

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

What Some of Our Contemporaries Have to Say about Monsignor Satolli's Decree.

"This very rigorous act does not seem to us calculated to help the cause of temperance nor to render justice to a class of traders quite as respectable as any other. To touch of a good thing is equal to nothing." - Le Monde.

"The selling of liquor is as much a legitimate business as the selling of dry goods or groceries. That liquor is an abused article does not make it saleable, nor reputable any more than the occasional use of dynamite by anarchists affects the character of the dynamite manufacturer. There is a great deal of nonsense spoken and written regarding the liquor traffic. Perhaps Mgr. Satolli has nibbled some false views of American sentiment regarding liquor." - Albany (N.Y.) Standard.

"The question has been raised in Baltimore as to how far the authority of the apostolic delegate goes in such matters. It is said that his reply to the appeal could be merely in personal approval of the temperance bishop's action, and that he could have no authority to enforce his ideas, this prerogative being possessed by the bishop of a diocese, to whom the apostolic delegate's opinion would come as a suggestion and not as a command." - Gazette, Elmira, N.Y.

"There are men in this city who are conducting the liquor business as much in the lines of Christianity as a dealer in groceries, diamonds or any other legitimate branch of trade. Why, some of our leading business men have sold liquor with the money derived from the business, and they are as strict Catholics as any that can be found. If the mandate turned out to be official, it would have a serious effect upon the Catholic associations, for the reason that the friends of the saloon-keepers who were officers would withdraw when the officers resigned." - N.Y. World.

"The St. Vincent de Paul Society is strong also in Chicago. Thus far it has taken no action that we are aware of in the matter. This may be in accord with the wishes of the venerable metropolitan of this archdiocese, who has chosen to believe that Mgr. Satolli's decision applied only to Bishop Waterson's diocese." - Chicago Post.

"Monsignor Satolli's sweeping interdiction upon liquor dealers of all kinds, prohibiting them serving as officers of all Catholic societies, does not agree with American ideas of fair play. Many of these dealers are men of good character and faithful Catholics. To put such fearful stigma upon them is a very severe proceeding, and it will probably be reversed by many, notwithstanding their reverence for the church and its authority." - Times, Buffalo, N.Y.

"After all the question is not so much what is the position of the church as what is the position the saloon-keepers themselves will take. They are Americans. Mgr. Satolli is an Italian who does not even speak our language. There is a decided antagonism or at least a decided prejudice among American Catholics in the laity against foreign priests and his office. What action will the saloon-keepers take? Will they remain in and continue the business, or will they remain in and close up the business? Or will they fight the Monsignore as a foreign prelate who has no right to interfere in American affairs? Will they take the position that the church has no right to dictate to them in any matters except those which are purely spiritual?" - Chicago Tribune.

"Mgr. Satolli's withdrawal of approval from the liquor dealers in the Catholic church will please a certain class of people; but the question is the step, or perhaps open to question. Putting a whole order of business men under the ban without qualification is too sweeping a proceeding to be accomplished in perfect fairness; and the contribution to the church by some of its wealthy members are not likely to be stimulated as a result. But the discretion of Satolli has never been remarkable." - Journal, Providence, R.I.

"Cardinal Satolli's endorsement of Bishop Waterson's crusade against the liquor interest, and the positive command of the church that no manufacturer of and dealer in liquors must be allowed to be an officer of any Catholic society, or even a member, will have a curious effect upon the rich brewers of the country, a majority of whom are Catholics, and who have always lavishly furnished money for building churches, etc. In fact there is hardly a Catholic church in this country to the erection of which the manufacturers of and dealers in spirituous liquors have not been the chief contributors. No such contribution will be possible in any European country, and we do not think that it is good policy to puritanize the Catholics in America." - Sentinel, Washington, D.C.

"The question has been raised in Baltimore as to how far the authority of the apostolic delegate may go in such matters. It is said that his reply to the appeal would be merely in personal approval of the temperance Bishop's action, and that he could have no authority to enforce his ideas, this prerogative being possessed by the bishop of a diocese, to whom the apostolic delegate's opinion would come as a suggestion and not as a command." - Baltimore Times.

"Mgr. Satolli's recent decision condemning the liquor traffic and disbarring dealers from membership in Catholic societies and orders has caused the saloon-keepers of Milwaukee, Wis., to take action in the matter. A mass meeting of saloon-keepers was held in the South Side Turn Hall for the purpose of founding a 'Wisconsin Saloon-Keepers' Benevolent Association.' The Satolli order is one of the reasons for organizing this association." - Milwaukee Sentinel.

"The Wine and Spirit Gazette has, to use a trite and homely phrase, 'bitten off more than it can chew.' Its challenge to Archbishop Corrigan to sue, etc., if he dare, the decision of Monsignor Satolli on the liquor question, brought out a prompt, manly and dignified reply from the Archbishop, who said he had yet 'to learn what fear was' when he 'had a duty to perform. The course of the Gazette in this matter has met with the severest condemnation from Catholic liquor dealers almost without exception, all of whom, while expressing no opinion as to the sweeping and radical character of Monsignor Satolli's decree, are well satisfied with the attitude of the Archbishop." - New York Daily Mercury.

"The great commotion aroused by Mgr. Satolli's order on the liquor question, the unbridled alarm of the liquor-dealers, and the approving comments made from hundreds of Protestant pulpits and in scores of religious journals of all denominations, are somewhat premature, for we are not wholly warranted by the facts." - Buffalo Express.

"The attitude of Archbishop Corrigan toward Mgr. Satolli's decision is as wise as it is manly. The Roman Catholic church has taken a position in regard to the liquor dealers which means a great deal, but the hierarchy do not propose to

provoke a needless conflict." - Boston Herald.

"Now that the Catholic Church has gone into the business of promoting temperance, a new field and a great career seems to be opening up for the decaying Prohibition party. After it has succeeded in its present efforts to capture the Papulists let it form an alliance with the Pope." - New York Advertiser.

WHAT SAYS OF THE CREEPY SAY.

"Bishop Ludden, of Syracuse, N.Y., says that Mgr. Satolli's decision in regard to Catholic saloon keepers and liquor dealers will not have the slightest effect in that city."

"Father Bloomer says in the Elmira, N.Y., Gazette, that the issue must be considered as a party one, and will not affect liquor dealers all over the country. He says the liquor business is a legitimate one, and the policy of restricting Catholics from engaging in it, instead of decreasing the different religious beliefs, is for it to men of different religious belief."

"Bishops have certain rights in their own dioceses. Bishop Waterson in pursuance of these rights, made this order about liquor dealers. He clearly had the power to do this, and Monsignor Satolli sustained him. The decision only applies to the diocese of Columbus, and is in no sense binding upon all dioceses." - Bishop McQuaid, of Rochester, N.Y., in the Post-Express.

"Vicar General McNamee, of Brooklyn, N.Y., says: 'In Brooklyn there is less drunkenness in proportion to the population than there was twenty years ago. There are many good Catholics in the liquor business. They would be glad to close on Sundays and restrict the business in other ways. As far as the Bishop's attitude is concerned, it is a matter that has given a great deal of thought to, and, as I said, what is necessary in Ohio is necessary in Brooklyn.'" - Brooklyn Journal.

"There are different kinds of societies connected with the church. Some, as the sodalities, are purely spiritual and under the immediate direction of the church. Others, such as the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Catholic Benevolent Legion and the Knights of St. John, are only quasi-spiritual societies. They have temporal sides to them, and while only Catholics can belong to them, there are matters involved in them that do not come within the jurisdiction of the church. The decision affects only the diocese of Columbus. Its effect here is limited to the moral influence it might have. I know of no theologian who maintains that the sale of liquor is an even distribution of liquor is, per se, wrong. Liquor may be used for a good purpose. Selling liquor is wrong when it becomes the occasion of sin." - Father Mulholl, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chicago.

"It would not do to go to extremes on the liquor question, and I think fanaticism on the subject is quite as much to be avoided as too liberal a view in the matter. I don't think it the part of wisdom to crush liquor out of existence altogether. Certainly it would not have been given to us for our destruction. Proper restrictions should be placed upon the sale of liquor and then the evil will be done away with or will be vastly lessened. The liquor seller himself can throw some sort of respectability about his business if he follows restrictions that lawmakers cast around him. The apostolic-delegate's ruling will incline to make the saloon keeper look more carefully to the right and wrong he does." - Rev. Father Dougherty of the Church of the Holy Family.

CATHOLICS AND THE TRADE.

An Admittedly Representative Journal Speaks Authoritatively on the Subject.

(From the Catholic Register.)

A RECENT pastoral letter of Bishop Waterson of Columbus, on the liquor traffic in his diocese, has caused wide-spread comment. He refuses to acknowledge Catholic organizations which ban liquor dealers among their officers, and orders confessors to urge on all men engaged in the sale of intoxicants to conduct their business without scandal, or 'get out of it and keep out of it.' An appeal was made to Monsignor Satolli, who answered by upholding the Bishop's authority in his own diocese. Through this censure on the liquor business does not apply to any other diocese, such as Canada. It has created great interest, and is viewed in Catholic temperance circles as a great victory for their cause.

There can be no doubt that the number of Catholics engaged in the selling and drinking of alcoholic liquors is a subject of serious alarm. We have nothing to say against the liquor business as such, especially as it is conducted in Canada. The man who sells beer is perhaps conducting a more honest business than the one who sells pills or coffee. A good-looking, honest exhibitor more true Christian than the man who revile him most. But the nature of the saloon business, as conducted in large cities, does not invite the best mode to enter it, and the numerous in-groups bring disgrace on the whole trade.

Though the Bishop's attitude may appear harsh and unjust, he probably had good reasons before he issued his letter. This is borne out by the approval of the Delegate. Monsignor Satolli is a man of original thought, who would not be led by a mere desire to satisfy the Bishop. He comes from Italy, where there is little saloon-keeping, and a good temperance movement, so he is not a temperance 'crank.' When a man of his stamp thinks such severe measures are justifiable it is time for Catholics to ponder seriously on the evils of saloon-keeping, and to consider means of meeting the difficulty.

We do not believe that the remedy can be found in attacking Catholic liquor dealers in such a general way. Many of them are fine, honest men who wish to remove the unavoidable evils of their occupation, and endeavor to conduct their business honestly and well. But we earnestly advise them, if they can engage in a business less dangerous in its consequences, that they should hasten to do so.

The traits of character which fit Irish men for success in the liquor traffic are certainly honorable to the race. A good liquor dealer must be witty, genial, generous, and at the same time a shrewd and successful business man. It is not among the Irish, however, that we find the natural fitness for dealing with men in their humors is that Irishmen are criticized in many of the other branches of the trade, such as the hotel trade. They are firm and easy fellow who wants to treat a trade and does not stand to see if mine host is an Irish name; while more precise people on their shopping tours, would think that goods commensurate with the price paid through the hands of Hibernians. It is not people like those who drive Irishmen embarking in business into the liquor business.

Catholics should be encouraged by this fallow to enter on lines of trade not honorable to the race. There is no doubt that with many of our neighbors the number of our people engaged in this traffic is a cause of great scandal. All Catholics should unite to crowd it out of our midst. As it is, we have no doubt that, as the days of Father Matthew, the Irish hotelkeepers will be the warmest supporters of such a movement.

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