

# THE ADVOCATE

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## Comment.

The Massachusetts Populists not only declined to endorse Prohibition, but they went and nominated a full ticket for the state elections.

To a London police sergeant is due the credit of a new definition of an old stage of intoxication. He explained to the magistrate at Marlborough street that he found Frank Williams "conscientiously drunk," by which he meant that the man was intoxicated but knew what he was doing.

Speaking at a meeting held in London recently to organize a public-house reform association, Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., said he did not hesitate to say that he despaired of any reform in the existing state of the liquor trade, unless the principle of fair compensation was accepted, not merely as a question of policy, but as a question of right and justice.

RICK BAKER, aged 6 years, and Corolla Baker, aged 3 years, children of Mrs. Martin's, died Saturday morning at Paterson, N.J., having been poisoned from drinking birch beer manufactured the previous night. Mrs. Isabella Slangebury and the mother of the dead children, who also partook of the beverage, are not expected to live. Banish this beer.

There has been holding an exhibition of champagne at Epermay, and the opinion of distinguished Frenchmen as to the virtue of the wine have been obtained by the exhibitors. M. Jules Simon, for example, allows that it is a glorious kind of wine, but he has one grievance against sparkling beverage—that every year is responsible for several millions of waste, half of which are very dull.

Mr. J. J. MacLAREN, Q.C., has not denied that he said he voted for Mr. Dawson Gossoworth, in East Toronto, at the last Dominion elections, nor has he explained how he came to vote when he was not on the voters' list. Was the manman guilty of lying or of impersonation? He must have been guilty of one or the other. One is "only" a crime against God; the other is a crime against man. The former is punishable here; the latter right now.

The Toronto correspondent of the Ottawa Journal says that Mr. R. J. Fleming will oppose Mayor Kennedy if he seeks re-election. It is about time this city had a whole man to represent it and not a political peddler or a narrow-rimmed pretender. If Messrs. Kennedy and Fleming were only honest in principle and consistent in action, one might entertain some respect for them, but while one refuses the same rights to his fellow citizens that he demands for himself, the other for the sake of personal power or party profit does not hesitate to have dealings with people something worse than shady in character.

SNEAK thieves were busy in Toronto last week. Large gatherings, whether of pious or of worldly people, always attract the riff-raff of the population. If it were a past meeting that brought them together of course it would be owing to the wickedness of the sport. As in this case, it was a religious convention that attracted them, was it the righteousness of the occasion that was the magnet to the pilferers? Anyway the guests and several city hotels suffered. In cases of this kind it is invariably sought to hold the proprietor responsible, but if guests will stay out until half-past four in the morning, will leave their rooms unlocked, and will leave their valuables lying loosely around instead of putting them in the hotel safe, not only the vigilance of all the proprietors in the world will prevent an occasional case of unlawful appropriation.

EX-GOVERNOR FREDERICK ROBIE, of Maine, has expressed the opinion that Local Option or high license would work better in that state than Prohibition. There was a time when Mr. Robie's opinion would have had great weight in Maine, but he is now in the mire and yellow. Maine will doubtless abandon Prohibition some time or other, but it will hardly be while General Neal Dow is alive. Whether we believe in the views of the General or not we are forced to confess his is a grand figure, and so at ninety would anybody's appear when he had lived consistently and earnestly been devoted to one cause. Many a red Republican, many an anarchist, many a would-be destroyer of existing things have gone to the gallows looking noble with the halo of an error around their

heads, and the fervor of a mistaken faith illuminating their countenances.

THE St. John, N. B., Gazette, complains that the liquor-license law is very loosely administered in that city. It says: "There is too much laxity in the enforcement of the liquor law of this city. The inspector of licenses, who is none other than Chief Clark, appears to be satisfied so long as the money for the requisite number of licenses is paid in, no matter whether there are twice that number selling without paying anything—except an occasional fine and the 'tip.' This should not be, and the framers of the law, who wished to see temperance and sobriety reign, must keenly feel the slight which is given them both by the violators of the law and the man who receives pay for carrying it out." Our contemporary hits the nail on the head. It is the people who pay no license that bring both the law and the trade into contempt. The best weapon we hold against our enemies is obedience to the law.

SOME time ago we printed an extract tending to prove that Abraham Lincoln once sold liquor. The *Hone Guard* published by the *The London Advertiser* took the question up very warmly and denied the truth of the report. We could, and can, see nothing to the late Mr. Lincoln's discredit if he did deal in wines, spirits and so forth, and the truth or falsity of the story therefore appearing to be of little moment, we did not take any trouble to secure evidence wherewith to refute the *Hone Guard's* denial. It was not so with others, however, and our able contemporary, the *Daily American*, says: "The editor of the *New England Home* is shocked at the report that Abraham Lincoln once took out a license to sell liquor and doubts its authenticity. The records of Sangamon County, Ill., however, show that Lincoln and his partner, who kept a public house, did take out such a license and did maintain a bar for the use and convenience of their guests. Moreover, since this statement was made and doubted, the veteran editor of the *Washington Sentinel* has come forward with the remark that he was present at one of the seven meetings which were held during the Lincoln and Douglass Senatorial campaign in 1858, and that on that occasion Lincoln publicly acknowledged that he had been an innkeeper and

all that that implied. Douglass having made playful allusion to Lincoln's practice at the bar, the latter retorted that it was true, but that it applied with equal force to his distinguished opponent, 'for while I have practiced behind the bar Douglass has practiced before it.' There is no doubt that Abraham Lincoln was an innkeeper and joint proprietor of a bar at which old-fashioned corn whiskey and Medford rum was dispensed to all comers who could pay for their drinks. Nevertheless, he became President of the United States."

Most dismal stories reach us from the summer-resort hotels. Notwithstanding that the present is the consistently hottest summer known for years, business is very bad. This is true more of the U.S. watering-places than of our own, where prices are reasonable and it does not cost the three-or-four-week sojourn so much as a trip to Europe would. A correspondent writing from Long Branch says: "One large hotel near the pier, with accommodations for 600, has not over forty guests and more than twice that number of help, none of whom are receiving any wages. Another hotel open for two weeks has yet to handle its first \$1,000, its entire business all told not averaging \$60 per day. One formerly fashionable boarding house near the beach that last season at this time had forty-five boarders, has not seven, and two of these are on the 'complimentary' list, being friends of the proprietor. Another equally fashionable boarding house a little further up the beach has eleven help and two boarders. One-half, at least, of the cottages offered for rent this season have found no tenants. The signs 'to let' are conspicuous all over Monmouth County. All this in spite of the fact that 'no reasonable offer will be refused,' and that cottages which formerly rented for \$1,500 or \$1,000 for season, are now eagerly offered at \$500 and \$350. The rates of board at all the hotels have been reduced, not publicly, of course, but by private announcements with individual guests. As for Asbury Park, that town is not doing more than 60 per cent. of last year's business, and the Methodists feel that if the camp meeting season in August doesn't pan out they will be bankrupt. Every Jersey watering place is running behind hand, and the cottagers are spending very little money. It is the effect of an off year."

Podderham & Worts "1884 SPECIAL." Fully Matured in Wood, AND GUARANTEED TEN YEARS OLD