

Wholesale News

Vol. IX.—No. 8

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

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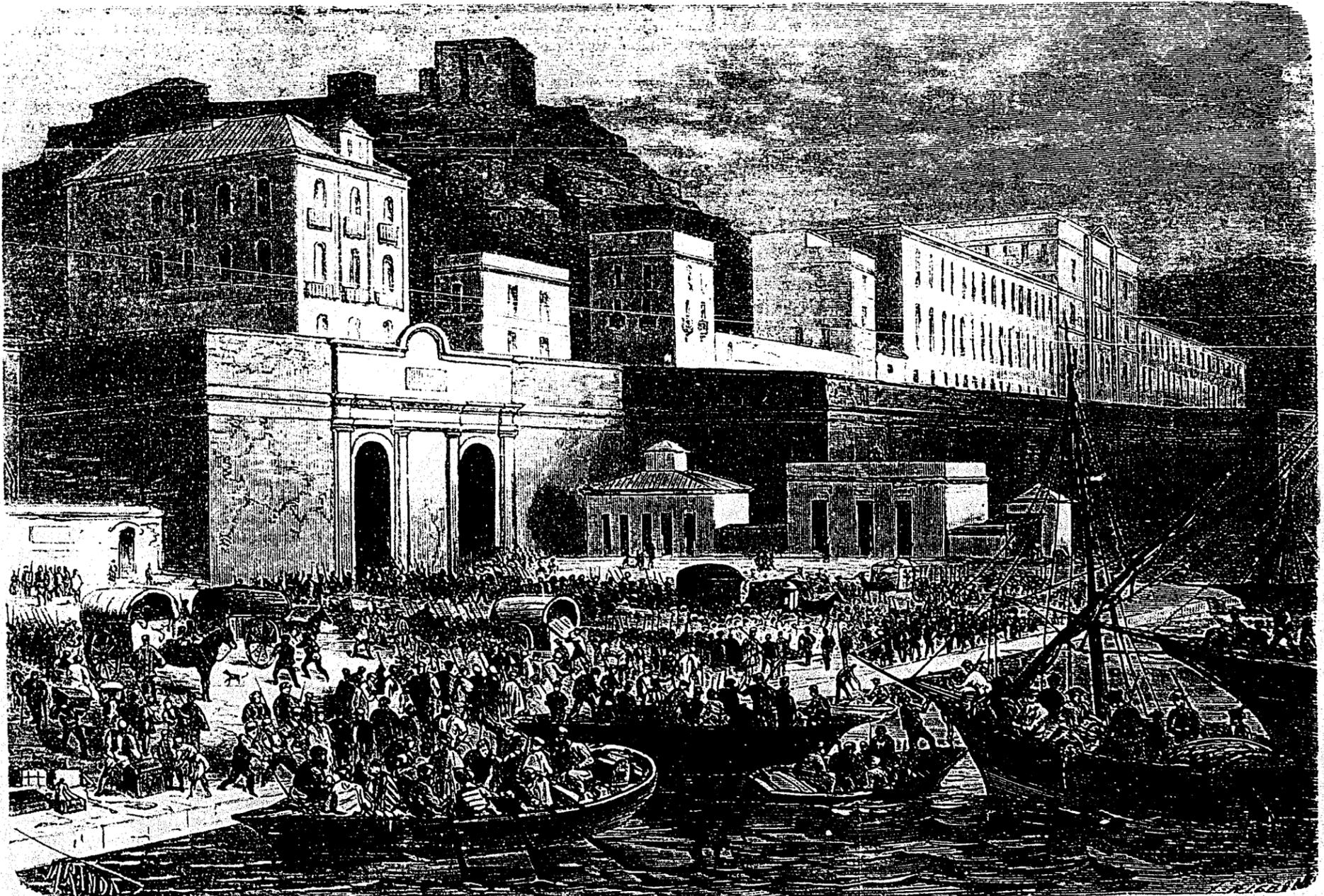
THE WOMEN'S CRUSADE.

The new crusade opened by the women of Ohio against the sale of intoxicating liquors is a feature in the temperance movement deserving of especial attention. Hitherto the advocates of temperance have posted themselves behind their batteries, and contented themselves with keeping up a fierce but a harmless fire upon dram-drinkers and dram-sellers. Where their warfare has been aggressive it has been chiefly carried on by zealous and often mistaken men—by far the most fervent zealots being reformed drunkards—whose efforts have been crowned with a certain amount of success, and that of a not too gratifying nature. In making this assertion we would be clearly understood. No one can deny that the number of Good Templars and of other persons pledged to abstinence from intoxicating liquors is largely and constantly on the increase. But from what classes of society are their ranks mainly recruited? Not from those among whom intemperance is doing its deadliest work. There are exceptions of course to this as to every rule. But in the case of the Total Abstinence Societies, the rule certainly is that the large majority of pledged abstainers are respectable and respected members of society who never yet yielded to the temptations of intoxicating liquor. The men whom the Temperance Associations have intended to reach have not been reached.

And the proof of this lies in the fact that it has at last been found necessary to employ other means than those hitherto resorted to. The work of the Temperance Societies and of the preachers of temperance having resulted less satisfactorily than it should have done, it has been reserved for the women to take up arms and boldly carry the war into the enemy's country.

There is a justice and a fitness of things in this women's crusade which should not be overlooked. Women have always been the greatest sufferers from the evils of intemperance. Guiltless themselves, they have suffered cruelly from the recklessness and self-indulgence of men. Intemperance has robbed them of loving husbands and happy homes, has brought them from comfort and content to ruin and beggary. And it can be no wonder that finally, after having trusted so long in vain to the fruitless efforts of good well-meaning but not too energetic men, to the influence of associations and pledges, they should rise in their might and insist upon what they feel to be their right. They have, it is true, taken strong measures, measures which perhaps will hardly stand a strict legal test. But it must be remembered that they feel strongly. The law has hitherto been powerless to protect them. They have therefore taken the law into their own hands, and have, for the time being at least, triumphed.

We say for the time being, because we do not believe that the new movement will have a very long term of life. If we look at the case in a practical way it is very evident that it cannot last long. A man who has paid for a license to sell a certain article cannot be interfered with in his traffic with impunity. So long as man carries out the truth of Byron's saying—and there is undoubtedly much truth in it—so long will needy corporations issue liquor-selling licenses which give the purchaser the right to carry on his trade without interference. Nevertheless it is evident that the crusade inaugurated by the women of Ohio will lead to some tangible results in the direction desired. While the liquor seller has his right, the wife no less has hers—the right to a sober, decent husband. The two must not be allowed to clash. One frequently hears the argument advanced that if a man chooses to make a hog of himself he has a perfect right to do so. Sheer nonsense. The law does not allow any man to do anything to himself or with himself that may offend the community. The drunkard who comes under the cognisance of the law is hauled off to the station-house and made to pay with purse and liberty for his indulgence. It might as well be advanced that every man has a right to make away with himself. Supporters of this doctrine are by no means wanting. But the law, to use a very significant vulgarism, does not see it in



SPAIN.—THE CAPTURE OF CARTAGENA.—INSURGENTS' ESCAPING TO THE "NUMANCIA."