

stay this tide of evil and rescue our endangered youth, our tempted and our fallen, and to save our imperilled land, can we for a moment think that He who is "wonderful in counsel and excellent in work" would refuse to hear their prayer? No; He would bend the heaven of heavens, and move upon the hearts of men, swaying them like the tides of ocean till all the shores of earth should re-echo with a new anthem of conquering righteousness.

Prayer is heard in heaven and answered upon earth. In one of Ohio's most beautiful cities the mayor had fitted up a building for a variety theatre with saloon attachment, such as had never been known in that city before. A chosen committee from the pastor's conference, accompanied by leading Christian laymen, waited upon the mayor with a protest, and were dismissed in a way that was virtually showing them the door, and the place was opened. The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the churches appealed the case to the Supreme Court of the Universe, and prosecuted their appeal in every prayer-meeting. The stars in their courses fought against that theatre and saloon. Lessee after lessee failed. At length the furniture, including several hundred choice opera chairs, was offered for sale. The colored Baptists had just built a new brick church, which they could not occupy for want of furniture. Generous white brethren helped them to buy those opera chairs; so that the very seats which had been provided for the service of the devil against the protest of the Church are now used for the reverent worship of the God that heareth prayer.

The churches, with their ministry, wield a moral power which, if massed against all license of the liquor traffic, would be absolutely irresistible. But the prayer and the work must be done *before* the election of county and municipal officers. Then the government is in the hands of the people, like clay in the hands of the potter. To pray and protest after election, in hope to induce

men not to license who were expressly elected to license, is like trying to refashion the pot after it has been baked, and baked into the shape of a jug. It is impossible not to think that the God of order, who through all the human world works by law and the legitimate use of appropriate means, must despise, if not abhor, a prayer that asks Him to undo what the petitioner has done and means to do again. Earnest prayer, backed by consistent, faithful work, could close the saloons in thousands of rural districts, in the smaller cities and towns, and put our great cities in a state of siege, till even there the saloon walls shall be shaken down by the unmeasured and unfailing might of the Lord God Omnipotent.

We say sometimes, "We would do if we knew what to do." Perhaps there is no excuse for inaction urged by really good and sincere men so often as this. But, brethren, let us ask, Has a Christian really a right to be perplexed on a matter of moral duty? The promise is, "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and *it shall be given him.*" Here is wisdom within reach of the whole Church to know just what to do about the saloon, just what to do against intemperance, if only we will ask of God. But "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." We must offer no casual prayer, but pray as for life—aye, as for the life of hosts—with an earnestness proportioned to the magnitude of the evil. We must make this one thing a special subject of prayer. We must not only pray in the closet and in the pulpit for the suppression of intemperance, but we must converge upon it whole prayer-meetings of the Church, just as we do upon missions.

With the present \$1,200,000,000 annual consumption of intoxicants, with the \$50,000,000 annual increase, with the influx of foreigners, and with the increased toleration of liquor drinking among church-members, this nation is as sure to go down the stream of drunk-