

TRUE REPENTENCE.

FROM THE "PRODIGAL SON."

Oh! for some remnant of the lavish waste,
My servants made in my unhallowed days,
How have I sinned, and fallen fearfully,
How sweet the flower, which once I might have culled,
But now how far from every good I've strayed,
How many servants in my Father's house
Have all they need, and plenty more to spare,
Whilst hungry eyes envy the feeding swine;
And deep remorse makes bare the hideous sin,
How much of earthly good I might have done!
How many evil deeds, instead I've wrought,
The pains of hell will soon take hold of me,
(Unless from pity some one brings me food)
And drag me down into the depths of hell
Impenitent. Oh! what an awful curse
Midst mine own anguish in that hopeless place;
To see, around me, those whom I have made
Companions of the devils there who dwell,
That very thought will make me want to live,
And strive to undo that which I have done,
If but one soul may crown my latest hours,
Oh! Father! Father! fearfully I've sinned,
And done this evil in the sight of heaven,
I will arise and tell thee ere I die
That I repent and ask to be forgiven,
Thou wilt forgive, such grace within thee dwell,
How can I meet the Father, who has loved
His erring son, through all these evil days:
Whom I have grieved by mine every sin,
Whose law I've broken in my every act
For whose great love I've made such poor return,
I will arise, and ponder as I go
What I shall say, when at his feet I fall.

How can I seek my Father in these rags,
He who gave half his very all to me,
These rags that bear the stains of riot such
As in that sweetly pure and quiet home,
They little reek of. Of my penance this
Is no small part, and in these days of shame,
I, penitent, must seek my Father's house.

Need I go to-day? cannot I wait awhile
And, gather courage for the dreaded task?
No, I must start at once, or else I feel
That dark despair will overcome penitence,
And I shall sink, forever, in that slough."

PLEBISCITE NEWS.

A prison plebiscite on prohibition has been taken. By special request, with the consent of Warden Massie, Mr. W. H. Snider, of the Helping Hand Mission, has made a canvass of those incarcerated at the Central Prison on prohibition. Mrs. O'Reilly, of the Mercer Reformatory, has also taken a vote of the unfortunate women at present in that institution. The following figures give the result: Central Prison, for prohibition, 257, against 58, neutral 26; total, 341. Mercer Reformatory—for prohibition 72, against 10; total, 82. So that the vote was 75 per cent of the male prisoners and 88 per cent of the females in favor of a prohibitory law, while only 17 per cent and 12 per cent respectively are against it. An investigation of the records show that about 85 per cent of all those at present in prison are there directly or indirectly through drink.

THE SITUATION IN KINGSTON.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 22.—There was a large meeting in the City Hall last night to consider the prohibition question and the coming plebiscite vote. Much interest has been aroused. This was the second meeting of the campaign. The first was held on Saturday evening last when the Revs. Ernest Thomas and C. O. Johnston, Methodist ministers, urged voters to support the plebiscite, and the Rev. W. Royson, Anglican, offered opposition to the measure on the ground that it interfered with personal liberty. He claimed he was in favor of a curtailment of the traffic, desired the Government to assume all control, but he could not accept the prohibitionists' view making it a crime for any man to sell or drink liquor as a beverage. Some little feeling was aroused through a question asked by the Rev. C. O. Johnston regarding a saloon, not now licensed, and which had been in a building owned by the Kingston rectory authorities. The Anglican clergymen, having only lately secured the return of a lease granted 42 years ago, have declared that no liquor will be sold on the premises hereafter. The collision of the Methodist and Anglican caused friction for a day, but Mr. Johnston's declaration that he accepted the statements of the Anglicans and had asked his question in an enquiring mood has created a calmer and happier feeling. The campaign will go on with vigor and with a determination to make a big 'yes' the opinion of this city regarding the desirability of prohibiting the liquor traffic.

There are 600 women voters in Kingston, and all have been sounded on the prohibition plebiscite question. Some oppose the measure, and others will not go to the polls.

The W.C.T.U. women are working hard and will be at the polls in good force on

New Year's day to get the votes of their sisters recorded.

At the meeting of the Kingston Presbytery on Tuesday night this resolution was unanimously carried:

'That the attention of the office bearers, members and adherents of the church throughout our bounds be called to the decided stand taken by the General Assembly with regard to the evils of intemperance, and that all the people of our church be urged to cast their ballots in favor of the total suppression of the liquor traffic in our province on Jan. 1st 1894.'

—Montreal Witness.

A LIQUOR ARGUMENT.

Some one has sent the 'Expositor' a copy of the 'Wine and Spirit Gazette,' which is published in New York, and is the organ of the liquor traffic. It contains some rather racy reading. Following is a sample:

'It is not the wives and daughters of drinking men who compose the W. C. T. U., and in the name of injured, oppressed and outraged womanhood so lustily denounce the liquor traffic. These temperance women are the wives and daughters of equally fanatical husbands and fathers, and, like the male cranks, imagine the evils they so eloquently depict. The beer drinker's wife or daughter takes the pail or pitcher to the saloon and procures the refreshing beverage they all enjoy together at the family meal, and they fail to appreciate the dreadful sufferings their temperance sisters claim for them.'

Funny, is it not, that the evils of the liquor traffic should be only imaginary? That the wives and daughters who patronize it most should be the last to complain? The only thing that spoils the joke is the fact that the government of every civilized country under the sun has been foolish enough to place this harmless traffic more or less under the ban.—Brantford 'Expositor.'

STARTLING FIGURES.

Mr. W. H. Orr, Canadian manager of the Etna Life Insurance Co., and treasurer of the Dominion Alliance, gave the following evidence before the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic.

I am one of the citizens who established the central lodging house in this city three years ago, with a view of providing poor men with beds, and a bath if wanted, at a nominal fee of ten cents. There is a mission work connected with it. The father of one of its directors is now erecting a \$40,000 building for the lodging house and mission, on the corner of Queen and Jarvis streets. There are several other such refuges in the city; but this one last year furnished 30,000 nights' lodging to people unable, from drink and poverty, to pay more than from zero up to 10 or 15 cents for the night's rest. Such a work would have been entirely unnecessary but for the drink traffic. The other similar refuges would be more than enough to shelter the poor of a larger city than Toronto if the legal drink temptation were removed. The following figures copied last evening from the books of this lodging house amply prove that convenient opportunity to get liquor is the crying evil in Toronto, and that when liquor is legally sold, this class of people can preserve sobriety and can be restored to usefulness:

TORONTO CENTRAL LODGING HOUSE.

Statement of number of patrons each night from Saturday, Oct. 14, to Monday, Oct. 23, inclusive:—

Date.	Admissions.	Drunks.
Oct. 14—Saturday.....	57	6
" 15—Sunday.....	53	0
" 16—Monday.....	56	5
" 17—Tuesday.....	52	7
" 18—Wednesday.....	62	4
" 19—Thursday.....	56	5
" 20—Friday.....	57	2
" 21—Saturday.....	63	5
" 22—Sunday.....	50	0
" 23—Monday.....	56	7

Many are seriously under the influence of liquor, who are not classified as drunk or put in a separate room. During the winter season the beds occupied increase to about double the foregoing numbers, and with similar proportion of persons helplessly intoxicated. On Sabbath evening they all come in early and seldom show the least signs of having obtained liquor during the prohibition.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

This is an old adage and like most old sayings its truth cannot be controverted. Strange to say, however, this very patent fact is being neglected by the very people who ought to practice it. The time has arrived when there is to be a struggle to the death between the licensed interests of Canada and its enemies, nevertheless despite the momentous position of affairs we have yet to hear that the trade either wholesale or retail has taken any active steps to protect themselves. On every hand the prohibitionists and anti-liquor men are gathering to the fray and are sparing neither time nor money to secure victory. Is this a time to hesitate? You can conquer only by being united and how much are you united. It is true there is a slight stir among the men of Ontario, but they of Ontario cannot fight this battle alone. You must follow the example of your enemies and draw your strength from outside as well as fight yourselves.

The plan of the Prohibitionists it so attack in detail. They will first win, if they can, in Ontario, then move on Manitoba, and British Columbia, overwhelming each with the forces drawn from every province. Quebec will be the next attacked, then on to the sea. The Licensed Trade must bring all their force to the contest and not depend on local arrangements. The men of Quebec, of Manitoba, and Nova Scotia are just as much interested in the issue of the plebiscite in Ontario as the Ontario men themselves, and being so must join hands to help them. And men of independent thought who know the ruin this curse of Prohibition has been to the States, which have adopted it, they too will lend a hand in the fray. The present position of Toronto to-day is a terrible example of what an unfortunate thing fanaticism and misapplied religion can be to a city governed by hypocrisy. The Queen city of the West if not retrograding is at least standing still.

If the fair province of Ontario, aye, all Canada is to submit to this cry for Prohibition then will you see the same wretched state of affairs re-enacted in every town, village, and hamlet, which now weighs down what ought to be the most prosperous community in Canada. Look how Prohibition has taken care of the great State of Iowa. The consumption of liquors and beer in that State represents an annual expenditure of over \$20,000,000. The State law forbids the fermentation of beer or the distillation of whiskey within its borders, and the result is that the farmers deprived of a home market for a large percentage of their grain, the money goes to enrich other communities. The Prohibitionist is a pure type of an Anarchist. So long as he secures the imposition of his pet fad, he cares little whether his country is ruined as the result.—THE WINE TRADE.

A SALOON OR DEATH.

'WANTED—A man who will be willing for a consideration of \$5,000 to submit to an experimental surgical operation that may possibly prove fatal. Address, etc.'

To this advertisement in a New York paper 142 men replied, the majority of whom, no doubt, realized what it meant and were willing to undertake the risk for the consideration named. The same surgeons, two gentlemen residing in Guayaquil, Ecuador, made a similar offer five years ago, but that brought only 23 replies.

Professor Osbaldson, West Forty-sixth street, New York, through whom the present offer was made and who had sent two subjects to Ecuador before, says that surgeons in question desire the present subject for the purpose of better acquainting themselves with the actions of the stomach.

The person selected this time and sent south is an ex-pugilist who aspires to become proprietor of a saloon, but is too impatient to bide the time when the "pile" would be large enough from his wage savings.

Man is a strange creature. Every new investigation of him develops new peculiarities.—NORTH WESTERN WITNESS.

CHIEF JUSTICE ARMOUR.

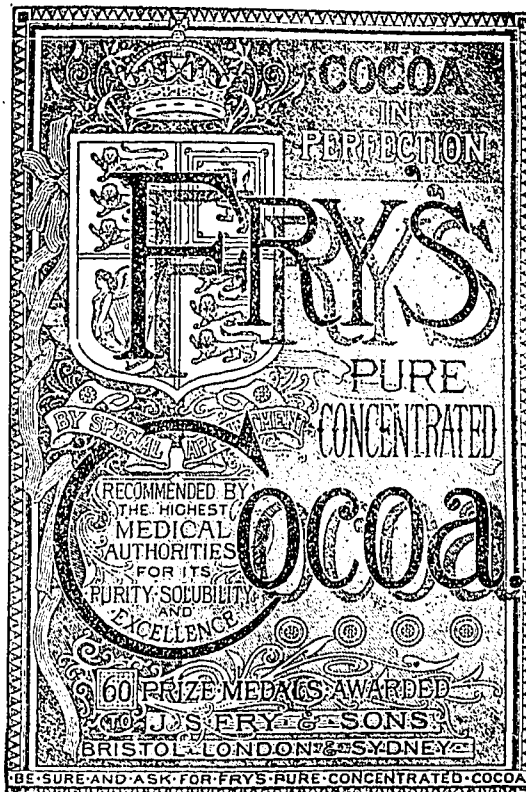
HOLDS VERY DECIDED OPINIONS ON PROHIBITION.

Before the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic, Chief Justice Armour deposed that he had been on the bench for eighteen years. 'Intoxicating liquor,' he said, 'injures a man physically and mentally, and I should be glad to see it banished forever.' He was favorable to prohibition but was afraid it could not be successfully enforced.

'In case of prohibition, Chief Justice Armour, do you think that the manufacturers should be compensated for their property rendered valueless,' asked Judge Macdonald.

'I don't think any man should be compensated for any change in the law, any more than by a change in the tariff. We all are subject to changes of law and hold our positions subject to changeability.'

Asked if prohibitory liquor laws did not tend to cause perjury the Chief Justice made the important declaration: 'Perjury pertains as much to the license system as to prohibition.'



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