

reform in the Dominion be invited to obtain these necessary reforms."

Mrs Galloway supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr C. E. Statham, M.P., thought a very good case had been made out, and the result of his enquiries into the objections raised by the Attorney-General might well be that he would cast his lot in with the advocates of reform and do his best to have these reforms given effect to. Mr J. M. Dickson and Mr Walker, M.P.'s, also expressed themselves in sympathy with the movement.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIQUOR BILL.

From the 1st of July, 1915, to the 30th June, 1916.

During 1914 not less than £1,551,730 had been spent in alcoholic liquors, an increase over the preceding year of £48,762. In the year ending June 30th, 1916, there had been spent £1,257,697 a decrease compared with preceding year of £294,033. The cost per capita had decreased in the same time by 12s 11½d, which is gratifying as the previous five years have shown a consistent increase of nearly 1s 6d per head per annum.

During the same period the report of the Commissioner of Police shows that crimes against the person decreased last year by nearly one-half. There was a decrease of 11 per cent. in cases of drunkenness.

ALCOHOL AND EFFICIENCY.

Messrs Ames and Co., of Massachusetts, found that 375 men could turn out 8 per cent. more shovels during the months of May and June of the Prohibition year than 400 men produced in the same months of the following year, when drink was sold.

The Carnegie Steel Company issued an order which declared that hereafter all promotions of whatever character will be made only from the ranks of those not indulging in intoxicants.

The Strasburg Gasworks prohibited alcohol and supplied tea and malt coffee instead, with the result that £800 was distributed in bonuses on account of the increased output which resulted under these conditions.

FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

School was over, and Miss Grant sat at her tea-table enjoying a well-earned rest. A sharp ring at the door bell was followed by the entrance of a visitor. Myra sprang up with outstretched hands, and cried, "Oh, Uncle Bob! What an unexpected pleasure! Sit down and gossip, and forget the cares of State for a time."

The visitor was an old friend of her father's. Together they had left old Scotland's shores, and together they had reached the young colony of Arcadia, and shared in the dangers and discomforts of pioneer life. Late in life Mr Grant had found his vocation as Rector of the Orford Boys' High School. On the death of his young wife, he had devoted himself to the education of his daughter, and under his tuition Myra had taken high academic honours. His friend, Robert Cameron, had entered politics, and was now Arcadia's Minister of Defence. Daughterless himself, he was much attached to the daughter of his old friend, while to Myra Uncle Bob was the ideal hero, as her father had been her ideal of a saint.

"Well, Myra," said Uncle, "still delighted to teach the young idea how to shoot, or are you ready to come and be my private secretary?"

"Nothing as common as that," said Myra, smiling. "Only the portfolio of Education will satisfy me."

"Ha, ha! Very good!" laughed the Minister. "All things come to her who waits, if she only waits long enough. But seriously, my child, I want your help. Cabinet to-day discussed your pet project—the appointment of women police. As you know, the Minister in charge of the police is averse to the proposal; but I have been much impressed with the work they have done elsewhere. Three Australian States have appointed them, and in each they have made good. To-day I expressed my determination, as head of the Defence Department, to appoint women patrols to the military camps unless police women are appointed."

"How brave of you, Uncle, to beard the lion in his den!"

"Well, puss, you surely did not think that women had a monopoly of moral courage, did you? Under pressure, the Minister has agreed to appoint three police women in our garrison town of Fairley."

"Well done! A step in the right direction!"

"Yes, my child; but wait a minute. My colleague has challenged me to find suitable women, and I have accepted his challenge. I depend on you to enable me to make good. Will you be our first police woman?"

"Uncle, you take my breath away. Fancy me a member of the police force!"

Very seriously Mr Cameron replied: "Myra, your father urged this reform, believing it would safeguard the young life of our Dominion. For his sake, and because I believe in his insight, I am forcing a trial here. Much depends upon getting the right woman. If our first appointees are failures, my colleague will refuse to appoint more, and reform will be delayed. I ask you to come to the help of those who are standing in slippery places."

The girl's eyes filled with tears. "Give me a few days to think it over," was all she said.

After a little more talk, the Minister went away, and left Myra to her thoughts. Ere she retired for the night, Myra knelt down and spread the matter before the Lord, and asked for His guidance.

The following evening Myra went to see her old nurse, Granny Morris. The old lady was seated at her window, with her Bible on her knee, and greeted her nursling with a tender smile.

"All alone, Granny?"

"Yes, dear, and I'm troubled about Nancy."

"What is the matter with her, Granny?" asked Myra.

"Nancy is not bad, only foolish and unbalanced. Lately she has been going out for motor rides with a gentleman of whom I know nothing. She takes no heed to what her old Granny says; thinks I am old-fashioned. I wish we had women police to look after girls like Nancy, and save them from disgrace and ruin. My dear, my heart is very heavy for my foolish little girl."

Myra comforted her as best she could, and then set out for home.

As she passed through a dimly lit park, she heard a familiar laugh, and looking up, beheld Nancy approaching in company with a well-dressed middle-aged man.

"Good evening, Nancy," said Myra. "Granny is lonely, and wants you."