

vided the sinner has an amount of meritorious works large enough to balance the account. The work of Christ and the superfluous good works of holy men and women form the treasury of the church and out of this abundance the pope can dispense to those who merit it remission from the temporal consequences of sin either total (plenary indulgences) or in part. In other words, to sinners who are but poor in good works but otherwise well off, he can sell or grant the righteousness of others, who bequeathed to his care the portion of it they did not need themselves for salvation.

Of this doctrine but little needs to be said. It dates back to the time of the gradual apostasy when it was necessary to make some provision for the redemption of "Christians" who persisted in transgression and yet remained in the church. It is a perversion of the Scriptural doctrine, recognized by Clement and other early fathers, and again revealed in this age, of the preaching of the Gospel behind the veil; unfortunately for Rome, however, that doctrine was never taught in the Scriptures as a license for church members to transgress and escape punishment on the merits of others, bought or otherwise obtained by exchange. That the present pope in his encyclicals urging reunion of Protestants with Rome revives the reminiscences of Tetzel's rattling money box ringing souls out of purgatory, is an anomaly; for the abuses of the practice of dispensing indulgences was one of the great causes that led to the schism between Catholics and Protestants, and the latter will not easily be attracted or return to the mother church as long as she insists on playing on this "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal," without the slightest effort at the harmony of primitive Christianity, which is—if only in theory—the aim of the various bodies of Protestants.

TIPPLERS NOT WANTED.

The prohibitionists should take a pointer from a recent action of several railway superintendents in the East, who have been closing up saloons in a most effective manner, and one against which the whiskey vendors are unable to make an effectual protest. These superintendents have realized that the habit of taking intoxicants, indulged in by employees, has been the cause of much destruction of property on the railways; and by direction of the managements of the roads, they set out on a policy to put a stop to these losses. It was tried by one division and road at a time, so as not to awaken trouble, and so far has worked to a charm. The policy is indicated by the following notice which is posted up at almost every point of assembly in the neighborhood of shops, as well as at different places on the line, where the men will be sure to see it:

All employees in all departments of the service are hereby notified that any employee known as frequenting bar-rooms, liquor saloons or other places where intoxicating liquors are sold, either on or off duty, will be summarily dismissed from the service. This will not be construed to prevent employees from obtaining meals at hotels which maintain a bar, but they are cautioned not to frequent such bar.

At first there was some "kicking," but when sensible men learned that they must make their choice between frequenting saloons and employment, they were not long in selecting the latter. There were some who would slip up to the bar on the sly and get a drink, and when brought into the general superintendent's office for violating the rule, would attempt a denial. But the superintendents had fixed this. They had sent out men to watch, and these, instead of appearing as witnesses against the accused, merely took a snapshot with a pocket camera at the employee who was drinking. The latter was confronted with his photograph while in the forbidden act, with the time and place noted thereon; of course he could not deny his own picture, and had to take a vacation without pay but with a hard time finding another place. The employees quickly learn to avoid "dancing the carpet," as the official interview is termed.

The latest road to adopt the rule is the Nickel Plate, in its Chicago shops at Stony Island avenue and 93d street. In other districts saloons had been compelled to go out of business as a result of the application of the rule. At this place four of the eight saloons in the neighborhood have had to close, and two more will shut their doors on June 1. Thus it can be figured out that the nine hundred railway men whose headquarters is there have furnished from their earnings the profit for six saloons. It is stated that the shopkeepers in the neighborhood are doing an increased business in groceries and household goods, thus showing that the money heretofore spent in beer now goes to increasing family needs and comforts; while the railway managers who have enforced the rule for some time assert that they secure better service from the employees under its conditions.

Such a rule is as beneficial to the employer as the employee, and is not violative of personal liberty, as prohibitory legislation is claimed by some to be. It is merely a question of engaging competent workmen. Every employer realizes that the beer-guzzling workman is an incompetent beyond what he would be when he is strictly temperate. The necessity of any rule of this kind applying to out-of-work as well as working hours is in the fact that, while an intoxicated mechanic is inefficient, and especially in railway service is untrustworthy, the man who is recovering from the past evening's debauch, or who is under the depression following an alcoholic stimulation of a few hours before, is still unequal to the duty which an employer rightly may expect from him. Hence employers who give strict attention to business do not want a saloon-frequenting, even though he be a "moderate-drinker," when they can secure the services of a thoroughly temperate man who is above bad habits.

In this age of intelligent discussion there is afforded an excellent opportunity for temperance and prohibition workers to impress employers with the known fact that it is to their business advantage to give preference in employment to men who do not frequent saloons; and also to convince the workmen themselves that the strict

enforcement of a rule such as the Chicago railways are introducing would enhance their own interests as wage earners, as well as make them better members of society. An intelligently conducted campaign on this line ought to bear good fruits in inducing both employers and mechanics to enlist under the banner of "tipplers not wanted" among engaged tradesmen.

A REPUBLIC IN ASIA.

A brief dispatch from Shanghai confirmed in a report of Minister Denby, announces that the island of Formosa has declared itself a republic and so notified the foreign representatives. The governor, it is said, has been elected president and the national flag will be a yellow dragon on blue ground. No intimation is given whether this new arrangement is undertaken with the consent of the Japanese government to whose dominion, by the treaty of peace with China, the island now belongs, or whether the proclamation of a republic is instigated by European diplomats for the purpose of depriving Japan of another fruit of her recent victories; but it seems improbable that the islanders should take this bold stand without assurance of the support of someone strong enough to lean upon in case a struggle for independence should ensue.

It appears then that Formosa is the second diminutive republic established in the Pacific ocean lately, and the first Asiatic country on record to adopt a government by the people. The fact is worth noting as an indication that the principles of self-government are taking a western course, claiming recognition at last in the very hotbed of despotism. The ancient republics of Greece and Rome were swept away; the mediæval experiments in Genoa and Venice proved unsuccessful as did those of the Netherlands, Great Britain and France after her revolutions in 1788 and 1848. Switzerland survived, but to the United States of America mainly was reserved the great mission of proving to the world the superiority of popular government, and it may be said truthfully that the strong currents toward constitutional liberty, discernible all through the civilized world, owe their force today to the faithfulness with which the American people, so far, have maintained the principles for the proclamation of which the founders of this Republic gained immortality in the annals of nations.

Formosa is a large island, separated from the mainland of China by a channel about ninety miles wide in its narrowest part. Its area is estimated at 14,978 square miles, about half the size of Ireland. The inhabitants consist of aborigines, of Malay origin probably, who always refused to recognize the Chinese authority, and of Chinese immigrants. A third class is formed by the mixture of the two races. There are several large cities and the total population is estimated at a million and a half souls.

Dutch navigators obtained a footing on Formosa in the seventeenth century, but they were expelled by the Chinese who took possession of the island and held it notwithstanding