

that it is almost impossible to obtain a conviction against persons accused of selling spirits without license; and pray your Honorable House to cause its authority to be respected, and its statutes obeyed.

Your petitioners are of opinion that, before a tavern or other house for the sale of intoxicating liquors is opened in any locality, public notice thereof should be given to the inhabitants, that they may have an opportunity of expressing their wishes in regard to it, and that whenever it is opposed by a majority of persons holding a municipal franchise, no petition for a license should be granted.

Your petitioners are of opinion that all applications for tavern licenses should be presented only in open court, and decided upon there, on a certain specified day; from which decision there should be no appeal, and no other party should have authority to grant an application which has been then and there refused.

Your petitioners are of opinion that the practice of publishing the names of those persons who have obtained tavern licenses, only about the end of the year, is of no benefit whatever; but that many evils might be prevented if said names were published at the commencement of the year, or immediately after the licenses are granted, together with the names of those who recommend the application in each particular case.

May it therefore please your Honorable House to take this matter into serious consideration, and grant such redress in the premises as your wisdom shall deem fit.

And your Petitioners will ever pray. —

REV. E. CHINIQUEY.

A report has been going the round of the papers that Mr. Chiniquy is involved in pecuniary embarrassments, arising partly from protracted sickness, but chiefly from his labors in the cause of Temperance. We sincerely sympathize with him in his sickness, and hope that he may soon be able to resume his useful labors. We know not what truth there may be in the other part of the report, but we think the Temperance public ought not to allow their champion to suffer for a single day, embarrassments contracted in their service. And we are certain they will not, so soon as they are made acquainted with the facts, and their duty pointed out to them. For, though Temperance men are proverbially given to *living*, yet we can answer for them—they will cheerfully give a portion of their savings to release from present difficulties, one to whom they owe them all. We would be glad to receive farther information on this subject.

WISCONSIN LICENSE LAW.

We have received a copy of the Wisconsin License law, for insertion in the *Advocate*; we deem it unnecessary, however, to reproduce it in our columns, the same having appeared in our last volume, page 183. It may be some time before we can expect such thorough legislation on this subject, as indicated in the law referred to. Temperance men, however, must keep the matter constantly before their mind, and if we cannot get all we want at first, let us take what we can, as an instalment of the whole. The public mind must be stirred up on the subject. No doubt difference of opinion will exist, both as to the utility of the agitation, and what we should ask the Legislature of the country to do, but if the matter is temperately discussed, truth will be elicited, and such proofs of the evil effects of this system upon the country brought to bear upon it, as cannot fail to advance the cause materially.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr. F. E. Grafton, of this office, will leave in a few days on a collecting tour for the *Temperance Advocate*. He will visit the

Eastern, Johnstown, Midland, Victoria, Prince Edward, New castle, and Colborne Districts, and it is hoped will meet with a favorable reception.

Education.

THE EDUCATION OF FARMERS.

"It has often been a matter of surprise that, in this age of improvement and progress, the education of our agricultural community should be so entirely neglected; the more so, when we consider how large and important a body our farmers constitute. For the professions, from twenty to twenty-four years of constant study from youth to manhood, are considered requisite to prepare a young man to enter even upon the threshold of either; and for the first trades, either mechanical or mercantile, the first fourteen years of life are spent in an elementary education, while the subsequent seven are devoted to acquiring the rudiments of the pursuits selected. The farmer, on the contrary, conceives that, after his sons can hold a whip or pull a weed, one quarter of the year is quite sufficient to devote to the development of their minds, while the other three-quarters are consumed in the most drudging minutiae of agriculture, and this at a period of life when impressions are most easily made; and when, if they imbibe any notions at all of the culture of the soil, it must be those of their fathers; and if these are tainted with ignorance or prejudice, the rising generation must be cursed with the same obstacles that were stumbling blocks to the preceding.

"We often hear it said, that practical experience will correct erroneous opinions formed in youth, and will supply the want of agricultural information which has not yet been acquired. And is this a fitting preparation of a young man for any pursuit, much more for one that requires the immediate and constant application of fixed and correct principles? Is it wise, is it just to the young farmer himself, first to expose him to the inculcation of the errors of an unimproved system of agriculture, and then throw him, with a half-formed mind, upon his own energies, to suffer the consequences of his mistakes, and correct them if he can? Do we find that this practical experience remedies the deficiencies of early education, and makes our farmers what they might and should be? Is not the adherence of our farming population (and we appeal to their sober judgment when we put the question) to old and erroneous practices in culture, almost proverbial? Judging from our own observation, limited to be sure as it has been, their love of the systems of their fathers, right or wrong, has given birth to a prejudice against a hostility to the improvements of the day that many have no power to overcome. This is the constant cry of those engaged in the regeneration of our agriculture. They cannot persuade the farmer to adopt modes of culture that every principle of science and all experience warrant because preceding generations have followed different ones.

"The reason why our agriculture is so far in the rear of all other pursuits, seems to be of a twofold nature; first, because our farmers are half educated when young; and, moreover, because they will not be induced by the ten thousand motives held out to them to eradicate mistaken opinions and prejudices engendered in youth, and which are at constant war with their best interests. They will not educate themselves. Scientific principles are ridiculed by them under the name of book farming, and the many substantial improvements and useful discoveries offered to them by the many as being theoretical and visionary. Generally speaking (and we appeal to common observation for corroboration of the statement, which is made without the slightest disrespect to the farming interest,) they will know but little of the fundamental principles that govern the culture of the soil,