

## EDITORIALS.

## "MODERATION" AND DIPSO-MANIA.

An inordinate desire for strong drink is one of the growing evils of the age, and particularly of this country. It is engaging the attention of advanced thinkers, and is considered by many medical experts a disease. Hospitals for the cure of confirmed drunkards have been established and some apparently permanent reclamations effected.

The tipping disease is called dipsomania. In some cases those afflicted with it have sufficient will power, if exercised, to overcome the mania. In others the force of mind is not strong enough to resist the passion, and the unfortunate can find no ease until he quenches his raging thirst with the liquid death which increases the appetite that calls for it, and gradually softens the brain, undermines the constitution and leads the victim to insanity or a drunkard's grave.

There are persons whom the temperate and respectable despise and condemn but who should really be objects of pity rather than blame. Born with this cursed appetite for intoxicating drink inherent, and too weak-minded to battle with and conquer it, they yield to temptation, find themselves, after tasting of the enticing cup unable to resist, and casting all admonitions and conscience-whisperings to the winds, they drown compunction in the flowing bowl and pause not until sense, reason and decency are obliterated. Such persons are objects of compassion, but they cannot gain confidence nor win respect.

What is the cause of this uncontrollable propensity? Where spring the seeds which blossom into dipsomania? Moderate tippler, it has been decided by those who have best investigated this subject, that the cause lies in such as you, and that your kind sow the seeds of this terrible disease. Repeated dram-drinking, although in small quantities, causes alcoholic poisoning of the blood, and in the offspring of the continual though moderate indulger, multiplies its power in an alarming ratio, and develops itself in this awful mania which will not be quieted except by a mighty will or full intoxication.

Is not this worth reflecting on? Does it not call for a little self-denial? What father or mother wishes to plant in the offspring, loved beyond aught else, the germs of this inordinate and deadly desire?

Pre-natal causes are not sufficiently studied nor regarded. Many diseases which afflict humanity might be avoided if people knew enough to act so that healthy children might be born into the world. And particularly is this the case in relation to this drink desire. If a woman expecting maternity conceives a strong appetite for some stimulant, and that craving remains ungratified, in most cases it is reproduced in a tenfold degree in the offspring. So also with an unnatural desire indulged inordinately.

The question may be asked, What then shall be done? Is that desire to be gratified or denied, seeing that in either case evil results may follow? The rational method seems to be to supply the want, unless it exhibits itself unnaturally, and then let will be exercised until it is subdued. This may be deemed a fitter subject for a medical treatise than a newspaper article. But we merely touch on the matter to stir up reflection, and consider that anything which tends to inform the mind or lead to the correction of evil is entirely within the province of respectable journalism.

We believe diet to have a great effect on this drink question. There is something in the climate of this country which has an exhaustive effect. A feeling of lassitude and debility, or as some express it of "gone-ness," steals over people and they fly to stimulants to brace them up, and fill the inward vacuum which afflicts them. And thus the custom of dram-drinking becomes a habit and that habit too frequently grows into a vice.

To supply this lack in the system we need proper food. Instead of

throwing to the swine and other animals the "heartly" properties of the wheat we raise, we ought to eat and digest them. Graham bread, cracked wheat, oatmeal, and such food containing the lime and phosphorus and other elements we need to supply the waste continually going on in our physiological economy are all-important. The fine white flour in general use is deprived of some of the most nutritious parts of the wheat, containing that natural stimulus which is sought for in the drinks which injure more than they assist. "Wheat for man" is the word of the Lord.

We have not space to-day to pursue this subject further, but we invite the attention of our readers to it, feeling that it is one of vast importance to all. Dipsomania is on the increase and the habits of many in our own midst are such as to favor its reproduction in the rising generation, we therefore utter these words of caution to fathers and mothers and hope that in some instances at least they will not be entirely disregarded.

## YOU ARE TO BLAME.

PEOPLE generally do not entertain kindly feelings to those who tell them of their faults. And yet the honest friend, who is too truthful to flatter and is not afraid to speak the disagreeable truth, should be held in far higher esteem than the facile fawner who always says as you say, and who makes it a point to agree with every sentiment and endorse every plan, particularly if it emanates from a person of influence, wealth or authority.

At the risk of offending some of our friends we will direct their attention to a common fault. We mean the negligence with which those who have emigrated from the Old World treat their relatives and acquaintances and co-religionists whom they have left behind. And the Elders who have labored in the ministry, and who have partaken of the hospitality and experienced the kindness of the free-hearted in foreign lands, are equally careless and forgetful of favors received, when they return home and slip back into the old mode of life.

This is much to be deprecated. If those who have been delivered from bondage and Babylon are unable to assist their friends still lingering in indigence and longing to follow them, by sending means to aid in their emigration, they can at least write an occasional letter to let them know they are not forgotten, and to cheer them in their struggles and difficulties. But how few there are who, after reaching the goal of their hopes, take the trouble to drop a line to the weary waiters who have not yet been able to start on the road!

A great deal of good might be accomplished by writing to friends at a distance. Errors might be corrected, falsehoods refuted, the truth declared, powerful testimonies borne, the hearts of the Saints cheered, the prejudices of outsiders be dissipated or weakened, the hands of the missionaries strengthened, and the cause of Zion upheld in distant lands, if people would only remember their promises and correspond with the folks living at or near the old home afar off.

"Be sure and write when you get to Utah." How many have heard this request and answered "I will," but have forfeited their word and have left their friends in the dark as regards their fate! "I'll never forget your kindness to me while in a foreign country." How many missionaries have made this pledge to the kind souls who have smoothed the path for their feet, fed, clothed and lodged them, softened the trials of absence from home, and chased the sadness that will creep over the sensitive amid strange scenes and strange faces in a strange land! And how few have redeemed that pledge by a kindly letter, or by stretching out a helping hand when those friends are ready to gather, or by cheery greeting and a return of favors when they reach the end of their long journey, and find everything new and unexpected and peculiar!

Now we make free to say that all who have been careless and negligent in these matters are to blame. They are culpable for not keeping their word. They have left undone something which they ought to have done, and are thus guilty of

a "sin of omission." They are, some of them, branded with the mark of ingratitude, and ingratitude is a crime.

We advise those who feel "pricked in their hearts," or who wince at the sting of conscience when they read these plain words, to remain no longer under the blame which really attaches to them. The cost of a letter is trifling, the trouble of writing is small compared with the good to be effected. All cannot be travelling missionaries, but nearly all can be dispensers of glad tidings, sending swift messengers on the wings of the mail service to carry glad news to distant lands. Write! But be careful what you write. For spoken words are often wafted away by the wind into the depths of oblivion; but what is written is likely to live and work good or evil according to its meaning and intent, and to bear future strong witness for or against the author. Write to do good and not evil. Write when the mind is clear, and the heart glad, and the faith strong, and you will spread light, dispel doubt, make friends, discharge a duty and surely reap a rich reward. Try it. You will be to blame if you don't.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

—President Hayes' negro coachman, black as the ace of spades, sits on the carriage with the reins in one hand, and a spread umbrella in the other.

—Edward Hoppin struck Philip Proudfoot on the back of his head with a ball club, also jumped upon him, from which he died, at Sterling Valley, N. Y., July 13. Hoppin charged that Proudfoot seduced the former's sister two years ago, and then left that part of the country.

—Bore wells, ye lovers of fish! An artesian well in Ventura, California, spouts up live trout, an inch long, and has done so every year since 1871. The nearest stream is twenty-five miles away. The story may seem fishy, but it is in the newspapers, and what more proof do you want?

—Referring to the charges against ex-Governor Axtell of Utah, the Sacramento Record-Union says, "It is quite credible that he may have vindictive enemies who would like to destroy him, and this is in fact quite as plausible a theory as the one which represents him as becoming a Mormon Bishop."

—New Haven exults over having a smaller debt than any other city of its size in the country. She owes \$1,401,400. Hartford has 10,000 less population and owes \$4,644,000. Utah cities, if they have measurably less population, have also immeasurably less debt, than either New Haven or Hartford.

—Ben Hill thinks that Blaine is a bright man, of a quick, brilliant mind, but knows little, and knows less of the constitution of his country than any man Ben ever knew in public life; that he is a shrewd and adroit politician, but possesses none of the elements of a statesman; and that Gail Hamilton, Blaine's sister-in-law, is a wonderful writer as to multiplicity of words and absence of thought.

—The smallest book known in the world is "Schloss's English Biju Almanac for 1842, poetically illustrated by the Hon. Mrs. Norton; published by A. Schloss, fancy stationer to H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, 12 Berners Street, Oxford Street." The book is illustrated with portraits of the Princess Royal of England, then an infant, Charles Dickens, Rachel, Herr Standigil, Ellen Tree, and John Murray. This book is seven-eighths of an inch long, half an inch wide, and a little more than an eighth of an inch thick. The type is very small, but perfectly clear and legible.

—An exchange says: The price of iron and steel has never been so low in this country. The decline of value since January, 1873, has been 69 per cent. on pig iron, 53 per cent. as to refined bars, 60 per cent. as to Bessemer steel rails, and 56 per cent. on best iron rails. The consumption of these metals by the industries of the country, has not, however, declined in any similar proportion. The lowest point of depression in the business of building railroads was reached in the latter half of 1875. All the steel rails used in this country are made here, and all the iron rails, except an inconsiderable fraction—less than one in 3,000.

—Senator Conkling is pursuing health in the mountains of old Scotia.

—Wooden pavements are getting out of public favor. Washington sorrows over its sad experience in this line, and now Chicago denounces them as a failure.

—"No vacancies, and no applicants will be seen," in large letters, ornaments the door of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury McCormick, at Washington.

—An Octopus, or "Devil Fish," similar to the monster described by Victor Hugo, in his "Toilers of the Sea," has been captured in the Gulf Stream. It is three feet long, but contracts itself till it is only a foot in length; its eight arms are powerful and when extended measure over two feet.

—Dom Pedro has shown his good common sense, so uncommon in crowned heads, in many ways. Now he is trying to organize colonies to move from the provinces in Europe affected by the war, and settle in Brazil. He offers them a free passage, land to till, and a year's food. Pedro is a Dom fine Emperor.

—A fervent convert who was recently baptized and admitted to full fellowship in a select church at Hartford, Conn., turned out to be an expert thief named Teresa Williams, from New York. When her game was up she explained, "I hooped in on religion as a matter of biz." Teresa only followed the example of some of the preachers.

—Don't leave your dead animals to "waste their sweetness on the desert air," and choke passers by with their odoriferous perfumes. Utilize them. Drag the body to some out-of-the-way place on the farm, sprinkle it freely with quicklime, and then cover with twenty-five loads of muck or sods. In a year or so, you will have a valuable manure heap.

—The New York physicians have established a telegraph company of their own. Every member has a line connected with the others' offices and the principal hospitals. When anybody has to "run for the doctor," he can step into a drug store and wire the man he wants. It will cost him nothing—till he pays for medical services, it is then, no doubt, included in some manner in "my little bill."

—Climatic influences are very powerful. Their effects on race are more marked than some people believe or are willing to admit. But in Trans-Caucasia there is strong evidence of the changes which can be wrought by climate alone. A number of families from Wurtemberg emigrated there in 1816. They were broad-shouldered, fair, with blue eyes and light or red hair. Their posterity gradually changed until in the third generation eyes and hair predominated, the form became slender and more elegant, the face lost its roundness of contour. They had intermarried only with the same company, therefore it is pretty conclusive that the changes were effected by climate.

—Long speeches are generally a bore and personalities are rarely admissible in sermons. At a Methodist conference in the east, recently, a speaker referred to the gentleman who was to follow him as "the big gun of the evening," and after a long harangue desisted only to make way for the "big gun from Maine." The Maine man sighting the other speaker sharply at short range remarked, "I don't know how big a gun I am, but I am sure my brother is a very long one, and I would advise him to take a good deal off the length of his gun and put it on to the calibre." The congregation exploded with laughter, and the great bore felt like a small pea-shooter.

—An eastern paper says, "Mr. Barry Sullivan, the actor, has recently undergone a singular operation connected with an eyelash. It will be remembered that at Drury Lane Theatre Macduff's sword accidentally struck him in the eye, causing an abrupt termination of his engagement and his retirement for some weeks. In the end he left the doctor's hands cured, as was believed, but ever since he has been troubled with a curious affection of the eye. Having consulted an oculist, the conclusion was arrived at that there must be something in the eyeball itself. Barry Sullivan consented to undergo the necessary operation for testing this theory. His eyeball was cut open, and from it there was taken an eyelash, which was thrust in at the point of the sword."

—The question "What is solitude?" was admirably answered by the lady who said, "the store that doesn't advertise."

—A new political party is talked of. It is to be composed of the remnants of the republican party and recalcitrant democrats. It is to be known as the "Union party." Better call it the "Onion party." It will be strong—as regards its odor, and bring water into the eyes of its chief cooks.

—An exchange recommends the farming people of the United States to study "swine husbandry." There are thousands of women who think they know all about it when their "lords and masters" come home "hog full" every night, and with no more sense than the swine.

—General Le Duc is the new Commissioner of Agriculture. He proposes a system of storm and flood signals for the benefit of farmers during haying and harvest, and to give warning of rapid risings of rivers. The General seems to be no quack, but a Duc of a Commissioner. If his scheme does not involve too big a bill, we hope it will be adopted, for the benefit of agricultural productions and the reduction of field losses by flood.

—The Capital asks its readers to imagine "the consternation that would fall upon a congregation were Christ and His chosen Twelve to walk into a fashionable church. Travel-stained, foot-weary, badly appareled as they were, how religious Caesarism would gather away its skirts and gaze in trouble at the very founders of their faith!" Yes. And if they were by chance to obtain an opportunity to preach, their pious hearers would denounce them as "Mormons" or "emissaries from Utah."

—In the Georgia Constitutional Convention, Hon. Joshua Hill objected to the appointment of a Chaplain, and instanced the fact that "in the U. S. Senate, while Dr. Newman was at prayers, the members were writing at their desks or reading papers, while the pages were running about and no attention paid to him." Old Leviticus 18. 18 was too well known at Washington to command respect or attention. They understood that all he prayed for was self—so much a pray.

—The Yankton Press speaking of the arrival of the Mennonites, the men taking care of the babies, says, "Last evening when the train came in a number of Russians arrived with it. One of them, a stalwart masculine, walked up street with two babies, one under each arm. One of the infants had the advantage of a crib or cradle." We think we hear the ladies exclaim "They're the kind of Men-o'-nights!"

—An elegant daily dramatic sheet, called *The Footlight*, has just been started in San Francisco. It is beautifully printed on tinted paper, gives evidence of journalistic and typographical ability, and looks as if it would live. The publishers, Messrs. Stuart & Oatman, 518 Clay Street, solicit correspondence from professionals and managers throughout the United States, and proffer to furnish talent on application. If they can do that, literally, there are scores of amateurs, and not a few professionals, who ought to apply at once.

—The *Journal of Chemistry* says that hot alum water is the best insect destroyer known. "Put the alum into hot water and let it boil till all the alum is dissolved; then apply it hot with a brush to all cracks, closets, bedsteads, and other places where any insects are found. Ants, bed-bugs, cockroaches and creeping things are killed by it, while it has no danger of poisoning the family or injuring property." Somebody ought to go round with a brush and alum-pail, and daub those crawling things in this vicinity who poison men's characters and seek to sting innocent lives.

—A Pennsylvania physician whose wife was a "medium" was induced by her to emigrate to Arizona, where "the spirits" had shown to her immense gold deposits. After prospecting for some time, the couple were missed from their hotel for several days. A party searched for them and found them in the mountains nearly famished to death. Disappointed, financially ruined and half crazy, they had gone out to die of starvation. Food was forced upon them and they have recovered. But their faith in "spirits" has not been rooted and grounded by experience.