

**TEMPERANCE.**

THE English Customs report just issued states that the taste for rum has diminished greatly since 1875, when its consumption reached its highest point. In that year 5,386,000 gallons were taken for home consumption, when the population numbered 32,740,000; in 1892, when the population was 38,109,000, the quantity was 4,268,000 gallons, or a decline of 20 per cent. in the consumption against an increase of 16 per cent. in the population. There was, however, an impetus to the rum trade in the years 1889 and 1890, and this was still manifested last year, when the consumption exceeded that of 1883 by 407,000 gallons. The net Imperial revenue derived from brandy shows a fall of £89,615, which has neutralized the substantial advances of £77,783 made in India in 1891-92, and £14,784 made in 1890-91. This result, the Commissioners think, is probably attributable to the condition of trade. The consumption of tea, coffee and cocoa have slightly decreased. There is only a slight check to the receipts from tea, but those from coffee show a considerable and continuous decline, while for the first time for many years there has been a check in the progress of cocoa and chocolate. This decline is all the more remarkable when we consider the many increased facilities that have been afforded for obtaining these beverages.

EVEN those who oppose the new temperance legislation in South Carolina as a violation of the property rights of the liquor dealer, acknowledge that the system has caused a marked decrease in drunkenness. The Mayor of Aiken testifies that the police have not made an arrest for drunkenness since July 1st. In Greenville, the third largest city in South Carolina, the labors of the police have notably decreased; the negroes especially go home earlier, and sales at the groceries to this part of the population have enlarged. Public peace and order have been manifestly improved under the new regime, which, by the Supreme Court, has been decided to be constitutional.

Canon Frusset tells of a Durham pitman that being found reading the Litany, he was asked why he loved the Prayer-Book. He answered, "One sentence in this book, if there were no other, would of itself be sufficient to save the world. It is this: 'O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God, have mercy upon us miserable sinners.' Oh! sir, what have I experienced in these words! I have felt the sweet drawings of a Father's love, the cleansing power of a Saviour's blood, and the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit's grace; and I have felt my whole soul entwined, as it were, in the sacred Three." Some Christians object to call themselves "mis-

erable sinners," or to confess that "the burden of their sins is intolerable." I admit that we need to walk very close with God to use these words honestly.

**REASONING POWER OF ANTS.**

One morning a gentleman of many scientific attainments sat quietly and alone at his breakfast. Presently he noticed that some large black ants were making free with the contents of the sugar bowl. He drove them away, but they soon returned, seemingly unwilling to leave their sweetened feast. Again they were dispersed, only to return in increased numbers. There was a lamp hook directly above the center of the table, and to try their ingenuity the gentleman suspended the sugar bowl to a hook with the cord, allowing it to swing clear of the table about an inch. First the sagacious little creatures tried to reach it by standing on each other's backs. After repeated efforts, all of which were failures, they went away, and it was supposed that they had given up in despair. Within a surprisingly short time, however, they were seen descending the cord by dozens and dropping themselves into the sugar bowl. They had scaled the wall, traversed the ceiling, and discovered another road to the treasure.

WHEN is an evil habit really overcome? It is difficult to answer. Days and months may pass without a lapse, and then suddenly the desire is kindled, and the evil spirit returns with all its terrible power. No man is ever absolutely safe. As long as life lasts he must be on his guard, ever watchful, lest the adversary gain an advantage over him.

A LITTLE Swedish girl was walking with her father one night under the starry sky, intently meditating on the glories of heaven. At last, looking up to the sky, she said: "Father, I have been thinking that if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be?"

I HAVE lived to see every one of my most cherished hopes one after another disappointed, and to see that it was better so.—*Alexander Mackay, of Uganda.*

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