#### Family Beabing.

#### Prayer Before the Battle.

BY MRY, DWIGHT WILLIAMS.

The battle lines are very long. The cannonade is near; Help us to march against the strong In Thy great love and fear; Be Lord, our leader, as we go, Give courage to our men, Give ready speed to face the foe, Give broadsides to the pen.

Send out thy light and truth, O Lord, And let the public heart Be open to thy loyal word, Till projudice depart, Give patriotic zeal to those Who lead the nation's thought, Till right their purpose shall dispose With noble offerings brought.

The logic of our cause array In martial order set; The great columbiads display, And guide the bayonet; The bayonet of argument To silence the great guns Whose vollies from the bulwarks sent Dismay her timid sons.

And let the growing flames spread out As prairies in a blaze; Send forth thine armies with a shout That shall the world amaze; Great captain of the people come; Inspire the brave and free; It means the jubilee of home A land encrowned by thee.

Blot out the words of hate we've known Too long in south and north; Give us one brotherhood alone, Send us together forth; We'll strike for our dear fatherland The grandest of the years; Around one altar we will stand And lift fraternal cheers.

The great Goliath of our time Stands out in his great scorn, Bring from the sheep cotes with their chime

Thine own annointed born; Put in his heart immortal strength, Put thunder in his hand, To bring this giant to the dust With help from this great land.

We tarry for Thy blessing, Lord; The drum beat sounds nfar; Our captain cometh with his sword And wears his victor star; How long the strife? We ask it not, Through weary days of time; All but one duty be forgot, Until the song sublime.

—New Republic.

### A Lost Day.

Where is the day I lost,-The golden day Beyond all price and cost, That slipped away,

Out of my wandering sight, My careless hold? Where did it lift in flight Its wings of gold?

What were the treasures rare It bore from me! What were the pleasures fair I shall not see!

Ah, never day was yet So fine, so fair, So rich with promise set, So free from care,

As that we mourn and sigh, When we do say: "Alas, how time doth fly, I've lost a day!'

-Independent.

Counter and Bar: A Shopkeeper's Story.

BY J. W. MEADEN.

Mr. Brisket, the butcher; Mr. Crisp, the baker; and young Mr. Push, of & Greatanies, were very much perpiexed when this question of Local Option was first brought under their notice.

They did not take very kindly to the idea of it, for as Brisket very naturally said, and Brisket was a kindhearted fellow, besides having plenty when he was making a living out of it. It was hard enough for those that were in business to get along without being shut up. He knew himself, what with bad debts and one thing and another, it was all he could do to pay his way.'

The romark about bad debts seemed to touch Crisp on a sore spot, for he shook his head dolefully till quite a gas-light, and young Mr. Push, who was a bit of a dandy, stopped a little himself, but he quite agreed with Mr. paused to listen. Brinket about the had debts, which he

the first person who had spoken to were practising their scales at a sing them about it was Mr. Rapid, house ing class, for each exclamation was a and land agent, and everybody knew full octave below the last, so that Mr. that Rapid was a tectotaller; a regular Crisp's was a deep base note that seemhot on the temperance question, the batch of bread that came out of his their evenings at the public-house, or a "Rabid Rapid," young Mr. Push used oven the morning after a workman he town full of men who lived sober lives to call him.

could say a good thing when he liked, continued Rapid You should hear the girls laugh when "Oh yes, we remember him," re-he took two or three of them for a walk sponded the three shopkeepers, again it was not of the girls that Mr. Push ed so like a 'Good Lord deliver us," long entries in his firm's day book, Thirdandlast, MA, could hardly resome of which he feared were doubtful press a smile, in fact, I don't think he and a great many of which he knew did repress it, but just let it go. were "bad."

from Mrs. Tooales, the publican's wife, whether this liquor traffic wasn't a that afternoon; dresses and hats for matter in which the law ought to inherself and daughters, besides a dozen terfere, and whether there ought not of shirts for Mr. T., who wanted them to be some limit, at least, put to the once or twice had had a difficulty in are tempted to their destruction."

gard to that order. There was nover each of the three shopkeepers at the any difficulty about getting the money head of long, long accounts of goods from the Tooales. A pleasant woman that would never be paid for, that reto serve was Mrs. T., easily pleased, presented a dead loss that they could and withal, generously inclined, nor ill afford. The accounts might have was there any fear of payment being been paid, nay more, they knew that too long delayed; when the account they would have been paid if Smith was presented the money would be had been steady, for he was not an inforthcoming at once, for, as Mr. T. tentionally dishonest man, and his wife often cheerfully, but ungrammatically, -poor little woman- was as honest remarked, "We gets it easy and we as the day. The constant fretting spends it free."

of Mrs. Tooale's pleasant manner, and spent at the tavern the money that perhaps, just a passing reminiscence of should have been devoted to housea bright glance out of the sparkling hold uses, had been among the causes black eas of the eldest Miss T., who, although engaged to be married short. not long before the day when the poor, ly to young Canvasser, the Brewer's weak husband destroyed himself in a traveller, was, I regret to say, a hit of fit of delirium tremens. a flirt, made young Mr. Push feel quite "And," continued R. indignant with Rapid and his Local Option scheme, which, if carried out knew that Smith's case was not a successfully, threatened to interfero singular one. I knew that for every

scheme of yours is all nonsense, con- and if they once get behind hand with founded nonsense. I can't make out their bills or with their rent, it is imwhat on earth made you take up with possible to get anything out of them. it. Why don't you keep your tectotal I did not then see as plainly as I do ideas to yourself, and not try to stop other people from getting their beer if perity of other tradesmen and shop-they want to! Nobody is interfering keepers; perhaps," he added, with a with you. I haven't heard of any sug-settion to claim up the town must asy twinkle in his eye, "I do not yet the least possible cost, consult gestion to chain up the town pump see it quite as plainly as some of you and stop the supplies of your favorite gentlemen do, but I saw the shame and M. F. SMITH, DENTAL SURGEON. Alcohol and the State A discussion of boverage."

This hit at Rapid's "cold water doctrines" took immensely. Brisket roared with laughter, and the convul sions that shook Crisp's frame sent a cloud of bestsilk-dressed Adelaide flour gently floating down the street. Rapid, however, took the laughter all in good part, indeed he was secretly pleased to find young Push opening up the way to a discussion of the question, for he was anxious to bring over to his views the three shopkeepers, who indeed were men of considerable influence in the town; the butcher and the baker especially, being old inhabitants, much and deserv dly respected.

"Well," said he, cheerfully, taking off his hat as he spoke, and wiping his the well-known drapery firm of Push forchead, for he had been walking fast; he was, indeed, hurrying to a Local Option committee meeting, while to down her pale checks as she turned to risk being late on this occasion, if he could convert his three townsmen, and obtain their support for the movement. "Well, you know that Local Option is not altogether a teetotal idea. We of pluck, "It seemed rather hard to have plenty of Local Optionists who close up a publican's place of business are not teetotallers, but who are con vinced that there are too many public houses in the place. I admit that it does seem hard on the publican at first sight, perhaps, but the case that first made me take up the question was a great deal harder.

"And what case was that I" said all three at once, so that their voices blended as though they had been the public-house and we have to keep halo of flour floated round him in the making one of the responses in the church service, and the familiar sound caught the ear of the Rev. Mr. Thirdon one side, for he had a new black and last, M.A., who was walking past broad sloth coat on, and thought that with Mr. Switchem, the head teacher andlast, M.A., who was walking past Mr. Crisp ought to keep his flour to at the State school, and they also

nerhed were a "confounded nuis-Rapid, and when he mentioned the fewer public-inuses there would be fewer name of Smith, Mr. Push said, "ay," bad debts in your books and ten times as

They were also perhaps a little and Mr. Brisket said, "ah," and Mr. prejudiced about the matter, because Crisp said, "oh," just as though they out and out cold water man, but very ed to come from a heart as heavy as tomors, a town full of men who spend call him. had once get tipsy and forget to mix and spent their evenings in the besom A smart young chap was Push, and in the yeast. "You remember Smith," of their families."

on the pier, but nover mind that now; speaking simulteneously, and it soundwas thinking just then, but of certain from the litany, that the Rev. Mr.

"Well," said Rapid, "it was after I He cheered up a little at the remem. got those poor children of his into the tro cheered up a little at the remember of those poor children of his into the Father in heaven, and thus my Master brance of a good order he had taken orphanage that I first began to think is defrauded also,"—Melbourne Alliance or Mrs. Toggles, the publicant with the began to think is defrauded also,"—Melbourne Alliance or heaven, and thus my Master than the form of the publicant of the public made extra large in the neck, for Mr. number of drinking shops in which T, had got very stout of late years, and poor weak-minded fellows like Smith

his breathing that made him quite It was quite a home-thrust, this black in the face. It was quite a home-thrust, this remark of Rapid's about poor Smith, Mr. Push was quite easy with re- for that name stood in the books of under a continually increasing load of The recollection of that good order, debts, incurred because her husband that had hurried her to an early grave,

"And," continued Rapid, who saw the effect his words had produced, "I with the business arrangements of his butcher's, baker's, grocer's or draper's good customers. Talk of the ch? well, you know three public-houses, and that for every the proverb; still, it did seem strange, public-house there were at least two or that just as Harry Push had made up three cases like Smith's, not in all his mind that Rapid was an idiot, that instances, perhaps, ending so terribly, individual should turn round the corner, looking quite contented with him- misery and destitution. You see when self, and with anything but an idiotic I go round to collect the rents of a expression on his intelligent face. The Monday morning I have a chance of serene expression of his countenance, seeing into the homes of the tenants, however, gave place to one of amused and I have learnt this, that those who surprise when Push, in his quick, im-pulsive way, caught hold of his arm the publican are least profitable to and exclaimed—

They have less money to "I say, Rapid, that Local Option spend for really necessary things of life sorrow amongst the waves, and the 15 years experience in Europe and America, misery and destitution amongst the children and that was enough for me.'

Had Rapid been less earnest in his subject he would perhaps have noticed a little comedy being performed under his very nose which gave a strange emphasis to his statement. They were standing just in front of Mr. Crisp's shop, and as they were talking, a pale thin child, with big dark oyes, scantily clad and barefooted, slipped noiselessly past them into the shop, and spoke pleadingly to Mrs. C. who stood behind the counter. When the child had done speaking, Mrs. C. looked across to Mr. Crisp, who was just outside the door. Mr. C., with a very determined frown, shook his head at Mrs. C. and then Mrs. C. shook her head at the little girl, in each of whose big eyes a tear alowly gathered and coursed depart, and then Mrs C. looked as though she was going to cry and glanced across at her good-natured husband who shook his head again, but ended with a shrug of the shoulders that meant so plainly "do as you please" that Mrs. C. called the child back and gave her a loaf, adding another to a long list of unpaid for loaves that had gone in the same direction. Crisp. watched the child as she ran up the street, and then noticed that Brisket was looking after her too.

"We have a lot of that, don't we? said he. "They spend their money at their families."

Rapid, who had not noticed the child,

thought the remark was in answer to his own statement, and spoke briskly "Yes, you may depend upon it, the prosperity of the liquor traffic is purhased at the expense of that of every "It was that case of Smith's," said other branch of trade. If there were

many good ready money customers for your wares, while I should have no difficulty in getting in my clients' rents. I put it to you, plainly, gentlemen," he IN SPITE OF LOSSES SUSTAINED BY DANK concluded, warming with his subject, "which would you sooner have for cus

"What time does that Local Option meeting of yours begin," said young Push, "I think I'll look in"

"And so will I," said both Mr. Bris ket and Mr. Crisp.

"And so will I," said the Rev. Mr. Thirdandlast, M.A. "for the same cause which makes men forget what is due to their fellow men makes them likewise forget what is due to their

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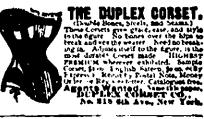
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