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RUM AND CHRISTIANITY.

It needs no argument to prove that those two elements of forces, are as directly opposite to each other, as fire and water, or death and life. A compromise between them is not a possibility. In all their effects and influences, direct and indirect, they are constantly warring with each other. Those persons who profess the Christian faith, and sustain the rum traffic, have stolen the livery of Heaven to serve the devil in, and they ought to be arrested, at least by the police of public opinion. This mask of hypocrisy ought to be torn from them, that the community may know just where they stand.

Here in our city we have rum and Christianity in full operation, and their effects are before the world. The former can boast of its numerous grog shops, with their blasphemous inmates, its alms houses, jails, insane asylums crowd with victims, its thousands of families cursed by the demon of intemperance. The latter can boast of its churches, Sabbath schools, benevolent societies, systems of charity that embrace the interests and wants of the world. As well expect to unite heaven and hell in one territory, as to unite these two systems.

A distinguished American writer says:

"Members of the Church of God most pure, bear it in mind, that intemperance in our land and the world over, stands in the way of the gospel. It opposes the progress of the reign of Christ in every village and hamlet, in every city, and at every corner of the street. It stands in the way of revivals of religion, and of the glories of the millennial morn. Every drunkard opposes the millennium! every dram drinker stands in the way of it, every dram seller stands in the way of it. Let the sentiment be heard, and echoed and re-echoed all along the hills, and vales, and streams of the land,—that the conversion of a man who habitually uses ardent spirits is all but hopeless. And let this sentiment be followed up with that melancholy truth, that the money wasted in this business—now a curse to all nations—nay, the money wasted in one year in this land for it, would place a Bible in every family on the earth, and establish a school in every village—and that the talent which intemperance consigns each year to infamy and eternal perdition, would be sufficient to bear the gospel over sea and land—to polar snows, and to the sands of a burning sun."

One of the uniform benefits of the temperance reformation is its influence upon the advancement of Christianity. Wherever the Maine law has been faithfully executed, or the community have fully suppressed intemperance in any other way, the Sabbath has been better observed, churches have been better attended and the reformed have in many instances become Christians. Of thirty-five thousand reformed drunkards in England, nearly six thousand have become members of christian churches. It is evident, therefore, and if the gospel is ever to triumph, the grog shops must be banished from our cities. All the preaching and praying in Christendom cannot save a community cursed by the evils of the rum traffic.—

A Fact for Ministers.—The influence of ministers in promoting the Temperance cause, and what may be done by one man, even with little effort, has been lately illustrated in one of our provincial towns, where the movement had made less progress than in any others, and only one minister (a United Presbyterian) was an abstainer. One of the Free Church ministers having become convinced of the importance of the subject, proposed a conference on it. This was attended by almost all the ministers, and many of the Christian laymen of the town.—The result was most gratifying. Two ministers of the Establishment, three of the Free Church, (all that are in the town), one United Presbyterian, one Original Seceder, and one Moravian—every one of them new converts—enrolled themselves as abstainers, followed within two or three months by about 500 of their people, including many office-bearers and influential persons. Already great benefit begins to appear.—*Report of the Free Church Temperance Society.*

"Hold them Responsible."—It is a serious thing, and may involve grave issues. Nevertheless—"hold them"—i. e. governors and legislators, "*responsible* for all the consequences flowing from the sale and use of alcoholic liquors. If families are beggared—if hearts are broken—if prisons are filed—if the peace of society is continually distnrbed—if the country is retrograding in morality—*hold those men responsible.* They might prevent these evils, at any rate to a great extent. If they refuse to take measures conducive to that end, the mischief resulting from such neglect must lie at their doors. The following advertisement appeared a short time since in the *London Times* newspaper:—

"To the public in general: James Tear, one of the seven men of Preston who first introduced total abstinence in that town, and the first person who delivered a lecture in London upon teetotalism, delivered a lecture to a crowded meeting in the Foxe's lane Temperance Hall, on Wednesday evening, against the manufacture, use, and sale of intoxicating drinks. After the lecture the meeting resolved to advertise, that whereas nine-tenths of the crime, vice, misery, and poverty of this country, are caused by the use of intoxicating drinks, this meeting publicly declares that *while the law-makers continue to authorize the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, they hold them responsible for the crime, immorality, and expense which it entails upon the community.*"

We like this advertisement. Yet we should have been better pleased if it had gone a little further. For the "law-makers" are not the only responsible persons. If they refuse to prevent "the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks," and are afterwards re-lected,or if they were elected by those who knew that they would so refuse, *the electors are responsible.* They cannot shake off that responsibility. If any of them are Temperance men, it will be an ugly dress for them to wear!

But we would extend this responsibility further still. *The drinkers are responsible.* The man who quaffs his port or sherry after dinner, and rejoices in whisky toddy at night—and the so-called *moderate* drinker, too, whose occasional glass helps to perpetuate the unhallowed usage—all who drink are responsible. In this nineteenth century, when so much light has been thrown on the subject, he who perseveres in the use of intoxicating drink as a beverage must not think it strange if he is held chargeable with the evils that flow from a practice which he sanctions by his example.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The finances of the Editor of the Elkton, Ky., Banner, are in a desperate condition. In an appeal to the Subscribers to pay up, he says:—

"Friends! we are almost penniless—Job's turkey was a millionaire compared with our present depressed treasury!—To-day, if the price of salt was two cents a barrel-full, we could'nt buy enough to pickle a jay bird!"

A person who was recently called to court for the purpose of proving the correctness of a doctor's bill, was asked by the lawyer, whether the doctor did not make several visits after the patient was out *of danger*? "No," replied the witness, "I considered him *in danger* as long as the doctor continued his visits!"

"Jim," said a little boy who was boasting of his father's new house, "we have got such a fine portico, and mahogany doors and plate glass windows; and on the top is a cupola, and it is going to have something else." "What is it?" asked his interested companion. "Why I heard father tell mother this morning that its to have a *mortgage* on it."

What is the coincidence between a rose and the Thames?—Both under any name would smell the same.

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Gold is universally worshipped without a single temple and by all classes without a single hypocrite.

When a miser was asked what he gave to the poor, he testily replied, "What I give is *nothing to nobody*!"

Lady (in fashionable dress): "Little boy, can I go through this gate to the river?" Boy: "Perhaps; a load of hay went through this morning."

"Be sharp my blade," as the butcher's boy said when grinding his knife.

Why is a milkman like a sailor?—Because he gets his bread by *water*.

(From Wilmer's European Times, March 29th.)

THE CONFERENCE.

Another week has passed without peace being proclaimed, and people were wondering what hitch could have occurred in the deliberations. In this uneasy state of the public mind, the leading morning journal of yesterday, relying evidently, on some scraps of information picked up in Downing-street, intimates that while the last diplomatic difficulty was on the point of being settled, the claim which Prussia has put in to sign the treaty on the same terms as the other European Powers had given rise to delay, but that even this unexpected obstacle has been overcome. From the same source we learn that so near was the completion of peace before this interruption, that Louis Napoleon had given orders for the cannon of the Invalides to announce it at the same time that the *Te Deum* was resounding in the churches of France for the safe delivery of the Empress. The Emperor, who delights in striking effects, must have been sorely mortified that it was otherwise; but the difficulty was too great to be immediately overcome. At length the point in dispute has been settled by a kind of compromise. Two protocols are to be drawn up, or rather we should say, have been drawn up by this time, to the first of which the signature of the Allied Plenipotentiaries and those of Russia will be attached, and another which Prussia will be permitted to sign in conjunction with the representatives of other Powers. Lord Clarendon is said to have stoutly resisted the admission of Prussia on any other terms, and to have stood alone in the Conference in maintaining this position. There may be some speculation in this statement; but it is probably near the truth, and so near are we to peace, that it would not surprise us if Lord Palmerston, on the evening of Monday next, did not in his place in Parliament announce the fact, reserving such details as the necessities of the case might suggest. The humbling of Prussia, even by the distinction here pointed out, may perhaps save some hostile criticism.

It is two years yesterday since England declared war against Russia, and the armistice terminates on Monday the 31st; but orders, we believe, have been despatched to the Crimea, prohibiting the renewal of hostilities in the event of peace not having been proclaimed before that time. But the discussion in the British Parliament will compel Ministers for their own sakes to give as clear an insight into the machinery of the Conference as possible, for the opposition are already preparing to make political capital out of whatever shortcomings the terms of peace may present. On this head Lord Palmerston's Ministry will be vigorously assailed, and it is fortunate for him that his Foreign Minister is so popular with the country, and possesses the reputation of having been thoroughly in earnest respecting the war from its commencement. The terms of peace we believe, are still matter of conjecture, but it is useless to indulge in speculation when we are so near the reality.

If the accounts from Constantinople are to be relied on, much of the time of the Conference has been occupied with the reforms essential to the regeneration of Turkey, but the obstinacy of the Turks on a subject is well known. It is gratifying, nevertheless, to find it stated that two chamberlains of the Sultan had been dismissed for opposing the reforms proclaimed by their master; but on the other hand we learn that the Porte has rejected a petition from a number of Molavian Boyards, accompanied with an intimation that all similar protests will be but down. Aali Pacha, the Turkish representative inthe Paris Conferences, has also been requested not to consent to the insertion of the Sultan's decree in favour of his Christian subjects amongst the articles of peace. The same representative has also been instructed to oppose any arangement respecting the Principalities which may in any way compromise the Sovereign rights of the Porte,—so that we can readily conceive that the airs and even the arrogance of the Power whose feebleness led to the war have been of the most preposterous and even insulting kind.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 15th says:—"The *Invalide Russe* announces to-day that the Emperor, having been informed that the battalions which were sent from the division of the depot of the 6th *corps d'armee* in 1855 to complete the troops in the Crimea were not properly armed, and were unfit to continue their march, published an order of the day on the subject on the 12th. In that document the Emperor severely censures— 1, General Marin, who commands the depot, for having neglected to superintend the proper execution of orders given by his superiors, by which negligence the troops were impeded in their march; and 2, General von Brine, the chief of the staff of all the reserves and depots, for having only inspected the said battalions in a very superficial manner previously to their departure from Moscow. The Tribunal of War, after having decided the degree of culpability and participation in the defective equipment of the said battalions of the persons in command of the depot division of the 6th *corps d'armee* will sentence them to the punishment prescribed by the law. This announcement has produced a considerable sensation in this city. For some time past remarkable changes have been going on in this Russian army. Not only will the uncomfortable helmets make way for the French kepi, but the coats will be supplanted by the poloukaftan, a sort of frock imitated from the French. The war has occasioned great changes in the military organization of Russia, as much in the arms as in the general regulations. The Russian soldier will still preserve the long gray greatcoat, which is a comfortable dress, and protects him well against the severity of the climate; and the Russian army is at present being organized after the plan of that of Napoleon 1. Turning to lighter matters, I may mention that since the expiration of the period fixed for mourning for the Emperor Nicholas the Imperial family show themselves more frequently in public, and that the Emperor Alexander, in particular, is in much better spirits."

The Concessions of Russia.—It is said that Russia, at the Conferences, has conceded the demand that Nicolaieff should cease to be a war port. Unless the concession includes the demantling of the dockyards, the Western Powers may soon discover that they have been deceived. Russia may build a fleet of merchant-vessels at that port capable of being extemporised into war and troop ships, and in sufficient number to transport an army to any point of the Black Sea. The steam-ships of the Cunard line, the Peninsular and Oriental, and other large companies, are now all built with the view of being made available for war proposes at the shortest notice.

The Principalities.—The Porte has rejected a petition from 60 Moldavian Boyards, directed against the local Divan of the principality. Prince Ghika has, in the name of the Sultan, intimated that all similar protests will be put down.

Persia.—It is reported that the differences between this country and Persia have terminated, the Persian Government having made the amende honourable. Mr. Murray will, therefore, shortly return to his post at Teheran.