

# The Son of Temperance.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

Subscription - - - - - 25c. a Year.

Address all business and literary communication to

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## SALUTATORY.

Some years ago, when the Scott Act was in force throughout many parts of Ontario, the writer was charged with the duty of publishing, for the Renfrew County Alliance, *The County Temperance Advocate*, an anti-repeal campaign sheet. Although it failed to prevent repeal, many readers were kind enough to say that it was an effective publication. The campaign sheet died with the campaign: but the desire and intention then formed to publish what might be termed a *missionary temperance paper* have never departed. The time has now come when it seems possible to the publisher to start the paper with a chance of keeping it afloat; and with the New Year (1892) will be commenced the publication of "THE SON OF TEMPERANCE."

It is to be understood from the outset that THE SON OF TEMPERANCE does not pretend to be the "organ" of the temperance society of that name; but will be a "champion" of the Order as vigorous as we can make it. It is not financially bonused by the Society, nor will it speak with any authority for it or its officers (although some of them have promised their hearty assistance in making it successful.) We give it the title of "THE SON OF TEMPERANCE," because, after membership in the Order for a dozen years, we have faith in it and loyalty towards it, we know some of the good it has done and is still doing, and we are anxious, in the interests of the temperance reform, to see the numbers of its membership increased and its influence extended. We have noted with satisfaction the growing prosperity of the Order in Ontario during the last year or two, under the faithful efforts of its Grand Division officers; and we are very willing to aid their efforts by press and type. We design to make the paper a credit to the Order. It will not be large at the outset, measured by inches, in this day of "blanket" sheets, but we aim to fill the four columns in each of its four pages with wheat:—the thoughts of able men and vigorous writers—and to make it really more valuable than a larger sheet filled with chaff—in the shape of what is known as "boiler plate" and patent medicine advertisements. (Judged by the character of the advertising in most temperance papers, temperance people must be a sickly lot, and temperance as a promoter of health a sham.) At first, THE SON OF TEMPERANCE will be issued monthly. Prosperity will be followed by increased frequency of publication rather than by increase of size.

In view of the financial wreck of so many temperance papers in the past, it would be blindness to expect to rapidly make a profitable concern of THE SON

OF TEMPERANCE; but we believe that, conducted on business principles, and with some assistance from the members of the Order, it can soon be made to pay its own way, and be of use to the Sons and the temperance cause at large.

The subscription price will be—25c. a year. Can you afford that much?

THE PUBLISHER.

WHILE we hope, before the year is over, to give our readers many valuable and interesting original articles by Canadian writers, we make no apology for drawing largely upon the columns of *The Voice*, of New York, for matter for this and subsequent issues. Our chief aim is to give our readers the best ideas of to-day upon the temperance question; and we know of none more uniformly correct in fact, more logical in argument, or more vigorously expressed than those of *The Voice*. It is the leading champion of the Prohibition Party of the United States, but no paper that we can find gives more thorough attention to other phases of the reform besides the political.

There is special reason, too, for giving place to the two articles from it, published on our first page this month. One is a calm presentation of strong reasons for the pursuance of the total abstinence branch of the work of the Sons and other temperance societies; the other is a vigorous presentation of the need of a strong attack in a certain direction upon the part of those whose work on moral suasion lines has led them to see that their labors must be to a large extent futile so long as the State legalizes the running of drinking places. Cardinal Manning put the matter very forcibly when he said:—

"It is mere mockery to ask us to put down drunkenness by moral and religious means when the Legislature facilitates the multiplication of incitements to intemperance on every side. You might as well call upon me as the captain of a sinking ship and say, 'Why don't you pump the water out?' when you are scuttling the ship in every direction."

PEOPLE can so much more easily discover the mote in their neighbor's eye than the beam in their own, that we propose to devote considerable space, as time goes on, to letting in light on the methods adopted by our neighbors of the States in dealing with the liquor problem. In considering the weakness and inconsistency of many of their supposed remedies, light may just happen to shine in upon us that our own country does not show much more sense in the same matter.

### "THE UNGODLY LEAGUE."

PROBABLY no single article written for years past has stirred up greater feeling among what might be called the better classes of the people of the United States than that editorial of *The Voice* which we copy on the first page of this issue. While many ministers and laymen have written, expressing their approval of the sentiments of the editorial, other prominent members of religious bodies have taken warm exception to it, claiming that it libelled the church and would do harm to the temperance cause. The replies of *The Voice* have been just as vigorous as its first article. It points out that in arraigning "the church" it does not imply that Christianity—in too many cases a very different thing to "the church"—is

linked with the saloon. In a second article, it said.

Does any man believe it is easy to write these words? God knows we have been long enough writing them. Mrs. Browning's "A Curse for a Nation" comes to us over and over as we write these things:

I heard an angel speak last night,  
And he said, "Write!—  
Write a nation's curse for me,  
And send it over the Western Sea."

I faltered, taking up the word:  
"Not so, my Lord!

If curses must be, choose another  
To send thy curse against my brother.

"For I am bound by gratitude,  
By love and blood,  
To brothers of mine across the sea,  
Who stretch out kindly hands to me."

"Therefore," the voice said, "shalt thou write

My curse to-night,  
From the summits of love a curse is driven,  
As lightning is from the tops of heaven."

We are not launching any curse upon the Church; we are simply declaring the curse that the Church by its complicity with the sin of drunkard-making has launched upon itself and cannot escape except by an emphatic change in its present guilty course.

ARE these words of *The Voice* regarding an Ungodly League applicable in Canada? In spite of the scandalous state of political affairs at Ottawa and Quebec, exposed during the last few months, we are among those who hold that Canada's national affairs are not yet in as corrupt a condition as those of our neighbors. This is partly because Canada has a smaller proportion of its population living in the cities, and partly because it has not attracted so large a percentage of foreign immigrants of the lowest classes. Neither, in our view, are the Canadian political parties as yet so deliberately and offensively controlled by the liquor power—(though, in effect, they are much more largely so controlled than most of the voters are aware.) Nor is the church so dead to real Christianity as a large section of it seems to be in the United States.

There are, however, tendencies to-day in Canadian political affairs, and in the life of the churches, which will, if not checked, rapidly lead us to a point where *The Voice* editorial will be quite as applicable to Canada as it is to its own country at present. The liquor element in Canada is yearly learning more fully what power it can exert in political affairs. May the churches more quickly learn what their duty is! And when they have seen it and done it, there will be no legalized liquor traffic in our land. May it never be possible to say truthfully of Canada—"The attitude of its churches is the bulwark of the liquor traffic."

### GET THE LIQUOR QUESTION OUT OF MUNICIPAL POLITICS.

WOULD it not be a wise move—from the standpoints of both temperance and municipal reform—to get the liquor question wholly removed from municipal politics? In the Ontario Legislative Assembly, a session or two ago, Hon. Mr. Mowat, replying to the attacks of the Opposition on his administration of the license system, said that the Government had taken the appointment of License Commissioners out of the hands of the municipal (or county) councils, on appeal from the temperance people, because of the corruption brought into municipal affairs through the operation of the old system. The writer is not old enough to remember the corruption complained of, but can well believe it existed. Whatever sphere of public affairs the liquor traffic touches, it corrupts. We now have it tainting all of our govern-

mental systems—Dominion, Provincial and Municipal—through excise, license and revenue. Would it not be a decided advance to get its influence removed from one of these spheres?

At present, the municipal councils have certain powers in fixing the amount of a portion of the license fees; and are also able to prevent the submission of the local-option by-law to the vote of the people. The liquor-dealers have thus a direct business interest in seeing that only such men as favor a low license fee or will prevent a local-option vote, get into the councils. Questions of fitness for performing the general and more important duties of the municipal office are lost sight of in the struggle for the election of low license or high license, local-option or anti-local-option councillors or aldermen.

Let the total amount of the license fees be fixed by the Legislature: let the petition of a certain small proportion of the ratepayers compel the council to submit the local-option question (or that of the reduction in the number of the licenses) to the vote of the ratepayers at the same time as the annual municipal elections: and then the liquor question will be effectively removed from its corrupting influence in the selection of municipal officers.

To those who are concerned for good municipal government, and who, from practical experience, know the existing state of affairs in many places, the removal of all object for liquor interference would be hailed with satisfaction; while in several particulars it seems to us the temperance cause would also be in a better position.

And would not another decided step in advance, from a temperance point of view, be the taking over of the whole license fee by the Provincial Government? It would be much easier to carry prohibitory laws if there were no municipal revenue to act as a soothing syrup to the ratepayers. Remove the ground for the argument of "See how the license fees lighten our taxes"—(the direct taxes);—and how much more readily would Prohibition on the local or national plan be adopted.

In conversation, we find these suggested changes are looked upon favorably by temperance workers. How do they strike the Sons in other parts of the Province? Let us have comment and criticism through the columns of THE SON on the suggestions. Let the matter be debated in the Divisions. Then, if the commendations outweigh the objections, let us force the matter on the attention of the Legislature.

Since the above was prepared for THE SON, we find the following in *The Voice* of Dec. 31st:—

The Governor of South Carolina, in his message to the Legislature of that State last month, touched the liquor interests in a very tender spot. He advocated that municipal corporations be prohibited from levying any liquor license at all, but that all revenue from liquor be paid into State and county treasuries; and he asks the significant question: "How many municipalities would retain the sale of liquor if they derived no benefit from it?" Some liquor papers are squirming over Governor Tillman's proposition. We do not wonder. The liquor power will never permit the license bribe to be abolished. It is their strongest hold upon the public.

NORTHCOTE (in Admaston township) is the junior Division of Renfrew county. Organized some six months ago with fourteen members, it now has half a hundred. An entertainment on Dec. 18th brought in \$30. At present the Division meets in the section school-house; but a Hall of their own is the ambition of the members.