

PROHIBITION DOES PROHIBIT.

On the last Sunday in March, when the Sunday clause of the Raines Bill went into effect, the city of Brooklyn underwent a remarkable change. On the following day the Brooklyn morning papers told the story. "Driest Sunday Ever Known," said the headlines of the *Eagle*; "A Quiet and Remarkable Sunday," was the verdict of the *Times*; "Nearly Every Saloon in the City was Closed," shouted the scare-heads of the *Standard Union*. Such a sensation was it that the *Eagle* on Monday morning devoted six columns to telling the remarkable story.

Never was such a Sunday seen by the oldest Brooklynite, and it all came about by the police doing as they were instructed, viz., enforce the Sunday clause of the Raines law. On Sunday, March 20th, out of more than 4,500 saloons, all of which were accustomed to run all day Sunday, only 285 infractions of the law were reported. Out of these 285 cases all save twelve were purely technical, pertaining to shades, stained-glass windows, etc., and arose from the fact that saloon-keepers had not had sufficient time to make the preparations required by the new law.

The following table of arrests for the five Sundays in March tells the story. The first four Sundays are "sidedoor" Sundays, while the fifth is the prohibition Sunday:

DATE.	Drunk.	Dis- orderly.	Assault.	Total.
March 1....	62	2	5	69
March 8....	56	3	2	61
March 15....	62	5	5	72
March 22....	76	2	3	81
March 29....	11	1	0	12

This table is of arrests for drunkenness, disorderlies, and assaults, all crimes directly chargeable to liquor-selling. The average number of arrests for these offences for the first four Sundays was seventy-one, but under the Sunday of prohibition they dropped down to twelve, about one-sixth as many.

The effect of a prohibition Sunday in the city was still more marked in the police courts the following morning. "There are five of these courts in the city, and for years on Monday mornings their business has been at high tide. The court-rooms have been crowded with prisoners and witnesses. This has been especially true of the Adams Street and the Butler Street courts. Justice Walsh, of the former, usually has twenty or thirty drunks before him on Monday mornings, but the morning after the dry Sunday he had not a single case of intoxication before him. Walsh was amazed. In the Butler Street court, there were but two prisoners, and one of these was a "left-over" from Saturday. Thus it was in the other petty courts; the dockets were empty and the justices took a siesta."

THE DRUNKARD—A REMARKABLE PEN-PORTRAIT OF SCRIPTURE.

Who has woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine, etc.,—Proverbs xxiii. 29-35.

The heart of Bible doctrine on wine-drinking.

I. A disease, or a sin?

1. Present symptoms:—

(1) Eye flashing, red or dark.
(2) Tongue, perverse volubility. "In vinum veritas." "Heart utters perverse things." At first it enlivens conversation, quickens oratory. The perverseness comes out.

(3) Temper made irascible, "contentious."

(4) Imagination wrought upon, "see strange (adjective in feminine gender) things, women." "If abstract, the conditions are met in the hallucinations of the delirium; if women are meant, then we perceive the passions inflamed, and our eyes are opened to the fact that a saloon does not exist alone; other vices associated with it, *Est Venus in vinis*."

(5) Insensibility; "beaten and knew it not." Stupefied and besotted; frozen in the pool on a winter's night.

(6) Vertigo and nausea, sleeping in heart of sea, or on top of mast; seasick.

2. After effects:—

(1) Wounds without cause; not honourable scars of war, or mother's hand burnt in rescue of her child.

(2) Complaining, woe, sorrow; self, others. "If we let the saloon alone it will let us alone." False.

3. Its tragic end, "at last." Would that it might be at first.

(1) Temporal, physical, moral.

(2) Eternal serpents, sting, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom. Bodily, insensate, spiritually unresponsive. Even a little whiskey renders impervious to the Gospel. Think how many of our daily associates must drink to support all these saloons. Perhaps some of you here present.

II. How induced—by a vice, self-induced; a sin.

(1) "Tarry." How our boys are tempted to tarry, flaunted advertisements, &c.

(2) "Try" (Hebrew). "Sample-rooms."

(3) Intensify the effects, "mixed," drugged.

(4) Awful infatuation; "When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." Morning thirst, early hours of saloons. Why are business houses open at four in the morning? What business? Is it insatiable desire for dry goods? Final destruction of the will.

"For ever round the mercy seat
The guiding lights of love do burn;
But what, if habit-bound, thy feet
Shall lack the will to turn?"

—Whittier.

Oh, the hopelessness of the drink habit! Not simply a disease, but a sin.

III. Treatment.

(1) Prevention; avoid very beginnings, look not upon the wine when it gives its eye in the cup, and walks with smoothness over the lips. If you never take the first glass you will never be a drunkard.

(2) Cure, same method. John B. Gough would not permit the presence of a flask on mantel of home where he was entertained; Major P. would not have bay rum put on his face by the barber. How cruel is the saloon-keeper to throw liquor on the sawdust in front to arouse the dormant appetite! Total and uncompromising abstinence is the course here prescribed.

If this is a sin and not simply a disease, who are the sinners?

1. The drinker: "If any man defile the temple of the holy Ghost, him will God destroy."

2. Whoever puts the bottle to his lips: (1) Society ladies. (2) The manufacturer and seller. If they would only advertise the whole of their business on the front (describe it at length)!

(3) The United States Government; its shares of the profits. Phryne's proposition to rebuild the walls of Thebes after Alexander had destroyed them, if they would only permit the inscription, "Alexander destroyed them. Phryne's the courtesan, rebuilt them." Rejected with disdain. The car of Juggernaut over the prostrate forms of the people, crushing to death; and yet the Commonwealth or the municipality proposes to pave our streets with the prostrate forms; yea, the bodies and souls of our citizens! (4) The voter. Mucius Scaevola, rather than betray his country, held his good right hand in the flame until consumed to the elbow. If ever I take the suffrage of an American citizen, and put it in the ballot-box on the side of the saloon, directly or indirectly, immediately or constructively, and do it intentionally, may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, and my right hand lose its cunning!—Rev. W. J. Frazer, in the *Homiletic Review*.

WE ARE WINNING.

"If you wish to see something worth seeing," a man of the world with no total abstinence proclivities says, "take advantage of your first opportunity to see Frances E. Willard preside over a big convention. She is as cool as steel, and her head seems to be as clear as crystal."

That is Miss Willard as a parliamentarian. As an individual, in a parlour, she is another person. She is delightfully womanly. She has a soft voice and hand, the same clear head, a breadth of view, increased by her wide experience, and a dry sense of humor which makes her an entertaining conversationalist.

At the home of Mrs. Demorest, 21 East Fifty seventh Street, she gave a reporter for the *New York Times* her views of the Temperance movement as it looks to her as President of the World's and National Women's Christian Temperance Unions.

"You know I am an optimist," she said. "The progress of the movement is shown in different places. Bourbon County, Kentucky, the great whiskey region, has, by vote of its people, 'gone dry,' as they say, within a few months. Norfolk, Virginia, has had a Prohibition party administration for about two years. These are little spots, of

course, just as in the Spring things begin to dry off a little in places.

Williamsport, Pennsylvania, has just elected Prohibition officers. I can also mention Albion, Michigan which has elected for Mayor the Chairman of the National Prohibition party. The big State of Texas has come under the Local Option Law within a year. The State of Mississippi, in eighty of its eighty-nine counties, is under Local Option. In Arkansas an equally large proportion of area is under Prohibition by Local Option. The signatures of the women there, on a petition against saloons, had equal force with ballots. In Colorado, a week or two ago, the women in all the towns and villages voted for license or no license. The press reports, which are not tinctured with Temperance virus, said 'the Temperance cause won all along the line.'

"Do you notice a change in the general feeling for the Temperance cause?" the reporter asked.

"There is an entirely different atmosphere," Miss Willard replied. "We live in an impressionist age, and we judge by the atmosphere. It is more highly charged by Prohibition ozone than it was years ago."

"And what is the end to be?"

"Total Prohibition," Miss Willard replied, with decision, "salted down with salt sea waves. Not sad sea waves, for they will be joyful."

"How soon? Certainly in fifty years; perhaps in half that time, we move so rapidly. Legislatures in the South pass scores of Bills at every session, exempting the territory within so many hundred feet—within so many miles or fractions of miles—of churches, colleges schools, and charitable institutions from the liquor curse."

"Yes, we do that to a certain extent here, but it is a Southern idea and they apply it more frequently than we do. They say in some of the Southern States, that no town that has not a municipal form of government shall have a saloon. The devotion of the people is such that in many places they have torn up their charters, much as they enjoyed the privileges they gave, and went back to village ordinances to get rid of the saloon."

Tennessee was the first State to make this municipal government law. Judge East, of Nashville, said he could tell me of town after town where the people had torn up their charters to get rid of the pesthouse, which is called more and more, 'the curse.'

"Australia and New Zealand have given the ballot to women. Men say they must have their votes to put down the curse, as they cannot do it alone. New Zealand is perhaps the most progressive country on which the sun shines. The Temperance, labour, and equal suffrage movements there are a generation in advance of this country. "In Norway the liquor traffic is under State control, with a provision that every five years all men and women twenty-five years or over shall have a chance to vote as to whether they desire to have the State liquor agency continued or not. If it is abolished, they will have Prohibition out and out. They voted this Spring in twelve leading towns against the curse. When the voting was over, the people sang, 'A Firm Mountain Is Our God,' and the Lutheran priest pronounced the benediction. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is working in all this, the keynote being the protection of the home.—*New York Times*."

WHAT IS A LICENSE?

"License," says Webster, "is authority or liberty given to do or perform any act, especially a formal permission from the proper authorities to perform certain acts; as, license to preach, to practice medicine, to sell gunpowder, and the like."

The legal instrument known as a license can only be issued by authority of the commonwealth, and when so issued takes the things to which it applies out of the place they hold ordinary and place them in an exceptional class where they are subject to certain extraordinary conditions. This gives the things licensed certain special privileges denied to other things of the same class which are unlicensed.

A license can only be properly given to that which is morally right. Marriage, the practice of medicine, the practice of law, preaching, selling gunpowder, running a hack, and the sale of alcohol for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes are right in themselves, but for the good order, safety, and convenience of society need to be regulated and restricted, and hence may be properly licensed. The

sale of strong drink cannot be properly classified with items above enumerated. No man has either a natural or common law right to establish a grogshop. The sale of alcohol for beverage purposes is inherently wrong, and should no more be licensed than stealing, adultery, or murder. To say that it is the absence of prohibitory law it would be right to sell intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes is as wide of the truth as to say that in the absence of prohibitory law it would be right to commit murder.

In a recent decision the United States supreme court declares:—"There is no inherent right of a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors by retail. It is not the privilege of the citizen of the State or of the citizen of the United States." This is the first instance in which this great truth has been crystallised into a judicial utterance by the highest tribunal of the nation, although the principle was enunciated on Sinai many centuries ago. When the State licenses the drink traffic, it puts the stamp of its approval upon that which is inherently immoral and ruinous to the physical, intellectual, and moral interests of society. Under license the State takes charge of the business, decides who shall sell, the price to be paid for the privilege, and prescribes the limitations under which the business shall be conducted. This makes the State a partner in proprietorship of the drink traffic, and responsible for the evil it inflicts.

But who is the State? The answer is, The voting citizenship. Voters elect the Legislature, and it makes the laws. The individual citizen who votes to endorse license, or with a party which endorses the license policy, or for a man who, when in office, votes for the enactment of the license laws, is himself, as a citizen of the State, in partnership with the drink dealer, and morally responsible for the evils resulting from the license system.—Rev. Dr. Leonard, in *The Outlook*.

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