

and in summer droughts parch our fields. Now rivers overrun their channels, and carry devastation into the plantations. Now the heavens are as brass, and the land gapes and cracks with thirst. Fires lay waste sections of our fairest cities; epidemics carry away numbers of our inhabitants and bring sorrow into hundreds of homes. Harvests fail and fruit trees are barren; labor is toiling for small wage; financial disasters cast gloom upon commercial centers, and fortunes melt in the panics of a day, yet, every year, on or about the 27th, 28th, or 29th of November, the people everywhere gather in their various houses of worship and offer up *thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for the special blessings of the past year.*"

### The Need of Temperance Public Houses in America.

BY MILTON TOURNIER, NEW YORK CITY.

The visitor to England can hardly fail to notice the British workman's public houses which are scattered over all the large cities of the country. These temperance saloons were in the first instance established by persons interested in temperance work, and the success of the undertaking has been extraordinary—they form one of the best paying investments in the country, and do much good.

In Liverpool, the cocoa and coffee saloons are got up to resemble the whiskey and beer saloons in almost every particular, but instead of bottles of whiskey the large plates piled with sandwiches and cakes of every description occupy the windows, also a neat sign which reads:

Cocoa, Coffee, Tea, per mug.....	1d.
“ “ “ small mug.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Sandwich .....	1d.
Buns .....	1d.
Bread and Butter, per slice.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.

On entering one of these temperance public houses, one finds himself in a

large barroom, having a plentiful supply of tables and chairs. There are no waiters in this room. The purchaser walks to the bar, which closely resembles a liquor saloon bar, orders what he requires and takes it to one of the tables, or consumes it standing at the bar. Three large bright urns stand on the bar and shelves behind, one filled with eatables. The daily and weekly papers, draughts, chess, etc., are at the disposal of the guests, also smoking rooms and lavatories. On the next floor is another room, more comfortably furnished, having neatly dressed girls to wait upon customers. The prices here are a trifle higher for drinks, and are called first class rooms. Mugs are not used in the first class rooms. Coffee and cocoa sell at one penny per cup. In the general room a man can get a half pint of tea, coffee or cocoa for a half penny (one cent), and a piece of bread and butter for the same amount. In addition, he enjoys all the privileges of the place,—papers, games, wash-rooms, etc. In connection with many of the houses are workmen's hotels, where a clean comfortable room can be had for one shilling.

In London, the cocoa rooms known as "Lockart's" are conducted in the same manner. The Manchester coffee saloons, in addition, furnish regular dinners at low rates.

To the respectable stranger with little money, these temperance saloons prove a blessing. He finds a café a cheap place to lodge and eat, and is, while a guest, protected as far as is possible from bad company. The saloons are also a great aid to temperance reformers and humanity in general. The temperance pledge can be taken at the bars, and guests are allowed to remain in the barrooms as long as they please. Thousands who would otherwise be likely, if the rooms did not exist, to spend their evenings in liquor saloons frequent the coffee saloons.

The need of such temperance saloons in all large American cities is to be deplored. The New York liquor-dealer