

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

Wier think you of the faith which can believe that the communion cup can impart divine grace and physical disease at the same time?

KANSAS has more lynchings than any other state in the union, has fifty murders in the State Prison under sentence of death and has Prohibition.

Mr. JOSEPH FIELD, of Red Bank, N.J., is another example of the terrible effects of the liquor traffic. Mr. Field has always been a whiskey and does very. The day he celebrated his 102nd birthday. He had never drunk anything but water in his life he had been several years older.

The *Hotel World* says: "In Canada we seem that the man who conducts a saloon goes by the same title as one who conducts a hotel." Our contemporary is acquainted with the law in Ontario. We have no saloons. Such a thing as the United States "saloon" is almost unknown.

KANSAS produces some funny people. One of these is Rev. E. E. Wiley. This man would consider it mortal sin to take a drink of whiskey but cannot understand why objection should be taken to his using a baseball match on Sunday. Anybody he did umpire the baseball match and would be heard his the Chatanqua Circle would to hear him lecture. So war has been declared.

The fact that Prohibition votes, liquor license votes and the like are, where successful, almost invariably so by the aid of a large number of voters abstaining from the polls is further illustrated by a recent New Zealand. On the liquor license issue there only 38,000 out of 400,000 voted. The restriction carried, however it hope to be successful? In a township 562 women out of a total of 1000 declared for the license law. This would seem to indicate that women are invariably Prohibitionists.

There had a parade of the postal employees in Chicago last Sunday. It was very bad thing to do of course, nearly all of our military Sunday parades, but the postmaster in order to be fair to all men announced that any official who conscientiously scruples against taking part in a Sunday parade would be excused.

Only one man asked to be excused. He was Carrier William Dubois. He said he had made an engagement to play in a game of baseball that Sunday, and had conscientious scruples against breaking the engagement. William paraded.

WHEN the law comes in contact with human nature or a national characteristic the law gets the worst of it. For instance the Chinese do not drink but they gamble. Under the law in China the simplest kind of gambling is punished with eighty blows of the bamboo. This is the lowest punishment, yet the Chinese are the most confirmed gamblers of all the nations of the earth. Harsh measures have only beaten the passion into them. Did you ever know of a boy cured of a propensity for chewing tobacco by being thrashed?

TOPEKA the God has fallen from its high estate. This is the city where Prohibition was alleged to work so satisfactorily that F. S. Spence was completely overpowered by it. Now Mayor Harrison declares that he is powerless to stop the sale of liquor and wants the police taken from the control of the police commissioners and placed in his hands where he will make a new try. Mayor Harrison is a fanatical Prohibitionist and with control of the police in his hands would stop at nothing. But with a standing army and martial law declared he could not enforce Prohibition.

A DRUNKEN man was struck by an express train on the Long Island Railway the other day. The pilot of the locomotive hurled him from his seat over an embankment thirty feet from the track. The train was stopped, and the crew, with lanterns, began a search for the victim. They were guided to the spot by the sound of his voice. He was swearing like a trooper, and said he wanted to whip the engineer. He was too intoxicated to stand, but he was not hurt. We had intended this as another sample for Bro. Casey's "Horror" column, but somehow it don't seem to have worked out.

"A CURIOUS idea" says the Montreal *Witness* "has got into some minds that the recent Methodist Conference went back on its record in the matter of Prohibition. It was far from doing that." We should say so. Conference declared not only that to drink is a sin—absolutely

a sin—but that to sell is a sin and to license to sell is a sin. As the soul that sinneth shall surely die, our Methodist brethren must expect to be a tolerably lonesome crowd in the great hereafter. It may be, however, that the plan of Salvation was framed and is operated by higher authority even than General Conference.

Fair Play says: "A dispatch from Springfield, O., dated Oct 1, says that at the village of Gordon, north of Springfield, the saloon owned by James Murphy, was blown up last Friday night with dynamite. It was the only saloon in the township, and the prohibs had been trying for three years to close it up. Failing to do so by law they resorted to their favorite plan of violence. The moral of the act is plain enough. There is no State in which a disorderly or unlawful saloon is more easily closed than in Ohio. The failure to legally close the one no doubt came from the fact that it was lawfully conducted and the act of violence was therefore without shadow of excuse. Yet these same canting scoundrels will howl anarchical at every one who is not ready to dynamite saloons."

We perfectly agree with this from the *Montreal Gazette*: "A New York man has been brought into court for causing a disturbance at the theatre by hissing a song, of which he disapproved. The accused pleaded that he had as much right to hiss as to applaud, and the magistrate upheld his plea. The decision should encourage the practice of hissing, which has fallen into undeserved disfavour. The fault with most theatre audiences is not that they are too critical, but that they are not critical enough. They sit through rapid and over-worn wit, poor music, tame acting, scenes and dialogues that are morally or artistically objectionable. A little judicious hissing would go far towards cleansing the stage of much that now disgraces it."

As English writer, one William James Farmer, propounds in the *Westminster Gazette*, an entirely new method of inculcating "Temperance" doctrines. The basis is the Guttenburg system in that the State is to do all the trade in alcoholic beverages. But the managers of houses are to be selected from the ranks of proved teetotalers, and are to have "an interest in putting down the consumption

of drink." By this, we suppose he is to be one of the usual type, a lanky, hollow-chested individual, with a dyspeptic frown and a forbidding appearance, who would scowl malignantly at every customer and throw out admonition in a rasping tone of voice while he dispensed refreshment with a clammy hand. Such a person, and there are lots of them about, would undoubtedly clear his bar, whatever else he might do. Then in Mr. Farmer's scheme the public house is to be divided into two parts, one for the sale of intoxicants and the other for non-intoxicants and food. The first department is to be made "lively comfortable" and the walls are to be "ornamented with charts showing the analysis of the intoxicants sold and their effects upon the vital organs of the body." We should say that this chart business alone would make the room "lively comfortable" and as to the whole plan Mr. Farmer will excuse us if we privately think him a great fool.

OUR abstaining friends on this side of the water are quite satisfied that Mr. Gladstone has not changed his views regarding Local Option or the Prohibition question. Those on the ground think differently. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, president of the United Kingdom Alliance, it is true, has written a letter in which he tries to minimize the effect of the Old Man's pronouncement by professing to agree with him to a certain extent. He says that the Local Option bill would only provide a partial and occasional remedy, and that if passed to-morrow it would be useless in itself; and he also argues that a mere limitation of numbers would be little better than an imposture. But he has doubts as to the Bishop of Chester's scheme, and all in all does no more than gently chide Mr. Gladstone for adopting a scheme that is no better if as good as the old one. On the other hand Mr. Whyte, secretary of the Alliance flatly argues that the ex-Premier does not know what he is talking about. As to the Bishop of Chester's scheme Mr. Whyte says that a public interest in the sale of liquor is quite as bad as a private interest with the added evil that it would give rise to an enormous amount of robbery. Mr. Whittaker, M.P., another prominent pillar of the U.K.A., takes a different line, and denounces Mr. Gladstone's letter as a scandal. Our teetotalers are recalling the fact that Mr. Gladstone is the father of grocers' licenses, and an altogether untrustworthy guide for teetotalers. All this screaming and cackling shows how desperately the teetotal dove-cotes have been flustered by Mr. Gladstone's letter.

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