

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

DEMORALIZING THE INDIANS.

The liquor traffic in British Columbia is demoralizing the Indians. There is a Dominion statute which makes it a serious offence to sell or give liquor to an Indian, but the dealers in British Columbia apparently disregard the law and sell to the red man irrespective of any restrictions under which they are placed.

Numberless instances might be cited of the fearful effects which this atrocious trade in fire water is having upon the Indians in our midst. The protracted carousal, the nightly brawl, in which both sexes take part, the violent or lingering and painful death, the police court, the gaol, and the galows, are only different chapters in the sad and shameful tale of Indian debauchery and destruction which are all too apparent to the most casual observer as the direct result of the traffic in the vilest of intoxicating liquors which is carried on with these unfortunate people in defiance of the law.

This is a deplorable state of affairs, and calls for immediate action on the part of the Government to stamp out this illicit traffic with an uneducated and only partially civilized race, who appear to live in harmony with the white man till crazed by the influence of whiskey.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATION.

Is eternity worth thinking about? To judge from the public policy of British Columbia it would almost seem not. A free education is given to our children, and every care taken to make them proficient in Reading, Writing and Reckoning (especially reckoning) to fit them to make their way in the world; but does it not seem that there is a great want of proportion in such education when the least religious instruction to prepare them for eternity is strictly forbidden in the Public Schools? Theoretically religion is left to the care of parents and Sunday schools: but practically few parents are competent or able to undertake the duty, and the short weekly hour on Sunday afternoon, capped by irregular attendance is utterly inadequate.

the matter. We dread to think of the future if this condition of things is to last. A distinguished statesman has said "You must not only listen, but read you must not only read but think; knowledge without common sense is folly, without method is waste, without charity is fanaticism. without religion it is death!" We believe every word of this is true.—Churchman's Gazette.

The physician in a community where an epidemic is prevailing does not say in his office and issue a common prescription for all the sick, but visits each one that he may know how far the disease has progressed, the peculiar constitution of the patient, and be able to form an estimate of the treatment to be followed in the case. Unless the pastor becomes acquainted with his people and is able to sympathize with their trials, weakness and surroundings, it is impossible for him in his prayers and preaching to be the means of alleviating their sorrows, restraining their waywardness, encouraging them in growing in grace, and stimulating them to activity in the service of the Lord.

I have told a jocosse story, now for a pretty, albeit serious one. Some one complained to St. Francis de Sales that he was discouraged from reading the Scripture, because he could not retain anything on his memory. "Take that earthen pitcher," said the saint, "and go and fill it with water." The man did it. "Now empty it out and wipe it clean," was the next direction. This was done. "Now," said St. Francis, "although there is none of the water left, the pitcher is cleaner, and even if thy memory retain nothing of the Word thou readeest, yet thy heart is cleaner for its very passage through."

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