BEER.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S BEVERAGE—ITS INVENTORS AND ITS EFFECTS.

Whether Osiris invented beer twenty centuries before the Christian era or wrether the discovery is due to Noah is a moot point which the archæologists have not yet been enabled to solve, and which will probably continue to escape solution. It is as problematical whether the beer drunk by the ancient Hebrews was a malted, fermented and intoxicating beverage or only an infusion of barley weakly fermented and somewhat resembling the "qvass" which is drank to this day by the Russians. Herodotus writes of Egyptian beer as wine of barley, but the elder Pliny and Tacitus speak of a beer drank to excess by the people of the North, and on which they presumably got tipsy, since it is recorded that at their drinking bouts they were accustomed to throw their drinking horns at one another. At all events, it seems certain that beer has been drunk in all ages and in all countries, save in Mohammedan lands, where the vine has been poorly cultivated or not cultivated at all. The radical distinction between the potations of the Latin and the Teutonic races has been aptly illustrated by a well known epilogue on the Battle of Waterloo. "Beer and Wine met in hostile array together on the 18th of June, 1815. Wine, crimson with fury, boiling with enthusiasm, frenzied with audacity, scaled three times the hill of Mont St. Jean, but on the plateau they found an invulnerable, an impregnable wall of soldiers, who knew not how flinch or how to fly. You know history. These were the children of Beer; and

BEER WON THE DAY."

The execration in dialectics would scarcely meet with the approval of Sir Wilfred Lawson, while, on the other hand, the advocate of temperance might point to the truly remarkable fact that it was by an army who were not allowed by their commanders to drink one single drop of any intoxicating that in the American civil war the Confederate soldiers who had an unlimited supply of whiskey and cider, were ultimated defeated. Still, this undeniable historical event might be met by a counter statement from the friend of Sir John Barleycorn, that in 1570 the wine drinking hosts of France were once more disastrously worsted by the beer drinking legions of Germany. Perhaps, on the whole, there is as much to be said on one side as the other; and few, save the extreme fanatics of teetotalism, will deny that beer drinking has been infinitely less mischievous to society than the drinking of spirits. The English working classes probably swallow about three times as much beer as they should properly consume; but beer drinking has not sapped the vitals of the people, it has not ruined their physique, and the English labouring man notwithstanding his addictedness to too much beer, is about as strong a labourer as can be found in the whole world. The Russian peasant is nearly as strong, and he will drink whatever he can get, and as much of it as he can hold. He is preferably a spirit drinker, and in order to dissuade him from getting drunk on vodka, a philanthropic society was formed some years since at Moscow for the purpose of brewing a cheap and wholesome beer for the masses. The result has not been satisfactory. Moscow beer is very good, and the moujiks will imbibe as much of the beverage as the purchasing power of their kopecks will enable them to obtain; but they are as partial to vodka as ever.—London Telegraph.

SCOTT ACT ENFORCEMEFT.

Globe.

In his address to the Grand Jury at the Assizes on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Rose spoke as follows:—I am not going to say whether or not the Scott Act is a failure, or whether or not there should be a prohibitory law. I have during the past three years given the subject much consideration. I have been in every county town in the Province except two during that time, and have made inquiries as to the working of the Scott Act. I have found that the Act is not enforced; that there is open violation of its provisions, and in one town in which I was on my last circuit the proprietor of the hotel at which I was lodging openly sold liquor. Upon inquiry I found that he had, during the first six weeks after the passing of the Act, faithfully observed its provisions, but finding that

THE OTHER HOTELS SOLD LIQUOR,

he then commenced to supply his guests, relying upon the fines not being heavier than the licence fee. The Inspector in the same town, as I was informed by the member of Parliament for the county—who happened to be a member of my own profession—said that he could easily prevent the sale of liquor in that hotel, as the proprietor would not perjure himself and the guests were all too respectable not to tell the truth, but that the effect would be to close up the most respectable house in the town, and that as he was unable to stop the sale of liquor in the other houses owing to the impossibility of getting the witnesses to tell the truth, he did not think that, in the public interest, he should interfere. It is

NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC

that a statute should be passed and not enforced, and unless there was sufficient moral force behind an Act to compel its observance it should be repealed; and I am of opinion that no further legislation in the way of prohibition should be placed upon the statute book until we were prepared to enforce the legislation that is already there, and that the Acts now on the statute book should be either enforced or repealed. I have found through the country the consensus of opinion that saloons and open bars should be done way with; temptation removed from the young men, no reason being urged in favor of the existence of places which were dangerous to those who had contracted habits which should be restrained, and a temptation to those who had not acquired the habit of drinking.

A Wrinkle Worth Knowing.

Chicago Herald.

"The way to keep your windows from being enameled with frost," said a Dearborn street merchant yesterday, "is to rub them once or twice a week with a rag dipped in glycerine. I have found that to be the only way to keep my show windows clear. The discovery has been worth many dollars to me, but I don't mind letting the cat out of the bag."

THE ARMIES OF EUROPE.—The enormous standing armies of Europe are the pauperism. At this Germany has an effective military force of 3,670,000, and it is in her power as it now stands to call out a force of 6,000,000. But the smaller number which we have mentioned are all trained men, familiar with military arms and with military evolutions. If Austria unites with Germany, it will add 150,000 more trained soldiers to the German force, so that these two countries alone are capable on the breaking out of war, to place 5,370,000 fighting men in the field. This in all probability is a far greater force of trained men than it will be possible for Russia and France together to bring forward. The nominal strength of the Russian army including reserves, is 10,000,000 but the actual fighting force perhaps does not exceed 2,500,000, while France has a force which, according to Gen. Boulanger, can be put into the field within 30 days, of 2,000,000 men, so that Russia and France could at this moment place in the field 4,500,000. The French artillery is said to be the very finest in the world. The French force to-day is more than three times the number under the Emperor, and that of Germany is about four times as strong as it was during the Franco-German war. A war between France and Russia on the one side and Germany and Austria on the other would probably cost $200,000,000.

A tribe of Cree Indians, who were engaged in the Riel rebellion and crossed the line into Montana last summer, are in a terrible state on the Sun River, being entirely destitute of food and clothing.

NEWS ITEMS.

The United States authorities have removed the embago on Canadian horses.

Spearing is said to be excellent in Hamilton Bay, pike being plentiful.

The winter scene at the Falls now is said to be the most gorgeous in years.

A village in Tunis has been visited by a severe earthquake shock.

The victims of the recent Madras fire are officially numbered at 403.

The jubilee of the Queen reign will be celebrated throughout India on February 6.

Mr. T. J. Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, is dead.

The strike of coal handlers is likely to cause a coal famine in New York.

The rumor is again received that Mr. Dewdney will be succeeded in the Northwest Governorship by Hon. Joseph Royal.

The German troops are being drilled three hours a day in the use of the repeating rifle.

The Russian Government has suppressed a St. Petersburg paper for violently attacking Germany.

Two officers named Meza and Portillo, recently fought a duel with swords in San Salvador. Meza was killed.

Most of the representatives of foreign powers at Washington believe there will be no European war this year.

The French Government has decided to increase this year's extraordinary military credit from 50,000,000 to 86,000,000 francs.

Turkey proposes that the selection of the Bulgarian Prince be left to the German Emperor.

A Kingston grocer was fined forty dollars for selling liquor to boys ten years old.

The Peterboro' Examiner believes The Mail would oppose Neal Dow himself if he were to take the field as a Liberal candidate.

It is stated that evidence has been brought forward proving that Suroule, recently hanged for murder in British Columbia, was innocent and that his brother is about to bring an action against the Dominion Government for $100,000 damages.

During 1885 the immense quantity of 100,700,000 feet of Canadian lumber was shipped from Montreal, employing 181 steam and sailing vessels. In 1877, only nine years ago, but 3,400,000 feet were shipped, only ten vessels being engaged in the trade.

The speeches of Gen. von Moltke and Prince Bismark on the German Army bill have created the greatest excitement, and form a theme of comment in all the principal European papers. The general impression is the utterances of these distinguished men have darkened the prospect and lessened the security of peace.

In Tennille, Ga., where a prohibitory law is in force, J. W. Gardner awoke before day and gave a drink of whisky to his 4-year-old boy, the child being sick. Gardner then went to his work, when the child again secured the jug and drank. When the mother awoke she found the child dead, with the jug clasped to his breast.

Lord Iddesleigh, better known as Sir Stafford Northcote, died suddenly on the 13th inst., though it was announced only a few days ago that he was in good health. He was born in London on October 27th, 1818, graduated at Oxford in 1842 and was called to the bar in 1847. He succeeded to the title on the death of the death of his grandfather in 1851, and became a member of Parliament in 1855. Sir Stafford was private secretary of Mr. Gladstone when the latter was President of the Board of Trade in 1866, Secretary of State for India in 1869, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869, and a member of the High Joint Commission on the Alabama claims in 1871. In 1874 he joined Mr. Disraeli's Cabinet as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and when Disraeli went to the House of Lords Sir Stafford Northcote led the Tory party in the Commons. Lord Iddesleigh was not at the time of his death a member of the Salisbury Government.

The following is alleged to be one curious result of the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway:—Formerly the salmon in the spawning season ascended the Fraser River by the million, and they could be scooped out of the water by the barrelful with any kind of vessel large enough. But since the trains have begun running regularly along the banks of the Fraser, the fish have begun to desert the stream, and it feared that in a year or so there will be very few of these fish where in former years they were present in countless numbers. The noise of the engine and the vibration imparted to the water by the trains running along banks, are supposed to have scared them, and therefore caused their departure.

"VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE is by far the handsomest seed catalogue that is issued in America. It is handsomely bound, and contains illustrations enough of flowers and vegetables to make the amateur gardener crazy."—Globe, Boston, Mass.

The December WIDE AWAKE spreads a royal Christmas feast for its friends—good things and dainties. One of the most beautiful modern paintings of "The Madonna and the Child," that famous one by Gabriel Max, has been reproduced for the frontispiece. A poem and a story by a favorite poet and a favorite story-teller, open the magazine: "In the Orphan-House," by Susan Coolidge, and "A Pretty Scarecrow," by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; the poem illustrated by Dielman and the story by Hassam. There are other delightful Christmas stories: "The Mayor's Christmas Masquerade," by Mary E. Wilkins, "A Wee Wedding," by Sophie May, and "Taffy and Buster," by Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, the latter a three-part story of the author's famous span of Shetland Ponies, very well know in New York City in the early days of the Civil War—all joyous stories. Bright serials open: "Montezuma's Gold Mines," by Fred A. Ober, author of "A Silver City;" "Romulus and Remus," a comedy serial by Charles Remington Talbot; "Howling Wolf and his Trick-Pony," by Mrs. Lizzie W. Champney; and "A Young Prince of Commerce," by Selden A. Hopkins. And then come special delights: there is a long interesting article about the poet Longfellow's Boyhood, by Rev Samuel Longfellow; there is an article about "Fairies, Who they are and Where they came from," by Louise Imogen Guiney; and there is another, the first of twenty-four, about "Famous Pets" this one describes the favorite animals of Sir Walter Scott, Christopher North, Hogg the poet, the master of "Rab," and tells too the touching story of "Greyfriars' Bobby." A new department, "The Contributors and the Children" gives enjoyable little Two-minute Talks by Mrs. James T. Fields, Susan Coolidge, Margaret Sidney, Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney, and Mrs. Kate Garnnett Wells. Then there are illustrated ballads by Austin Dobson and Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford, poems by Edith Thomas, Mrs. Alice Wellington Rollins, Mrs. Clara Doty Bates, Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney and Helen Gray Cone; and there is an entertaining article about Miss Juliet Corson and her cookery work, a natural history chapter by C. F. Holder about "Wonderful Fliers," and a needlework paper called "Baby's Shoe," by Mrs. Fremont, besides Mr. Oscar Fay Adam's new Search-Question work in Greek History.

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