TEMPERANCE NOTES

OLD SOLOMON.

Story of How a Little Girl Saved Him from Ruin in the Village Ale House.

Just as the church bell struck eight o'clock old Solomon Fane, the cobbler, emerged from his little cottage and proceeded in the direction of the village ale house. Solomon had been in the habit of starting on this same journey at precisely the same hour every evening for the last five years or so. Drink had become all in all to the old man since the death of his little daughter Winnie. Already a widower, he then had no home ties of any kind, and it was to forget his misery, so he said, that he had taken to frequenting the "Green Man." Not that you would have thought his visits there really had made him forget his misery, had you seen him this evening; for, indeed, his face wore a worn and downcast look, such as you may often have observed in those who in their heart of hearts conceal a bitter sorrow.

When he had come to the "Green Man" the old cobbler paused and looked at the place doubtfully. He invariably looked at it in this way before entering, somehow, and it is possible that for a moment he was in a state of indecision as to whether he should go in or no, although he always ended by stealing furtively in. He was just on the point of doing so on the present occasion when all of a sudden a little hand was slipped into his and a reproving voice murmured:

"Are you going in there?"

Old Solomon started and looked round abruptly. He beheld before him a winsome little maiden of about six summers, who was so wonderfully like his own little daughter, whom he

ARE YOU GOING IN THERE?

had lost five years ago, that for a moment the resemblance fairly staggered him and he could only just stare at her without saying a word.

"You were going in there," said the child, after a pause, severely. "I'm ashamed of you, I'm sure."

"Why—why should you be ashamed o' me, child?" stammered Solomon, when he had somewhat recovered from his surprise.

"Drinking's bad for people," replied the little stranger, with a grave shake of the head. "My father would never go in there, old man."

"Ah," said Solomon, rather bitterly, "maybe your father is one of them men as has a comfortable home to sit in of an evening, with plenty o' relations around to keep them company. When a man has that he don't feel so much inclined to spend his time in places like the 'Green Man,' my dear."

"Well, father does have an awful nice time when he comes home, of course," she admitted, in a thoughtful tone, "'cos he plays with Freddie and me mostly; only to-night he couldn't. But haven't you got anyone to play with when you've left off working?"

"Can't say as I have, my dear."

She glanced at him wonderingly. "Haven't you got any wife, or any children, or any friends?"

"No, I ain't got no wife, no children, no friends."

"Oh, I see, you're one of those old bachelors?"

"No, I'm not that, either," said Solomon, with a suspicion of huskiness in his voice. "I had a gal once, just like you, but now she's dead, and—" Then, as if ashamed of his emotion, he suddenly turned his back upon her and made as though he would push open the ale house door.

"But—I say!" she cried, trying to detain him.

"Well?"—with a grunt.

"I 'spect if your little girl was alive now you wouldn't ever go into public houses?"

"I expect I wouldn't; I expect I wouldn't want the drink at all then."

"And—and p'raps even if now you had somebody else to play with you every evening you wouldn't, either?"

"That all depends."

For a minute or two she seemed buried in deep thought. Her little mouth was twitching rather queerly. It was evident that some sort of a struggle was going on in her mind. At length she gave an excited little jump.

"Yes, that's just what I will do!" she cried, triumphantly. "Old man, how would you like me to come and keep you company every evening? I'm sure father will be only too glad to let me when I tell him all about it. Then we could have the most splendid fun, you can't think. We'd go into Springfield lane and gather flowers and do all sorts of things. You might just' tend I was your own little daughter, you know, and then, of course, you'd never want to go into horrid public houses again. We might begin to-night. Shall we?"

She paused and anxiously awaited his answer.

As for Solomon, as he looked at her it seemed to him as though he beheld his own little daughter again, and that it was she who was pleading so earnestly with him to give up the drink, which he felt sure was doing him no good.

"Shall we?" asked the child once more.

His only answer was to grasp her hand and hobble off in the direction of Springfield lane.

Solomon Fane has not been inside the "Green Man" since that night; in fact, he is now a stanch teetotaler. He may be seen any evening sitting at his cottage door and talking with an air of placid enjoyment to a little girl who sits at his side.—National Advocate.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

The Appalling Results of the Liquor Traffic in This Country Graphically Set Forth.

The following statements, doubtless free from exaggerations, are surprising, appalling. I give them to the readers of The Cumberland Presbyterian just as they occur in a responsible journal. How great the wicked, cruel, defiant foe all the lovers of human well-being are called to fight.—Rev. A. B. Miller.

One million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars are spent each year in this country of ours for alcoholic drink, which means that this vast sum is worse than wasted. It does no one any good; it does harm to a million or more of our people, for it makes 700,000 drunkards, and sends 70,000 of them to untimely graves, besides educating 2,000,000 moderate drinkers to follow in their footsteps.

Six hundred dollars a year is the estimated value of the labor of an average laborer. He is not half a man; but allowing that he is so, the loss to the country by his patronage of the saloon is $300, and multiplied by 700,000 this equals the sum of $210,000,000. This vast sum, being for the most part sunk, is a serious loss to the worthy industries of the country. It is a great loss to the farmer, because the money ought to go for bread and meat, potatoes, fruit, butter, eggs and other of the products of the farm. Not quite all the amount should go to the farmer, but much the larger share of it rightfully belongs to him.

It may be said that the drunkard's family is fed in spite of the money wasted at the saloon, and therefore the farmer does not suffer on account of it. But the truth is that the drunkard's family is so poorly fed that they are often on the verge of starvation, and in very many cases have not a tithe of the food they would buy if they had the means.

Careful estimates show that the amount wasted for drink added to the sum lost by damages, court and criminal expenses, time and labor unemployed as a result of drink, reaches the enormous total of $2,000,000,000 yearly, most of which is taken from the worthy industries of the country, chief of which is farming. Could the great saloon maelstrom be closed many hundreds of millions, now worse than wasted, would be poured into the farmers' pockets for food and clothing. The home demand would be stimulated and prices would materially improve.

It may be thought that the grain required for manufacturing liquors forms a considerable part of the farmers' sales, but this is a mistake. The cost of the grain for making the one and a quarter billion dollars' worth of liquor is only about $80,000, or a little over 15 per cent. of the amount wasted.

The revenue to the government from liquor is often referred to as a matter of vast importance, but the amount, which is $183,000,000 a year, is insignificant as compared with the $2,000,000,000 wasted and lost on account of the business—less than ten per cent.

Do away with the liquor traffic and there would be in this country 500,000 more men, representing 200,500,000 persons, as consumers of farmers' products; for there would be that number more required to manufacture useful articles. If the $1,250,000,000 now spent for liquors were expended in proper ways, and $650,000,000 would be required for the materials on which these half-million men would labor; and these materials would be largely furnished by the farmers, what an enormous stimulus this would give to agricultural industry in all its branches.

We have a total of more than 80,000 paupers, which would be reduced at least one-half by temperance, which would mean a saving of not less than $5,000,000 a year in cost of their maintenance.

According to different authorities, from 50 to 75 per cent. of our insane and imbecile people have become such directly or indirectly through drink. We have more than 265,000 of these to care for. If one-half the number were saved from their sad fate by prohibition the enormous sum of $18,000,000 yearly would be saved in their maintenance.

We keep from 80,000 to 99,000 criminals on the average in our jails and prisons. No one would estimate their cost to the state or country at less than $100 a year each, notwithstanding the value of the labor of some of the convicts. This means about $85,000,000 yearly for this item. With prohibition at least three-fourths of this amount, or $63,750,000 would be saved. But this is a very low estimate. The real cost of our places of penal punishment alone is not less that $400,000,000.

No person in Norway may spend more than six cents at one visit to a drinking place.

Making Up Her Mind for Her.

Mr. Househunter (to house agent)—Mrs. Househunter will be in to-day and I want you to tell her that the house we've been looking at is taken.

Agent—Why—er—but it isn't.

Mr. Househunter—Well, it will be, for I'm taking it now. My wife can't make up her mind, but she'd want it as soon as she thinks she can't have it.—Stray Stories.

After a Contrary Experience.

Tommy—Pa, what's a gem of purest ray serene?

Fond Father—A woman, my son, who can thoroughly enjoy a ball at which every woman except hers wears diamonds.—Jewelers' Weekly.

Couldn't Stand the Strain.

Anxious Husband—Doctor, my wife is frightfully nervous. These Italian grinders in the street drive her crazy. What do you suppose is the matter?

Doctor—Evidently organic.—N. Y. World.

FLOWERS FOR THE HOME.

Lilies in the House.—Do not keep these plants in a high temperature if you want them to give you fine flowers. Too much heat hurries them along too rapidly. A temperature of 65 degrees is much better for them than a higher one.

Yellow Oxalis.—The variety of oxalis sent out under the name of buttercup is a good sort for a winter hanging basket. Its flowers are large, plentifully produced and of a rich yellow. Many prefer this variety to O. rosea, the old pink kind.

Blue Flowers.—One of the best blue flowers I know of for house culture is plumbago capensis. This is a free, almost constant bloomer, and is easily cared for. Browallia is another easily grown plant, with blossoms of a bright, clear blue. There are few really good blue flowers adapted to house culture.

Violets in the House.—The violet is not adapted to house culture. The air of the living room is too dry and warm for it. In a short time the red spider will attack it, and every bud, if any appear, will blast. It is a plant that needs a cool, moist air, and unless it can be given this it is not worth while to attempt its cultivation.

Vineson New Houses.—A correspondent sends a clipping from a paper in which the statement is made that it is an easy matter to make a new house look as if vines were growing over it, from the ground, by fastening boxes here and there over its front in which trailing and climbing plants are to be grown. In my opinion, it is impossible so to dispose boxes of plants over the walls of a house as to bring about the effect described.—Ladies' Home Journal.

OF FOREIGN INTEREST.

The famous Gardens of Versailles have cost £8,000,000.

The French government is perfecting arrangements for the transportation by rail of torpedo boats of small size in the event of war.

It has been estimated that the jubilee at Rome will draw between 7,000,000 and 10,000,000 pilgrims to the Eternal City during the coming year.

Russia has discouraged the introduction and use of typewriters, on the ground that they would facilitate Nihilistic communications, but the needs of commerce and business have become so urgent that it is now disposed to admit them.

Some of the Parisian journals are excited over the prospect that street cars will soon be operated upon the principal boulevards of the French capital. They say that the beauty of the city will be ruined, and that if Paris loses its beauty its fame will speedily decline.

The Philatelic Journal of India tells of a European resident of Cabul, Afghanistan, who casually mentioned to the emir that his letters were not regularly delivered. The emir said nothing, but caused the director general of the posts to be summoned and both his eyes put out. After this little incident there was no further irregularity in the mail service to be complained of.

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE.

There are cases where it is best not to be too wise.—Euripides.

A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.—Ouida.

Only he who lives a life of his own can help the lives of other men.—Phillips Brooks.

Give me health and a day and I will make ridiculous the pomp of emperors.—Emerson.

Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other, and scarcely in that.—Franklin.

Character consists in a man steadily pursuing the things of which he feels himself capable.—Goethe.

Man's work in life is to turn himself from the raw product into a piece of art.—Richard Whiteing.

No man can be provident of his time who is not prudent in the choice of his company.—Jeremy Taylor.

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much of it as to be out of danger?—Huxley.

It is the peculiar faculty of fools to discern the faults of others at the same time they forget their own.—Cicero.

GREEN ROOM GOSSIP.

David Henderson made a failure of his Havana theater. The house is now closed.

Robert B. Mantell made his stage debut as the Sergeant in "Arrah-na-Pogue," in England, in 1872.

The gipsy violinist, Rigo, of Princess de Chimay fame, has gone on the vaudeville stage in Paris, and is said to have arranged for London and New York.

The first English opera of which there is any record was "Dido and Aeneas," produced in London and at Chelsea, England, in 1679.

Zangwill is evidently not worried over the failure of his "Children of the Ghetto" in London. When a friend condoled with him about the company coming back to this country, he replied it was not a loss.

MARVELOUS MEMORIES.

S. S. Prentiss could repeat many of Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies.

Lord Macauley could have restored "Paradise Lost" had something occurred to destroy every copy of it.

John G. Carlisle can dictate a speech of 10,000 words, read it over once and repeat it word for word a month later.

Mr. Beveridge spoke from Roscoe Conkling's desk, and there is nothing in common between the two except a trick of memory.

Lamar could repeat a speech of 10,000 words without a halt. Sumner was even more gifted in this respect, and so is Carl Schurz.

His Truthful Statement.

"You told me," she said, tearfully, "that I was the only girl you ever loved."

"It's true," he asserted.

"But I have just learned that you were once engaged to Maud Muggins."

"Well," he replied, "I never told you that you were the only girl I ever thought I loved, did I?"—Chicago Post.

Without a Peer.

Jasper—Bighead is a stupid fellow, isn't he?

Jumpuppe—Stupid! Why, he isn't original enough to get off a chestnut.—Town Topics.

Her Comforting Reminder.

"Gradually the mementoes of the noble red man are disappearing," he exclaimed, with pathos. "Soon there will be no trace or memento of the Indian left."

"Cheer up, Charley, dear," answered young Mrs. Torkins. "We will always have the state of Indiana, you know."—Washington Star.

She Probably Did.

Hewitt—Girls like to make a fellow think they have known a good many fellows and have had a lot of attention from them.

Jewett—Right you are. I suppose that when Adam first kissed Eve she said: "You men are all alike."—N. Y. World.

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