

## Our Contributors.

### SOME RESOLUTIONS FOR 1888.

BY KNOXIAN.

The season for making resolutions is upon us. Mentally or verbally nearly everybody makes resolutions at the beginning of a year. In order to give the resolutions outward and visible form—to make them more tangible—so to speak—some people reduce their New Year resolves to writing. A resolution nicely written seems to have more substance in it than one that is merely thought out. We take the liberty of suggesting a few resolutions which may be worthy of consideration at the beginning of a new year. We don't ask anybody to adopt them. We simply suggest that it would be a good thing to break them. As the family is the basis of the Church and of the State, we begin with a few plain resolutions for the

FAMILY MAN.

Resolved, That during the year 1888 I shall spend as few evenings in my home as possible. I shall go regularly to the lodge when the lodge meets, and go occasionally when there isn't any lodge. If no other or better reason is available, I shall go out "to see a man." Should it become necessary at any time to become acquainted with my children, I shall arrange for an introduction to them by some suitable party. When properly introduced I conscientiously resolve to treat them with becoming civility.

Resolved, That during this year I shall persistently and affectionately inform my wife of the good qualities of other men's wives, gently reminding her of how well they cook and keep house generally. To encourage her in her household duties I shall scrupulously abstain from giving her praise for anything she may do, and shall affectionately find fault with all her efforts, especially in the matter of housekeeping. By pursuing this course I hope to make my companion happy and deeply grateful that she ever wedded the amiable, reasonable, dutiful and affectionate husband that I know myself to be.

Resolved, That I shall always affectionately remind my children that they are the worst children in the neighbourhood. By telling the boys that they are the most stupid in the community I hope to develop their intellect and increase their self-respect. By constantly reminding the girls of their defects, and affectionately contrasting them with other girls who have had tenfold opportunities for improvement, I hope to make them sweet tempered and amiable young women.

Resolved, That I shall rigidly repress all attempts at amusement in my house and bring the family discipline as near the high standard of prison discipline as possible. Should any of the children laugh I shall always remind them that they must soon be turned into dust. By thus rigidly repressing all forms of innocent amusement I hope to create in the children a strong and abiding affection for the old homestead.

Resolved, That I shall be from home as much as possible, and when at home be as unpleasant as possible.

Some resolutions for the

NEIGHBOUR MAN.

Resolved, That if any of my neighbours should fail in business or meet with loss or misfortune of any kind I shall chuckle over their misfortunes and feel good because they feel bad. By thus rejoicing over my neighbour's sorrow I shall prove myself a kindly neighbour and a pious man.

Resolved, That if I hear any evil report of my neighbour I shall always believe it. Further, I shall always repeat the report and put it in the worst light possible.

Resolved, That if my neighbour should by any means fall I shall instantly run and kick him to the best of my ability.

Resolved, That if my neighbour should be successful in anything I shall never be guilty of the weakness of congratulating him, but shall always look upon him with intense envy and jealousy. By observing these few rules for the treatment of my neighbours, I hope to get full credit for being a kindly neighbour and a good Christian.

Some resolutions for

THE ECCLESIASTICAL MAN.

Resolved, That I shall persistently refuse to see anything good in my own denomination or congregation, and shall persistently praise all other congregations and denominations.

Resolved, That I shall help on the good work in my own church and congregation by laboriously finding fault with everything, and opposing every movement in the way of progress. And more particularly that I shall earnestly help my pastor, by finding fault with everything he says and does; the elders, by sneering at them and calling them bad names; the Sabbath school, by constantly nibbling at the officers and teachers; the managers, by trying to quarrel with them about every little item of business. the choir, by saying all the mean things about them I possibly can. I further resolve to help the congregation as a whole by constantly running it down to members of other congregations. I shall in season and out of season inform every Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Congregationalist, Plymouth Brother, Quaker, Tunker and every other kind of man that the preaching is poor in my church, that the elders are miserable old fogies, that the singing is wretched, that the prayer meeting and Sabbath school are of no account; that there is no piety; in short, that everything is wrong. And I further resolve that if any tramp calling himself an evangelist shall come around this way, I shall go straight to him and unload myself of all the aforementioned particulars and as many more as I can think of. And should it be necessary, to strain the truth or even tell a falsehood in order to carry out this resolution I hope to be able to meet the emergency. By thus helping on the good work to the best of my ability, I hope soon to be recognized as a sound Presbyterian and an eminent Christian. In fact I hope to be able to persevere in the good work until my brethren elect me to some office.

Some resolutions for the

CLERICAL MAN.

Resolved, That during the whole year of 1888 I shall feel greatly elated over every word of praise that may come my way, but shall feel deeply indignant at every word of adverse criticism.

Resolved, That on every possible opportunity I shall pose as a distinguished man.

Resolved, That I shall mount every wave of popular feeling that rolls my way, and as I exhibit myself on its crest will throw stones at Archbishop Lynch, Mr. Macdonnell and other men who don't happen to be on the wave.

Resolved, That I shall heroically aim at being a leader in the Church courts and a member of every possible and impossible committee. To accomplish this most laudable object I shall speak on every question, bore every Church court, disturb every committee, worry every official and make myself a nuisance generally. By a strict observance of this resolution I hope to be a great ecclesiastical leader some day.

### HISTORICAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH TORBAY

TO BE CELEBRATED IN 1888.

The meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance has been fixed for next year, which will be the tercentenary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and the bicentenary of the Revolution by William of Orange. The interest attaching to these events extends not to Presbyterians only, but to Englishmen of all denominations who value political and religious freedom. The Protestant Alliance passed a resolution recently on the subject, and invited the sympathy and support of the public. A conference is to be called to "consider the arrangements necessary to be made for ensuring the successful celebration of these events." The year 1888, therefore, will be a memorable year, and will stir the hearts of all Protestants, for to Protestantism Great Britain owes much of her greatness. The two events are not coincident in date, for the Spanish Armada started in the height of summer, and was completely defeated before winter had set in. William did not finally leave Helvoetsluys until the 1st of November. Let me now add a few sentences regarding each of these historical events, beginning with

THE SPANISH ARMADA.

Philip's determination to attack England had been boastfully proclaimed throughout Europe two years

before. During 1586 a large fleet had been collected in the Tagus. England became alarmed. National patriotism overcame religious enmity. Urgent orders were sent to Mr. George Cary, of Cockington, to Sir John Gilbert, of Compton, and Col. Sir Edward Seymour, of Torre Abbey, all in the neighbourhood of Torquay, enjoining them to raise both men and horse with all despatch. In 1587 (April 2) Sir Francis Drake sailed from Plymouth to frustrate if possible the designs of the Spaniard. He entered Cadiz harbour on April 19, and swooping down upon the Spanish fleet with great dash and courage, he burnt, sunk or captured in the course of thirty-six hours shipping to the amount of 10,000 tons burden, and carried to England a large galleon laden with specie.

During that year England was placed in a good state of defence, and in the spring of 1588 a commission was issued giving authority to raise and equip both foot and horsemen. At last "The Most Fortunate and Invincible Armada" was ready for sea.

THE WHOLE FORCE

consisted of 132 vessels of 60,000 tons burden. Cannon of various names numbered in all 3,165 pieces. On board the vessels were 8,766 sailors, 2,088 galley slaves, and 21,855 soldiers, officers and volunteers, besides 300 monks, priests and functionaries of the Inquisition. Room was also provided for 17,000 additional soldiers to be shipped at Calais.

THE ENGLISH FLEET

of the Royal Navy consisted of thirty-four ships of the aggregate burden of 11,850 tons, which carried only 837 guns and 6,279 men. The Netherlands supplied twenty small ships. Lord Howard found the fleet under his command to consist finally of 200 sail, large and small, many of them only pinnaces; the number of men being about 16,000.

THE ARMADA

left the Tagus May 20, 1588, but tempestuous weather drove them back, inflicting injury both on them and the English squadron of observation. On July 12 the fleet again left Spain, and on the 19th sighted the Lizard Point. It was the intention of the Duke de Medina Sidonia, who had the command, to have surprised the English fleet in Plymouth Sound. This was prevented by a pilot (Fleming) crowding on all sail, and notifying Lord Howard. Warnings by beacon fires were flashed from headland to headland, and by the 20th sixty vessels stood out of the Sound, and were in Cawsand Bay when the Spaniards were passing Plymouth. As soon as they had passed, the English ships left the Bay, and followed—the *Defiance* having the honour of firing the first shot. The Spanish line getting into disorder, the English fleet hauled off to economize their ammunition. On the 23rd the Spaniards were off Portland Bill, where "the most furious and bloody skirmishing of all" took place. On the 28th the Armada was driven into Calais, and here the work of destruction commenced by the English navy was completed "by a more violent storm than was ever seen at that time of the year." Completely crippled, the Armada staggered before the storm through the North Sea, and round the Scotch and Irish Coasts, and the remnant that reached Spain consisted only of fifty-one ships out of 132, eighty-one ships and upward of 13,500 soldiers being left behind. On November 24

QUEEN ELIZABETH

went in state to St. Paul's, and offered thanksgiving for the great national deliverance. On the same day public thanks were offered in every church in the land for the "wonderful overthrow and destruction showered by His mighty hand on our malicious enemies the Spaniards, who had thought to invade and make a conquest of the realm."

REVOLUTION OF 1688.

James II. had alienated the good-will of all his subjects by his attempts to subvert the Reformed Faith, and by many acts of oppression. To prevent their being brought under the power of the Roman Court, the Protestants invoked the aid of William, Prince of Orange, and offered him the Crown. William put to sea on October 19, 1688, in a frigate of thirty guns, accompanied by fifty ships of war, twenty-five frigates, as many fire-ships with nearly 400 victuallers, and other vessels for the transport of about 4,000 horses and 10,000 soldiers. The vessel carrying the Prince bore English colours, surrounded by the legend, "The Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of England,"