

Murphy's fellow communicants. Rev. Father McCallen, of Montreal: "Well meaning temperance advocates have maintained that the use and sale of intoxicating liquors are in themselves sinful. Neither proposition can be defended by Scripture or by reason. To my mind such assertions weaken instead of strengthening our cause. It is the abuse, not the use, of any of God's gifts which constitutes sin." Father McCallen is quite as well known a temperance worker as Father Murphy.

Reference to the third allegation leaves the impression that Father Murphy is not as wise as he is eloquent. Rev. Prof. Clark, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Rev. Canon Dumoulin, Rev. G. M. Milligan and the many others aimed at need not to be defended. Were the reverend lecturer a layman we would be justified in styling his attack ungentlemanly.

REV. MR. PHILLIPS IS WRONG.

It is hard to preserve respectful language when confronted with a statement such as that made by Rev. A. M. Phillips, of Toronto, to Sir Oliver Mowat and his cabinet. Rev. Mr. Phillips was one of the Templars' delegation that waited upon the Premier to ask, among other things, that no liquor be allowed to be consumed on licensed premises. In arguing for this he said that it had been tried in Nova Scotia for six years; had worked fairly well, and "in Halifax it had the effect of destroying the bar-rooms entirely."

Rev. Mr. Phillips is the pastor of a large and influential congregation, is a reasonably a man of great gifts and irrefragable character, an earnest zealous worker in the cause of Christianity and of temperance. Not for one moment would we believe that he was not perfectly honest in his statement. Not in the slightest degree would we impugn his motives or question his integrity, yet his declaration contained as great a falsehood as was ever uttered by man. It was intentional, but it was there all the same, and it should not have been there. It was not intended to deceive, but that effect was there just as much as though the intent had been back of it.

We do blame the rev. gentleman in that he should not have spoken without due knowledge of the facts. Under the law in Nova Scotia there are no licenses outside of the city and county of Halifax. In Halifax the law says there shall be no bars, but there are bars; there are hundreds of them. There are more bars in Halifax than there are in Toronto, and the former is only one third the size of the latter. Instead of destroying bars the effect of the law has been to establish them in all directions. Every liquor shop as well as every hotel has them; they keep open just as long as they please and close when they get ready. They sell to whom they like and in what quantities they choose. Liquor is sold over bars in Halifax every hour of the day, 365 days in the year, and everybody who has ever visited that city knows it. Rev. Mr. Phillips should have known this before

he spoke. We will leave it to him as a clergyman to measure the culpability of a man who tells an untruth knowing it to be such, and a man who tells an untruth not knowing it to be such but who could have known had he taken the trouble to enquire.

Perhaps Rev. Mr. Phillips is one of those who wonder why the pulpit is losing its power. Will he ask himself what must have been the feelings of the hundreds upon hundreds who have seen Halifax, who know of the condition of affairs there, upon reading a statement from a respected minister of the Gospel which they knew to be the exact reverse of the facts? What could they think?

IS THIS THE LAST?

The Royal Templars of Temperance waited upon Sir Oliver Mowat last week with a few simple requests which they desired the Premier to engraft upon the license law. They didn't want much; just three little trifles, as:

(a) To compel a licensee-holder to get a petition signed by a majority of the electors of his sub-division every year.

(b) No liquor to be consumed on licensed premises.

(c) A reduction of the number of licenses granted.

That was all. It was not as though they wanted the earth. If they could kill the tavern-keepers the rest of us might live yet awhile. No wonder Sir Oliver gazed at them through his spectacles in blank amazement.

The first request has no other intent than to be vexations. It could do nobody any good; it would harass the hotel-keeper. In that it would place the licensee holder under obligations to, and, in effect at the mercy of, certain people, the proposition is directly iniquitous. It would be a direct incentive to blackmail and to persecution. So utterly opposed to all decency and morality is it that our Templar friends will pardon us if we are sometimes led to think that they have taken leave of their senses.

Number two is what might be described in the vernacular as a "corker." You may buy a glass of beer, but you must carry it out upon the sidewalk to drink it. There is where the good example would come in. But, the Templars say, it will stop treating. How! Hasn't a man a right to treat if he wants to? And if he wants to will it make any difference whether he does it at a bar, or in a back-room, or under the barn, for that matter? Our friends are apparently not versed in the ways of the world.

In their third proposition they were most unhappy. They wanted the figures fixed so as to give two licenses for the first 1,000 of population, and one for each 800 thereafter. This, said one, would reduce the licenses in Toronto. Taking the population of the Queen City at the figures given in the census, 187,000, the Templars' arrangement would give about 230 licenses as against the 150 now existing, or if we include shops and wholesale places, 210. We fear our friends are

given to jumping at conclusions, rather than studying of facts.

Sir Oliver did not promise them anything.

GOOD AND BAD.

JOHN Y. KANE, the Gravesend Sunday School Superintendent, convicted of political rascality of the murkiest type and sent to the penitentiary for six years.

Erastus Wiman, Sunday School Superintendent and moral reformer, arrested on a charge of forgery and embezzlement, his peculations alleged to amount to \$300,000.

Now these are only two of the most pronounced cases, occurring in one day, where the good have gone wrong. In Kane's case there is a conviction, in Wiman's the forgeries are practically not denied. Dozens of other instances are occurring weekly.

Had these men been partakers of the flowing bowl how quickly would the fact have been heralded from one end of the country to the other. With what avidity would the text have been seized upon to point the moral of temperance lectures with silver collection at the door attachments, and adorn the tale when the pulpit is turned into a political rostrum for Prohibition purposes?

Why should not we, with equal sincerity and quite as good reason, claim that these men's downfall has arisen from pernicious contact with Sunday schools and intemperate absorption of creeds?

To our friends on the other side, let us emphasize the lesson. It is not what a man eats, or drinks or wears, that makes him good or bad. Professions do not count. The greatest rascal makes broadcast his phylacteries. The biggest thief chinks loudest his coin in the collection plate. Morality is in men's lives not in their words. And a man may have beer and sell whiskey and yet be a better man, a better father, a better husband, a better neighbor, friend and citizen than the black clothed, broad skirted, unclipped, scoundrel who thunders loudest against their wickedness when his own heart is fullest of iniquity.

We are not all born good or capable of being good. And estimates of what constitutes goodness differ. If we try to help instead of denouncing each other, may we not attain better results?

Tolerance is the true temperance.

LIQUOR DEALERS' CONVENTION.

The outlook for the Convention of retail liquor dealers to be held in Toronto is of the brightest. The organizers now out through the country are meeting with the greatest possible encouragement and the prospects are for the greatest gathering of the trade ever held in Canada.

Let it be fully understood that every person in the trade is not only invited but requested to attend. It is impossible that the organizers can reach everybody, nor need they. All are welcome; all are interested.

In order to give ample time for prepar-

ation, the date for holding the Convention has been postponed to April 4th. The local committee are actively at work and have opened permanent committee rooms on the top flat at 28 Wellington St. east. These rooms will be accessible every day and on April 3rd will be kept open until the arrival of the last trains in order to look after the needs of delegates.

Every licensee-holder should communicate as speedily as possible with Mr. Joseph Powers, of the Power House, Toronto, President of the Toronto Association, who will forward the necessary credentials for admittance and furnish all desired information.

Perfect organization is the guarantee of safety.

COUNT ALL THE FORCES.

UPON the minds of our legislators we would impress a fact. There are a large number of Prohibitionists in this country, and they have a large number of newspapers, and they run naturally to deputations. There are a large number of anti-Prohibitionists also resident in this Dominion who are sometimes heard through the newspapers and on the platform. But between these two is the great silent element, the ordinary citizen, who does not write to the press, nor speak at meetings, who would not go on a deputation for anything, but who has a very clear conception of what are his rights, and a very clear purpose of retaining those rights. These men are not Prohibitionists and are not politicians, very frequently they do not vote on any question until aroused by what they consider a personal injustice, but just these very people are the ones who have killed every political party that has adopted Prohibition.

Look out for them. The ordinary citizen has his rights, which, if interfered with, will transform the quiet man into an implacable enemy.

The United States Senate Tariff Committee, it is reported, have decided to increase the internal revenue tax on whiskey to 81.20 per gallon. This is still 30c. below the Canadian excise duty. An exchange speaking of the U. S. tax, says: "The whiskey distillers have private information from the senate finance committee that the increased tax on whiskey will not be levied on the stuff on hand but will begin on that made after July 1. This means a profit of 10 or 20 cents a gallon on 130,000,000 gallons of whiskey on hand. The distillers can afford to send each member of the finance committee a barrel of fine old red eye."

On another page we commence this week the publication of an article by Mr. Appleton Morgan, in the Popular Science Monthly. It is worth reading and preserving.

On our statistical page will be found an article dealing shortly with the effect of prohibition in Kansas. Keep it on file.

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