

colossal political necessities which must ultimately justify, even if they have not already justified, its existence.

Both at home and abroad, the Roman Catholic Church, with its immense political influence, is more and more emphatically taking ground in favor of severe legal measures for the repression of the liquor traffic.

In a reorganization of political parties, only those issues that are of the highest political moment should be taken up by a National Reform or Prohibition party. Unfinished work of superceded parties must, of course, not be forgotten, although no longer needing the foremost place. The new organization should dazzle all its opponents, but should be neither too broad nor too narrow, and should call on the people to settle but one great issue at a time.

VIII. Parties are scaffolding. When the building for the erection of which they were constructed is finished, their natural destination is reconstruction for use on some new building. They are to be taken down. Their timbers may be employed usefully in a new arrangement for a new purpose. Party *inertia* is apt to insist that mere scaffolding is to be left standing after the use of it has ceased. This is one of the absurdities of party spirit. The Republican party has built its house. The Union is saved. Slavery is abolished. These twin towers in the vast palace built by the use of the Republican scaffolding will be seen in history far and wide for ages. A new palace is needed by the people. A new moral issue demands a rearrangement of the old scaffolding. A third tower, as lofty as either of the others, is to be constructed.

The comparison between the conflict with slavery and that with the liquor traffic must not be pressed too far; but, on leading points, it is most striking. Slavery was sectional, and so was the organization of parties in opposition to it and in defence of it. The liquor traffic is entrenched in all quarters of the land, and so the division of parties concerning it will not be geographical, but moral. But, on this account, the struggle for its suppression may possibly be the more prolonged and complicated. The abolition of the liquor traffic will naturally proceed, as did the abolition of slavery, by the use of the forms peculiar to our State and National politics. As slavery was abolished, so will the liquor traffic be abolished, first in some of the States, then in the territories, then in a majority of the States, and finally in the Nation as a whole by Constitutional amendment.

The whiskey traffic in the great cities is guilty of nullifying both State and National law on most vital points, and of practically seceding from its control. The prohibitionists are the new Constitutional abolitionists.

In the conflict with the liquor traffic, as well as it was in the conflict with slavery, political necessity will be the mother of political