

Let me here utter a warning voice to parents who are in the habit of giving parties, and the awful danger to which they are exposing their daughters. I have two witnesses who will swear that they know of young men who go to parties, and take strong drink with them in their pockets, and who between the dances go out of the room, and coax girls to follow them, and get them to unite in emptying the contents of the bottle. "Where" say you, "did they get the liquor from?" Perhaps they coaxed a doctor to give them a bogus certificate for 15 cents, but more likely got it from one of the thirty nine persons in Yarmouth who are selling it on the sly in violation of the law of the country. Where did those two drunken boys get it from as they came up from the steamboat wharf the other Sabbath? I know where they got it from and I will tell you soon. Fathers and mothers, if you have any regard for the MORALS of your girls, you had better discontinue parties for a season, or one day you may meet your once fair daughter on Boston's street corners the first step to which, was taken at your last dancing party.

All through the past summer that steamship "Alpha" has been a veritable curse to this town. Three of its crew have been flooding the place with liquor on God's holy day, and only lately have we succeeded in convicting the boys, and fined each one fifty dollars and costs. I was present at the trial, and was amazed at the revelations of this iniquitous traffic, but especially of the fact that whoever touches the liquor business is irresistibly drawn into the whirl-pool of iniquity. I there saw that strong drink DEMORALIZES a man, however high he may be in office. It darts its venomous sting into his heart and poisons his whole soul, for it makes a man LIE, AND CHEAT, AND CURSE, AND VIOLATE ALL THE HIGHER LAWS OF HIS MORAL NATURE. Go and ask one of the respectable tipplers if he got strong drink at a certain drug store, and what will he say? What has many a one said? Many a man who for another thing would not lie for a \$100.00, has deliberately silenced his conscience, and trampling on all his better feelings, has uttered a truly black falsehood and that after kissing the Bible. Now if a business man of some standing in the commercial world, will under the dominant power of strong drink, lower himself to such a degree, as to class himself with murderers (Rev. 21. 8.) in the world to come, what a fiendish influence liquor must have over his morals. And knowing this effect on their conduct what a blinding fascination the accursed stuff must exercise over them, when they knowingly cling to it as if it were their life.

People say the churches are not doing much to sweep this abomination from our midst. I admit that they are not doing all they ought or all they might. But did you ever consider that while eleven ministers are preaching Life and Salvation, there are thirty nine persons dealing out death and damnation. That for every two ministers trying to stem the torrent, there are seven persons who are pouring the vile stuff all over the town?

People say the Council is not doing all it ought to do and might do, to support and push forward the work of stopping the sale of liquor. Surely this liquor fiend has not scorched such men as those? It cannot be that its blighting power has demoralized THEM? Nor can it be affirmed that they are ignorant of places where it is sold on the sly. I believe every one of them could walk almost blind-folded to a place where liquor is sold. They cannot plead ignorance as an excuse for their lethargy in the temperance reform. If they do, then all I have to say is, that men (appointed to protect our homes from the withering curse of strong drink) who can live in this town of five or six thousand persons, where 39 persons are selling liquor in violation of the Scott Act, and not know that fact, are not fit for their office, and ought to resign in favour of men who will do their duty to the people. But I fear it is not either of the above suggested reasons that retards them from actively doing their duty as Guardians of our homes, but it is more likely that political jealousies are at the bottom of their indifference. This man won't do his duty, because if he did, he would have to work in harmony with a man of the other political party. And so the same with the other side. And so it comes to pass, that men come before us with all sorts of plausible pleas why we should elect them to office, to an office that strictly concerns the well-being of our own town, and when they reach the point of their ambition, they distinctly set their faces against attending to the most vital part of their work, because in Dominion or Provincial politics they are at swords points with each other. What has Ottawa or Halifax to do with the protection of my boy from the damning curse of the nineteenth century? That is a work for us who are here. And I assert that any man whose duty it is to chase out of our midst these sordid rumsellers, and will not do it because he will not co-operate with a fellow councillor of a different political party, has given one of the strongest reasons for the formation of a THIRD PARTY, who shall make everything bend to the extirpation of this great demoralizer of mankind everywhere.

Are the Doctors doing all they can to preserve our homes from the inroads of this great demoralizing curse? They have the power to do more good and more harm than any men in this town, in relation to the liquor traffic. By a dash of the pen, they can sign the death warrant of the best society young man in town. Or by withholding it, can save men from becoming physical and moral wrecks, and homes from becoming mad-houses. The doctor who writes a prescription for a man who does not need it medicinally, is more responsible for its effects on the drinker physically and morally, than any one else. Now the great question is, what is the relation between the liquor traffic and our doctors morals? Has this fiend demoralized them? Has it influenced any of them to write out prescriptions for the sake of the fee, without regard to the moral ruin they may impose on the drinker? Or have they all hitherto been conscientious in obeying the letter of the law? One of the ways of finding out answers to these questions is to examine the books of the liquor agent, and see how many prescriptions were signed by this doctor, and how many were signed by that doctor, and then you can easily see if any, and how many of our medical men have become demoralized by this infernal power, the liquor traffic. I would not for anything cast reflections on those who are engaged in this noble work of the medical profession. After the ministry I have always been ambitious to be a doctor, and have always had a high opinion of the calling. In this question, what is the relation between the liquor traffic and our medical men, I am sorry to know that one or two of them are its avowed friends. That they do and have written prescriptions which have been drawn in distinct and determined violation of our Scott Act for the sake of the fee. One of these doctors will be cursed by many a dying drunkard, and at the judgment bar of the Almighty, he will have an awfully long list of charges read out against him, for having done in relation to the liquor traffic, that for which the damned in hell will have to suffer for ever.

What is the relation between the liquor traffic and the morals of our medical men? Last year the Agent sold twelve hundred dollars worth of spirituous and malt liquors. Does any medical man mean to assert that all that was absolutely necessary for medicinal purposes? If such an one dares to say so, I will prove from medical authorities of the highest scientific type, that he is profoundly ignorant of the character of strong drink, and of its real power to aid in the restoration of diseased bodies. If the best medical opinion pronounced \$1200.00 worth of liquors twelve times more than were absolutely necessary for medicinal purposes in a small locality like this, then it follows as a logical sequence, that some one or more of our doctors are guilty of aiding the extension of drunkenness, the violation of our local law, of making blood money out of the nefarious traffic, or that such are nothing more nor less than profound quacks. One doctor in this town lately said that, "If he did not write a prescription for the drinkers, some one else would, and that he might as well have the fee as another doctor." Now I say that medical man is demoralized by the liquor traffic, and ought to be proceeded against by our local authorities, and if he will not obey our law, but is determined to give bogus prescriptions for the sake of the fee, he ought to be drummed out of the town. Do our local authorities mean to tell me that they do not know of a doctor who is deluging the town with lying prescriptions? Who is making his office a gateway to hell for some of the kindest, and when sober, most considerate fathers and husbands in town? If they all declare themselves innocent of this fact, all I can say is that they tell a falsehood, for there is circumstantial evidence in the possession of a hundred people, that will prove that they must and do know there is such a man.

Are the druggists demoralized by the liquor traffic? If there is a business in town that ought to assist in keeping our Law concerning this liquor traffic, it surely is that of a druggist. I understand from a chemist's assistant that the profit on things sold by a druggist is so large, that some chemists do not care to sell things on which the profit does not range from 50 to 100 per cent. If this be so, surely they are the last in this town who are tempted by the profits on liquors to sell them. But are they all satisfied with the enormous profits their legitimate business brings them? When I have seen a poor ragged fellow charged with selling liquor, one is tempted to pity him, and I truly felt sorry for one the other day, when I heard the judge say, "Sir, you are fined \$50.00 and costs." But no such feelings can enter a man's heart when he hears of a druggist being fined \$50.00. For a man to turn his store into a saloon, who is in a business that makes the largest profit of any in town, deserves the severest public reprimand, and six months in gaol. Now I ask are any or all of our druggists demoralized by the liquor traffic. Are they violating the Scott Act? Are they

* This was the first year the present agent, but I am informed in correction of the above that last year his sales were \$393.40.