

## LOCAL OPTION

The demoralizing effects of the drink evil are evident to all, and the more considered the more do they appear in all their malignity. Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that the world over that every crime forbidden and assisted by this vice; in spite of the fact that not one of our fellow-beings, who habitually indulge in alcoholism, is free from the incitement given thereby to animal passion in its varied forms; there are to be found some among us who think, or appear to think, that the whiskey bar is to the community an item of vital importance. The constant declaration of these would-be philanthropists is that there must be for travellers places of public accommodation. All sane men will readily acquiesce to this assertion, but that man can scarcely be called just and charitable, if at all sane, who maintains that an abstinence to iniquity, such as the whiskey bar, should be preserved under the specious pretext of affording by means of it places of public accommodation.

In matters widely mundane we now behold at hand a period of evolution. Because of greater research on the part of humanity's friends, and on account of greater mental development, ways and means for the general betterment of our peoples are being continually adopted, and what in all this is particularly noticeable is a spirit of goodwill. In the furtherance then of the much-needed cause of temperance mere plausibility is to be promptly relegated to the background, and left in an obscure corner of the field of argument, for all persons disposed to be reasonable will readily admit that even if the ordinary hotel of to-day go entirely out of existence in the event of the coming of Local Option, temperance houses of more moral tendencies will arise triumphant, backed by the additional patronage of those among the laity, who formerly avoided places which they considered as dens of iniquity and crime. Of this there can be no doubt. Such would be the condition of affairs with regard to the travelling public, and although a short-lived inconvenience might ensue after the immediate passing of the bill, the immense check given to the whiskey traffic, and the consequent public peace settling over the land, would amply compensate for a trifling delay in obtaining a meal's victuals or a corner in which to feed a horse.

In matters of everyday life sacrifices more or less grave have to be undergone in order that projects most commendable and long-coveted be realized. But on moral lines what have we more sacred, more praiseworthy than the divine virtue of charity? "Faith, hope, and charity," but the greater of these is charity." Among these theological acquirements, all of which are necessary to salvation, there shines out like a lumen in coelo, and with a splendor that attracts the beholder while it vivifies the possessor, this virtue which will endure in Heaven for all eternity where faith and hope will have reached their realization and will be no more. Charity! In what does it consist? In the love of our Almighty and ever truthful God, and in the love of our fellow-man, no matter who, for His sake. Let no one, then, think that this virtue in its unfathomable effects is to be thrust quietly aside to make room for self-love, which sometimes stoops to all the villenous of sensuality. We are one and all imperatively bound to seek the welfare of our fellowmen, to lend our aid to the uplifting of a cause, which speaks so eloquently of the common good. Not only is the temperance man of to-day required in charity to raise a hand to stem the torrent of the drink evil, but the drinker himself and even the vendor of drink, must pause in their mad rush after sensual gratification and the accumulation of pelf to assist moral reformers in defeating the

## THREE TRYING TIMES IN A WOMAN'S LIFE

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designs of the devil, who wages his unholy warfare with the weapon of alcohol. This is the sacrifice which charity dictates, and it, too, begins at home. It removes from one's self and from one's home the curse of evil, and in neighborly regard for the sufferers and weaknesses of others, it drives the beast of prey far from contact with them, their families and their friends.

What satisfaction then for a modern hotelkeeper, whose trade has done so much harm in the past, to know in the outcome that he has at last been instrumental in bringing happier days and more prosperity to the home of those, whom he would fain call his friends? What inward contentment falls on his mind, like oil on the troubled waters, when he reflects that at last for him has come a time when no longer blood money, the price of children's bread and housewife's toil—not a penny of it chinks its way down the leg of his stocking! On the contrary, us now reaps with unimpaired brain and conscience unseared with remorse the fruit of honest toil or God-given occupation. When the drink torrent will have been stemmed no longer for him in his unholy vigils at the bar will the howls and yells of a blasphemous and drunken mob swell forth on the still air of night, as his den opens wide and vomits forth its ghastly crew with senses drowned within and disorders prevalent without. No longer with anxious visage and palsied hand will the mixer of to-morrow's drink stand in the basement armed with decoctions of paregoric, red pepper, alcohol, and perchance a few other highly-spiced ingredients to be consigned to the water barrel which will provide a slack for the thirsty throats of ignorant and besotted customers.

To the drinker himself, after having paid the sacrifice which charity dictates in resisting intemperance, comes the consolation of being instrumental in obtaining a boon so necessary for public peace and prosperity. He finds himself among others once more happy and prosperous. He sees himself once again regarded as a man by his many acquaintances, and his home, which to all self-respecting men is the haven of safety and rest, has become to him the dearest place on earth, and to wife and children it is no longer the abode of terror and sorrow. Instead of tears, smiles now greet his coming; instead of anxious and terrified whisperings on the part of the younger ones, merry voices and pleasing accents fall upon his ear, while the horn of plenty hangs over the spot where before the wolf of penury

stood and dimly howled. A sound mind in a sound body is now for him a possession, which takes the place of an intellect dulled and enfeebled with drink, and a frame diseased and debauched with intemperance. His companions, too, are no longer the wallowers of the saloon, the impure, the blasphemous, and the dishonest; those who in many cases are hangers after the flowing bowl, and often ready to beg or steal rather than work for a livelihood. The dark clouds of despair which followed drunkenness have been dispersed, after having hung over his mind like a pall, because he had in early life been taught from Holy Writ that no drunkards shall possess the Kingdom of God. Peace with his Creator, with his neighbor, and with himself, takes the place of contention, that had before prevailed, and had been making life intolerable, and finally the testimony of a good conscience, an inestimable treasure at all times, soothes the declining years of life, and admits the gleaming hope, which encourages one to think of the Better Land.

To all teetotalers the workers for reform especially turn in their efforts against the inroads of drink, for such as these have in the past been setting to the world an example which speaks louder than words, and have by total abstinence been doing more effective work in educating men to sobriety than if otherwise against the evil of intemperance they continually inveighed. Now that the last strokes are to be given which will put an end to the monster, drink, we call upon all those who are willing to rid their homes and the homes of their friends of this evil, to aid in the way laid open to all by Local Option when the matter is brought to a final issue. It is impossible on the one hand that after regrets can ensue to those who take part in this noble cause which appeals to the honor, patriotism and charity of every individual in our midst, and on the other the protection given to the weak and wavering among us in closing the doors of the saloon, can only result to every earnest co-operator in that consolation and happiness consequent upon an effort made in the way of wise and well doing.

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South March, Ont.

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### A Protestant's Tribute to the Passionists.

No one who is at all familiar with F. R. Guernsey's contributions to the Boston Herald will be surprised at his sympathetic portrayal of Catholic priests in Mexico. Carmelites, Jesuits, Dominicans and Benedictines—Mr. Guernsey has words of discriminating eulogy for them all while of the priests of his predilection he says: "Among the Passionists here I have known men of the most remarkable zeal and fairly angelic goodness, living in the greatest poverty, and devoting all that came to them, in the way of alms, to the poor. They go to the meanest hut as soon as the palace of the wealthy man, visit laborers sick with contagious diseases, and their ministrations rank them with men of the Apostolic age. There were formerly several Americans among the Passionists in Mexico, and their poverty struck my attention. In the rainy season they carried no umbrellas, and if you gave them one it passed immediately to some poor woman."

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### OLDEST IRISH COLLEGE.

The oldest Irish college in the world is at Salamanca, Spain. Its rector, the Very Rev. Father O'Doherty, has just visited his native land. He is quite a young man to occupy so distinguished a position. A native of County Mayo, he was educated at Maynooth, and was for a time professor in the diocesan seminary at Ballaghaderreen. Two years ago he was nominated by the Irish Bishops for his present position. He has been decorated by the King of Spain with the insignia of a commendador of the Order of Alphonso XII, one of the highest marks of distinction it is in the power of the Spanish sovereign to bestow. Father O'Doherty is very proud of the Irish College, and quite delighted with Spain and the Spanish people.

"It is the oldest Irish college in the world," he said. "It was founded in 1592 by Philip II. of Spain, and was made a royal college in 1616. At that time Spain was the leading country of Europe, while Ireland was groaning under the Penal Laws which set a price on the head of the priest and schoolmaster alike. The object of the foundation was primarily to furnish priests for Ireland, and it was made a condition that the students should, when ordained, return to Ireland. That condition, however, is no longer imposed, because the necessity for it has disappeared. The College received most of its endowment from O'Sullivan Beare, and it is owing to the generosity of the great chieftain and of other eminent Irish Exiles that the College has been enabled to exist down to the present day."

### SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

#### HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situated, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent receive authority for some one to make entry for him.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

- (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land as each year for three years.
- (2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.
- (3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent. N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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"My dear child, senior member of roll, rising to grace is it?"

"Gillian took 'Matter enough,' hard tone. 'Mr. I to tell you that I Stephen and I will Why should we gether?' she added longer for me, I does, his action it. If it isn't his pointment after di at home, and I-I out longer in sue wouldn't say a w to be so different. ful eyes were full-

men lead us to honeymoon will o'er joys. 'It's so she went on, 'we moment together plan an especially never comes to it. is deep in his paper are spent away fr 'Mr. Benedict,' voice faltered, 'I household. You've me in the place ther would have lived. I come to unhappiness. I t this is what marr will have none of 'It has come to longer bear Stephen neglect. Help me him and—'.

The old lawyer n floor. His fatherl upon it a look of 'Oh, these poor exclaimed. He st heard on Gillian's dead child,' he ad you if I could, b that even if you sl old life can never phen may neglect does, yet you are he went on, 'If S had both been poe been a thousand t each of you. Mon cense to go your s poverty renders ir young mechanic Saturday night an earnings in his wif all, a man to be en of happiness is far of the man whose finances go as assu talk of 'affinity' th has half a holiday with his family on the trolley. His Su dise—his wife hi home his heaven. haps Providence, in of things, has decr rate, the divorce co in judgment upon th upon those of the 'Gillian,' he 'what are you plan mer?'

'The Rossitors w them at Old Point turned Gillian his haven't really pron 'And Stephen?' 'Oh, Stephen,' s a bitter smile, 'inf day that he had pl a two months' hun Wigwam Gulch. Th June. If I go with dare say we will n last of September.' The old lawyer r ty, unhappy young father's solicitude.

'Wigwam Gulch place Stephen boug he asked suddenly. 'Yes.'

'No doubt there's hunting there?' 'The best; that keeps it. When he place he did ask me him and spend a engaged to the Atw at White Sulphur S not go.'

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