

OUR SYMPOSIUM.

We publish below a second instalment of post card suggestions for the Montreal Convention. Every true friend of the Temperance cause will no doubt desire to make this convention as practical, thorough and effective as possible. The interchange of ideas of our work before coming together will put us in better shape for full and careful deliberation.

Again we respectfully invite every friend of Prohibition to send us on a post card his or her opinion of what ought to be done at Montreal, what declarations ought to be made, and what lines of policy adopted. The suggestions will be published from week to week as they come in, in this paper. Here are some already received.

A. C. STEELE

Wants Business and no Waste of Time.

The situation is propitious and the call to arms opportune. The Convention should waste no time in idle discussion as to the necessity for Prohibition, but decide upon the best means of securing it, and at once complete the necessary arrangements therefor.

A. C. STEELE.

20 Queen West, Toronto.

REV. DR. AYLESWORTH

Thinks the Party Wire-pullers Should Have a Back Seat.

The Temperance Convention in Montreal should be made a grand success. The ablest minds, lay and clerical, should by all means be present. No such crisis ever came on the temperance cause in this Dominion as the present. (1) Some decided step ought to be taken now. (2) It ought to be an advance step. (3) The forces ought to be united. (4) It ought to be untrammelled and free. The Convention ought to tell the politicians what the Temperance people want, and not allow politicians to dictate the kind of demands they would like to have made. Let us all rally to the Convention.

I. B. AYLESWORTH.

St. Thomas, May 24, 1888.

J. S. ROBERTSON

Is for Independent and United Action.

The Montreal convention must eschew the slightest approach to partisanship in politics. Forget for the nonce that we are Grit or Tory, and be then, henceforth and forever thereafter Prohibitionists first and always. Exercise level-headed common sense methods to accomplish this one end. Don't be side-tracked by any one. Have naught to do with compromise. Stick to the one issue. United as to the one great purpose of the convention, we must be equally united as "men and brethren" in working for this purpose. The convention must be a practical and consistent illustration of the oft repeated axiom—"A strong pull, a long pull, and a pull altogether"—as to purposes, methods and men.

J. S. ROBERTSON

Secretary's office, Y. M. P. C., Toronto

REV. DR. CORNISH

Does not Approve of a Third Party

The liquor traffic is the curse of this Dominion, and the greatest enemy of Christianity, therefore we must continue to work energetically on the line of total Prohibition. I am of opinion that this can be more speedily secured by placing in power the party that has done, and is doing, the most to secure that end. I am not in favor of a third party, because our forces would be by it divided and weakened. Let the Convention give no uncertain sound. Let committees be organized for every municipality, and arrange to supplant legislators and municipal officers who have acted as a body-guard of the traffic. The time has come when there must be no more compromise with rum—our attitude must be that of persistent hostility to this giant evil.

Dravton, Ont., Geo. H. Cornish.

May 28th, 1888.

C. N. VROOM

Goes in for a New Party Straight

Our present situation seems to be as follows—1. Canada wants prohibition of the liquor traffic; not merely a prohibitory law, but such a law with government enforcement. 2. Neither the Conservative nor the Liberal party have declared themselves favorable to such a law or its enforcement. 3. Neither of the present parties will take this responsibility, as the influence of the liquor traffic is too powerful within them, and both cater for the support of liquor dealers. 4. If it were in the region of probability that either party should declare for prohibition, it would not unite the temperance forces in its support, party feeling being now so strong. 5. The only place for uniting old party temperance men politically is on neutral ground. 6. The methods of the existing parties are so corrupt that Christians cannot consistently take active work in them. 7. There seems no good and sufficient reason why either of the present parties should continue to exist, there being no important issue between them. 8. The logical course of the Montreal Convention, considering the whole situation, is to declare for the formation of a party having for its primary object the annihilation of the liquor traffic, and founded on true Christian principles.

C. N. VROOM.

St. Stephen, N.B., May 24, 1888.

Contributed Articles.

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

"Do write a word of protest," remarked a lady friend, "against the disgusting habit of tobacco smoking and spitting on board our excursion steamers." Yes, fair sister, I will about the loudest Methodist "Amen," though not of that persuasion myself, to such a protest. I confess to being thoroughly ultra, if you like, on this question of tobacco. It is a nasty, dirty habit, as another fair sister has expressed it. It is praised by its devotees as a sociable as well as a social habit. Perhaps so when viewed through smoky glasses. It strikes me as a terribly selfish habit, with little consideration for the tastes or comfort of others.

Why should everyone on board the deck of a steamer, there for an afternoon's enjoyment, or comfortably ensconced in the cabins, who does not use the weed, be forced to swallow, without any sugar coating even, the fumes of smoke of varied degrees of strength that are scattered around, and with the wind in the most favorable direction too often, from pipe or cigar, as the case may be. It is a selfish habit in the superlative degree.

I like the doctrine so forcibly laid down by a visiting clergyman in this city during the past winter, viz., that no man can be too particular of his life and conduct—be a clean man. This may seem an extreme view, but is it? The standard of excellence cannot be held too high. But there is danger in every effort to lower that standard.

Said a mother, in conversation a short time since, speaking of this habit of tobacco smoking, "I shall not mind it one bit, if my boy does smoke when he grows up." Mothers, you cannot afford to let your boys take the smallest step in the pathway that may lead to other vices. Walk along the streets of this fair city any hour in the day, and observe the hosts of boys, too many of them not yet in their teens, with cigarettes in their mouths. Is there anything to be proud of, if your boy is among the company? To quote the last spoken words of the late John B. Gough, "Young man, keep your record clean." The record will not be clean if tobacco smoking is one of your habits.

The paragraph published in the Citizen last week referring to the fact that the authorities had made the discovery that done up in the packages of cigarettes, sold in such numbers to our boys, there are enclosed obscene and indecent pictures, is startling. Do parents want a stronger sermon preached than is found in this brief news item? The Daily press of Monday recorded the fact that young men who should have known better thronged the Police Court on Monday morning, and patiently waited two hours until the inmates of a well known house of ill-fame, who had been arrested on Sunday, were brought forward in turn to answer before Police Magistrate Denison. Understand the first fact recorded in this paragraph and the second comes forward as an easy, natural and expected sequence.

An English writer tells us, that at the Edinburgh Reformatory of 80 boys, there was not one who had not been a smoker or chewer and most of them had done both. In the Reformatory at Blakeley, near Manchester, out of fifteen boys, who were admitted soon after its opening, twelve had been smokers, eight chewers, and ten confessed they had stolen tobacco, or money with which to buy it. "Do you not care a bit," mother, and father too, "if your boy does smoke when he grows up?"

And yet there are clergymen, and church members and Temperance men who treat this vice lightly. Let us be clean all through. The clergyman who smokes, let him excuse himself as he will, lessens his influence as the upholder of Him, who know no sin, in a degree that he little appreciates. Temperance reformers battling for the suppression of the drink traffic, can not afford to uphold any habit so akin to drink as the tobacco habit.

Don't call me a crank, kind reader. Let us be whole men—clean men. Do countenance the tobacco habit on board our excursion steamers, and everywhere else—and for the sake of our boys.

IN THE SWIM.

The world is much more conservative than most people imagine. It is astonishing with what reluctance we change

our opinions. We are prone to entertain the delusion that because a thing has been so and is so, therefore it must continue to be so. This applies to certain evils which have been allowed to exist from time immemorial simply because they were considered necessary evils, but is especially applicable to those twin abominations, the liquor traffic and the social evil.

The fact that an evil has existed for centuries and fattened and grown strong by draining the life blood of the people and pampering their frailties and vices, is no argument that the evil is irrepressible and must not therefore be interfered with. The fact that a patient and long-suffering people have tolerated and apologized for a nuisance for ages, does not prove that the nuisance should not be abated, and that right speedily. And yet people say, "You can't put down the liquor traffic or the social evil. They have always been and always will be—in fact, the world couldn't get along without them. You can't run an hotel without liquor, and our women would not be safe on the street if there were no houses of ill-repute." What nonsense!

We are too apt to get accustomed to things. A drunken man is such a common, every-day sight that we do not stop to think about him at all. We never seem to consider that the man may have a wife and children who are suffering for food and clothing on account of his indulgence in strong drink. He is, at all events, entailing much mental pain and suffering upon those nearly related to him, and taking heavy risks himself for the future, for "No drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven." Whenever you see a drunken man, think of his mother or sister, his wife or his baby at home, and then answer the question, "Must this vile traffic continue to make such sons and brothers and husbands and fathers as this?"

At night the street walker is almost as common as the drunkard by day. When we see one of these do we think of the boys that are growing to be young men and the temptations to which they are exposed? Do we make any special effort to shield them from such temptations? Should we wonder that these big boys of ours may argue that what is so very common cannot be very far wrong or it would not be allowed to continue? And when, upon the invitation of some plausible friend, they visit one of the gilded palaces of sin, may they not well arrive at Burke's soul-poisoning conclusion that "even vice itself doth lose one-half its harm by losing all its grossness." And when the boys or young men do fall, what then? This means moral turpitude, callousness to religious instruction, an unhappy married life, and the chances of children following in the father's footsteps.

Let us get out and keep out of the popular swim. But don't let us stop at that. A jelly-fish floating on the tide is a pretty sight, a butterfly sailing along with the wind is pleasing to the eye, but of what practical utility is either of them. Let us "Put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil," and also battle for the overthrow of his kingdom.

THE TRIANGLE.

SCRUTINEER

On The Nearer the Better.

Prohibitionists and licenseists are pretty well agreed about the law known as the Crooks Act, regarding it as about the best of the class called License Acts. They are quite agreed, too, that its excellences are its prohibitions. It is not more excellent than others because of containing any more license, but entirely on account of its many peculiarly stringent restrictions. Then, if these days and hours and circumstances which the license to sell does not cover, constitute the main, or, in fact, the only excellence of the law—it seems plain that, to yet further increase these, would be to add to the excellence, until approaching to the Scott Act, or away up past that poor measure nearer to the Christian perfection of complete Prohibition. But at any rate, the nearer still the better.

Of course the value or excellence of law must always and entirely be evidenced by the extent to which it is obeyed or effectively enforced—that is the Prohibitory excellence—because the license part will not require official enforcement. It seems entirely incontrovertible that only strict obedience to the restraints can manifest fully the value and the beneficial effects, and the nearer to this the better.

The provision discontinuing the "license to sell" to a consumer after a defined stage of intoxication called "drunk," must always constitute a very difficult measure to carry out in practice. The drinker may sometimes proceed to swallow several drinks before the second or third drink has had full time to manifest its legitimate results. So the license holder would require to administer with very great caution, giving time to carefully note progress, so as to stop short at the legal limit, and, far safer, inside the boundary. In fact, the nearer up to the first (or before the first) glass the better.

Evidently, the less license in the law and the less practice according with the license, the better. Now that some very instructive experience has been had of the working of enforcement or non-enforcement, and the discovered results of several restrictive measures, fair comparison ought to be considered in order. Either, taking both Crooks and Scott Acts as obeyed or both as disobeyed, let the effects on the morals and well-being of society be fairly compared, and honest judgement had accordingly. Still, no doubt both might be very much improved, and much better enforced. But few people (if any) would seriously propose any improvement in the direction of more extended license, or the removal of the existing restrictions. But all (the wise and good, at least) will agree that the less the license, and the more of restriction, the better. So of all genuine approaches to total abstinence, and total prohibition, the nearer the better, and the whole way the best.

If every added provision of curtailment, restraint, hindrance, or prohibition is fairly to be taken as adding to the excellence of the law, then, as advanced enlightenment of legislators proceeds, even if but slowly yet surely, as enlightened voters persistently push on the tardy politicians, every session of Parliament should be occasion for advance; the Provincial, narrowing, tightening, and the Dominion amending and improving—all in the one uniform drawing nigh to the yet more excellent legislation—complete Prohibition. Meanwhile let us hold on resolutely to every inch gained in the right direction, ever assured and mindful that "the nearer the better."

HISTORY AGAINST HIM.

Some one having suggested in newspaper correspondence that Prof. Goldwin Smith would be the right man "to take some action to composing the differences in the perplexing and angry question of temperance legislation," this learned student of political and social problems has written a letter to the Daily Mail on the subject.

The selection, we fear, is an unhappy one, for the Professor, with all the prestige that is supposed to be associated with his name and social position, has not shown himself to be an adept at welding together broken forces in any cause. On the contrary, if personal biography shows anything, it is that his course either as a writer or speaker has ever been to divide rather than unite. This is the testimony of his fellow-countrymen across the Atlantic, and it is certainly the opinion of those who have watched his various moves on the Canadian checker board here. It is hardly to be expected that the man who, despite all his learning, could be carried off by so palpable a "fad" as the Liberal Temperance Union, and who has been the willing factotum of gentlemen like Moses Oates and Prof. Richardson, who have unblushingly set themselves up as the champions of the liquor traffic, would be a useful man to unite the Christian and moral forces of our Dominion on some line of action, agreeable to all, against this same terrible foe of humanity—the liquor traffic.

Elgin county Antis have resolved upon a repeal campaign. They held a meeting at St. Thomas last week and decided to at once put into circulation petitions praying for a vote.

A special despatch to the New York Times shows that the licensing court of Philadelphia had considered already 3,020 applications for liquor licenses, only 1,110 of which have been granted.

At Greensboro, the Prohibition party workers of North Carolina held a convention on May 16th. There was a big turnout of representatives from all parts of the State. Sam Small was on hand pushing things with his usual vigor.

THE TEMPERANCE REFORMATION SOCIETY

Held Temperance Meetings every Sabbath afternoon at the Rock in the Queen's Park at 3 o'clock. Addresses by reformed men and others. Good singing by the choir.

J. WARDELL, Pres. J. B. MARSHALL, Sec.

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Temperance Societies.

"PERSEVERANCE LODGE," No. 1. Meets every Tuesday evening at Temperance Hall, Pandora St., Victoria, B.C.

PIONEER COUNCIL, No. 1. Every Monday, 8 p.m., Temperance Hall, Brock St. Jno. DUNLOP, Sec., 198 Muter St.

WEST END CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY. Sunday Afternoon. Occident Hall. Five cent concert every Saturday evening. S. WILCOCK, Pres. F. J. FRAMPTON, Sec., 74, Walsey St. 120 Queen St., Parkdale.

W. C. T. UNIONS.

"CENTRAL" UNION. Monday Afternoon, 3 o'clock p.m., Association Hall. Mrs. J. SHAW, Pres., 57 Carlton St. J. S. SPENCE, Sec., 53 Mutual Street.

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"THE TORONTO," No. 827. Orange Hall, Queen Street East. M. BROWN, L.D., 264 Simcoe St.

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TUESDAY EVENING.

"TEMPLARS' HOME." Copeland's Hall, cor. King and Sherbourne Sts. H. BROOKS, L.D., 195 King St. E.