

Temperance and Christianity.

It is astonishing how long it takes the world to learn the plainest and simplest truths. Those truths which to us appear on the very surface of the Bible and natural morality were not seen at all by the best Christians and moralists of a few years ago.

But by the growth of the Christian principle, one by one the great evils of the world are being overthrown. Slavery for a long time subsisted, notwithstanding the truths of the New Testament were as plainly written then as now.

For centuries men have been guzzling liquid fire, thereby making imbeciles or criminals of themselves, broken-hearted women of their wives, and paupers of their children. And when it was proposed to in some way stop this wholesale system of crime, men confronted us with the Bible!

Man drinks to his destruction socially. He is polite, symmetrical in form, affable in bearing, brilliant in conversation, in short, everything that makes one successful socially.

A few years have passed. The once neat home has now a neglected appearance. The once bright, happy eyes of the wife have now a wistful look. Her cheeks, once so like roses in their complexion, are now pale and wasted.

Does the Bible encourage a practice whose results are as described above? God forbid.

The Christian religion was given for all time. It lays down principles which are to work out the emancipation of the race from crime and vice of all descriptions.

Even in the days of Paul wine had become a dangerous enemy. The

preachers were not satisfied to simply warn the people against its extravagant use, but themselves totally abstained from its use as a beverage. If not, why did Paul think it necessary to advise Timothy to take a little wine?

Education in New Brunswick.

Dr. Rand usually favors us with a copy of his Annual Report of the Schools in New Brunswick and of the Educational Circular issued by him semi-annually.

Whether he has done so with his last Report, just out, we know not; but it has not as yet come to hand. In its absence we have read with pleasure the notices of it in the New Brunswick press.

The Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for the school year ended Oct. 31st., 1877, is upon our table. It contains valuable suggestions, and important statistics, showing the condition of the Common, Superior, Grammar, Normal and Model schools of our Province.

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Table with 2 columns: Term (Winter, Summer) and Amount (1872, 1877)

Or in other words the summer term of 1877 has a gain of 37 per cent. over the corresponding term of 1872, and the winter term a gain of 79 per cent.

The improvement in the figures of the winter term over the summer would seem to indicate that many of those of more advanced years embrace the opportunity of attending school during that season.

During the summer term ended 31st Oct., 1877, 1,349 teachers and assistants were employed in our Province, teaching 1,305 schools. But it must be remembered that neither the 51,588 attending the winter term, nor the 54,472 attending the summer term, expresses the whole number of our population at school.

During the year there has been a slight decrease in the average salaries of teachers, due, no doubt, to the prevailing hard times, but probably no class of salaried men has experienced less diminution.

St. John stands highest and Queen's Co. lowest in the scale of teachers' salaries. We are pleased to note the increasing tendency to advance the salaries of teachers, as it is only in this way that men of culture and devotion may be secured and retained in the profession.

The Provincial Normal School 'was never in so efficient a condition as it is at present.' With new surroundings,

new rooms, etc., a fresh impetus seems to have been given to that important section of the work of education.

There is one table of the Report which conveys unpleasant facts. It is this: that great irregularity prevails in attendance at school. Very little over 50 per cent of the enrolled pupils are daily present on an average.

The method of inspection by counties still remains unchanged. The Chief, in connection with the introduction of division inspection, says: "It appears to me of the first importance that the Board of Education and the Chief Supt. be placed at once in a position to prepare for a systematic inspection of a portion of the schools, as required by Section 13....."

The idea of an Aid Fund for teachers, which the Chief Supt. has advocated in several of his Reports, and educational circulars, is again presented in his Report. He says: "It is a necessity that the schools have the services of men and women of ability and good culture.

There are many other points in this excellent Report which we would like to notice, but must forbear. It bears the marks of careful preparation, it tells of our advancement, and points out remedial measures for the defects in the working out of our school system.

Diphtheria and its treatment.

Diphtheria is prevailing to an alarming extent in many localities, and the following extracts from a sensible article on the subject in the Springfield Republican may be of interest and service to many of our readers:—

Diphtheria is a disease which springs from the growth of a real fungus on some of the mucous surfaces of the throat, more generally of the throat. It may be spread by contact of the mucous surfaces of a diseased with those of a healthy person, as in kissing, and is to an unlimited degree epidemic.

From the local parts affected it spreads to the whole body, affecting the muscular and nervous systems, vitiating the lymph and nutrient fluids, and producing paralysis. As soon as the bacterium or fungus appears in white patches on the throat, it should be no more neglected than a bleeding gash or a broken arm, and there is almost as little need of a fatal termination of the one incident as of the other.

A wild rumor was rampant here, one evening last week, of the sudden death of Carl Shurz, Secretary of the Interior. He was confined to his house at the time with neuralgia, and nobody knew how the report started, but newsboys were crying his death from neuralgia of the heart, and quite an excitement prevailed in the streets over it until it was found to be an error.

The President, in private conversation recently, fell to pitying the "Poor President's wives" of the past, because they were expected to return all visits made to them; but he was promptly reminded that that was in the days before Madison, when Executive's ladies

of the disease proceeding to a fatal termination, or even to the debilitating illness and painful cauterization which go together in its later stages. As to the origin of diphtheria, the weight of testimony is that it belongs to the class of filthy diseases, but further than that its source is not clear. Families which would be scandalized at the suggestion of untidiness are attacked, while others of filthy surroundings escape. This simply shows that our sense of cleanliness needs cultivation, so that we may discriminate between what is offensive to the system and what offensive to our falsely educated tastes.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 2, 1878.

There is no prospect of an early adjournment of Congress. The real politicians appear to be just warming for battle. The Republican Senators are daily becoming more open in their hostility towards the President and his policy, and propose taking such action before they adjourn, as will compel Mr. Hayes to enlist himself with the Republicans or drive him utterly out of the party.

It is authoritatively stated that there is no foundation for the rumor that the President intends to re-organize his Cabinet. He expresses himself as well content with it as it is, and asserts that the Cabinet is perfectly agreed and harmonious.

Mrs. Hayes is still in Ohio, where the President will join her this week. They are to attend the wedding of a daughter of one of Mrs. Hayes' school friends.

The bride to be is a sister to the baby, Lucy Webb Herron, who was christened at the White House on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes' silver wedding.

The prospective groom is brother to the lady who married the Prince de Lynar, of Germany, a few years ago. The Prince received a dowry of \$100,000 with his bride, but he has separated her absolutely from her family, and will not even allow her to see her mother who is now in Europe.

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did not receive such a very vast number of callers as they do now. Either President's wives do not feel the burdens of State as much as their husbands do, or they have greater powers of endurance, for see how they outlive them. Genl. Grant is our only living Ex-President, while there are quite a number of their widows—Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Lincoln, and one or two others.

By the way, it is said that Mrs. Lincoln's mother follows her abroad as well as at home. She lives in Europe very secluded, but requires constant watching. Her insanity consists mainly in a propensity to purchase innumerable articles, for which she has neither use nor money to pay.

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger.

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