

appointed. We are not going to refer to party politics. But we must say that many things have occurred to disappoint us, and fill us with apprehension for the future. There have been charges of corruption and bribery at many of the recent elections, charges so broadly made that we fear they must be regarded in many cases as undeniably true. We deeply regret that these things should be. They show a great want of moral soundness in all who are concerned in them,—alike in those who use such means to obtain a position, and in those who are capable of being influenced by such means. We lift our testimony against such practices. We trust we shall never hear so much about them for the future, but that they will be frowned down by all honorable men of every party.

Now that our representatives have been chosen, they will do well to bear in mind that they will stand in a more prominent arena than they ever did before. We hope they will be more than formerly under the influence of a sound, healthy, public opinion. We have heard of things, on the part of some of our leading men, even in the halls of our legislature, fitted not merely to grieve the hearts of christians, but to humble any right thinking man. We observe that some of the newspapers have referred to those things, declaring that there must be an end of such scenes, and that intemperance can have no place in the halls of legislation. We trust that it will be so, and that our rulers will realize the responsibility of their position, and regulate their conduct accordingly.

We trust that the blessing of God will be upon us as a people. Without His favor and blessing, nothing can be good or successful, or really prosperous. Let us pray for our rulers, that they may be directed and guided by Him ; and that our future course as a people may be marked by a higher regard for His word, and a higher appreciation of His favor. "Happy is he people whose God is the Lord."

UNCONTROLLABLE DRUNKENNESS.

ITS CAUSES AND CURE.

The sad extent to which intemperance is prevalent, the deplorable effects to which it leads, and the necessity of doing something for the rescue of those who are held in bondage by this vice—these are subjects which force themselves on the attention of many, who have not themselves been total abstainers from the use of intoxicating drinks. An eminent physician, Dr. Forbes Winslow, of London, has written on the subject of "Uncontrollable Drunkenness." He urges the establishment of Sanatoria, or asylums for inebriates, and gives much valuable information on the treatment and prevention of this form of insanity. This subject—the establishment of asylums for the intemperate—has been too long in receiving the attention which it merits. While, in the case of a man who, in the providence of God, is bereft of reason, the law steps in and shields his family, and provides for the management of his property, the drunkard is allowed to squander his property, to ruin his family, and reduce them to beggary. Yet we are sure that many a drunkard would gladly seek the protection of an asylum, and would submit even to a degree of restraint, in order to escape from the intolerable bondage which he is held. We are glad to learn that now the law of the province provides for the establishment of such asylums, and for sending to them those who waste their time at the tavern, and are ruining themselves and families by their intemperance. We trust that the law will not be allowed to remain a dead letter, but that it will be taken advantage of without delay.

Dr. Winalow assigns several causes which may lead to the development of uncontrollable drunkenness. They are the following :—

1. *Hereditary causes.*—“Among the remote causes of dipsomania, I have to consider its hereditary character. Like scrofula, consumption, gout, leprosy, and certain diseases of the brain and skin, the disposition to drink intoxicating liquors to excess is often transmitted from drunken parents to their children. It is a law of vital physiology that ‘like begets like.’ ‘It is remarkable,’ observes Dr. Darwin, ‘that all the diseases that spring from drinking intoxicating liquors are liable to become hereditary even to the third generation, gradually increasing, if the cause be continued, till the family becomes extinct.’ There are, of course, many exceptions to this rule ; but of its general accuracy there can be no doubt. It is now also an established fact that alcohol does not become assimilated in its passage through the body, but passes in its pure state out by the excretions, &c., consequently in the case of mothers using porter, ale, wine, &c., the alcohol is conveyed through their milk to their infant babe, and thus often before the child leaves the mother’s breast the craving for drink is formed, and the mother has laid the seeds of its future drunkenness or insanity !”

2. *The practice of giving wine, &c., to children.*—“It is not easy, in many cases, to discover with exactness the *fons et origo* of this malady. The injurious habit of tippling may be traced to a variety of causes. It often originates in early life, even during the days of childhood. The pernicious practice of permitting or encouraging young children to ‘sip a little wine’ out of their father’s and mother’s glass during the hours of dinner is a mistaken act of kindness, and cannot be too highly condemned. The author of a tract on wine and spirits, published many years ago, says ‘A late ingenious surgeon, occupied for a great part of his life in experiments equally well conceived and accurately executed, gave to one of his children a full glass of sherry every day after dinner for a week. To another child nearly the same age, and in dissimilar circumstances, he gave a large China orange for the same space of time. At the end of the week he found a very material difference in the pulse, the heat of the body, and the natural secretions of the children. In the first the pulse was quickened, the heat increased, the renal secretion was highly coloured, and the evacuations were destitute of bile ; whilst the second had every appearance of good health. He then reversed the experiment—to the first mentioned child he gave the orange and to the other the wine. The effects followed as before—a striking and demonstrative proof of the pernicious effects of vinous liquors on the constitution of children in full health.’ From all which it follows that it is bad morally and physically to train children to use these drinks. But how will you train them to abstain, if you don’t abstain yourself ? ‘Precept teacheth, but example draweth.’ The little boy’s remark, when his father refused him the whiskey punch out of his tumbler on the ground that it would be bad for him, has more sound sense in it than perhaps at first appears—‘If it be good for father,’ said he, ‘it is good for me.’”

3. *The Effect of Music and Bacchanalian Songs.*—“I firmly believe that the chronic habit of intoxication has often owed its origin to the powerful influence which certain Anacreontic drinking-songs have exercised over the minds of weak persons, who, unfortunately, are too prone, if associating with ‘good company,’ and ‘jolly fellows,’ to indulge in vinous excesses. A sagacious politician remarked—‘Let me write ‘the songs of a nation, and you may make its laws ;’ and I would add, compose me exciting music, not ‘married to immortal verse,’ but allied to bacchanalian songs, and I will undertake to keep actively alive the propensity

for alcoholic drinks, and increase to a marked degree the statistics of drinking.' From which it appears that we should make music do service in a nobler cause. The passion for it is great. It proverbially has 'charms to soothe the savage breast.' And it is a pity that many good people have a sort of horror of it, and so hand it over, with all its loveliness and power, to the evil ones of the earth to do things that are not convenient. When shall we arrive at the sound sense of John Wesley, who, when some sanctimonious people were objecting to his selection of tunes, said—'We musn't let the Devil get all the good music.'"

4. *A State of Ill-Health*.—"In adults, gastric irritation, nervous exhaustion, lowness of spirits, associated with sensations of intolerable *malaise*, are often the first incentives to alcoholic drinking. A great proportion of persons who indulge in excess in stimulants allege that they suffer from an indescribably painful feeling of languor and corporeal illness which alcohol alone is found to alleviate or remove. This feeling is said to be intolerable to those who, like the English opium-eater, hanker too much after a state of happiness, or who cannot face misery with sufficient firmness. Amongst the causes of these sensations may be mentioned those nervous affections which more particularly have their seat in that part of the nervous system which is the seat of the feeling of well-being, and which, ministering to the functions of viscera in important relation to life, involve, therefore, the instincts of life and well-being. Certain diseases of the heart, impeding its functional activity or rendering its actions painful, induce this depressed condition. Morbid states of the stomach and bowels, either inflammatory or irritative, in which digestion is accompanied by pain and a distressing sensation of weakness, are amongst the most frequent causes of habitual drunkenness and opium eating." Poor Hartley Coleridge, who was himself a victim to this vice, describes this well in the following lines:—

Sometimes, as if with mocking guile,
The pain departs a little while,
Then I can dance, and sing, and smile
With merry glee.

But soon—too soon—it comes again,
The sulky, stifling, leaden pain,
As a black cloud is big with rain,
Is big with woe.

All I ask is but to know
The depth and nature of the woe ;
I hope not for a wind to blow
The cloud away.

I hear an inarticulate sound
Wherein no fixed sense is found,
But sorrow, sorrow without bound
Of when or where.

This morbid state of depression is most commonly found amongst literary men, and those who are principally employed in mental labour ; consequently, we see the awful hazard they run when they have recourse to wine, or porter, or brandy, to alleviate their pain. It appears to do them present good, but at an ultimate cost that is fearful to contemplate. And these things being so, we will not be at all surprised to find Dr. Winslow tracing drunkenness and insanity very often to

5. *Medicinal Drinking.*—"I speak advisedly when I say that many sad cases of the worst type of incurable intemperance, particularly among women in the upper ranks of life, may be clearly traced to the highly injudicious way in which various kinds of stimuli have been indiscriminately exhibited medicinally—no doubt with the best intentions—to patients suffering from diseases associated with diminished vital force and nervous energy."

The *Evangelical Witness*, of Belfast, from which we have quoted the above paragraphs from Dr. Winslow, adds :—

We hope Dr. Winslow's suggestions will be attended to. We hope that the philanthropists of our country will take into their consideration the lamentable state of the thousands of our land, who are reduced by this vice to the borders of ruin, and that they will, either by private means or Government aid, seek for the erection of sanatoria where these miserable creatures may be taken care of, and, if God will, restored to their right mind.

But we hope still farther that they will see that worthy an object as is the cure of this malady, the prevention of it is one still more worthy. And how is that prevention to be effected? The plan is simple. It is to do at the beginning what you do at the end. It is, do with all men what you do with that poor drunkard when you want to save him. *It is not to use in any shape or form alcoholic liquor—this dangerous and deadly enemy of our race.* No other remedy ever has been effectual but this. And were this done, then, even if you had sanatoria erected, you might close them, and, along with them, a large number of our jails, almshouses, workhouses, and lunatic asylums. Dr. Forbes Winslow is not a total abstainer—at least we do not know that he is—but there is no book we ever have read that preaches total abstinence more powerfully than this book of his "On Uncontrollable Drunkenness." "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Missionary Intelligence.

THE SASKATCHEWAN MISSION.

We are in receipt of a letter from Rev. J. Nesbit, latest date 22nd July. The communication refers almost entirely to business matters. He refers to the arrival of Mr. Adam McBeath as school teacher. The school is succeeding admirably. Already they have a larger number of paying pupils promised them will cover the expenses. The school appears already to have commended itself to the approval of the chief officers of the H. B. Company; and all who have visited the mission are astonished at the progress made in such a short time and with so little outlay. Ten acres are under crop, and on equal amount broken up and ready for crop. The missionary laborers are gaining an influence over the Indians, and in the meantime, every thing is in a hopeful state. The families connected with the mission are comfortable, although Mrs. Nesbit and Mrs. McKay have not been very strong, having suffered from over-exertion. Mr. Nesbit, in the conclusion of his letter, says :—"Mr. C. Clarke, who is now in charge here, tells me that our mission is spoken of in the Council of the H. B. Company in the highest terms of praise. I trust, however, we shall ever seek something higher than the praise of man."