

# THE TEMPERANCE PICTURE GALLERY

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Following on from Trevor Beattie's excellent article about *The Temperance Sketch Book* in the last edition of *The Magic Lantern* (TML 27, p. 1), I would like to offer another fine example from the Band of Hope – *The Temperance Picture Gallery*. This was written by Charles Wakely (1849-1926) who was the General Secretary of the UK Band of Hope Union (UKBHU). *Lucerna* gives the date as 1891 and suggests it was probably a follow-up to *The Temperance Sketch Book*, produced three years earlier. The UKBHU catalogue of 1891 calls it "an entirely new lecture illustrating various feats of endurance and hard work accomplished in all climates without alcohol". The set was advertised by the UKBHU on page 245 of the *Magic Lantern Almanac and Annual* for 1898-99 alongside *The Temperance Sketch Book* under the heading 'New Temperance Slides' – though neither set was new by this time.

In 1890, the year before *The Temperance Picture Gallery* was produced, Charles Wakely addressed the International Anti-alcohol Conference in Christiania (now Oslo) and said: "Save the children and you will save the state." The 'Opening View' in the reading (Figs 1 and 2), published with the slides, reads:

"In placing before you this evening our series of pictures, entitled 'The Temperance Picture Gallery', we shall show you, by facts relating to the experience of those living and working under the most opposite conditions, that under no

circumstances whatever can alcohol give strength and endurance to the body, or vigour or steadfastness to the mind. Occasionally [sic] we shall speak of those who, under the name of play or sport, do the hardest work; and the testimony of all will teach us that teetotalers can work better and play better than those who take

The title slide (No. 1)



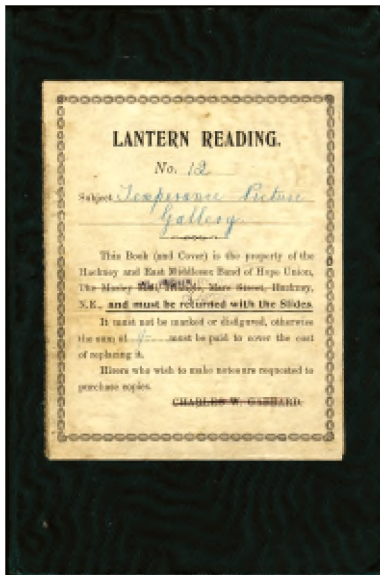
strong drinks, and that alcoholic beverages are, in every form, hurtful and dangerous."

On the page above this opening salvo somebody has written in red ink "This reading requires abbreviating", the same heartfelt advice found on the cover of Trevor Beattie's reading for *The Temperance Sketch Book*! Perhaps this was written by the same user. The detailed 'Hints to Lecturers' also make interesting reading:

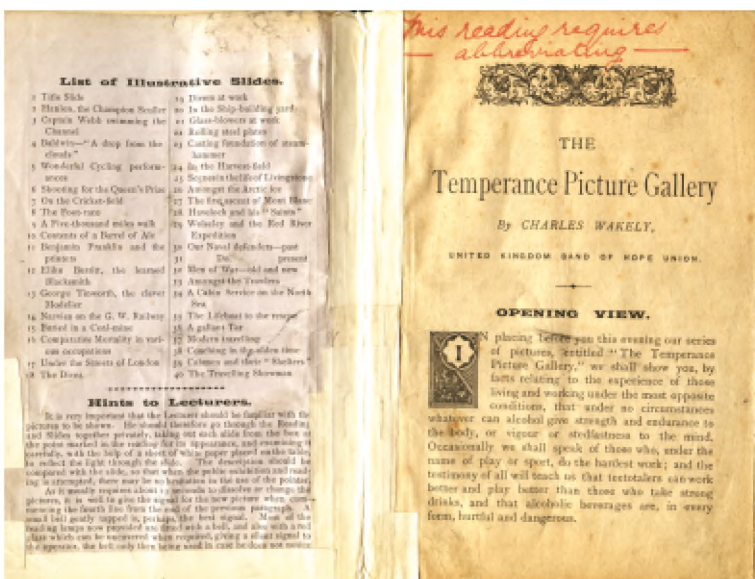
"It is very important that the Lecturer should be familiar with the pictures to be shown. He should therefore go through the Reading and Slides together privately, taking out each slide from the box at the point marked in the reading for its appearance, and examining it carefully, with the help of a sheet of white paper placed on the table, to reflect the light through the slide. The description should be compared with the slide, so that when the public exhibition and reading is attempted, there may be no hesitation in the use of the pointer. As it usually requires about 15 seconds to dissolve or change the pictures, it is well to give the signal for the new picture when commencing the fourth line from the end of the previous paragraph. A small bell gently tapped is, perhaps, the best signal. Most of the reading lamps now provided are fitted with a bell, and also with a red glass which can be uncovered when required, giving a silent signal to the operator, the bell only then being used in case he does not notice."

There are 40 slides in my set, as listed in the reading, focussing on real-life examples of success through abstinence. It is interesting to note that the slide designer Frederick Weeks delineated slides 1, 5, 28 and 35. The slides illustrated in this article are listed below, with a summary of their descriptions from the reading.

- No. 1 **Title slide.** The Temperance Picture Gallery
- No. 8 **The Foot-race.** In 1868 J.C. Clegg won six first prizes and the following year he won eight. In 1870 he secured 31 first and second prizes and altogether Mr Clegg has won a total of 84 prizes, 74 of which were first prizes. These exploits are doubtless due to that steadiness of nerve and that hardness of muscle, combined with the healthy action of lungs and heart, resulting from strict abstinence.
- No. 9 **A Five-thousand miles walk.** Weston, the celebrated walking champion, started out on November 20th, 1883 on a 5,000-mile walk. By March 15th, 1884 the walk of 50 miles a day for 100 days, Sundays excepted, terminated. The number of steps taken were calculated at



1. The cover of the reading for The Temperance Picture Gallery. This states it is the property of Hackney and East Middlesex Band of Hope Union with the name, 'Charles W. Garrard', as featured on the reading in Trevor Beattie's article (TML 27) – so perhaps the advice to abbreviate did come from the same hand.



2. The opening pages of the reading showing the list of slides, 'Hints to Lecturers' and 'Opening View', together with the excellent advice to abbreviate.



Slide 8. The Foot-race



Slide 9. A Five-thousand miles walk



Slide 11. Benjamin Franklin and the printers



Slide 12. Elihu Burritt, the learned Blacksmith



Slide 13. George Tinworth, the clever Modeller



Slide 14. Navvies on the G.W. Railway

about eleven million. He again and again stated that he could never have performed this if he had taken liquor alcoholic.

**No. 11 Benjamin Franklin and the printers.** Benjamin Franklin began life as a printer and an abstainer but worked amongst beer drinkers. The work was very arduous so he endeavoured to convince them that bodily strength furnished by the beer could only be in proportion to the solid part of the barley dissolved in water and he told them that for a penny loaf and a pint of water they would derive more strength from it than from a pint of beer.

**No. 12 Elihu Burritt, the learned Blacksmith.** One of the most remarkable men the world has ever seen. He was a master of 18 languages and so ardent was his desire to study that he undertook the work of two men, working 14 hours a day thus securing double wages to buy more books. In 1841, now 31, he founded a newspaper The Christian Citizen besides publishing his Sparks from the Anvil and other works. The picture shows Burritt at an advanced age on one of his

lecturing tours, which he took on foot, sometimes travelling 100 miles. He always regarded water as the best drink for hard workers.

**No. 13 George Tinworth, the clever Modeller.** George Tinworth, artist, painter, sculptor, owes his skills to the delicate powers of sight and touch. When drink is taken the keen perception of the fingers as well as the eyes is blunted and the delicacy of touch is blunted. He is well known as a total abstainer and his artistic productions are known all over the world. His marvellous works in terra-cotta can be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington, the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art and York Minster. Amongst other abstaining artists are George Cruikshank who lived to be 86 and the painter Hubert von Herkomer.

**No. 14 Navvies on the G.W. [Great Western] Railway.** Navvies were employed in the year 1872 to alter the track from broad to narrow gauge between Grange Court and Milford Haven and they worked from 17 to 18 hours a day. No alcoholic liquors were used and the only drink



Slide 25. Scenes in the life of Livingstone



Slide 35. The Lifeboat to the rescue



Slide 40. The Travelling Showman

of the men was oatmeal and water. Two men were set aside and provided with 28lb packages of oatmeal and a large iron pot and a fire made and the pot boiled (as seen in the picture). When ready, buckets were filled and carried round to fill each of the men's tin mugs. It is recorded that there was never any case of drunkenness or illness.

**No. 25 *Scenes in the life of Livingstone.*** In the two upper smaller pictures the heat of the sun makes it almost impossible to carry on any laborious occupation. The body exposed to the glare of the sun is subject to sunstroke and attacks of a long train of maladies, especially diseases of the liver. Dr Livingstone, the intrepid missionary explorer, acted on the principle of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors for more than 20 years. He had signed the Pledge at the age of 10, when we see him in the lower part of the picture, he was a poor piecer in a cotton mill, working from six in the morning 'till eight at night. He became a Doctor of Medicine at 25 and a missionary at 27, leaving home and kindred and plunging into the heart of an undiscovered continent to be the pioneer of Christianity and civilization. Caring for the temporal as well as the spiritual necessities of the poor natives he not only helped them to build their houses and boats but defended them against the ferocious slave traders. In the lower picture we see him in an exploring expedition in the Congo which he has the credit of discovering. An upper picture shows a terrific encounter with a lion from

which he was rescued by a faithful servant and the last picture shows the dying missionary on his last journey being carried a thousand miles in order that his countrymen might have the privilege of laying his remains in Westminster Abbey.

**No. 35 *The Lifeboat to the rescue.*** There does not exist a braver class of men than those who man our lifeboats. Ready always at the call of duty, the crews from over three hundred lifeboat Stations on our coast are prepared at all times to cope with every danger. The boat in the picture is 'The Palling', on the coast of Norfolk, fitted out by the 'British Workman', every man aboard being a total abstainer. The Chairman of the National Life-Boat Institution states, "Teetotallers always prove to be the best life-boat crews"

**No. 40 *The Travelling Showman.*** Our last picture represents a travelling show on the move. It is interesting to note that the showmen have a total abstinence society with 6,000 members. The late Mr Barnum, the great American showman, was a strict abstainer of 42 years standing. He employed upwards of 800 persons, all of them, it is said, being pledged abstainers. Mr Bartlett, Superintendent of the Zoological Gardens, says: "Most of the accidents we hear of in shows arise from drink. A lion is wonderfully quick to read character. The keeper drinks, goes amongst his beasts, they see his eye fail him and they take advantage of his weakness."