

Truth's Contributors.

"Turning Over a New Leaf."

BY REV. HUGH JOHNSTON, D. D., TORONTO.

The opening year is an appropriate time for forming new purposes, making good resolutions, turning over a new leaf. Why should we not, as we "ring out the old," "ring in the new," thoughtfully ask ourselves, where we have committed blunders and mistakes, and try to avoid the errors and follies of the past?

A volume of 365 pages, many of them full of wrongs and mistakes which we would gladly blot out, has been closed and sealed and laid away on the shelf of the past awaiting the opening of the Judgment, and another volume has been put into our hands into which we are to work our lives.

Already we are slipping our fingers through the leaves and looking over the chalk-white opening pages. What number of pages the new volume contains for us we know not, for should the mystic book of the Future be spread before our eyes many of us would plainly read the prophetic sentence, "This year thou shalt die."

We have left the dead past, with its opportunities, failures, and broken promises, behind; and with new hopes and aspirations, and stronger resolutions we enter upon that to come.

As we think of the old purposes broken, we give the new ones a firmer twist, and, making stepping stones of our dead selves, enter the untrodden path. Even as we read, that strange, mysterious, awful thing which we call Time, is sliding, gliding, slipping on, and, "In to-day already walks to-morrow."

With many, more than anything, is needed a new start. Life, with its strong passions and disturbing currents of evil, and binding habits of sin, has got beyond their control. The ship, nobly built and freighted with immortality, is drifting helplessly and wind-piloted, at the mercy of every gale. And what is needed is that the will, reinforced by dependence upon Divine strength, gather up its reins, ship a good captain, and start on a new career.

What a wonderful truth it is, that the Author of our lives, in his Redeeming Love, has prepared a bankrupt act, so that we are all offered the advantages of a new start in life.

The old score may be cancelled, and all the guilty and sad past be but an ugly dream. In reforming and building character we may go "straight forward," turning neither to the right hand or the left. In Dr. Judson's life we find that a native Christian woman came to him to tell him that she was about to engage in something which he considered not conducive to her highest good. He urged her to give up her darling project. "Look here," said he eagerly, snatching a ruler from the table, and tracing not a very straight line upon the floor, "here is where you have been walking, a little crooked, to be sure, out of the path half the time, but then you have kept near it, and not taken to new roads, and now," bringing down the ruler with emphasis to indicate a certain position, "here you stand. You know where this path leads. You know what is before you. But to the left branches off another pleasant road, and along the air floats rather temptingly a pretty bubble. You do not mean to leave the path you have walked in; you only want to step aside and catch the bubble, and you think you will come back again, but you never will. Woman, think." She pondered, and kept on the straight path.

It will cost many a long, hard pull to get away from our old enemies, and follow in the path marked out by the Divine finger, but it is worth the effort.

The Dutch represent worldly vanity by the picture of a man carrying on his shoulders a full-blown bladder, and another behind pricking it with a pin, with the motto, "Quam Sabito." How soon all is blown down. So, the things that allure from the right road may seem great and important, but they are only as a straw on the mighty bosom of a flood.

Dear reader if you have "sworn off," if you have made good resolutions and purposes to turn over a new leaf, let nothing hinder you from honestly endeavoring to conform to your promises. It was just after the Battle of Antietam that President Lincoln urged upon his Cabinet the emancipation policy, and in a low, solemn tone he said that he had promised his God that he would do it. The Secretary, Mr. Chase, asked if they correctly understood him. And the President explained, "I made a solemn vow before God that if General Lee was driven from Pennsylvania, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves." The proclamation was issued, and the manacles dropped from the limbs of four millions of slaves. So when thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it, for He hath no pleasure in fools. Pay that which thou hast vowed.

Many a prodigal, by grasping the cold hand of a dying father, with tears and sobbings has promised to forsake his evil ways and begin a new course of life, but ere the funeral solemnities have been over he has gone back to his old ways. So many a one by the bedside of the old dying year, the touch of whose hand has melted their heart, has promised to live differently, but before New Year's day was over the opening page was full of blot and blurs and broken vows.

Under the Imperial ensign, in the presence of the Legion with all its officers, the old Roman soldier surrendered allegiance to the reigning Caesar, and pledged fidelity to all the interests of the great Empire. So before the altar of High Heaven, why should not we make our pledges of fealty to the true and the good, and sign with the sign of the Cross our devotion to the best interests of humanity? And what is done must be done quickly. Now is the time for decisive action. Yesterday's work cannot be done to-day. The past is irreparable. The duties of to-day cannot be left until to-morrow, the chance once gone is lost forever. Turn over the leaf quickly—turn it now. Eternity is calling to you louder and louder, and it is "Now or Never."

Temperance Legislation in Massachusetts.

BY C. E. TILLINGHAST, STATE LIBRARIAN, BOSTON.

Probably in no one of the United States has the conflict between the home and the saloon been more constantly waged, and with more varying fortune, as in the historic commonwealth of Massachusetts. Certainly in no other has the progress, the victories and the defeats, been of greater interest, or awakened more comment or discussion.

The Pilgrims and the Puritans regarded drunkenness as a crime. As early as 1633 a man was placed in the stocks and fined for drunkenness in the Pilgrim Colony at Plymouth, and the same year the Puritans of the Massachusetts Colony ordered a man to wear a red letter "D" about his neck for a year, as a punishment for the same offence against public decency. In 1658 the Plymouth Colony disfranchised drunkards, and a decade earlier the Massachusetts Colony forbade, by statute, the drinking of healths. In 1648 the Massachusetts Colonists enacted a law which contained provisions authorizing the searching for, and the seizing of liquors, similar to those which were embodied, almost exactly two centuries later, in the famous "Maine Law." But for more than a century and a half thereafter the dangers and privations of pioneer life; the conflicts with stubborn nature on the one hand and the wily Indian on the other; the war of the Revolution, and the demoralization which war always brings in its train, coupled with the introduction of West India rum and the subsequent manufacture of New England rum, aggravated the evils of intemperance to such an extent that all legal restraint was practically relaxed. The convivial spirit pervaded all social occasions, and even attended upon the celebration of religious rites. The culminating point was reached about forty years after the close of the Revolution, when it was estimated that

the annual consumption of distilled liquors and wines averaged seven and a half gallons per capita for all the people of the United States. John Adams, almost alone among the early patriots of the State, called attention to the necessity of restraining the alarming evil, but it was not until 1811 that any body of people made any determined move toward even using moral effort to check the tide. The first step taken by the "General Association of Massachusetts" led to the formation of the "Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance" in 1813, which was followed by the establishment of forty auxiliary societies throughout the State within five years. The reform made slow progress, and some of the most prominent of the early reformers retired from the field in despair. The Society, however—the earliest organization of the kind of any note in the country—prepared the way and educated the people for future effort, and is still in existence, after more than three score years and ten of honorable, and more or less active service. Other societies, local and national, were formed to oppose intemperance on moral grounds, and to encourage total abstinence. Considerable success had been secured, when in 1840 the "Washingtonian" movement spread over the country with a rapidity which has never characterized any other step of the reform, and, according to the best estimates, reformed 600,000 drunkards in the United States. This was followed by the beneficent mission of Father Mathew, and then sprang up the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars, and other secret orders to shield and sustain those who had been lifted up by the reform.

From the early colonial legislation, to which reference has been made, there appears to have been no practical effort to restrain the evil by law until about 1835.

The granting of licenses was made one of the duties of the county commissioners, and, in order that the views of the people might be made effective, these offices were made elective. Within two or three years six of the fourteen counties of the State refused to grant licenses. In 1838 the legislature, by a more than a two-third vote, enacted a law which prohibited the sale of liquors, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes, in quantities of less than fifteen gallons—which became famous as the "Fifteen Gallon Law." Many ingenious devices were adopted to evade this law, and, judging from the sales, the mechanical industries needed frequent lubrication, and the health of the people waned so as to require an alarming amount of medical stimulant. One man started an exhibition of a "Striped Pig," and treated his thirsty patrons to a beverage which the delicate stomach of the pig repelled.

Two years later the law was repealed, and the struggle for local prohibition through the county commissioners was renewed with such effect that license practically ceased.

The right of prohibition was contested, but, notwithstanding the arguments of Webster and Choate—the most eloquent advocates of the day—it was affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, the best court of resort.

In 1852 a prohibitory law was enacted in Massachusetts—a law which had been framed and presented in this State a few years earlier, but which was christened the "Maine Law," because it became a law in that State a year earlier than it was placed on the statute books of Massachusetts. This law remained in force until 1868, when the liquor dealers secured for their champion the popular and patriotic war governor, John A. Andrew—a man that the people loved and almost revered. His argument, however fallacious, was brilliant, and since that day has remained for this locality the "classic" of license.

This effort, aided by all that money could do, and favored by changes in our population from foreign immigration and other causes, secured the repeal of the law, and the enactment of a license law in its stead. The results of this change were so bad that the next year the prohibitory law was restored. In 1870 this law was greatly weakened by the addition of a clause which allowed the sale of beer, porter and ale, as under the guise of these stronger liquors were sold.

In 1875 this law was repealed, and a license law substituted. The Legislature attempted to add a local option clause in 1877, but it was vetoed by the Executive, on the ground that the license law had not had time for a fair trial.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Crime Under Prohibition.

BY HON. J. E. FINCH, R. W. O. T.

Editor Truth.

During my recent trip in your country I was more than ever impressed with the fact that the liquor traffic has no legitimate defence, but that its only hope lies in misrepresentation and misstatement. The issue raised by the prohibition movement is simple, viz.: The relation of the alcoholic liquor traffic to society. Is the traffic a social nuisance that ought to be suppressed, or a social blessing that ought to be encouraged and defended? The question is, the guilt or innocence of the traffic as a social institution. To say that prohibition does not prohibit is an evasion of the issue raised by raising another, viz., the ability, efficacy and character of government. It is more than that, it is a plea of guilty to the charge of being a social enemy and a defiance of government. That the traffic ought to be suppressed is admitted, and the ability of government to suppress is the only question to be settled. In Canada, I find the old charge against prohibition, to wit, "Prohibition increases crime and pauperism in Maine." I was much astonished to find so-called official figures given to support this absurd statement. In this letter let me notice one of these statements, the crime in Maine. A table of figures giving the crimes committed in 1851 and 1880 in Maine, showing a great increase in crime, is going the rounds of the Canadian press. I have taken the trouble to look up the official record, and find the fraud to be in giving in 1851 the number of commitments to States prison, and in 1880 the number of prisoners confined in States prison. Even then the figures were not correct. One class of crime will do to expose the whole table. In 1851 the number of murders is given as 4; in 1880 as 21. The 21 murderers reported in 1880 were confined in States prison. They committed their crimes as follows: 1857, 1; 1861, 1; 1863, 1; 1867, 1; 1869, 1; 1870, 1; 1872, 2; 1874, 2; 1875, 1; 1876, 3; 1879, 2; 1880, five. The same fraud is used in the other grades of crime, making the table a vicious falsehood. The real results of prohibition in Maine is best shown by comparing the criminal statistics of license States. In 1879 the number of persons in the States prisons of Maine, New Hampshire, Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and California, was as follows:

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| Maine (Prohibition)..... | 1 to every 3,300 inhabitants |
| New Hampshire (defective Prohibition)..... | 1 to every 1,900 " |
| Alabama (no Prohibition)..... | 1 " 1,400 " |
| Connecticut (Fair local option)..... | 1 " 2,400 " |
| Massachusetts..... | 1 " 2,200 " |
| New York (Poor local option)..... | 1 " 1,400 " |
| California (no Prohibition)..... | 1 " 600 " |

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| IN 1882 THE STATISTICS SHOWED: | |
| Maine..... | 1 to every 1,600 inhabitants |
| New Hampshire..... | 1 " 1,200 " |
| Connecticut..... | 1 " 1,000 " |
| Massachusetts..... | 1 " 500 " |
| New York..... | 1 " 600 " |
| California..... | 1 " 350 " |

*A reaction in favor of license had taken place the year before.

The above figures show the criminals of all grades. The following shows the average of felonies:

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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Maine..... | 1 to every 7,540 inhabitants |
| New Hampshire..... | 1 " 5,100 " |
| Massachusetts..... | 1 " 2,100 " |
| Connecticut..... | 1 " 3,600 " |
| New York..... | 1 " 2,500 " |
| California..... | 1 " 1,000 " |

No person claims that the liquor traffic is the cause of all crime, but that the liquor traffic is the principal promoting cause of crime. That the public dramshop is a bad place where crime is propagated, a nursery where vice is cradled, is an axiom that needs no demonstration.

LINCOLN, Nebraska, Jan. 6th, 1885.

Matrimony is a high sea, and every man who plunges therein, runs a great risk of what he may find—treasures, pearls or terrors.

"Robbie," said the visitor kindly "have you any little brothers and sisters?" "No," replies wee Robbie "renely. 'I'm all the children we've got."

Masher—"Ah—h. Permit me to call you, ladies?" Ladies—"Certainly; we're just going to get some oysters."

A wife should be like roast-lamb, tender and nicely dressed. No sauce required.

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Comment: Will further money for the in the judgment of the committee must become three months their full time. I present term extended only (the one best.) The ar be the work of any pamphlet, wise attached the name and two or more article, the first if it is considered. We are sending page 300. This is immediately after January. Look something or prize will be paid. The ar (if it contains a need a half a co now and until I send and add immediately follow Committee.

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SENT BY J. R.

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"Ah, why b To banish Why should And say a

"I merit not I have not But you have Then why i

But with com Some com And on my b By her half

Then quick a And love in Then kissed z o, mon am