

STRICT TEMPERANCE.

Young Watkins J. Watkins, of Virginia, came north to visit his maternal uncle, Col. Jos. Martindale, a very worthy man in the vicinity of Boston, who was at the head of the temperance party there and never allowed any of the intoxicating fluid to be kept on the premises, or drank by any one in his employ. John was a great favorite with his uncle and all the family, from the parlor to the cook-house. His visit had been anticipated with pleasure, and everybody was disposed to make the most of him. After breakfast, before the Colonel went into town, as was his daily practice, he asked John into the library and said to him:

"We are all temperance here; but I keep a little old brandy here for my own use—take a drop before you ride?"

John took a thimbleful, and the Col. went off. No sooner was he gone out than Mrs. Martindale, seeing John on the piazza, beckoned him to come in, and leading him to her boudoir, remarked very good naturedly:

"You see, John, we are all very strict temperance folks. The Colonel never drinks and lets no one else; but I keep a little for the dyspepsia. Would you drink something before you go out?"

So John took a glass of old brandy, and the Colonel's wife joined him in the same. John strolled out to the carriage house, and thought he would take one of the Colonel's saddle horses and run over the country. As soon as the coachman saw him he touched his hat and said:

"Begging your pardon, Master John, but may be you would like to taste a drop of liquor this cool morning. The Colonel is so hard on us that we have to keep it all snug; but I have some that can't be beat."

So John drank with the coachman, and gave him a quarter for his politeness; but by this time he was so nearly drunk that he had to postpone his ride till the next day. John said the worst place for liquor he was ever in was Colonel Martindale's, and he had to shorten his visit and hasten home to keep out of the way of temptation.

THE DOOM OF LA BELLE FRANCE.—France is slowly but surely drifting towards the vortex of national and social ruin which sooner or later follows the lack of moral backbone exhibited so lamentably in this empire. Two years ago the thinkers in Paris, uneasy about the general drift of things, asked the Emperor for a commission to inquire into the state of agriculture and rural affairs generally. It was accordingly done, and questions were put to hundreds of the most intelligent persons in all parts of the country, the facts developed being by no means cheerful. The empire is growing poorer and weaker year by year. The gay capital absorbs all the vigor, enterprise, pluck, hope and beauty of the country to feed its insatiable appetite. Men will not stay in the country to labor for a franc a day when in Paris they can get five. The rural Frenchman is determined not to have children, and the deaths are more numerous than the births. Great numbers of the young men are less than five feet three. Under the present aspect of affairs, nobody will loan the farmer money to carry on his farm; and all seems sinking in general neglect and ruin.

A passion for gay living and for Paris has penetrated the masses. The artificial is rapidly overshadowing the natural. That fascinating city, so great in its gaiety, so sparkling in its voices, and so debonaire, is killing all the land. The future is indeed gloomy for the land which gives the world its wines and its fashions. The American people can look on this picture and take warning. The frivolities of fashionable life must be kept in check by the good sense of the middle classes, guided by the whole some lessons and noble teachings of the foremost and uncontaminated minds of the day. The young men must quit leaving the farm, just as quick as their majority, to cast their fortunes in the maelstrom of the great city. The farm must be made attractive, and suitable for the labors of those who think the tillage of the soil the noblest of all occupations, and followed reasonably, remunerating enough for all save the most avaricious, besides giving ample time for literary or other recreations, besides being the most important of all occupations.—Waverly Magazine.

ANOTHER MONSTER TELEGRAPH SCHEME.—A dispatch from London says that Cyrus W. Field has headed a project to establish telegraphic communication with China, by way of the Mediterranean, Egypt and India. There is already a line in operation from British India to England, but it has not been very successful in the dispatch of business. There is an immense stretch of impracticable country between London and Bombay, and the telegraph passes under different seas and through savage and desolate regions, which render it liable to continual breaks and interruptions, so that no reliance can be placed on its punctuality or its celerity—messages being transformed on the way till their own fathers would not know them, and sometimes (it is said) anticipated by advices through the mail. Whether the projected line will be successful in finding a better route, we cannot say; but the best key to a perfect and profitable telegraph system in China is by way of the North West Coast of America. The Bulkley Company has adopted the true route, via the Behring's Straits, and would not be in successful operation had it not been bought off by the Atlantic Cable Company. The American company that is now organized to carry out the old project, will succeed far better than the London Company, if it really means business, as we believe it does.—Ex.

The first locomotive on the Western Hemisphere was run by Major Horatio Allen, the engineer of the New York and Erie Railroad, in 1825, on the banks of the Lackawanna, in Pennsylvania. The structure was of hemlock timber and the rails of large dimensions, notched on caps placed far apart. As there was much doubt regarding the experimental trip, Major Allen made it alone, and to the satisfaction of all.

One of Louis Napoleon's former mistresses kept a concert-salo at Brussels, where she catered to two children who have as much Napoleonic blood as the Prince Imperial.

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