

Temperance

Bible Wines.

(Dr. R. H. Macdonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER XI.—STATEMENTS IN REGARD TO WINE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

1. Q.—How did the earliest German, French, and Anglo-Saxon 'witan' or wise men legislate?

A.—In all their generations they passed laws against fermented wines.

2. Q.—What did Montclambert say in the National Assembly of France as early as 1850?

A.—'Where there is a wine cup, there are the elements of disease, and the frightful source of all that is at enmity with the interest of the workman.'

3. Q.—What was the report of the Committee of the French Government on the national vice of wine drinking in 1872?

A.—They decided that wine drinking was the greatest evil that menaced the moral and physical power of the French people.

4. Q.—What does the report of a member of the National Society for Penitentiary Reform in Switzerland, 1872, state?

A.—That the liberty of the wine traffic, and intoxication therefrom, is the cause of one-half the crimes committed.

5. Q.—What did Cardinal Acton, late Supreme Judge at Rome, in Italy, state?

A.—That nearly all the crimes at Rome 'originated in the use of wine.'

6. Q.—What did Recorder Hill, appointed to gather facts abroad to influence British legislation, report in 1858?

A.—'Each of the governors of state prisons in Baden and Bavaria assured me that it was wine in one country, and beer in the other, which filled their jails.'

(To be Continued.)

Nearly Lost.

A few days ago I listened to a thrilling chapter in a life history. It was a bit of autobiography related to a small group of sympathetic listeners. The man who told the tale is now one of the most efficient and useful Christian men whom I know, but before he came to a personal knowledge of Christ and to a realization of the noble possibilities of his life he tasted to excess the pleasures of this world and learned the shame and sorrow which are the inevitable consequences of dissipation. But God had blessed him with a good mother and with friends who spoke the tender, yet earnest, words of remonstrance that turned the current of his life. As I looked at him in the strength of his young manhood and felt the touch of his consecrated spirit, and realized the character and extent of his Christian influence, I let my mind dwell for a moment on what he would have been to-day had he not faced right about a dozen years ago. He would have been a disgrace to himself and a burden to those who loved him, and, more than that, he would have been a weakling, for liquor saps the strength of any life. In one way and another the lesson that temperance means power is being driven home to this generation. The men who would get on in a business house or on the railway must let liquor alone. The growing complexity of business requires that workmen in almost any department of life cannot keep themselves too pure morally if they would gain success and promotion.—Rev. H. A. Bridgman.

An Instructive Story.

A mother in Philadelphia told me an instructive story about her two boys. The father died when the boys were small, and the mother had to do everything for them. She brought them up and gave them a good business education. The older one she sent to Zurich to complete him as an architect and engineer. While there he got to drinking with the European students. The mother

went to Zurich and told her son she would not spend another dollar on his education unless he stopped his drinking. He refrained sufficiently to graduate. He obtained a fine position with a splendid firm in Philadelphia. Being talented and sober he soon won the confidence of the firm. They sent him West to put up a three hundred thousand dollar plant. He completed the work but drank heavily while superintending the work. Instead of returning East, he wrote to his mother that he had a splendid opportunity to go into business with a good partner, and if she would send him a few thousand, he would not only pay it back, but would soon be in a position to take handsome care of her. So the mother took part of her small capital and sent it to her firstborn. He squandered it in drink and did not go into business at all.

The mother said, sadly, 'He is now a wanderer upon the face of the earth, I know not where—have not heard from him for a long time.'

How about the other boy. He never drank. He began at the bottom with Baldwin locomotive works, did everything faithfully, worked his way up and was the other day sent by the firm to Paris to take charge of their engine exhibit at the World's Fair, and is to travel extensively in Europe and Asia in the interest of the company.

This is simply a fair contrast between the results of drinking and total abstinence—a lesson for American youth—W. G. Hubbard.

Drink and the Soldiers.

Two soldiers were once rolling a barrel of rum towards the canteen at one of the camps in India. One of the men remarked to the other: 'I say, Bill, how many court-martials are there inside?' The man of course meant that the contents of the barrel could make men drunk, and then there would be disorder, disobedience, wrong-doing and the consequent punishment by court-martial. It was a very sensible remark, for every barrel of strong drink, whether it is rum or whiskey, wine or ale, has that within it which can cause harm and do a lot of mischief.

All soldiers do not drink, however, we are glad to say, though the canteen is responsible for making many a poor fellow drink who never touched the drink at home. It speaks well for the temperance principles of a certain Kansas regiment that made a grand record for itself in the Philippines. One day the regiment had the freedom of the city of Hongkong, and as it was supposed that the boys would be a bit wild and perhaps disorderly, the police force was doubled on that day. 'Never before,' says the Rev. Dr. H. W. Jenkins, 'had a whole regiment had shore leave without filling up the guard house. Not a single arrest was made.'

The citizens of the largest city of the middle West gave the officers a banquet, on their return. Five kinds of liquors were served. At the head of the table were the guests of honor, five officers, 'but from the opening to the close of the feast not a wine glass was touched nor its contents consumed.'

All honor is due to these brave, true soldier boys—from a prohibition state.—'Temperance Banner.'

They Just Keeled Over and Died.

The 'Philadelphia Record' says: 'In one of the breweries uptown there is quite a system of dispensing drinks to the employees. Every man is graded according to his capacity, and tickets are issued to the men when they come to work in the morning. Each ticket is good for a glass of beer. Some men get 100, others 80, others 60, and so on down to the novices, who are only allowed 25, until their capacity is accurately judged through the system of graduation. The brewers claim that no drunkenness results from this, as the men perspire freely in the hot atmosphere and the liquor has no effect upon them. If by some mischance a man should become incapacitated for work, he is demoted to the next lower class, and that is looked upon as a keen disgrace, and very rarely happens.' 'Of course, it ultimately leads to cirrhosis of the liver,' said a prominent brewer yesterday, 'but the men are bound to drink beer, and it is better to have

a system. It saps their vitality to such an extent that they become easy victims to any disease. We lost two workmen last month from broken legs. To any ordinary man no importance would be attached to a fractured limb, but these fellows never rallied. They just keeled over and died.'

'They just keeled over and died.' Think of this, ye lovers of beer! This is the wholesome drink.

Wrecked Through Whiskey.

One of the best marine underwriters of the United States in discussing the question of how many vessels are lost annually through carelessness that is due to intoxication said recently to the New York 'Mail and Express':

'It is impossible to say how many ships are lost because of drunken officers. If we could but know it would be to learn that hundreds of the fine vessels that have been posted as missing in the last ten years turned into Davy Jones's harbor as a result of drink.'

The same writer, after mentioning the names of several vessels wrecked by whiskey says:

'There are dozens of cases which I have not mentioned, but in which it is absolutely known that drunken captains and mates caused the loss of their ships through their follies. I am pleased, both from a financial and Christianlike standpoint, that within the last few weeks one of the largest of the Liverpool steamship companies has issued a circular letter to its employees, calling attention to the increase in drinking among sailors and warning them that they must not, either on or off duty, imbibe, under the penalty of immediate dismissal. A few more letters like this and we will have a big reduction in the annual tribute to Neptune.'—'National Advocate.'

Beautiful Grapes.

A RECITATION.

Beautiful grapes in purple arrayed!
Beautiful gems of hillside and glade!
Smiling where vine-leaves clustering
twine—
Why should they change your beauty to
wine?

Jewels of nature, lovely and bright,
Fanned by the breeze and kissed by the
light!
Why should they crush you into the thing
Which like an adder doth sharply sting?

Wine is a mocker—Drink worketh woe,
Causing the tears of sorrow to flow;
Why should they press you, fruitage so fair,
Into the cup that causeth despair!

Guerdon of Heaven, lovely to see,
Blind and misguided mortals must be,
Changing the beauteous gems of the vine
Into the peril hid in the wine.

Beautiful grapes, what, what, can compare
With your ripe clusters, blushing and fair!
If ye could speak, methinks ye would say:
'Drink, like the grapes, bright water away!'

Yes, we who gather cheerily here
Choose the pure water, sparkling and clear,
Wine, like a serpent, beauteous may seem,
Danger is there, though radiant its gleam!

Danger is lurking there in the drink,
Causing how many, ruined, to sink;
Beautiful grapes, like you we will use
Water so bright—yes, water we choose.
—'Temperance Record.'

The principal of a Chicago school gives this result of three years' investigation: In one school 125 boys were addicted to the cigarette habit; 25 of those confessed that they were too sleepy to study; 30 of them said they were dizzy after smoking; 22 could not write neatly because their hands trembled, and several said they felt 'shaky' when they walked. It was also shown that the cigarette habit gradually blunted the moral sensibilities of the boys, making them deceptive, secretive and untruthful, while very few of them were able to keep up with their classmates who were not addicted to the baneful habit.