

# THE CAMP FIRE

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST. FROM MANY PLACES.

### A Great Petition.

A memorial in favor of the closing of public houses on Sunday has been prepared for presentation to the British Government. It is one of the most remarkable documents of the sort that has yet been presented, being signed by 18,542 clergymen representing nearly every religious denomination. Classified according to denominations the clergymen signing are as follows:—

Church of England	10,993
Congregational	1,924
Wesleyan	1,656
Baptist	1,334
Primitive Methodist	923
Roman Catholic	523
United Methodist Free Church	335
Presbyterian	262
Bible Christian	184
Methodist New Connexion	176
Unitarian	171
New Church	30
Reformed Episcopal, etc	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,542</b>

### Socialists For Temperance.

A special correspondent of the New York Voice writing from Brussels in Belgium under date August 15th, gives an account of the organization of a National Socialist Anti-Alcoholic League in affiliation with the Belgium working men's party. The constitution of the new organization declares that its object is to combat the use of alcohol as a beverage. The members are pledged to total abstinence.

### A Wonderful Record.

Forward, the Nova Scotia Sons of Temperance paper, publishes an interesting table prepared by Henry H. Faxon ex-Mayor of Quincy, Mass., showing the progress made by his city in the past seventeen years, during which time the electors have steadily voted against license, the vote polled in 1898 being for license, 1,191, against license 2,126.

The statements furnished by Mr. Faxon give the following interesting facts regarding the position of the city in 1898, as compared with its position in 1881, the last year that license was in operation.

	1881	1898
Population	10,855	23,549
Valuation	\$7,560,381	\$19,236,322
Savings Bk Deposits	173,950	488,453
No. of Depositors	2,530	7,411
New Houses built	24	236
Paid for support of poor	15,415	8,534

Mr. Faxon compares Quincy with the other cities of the state, showing that it presents a marvelously favorable contrast in amounts paid for support of poor, cost of police and arrests for drunkenness.

### Civilisation.

The official returns for the first five months of 1899 show that under the rule of the United States, liquor is poured at a fearful rate into the countries recently acquired from Spain. The total value of intoxicating liquors exported to the different countries for the whole of the year 1898 as compared with the value of that shipped during the five months named is shown in the following table:—

	1898	Five mos. of 1899
Cuba	\$10,796	\$472,272
Puerto Rico	3,668	191,422
The Philippines	337	86,833

### A Great Collapse.

It is only a short time since English capitalists invaded the United States buying up and consolidating breweries throughout the country. Altogether some seventy-nine extensive breweries were purchased and consolidated into some twenty-four trusts or combines. Heavily inflated stock was issued and investors expected to make a great deal of money. These expectations have been wonderfully disappointed. The total capitalization amounted to \$62,855,514 and at the value of the shares as now quoted in the English market, the total stock is only worth \$15,810,125. It will thus be seen that the depreciation has already amounted to over fifty million dollars.

### Encouraging Progress.

The annual statistical returns of the Primitive Methodist Connection in Great Britain contain much information regarding the progress of the temperance cause in the denomination. The reports show in operation 1,999 Bands of Hope with 220,803 members and 316 adult temperance societies with a membership of 87,877. The total increase in abstainers reported for the last year is 10,060.

### THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.

#### SOME SPECIMEN CASES.

The past few weeks have been unusually prolific in sad calamities directly attributable to intemperance. The columns of our daily papers have given startling evidence of the extent to which we have been harvesting the fruits of the liquor traffic. From among the catastrophes that resulted fatally, the following may be cited:—

Two colored men were drinking in a hotel together in Windsor. One of them who was pretty well intoxicated, was found shortly after, murdered and robbed. His companion was arrested for the offence.

A number of men got on a big spree at Welland, Ont., on the evening of August 12th. Next morning the dead body of one of them was fished out of the canal.

A horrible tragedy occurred not long ago near Sidney, C. B. Two drunken men quarreled in a boat which they upset in their dispute. Both were drowned. A third man who was with them was unable to rescue them. The drowned men were brothers-in-law and leave two wives and seven children to be supported by others.

At Simcoe, Ont., on the evening of August 5th, a bricklayer who had been drinking hard, was seen going in the direction of the railway track. About eleven o'clock a train struck him, probably while he was asleep, and hurled him into eternity in a moment.

A reliable correspondent from Rat Portage writes as follows:—Some time ago an Indian belonging to the Lebas kong reserve, got whiskey when in our town, went home and had a big spree. While under the influence of drink, he took up his little child eleven months old, one of the most beautiful children in the country. The little tot was just able to stand alone. He was very fond of the child and often let her stand on his hand and would toss her up and catch her again. This he tried to do now but his hand was unsteady and the little creature fell backward, breaking her spine and after a few hours of intense suffering died. Her father and mother were almost inconsolable with grief.

And yet in spite of such cases as these, there are men, white men, who to make a few shillings, will sell these people drink. Shame on such people, defying law and regardless of consequences of their actions. Verily a day of reckoning must come for them.

### WISE WORDS, WORTH WEIGHING.

No vote can be lost or thrown away when it is cast against corrupt political parties, or to express desire for a reform in government. Always vote for a principle, though you have to alone, and you can cherish the sweet reflection that your vote is never lost.—*John Quincy Adams*

The moral tone of the community is lowered by licensing the liquor traffic. There is no single channel through which such depths of misery flow over the human race as though this. No ravages of disease, no devastations of nature, no kinds of vice of crime work such woe as this.—*Prof. J. H. Seelye, D. D.*

As well try to regulate a rattlesnake by holding it by the tail as to permit and then attempt to regulate saloons. The way to regulate a rattlesnake is to kill it, smash its head—its tail may live until sundown, but it cannot bite. The way to regulate the liquor business is to kill its head, the licensed grog-shop—the school of vice, crime, and political corruption.—*J. B. Finch.*

Some people say the saloons pay the revenue and so save the people immense amounts of money. What generous fellows saloonkeepers are to be sure! They drain the pockets of the people, mostly the poorer classes, then from their immense profits they turn a small share over to the government. Who pays the revenue after all?—*Indiana Patriot-Phalanx.*

Drunkenness is the curse of England—a curse so great that it far eclipses every other calamity under which we suffer. It is impossible to exaggerate the evil of drunkenness.

I can keep no terms with a vice that fills our goals, destroys the comfort, homes and the peace of families, and debases the people of these islands.—*Lord Chief Justice Coleridge.*

To do away with this ghastly curse, to wipe this fretting plague-spot from our national life, to save another generation from the burden, the shame, and the ruin which one preventable vice has inflicted on our own, is emphatically the task which we, of this generation, have to do. No work that any nation ever had to do can be more immediately and, indeed, overwhelming important.—*Dean Farrar.*

It is always interesting to trace the origin of popular phrases. I wonder how many readers have heard the source of the hackneyed phrase, 'The skeleton of the feast.' It is said that it dates back to the time of the Pharaohs. Those kings were so convinced of the evils of strong drink that when the wine at their banquets was beginning to 'tell,' a skeleton, crowned with a funeral wreath, was placed in the centre of the guests. Happily, nowadays one of the distinguished features of our public and private festivities is the patronage accorded to 'Polly and Jo' (as *Punch* called Apollinaris and Johannis), and similar non-intoxicating drinks.—*The Temple Magazine.*

"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?" A law framed to protect evil is a method of framing mischief by a law. A law which assumes that a thing is wrong, and yet tolerates it; which attempts only to check and regulate it, without utterly prohibiting it; which aims to derive a revenue from it for the purpose of government; which makes that which is morally wrong legal, is one of those things in human affairs with which the throne of God can have no fellowship.—*Albert Barnes, D. D.*

Let us suppress this systematic agency for the temptation and ruin of men. With absolute certainty while it remains, this traffic will powerfully resist us at every point. Our moral means have no relevancy to this part of the work. The enemy is now entrenched in a fortress as impregnable as rock to all mere influence and argumentation. The whole artillery of moral suasion glances from it as a powerless impertinence, harmless as the pattering of hail on a rock. The strong arm of law alone can reach it. Our business now is with the traffic. We must stop this authorized trade in destructive drinks.—*H. D. Kitchell, D. D.*

Before God and man, before the church and the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it with the murder of innumerable souls. I charge it as the cause of almost all the poverty, and almost all the crime, and almost all the ignorance, and almost all the irreligion that disgrace and afflict the land. I do in my conscience believe that these intoxicating stimulants have sunk into perdition more men and women than found a grave in the deluge which swept over the highest hill-tops, engulfing the world, of which but eight were saved. As compared with other vices, it may be said of this: "Saul has slain his thousands, but this David his tens of thousands"—*Dr. Chalmers.*

To sanction by law the recruiting and equipping of such an enemy (the liquor traffic), and the sending out of him to desolate the fairest portion of God's heritage, is an outrage upon all principle, not only of patriotism, but of humanity, which bids defiance to parallel in the history of legislation. It is an outrage too gross for sober consideration. It would seem to be hardly possible, in view of its fruits, that it should be tolerated we will not say in any Christian, but in any civilized State. Even paganism under the first rays of civilization, had almost instinctively denounced it. And were it not for the pestilential moral atmosphere which it produces, and the deteriorating and stupefying effects which that atmosphere occasions, its continuance would seem to be hardly possible, or its removal need anything more than its own doing.—*Justin Edwards, D. D.*

There was a time when the temperance movement was largely the struggle of a few poor victims of the traffic to free themselves. That day has passed. The reform has become a part of the religious faith of the nation, and in spite of all the sophistries and work of the drunkard-makers and their aiders and abettors, the day is not far distant when the State will no sooner license a man to carry on a business to debauch the loved ones of the women of this land, than it will license a man to steal the jewels from their jewel-cases.—*John B. Finch.*

The church of to-day, much more the church of the future, must take to its heart the duty of combining and massing its forces against that gigantic atrocity of christian civilization that mothers nine-tenths of the woes and sorrows that blight and curse our modern age—the traffic in intoxicants, which hides its deformity under forms of law. Are we reduced to the shame of admitting that a civilization that has grown up around our altars is impotent to cure the evil? If ever the pulpit had the right, the duty to flame with unsparring rebuke, it is here.—*Bishop R. S. Foster.*