

whose opinions she gave definite form and fitting substance in all the honor and glory and exaltation that once were hers? They hear that she has lost her reason without so much as a sympathetic murmur; they know she is very feeble and that the grim messenger cannot be far off, and yet it looks as though she would be given into his cold embrace without the presence of one sorrowing friend, without eliciting so much as one heartfelt expression of sorrow or causing a single tear to fall from one of those eyes which have looked upon her with admiration if not with actual love! The wonder is on this side of the old line, not on the other.

The News joins most cordially in such friendly expressions as are made for the once great and influential woman, but when to such expressions is added the usual wish for continued life, we must be excused if we ask why this should be. What more has she to live for, even if she were permitted to realize the triumph which crowns her career, to know what the real regard of one class and the indifference of the other mean as figured out in the events of a lifetime? These are all a sealed book to her now; she is dead to the world even as much of it is dead to her, and the announcement of her departure to the untried field of a new life should not, it would seem, be a subject for hope to the contrary or the expression of it.

DEATH OF EX-PRESIDENT HAYES.

Rutherford Burchard Hayes has gone to the silent throng beyond the portal. He was the nineteenth President of the United States, having held the office from March 4, 1877, till the same date in 1881. He was born in the town of Delaware, Ohio, on the 4th of October, 1822, being thus in his seventy-first year. The cause of death was neuralgia of the heart, and the hour eleven o'clock last evening.

Mr. Hayes occupied a most novel and it must have been at times trying position before the people during the four years of his administration. Until the idea of changing the three Democratic states of Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida to the Republican column through their respective returning boards was broached, he admitted his defeat and had become quite resigned to it. It was then that William E. Chandler (now a senator from New Hampshire) and a few others took a trip south and got everything in working order to overturn the decided Democratic majorities in those states by deliberately throwing out votes by precincts or parishes on allegations of fraud, intimidation, etc., which was accomplished when the counting time came. By this means Samuel J. Tilden, who had the enormous popular majority in the country of 252,000 and an apparent electoral majority of 33, was defeated and Mr. Hayes declared elected. This proceeding brought the nation up to the verge of a conflict and one would have been precipitated beyond all question had Mr. Tilden done as it was proposed he should do and as we believe he once thought of doing—taken the oath of office in New York and gone on to Washington with a demand for recognition by Congress.

But wiser counsels prevailed and Mr. Hayes was allowed to serve out his term comparatively unmolested so far as the Democrats were concerned, but occasionally the recipient of unpleasant attention on the part of the Republicans.

Mr. Hayes served with distinction in the Union army during the war of the rebellion, which he entered as a major and came out a brevet major-general. He was afterwards elected to Congress for two terms and then chosen governor of Ohio for three terms, two of them consecutively. After the expiration of his term as President he settled down quietly at his residence in Fremont, Ohio, where he has since remained in comparative seclusion. It was there that his wife died a few years ago.

The Hayes administration was characterized with cleanness and moderation. It developed no strong points and initiated no striking features into the governmental system. The President was neither a Jackson nor a Webster and his cabinet was in places actually weak, this being especially the case with the premier, William M. Evarts, who, though one of the greatest of lawyers, possessed but few of the qualities of a statesman, being short-sighted and narrow-minded in some respects. The administration was perhaps the best that could have been had in consideration of the southern question, the acerbities then existing between the sections being smoothed out and many vexed questions disposed of altogether. Mr. Hayes undoubtedly acted on every occasion in consonance with the dictates of his conscience and, so far as conflicting and embarrassing circumstances would permit, up to the full measure of his ability. His last words alone show him to have been a chaste and Christian man—"I am going where Lucy is." May his hope be now in the fullness of fruition!

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

A contribution to the literature on the liquor problem is given in a recent number of the *Forum* by Mr. John Graham Brooks, a careful student of social questions. Mr. Brooks has recently visited Sweden and studied the system adopted there, as well as in Norway, by many prominent communities, for the promotion of temperance. The system is known as the Gothenburg plan. It is no longer an experiment, having been already in use for several years to the satisfaction of the parties most interested. And it has been advocated by Joseph Chamberlain and recommended for trial in England by Dr. Jayne, Bishop of Chester. Dr. Gould, who has investigated it for the Bureau of Labor at Washington is also said to feel convinced of its beneficial results on the Scandinavian peninsula.

The Gothenburg plan assumes that absolute prohibition is impracticable. It confines itself therefore to the regulation of the liquor traffic so as to minimize the evil results of it. The founders of the system argued on the one hand that the sale of liquor should not be allowed to be a source of private income, and that as long as it continued to be so, the temptation to drink would be

offered by the retailers and made so strong as to make successful resistance very difficult. On the other hand, they held that to prohibit those who insist on having alcoholic stimulants from obtaining them would only be to exact impossible restrictions, thereby creating contempt for the law and a resort to all sorts of means for its evasion. On these considerations the plan is founded.

To avoid these difficulties, the community assumes absolute control of the liquor business, through a regularly chartered company. No individual is interested in the sale of drink, because no individual pecuniary profit is to be derived from it. The men employed by the company have their salaries whether they sell anything or not. And what profit there may be, is at the end of the year applied to public institutions, to libraries, hospitals, parks, etc.

The number of saloons is very limited. No customer is allowed to loiter on the premises. Selling on credit or purchase by pawn is stopped. Sales to minors are prohibited and the shops must be closed at an early hour, so early in fact that laborers returning from their work have no chance to spend their money there. And, finally, only unadulterated liquor is permitted to be sold. These are the main features of the system.

As to the results of this plan, it is claimed that the consumption of liquor in Gothenburg fell from 28.90 liters per capita in 1886 to 16.15 in 1889. Cases of delirium tremens have fallen from 131 yearly to 49, a decline of 60 per cent, counting the increase of the population during the same period. In Bergen similar results are noted.

No doubt much good can be said about this plan, and where so many experiments have failed, it would at least be worthy of a fair trial. As far as the Scandinavian countries are concerned, much of the consumption of liquor is due to a desire of being sociable; and the many saloons with comfortable chairs and lounges and looking-glasses offered the best opportunity for an interchange of civilities and a social glass. This motive for drinking was often stronger than the desire for the liquor itself. The community having taken the sale and the deprivation of the bar rooms of almost all comforts, surrounding the halls with a kind of prison regulation in a mild form, at once drove away all except those who were really confirmed drinkers. And the money there spent, less the actual cost of the beverage and its distribution, was applied to their own benefit in one way or another. In this has been found the true merit of the system.

COSTLY LITIGATION.

Law is always an expensive luxury, but it sometimes takes on the shape of ruinous extravagance. A story is told of a stubborn old Kentuckian who was once sued for a small amount, payment of which he refused to make and stubbornly resisted. Judgment was obtained against him, whereupon he promptly appealed, and the appellate court affirmed the judgment first obtained with largely increased costs. Another appeal, rehearings, etc., fol-