

necessary evil, and those taking this view of it join with *The News* in wishing that increased restrictions may be thrown around the business.

The fewer the places in which liquor is sold, the less the difficulty of inspecting the sale and keeping it within the limits of law and decency. More than this, every shop license abolished lessens the temptation, and adds to the difficulty of procuring liquor. Men who insist on drinking can still procure what they desire in liquor stores and hotels, but they will not have the temptation thrust under their noses every time they go into the "grocery" to buy a loaf of bread or a pound of tea.

There is no greater harm done to the community than that done by the grocer who encourages trade by treating his customers to whisky. Yet, it would be a safe assertion, that the majority of "wet-grocers" encourage trade and get "solid" with their customers in that way. It is unnecessary to recount the system of this evil, or the tendency of traders to make their customers "merry" before making sales. These evils are recognized in this and every other community, and every person acquainted with the sins which beset city life can testify to the means by which women stealthily obtain intoxicating liquor. Let it be said to the credit of the sex, that the appetite for stimulants must have laid deadly hold of a respectable Canadian woman before she will sacrifice her dignity and sense of propriety by going into a saloon or grog shop with the declared purpose of buying drink for herself. Neither can she in such places have whisky charged to her husband or father under the name of tea, or fish, or potatoes.

Thus the entire separation of the grocery and liquor trade will protect many weak men and women from temptation, and we say "God speed the day when this additional protection may be theirs." Those who oppose the separation and abuse *The News* for the stand it has taken, have an unrighteous cause, and are armed with selfishness only. Their cry of "vested rights" is without force, for no privilege extended any shopkeeper has a right to stand in the way of public order and morality. If the so-called "vested right" was created by public enactment, then recompense should be paid its owner on its removal. But the grocery license is a transient affair, granted from year to year, and liable to termination at the public will. Those who get into the business understand this perfectly, and take their chances.

In view of the many and forcible arguments in favor of the abolition of grocery-store temptation, it appears to us that those who are talking and working against this reform are shouldering a serious load. If they are successful, every ruined life, every wretched home, and every tarnished reputation which results from the grocery store bottle, will bring terribly increased remorse to those who are anxious to live no matter who may die.

The News is not classing all liquor-dealers together, nor is it the purpose of this article to stigmatize all "wet grocers" as careless of the results of their traffic. Many of those who are fighting against the reform which *The News* is urging would not willingly beset the lives of their neighbors with temptation. They have been so long in the trade however, that they fail to separate the evils which naturally arise from the weakness of human nature from the evils which are created by the cupidity of those who neither fear God nor regard man. These good-intentioned people prevent many of the evils which would naturally arise from their business, but they must remember that they are the exceptions not the rule.

Therefore, the grocery grog-shop must go.—*Toronto News*.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

AGAINST THE LIQUOR-CRIME.

All citizens of the United States, without distinction of section, sex, race, color, place of birth, or former party relation, who are in favor of the prohibition by the national government, in its constitution and laws, and its treaties with other governments, of the manufacture, sale, or supply, importation, or exportation of alcoholic beverages, in any form, distilled or fermented, as a high crime against the nation and the civilized world, and who will support the election of an administration to enforce this prohibition, are invited to send delegates to the National Convention of the Prohibition Home-Protection Party, to be held in the City of Pittsburgh, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, the twenty-first day of May, 1884, at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m., to nominate candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States; to adopt a platform of such principles and measures of national government as are living issues

before the people; and to transact such other business as the Convention may deem proper.

The basis of representation in the Convention will be one delegate for every 250, and fraction over 100, of the number of votes cast for the leading candidate on the State ticket of the Prohibition Home-Protection Party, at the last regular State election, held in the years 1882 and 1883, in each of the following named thirteen states; in which such tickets were voted: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Main, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In all the other states, and in the Territories and District of Columbia, the basis of representation will be one delegate for every 250 and fraction over 100, of the qualified voters at general elections there, who sign the following:

NATIONAL CALL.

We, the undersigned citizens of—, in the county of—, and State (or Territory) of—, hereby unite in calling a convention of the signers of this and similar calls circulated in this county, to be held at—, on the—day of—, 1884, at the hour of—, for the purpose of organizing the Prohibition Home-Protection party in this county, and appointing delegates to a State (or Territorial) convention, to form the party in this State (or Territory), and to appoint delegates to the National Convention of that party, to be held in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the 21st day of May, 1884. We hereby mutually pledge ourselves to each other, that we will entirely separate ourselves from the Republican and Democratic parties, and from all political parties not opposed to the liquor-crime, and that we will do all in our power to promote the success of the principles and candidates of the Prohibition Home-Protecting party.

— — — (Place and date.)

NAMES OF VOTERS. | NAMES OF NON-VOTERS. | POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.

Each County Convention so called, will appoint a committee of one or more of such signers to the National Call, who will unite with like Committees from other Counties in time to send delegates to this National Convention. All delegates to this Convention will be appointed by their several State and Territorial Conventions, and will bring certificates of their appointment signed by the Chairman and Secretary of each; and except from the thirteen states above named, each certificate must also contain the number of qualified electors who have signed the National Call in such State or Territory.

Every delegation to this Convention will have power to fill vacancies in its own number, occurring after its appointment. All friends of the cause not accredited as delegates, are cordially invited to attend the sessions of the Convention, without taking part in its proceedings, unless specially authorized to do so by the Convention.

GIDEON T. STEWART, Chairman.

R. W. NELSON, Secretary.

A. J. JUTKINS, Cor. Secretary.

Of the National Committee of the Prohibition Home-Protection Party.

January 23, 1884.

THE HARBOR OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

Bishop Ireland, in an address before the annual convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Unions of America, proclaimed total abstinence the true remedy for intemperance as follows: "But what of the efficacy of total abstinence as a remedy for prevailing intemperance? The tens of thousands whom you lead to the practice of total abstinence are saved *A total-abstinence society is the harbor; within the winds are still, the sea is calm; outside the billows roar, and the rocks and shoals lie in wait.* Outside the harbor many escape shipwreck, but many, too, sink low and deep. All who are within have reason to rejoice. In the name of their most precious interests, invite those who are without to enter with you. They have, perhaps, already suffered from the storm, or, may be, they are as yet unscathed.

In either case, far better for them the harbor. The circumstances of the present time, we must remember, are peculiar. Society is honeycombed with temptation to drink; the stoutest and bravest are daily falling victims. Who, you can ask, is sure in advance of victory. To Irishmen, particularly, because of their comparative native powerlessness to resist alcohol, because of the fatal habits in which past traditions have wrapped them, because their welfare is near to my heart, I will never cease pointing out with an undeviating finger the harbor of peace and of security—*total abstinence.*"—*Steuben Signal.*