

THE CAMP FIRE.

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PROGRESS.

GROWTH OF OUR CAUSE.

INTERESTING STATEMENTS FROM THE OLD LAND

The Very Rev. Dean Farrar is the writer of an interesting article in the *Homiletic Review* for February, in which is contained much information relating to the remarkable progress of temperance sentiment in Great Britain in recent years. Among the most striking paragraphs in this interesting article are the following:

PROGRESS IN THE ARMY.

Another decided sign of progress may be observed in all ranks of the Army. In olden days a drunken officer was very far from being a rare phenomenon; now it is almost unknown. An aged and distinguished general, who has won the *Victoria Cross*, told me that, when as a youth he joined his regiment, it was quite an ordinary thing for every officer to have his soldier-servant in attendance to conduct him home after dinner, since he was too often unable to walk without assistance! In those days the hero of the entertainment was the "three bottle," and even the four or five bottle man, who would sit in his chair when the rest of the company had collapsed under the table. Now such a scene would be regarded as an infamy, and we may positively affirm that it never occurs. Three incidents in our wars, in the earlier part of this century, will illustrate how fatally drunkenness was the besetting vice of our soldiers, and how seriously it has often imperilled the destinies of our country. In

THE BURMESE WAR,

on one occasion, the enemy made a surprise assault on the British camp. It was a moment of immense peril, for, as everything seemed to be quiet, multitudes of the soldiers were drunk. Sir Henry Havelock, however, then a young officer, was an abstainer, and a religious man. He used to gather his soldiers together in a Bible class—a thing in those days almost unheard of. A despairing message about the expected attack, and the state in which most of the soldiers were, was brought to the general in command. His reply was: "Send to Havelock; his men are never drunk, and he is always ready." And Havelock's sober soldiers repelled the assault, and saved the army from defeat and the nation from a catastrophe. Again,

IN THE INDIAN MUTINY,

the drunkenness of the soldiers on one occasion seriously imperilled our empire in India. They had fought and marched splendidly under Havelock. They had taken Delhi. The enemy had abandoned the city. But, alas! whether designedly or otherwise, they had left all the drink in the city when they retired with all their other possessions. The soldiers fell into the deadly trap laid for them that night; broadly speaking, the great mass of the men of our army were hopelessly drunk. Havelock was in an agony of mind. He felt that if the enemy, who had left the drink, had renewed the attack when intoxication had incapacitated our soldiers, the English army might have been hopelessly massacred. Fortunately the Sepoys were ignorant of the state of things. Next morning, by orders of the general, every cask of liquor in the city was staved, and the ruinous poison deluged the gutters.

IN THE CRIMEAN WAR.

Again, we read in Kinglake's "History of the Crimean War," that, when our soldiers first landed, nothing could exceed their kindness and good behaviour. "What," he asks, "was the reason?" The answer is, that there was "no drink, and therefore no crime." The drink came with the next batch of

transports, and the whole condition of the army was instantly changed for the worse. They forfeited no small measure of the golden opinions which they had won.

AMONGST THE GENERALS.

It is a sign of real advance in the Temperance cause that now there is not a regiment which does not number total abstainers among its men; that many of our leading generals—the Duke of Wellington, Sir C. Napier, Lord Wolseley, Sir Evelyn Wood, Lord Roberts and many others—have strongly urged upon soldiers the immense and varied advantages of abstinence; and that, at this moment, there are said to be nearly 20,000 total abstainers in our Indian army. It is another favourable sign that our brilliant campaign in the Sudan war was fought by soldiers who were carefully guarded from access to drink; and it may fairly be called a campaign won by the temperate and the abstinent.

PROGRESS AMONGST SAILORS.

Again, our sailors were once notorious for drunkenness. Now there are abstainers on board every ship in the line and on every merchant vessel. Grog is no longer indiscriminately served out, and—thanks to good workers like Miss Agnes Weston and the friends of the Seamen's Mission—sailors' homes are provided not only in England, but at many foreign ports, which save thousands of sailors from disgrace, ruin, and premature death.

TEMPERANCE LITERATURE.

Further, there has been a very wide dissemination of Temperance literature, and this has borne good fruit. We cannot say accurately, how many adult total abstainers there are in Great Britain, but they amount unquestionably to several millions. Indeed, total abstinence is now so common that it attracts no notice whatever either at public or private banquets. Incontrovertible reasoning must sooner or later tell on the human mind, though it works but slowly. The testimony, however, and the evidence in favor of the arguments of the Temperance party are so overwhelmingly strong, and are every year acquiring such added cogency, that sooner or later they cannot but penetrate the almost impervious callosity of the national mind and conscience.

IRRESISTIBLE TESTIMONIES.

It is certainly a new fact in the history of the nineteenth century that nearly every judge on the bench has given repeated and emphatic testimony against drink as the cause of crime; that nearly every Prime Minister and leading Statesman—including men like Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, and Mr. Chamberlain—has warned the nation of the danger of continuing under this hideous yoke, that the great majority of our most eminent physicians have publicly asserted drink to be the main cause of accidents, disease, shortened lives, and sudden deaths; that not a few of them have declared strong drink to be not only needless but, in its measure, injurious to everyone who takes it; that the Archbishop of Canterbury, many bishops, and a large portion of the clergy are total abstainers and active workers in the Temperance cause; that our prison officials, and all who have the care of the insane, point to drink as the main cause of brutality and madness; that poets, like Lord Tennyson, and our most eminent literary men, like Mr. Carlyle and Mr. Ruskin, have warned the nation against drink in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn; that the Pope of Rome has pronounced a distinct and emphatic blessing on total abstinence from that which "hurries innumerable souls into perdition;" that our athletes—our champion soldiers, shooters, walkers, swimmers, cricket and football players—have recommended

entire abstinence from all forms of drink; that our chief trainers and the writers of all the most recent athletic manuals have declared that alcohol should be rigidly excluded from the dietary of all who aim at athletic excellence; that tropical travellers, like Mr. J. S. Buckingham and Dr. Livingstone, and Arctic voyagers, like Sir J. Ross and Nansen, have declared with equal emphasis and proved by personal experience that the use of drink is equally undesirable in the equatorial forest and in the zones of eternal snow; that every statistician who collects evidence from the returns of the Registrar-General, or of any public institution, points to drink as a cause which

"Has overthrown and drowned
Far greater numbers on dry ground,
(Of wretched mankind, one by one,
Than e'en before the flood had done."
In the long run, surely—unless men hopelessly blind their eyes and harden their hearts—such evidence cannot but influence not only every true Christian, but also every sensible patriot and every earnest-minded man. This country has witnessed the foundation of

MANY TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

They were formed in 1829 in Ireland and Scotland. The year 1831 witnessed the birth of the British and Foreign Temperance Society. The Bradford Temperance Society was formed in 1850. The seven men of Preston had founded a total abstinence society in 1835, in which year began the British Association for the Promotion of Temperance. In 1837 was founded the National Total Abstinence Society. The year 1838 witnessed the beginning of the marvellous Temperance apostolate of Father Mathew in Ireland and England, followed by that of Dr. Guthrie in Scotland. The New Templars were introduced in America in 1868. Cardinal Manning was an ardent supporter of the Catholic Temperance Association. The Church of England Temperance Society began in 1862, and was stimulated by a powerful and most instructive report of a committee of convocation, presided over by Archdeacon Sandford in 1868. Almost every religious body in England has now started a Temperance association—even the small Society of Friends. All the workers in the Salvation Army are pledged to total abstinence. The last Sunday in November is widely observed as a Temperance Sunday. The Blue Ribbon Army was founded in 1876. Lastly, the London Temperance Hospital, founded in 1871, has conclusively proved that there is no form of illness which cannot be cured without any resort to alcohol, though it was once so universally and erroneously regarded as a necessary therapeutic agent.

WORK AMONG THE YOUNG

is of transcendent importance, and the first juvenile association was formed at Preston in 1832. The various Bands of Hope in the United Kingdom now number perhaps 2,000,000 children. The title "United Kingdom Band of Hope Union" was first adopted in 1863; and the Young Abstainers' Union, for children of the upper and middle classes, in 1879. This work would be a priceless benefit for the future were it not that there is a very large leakage from abstaining children to drinking men and women. Means ought to be taken to prevent this by continuing the care of the boys and girls after they are confirmed.

MANITOBA R. T. GRAND COUNCIL.

Manitoba Grand Council R. T. of 11 held its 17th session at Winnipeg last month, presided over by Bro. G. H. Healy, of Virden. Most of the business transacted related to the work of the Order. There was a good deal of satisfaction expressed at the promise made by the Provincial Government. Most of the officers were re-elected.

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A CALAMITY.

It is a calamity, almost criminal in its nature and effects, that there are not such unity and liberality upon the part of the pulpit against the natural and deadly foe of the pulpit, the saloon. The liquor traffic fights its battles with ranks all closed; pulpits fire sometimes at the saloon, and sometimes, alas, at each other. The saloon is fortified with millions of money, upon which it may draw at will in any emergency; the pulpit has no funds for a crusade against the liquor traffic. The plain truth is, and we may as well face the facts, the saloon exists because the preachers and churches and other friends of temperance will not come together and stay together and give and fight together. If God is not omnipotent he is not God, and if he is omnipotent—and he is—he will speedily give victory to the virtuous cause of temperance, if we will bury our differences and do our duty. *Cumberland Presbyterian.*

SECRET OF THE LIQUOR POWER WITH POLITICIANS.

It has long been a problem with some men why a comparatively few liquor voters could have such power with the government, while the petitions of many times their number of temperance loving people are ignored. The following from the *National Advocate* may enlighten some of these: "Because the liquor people say to the politicians: 'Give us legislation that protects our business, or we will turn you down;' while Christian voters say: 'We would like you to give us some legislation that will tend to remove from us the evils of intemperance, but if you don't do so we will vote for you anyhow.' The beautiful resolution presented to the President by the Methodist committee, of which Dr. James M. Buckley was chairman, seems to be quite in line with this last expression, with the notable exception that the committee in question did not say what the people wanted, but instead unequivocally endorsed the administration of the President."—*Free Baptist.*