's to sit up with a sick child. A man hauled her some wood to-day, and I heard her tell him that unless she got some one to saw it to-night, she would not have anything to make a fire of in the morning. Now we could saw and split that pile of wood just as easy as we could make a snow man on her door-step, and when Mrs. Maude comes home, she will be most agreeably surprised."

One or two of the boys objected, but the majority began to appreciate his fun, and to experience that inward satisfaction and joy that always results from well-doing.

It was not a long and wearisome job for seven robust and healthy boys to saw, split and pile up the widow's half-cord of wood, and to shovel a good path. And when they had done this, so great was their pleasure and satisfaction, that one of them, who objected at first, proposed that they should go to a neighbouring carpenter's shop, where plenty of shavings could be had for the carrying away, and each bring an armful. The proposition was readily acceded to, and this done, they repaired to their several homes, more than satisfied with the "fun of the evening." And the next morning, when the weary widow returned from watching by the sick bed and saw what was done, she was pleasantly surprised; and afterwards, when a neighbour (who had, unobserved, witnessed the labours of the boys) told her how it was done, her fervent invocation, "God bless the boys!" was of itself, if they could have heard it, abundant reward for their labours.

"CHINESE" GORDON.

MORE ABOUT A HEROIC CAREER.

NO have known the true story of 'Chinese' Gordon's life has been an education; to have written it is a privilege and an honour." Thus opens the brief preface of "The Story of Chinese Gordon," written by Mr. A. Egmont Hake, cousin of the distinguished general. Mr. Hake describes in some detail the early incidents of his cousin's career. The traditions of his family made Charles Gordon a soldier. At Woolwich he was not considered in his studies a prominent candidate. Once, Mr. Hake tells us, he was rebuked for incompetence, and "told that he would never make an officer, whereupon he tore the epaulets from his shoulders and flung them at his superior's feet." He obtained his commission none the less, and in 1855 proceeded to the Crimea, where he served several months in the trenches, and obtained the reputation of being the quickest man to detect the plans and movements of the Russians.

IN CHINA.

In the year 1860 the difficulty with China had assumed a serious form, owing to the repulse of Admiral Hope's attack on the Taku forts, and a large Anglo-French expedition was sent to the Peiho for the purpose of bringing the Chinese Government to reason. Before Gordon reached China the Taku forts had been attacked a second time and captured; but he was engaged in

all the later operations, which terminated with the occupation of Peking and the destruction of the Summer Palace.

GOVERNOR OF THE SOUDAN.

It was not an easy matter to provide him with suitable work on his return. With the best possible intentions the young hero was given a consular appointment on the Danube, whence he was summoned in 1874 to Egypt by the late Khedive. The new task assigned to him was in some respects more difficult than that intrusted to him in China, for, whereas in the Far East he had only to vanquish an enemy whose forces were revealed, he had to deal in the Soudan with difficulties which were only partially known, while he had to reconcile, as well as he could, instructions that were incompatible with the facts of the position. It was to his credit that working on a reduced pay and without any desire for fame, he devoted all his powers to the performance of his work, and constituting himself the champion of distressed humanity spared no effort to put an end to the suffering and infamous lot of the dark skinned races over whom he was called to exercise authority. During five years he toiled in this cause with unflagging zeal, and when he resigned the powers with which the Khedive had intrusted him, it was admitted that he had not merely put a stop to the worst evils of the traffic in slaves, but that he had prepared the way for the emancipation of the Soudanese in 1889, should the Egyptian government of that day possess the forces and the will to make good its bond. So far as his career has yet run, Chinese Gordon, who is now a major-general in the Royal Engineers, will be remembered for two episodes—the Taiping rebellion and the governorship of the Soudan. His biographer shows that his private life has been the counterpart of his public career. Devotion to duty has been his motto throughout.

TALK OVER WHAT YOU READ.

EARLY forty years' experience as a teacher has shown me how little I truly know of a subject until I begin to explain it or teach it. Let any young person try the experiment of giving in conversation, briefly and connectedly and in the simplest language, the chief points of any book or article he has read, and he will at once see what I mean. The gaps that are likely to appear in the knowledge that he felt was his own, will no doubt be very surprising. I know of no training superior to this in utilizing one's reading, in strengthening the memory, and in forming habits of clear connected statement. It will doubtless teach other things than those I have mentioned, which the persons who honestly make the experiment will find out for themselves. Children who read can be encouraged to give, in a familiar way, the interesting parts of the books they have read with great advantage to all concerned. More than one youth I know has laid the foundation of intellectual tastes in a New England family where hearty encouragement was given to children and adults in their attempt to sketch the lectures they had heard the evening previous. The same thing was done with books. —Christian Union.