

In and Out of the Tolls of the Demon of Strong Drink.

Extract from a paper read by H. A. Perkins before the State City Reform Club, January 1.

It requires no stretch of my imagination or fancy that when a man violates his vow of total abstinence a howl of devilish glee echoes through all the caverns of hell. For the man who under the stress of no unusual temptation, goes off with boon companions and carelessly, heedlessly breaks his pledge, I may have a feeling of sorrow, though little of sympathy. The man I feel for is the one who, after struggling perhaps for months with his terrible appetite, is at last swept from the moorings he has plowed his God might hold him safe. He goes not to a wassail with gay companionship—he is simply filled with a mad, passionate desire for alcohol. Conscience, not wholly overborne, may feebly remonstrate that he is about to violate a sacred vow; that he is about to tear out hope and plant despair in the heart of wife or mother, or both; that he is about to sacrifice honor, betray confidence, forfeit position, demean himself in his own estimation and in that of every one that knows him—and yet, realizing all this, he is still goaded on to pay all upon the altar of his appetite. Creeping through the street like a hunted criminal he sneaks into some back door like a thief, and securing a bottle of the accursed poison, he almost frantically seeks some place of concealment, and there alone, save the invisible presence of the pitying God and the exultant fiend, he drains the bottle to its dregs. Whether frenzy or stupor follow, there is an awakening to remorse terrible in its intensity of anguish, and which the victim is more than likely to drown in reckless drinking. Such cases are not rare, as some of you know.

I do not mean to say that it is always thus, for there are weeks when the man is happy in his independence, and blesses the day when he forewore allegiance to the cup; but with the sense of freedom there is a tinge of sadness for he knows that like the tornado which bursts from a clear sky, so will some simeon of passion sweep over him. If he can withstand the brief shock all is well until the next one comes, and I believe that each succeeding temptation will be weaker than the last until in time, if they do not cease to be an annoyance, they will at least lose their terror.

Some of you have felt this wild desire for alcoholic stimulants to a degree which enables you to realize that to some natures it may come with overpowering force. How can a man thus sorely beset hold his ground? First, he must keep his watchfires ever burning, for of him it be truly said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." There must be an abandonment of old and perhaps pleasant haunts; a giving up of certain associates; an acknowledgment as public as it can possibly be made that he has signed the pledge and intends to let it in letter and in spirit. There should be such personal identification with temperance work and interests, that he will soon become known in the community as one of the champions of the cause. If he cannot speak in meeting he can sit on the platform, or pass the hat—can do something to let it be seen of men that he is thoroughly in earnest. He wants to commit himself utterly and completely to the temperance cause—make a record for himself as temperance man—and he will find that doing this will strengthen him, for often a man will endure things rather than stultify his record. If there is temperance work to do he should be found among the workers, even though he can ill spare the time from other duties; and though he has no inclination to be found taking an active part at the front, still he should do it, even though he goes with leaden feet. It will fortify him in his position, and God knows he needs every help he can lay his hands upon.

I tremble for the reformed man who still frequents the old haunts, seeks the old associations, and who does not come square to the front and testify by his presence, if not by his words, just where he stands. There is no neutral ground for the reformed man—he is not safe unless he is in some way engaged in a warfare on king alcohol.

How to Load the Gun.
The author of *Shooting on the Wing* says of loading the gun:

Under this head we have to consider not only the best quantities and proportions of powder and shot, but the proper mode of inserting the charge in the gun. If the weapon be a breech-loader, full directions in regard to the point will be given by the manufacturer; but where a muzzle-loader is used, there is a certain routine to be observed, both for the sake of securing rapidity and certainty, and of avoiding danger.

Both barrels of the gun being unloaded, the following is the system that we always follow: Grasping the barrel with the left hand a few inches below the muzzle, the hammers being at half cock and the gun in such a position directly in front that the trigger-guard is toward the person, we measure out the proper quantity of powder for a load, and pour it into each barrel in succession; and, after returning the flask to the pocket, insert a cut wad in each barrel, draw the ramrod, and press it gently to the bottom. For doing this, Frank Forrester gives some very excellent advice as follows: "Remember not to grasp the rod, much less cover the tip of it with the palm of your hand in ramming down, but to hold it only between the tips of your fingers and thumb. In case of an explosion, this difference in the mode of holding it will just make the difference of lacerated finger-tips, or a hand blown to shreds."

The rod may now be held in the same hand that supports the barrels, while the shot is carefully measured and poured into them; wads are again inserted and pressed home, and the ramrod returned to its proper place. All that now remains is to cap the piece, and see that the hammers are at half-cock.

On the night of December 30th, Thomas Crossley, a shoemaker, in San Francisco, shot and fatally wounded his wife, and then cut his own throat with a shoe knife, causing his death. Mrs. Crossley refused to state the cause of the tragedy.

Proceedings of Congress.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 7.—Many petitions were presented from women asking that the anti-prostitution law of 1868 be made effective. Several financial bills were introduced. Morell introduced a bill appropriating \$250,000 for the erection of a fire-proof building for a national museum, to be located in Washington. Edmunds introduced a resolution declaring that in the judgment of the Senate, the 12th, 14th and 16th amendments to the Constitution have been legally ratified and are as valid as any other parts of the Constitution, and that it is the right and duty of Congress to enforce such amendments by appropriate legislation, and the duty of the executive department of the government to faithfully and with entire conscientious impartiality execute such laws, and to make no distinction in the civil service of the United States, either in the calendar. The Senate proceeded in order to the Hall of the House to attend the funeral of Representative Schlesinger, and upon returning to the Senate Chamber adjourned.

House.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 11.—The death of Representative Schlesinger was announced, and Gladwin, Shelley, McKeon, Mueller, Lovett, Brewster, and Townsend were appointed a committee to accompany the remains to San Antonio. The House adjourned as a further mark of respect.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Monday, January 13.—Coke, Baker and Hanna were appointed a committee to inquire for the funeral of Representative Schlesinger, and to accompany the remains to San Antonio. The bill appropriating \$250,000 for a fire-proof building for the National Museum was passed without discussion. Deacon, from the pension committee, reported a bill amending the act of 1868 relating to military pensions, and instructing the gallantry committee to report a bill for the protection of the rights of citizens, and the punishment of infractions thereof. The resolution, at the request of Edmunds, was laid on the table, to be called up hereafter. Vanehe called up his resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of making the trade dollar legal tender and providing for its exchange into the standard silver dollar. After some remarks by Vanehe the resolution was laid over. Consideration was resumed of the bill to remove, consolidate and amend the patent laws. Christopher spoke in favor of the bill. Edmunds, from the judiciary committee, reported back a petition from the citizens of Alaska, asking that a territory be attached for judicial purposes, with the opinion of the committee that no legislation is expedient at this time. The same committee reported a bill relating to several provisions relative to the Union Pacific Railroad and its branches. The same committee reported adversely on several bills, authorizing appointment of stenographers in the United States Circuit and District Courts, and they were indefinitely postponed. Christianity from the same committee reported adversely on the Senate bill to authorize homesteads and other creation of railroad corporations to elect receivers in case of insolvency. The General bill passed at 3 o'clock, and was attended by the President and Cabinet. The House adjourned.

Typographic Blunders.

A great many columns have been written concerning typographic errors, and many of the instances sound so witty or so stupid that it seems as if they must be rather inventions than actual happenings. But we never saw one quite so unlikely that we couldn't remember its match. Once we wrote that it was "like evoking the shadow of a shade" to quote forgotten writers. The phrase appeared in print thus: "Like cooking the shadow of a shade." The printer had, in burlesquing the sentiment, actually preserved and intensified it in a most striking image of unsubstantiality. At another time we had quoted the proverbial opinion of "Rosslyn," "Men have died and worms have eaten them—but not for love." The printer may have been a misogynist, all events he substituted "women" for "worms." There are Shakespearean emendations not much better than that, perhaps. In one of the country weeklies there was recently an account of the presentation to some one of a Bible "bound in guilt." In a discussion one spoke of "the divine totality of being"; it was reported as "the sublime brutality of feeling." This may have been the reporter's error; but not so when a Methodist college president spoke of sin as "a dark, guilty, damning fact," and found it published as "a dark, quietly dawning fact," and describing the death of Jesus "vivacious," saw it in print "vivacious." This was in a very religious paper, and another into an eloquent hymn admitted this questionable temerity sentiment, "I praise thee still." Sometimes these things are so funny that the writer can't be angry as he would like, but still that Virginia editor must have been shopping mad when his powerful leader wound up with, "Courage, tillers of the land! and forget, in the excitement of politics, your panty and your nursery!" He had written "poverty" and "misery." And how must Astronomer Proctor have felt when, having written of "Lines, bands and stripes near the violet end of the spectra," he was represented as seeing "links, bonds and stripes for the violent kind of spectra?" Perhaps if he had had a poem into a spiritual lunatic asylum—which must be necessary enough, if the mediums have got the rights of it; to store Diakakis in—Springfield Republicans.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Jan. 8.—Mr. Edmunds presented a concurrent resolution providing that on the last three days of the session, no bill passed by either house, shall be sent to the other for its concurrence, and on the last day of the session, no bill shall be sent to the President for his approval. Resolution offered by Cox was adopted, calling on the Secretary of War for the report of Col. drawn on the prisons of the United States. Marsh, from the committee on coinage, submitted a report of the coinage, and recommended a bill amending the coinage and minting acts, and as amended, adopted. The House went into committee of the whole on the Geneva award bill, and after a short discussion the committee rose, and the bill went over. Carville introduced a bill to include newspapers and proof sheets in mail matter of third class; referred. Wadleigh, chairman of committee on postoffices, reported a bill relating to classification of mail matter and the amount of postage thereon; ordered printed and referred. Beck introduced a bill for the admission of Dakota Territory as a State, which was referred. Ryan introduced a bill extending the time of pre-emptors on public lands who have suffered by prairie fires—referred. A resolution offered by Cox was adopted, calling on the Secretary of War for the report of Col. drawn on the prisons of the United States. Marsh, from the committee on coinage, submitted a report of the coinage, and recommended a bill amending the coinage and minting acts, and as amended, adopted. The House went into committee of the whole on the Geneva award bill, and after a short discussion the committee rose, and the bill went over. Carville introduced a bill to include newspapers and proof sheets in mail matter of third class; referred. 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