

TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

THE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL UNION

Endorses the Action of Monsignor Satolli—Strong Statement by Total Abstinence Catholics.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 4.—The decision of Mgr. Satolli sustaining Bishop Watterson of Columbus, O., in refusing to recognize in his church Catholic societies officered by liquor dealers was endorsed in the strongest possible manner by the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America at its twenty-fourth general convention now being held here.

The endorsement was in the form of a general statement, which was adopted with but one dissenting vote, that of James E. Laughlin, a delegate from Philadelphia, who contended that Satolli's decision amounted to an interference with personal liberty. Mr. Laughlin's opposition and its remarks called out some sharp retorts from both male and female delegates. The statement adopted is:

"The Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, assembled in its twenty-fourth general convention, see in the signs of the times much evidence that the temperance cause will have many triumphs to record in the early future. It sees in the recent action of Bishop Watterson, which has been so nobly sustained by Mgr. Satolli, a long step in the right direction.

"It believes that this action will crystallize the influence of the Church against the saloon, and will stamp the latter indelibly as the irreclaimable enemy of the Church.

"The decision of the Papal Delegate cannot fail to give additional authority to the recommendation of the council of Baltimore that all Catholic saloon keepers abandon, as soon as they can, the dangerous traffic, and embark in some becoming way of making a living. The decision will serve as a renewal of the invitation which our Holy Father Leo XIII. has already addressed to all the priests of the land to enter into the work of temperance reform.

"Let all the pastors therefore do their best to drive the plague of intemperance from the fold of Christ by assiduous preaching and exhortation and by living before all as models of abstinence, that so many calamities with which this vice threatens both Church and State may by their strenuous endeavors be averted."

"These words of the Holy Father, now emphasized by the decision of his representative, will enlist the sympathies of the whole body of the clergymen in the cause of total abstinence, and, with the clergy strongly committed against the saloon, the day of vindication for the Church in America will be at hand. The scandal of a preponderating number of Catholics in the saloon business is a disgrace too long endured. Whatever the cause of the fact, a new day is at hand.

"The convention rejoices that Catholics are now aroused to the great evil and the great disgrace of intemperance and dens of intemperance among Catholics. Let this be a spur to make all Catholics strive all the more ardently to realize the counsels of Christian perfection, whose corner stone is mortification, and the best mortification for these times is total abstinence.

"We urge all Catholics to banish liquor from their homes, and from their social and political clubs. Let Catholic banquets be made remarkable by the absence of all alcoholic drinks; let saloon-keepers be excluded from membership in all societies of Catholics; give no support to Catholic papers which allow liquor dealers to advertise in their columns.

"The Catholic paper must be an auxiliary of the pulpit. It must not encourage what would silence the pulpit. On the other hand, let Catholics give their hearty support to all temperance papers which are honestly devoted to the cause of temperance. Let every faithful son of the holy mother Church do his utmost to make the name of Catholic stand unmistakably for total abstinence.

"This Convention wishes a hearty god-speed to every worthy worker for total abstinence. Many associations may not be workers on the same lines as the C. T. A. U., but every man who is working for total abstinence is so far in the right of God.

"This Convention recommends to

Catholics to seek out ways and means of furthering the cause of sobriety from every honest worker in the same cause. We recommend in an especial manner that every subordinate union have its own Literary Bureau and issue its own bulletin regularly. We recommend that every society in our union establish a permanent committee on missionary work among the victims of intemperance where they are most needed, and let them try in every way, and especially by personal appeals, to move the drunkard from self-destruction.

"The Convention approves most heartily and rejoices at the formation of societies among women and of total abstinence corps among our boys. It believes with Bishop Keane that women are to do a great work for the cause of total abstinence. Total abstinence cadet corps formed among the boys are the ounce of prevention which is worth a pound of cure.

"The Convention desires most ardently that society and individual members of the C. T. A. U. exert every effort to enlist colored Catholics in the cause of total abstinence. We heartily rejoice in the good work so far done in the cause of total abstinence by the League of the Sacred Heart, and we are glad to welcome this new auxiliary in the great work of total abstinence."

Telegrams were received from Bishop Watterson of Ohio regretting his absence, and from the Rev. Thomas Conaty reading:

Bishop Watterson's action is a second independence declaration, which assures our Church of greater success than ever before.

Prior to adjournment, addresses were made by Bishop Stanley of North Dakota and the Rev. Fr. Cranley of Notre Dame, Ind.

At the meeting in the evening this cable dispatch from Rome was read: The Holy Father blesses your convention with his whole heart.

M. CARDINAL RAMPOLLA.

Mgr. Satolli, from Washington, sent this dispatch:

My Cardinal blessing upon the Convention. I pray that the best fruits follow from it. The Total Abstinence Society is the guardian of the homes of America. They who strive for the mastery restrain themselves from all intoxicating drinks. They are they who receive the incorruptible crown. For religion and country.

FRANCIS SATOLLI, Delegate Apostolic.

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