White Wax.

It will be a surprise to a large number of our American women to be told that the white wax, of which they make such constant use when engaged in their household sewing is the diseased secretion of a peculiar species of fly found in the eastern portions of Central China. Most of our countrywomen, if they have given a thought to the subject, have supposed that this white wax was some refined product of ordinary bees' wax, an article that has about it the condition of cleanliness and healthfulness, which is more than can be said of exudations of insects due to some bodily malady. These flies apparently become diseased from feeding on the leaves of a particular kind of evergreen tree or shrub, of which they are exceedingly fond. The twigs of these trees in certain seasons of the year are thickly covered with flies, who in time, leave upon them a thick incrustation of white matter. When this has increased to a sufficient size the branch is cut off and immersed in boiling water, which causes the wax to come to the surface in the shape of a liquid substance, which is skimmed off, cleansed, and afterward allowed to cool in pans. The trade in this article is quite an extensive one, as it is estimated that last year the crop was worth not less than $3,250,000.

—In the *Independent* of June 24th, the Rev. Edward P. Baker, of Portland, Oregon, suggests a compromise between Free Baptists and Pædo-Baptists, as follows: Let the transaction of our Savior's blessing little children be made the basis of an ordinance which might be termed infant consecration, to take the place of infant sprinkling or pouring. He says there is a wide-spread feeling, even among Pædo-Baptists, that a person having been converted, he should, thereupon be baptized: and that the prior sprinkling such an one may have received in infancy is no sufficient and proper substitute for that water baptism which, according to the uniform New Testament teaching, should follow believing. On the other hand, he says: "all devout Baptists recognize the propriety and duty of covenanting with God in behalf of their children," and of marking said covenant by some "external form." He thinks the adoption of this compromise would cure two evils, therefore besides, in that way, "an exceedingly unhappy schism in the body of Christ would be healed."

Coming as this does, from a Pædo-Baptist point of view, it is significant, to say the least, and points to a feeling of unrest on the subject of baptism in that quarter, which is the best assurance of any future union between affusionists and immersionists. The writer is mistaken, however, in supposing that there is any necessity of inventing a new ordinance to serve as the basis of such a union. A better compromise would be for all of us to agree to bring up our children in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord," as the Apostle Paul has enjoined. This would meet all the demands relative to parents' covenanting with God in behalf of their children, and a better generation of children would be the best "external form" with which to emphasize this covenant.—*Ex.*

—There is, at present, considerable questioning among good people whether the Maine Law is as affective as it has been claimed to be. Leonard Woolsey Bacon, in the *Independent*, says: "The town of Bangor is a little city of some 15,000 people. It is an interior town not affected by untoward influences from over the State line. It is a town widely noted for the influences favorable to culture, morality and religion that are centered there. In that town the Maine law has had as favorable a trial, these many years, as it could possibly have anywhere. What, now, is the character of that town, compared with like towns in other States, in respect to drunkenness? By the testimony of its most eminent citizens, openly published by the 'Women's Temperance Union,' the character of Bangor in respect to drunkeness is utterly vile. Dr. Hamlin declares (for substance) that in respect to drunkenness it is the worst place he ever knew in either hemisphere. Other citizens corroborate his testimony.

It will be replied that all this is due to the inactivity of the city administration that came into power in January, 1879. This is no answer at all. The Maine Law is vaunted to us as not depending for its effectiveness on the zeal of the municipal government. Any earnest citizen, male or female, can put it into operation. And yet here are thousands of earnest petitioners, claiming to represent the solid strength of the people of Bangor, going up with a memorial to the city government, complaining that the Maine Law does not work, and that Bangor is one of the drunkenest towns towns on the continent, not to say on the planet. Furthermore, this character of Bangor does not date from January, 1879. It is of 'several years' standing."—*Standard.*

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