

W. C. T. U.

Wide and noble is thy mission, O'er the land we love so well, May thy hopes reap glad fruition, As the years thy struggles tell, Ne'er forsake thy high position, Safe within God's presence dwell.

Christian woman, art thou sleeping, Hast not waked to watch and pray? Rise, for 'tis thy Master speaking, In my vineyard work to day, Sure reward is thine; True, thou'rt weak, but I will strengthen, I will all thy steps attend, Always trust though shadows lengthen, Naught can harm whom I defend.

There are breaking hearts to cherish, Erring ones to guide anon, Many souls that else might perish, Pure shall be if thou art true. Earnest hearts will find each duty Rich in blessings, clothed in beauty. After sowing cometh reaping, Not through ease are harvests won: Ceaseless toil, not idle sleeping Ever brings His sweet "Well done."

Unto Him who over liveth, Noting well our smallest needs, Is our prayer; Only He the Victory giveth, Now we'll follow where He leads.

CLIPPINGS AND COMMENTS

A Sensible Judge.

There was some trouble the other day with a jury at Garden City, Kansas. The case was one in which two men were charged with selling liquor in violation of the law. The evidence against them was overwhelming, but the case went to a jury, and two of the jury who had evidently been tampered with hung out against conviction. They were stubborn, their fellows could not induce them to act with any reason, and the jury had to report itself in the court again. The case was very clear, and the judge quietly gave the twelve men fresh instructions, and then informed them that he would have the stubborn jurors who were evidently endeavoring to defeat the law indicted for perjury, in case of their further persistence in evident effort to defeat the ends of justice. A verdict in accordance with the facts was immediately returned.

Why Is It?

It is strange to find a progressive government like that of the United States hanging back when invited to cooperate with more conservative countries in joint legislation to prevent the indiscriminate sale of intoxicating drink. The statement is made in The Scottish Temperance League Journal for January 27th that

"A correspondence was recently published in London respecting the trade in arms, ammunition, alcohol, and dynamite in the Western Pacific. Sir J. B. Thurston, Assistant High Commissioner of the Pacific, called attention to the matter in 1884, and in a despatch to Lord Derby, Colonial Secretary, declared that the sale of such articles was a discredit and a disgrace to civilization. He suggested that the sale of these things should be suppressed in the Western Pacific by mutual agreement, and a circular was accordingly addressed by Earl Granville to the British representatives at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Washington. The Russian Government and the Governments of Germany, Austria, and France replied, consenting to enter into the proposed agreement, but the Government of the United States intimated they did not feel entirely prepared to join it, but would employ sound discretion in such traffic. Lord Salisbury's attention was again called to the subject last year, and it was suggested that the United States should again be approached."

Anything for Money.

The Hotel World (liquor organ), bitterly denounces prohibition as a miserable fallacy, denounces those who advocate it as "miserable reprobates," "vipers" and "paupers," and describes its results in the following terms:

"The catalogue and extent of crime has increased. Bad men have engaged in the illegal but profitable traffic, whilst honorable men have been driven out. Rot gut is sold in all the miserable hovels, porcelain eggs, walking-sticks, and other such contrivances."

On the next page the same journal comes out in milder tones, pleading for compensation for discarded whisky men, and rather gives away its previously strong position, by saying

"After thorough and careful study of the question of prohibition, no liberal minded person can come to any other conclusion than that compensation is the only fair and equitable way of settling this much vexed question."

If we put the two positions together, we can only reconcile them by assuming that our good friends believe prohibition to be really an infamous outrage, but they are willing to accept it with all its evil results and criminal character, provided they are well paid for doing so.

Our Last Victory.

M. E. BRAYSON.

We march with heads uplifted And banners waving high, For victory on victory Hath brought our triumph nigh. Scarce hath the smoke of battle Ascended from the plain, When shouts along the hill-tops Proclaim another gain

And ranks that once were feeble To meet the mighty foe, Are reinforced by thousands; To lay the monster low. Shall we not, in contentment, Lift hearts of perfect trust, O'er flowing with thanksgiving, To Him whose cause is just?

And when the call to battle Comes ringing down the plain, Our hearts shall leap with gladness, To catch the joyous strain. For well we know that battle Means victory for the right And well we know the Captain Who leads us in the fight.

Come on, ye foes of manhood! Our Leader we can trust To grind the dire oppressors— As they would grind—to dust To break the clanging shackles And set the bondman free, And reign o'er all, triumphant With endless jubilee.

Unfurl the temperance banner And fling it to the breeze, For Prohibition's coming We hear it in the trees; And o'er the latest victory The latest song we'll sing, And praise with loud hosannas Our Leader and our King.

-N. Y. Pioneer

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

In listening to the various commendatory speeches that have been made on the life and work of the late Rev. John Smith, I have been struck with the unanimity of expression on the part of every speaker as regards the sturdy character of this deceased clergyman, and his strong adherence to principle at all times. The question with him in every matter in which he engaged, seemed to be, "Is it right, and if so, then it was no compromise whatever." He took very little stock in the attitude assumed by some engaged in social and moral reform, who are constantly giving way to the enemy by compromise in some shape or other.

The question of reform of any kind always involves a principle, and if that principle is right, why should there be any giving way from it? No one can be engaged in work of a moral or reformatory character without recognizing the frequent temptation to allow expediency to control one's expressions and work, but just as often as this is done, it is a case of weakening, and simply taking steps backward that have to be regained, and that represents just so much additional energy and work before getting up to the point that had been previously attained. This was the history of the Slavery Reform, amongst our friends on the other side of the lines. Compromise, compromise, compromise, in every shape and form as suggested; but there would have been no freedom from slavery to-day if it had not been for the stubbornness of those Abolitionists, who could not see that it was right and proper to budget a single inch.

Such thoughts as these occur to one's mind in considering the history of the Temperance Reform, and especially noting the attention that is given to that bugaboo, High License, at the present time. Our American friends hear a good deal about this, and not a few who rank amongst the friends of temperance are carried off by its apparent glittering benefits. This infection spreads to Canada, and now and anon we have some one in our temperance ranks, impatient at the delay in obtaining absolute prohibition, setting this up as a step in this direction. We know the old argument, of course, that "half the loaf is better than none." We doubt the consistency of this argument under any circumstances; but so far as the present question is concerned, has it really any history or facts that will support it?

Water has been the history of the High License move where it has been tried! Time will not permit here the details from every point, but just at our hand we have some striking and recent instances that surely tell their own tale in the plainest terms.

High License, of course, is advocated by the friends of temperance as a temperance measure. If it is acceptable to temperance people, it can hardly be expected to meet with a like reception from the liquor sellers. On the other hand, if liquor sellers say High License is a good thing for them, (and they know whether it is or not), then it cannot be a good thing for temperance. Within the past week or ten days, a letter from Mr. Peter E. Her, President of the Willow Springs Distilling Company, Omaha, Nebraska, a very large liquor institution, has seen the light of day. This letter is valuable, not alone as the expression of one at the head of a large company, extensively interested in the fullest disposal of his "wares," but likewise (as is the case with any commercial firm or institution dealing with the minor institutions in the same line of business, and thus feeling their pulse as speaking evidence really of the trade of an entire State), he may be said to be the mouthpiece of the whole liquor trade of, at least, this one State.

In quoting from this letter, let it be remembered that it was not written for the public eye, but as containing suggestions to the liquor dealers of the State of Nebraska. In this State the license fee is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any kind of saloon. Nebraska was the first State to adopt High License, largely because of the influence lent to the movement at that time by the late John B. Finch in 1881. No one can say that the move has not had a fair trial in that State. As is the case with High License at almost any point, the first effect of the law was unfavorable to the trade; the secondary effect was most damaging to the cause of temperance and helpful to the trade; and it was because of his knowing these circumstances, that so able and conscientious an advocate as the late Mr. Finch quickly acknowledged that his advocacy of High License had been "the great mistake of his life," and he emphatically repudiated it.

This letter of Mr. Her is in reply to one sent to him, and he gives his reply, answering the questions in the order in which they have been propounded. This is the path of this celebrated confession—First, "High License has not hurt our business, but, on the contrary, has been a great benefit to it as well as to the people generally." We can understand Mr. Her's estimation of the benefits to the people generally by his first sentence, that it has not hurt the liquor business, in plain terms, it has been the means of the increase of the sales of intoxicating liquors. Second, "High License acts as a bar against Prohibition. It is especially so in this State, as the tax from the license goes towards supporting the schools, thereby relieving the citizens and farmers of just so much tax that they would otherwise have to pay, and is therefore especially beneficial to the poor and laboring classes." Here is one of the insidious influences of High License. It blinds the people to the real evils of intemperance, because of the fact that sufficient money is poured into the citizens' treasury to perhaps, as they may think, relieve them of the payment of taxes. Third, "I have an extensive acquaintance through this State, and believe, if it were put to a vote of the liquor sellers and saloon men whether it should be 'High License,' 'No License,' or 'Low License,' they would almost unanimously be for 'High License.' Is stronger testimony required?" An important point is brought out by Mr. Her when he commences to contrast the effects of High License with those of prohibition. How often do we hear it said that Prohibition does not prohibit. Mr. Her does business in the State of Iowa as well as in Nebraska. In the former Prohibition is the law of the land. Listen to what he says: "We have had a great deal of business in the State of Iowa, both before it had Prohibition and since, and we can attest that there is very little satisfaction in doing business in that State now." And he concludes his letter by saying, "In all my experience, of ten years in Iowa before the temperance movement, and twenty years experience here previous to High License and since, I believe that High License is one of the most successful laws for the liquor traffic, and for men interested as well as people, that there is."

At another time the writer may have something further to say on this question of High License, for it has an interesting history from whatever standpoint it is viewed, and wherever it has been tried; but enough to-day, as suggested by this interesting document, the open confession of Peter E. Her, of the Willow Springs Distilling Company, Omaha, Nebraska.

MY WORSHIPFUL FRIENDS.

SOME time ago, W. H. Howland, Esq., issued a little pamphlet with the above heading, and from it we make the following forcible extracts, making in them a slight alteration for which we have Mr. Howland's full sanction.

Many worshipful gentlemen, judges, lawyers, clergymen, gentlemen at large, of luxurious and ruined habits, and occasionally an odd one or two of the common people so-called, are pleased to express themselves very contemptuously of the Act of Parliament delegating the retail sale of liquor, common called the Scott Act, now the law in many municipalities in this Dominion.

This remarkable Act has had the effect of developing in these gentlemen a great thirst for information, and they one and all loudly proclaim their discoveries to all who will listen. Like Diogenes, they have searched closely, not, however, after honest men, but after whiskey, in bottles, bars, drunken men, and in all sorts of out-of-the-way places.

Strange to say, no such desire for the discovery of such things animated them before this Act came into existence. Nor do those gentlemen show any desire to find out similar things where the Scott Act is not in operation, though they could have made many important discoveries if they would, in such places. They are therefore not given to comparisons, but merely to prolific mention of what they have heard.

They particularly look earnestly for their evidence in the hotels and taverns, and it is to be said in favor of such places that they not only never deny to the enquiring stranger any measure of perfectly disinterested information in the matter, but that they encourage the presence in their hostilities of local gentlemen who disinterestedly spend a great portion of their valuable time in the apparently unprofitable task of enlightening strange gentlemen of an enquiring turn of mind, as to the localities and quantities of the various receptacles, glass, stone and human, in which liquor is to be found in their regions.

These local gentlemen evidently spend much time in enumerating the drunken man or men, whom they may see passing their homes or stores in the day-time, and in adding the same up in the evening for their great gratification, into great sums, and in stating their results to the confiding traveller of the worshipful class before mentioned.

According to the reports thus compiled, more whiskey is sold than ever, there are more places for the sale of liquor than ever; the whole neighborhood is becoming demoralized by the restraint of the sale of liquor; flagrant perjury is the continuous result of the attempt to prevent the sale, and the Act is a complete failure.

They do not add, these worshipful gentlemen, that in their so-called results they have greatly delighted, and that they have done all in their power to discourage the enforcement of the law.

While having great respect for these worshipful gentlemen, I humbly thought that something might also be found out about the Act, by enquiry from others than the keepers of hotels and the local "Diogenes," and I, too, set out on a search which should not be limited to the whereabouts and the quantities of whiskey receptacles, but should embrace other facts, which might have some bearing on the operations of the Act.

I found on inquiry that the great majority of people whom I met in Scott Act counties agreed on several points—1st, that wherever the Act was fairly enforced it was a great blessing; 2nd, that where it was partly enforced it had destroyed the charm and attractiveness of the surroundings of the licensed saloon; 3rd, that it had almost completely put an end to the trading system. In these various ways the law was of great service. Young men and boys were no longer drawn by the social attractions which made the licensed saloon a temptation. The very inconvenience and discredit attendant upon purchasing had largely lessened the sale of liquor.

With regard to perjury—a common objection against the Scott Act, there is almost always perjury in the ordinary courts of towns and cities under license. There is perjury in nearly every liquor case, and there always has been. It is neither a new feature in Scott Act counties nor an increased quantity in perjury prosecutions. It is simply an accompaniment of the liquor traffic everywhere and at all times.

But what evidence, I hear one of my worshipful friends say, can you offer to prove that the Act has been so great an advantage? I can give it, my friend, and so clearly that it must convince.

Canada has for years had local option Acts on her statute books, and these have acted repressively in keeping down the consumption of liquor, until now, that we have 63 counties under Scott Act, and much other territory under parish prohibition, we consume less liquor than any nation in the world, not one third as much as the United States, and only a little over one-tenth as much as Great Britain. In Canada we drink less than 31 gallons of wine, beer and spirits, while in the United States of America they drink nearly 13 gallons per head, and in Great Britain 31 gallons.

Further, the quantity drunk is in the inverse ratio of the measure of the adoption of local option in the various provinces. The last Government returns, which are for the year ending June 30th, 1886, show that British Columbia, run-riden, consumes 77 gallons per head; Ontario, which had only one county under the Scott Act before last year, consumed 47 gallons. Quebec, largely under parish prohibition, had a record of only 31 gallons; Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, the latter under statutory pro-

hibition, 21 gallons. In New Brunswick, with the Scott Act working in ten out of eighteen counties and cities, the consumption went down to 11 gallons; Nova Scotia, with still more Scott Act, drank only 11 gallons; and Prince Edward Island, in the whole of which the Scott Act is in force, has a per capita consumption of very little over 7 of a gallon. Remove the Scott Act from our statute books and in two years our consumption of liquor would approximate that of our neighbors in the United States of America. I am happy to observe that the effect of the numerous counties (31 in all) in Ontario going under the operation of the Scott Act within the last two years, has made still further reduction in the sale of liquor in Ontario. Oh, cruel figures! merciless blue book! how could you so ruthlessly annihilate the evidence gathered by my worshipful friends from the hotel-keepers with so much trouble and care.

We temperance people do not need to be told that the Scott Act is not prohibition. It only delegates the sale of liquor in its counties, and does not interfere with the individual freedom of any man to import liquor from outside for his own consumption. We quite agree that prohibition will be much better, but we will quietly hold on to that which we know to be good, until we have that which we know to be better. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

The vote in the House of Commons simply stated the value of the Act as a whole. 145 to 28 is an unqualified expression of favor on the part of our members of Parliament, the majority of whom are not convinced of the utility of total prohibition. Our representatives are, however, well satisfied with the Scott Act, and the people need not mind the tavern-gathered evidence of my worshipful friends. "Right," says the father, in the Scott Act town, "no man can now legally make my son drunk and ruin him, and if he tries to do it illegally, we will catch him and jug him for it, if we cannot stop him otherwise. It is good for me to know that the law does not permit and encourage any men in my town to ruin my boy and compel me to sit helplessly by and see the wrong done. It is a good thing, most worshipful friends, to do away with that time honored privilege of the tavern-keeper."

Now I want to say earnestly to my temperance friends believe in the work you are doing, and have patience. Don't believe in my worshipful friends, nor in their evidence, nor in the sources from which they collect it. Let them be believed—in the taverns. Stand by the Scott Act.

Probably the strongest attacks upon this Act will be made within the next twelve months. My worshipful friends are all singing for a purpose and will do their best (or their worst) very soon. Now is the time to test the mettle of our men, our christian workers. Our cause is God's cause. Our battle is a battle for suffering and sin-cursed humanity, for our country and our homes. Help us, dear brothers and sisters, to fight and win. Given from my heart.

Chief Justice Armour on Prohibition.

A SHORT time ago, at the High Court of Welland, in reply to the presentment of the Grand Jury, Chief Justice Armour made some very strong statements in reference to the question of Prohibition. From the Welland Tribune we take the following statement of what he said regarding the excessive use of intoxicating liquor—

"It does not directly cause crime it leads to a condition of society that does cause crime, especially such as assaults, wife-beatings and the like. Some people become more quiet and sodate when under the influence of liquor. This is often the case with English and Scotch people, more so with the Germans. But give an Irishman whiskey and he too often wants to hit every head he sees in the way. The effects of drink upon man are demoralizing, both physically and morally. Physically because it makes him less able to work, as witness the state of a man after he has been on a spree. It also debases the mind. At first a man is ashamed of having been drunk, each succeeding drunk he is less so, and finally he becomes rather proud of it. His mind is thus left in a condition to commit crime he would not otherwise think of. But idleness is really the principal cause of crime. A man unwilling to work soon gets to want money, and too often steals it. Liquor also destroys the power to work, and thus, bring about a similarly impoverished condition, excites to crime. My pathway through life has been strewn with the grave-stones of men fallen victims to intoxicating liquor—many of them men able, intellectual, ornaments to society. There are men who can take liquor or let it alone, and those should be willing to give it up for the sake of those who cannot stop at that. The question of prohibitory legislation is one upon which men differ. Some would prevent men drinking by law. Personally his lordship would favor any legislation to stop the use of intoxicants, and he did not care which end was begun upon, whether the drinking, the retailing or the manufacture for the man who sells, but his opinion was that the most effective prohibition would be that which prohibits the manufacture and importation. This would take away the supply altogether. If trusted he would get his long enough to see it put to the drink test."

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