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A Plea for Prohibition.

"Oh yes, of course, prohibition! How heartily tired I get of that word. Any one would think that intoxicating drink was the only evil under the sun, and alcohol another name for Satan himself. These rabid temperance people will neither think nor talk of any other subject, nor work in any other direction, and all the time there stands a whole mountain range of enormities, of which they take no notice."

How many are there of these same temperance workers, who have never heard some such tirade as the above? And yet there is neither truth nor poetry in it. But suppose we take it for granted just now for the sake of argument. We will also take something else for granted, by your leave, and imagine that we have actually won a prohibitory law on a solid foundation, well supported and defended. This will be a stretch of the imagination, which may "in wonder die away," but we will try.

In the first place, this prohibitory law will of necessity sweep away the mountain of intemperance. This will follow as a matter of course, and will leave us free to deal with the other enormities.

Secondly, we will apply this powerful weapon to the Church of Christ, and see its effects. Take out from the professing church the use and abuse of strong drink, and not only that, but the financial interests involved in its manufacture and sale, then take away from its victims the shame and disgrace and the bitter heartaches which follow in its wake, and mark the result. Instead of a thirst for strong drink fill their hearts with a "hungering and thirsting after righteousness;" "The oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Now imagine the Church, purged entirely from this sin and its attendant hindrance, at work on this Divinely appointed task of winning the world of Christ. We should rejoice in the conversion of a 1000 where we now see ten.

Thirdly, let us imagine this prohibitory law applied to our political life. Take away the use, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drink, and all the interests of which it is the centre, and supply its place with all the laws and enactments which will best promote "the righteousness which exalteth a nation," and we have made a big stride in national purity and prosperity.

Fourthly, we will apply this same law to the vexed question of capital versus labor—and a most perplexing question

it is. By this means we will take away the temptation from the laboring man, shall leave him his brain unclouded his blood unpoisoned, and leave in his pocket his hard earned wages for legitimate purposes. Then on the side of the capitalist take away the right to make, sell and license that which is a thousand times worse than wanted, and supply in its place a respect for, and attendance to, the golden rule, and we shall find speedily that "the rock ahead" is honey-combed from centre to circumference, and its danger greatly reduced. Then it would be well to turn nine-tenths of the \$400,000,000, more or less, spent annually in our fair Dominion into channels by which work can be supplied to the unemployed, and then peace and plenty will reign where compulsory idleness and consequent poverty now hold sway. The other tenth should be used in counteracting the fearful effects of opium, rum, etc., in foreign lands.

Lastly, let us look at the effects this law would have on the social evils of the day, now hanging like a dark, threatening cloud over our head. Bring against it the labors of a purified, strengthened church, the wise laws of temperance statesmen, the clean brains of sober men and women, with enlightened intellects and quickened consciences, and we shall have done more to restore our Dominion to original purity than could be done by any one other act, except the coming of Christ Himself.—J. E. L. in *Owens Sound Sun*.

The New Year.

Beneath the moonlight and the snow
 Lies dead my latest year;
 The winter winds are wailing low
 Its dirges in my ear.

I grieve not with the moaning wind,
 As if a loss befell;
 Before me, even as behind,
 God is, and all is well!

His light shines on me from above,
 His low voice speaks within;
 The patience of immortal love,
 Outwearing mortal sin.

Not mindless of the growing years
 Of care and loss and pain,
 My eyes are wet with thankful tears
 For blessings which remain.

—Whittier.

One of our brethren and a Baptist preacher were holding meetings in the same town, and each had a candidate for baptism. Each without the knowledge of the other appointed the same place and almost the same hour for baptizing—our man a little the earlier. The Disciple was on hand, baptized his candidate, and was about leaving the water when a lady approached and expressed a wish to be baptized. She confessed her faith in Christ and was solemnly buried beneath the yielding wave, but before she could get away the Baptist preacher arrived, and discovering that it was his convert who had been baptized, said it didn't count at all, and took her again into the water, baptizing her this time upon a "profession of her faith," etc.—*Texas Christian Courier*.

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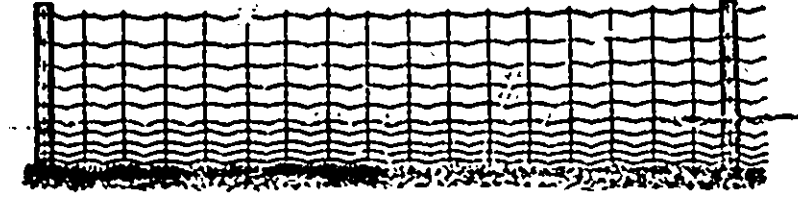
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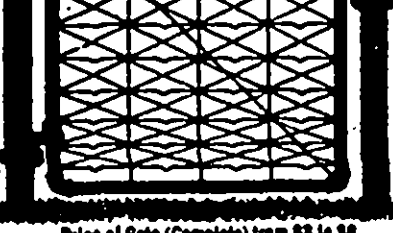
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