

than fermented or distilled liquor, and hence the demand."

"Yet there are certainly other means, and therefore no absolute necessity for this?"

"I agree with you, but since we are speaking now not of temperance as such, but of prohibition, I ask you: What right has the state to forbid this means to people who wish to use it?"

"If a means like this would never be abused, I would say that the government has no right to interfere, but as it is abused so terribly and so often, I think it but the duty of the government to put a stop to drinking as far as possible."

"And you think, Sam, that you can achieve this by prohibition laws? Look at our famous prohibition states, Maine, Kansas and Iowa. Did prohibition prohibit there?"

"It may not have prohibited altogether, but it certainly decreased the consumption very much."

"It did the opposite, it increased drink. Just forbid a thing and everybody wants it. In Kansas and Iowa the prohibition laws were administered with a rigor and a disregard for all decency that would put the Russian government to the blush. In Leavenworth the police took their way over the roofs of neighboring houses in their search for liquor. Violations of the law were punished in a way that should have brought the officials to the gallows. In Iowa a miscreant pulled a sick and dying woman out of bed to search the bed for liquor. And what was the result? I traveled through the three states at the time, and, even in the smallest places, drink of every kind could be obtained in abundance, but it had to be taken behind curtains. Never in the history of these states was there as much drinking as then. These laws created hypocrites by the thousand and changed hitherto sober men into drunkards by the hundred."

"I do not see, Mick, how a prohibition law can make a drunkard of a sober man."

"In a very simple way. There were hundreds accustomed to take a so called 'snifter' two or three times a day, whilst they could get it at a public bar. This satisfied them and they remained sober. Prohibition forced them to smuggle in their favorite drink in larger quantities, and the

quantity in their possession proved too great a temptation. The whiskey burned in their pocket, as they said, until they transferred it, whereupon it burned their stomach and their brains. Thus the law in its abuse can be charged with making drunkards."

"Every law can be abused, and the abuse proves nothing against the law."

"It does in this case, because the common sense of the people feels that such laws are a monstrosity and an injustice to the majority; that they are violently partisan in their very conception; and hence they not only feel justified in breaking it, but in a manner called upon to do so as a protest against the monstrosity. This feeling was so universal amongst all classes of people that even those who made the law were continual breakers of it, and it was not by any means an isolated instance to find a prohibition speaker delivering a fanatical tirade in favor of the law, and getting gloriously drunk the same day. As I said, these laws educated hypocrites."

"You are certainly a very determined opponent of prohibition, Mick. There are, however, other very weighty reasons favoring prohibition of which we did not make any mention yet."

"Which, for instance?"

"There is first the loss of an enormous amount of money spent yearly in drink, and secondly, excessive drinking ruins the health and shortens the life of the drunkard and his family, and in the third place it brutalizes and becomes the prolific mother of domestic quarrels, personal violence and shedding of blood."

"I acknowledge all these consequences of drink, and yet deny that they justify prohibition. But these questions cannot be settled in a few words, and therefore I'll wait with answering them till we meet again."

"All right. Good-bye, Mick."

"Good-bye, Sam. And don't follow the example of those speakers who first defend prohibition and then get drunk in order to gather new strength for an onslaught on drinking."

HAPPY Mary, when the child Jesus played near this tender Mother. — ST. EPIPHANIUS.