

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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Do not hesitate to take this paper from the Post Office. If you have not paid for it in advance, some one else has done so for you, or it is sent you free.

We must declare to the liquor trade: "Your business, whatever it is to you, is detrimental and disastrous to the community. It hinders religion, it breeds poverty, it sends baneful influences into our families. It is the very thing which does more damage to the country than anything else. Tens of thousands perish yearly as the result of this traffic."—Rev. Dr. Marshall Randles, ex-President Wesleyan Conference.

It is a cheap device to brand the Temperance movement as fanatical. Now, I deny that it has a single feature of fanaticism; for it is based upon physiological principles, chemical relations, the welfare of society, the laws of self-preservation, the claims of suffering humanity, all that is noble in patriotism, generous in philanthropy, and pure and good in Christianity.—William Lloyd Garrison.

If you will cut off the supply of temptation, I will be bound by the help of God to convert drunkards; but until you have taken off this perpetual supply of intoxicating drink, we can never cultivate the fields. You have submerged them, and if ever we reclaim one portion, you immediately begin to build upon it a gin-palace or some temptation to drink. Let the Legislature do its part, and we will answer for the rest.—The late Cardinal Manning.

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENT.

The Vanguard, all numbers issued, in neat cloth binding, is the most important Canadian contribution yet made to the literature of the temperance and prohibition reform, containing **over 650 pages** full of invaluable arguments, facts and statistics, all reliable, fresh and good, fully and carefully indexed.

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With these three sources of information, any pulpit, press or platform worker will be **fully equipped** for the great plebiscite campaign.

The number of books available for the purpose named is limited. First come, first served. Don't miss the opportunity.

NOTES OF NEWS.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.
Parliament is expected to meet for transaction of business on January 27th, or February 3rd. It is expected that the plebiscite will be one of the earliest measures introduced and that a vote will probably be taken some time in 1898.

LICENSE LAW AMENDMENT.
Petitions are pouring into the Ontario Legislature in a perfect deluge, praying for the amendment of the license law so as to give the people more power over the limitation of licenses and the operation of the traffic. Friends who are getting petitions signed but have not yet sent them in will oblige by doing so as speedily as possible.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.
In quite a number of Ontario municipalities the temperance question will be a live issue in the coming contest. The prohibitionists of Toronto and a number of other places are thoroughly organized with a view to looking after both nomination and election of men who can be relied upon to do all they can for the restriction of the liquor traffic.

MASSACHUSETTS.
The annual voting in the cities and towns of Massachusetts on the temperance question, is taking place. So far there seems to have been a slight falling off in the number of cities that have declared in favor of prohibition, several having gone back to license. The complete returns however, may make a totally different showing for the state.

AGAINST US.
Rev. Dr. Grant, the Principal of Queen's College, Kingston, is publishing in the Toronto Globe a series of letters in opposition to prohibition. Dr. Grant is well known as a talented and educated man, but has always been noted for his extreme bitterness and prejudice upon this question. He evidently has the courage of his convictions. So far he has said nothing new, merely re-hashing the exploded misrepresentations and sophistries regarding the working of the Scott Act and the Maine law. It is likely that we shall notice these letters later on.

THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.
The past month has had the usual record of terrible catastrophes directly attributable to drink. Our space would not permit us to give full details of the crimes and disasters that crowd our regular newspapers, showing that notwithstanding the advanced position our country occupies, there is still need for much work, and that a great deal must be accomplished before we can point with pride to our laws and their administration, so far as they relate to the liquor evil.

LOCAL OPTION IN ONTARIO.
A goodly number of municipalities have already made arrangement for voting on local prohibition on January 3rd next. By-laws have been introduced in the various councils, passed their first and second readings and been advertised for voting. It is now too late to initiate action in any other municipalities so as to have voting along with municipal elections. There is however, ample time yet for passing by-laws by special votes so as to have them come into force on May 1st next. Our friends are earnestly urged to give careful attention to this matter. Full particulars may be had by applying to the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance.

LEEDS COUNTY READY.
A well attended convention of prohibition workers for the County of Leeds was held at Athens on December 10th. The Leeds County Alliance was

re-organized in encouraging form. The President is Rev. H. Gracey of Gananoque; Vice-Pres. Rev. T. L. Burke, Westport; Sec. Miss M. E. Stone, Athens; Assist.-Sec. Rev. J. Scanlon, Athens; Treas. William Webster, Tilley. Additional Vice-Presidents were also appointed for the different municipalities. Plans were laid for securing a thorough circulation of literature and signature of pledges to support only prohibitionists for parliamentary positions. A mass meeting held in the evening was very successful.

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.
One of the most interesting and encouraging Canadian Temperance Society meetings of 1897 was the annual session of the Ontario Grand Division Sons of Temperance, which was held in this city commencing on Wednesday, December 1st, presided over by J. M. Walton, G.W.P. The number of delegates was very large, including prominent workers who are leaders in the social, commercial, religious and political life of the community.

The official reports were very cheering. It was shown that the membership has increased during the past year by 53, the number now in good standing being 8,630. Much extension and missionary work have been carried on. The good management of financial affairs is evidenced in the facts that although the total revenue of the organization for the year was only \$3,097.73, yet out of this amount \$1,116.84 had been spent in propagation work, while a surplus remained on hand after all outlay, \$181 in excess of the surplus of last year.

A feature of the convention was a mass meeting held on the evening of December 1st in the Horticultural Pavilion, presided over by Bro. T. Caswell, M. W. P. An interesting musical programme was presented and addresses were delivered by J. M. Walton, G.W.P., Hon. E. J. Davis, Dr. W. Meacham, M.P.P., Geo. Spence, G.C.T., E. Carswell, P.M.W.A., Ald. J. J. Graham, Ald. F. S. Spence, and others.

Comprehensive plans of work for the coming year were made including the publication of a monthly paper devoted to advocacy of prohibition and the work of the Order. The plebiscite received a good deal of attention. The principal officers were re-elected some of them by acclamation. All the proceedings were characterized by remarkable harmony and enthusiasm.

THE EXTREME REMEDY.

It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back—so runs the old proverb. But its reverse is also true—namely, by maintaining one's hold to the very utmost limit of endurance, the crisis is passed and the victory is assured. There is always a point of lowest ebb to the tide. That reached, the water comes brimming in again. While there is life, we say, there is hope. The flame threatens to expire; it is the merest spark, glimmering faintly among the white ashes. It is gone!—no, there is a glint of fire there. Blow it gently! It grows a little more brightly; and still a little more! There—the fire is burning again! It was saved because the faint, glimmering spark, almost at the point of extinction, was not suffered to expire. We are often tempted to despair—in matters of personal experience, in this or that Christian enterprise in which we may be engaged. We have endured to the utmost; we have put forth the very last possible effort. Ah, have we? Cannot the bow be drawn just a fraction more tense? Can we not bear one more partial turn of the screw? For that endurance will decide the matter of success. Hold on, hope on! It is the darkest just before the day breaks. The last step gains the summit, otherwise the previous climbing is in vain!—*New York Observer.*

NEW RECRUITS.

Stand back! Young men!
Here comes a lad!
Hello! my boy! come in! You're welcome here!
And so you thought you'd come and see the fun;
That's right! boys cannot always stay in doors.
They must see something of the world!
Sing him a song, young men; remember now.
Not something too indelicate at first, lest it should shock the ears unused to songs.
Except the kind they sing in morning prayers.

But even that
Has brought the color to his cheek; ah, well!
He'll soon get over that, and when you've sung
A dozen more, he'll help you sing them.

What?
And must you go? It's early yet. I see—
You promised to be home at nine o'clock;
That's good! And if they question you, why say
You went a-walking with a pretty girl.
And they will laugh, and think you smart, and you
Can slip away, and none will be the wiser.

Good Night! Good night! Be sure and come again!
Stand back! Young men!
Here comes the boy again!
We knew that he would come! A taste of sin
Creates a thirst for more. What shall it be?

Pass the cigars, no, bring a cigarette:
He'll take to that more easily, and it
Will work for rum and ruin just the same.
How pale he looks! Ha! Ha! it makes him sick!
But never mind! he'll try again to-morrow,
And soon will smoke a dozen (on the sly).
Go home and creep in bed, and say you're sick,
When mother climbs the stairs to wonder why
Her boy came home so late, and then forgot to say good night.

But come again!
Stand back! Young men!
Here comes the boy again!
We thought we'd lost him, but we might have known
There's nothing makes a boy so bold as sin,
Nor weans his heart so soon from love and home.
Bring out the cards, and set the glass of wine
Where he can reach it should he so incline,
And laugh when he shall curse the holiest name,
And all things sacred turn to jest profane.

Stand back! Young men! and give the boy a chance
In the front rank with those who miss the goal,
Who bury hope and faith, and kneel at length
Beside the grave of a remorseful past!

Stand back! Ye tempters, back! Ye demons, stand!
And come, O Heaven! with all thy shining ones
Arrayed for battle; set them on the plains,
With flaming swords turning each way, to guard
The path of life of every boy.

God speed the day when men, with zeal aflame
Shall join the shining hosts, to conquer Wrong,
And crown the Right with everlasting fame,
And save the boys!

—Anna Barton; Free Baptist.