

second party. Political reform of a high character has never been carried in the United States without a re-crystallization of the best elements of different existing parties, and the formation of a substantially new party in its support.

A distinction should be made between the urban and rural States, for a third political party organized to support prohibition may not be necessary in the latter although plainly so in the former. In a State like Iowa, non-partisan, political action in support of Prohibition, is probably wiser than would be the formation of a third political party; but in any great urban State, like New York, Pennsylvania or Illinois, a third party seems to be or likely to become a public necessity. It is in the field of the National government, however, that this necessity is the most indubitable, for neither of the great National political parties can be expected at present to make National Constitutional Prohibition a political issue.

2. It is objected that the success of National Constitutional Prohibition would destroy the balance of power between the Federal and State governments.

This was a familiar objection to the doctrines of the Republican party, and especially to the powers assumed by Congress and the Executive during the war against slavery. It is plainly no greater limitation of State rights for the people to outlaw the liquor traffic by an amendment to the National Constitution, than it was for them to outlaw slavery in the same way. No one objects to the proposal that there should be a National enactment against polygamy, and also a National divorce law.

It is really preposterous to assert that giving the general government power to abolish the liquor traffic in the States would injure the balance of Federal and State power as much as to give the General Government supreme power "in respect to *any* other subject that is now properly regarded as a matter to be regulated by State authority." (*HOMILETIC REVIEW*, April, 1885, p. 312.) The election of State officers, and of Senators and Representatives, is now regulated by State authority. The assertion just cited amounts to saying that National Prohibition would destroy the balance of Federal and State power as much as it would to give the choice of all State officers to the Federal government.

3. It is objected that the attempt to reorganize political parties so as to give success to Constitutional Prohibition in National politics, will keep the Democratic party in power.

Henry Clay was defeated by the defection of a few Abolitionists from the old Whig party. The results were a Democratic administration under Mr. Polk, a Mexican war, and the slaveholders' rebellion. But who will say that the organization of the Liberty party and of the Free Soil party, which ultimately became the Republican party, was unjust-