

intoxicants *as a medicine or a beverage*, we may be said to be honoring the liquor traffic in treating with it from the standpoint of the "right hand."

All that now remains is to show that liquor is a "stumbling block." But need I reiterate what is being dinned in the ears of anti-prohibitionists every day by statistics of gaols, asylums and the gallows, as well as by the "cranks" who demand prohibition? Surely the empty gaols, and clear dockets on the one hand, and the healthy, well-dressed, industrious people, inhabiting comfortable homes on the other, in Kansas, Iowa and Maine, stand as unbiassed witnesses to our claim, that drink is at the bottom of nine-tenths of the crime of our land. Shall I then need to ask the question, is liquor a cause of offence? Truly our Lord has given us ample justification for our cry. Away with this curse of our race!

Let me conclude by making what I consider a fair statement of the two sides, both claiming the approval of our blessed Lord for their position on this question.

Our opponents' case is: That our Lord approved the use in moderation of wine and the like. Therefore we will follow His example and smile with approbation upon the saloon, the hotel-bar, the gin palace, and all licensed places. Because he made the most harmless of wines to be drunk at a *marriage feast*, therefore we should recognize the right of men to offer for sale the vilest concoctions, some of which are stigmatized as poison by analysts. We cannot see that we have any right to interfere with the insane habit of standing at a bar and drinking, when one is *not* thirsty, and treating a whole crowd of loungers who live on the generosity (?) of their friends (?). His example is to be the basis of men being allowed to live and grow rich on a trade which means eternal death to thousands of souls, and poverty, pain and every kind of suffering to twice the number of innocent wives and children. I refrain from saying more, though I might fill sheets with the evils which arise out of the traffic which a Christian race honors with its license, giving as their reason, the example of the Saviour of the world. If this is not a fair statement of the license side of the question I am ready

to withdraw it when satisfactory proof is brought that I am wrong.

Let me now state our side of the question. We acknowledge that the use of wine receives a certain approval in the Bible. But we claim that the liquors commonly used in Manitoba (for this is a home question) cannot be placed under the heading of "wine," any more than chalk can be termed a species of cheese. Outside of Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage la Prairie, one might safely say that nine-tenths of the *quantity* of liquor sold in the country consists of whiskey or some other spirit, and vile, adulterated stuff at that. This is pronounced rank poison, and it is against this more particularly that we are contending. Not that we do not wish to see beer and wines of all kinds prohibited too, but the use of the vile stuff called "spirits" can't even be propped up by such an argument as that I am dealing with. We see that prohibition is working successfully in Dakota, Iowa, Kansas and Maine, and that local option can be made a success in our very midst. When we see the grand results of the law in these places, we are assured that the Lord is on *our* side, and that eventually our well-meaning opponents will see eye to eye with us upon this question. May God hasten that happy day!

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#### ANNEXATION.

CANADIANS who dishonor their name and flag and country by prating annexation should peruse the ringings sentences of Hon. Joseph Howe's speeches. The great Nova Scotian spoke from a heart and head that were Canadian through and through. Upon one occasion he said:

"Could we join in the celebration of American festivals, every one of which is a disgrace to the arms that have protected us, and not oppressed us, ever since we had a hut or a foot of land to defend? Could we throw up our caps on the 4th of July, and hail with triumph a day that made our forefathers outcasts and wanderers on the earth? Could we join heart