

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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NOTE.—It is proposed to make this the cheapest Temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers.

The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words if shorter still better.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1898

MISS F. E. WILLARD.

The cause of moral reform has sustained a very heavy loss in the death of Miss Frances E. Willard, the most widely known and best beloved of the world's temperance workers of to-day.

The high talents and amiable qualities of Miss Willard enabled her to attain a position such as no other woman of modern times achieved. She had the rare faculty among others, of rallying round her the strongest and best and selecting for her lieutenants other women endowed with remarkable talent for leadership, thus constituting herself general of a mighty army which is now so thoroughly trained and well-equipped that its work will be pushed steadily on even though one of its foremost originators no longer stands at the helm.

One lesson to be learned from the situation is, that the success of moral reform is not bound up with one human life, nor with any number of human lives. Respect, admiration and love for Miss Willard will live long after this and succeeding generations have passed away. There will, however, be others to take up the task that she laid down, to hand it again to their successors, and, so on, till complete victory crowns the temperance and prohibition reform.

Among the many touching tributes paid to the memory of such heroes we recall nothing that suits the present occasion better than the following:

We pause awhile, our eyes with sorrow dim.
Then turn again into the battle grim
And we must fight harder than no more
Our hero leads us as in days of yore.
She died as warriors die in thickest fight,
Battling the powers of darkness with her might.
She died, still watching for the coming day.
When drink, the world's curse, shall be swept away
Roll, funeral marches, o'er this veteran's grave,
She lived, she died, a soldier true and brave.
Short time there is for grief. The battle is not done.
The struggle is not o'er, the victory won.
Our hearts have echoed to her voice, and we
Are braver, stronger for the memory.
If we could hear that voice now, she would say,
Leave me to rest, go forth into the fray.

One toiler less in the great harvest field! All the more work for those of us that are left to do! May God help us to be true to the responsibilities laid upon us by this and every other event of his providence.

PROHIBITION IN THE YUKON.

There is some difference of opinion as to whether the control of the liquor traffic in the great Klondike Territory is in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior or the jurisdiction of the North West Territories Government and Legislature. To a deputation that waited upon him early in February, the Premier stated that the matter would be dealt with during the present session of Parliament.

There is no doubt, however, as to the utter uselessness and specially evil nature of the liquor traffic and its tremendous power for evil in the country, climate and population of our new North West. Many who would not support prohibition generally, will have no hesitation in saying that the liquor traffic ought to be rigidly excluded from the Yukon country, and from the perilous routes thereto. Men who have to endure so much fatigue and exposure and who have to face so many dangers, need full control of their wits and all the vital energy with which they are endowed. Under such circumstances, the liquor poison is fearfully dangerous and destructive.

From many parts of the country petitions are being sent in to the Dominion Government urging that strict prohibition be enforced in the North West gold producing territory and on all the highways leading into it. This is timely and wise. We earnestly commend such action and urge all our readers to do all that they can to promote it. It would be well to have a petition to the Dominion Government regarding this matter from every temperance society, every church and every community in the older part of the Dominion.

IS TEMPTATION NEEDFUL.

The old stock argument of liquor advocates about the advantage of having character strengthened by temptation has been revamped by Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston. This sophistry, so often urged by men of no character in their defence of a business that ruins character, is now invested with the special advantage of presentation by a skilled theologian. It is fully met and its unsoundness exposed in the following forcible paragraphs taken from a recent sermon preached in Queen Street Methodist Church, Kingston, by Rev. Dr. Ryckman:

"But does anyone really think that the preservation of the liquor traffic and the perpetuation of its evils are necessary in order that men may build up a Christian character, stalwart and strong?"

"Is God beholden to the devil in rearing his children? In order to the best physical health is it necessary to live in an atmosphere of malaria and contagion? Some would doubtless resist all malarial influence and maintain good health, but what about the many who must succumb? Grown up Indians are sturdy men, simply because none but the strongest can ever grow up. So among temptations to drink, some persons develop into strong Christians, but, alas, for the multitudes who yield and perish. But does anyone think that if this business were abolished temptations would be lacking, and that in this tare-sown world there would be insufficient means for the trial of virtue?"

"What is there in this business to commend it especially as a means of grace? As a matter of fact, are those persons who have always had wines, etc., on their tables, better Christians than those who have never had them? But what is the teaching of scripture concerning this matter? St. Paul says to Timothy, 'But thou, oh man of God, flee these things,' that is, certain temptations and snares, foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition instead of developing them as Christians."

"But there is another way to look at this matter. If there is temptation

there must be a tempter. What of him? 'Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink'; 'Woe to that man by whom the offence cometh'; 'Who-so shall offend one of these little ones it were better for him that a mill-stone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea. How comfortable the well developed Christian must feel on reflecting that his eminent piety involved the deep perdition of him who supplied the necessary means for his development, and that what fitted him for heaven sent the other man to hell'.

KEEP OUT OF DANGER

Some years ago a ship laden with coals was beached at Garlieston, on the Scottish shore of the Solway, in order that her cargo might be carted away during ebb-tide. While she lay high and dry on the sand, some men were sent in beneath her to caulk the open seams.

While the work was going on, a person outside observed the ship's hull heeling slowly over to the side on which the carpenters were at work, and quickly gave the alarm. All escaped but one. The ship in leaning over caught both his limbs before he had time to creep out, and locked them fast between her planks and the sand.

The man lived and spoke and took counsel with his friends, but remained pinioned to the spot. All hands went to work for his release. They began to throw out the cargo, but that method was manifestly too slow; they dug in the sand, but this plan also proved abortive; they made hawsers fast to the mast, and pulled a long pull and a strong pull, but were not able to heave her over. The men were not able to liberate their comrade.

Already in unsuccessful efforts an hour had been lost—the precious hour, for alas! there was only one; and now the tide of the Solway came rushing in like a race-horse. All that were free fled before the flood, and left their imprisoned companion to his fate.

The sea soon did what the united efforts of the whole town failed to do—it slackened the grip with which the ship's hull held the man to the ground, and set him free; but before it let go the captive it had quenched his life. The water drowned him and then released him from his prison. Deliverance came too late, and his lifeless body was washed up in the surf.

I suppose there was not a dry eye in Garlieston that day. Men are shaken in the depths of their being by the sight of a brother perishing thus.

Let us not deceive ourselves. There is no respect of persons with God, and there should be none with us. Sights of equal horror meet our eye from day to day, and we have learned to take them lightly. We see multitudes caught and held as fast between their own appetite and the fire-water that feeds it, till a mightier tide than that of the Solway comes up with its dreadful rescue.

In the saddest solemnity of spirit I declare to every brother who reads this page that I have seen and conversed with many who were locked in between their appetite and drink as firmly as that man who was locked between the laden ship and the ground—that they were as eager to escape as he was, and as unable—that we were as powerless to help as the spectators that day on the shore. I declare further, endeavoring to weigh my words as one that must give an account, that if I were obliged to choose between the two, I would rather be in the place of the prisoner on the beach of the Solway than in the place of many whom I have known in the grasp of the drunkard's appetite. *League Journal.*

HIT HARD!

By the Rev. C. F. Aked.

It is told of Abram Lincoln that once when quite a young man, he witnessed a slave auction in Ohio. He saw men and women put on the block, exhibited for sale, bought like cattle. He saw the horrible and degrading familiarities which the buyers took with the human chattels, saw the looks of dumb and piteous agony which stole across the poor black faces as wives were sold away from husbands, and children torn from the mother's arms; and he forced his way out of the ring, and with flaming eyes and voice husky with suppressed passion, said to his companion, gripping him by the arm, "If ever I get a chance to hit at this

thing, by the Eternal God I'll hit it hard."

But the large-hearted Abram Lincoln also recognized in the struggle to be free from the deadly traffic in strong drink a crusade as divine as that for which he was called upon to die. "Turn we now," he said, in a famous speech in which he contrasted our movement with that which culminated in the Declaration of Independence, "to the temperance revolution. In it we shall find a stronger bondage broken, a viler slavery uncommitted, a greater tyrant deposed; in it more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged. By it no orphan starving, no widows weeping; by it none wounded in feeling or injured in interest, even the dram-makers and dram-sellers will have glided into other occupations, so gradually as never to have felt the change, and will stand ready to join all others in the universal song of gladness."

And when the hour of joy and glory dawns—as dawn it surely will when the mountain of human misery has been lifted off the heart of a weary world, and the blight and curse and infamy of our civilization have been done away, then be ours the immortal consciousness that in this Titanic conflict between the forces of heaven and hell we have struck hard in the strength of the Eternal God.

WHAT ARE LOST VOTES?

People talk about throwing away their votes, about lost votes. We believe, as someone says, that "no vote is 'lost' which is definitely an expression of desire for the advent of an ideal society. He throws his vote away who votes for men whose administration of affairs means a compromise with the law-defying elements of society."

It may be said of one's vote as Jesus said of one's life: Whosoever would save his vote shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his vote for my sake shall find it, for it is an investment of faith in the holy enterprise of the kingdom of God on earth, whose triumphs shall come by and by. The reformers and holy martyrs who threw the votes of their lives away in the faith of better things to come were the fools of their day, but they are now the wise ones whom heaven and earth delight to honor. They lost their lives only to find them in thousand-fold fulness.

Throw away your votes for righteousness' sake. Let others "save" their votes by investing them for present temporary triumphs of unrighteous men and measures. Faith can wait for its "recompense of reward." It shall be satisfied when its returns come in "after many days."—*The Evangelist.*

THE GREAT NEED OF THE HOUR.

While the multitudes permit and aid the making of drunkards rum will still continue to play havoc with the homes and hearts and lives of our people. The great need of the hour is to awaken the Christian consciences of the land to their enormous responsibility in the matter. At this time temperance sentiment seems to be at its ebb. It is so all over this land and in other countries as well. No progress is being made in temperance legislation, and but little is being attempted in that line. Enforcement of temperance and prohibitory laws is exceedingly slack, and such laws are generally openly and boldly violated, while the saloon element succeeds in having the legislatures modify or remove such laws found on the statute books. All the while the church sleeps, and public sentiment is indifferent. It seems to us the great work of every agency of good is to arouse the people to the duties of the hour. *The Religious Telescope.*

RUMSELLERS ON THE WARPATH.

In England many of the licensing authorities have decreed that liquor sellers shall under no pretext whatever supply children under thirteen years. This has roused the ire of the liquor sellers and they have determined to resist this decree with all their might, and that means the whole weight of the liquor oligarchy of the Kingdom of Britain—and present indications are that the battle will have to be fought out in Parliament, the question being "the age limit of the serving of children with intoxicating liquor." Sir Wilfred Lawson, on being asked this question, replied, that in his opinion it was undesirable to intoxicate anyone, and he should like the age limit fixed at one hundred years. —*Exchange.*