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Liquor and disorderly Houses'

The illicit sale of liquor in towns, is almost inseparably connected with disorderly houses. The city of Montreal is no exception to the rule. Thanks to the untiring perseverance of the "Dominion Alliance" and the "Citizens League" the provincial authorities are enforcing the restrictive provisions of the license act in a fairly satisfactory manner—the Sunday Closing clause is better observed than at any time in the past, but in the matter of the sale of liquor to minors, and drunkards, there is much room for improvement.

The close observance of the Sunday and Minor Laws by licensed places has, however, greatly increased the sale in disorderly houses—which under the system pursued by both provincial and civil authorities, namely one or two fines in the course of a year, virtually amounts to a license.

It is well known that those who direct the action of the City Police are disposed to tolerate disorderly houses, per se, but surely the most ardent defender of this extremely debatable principle would not advocate the right to sell liquor in such places at any time. It has been within the past year adopted by the police committee as an instruction to the chief in connection with disorderly houses, that he should take active measures of suppression on certain grounds, among others "Illicit Sale of Liquor," and "Complaint of Neighbour." Have these instructions been carried out? Any intelligent reader of the daily press for the past six months must readily answer no.

Again noting the keepers of these houses have been before the courts named and no action taken by the chief—repeated complaints from respectable citizens have appeared in print, claiming not only that their request was refused but that they were received by the authorities with incivility. Such a state of affairs calls for radical change.

The principal trouble seems to lie with the chief of police—it seems impossible to make him grasp the duties or responsibilities of his position. It is not enough for him to sit in his office and say to those who wish a disorderly house removed from their neighbourhood "bring me your evidence, make the case," he should be made to understand that it is his duty to investigate, and if necessary, use the whole of his detective force to help any citizen to protect the virtue and honor of his household by keeping them free from contamination. The stake at issue is far greater than if a gold watch were stolen, that can be replaced, but the contamination of a son or daughter, never.

The rich man can and does protect himself by employing detective and lawyer, but the poor man must look to the police.

The chief should protect all citizens without favour, if he does not, the people through their representatives the aldermen, should know the reason why.

The total Dominion revenue from the liquor traffic last year was \$7,057,755. Over a million of dollars is paid annually to revenue officials, detectives, customs officers, etc. Canada imports 1,759,794 gallons of liquor yearly, at a cost of \$3,769,137. Imports and home manufactures amount to 21,058,183 gallons, which, with the home made wines and cider, and the quantity of smuggled liquors, make a yearly supply of over half a million hogheads, at a cost of over \$32,000,000, \$15,368,953 are invested in breweries and distilleries in Canada.

MONTREAL'S DRINK BILL.

What the liquor traffic diverts from legitimate trade.

Few persons have any idea what a drain upon the finances of the community the liquor traffic really is.

Take for instance the district of Montreal. Last year there was taken from this district by the provincial government \$398,771.30 in license fees and fines from the liquor sellers, every cent of this came from the hard-earned money of the sons of toil in our midst, who, while their families may have to go with but scant food and clothing, regard as a debt of honor the money due to the saloon-keeper and for which he received nothing of value.

It may be said that this, nearly four hundred thousand dollars was paid by the liquor sellers.

True they handed it to the government but from whom or where did they get it, but from the poor dupes who patronize their places?

The above amount is only what the government got as their share of this horrid traffic. How much more passed into the hands of the liquor sellers?

There were 1,293 licenses granted by the collector of Provincial Revenue for the Montreal district alone. Now each one of the parties holding a license has to pay which is estimated at the low figure of \$500 per annum would amount to \$647,500. Then each has to give, and in most cases support a family, and it is a well known fact that as a rule liquor sellers "live sumptuously every day" so that their living expenses cannot be estimated at less than a thousand dollars a year, amounting to \$1,293,000 more. Assistants, bar tenders, and clerks salaries, not less than two for each place at say \$400 would be \$1,035,200. To this low estimate no reference has been made to extravagancies such as fast horses, jew-elry, diamonds, and the many others which are usually the indulgences of the licensed victuallers, nor for his profit which is known to be enormous oftentimes.

Simply to run the business three million five hundred and seventy two thousand six hundred and seventy-one dollars.

Think of it, three and a half millions to run a business which instead of benefiting the community is inflicting evils, which no human hand could possibly depict.

If this business was wiped out and this money directed into legitimate trade, what an impetus would be given to every branch of industry, and what gladness would come into thousands of homes in this city. Is it not worth considering from a purely business point of view, Does it pay to continue the liquor traffic?

INTEMPERANCE.

It is a wasting consumption, fastening upon the vitals of society; a benumbing palsy, extending to the extremities of the body, a deep and rapid torrent, bearing the wreck of nations in its course, and undermining rapidly the foundations of our own. *Rev. Lyman Beecher in 1812.*

According to statistics collected at Washington, \$700,000,000 are annually expended in the United States of America for malt and spirituous liquors. In Chicago the estimate is one baker for every four hundred and seventy families, one grocer for every eighty nine families, and one liquor saloon for every thirty five families.

During six years the population of Chicago increased twenty five per cent. During the same time the consumption of beer in that city increased ninety seven per cent, and arrests increased thirty eight per cent.

"I am so horrified at intemperance and the consumption of alcohol in this country (England), that sometimes I feel like giving up everything, and going forth in a holy crusade, preaching to all men. Beware of the enemy of the race." *Dr. Andrew Clarke, Physician in ordinary to the Queen.*

The distilleries of Edinburgh, Scotland, produce annually over 4,000,000 gallons of whiskey.

The *London Christian* commenting upon "Ireland's Drink Bill" says, "It is rather a startling fact that the poorest country in the world should be spending annually eleven million pounds (entering) upon an absolutely unproductive luxury."

It is estimated that for every missionary who goes to Africa, seven to five thousand gallons of liquor are sent to that country.

"The tax on brandy forms the most important item in the revenue of Russia it amounts to more than fifty millions of roubles." *Wm. Hewitt.*

"Drunkenness is the beginning and ending of life in the great French industrial centres. Against this vice what can the salaries of women and children do? The woman's labours help the husband on the road to ruin. The child is born with disease in his bones, and with evil example before him. There are manufacturing towns (Lille for instance) where the women have followed the example of the men, and have added drunkenness to their other vices. It is estimated that at Lille, twenty five per cent of the men and twelve per cent of the women are confirmed drunkards." *French Worked day Worker.*

Purity of heart depends on purity of mind, and the only way to secure the first is by cultivation of the second.

JUDGE NOE.

Rev. James McGregor, D.D., of St. Catharines, Edinburgh, uses in one of his excellent sermons, words which may well be carefully pondered by all having to do with the inebriate or fallen. They are as follows:—"While we are entitled to call things by their right names, and severely to condemn conduct which is base, to call evil evil, and a lie a lie, and dishonesty mean and cowardly; whilst we have no right to palliate or excuse in young or old grave sins against God, and against society, let us remember at the same time that the wrong doing and the erring can be judged by One alone. Instead of casting stones let us pity him and be humbly thankful that our own feet have been kept from falling, for we can never be sure that if we had but been subjected to his temptation we should not have fallen further still. As we get older and wiser, as we come to know ourselves and others better, if the grace of God is in us at all, we get gentler in our judgments, and learn to pity rather than to blame them who have gone far astray, and we rejoice in the thought that there is One above who knows all, and who will judge righteous judgments. That is ones hope when one hears of the young struck down in their sin. That is ones hope coming away from that most awful spectacle on earth, a sinners dying bed, when perhaps a young and wasted life which gave early promise of beauty and of usefulness is passing in despair and, fearful to the future, embittered by memories of the past, and conscious that he is leaving broken hearts behind him; none but God knows it, none but He knows the nature of that dying man, the fury of the impulses which led him astray, of the temptations with which he wrestled long but in vain, of the misery which he inflicted on himself as well as others, of the weariness of the life which thus sadly ends. No: e

but God knows. "The Lord Reigneth." "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" It is pitiful to think of the harsh and bitter judgments pronounced on such a life and on such an end by those, who, inheriting a passionless nature with ample store of this world's good things, blessings for which it never occurs to them; they have not themselves to thank, and knowing little of temptation except by hearsay, luxuriate in the pleasing conviction that they are not like other men. Oh! my holy and censorious friend, whose weak nature had never strength to drive thee far astray, but only strength to condemn those who have gone wrong, take good heed unto thyself lest it be more tolerable in the day of judgment for them than for thee."

HEREDITARY TRANSMISSIONS.

What is the attitude which we ought to take as beings who are all of us born under and subject to the law of hereditary transmission, and who have all of us inherited tendencies to evil in one form or another? What are we to do in relation to it? Are we weakly to yield to the evil whatever it may be, or bravely with God's help to fight against it, and conquer it? Are we to master it, or to be mastered by it? This is a question which we have all to answer before the tribunal of our conscience and in the sight of God. One of the highest ends of life is to solve that question right. A battle it is, and must be anyway we take it, and the sword of all battles, for them who are noble, valiant and weak moral standing meet it a very unequal contest. Remember, that with whatever fatal inheritance have come down on you, in the vast majority of cases, there has been infinitely more of good than of evil. And there is one divine gift which has been bestowed upon us all, and of which nothing but our own hands can ever strip us, our heaven born freedom of will. We dare say of no man, however evil his inclinations are, that he is absolutely powerless in the grasp of the enemy, if such a man there ever was, that man would be irresponsible for his acts as a madman or a brute. And along with our freedom of will we have all the influences of a christian civilization on our side; we have the example of the good and upright around us, and, better far, we have the sympathy of a once tempted Saviour and the ever-present help of His Holy Spirit to aid us in all our struggles with the world, or the devil, or the flesh.

This subject is full of warning to us all, and especially to the young. The warning is this: let us diligently study to know ourselves, and to learn, as we can easily do, what are our special proclivities to evil, what are our too easily besetting sins, and let us set ourselves, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, resolutely to watch against, and to fight with, and to conquer these. There is none of them that is not more or less conquerable. We may never eradicate a tendency, especially if it is congenital, but we may so crush it, so strengthen our will against it, so learn to detest and dread it, and so keep out of its way, as to make it powerless for injury. There are certain natures, for instance, on which the effects of stimulants are as certain as the effects of fire on gunpowder. The rule of safety is as simple in one case as in the other; keep the gunpowder away from fire, keep the stimulants away from such natures. There is no other rule of safety in such cases than rigid, total, and everlasting abstinence, and let us not forget the tremendous fact that acquired habits, and acquired qualities are certainly transmissible.

Rev. JAMES MCGREGOR, D.D.