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OVER LAND AND SEA.

Father Zurcher, of Buffalo, the zealous President of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of that city, who was rebuked by his bishop for denouncing an entertainment conducted by the Jesuits for selling liquor, and told that it was not true, and was forbidden to write more on the subject, is quite a model of priestly obedience as he was of zeal for saving his people from a drunkard's death. He not only obeyed, as we have previously recorded, and has since uttered not a word to the public; he has written a letter to the Union of which he was president, telling them that his bishop believes his methods are injuring the cause of temperance among the Catholics, and that he therefore feels it his duty to resign both as president and member, and he advises them to follow his example. This they have done speedily, dissolving all their brotherhoods, and we have a beautiful example of episcopal authority and of the submission of the flock. Do not say that the United States is not a free country, for we suppose that people must be free to obey if they want to; only this kind of ecclesiastical power taught and submitted to is just exactly what has made Catholic countries followers and not leaders in the progress of civilization.

Abroad, the missionary societies are lifting their troublesome debts. The London Missionary Society has already obtained a centenary fund of \$425,000, and hopes to make it \$500,000. The Wesleyan Society has not only succeeded in cancelling its indebtedness, but is trying to add \$100,000 a year to its income. This is good news, and ought to stimulate Presbyterians to renewed activity in removing the heavy responsibility resting upon our Home and Foreign Mission Boards. To do this, and at the same time meet current expenses, will require heroic efforts; but it can be done, if our rich men and women will liberally back up the general offerings with their special contributions.

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children in New York, of which Commodore Gerry is president, expended last year \$740,000, and during its twenty years' existence it has rescued 230,000 children of New York. In speaking of the work of the society, Mr Gerry says: "But for the saloon the work of the society would be greatly diminished. The very moment that drink enters the house parental sympathy goes out."

All the newspaper reporters who attended the Purity Congress and Conference at Baltimore have signed the White Cross pledge which is as follows: "To treat all women with respect, and endeavor to protect them from wrong and degradation; to endeavor to put down all indecent language and coarse jests; to maintain the law of purity as equally binding upon men and women; to endeavor to spread these principles among my companions, and try to help my younger brothers to use all possible means to fulfil the command, 'Keep thyself pure.'"

There are 232,295 firms or individuals licensed by the U. S. government and engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicants—an average of one liquor license to, say, every 290 inhabitants. Even in prohibition states, like Maine, for instance, federal licenses are granted, the holders taking their chances of local prosecution, 1,148 governmental licenses being held in that state despite the fact that prohibition has been incorporated in its constitution.

The year 1895 was the nine hundredth anniversary of the first appearance of the fork in western Europe, according to the *Nazionale Zeitung*. In 995 a son of the Venetian Doge Pietro Orseolo married the Byzantine Princess Argila, who at the wedding breakfast brought out a silver fork and gold spoon. She was copied by the great Venetian families, though opposed the fashion as an insult to Providence. It took 360 years for the fork to reach Florence; in 1379 it is found in France, but it was not till 1608 that "the traveller Corgate brought it direct from Venice to England."

There is a wonderful power in certain melodies. They speak to the heart, and therefore never lose their hold on popular favor. So with many of these grand old pieces of sacred music that have come down to us from former generations. They are hallowed by the associations which are about them. They have the memories of the past in our own lives, and the experiences of the saints before us have been wrought into them; but they retain their hold upon us, and stir us as we use them, chiefly because they are so adapted to their purpose that they speak directly to the heart.

The Republic of Venezuela is the most northerly of such confederations in South America. It extends about 980 miles from north to south, and 870 from east to west. There are eight states, with a population of over two millions. Caracas is the capital, very near the north of the Republic, and distant from London about 4760 miles. The Republic is watered by the mighty Orinoco, opposite the mouth of which lies Trinidad. This island, which capitulated to Abercromby in 1797, is only sixteen miles from Venezuela. On the eastern frontier of the Republic is British Guiana, and here the shoe pinches. Further east is Dutch then French Guiana. The Britisher is therefore in the post of danger and difficulty, and acts as a buffer between the litigious Venezuelans and our Dutch and French neighbours. Consequently, the French papers have in general sided with us in the dispute. If we had no right to be in America, the French have as little; if Uncle Sam whips John Bull out of America, as he hopes some day to do, France will have to go too. The Venezuelans cannot do much without Uncle Sam's help, for they have an expenditure rather in excess of revenue, and a debt, internal and foreign, considerably more than double the revenue. The Monroe doctrine, about which so much has been said, and which is, roundly speaking, America for the Americans dates from the time of James Monroe, who twice occupied the great office of President in succession, viz., in 1817 and 1821.