

## Temperance Column.

### THE LIQUOR PROBLEM IN AMERICAN CITIES.

By Robert Graham.

THE world over, there is no problem which more strongly engages the attention of thoughtful men than the condition of life in large cities. One of the most potent factors in the question is the all-pervading bar-room; and of all the cities on the American continent, there is none where its ramifications are so great as in New York, with the exception, perhaps, of San Francisco.

The thirteen isolated colonies of pre-revolutionary days have, in the space of a century, developed into fifty States and Territories; wealth has accumulated in equal or greater proportion, and the population has increased from four and a half to sixty-three millions.

This has not sprung from a natural increase, but from a vast wave of widespread and practically unrestricted immigration greater than the world has ever before known.

The process of absorption has been rapid; the process of assimilation slow. Irish, German, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Bohemian, and Jew yet retain, in all their original sharpness, their national characteristics. The national life, as developed in the great port of entry—New York—is a huge crucible into which have been dumped, in overwhelming masses, the sweepings of European cities. The scum at the top, the dregs at the bottom, we wait with anxiety the slow process of national assimilation which shall fuse with the old Dutch and Anglo-Saxon stock, the stolid German, the mercenary Frenchman, and the fiery Celt, and, out of the compound, present the American nation of the future.

#### GROWTH OF OUR CITIES.

The trend of population has been and is steadily from the country to the city. In 1850, the percentage of city to country population was 12.5; in 1860, 16.1; in 1870, 20.9; in 1880, 22.05; and in 1890, 29.12. The State of New York contains twelve cities of more than 20,000 inhabitants, and it, therefore, becomes a matter of deep and pressing moment, how the great problem of the century in the United States, viz., the honest, cheap and effective administration of the affairs of large cities, is to be accomplished.

The large city presents, in sharp contrast, colossal wealth and grinding poverty; palatial homes and squalid tenements which, whether in New York or San Francisco, Chicago or New Orleans, Boston or Cincinnati, present the same features. The question for the statesman, the philanthropist and the political economist to solve is, how to bring Dives and Lazarus together to their mutual advantage, and how, without pauperizing influences, the human cab-horse may be set on his feet, and enabled to draw his load without being unnecessarily galled by his collar.

#### THE AMERICAN BAR-ROOM.

The Hoffman House and Shang Draper's saloon are the antipodes of

each other. They represent swiftness and gutterdom respectively. The one vends Champagne wine, the other Jersey lightning. The function of each is to sell liquor at a profit. Political economists say that the demand creates the supply; but, in this case, the laws of legitimate trade are reversed, and the supply creates the demand.

It has grown like a fungus from a poisonous tap-root. Wherever poverty is deepest, the bar-room, alike its cause and its effect, assumes the largest numerical proportions. In "Liquorism," in 1883, I presented a chart in which, on one block in Cherry Street containing ten houses, nine were licensed for the sale of liquor. The narrow quarters, the stifling rooms, and the desire for companionship are the germs from which spring the bar-room.

In 1886, I gave chapter and verse showing that in that year, in the city of New York, 4,710 chattel mortgages on saloon fixtures, aggregating close on five millions of dollars, were given, and that the great bulk of these were in the hands of twenty firms. The retail dealers are, therefore, puppets in the hands of their masters; and, as concentrated, can be used in any necessary direction.

#### THE LIQUOR POWER IN POLITICS.

In large cities the cradle of the primary is the liquor saloon. In New York City, in 1884, out of 1,002 general and district political meetings held, 633 were held in saloons, 86 in rooms adjoining or inter-communicating with saloons, and 283 in independent places. The liquor saloon-keeper is the boss of the primary, and directly controls 40,000 votes. The trade is perfectly and completely organized, and, for political purposes, levies an assessment on each brewer and manufacturer *pro rata* with the amount of his business. Of the 4,000 members of the Tammany Hall, 694 are liquor dealers; and Tammany Hall apportions the municipal offices among its partisans. Whiskey, therefore, rules New York; sweeps its streets, builds its sewers, and absorbs its taxes. It is a rich pasture for the professional politician. The whiskey-dealer is Irish, the beer-seller German. Americans are not in the business. The Board of Aldermen of 1883, who controlled the Excise Commissioners, consisted of ten active and two ex-liquor dealers, four professional politicians and eight following other occupations. It needless to say he is not a type to make municipal government honest, cheap or effective.

#### THE REMEDIES OF PUBLIC OPINION AND LAW.

When it is definitely grasped and understood that this is a dangerous trade, and doubly dangerous because it is political, and that it is, therefore, to be restricted and controlled just as the sale of dynamite and opium is, and that supervision's firm hand is never to be relaxed, the citizens of New York will have mastered the first step in remedial agencies.

A part from the doctrinaires who will listen to only one remedy—prohibition (and which is ineffective where it is most needed, viz., in large cities)—the following may be laid down as the salient points in the remedy by law:



- (1) Prohibition of sale on Sunday.
- (2) Prohibition of sale to minors.
- (3) Prohibition of sale to drunkards.
- (4) Restriction of licenses to one in 500 of population.
- (5) High license of tax of one thousand dollars on each license.
- (6) Local option for counties.

### USEFUL TRACTS

— FOR —  
**Parochial Use.**

#### PATHWAYS TO OUR CHURCH

By the Rev. George W. Shinn, D.D., 16mo., neat paper cover, 10 cents. T. Whittaker, N. Y.

Contents: The Growing Church, The Decay of Prejudice, The Study of History, The Reception of the Church Idea, Its Simple Beliefs, Its Hallowed Liturgy, Its Wonderful Comprehensiveness.

An attractive little brochure for general circulation. Do not fail to send for a copy for examination. The pamphlet is attractive without as well as within.

#### THE PRAYER BOOK REASON

##### WHY.

A Text Book of Instructions on the Doctrines, Usages and History of the Church as suggested by the liturgy.

By the Rev. Nelson R. Boss, M.A., 16 mo., stiff paper covers, 20c. net. Same publisher.

The design of the work is threefold: (1) To furnish concise and ready answers to the popular objections so commonly raised against the Church and her services by those not familiar with her ways; (2) To bring out clearly and concisely some of the principles of historic Christianity which distinguish the Episcopal Church from all other religious bodies; and (3) To convey in the briefest space, information on the history, doctrines and usages of the Church which every layman, and especially every teacher ought to have.

#### CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEACHING.

By the Very Rev. Jas. Carmichael, D. C. L., Dean of Montreal. Paper 10c. Drysdale & Co., Montreal.

The Tract was written to meet the need of the many persons drifting into the Church from other Christian bodies, without a clear realization of the great landmarks of Her distinctive teaching. It condenses into a small and readable space what every one pressing to belong to the Church of England should naturally realize and understand.

#### THE APPOINTED GUIDE.

A necessary Erudition for these times. Published by "The Church Critic," New York. Paper.

Intended to show the authoritative teaching of the Church.

#### PAROCHIAL.

### Missions to the Jews Fund.

PATRONS:—Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Nelson, Bishops of London, Winchester, Durham, Lincoln, Salisbury, Chester, Lichfield, Newcastle, Oxford, Truro, Bedford, Madras, Fredericton, Niagara, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Blyth of the Church of England in Jerusalem and the East.  
PRESIDENT:—The Dean of Lichfield D.D.

#### CANADIAN BRANCH.

President.

The Lord Bishop of Niagara.

Committee: The Archdeacon of Guelph, The Archdeacon of Kingston, The Provost of Trinity College, Very Rev. Dean Norman, Rev. J. Langtry, Rev. A. J. Broughall, Rev. J. D. Cayley, Rev. E. P. Crawford, Rev. C. H. Mockridge, Rev. G. C. Mackenzie, L. H. Davidson, D. C. L., Q. C.

Honorary Secretary: Rev. Canon Cayley, Toronto.

Honorary Treasurer: J. J. Mason Esq., Hamilton, Treasurer D. & F. Mission Board.

Diocesan Treasurers: The Secretary-Treasurers of Diocesan Synods.

#### Honorary Diocesan Secretaries:

Nova Scotia—Rev. W. B. King, Halifax.

Fredericton—Rev. Canon Neales, Woodstock, N.B.

Toronto—Rev. J. D. Cayley, Toronto.

Montreal—L. H. Davidson, D.C.L., Q.C., Montreal.

Montreal—Rev. A. J. Balfour, Que.

Ontario—Rev. W. B. Carey Kingston.

Niagara—Rev. Canon Sutherland, Hamilton.

Huron—Rev. C. G. Mackenzie Brantford.

**WATCHES FREE** absolutely free to introduce our goods. Write and be convinced. Canadian Watch Co., Toronto, Canada.