When the State writes "Criminal" over the door-way of the most elegant drinking saloon, as well as over the grog-shop; when it places at the bar of justice the tempter by the side of his victim, and when it stamps every package of liquor as a dangerous beverage, meriting destruction as a public nuisance, it has done much to warn the young and unwary, and to turn their feet aside from the downward path.—Judge Pierce.

PROHIBITION PROHIBITS

AND WORKS "UNSPEAKABLE" GOOD.

What it did in Atlanta—A Reliable Witness—A Masterly Address—A City Better off—The Working Men the Gainers—No More Wages Garnisheed—Decrease of Crime—And Safer and Happier Homes.

Mr. H. W. Grady, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, is one of the ablest and most eloquent men in the Southern States, an orator of remarkable power and effectiveness, and at the same time a man of keen perception, a deep thinker, one who does not jump at conclusions, but reaches them by careful study and profound conviction. Originally a High License man, he did not commit himself to the Prohibition movement when it began to take hold of his native State, but his experience of the operation in the city of Atlanta developed him into a thorough-going Prohibitionist. Some of his rousing addresses have been published and widely circulated, both because of their forcible character and of the accuracy and reliability of the facts and statistics which he furnishes. Of course he resisted the movement for repeal in Atlanta, and was one of the principle platform speakers of the campaign. We have much pleasure in reproducing the greater part of one of his most notable addresses, in which he stated to his audience what had been his former position and the conviction of which he had been the subject. He then proceeded to argue in favor of another trial of Prohibition, because it had not been long enough in operation to allow of the full benefits being manifested, and also because its results so far had been overwhelmingly good, and went on to say—

In issuing that prohibition has not had a fair trial, I do not mean to beg the second proposition I laid down, namely, that it has been a demonstrable success. If there is a man here to-night who has not the fairness and the unprejudiced mind that will lead him to give an impartial question a full trial, is there a man who will abandon this experiment where it can be shown that working everything perfectly it has worked unspeakable good? I commend myself to that word with perfect fearlessness. I say "unspeakable good." If I talk until my tongue loses its power of articulation, I could not give you one-half of the instances of good that have been put in my hands by kind friends this evening. I will hastily class a few, none of which will fail to prove significant.

Where to Look for Results.

When you go to get the effect of a new movement for good or evil, where do you go? Not to the rich multitude, because you may excite their dismay, their income and yet, to the extent of their fortune, you amply diminish the hidden surplus. Nor to the middle class, because when you diminish their income they simply pinch themselves and pinch sequently that their neighbors do not know it, or swell their incomes and they have not a little and pass something up to surplus. You cannot tell it there, but go to the poorer classes—the men who labor for their daily bread, and whose wages barely suffice to give it to them and their families the first signs of a good or evil movement. It is at once the truth and regretful of our civilization, that starvation follows so close on labor that an evil movement is detected in the hollow cheeks of little children and the haggard faces of women before it is made manifest in the higher classes.

Distress Warrants Grow Scarce.

Mr. Geo. Adair rents houses to 1,300 tenants. He states that he has issued in the last year one distress warrant where he issued 20 two years ago. (Applause.) I claim to be an intelligent man with some courage of conviction; but I pledge you my word, if that one fact were established to my satisfaction, I would vote for this thing if I never heard another word on this subject. Have you thought what that means—a distress warrant? It means misery, it means the very thing that is today kindling the heart of the world for poor Ireland. It means eviction! It means turning woman and her little children out of the home that covers them, and to which they are entitled. I was astonished at Col. Adair's statement. Mr. Tally, who rents 600 or 800 houses, says: "I used to issue two or three distress warrants—four or five—a month. I have issued a single one in 18 months." (Applause.) Now, both of them are prohibitionists. Let me try you with Harry Krouse. He was an anti-prohibitionist. He said, "My distress warrants averaged 30 to the year, and I have not issued one in 12 months." I said,

"Then, my friend, I don't carry your conscience, but how can you be an anti-prohibitionist?"

"I can't. My knowledge of the thing, day by day, among people I used to poster and evict, has changed my convictions, and I am a red-hot prohibitionist."

Two More Converts.

I went down to Mr. Scott, who did not vote for prohibition, and asked him. He said: "I have issued as many as 25 distress warrants in a month, and I have issued 6 in the last 13 months, and 5 were to get people out of houses because they were obnoxious to the neighbors. I have issued one single distress warrant for failure to pay rent."

I said, "You didn't vote for prohibition."

He said, "I did not believe it was practicable."

"I asked, "What do you think now?"

He said, "I am going to vote, and vote for prohibition." (Applause.)

Mr Roberts was a prohibitionist. He is a square man and an intelligent man, and is running for Council, which is a good sign. (Laughter and applause.) He said, "My testimony is the same. I formerly issued two or three distress warrants every month, and I have not issued one in 12 months."

What it Means.

Gentlemen—and ladies (laughter) especially ladies. Is there any possible answer to that? Is there any industrial, any social, any economic revolution that has been worked since the world began that would account for the diminution in this most vicious and intolerable of legal entitlements? Have you thought about what a distress warrant is?

Have you ever thought about a woman being turned out of her house—the little cottage that covers her and her children? Can you picture you who live in comfortable homes filled with light and warmth and books and joy—can you think of these people—human beings, our brothers and sisters—the poor mother, brave though her heart is breaking, holding her little children about her—and the father, weak but loving, and having all the deeper because he knows his weakness has brought them to this want and degradation—and hear the children, those of whom our Saviour said, "Suffer them to come unto me and forbid them not," there asking, "Mamma, where will we sleep to-night?"—can you picture that and then their taking themselves up and the woman putting her hand with undying love and faith in the hand of the man she swore to follow through good and evil report, and marching up and down the street—this pitiable procession—through the unthinking streets, by laughing children and shining windows, looking for a hole where, like the foxes, they may hide their poor heads!

A Noble Sentiment.

My friends, they talk to you about personal liberty, that a man should have the right to go into a grog-shop and sell this pitiable procession—now stopped—parading up and down our streets again. They talk to you about the shades of Washington, Monroe and Jefferson. I would not give one hoppy, ragged little woman, uplifted from that degradation—happy again in her home, with the cricket chirping on the hearthstone and her children about her knee, her husband redeemed from drunk at her side—I would not give one of them for all the shades of all the men that ever contended since Catiline conspired and Cæsar fought! (Tremendous cheering.)

All of it means simply this, that where Mr. Adair, rentng to all sorts of people, issued 20 distress warrants a year ago, he issues 1 now; it means that out of every 20 families evicted two years ago there are 19 happy in their homes to-night. (Applause.) And yet we are told we must vote to restore the old order because it has reduced Governor Brown's rental column $5,000 a year. (Applause.)

(At the end of this sentence the scene was almost indescribable. Thousands of handkerchiefs waved as before, men held up their hats on waving sticks and whirled them in the air. The cheering was almost deafening.)

Governor Brown's Income.

My friends, I don't believe that state ment, to begin with. I do not believe his rent income is fairly and permanently diminished $5,000 a year, and if it is, he is my friend, and I congratulate both him and myself on the fact that he can state it. I say this in no spirit of sarcasm or criticism, but I do say, if there is a law, if there is a governmental theory, if there is, may it please you, an untried experiment that will shelter one honest woman and two unconscious children in their homes, it is our duty to vote that law and this Government's duty to enforce it, though it should cut it down $25,000 (Tremendous applause.) And the reason for that is not based in communism, but in humanity. If the Government owes any duty to the individual, it is that every man, woman and child that leads an honest life is entitled to food and shelter; and if there is a difference to be found between diminishing the luxury of the rich, or protecting the poor in their birthright, it is manliness, and humanity, and justice that as an honest man I dare not do otherwise.

(Applause.)

Now, I have talked to you about the poor, about the house that a man and his wife live in, I have shown you, not by my own assertion, but by the statements of the only experts in the city—the real estate men, who for years have handled from 3,000 to 4,000 houses—I have shown you, I say, that where 20 suffered before, 19 are protected under "Prohibition that don't prohibit." What would we have with prohibition that did prohibit.

No More Wages Garnished.

Let me come step farther. When you talk about a house that a man loses in you get right at him. I have finished with that.

The next step is to get our employers and ask their testimony. I went to Mr Boyd, of Van Winkle & Co., and he said, "Where I formerly had 10 or 15 garnishments at a time to answer, I now have none."

The garnishment, next to the distress warrant, is the most iniquitous form of debt collection. It means that the law lays its hand on a man's wages and holds them in its grasp, though his little children may starve about his knees and cry for bread. Now, there is one twenty necessary then, there is one now.

Mr. Boyd is a Prohibitionist let me give you Grant Wilkins. He is a man of profound convictions. You can cut him up into postage stamps and he would not deny a thing he thought was right. He said he was one of the most violent, if that word may be used, of the anti-prohibitionists. He said, "I have told them I was not going to attend their 'Anti meetings,' that I did not intend to do to have anything to do with it this time. I came to that conclusion simply because I work 220 men, and I see what prohibition has done for them, and I believe my duty requires I should let it alone. My foreman goes to their homes and sees them; they have their houses and are better, they have shoes where they were shoeless, and they have plenty to eat, where they formerly barely lived. I have had 30 garnishments at once in my shop, and I have been running seven months, and have not issued one single garnishment."

That is the first time in a long and pleasant friendship that I have known Grant to acknowledge he was wrong. I could absolutely weary you with testimony like that. (Cries of "Go on.")

Converted Against His Will.

There is a man—I cannot give his name. Col. Maddox knows him;—he is a member of the Anti prohibition committee; he is one of the largest manufacturers in this city, and as a rule his associates are against prohibition. He went into Col. Maddox's office and Col. Maddox slapped him on the shoulder and said

"Hello! Anti."

"No, sir, not much."

"You are printed that way," said Col. Maddox.

"It is wrong," he said.

"What changed him? The market and undoubted improvement in the working people. He said

"My wife and I looked out Decatur street the other day. I looked at the street and the improved condition down there, and said, "My dear, I am a prohibitionist." He was converted against his convictions.

Another of Them.

Mr. Riordan was anti-prohibitionist in the last race. He came into Col. Maddox's office—by the way Col. Maddox's office seems to be a sort of place for them to come. Mr. Riordan says, "I was an anti-prohibitionist on principle"—a percentage of our population. If I have shown that this class is benefited in an unspeakable manner by the untried experiment of prohibition, is it not our duty to continue this experiment that the greatest good may come to the greatest number?

What Harm has Prohibition Done?

One minute further (looking at his watch). ("Go on," "Go on.") There is just one thing further. What harm has it done? If it has done harm, let us see what. They said we were going to be ruined, that bats and owls would fly in and out, and the real estate men have the renting of nine out of ten houses that are rented. The rents would without a break, that they have absolutely without a break, that they have fewer houses on their hands than they ever had since they have been in business. Two of them have advertised in the last few days for 100 houses, and to-day Mr Tally told me that he actually left his office because he was bored by people who wanted to get somewhere to live in this town.

Mr. Scott told me that he could put tenants in 500 houses in 30 days from to-morrow. They tell us we have lost in population. There are just as many houses in Atlanta to-day and more, and they are all full. Well, if the population has decreased who fills them? Perhaps they are occupied by shades of Lincoln and Jefferson and Monroe!

Daylight on an Anti Argument.

A distinguished friend of mine—and he is my friend, and worthy of your confidence always—printed yesterday some figures to show there were fewer street taxes the year than last. He was correct as far as he went, but he did not get to the forks of the creek.

He took his figures from the Tax Assessor's books. Now, the men who give in their taxes are rich men, careful men, like Judge Hillyer and Maj Campbell Wallace not like me and a few fellows around me. This is important because those figures looked like something. He showed that the number of persons who paid street taxes in 1885 was 3,814. He showed that the number who paid their tax at the Assessor's office in 1886 was 3,600. That shows an apparent decrease of 214 people. Well, I am seeking after truth, and that never staggered me. "Is that a fact?" I asked. "Is that the end of it?" I asked Judge Hillyer, and he has been stuffing me any how. No. In addition to the men who gave in at the Tax Assessor's office in 1885, there were 4,180 who were looked up—made to pay with a little addition. That made a total of 7,994. Next year there were 8,600 people who gave in, or 214 less than the year before, but they found out among the ledges and byways 8,460, of whom I have no doubt I was one. That makes a total of 12,064 poll taxes paid last year against 7,994 the year before, showing a gain in this good old city of 4,070 poll taxes.

The figures for this year have not been furnished. I think they will show an increase of 3,000 or 4,000 poll taxes in this city, two-thirds of which, in my honest conviction, are due to prohibition. Those are the figures. They came through Judge Hillyer to me, and I give them to you without change.

School Children as Witnesses.

There are 829 more children at attendance at the schools this year than last. How do you account for that? (Laughter.) It has been two years since prohibition was adopted, and there are 829 more children in the schools. That means one of two things, and you can take either horn of the dilemma: either there are more people here, or there are more people able to send to school.

Home Owners Now.

Take the fact of owning houses. Artemus Ward says, "A man may die for his home, but who ever heard of a man dying for his boarding-house?" I say to you here, it's the poor man's home, and the poor man's home alone, that has stood time and again between Jay Gould and Vanderbilt and the enraged mob of American workingmen. It is the conservatism of the home owning wage-worker that has kept Socialism out of the admirable labor organizations. In the last two years there have been 687 citizens who have become land-owners, against 163 in the two years previous—citizens owning no land and owning no man as master, wearing the collar of no faction, free born American citizens, not quibbling about personal liberty, but standing with wife and little ones, honest and independent, above penury and dependence. (Applause.)

Decrease of Crime.

My friend, Mr. Hooper Alexander whom I once at the polls irreverently called Hooper, has sent me a note, in which he says:

"I see you are on statistics. If it is worth noticing I can add a few. I examined the City Court Criminal docket this afternoon, and it shows a marked and steady increase in business from 1881 to 1885, falling off in 1886. Docket in 1885, the record of 1886 shows 33 fewer cases against 653 in 1885 and 440 in 1886."

Mark that. An increase to 1885, and in 1886 there was a decrease from 675 cases to 440. That was with the experiment only half tried. The present docket extends from 1881 to 1887. Crime in 1885 less than half that of '85 and less than any year of the docket. There was scarcely a case of vagrancy for a year past.

Our Boys.

I assume to keep no man's conscience. I assume to judge for no man, I do not assume that I am better than any man but that I am weaker. But I say this to you, I have a boy as dear to me as the ruddy drops that gather about the heart. I find my hopes already centering in his little body, and I look to him to-night to take to himself the work that, strive as I may, must fall unfinished at last from my hands. Now, I know they say it is proper to educate a boy at home, that if he is taught right at home he will not go wrong. That is a lie to begin with, but that don't matter. I have seen sons of some as good people as ever lived turn out badly. I accept my responsibility as a father. The boy may fall from the right path as things now exist. If he does, I shall bear that sorrow with such resignation as I may, but I tell you, if I were to vote to recall bar-rooms to this city, when I know that it has prospered in their absence, and that boy should fall through their agency, I tell you—and this conviction has come to me in the still watches of the night—I could not, wearing the crowning sorrow of his disgrace and looking into the eyes of her whose heart he had broken—I could not, if I had voted to recall those bar rooms, find answer for my conscience or support for my remorse. (Applause.) I don't know how any other father feels, but that is the way I feel, if God permits me to utter the truth.

The Power Behind.

The best reforms of this earth come through wrath and storm and doubt and suspicion; the sun itself when it rises on each day wastes the radiance of the moon and blots the starlight from the skies, but only to unlock the earth from the clasp of night and plant the stars anew in the open. Behind that sun as behind the flowers. Behind that moral movement we may be sure there stands the Lord God Almighty, master and maker of the universe, from whose hand the spheres are rolled in their orbits, and whose voice has been the harmony of this world since the morning stars sang together. (Tremendous, long and long-continued applause.)

REASONABLE HOPEFULNESS. 9

There is reasonable ground of confidence as to the coming success of our cause, in the quickened shrewdness of the age being led to appreciate the real excellence of Temperance principles and practice.

Advanced and enlightened philanthropy, and love of liberty in effort for human wellbeing find here fitting sphere of effective operation, as well as mighty auxiliary aiding all other patriotic undertakings.

Even well advised self-interest must come to accept what, at little, if any cost or inconvenience, contributes so manifestly to vast advantages in so many respects.

Mark your ballot AGAINST THE PETITION, against the traffic that curses and kills.

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10. Suggestive Associational

There may be some muddling good people who are not in favor of total abstinence. Yet as a fair reply to the enquiry, "What kind of agencies are engaged on one side and on the other?—it is not too much to say, on our side are, good men, women, angels, and Heaven. And on the other side, bad men, drink traders, and agents of evil. This is also amply confirmed when full effects of efforts on both sides appear; they come out (good and bad,) accordingly.

VOTE for the SCOTT ACT.

Your Name on this Pencil Stamp, 25c.