

SERMONS OF THE DAY.

RELIGIOUS TOPICS DISCUSSED BY PROMINENT AMERICAN MINISTERS.

"Stirring Folks Up"—Fourteenth Sermon in the New York Herald's Competitive Series is by a Pennsylvania Minister—Dr. Talmage on Ordinary People.

"Abah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."—I. Kings, xxi., 25.

A large part of the evil and a larger part of the good in the world would never be done but for the doers being stirred up to it.

Life is much like the sea; there seems always some wind to smite the surface or some stealthy undercurrent to send its restlessness up from the depths.

The lesson is many-sided; if fully considered it covers the whole complex question of life's relationships.

We find ourselves pressed by life's impulses or irritations. Its attractions and repulsions find ready allies in our inclinations, and often we fall because we underestimate the opposing forces.

We are ready to condemn Jezebel for having stirred up Ahab to evil, but we often lose sight of how Ahab influenced Jezebel. His negative weakness provoked her positive badness.

Ahab wanted a piece of ground that was near the royal palace. It was the property of Naboth, who, with true ancestral reverence, refused to part with it.

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ABLES, AND BUILDING THRONES FOR MAGNETES, AND SCULPTURING WARRIORS, AND APOTHEOSIZING PHILANTHROPISTS.

THE DRINK EVIL MADE MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS.

How the Nations Drink—A Report Showing the Amount of Alcoholic Drinks Produced and Consumed in Europe and the United States—Germany Ahead.

A very interesting report, says the Atlanta Journal, has been submitted by the British Board of Trade to the House of Commons showing the production and consumption of wine, beer and spirits in the various countries of Europe and in the United States.

The statistics thus supplied cover the period from 1885 to 1896, inclusive. The most interesting part of the report is that which refers to the comparative consumption of alcoholic drinks in Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States.

In France, where the production of wine is the largest, the consumption in the United States is 21.3 gallons per head in 1885 to 29.5 gallons in 1896, and has since probably undergone no decline.

In Germany the consumption of wine is 1.06 gallons per head; in the United Kingdom it is 1.06 gallons per head in 1885, 2.2 per head—a slight decrease in both countries since 1885.

The whole of the wine consumed in the United Kingdom is imported, and of the consumption in the United States 78 per cent. is produced at home.

But in beer, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States make up for their small consumption of wine. Germany, the greatest beer producing country, consumes 25 gallons per head in 1885, and in 1896, against 19.8 gallons in 1885.

The United Kingdom, next in production, consumes 30.7 gallons per head—a small increase—and the United States, third in production, consumes 12.7 gallons per head of population, against 18.2 gallons in 1885.

An increase of nearly 50 per cent. per head. With all the wine drinking of the French, they manage to consume 5 gallons of beer per head besides. But Belgium has a beer consumption of more than 30 gallons per head; and Bavaria makes up for smaller portions of the German Empire with a per head consumption of 50 gallons.

Germany leads all the great nations in the consumption of spirituous drinks, the total quantity amounting to 70,740,000 gallons, or 1.94 gallons per head of the population—a small decline since 1890. France has a consumption of 70,180,000, or 1.85 gallons per head.

The United Kingdom has a consumption of 46,076,000 gallons, or 1.01 per head, and the consumption in the United States is 59,186,000 gallons, or .83 of a gallon per head.

For the United States, as well as for all other countries in this report, the measure is in imperial gallons, five of which equal six of our gallons.

In Belgium, where the consumption of spirits is greater than in any other country, and Holland comes next. The statement of the revenues which the various countries receive from the trade in spirits is also interesting.

In Great Britain the net revenue in 1896 was \$440,820,000, and of this \$159,055,000, or 25 per cent., was in duties and internal taxes on liquors.

Of this tax 17 per cent. only was in duties on imports, and the balance on the excise. In the United States in 1896 was \$233,308,139, and the internal revenues and customs from liquors amounted to \$120,307,984, or upward of 37 per cent. of the whole.

The Dingley tariff will make little change in this fiscal relation. In France the revenues from liquors amount to \$103,400,000, or 19 per cent. of the entire government income.

Consumers in Paris and in other cities are subjected to a tax on the consumption of spirits. In Germany the revenues from alcoholic products is \$57,969,040, or only 17 1/2 per cent. of the total income.

It will be noticed that the United States pays a larger part of its revenue from the liquor traffic than any other nation.

Drinkers Under the Ban. A significant indication of the intolerance employers are now evidencing to drunken employees is shown in the headlines of an advertisement for the care of colic.

"No drunkards here!" is the advertisement. The advertisement then goes on to say that the institution will cure such as "And the door of employment closed against them" as drunkards.

Even army officers now find themselves debarred from promotion by drunkenness. It was only a few months ago that every railroad employe was a drinking man, but it is not now so.

He can not hold his place on many railroads and be seen in a saloon. May it indeed become a bar to position, to decent society, and to all places of responsibility, or confidence to be known as a drinking man.

The man who drinks is a menace to society and to public safety as well as to himself. It is no longer a question of personal rights. It is a question of public welfare.

Mr. Dewey, in an address at the anniversary of the New York Railroad Association, said:

The railroads twenty-two years ago were not well organized; then there were 15,000 men in the employ of the roads, and now there are 30,000. It is a fact that twenty-two years ago twenty per cent. of the force was discharged within a given time for drunkenness.

In those days the railroad was always very much in evidence along our lines and at our terminals. So long as the men were in the employ, they were a disgrace to the industry.

When Orsini was staying at Stella Hall, England, with Mr. Joseph Cowen, he complained of headaches. Going to his bedroom, they asked him what he did about the gas before he retired.

Orsini said, "I blew it out." Dear readers, moral sanction without legal sanction is not enough. If we want to save the children we must turn off the tap.—National Temperance Advocate.

Tearing Down and Building Up. Two men had a sharp discussion. One was an abstainer; the other was not. Said the latter: "Depend upon it, there is nothing like beer. Why, when I get home at night, and have drunk a quart or two, I feel as if I could knock a house down."

"Ah," replied the other quietly, "but since I have been a teetotaler, I have put two houses up, and that suits me better."

Commendable. Most commendable is the decision of the Century Wheelmen's Club, of Philadelphia, by an almost unanimous vote, not to permit the sale of liquor at either its town or its country club house.

This club, said to be the largest single social organization of bicyclists in the country, sends no twenty-five cent invitation to any one who is not a member, and at the same time widely advertises the fact that bicycling is a strong deterrent to drinking intoxicants.

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A Total Disability Claim of \$1,650 Paid to a Man who was Afterward Cured.

The Monitor, a newspaper published at Meaford, Ont., Canada, first discovered this case two years ago, and published it at length, which now seems, owing to the cure of it, to be a miracle.

The facts were so remarkable that many people doubted the truth of them. They said: "It is too remarkable; it cannot possibly be true; the paper is mistaken, and the man, although he may think himself cured, will soon relapse into his former condition," etc., etc.

This extended, followed by pricking sensations, until at last the blood began to course freely, naturally and vigorously through his body, and the helplessness gave way to returning strength, the ability to walk returned, and he was restored to his old time health.

The above is the substance of the first article published by the Monitor. Now follow some clippings, taken from the same paper two years afterward, and there is not the slightest shadow of a doubt, in view of the testimony, that Mr. Petch's cure is permanent.

On being again questioned, Mr. Petch said: "You see those hands—the skin is now natural and elastic. Once they were hard and without sensation. You could pierce them with a pin and I would not feel it, and what is true of my hands is true of the rest of my body. Perhaps you have observed that I have now even ceased to use a cane, and can get about my business perfectly well. You may say there is absolutely no doubt as to my cure being permanent."

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The accuracy of its report called in question, the Monitor determined to find out definitely whether the facts were as stated and whether the man would really stay cured. They accordingly kept a close watch on the case for two years after the first article appeared, and have just now published another article about it in which the original

wide to take solid food. The doctors called the disease spinal sclerosis, and all said he could not live.

For three years, he lingered in this condition. Then by some friends he was advised to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. He took them and there was a slight change. The first thing noted was a tendency to sweat freely. This showed there was some life left in his helpless body.

Next came a little feeling in his limbs. This extended, followed by pricking sensations, until at last the blood began to course freely, naturally and vigorously through his body, and the helplessness gave way to returning strength, the ability to walk returned, and he was restored to his old time health.

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