

Temperance Department.

PROHIBITION AND FERMENTED LIQUORS.

BY HON. J. B. FINCH, R. W. G. T.

The theory that the use of beer and wine tend to decrease the use of distilled liquors has been again and again exploded. The early temperance pledge did not include beers, wine and ciders. It was not until twenty years of practical work had demonstrated the necessity of total abstinence that the pledge was changed to include the fermented liquors, the devil's kindling wood. The prohibition of the sale of beer and wine was not demanded until practical experience had demonstrated that such sale was a public curse. The demand of the brewers that beer be exempted from the pains and penalties inflicted on a drunkard-making beverage has neither experience, justice nor common sense to commend it to the statesman or philanthropist.

The verdict of the people of Iowa, who, after trying the beer theory twenty-seven years, declared it a fraud, is a complete answer to the statements of the friends of beer. But Iowa is not the only American State that has been led to try the beer system. Massachusetts, in 1870, altered her prohibitory law so as to allow the sale of malt liquors. This change was made by politicians to catch the so-called German vote. After three years of trial the Governor said in his inaugural address:

"If we are to accept the evidence of those who have had the most painful experience of the miseries produced by these places, (beer shops) they are among the greatest obstacles to the social and moral progress of the community."

The District Attorney of Essex county, writing of the operations of the law, said:

"I am inclined to believe that beer not only creates an appetite for something stronger, but that its immediate influences and effect upon crime is more dangerous to the community than the strongest liquors, in this way, the excessive use of stronger drinks is liable to make men drunk and helpless to do much harm, while beer excites men to acts of violence, desperation and crime."

The District Attorneys of Worcester and Suffolk counties, in their official reports, also speak strongly against beer.

Hon. Robert C. Pitman, Judge of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, who is one of the ablest and most cultured of American judges, recently wrote me as follows:

NEWTON, MASS., March 16th, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR,—Massachusetts' experience coincides with that of England as to the disastrous effect of fostering the beer shop by favoring legislation.

The beer shop is the rum shop in disguise; the disguise makes it more difficult of detection, and more dangerous in its seduction. An experience of over twenty years in the administration of the criminal law shows to me also that if beer is a less speedy and effective agent in producing absolute drunkenness, it is as potent an incitement to crime as the more overwhelming stimulants.

I have the honor to be, very truly, your friend,

ROBT. C. PITMAN.

The statement of Judge Pitman that the beer shop is the rum-shop in disguise is easily corroborated.

The Boston Chief of Police in December, 1870, reported that out of 2,534 places in Boston where liquor is sold, only seventeen sell lager beer alone.

The district attorney of Essex county wrote at the time the law was in force:

"According to the evidence which I have, beer-shops where nothing stronger is kept or sold are as scarce as men entirely without sin."

The district attorney of the Western District wrote:

"Wherever beer is sold, strong liquors are also sold."

The Police Commissioners of the State said in their annual report:

"The ale and beer law is a veil that covers much that is vile, and it is one that is difficult for officers to see through; and under its protection, every vile compound that ever poisoned the human system may be sold almost with impunity."

My honored friend, A. A. Miner, D. D., one of the most distinguished clergymen and philanthropists of Boston, recently wrote me as follows:

BOSTON, March 16th, 1885.

HON. JOHN B. FINCH:

MY DEAR SIR,—The experience of Massachusetts in tolerating the traffic in beer should be a warning to all who sincerely wish the suppression of the drink business. The prohibitory law of 1855 remained on the statute book till 1863. It was gotten into very great efficiency during the last two or three years of its continuance. It was assailed in 1867 by leading Republicans, led by Ex-Governor Andrew, and was repealed in 1868. In 1869 it was restored by Republicans (Clifford Governor), cider being exempted from its operation. This exemption was by the recommendation of the Governor, other prominent Republicans counselling it. In 1870, all the lighter drinks were exempted, that is, permitted to be freely sold, unless prohibited by the popular vote of the cities and towns.

These were the initiatory steps in a long process of corrupting the public mind. The free sale of fermented liquors became a cover for the sale of distilled liquors; and the benefits which might otherwise have been derived from the law were entirely lost. One change of trifling moment followed another, till in 1875 a general license law was enacted, which was modified in 1881 by requiring the vote of towns and cities as authority for granting licenses. Thus have we come to our present local option—a law absurd in principle, entirely inadequate even to restrain the traffic in our cities, and by its integrating power destructive of all hope for prohibition in the State. From a good prohibitory voting majority in 1868, we have been reduced to acquiescence in a state of things, worse than which the Commonwealth has never known; and beer has been the keystone behind which our hypocritical politicians have played their deceptive game. I have the honor to be, Yours truly,

A. A. MINER.

I might fill ten columns of TRUTH with testimony of State officers, clergymen, teachers and businessmen, corroborating the testimony given, but I think I have given enough to satisfy any reasonable person that:

1. The use of beer creates a desire for stronger liquors.
2. If the sale of beer is permitted, all kinds of liquor will be sold.
3. Temperance men should write on their banners, so every aspiring politician can read: *we never forget.*
4. Temperance men should be content only with the complete outlawry of drunkard making.

PROHIBITION IN QUEBEC.

BY REV. D. V. LUCAS.

The County of Arthabaska has the honor of having been the first in the Province of Quebec to adopt the Scott Act. For some years past there has existed in the village of Arthabaskaville, the chef-lieu of the county, a society known as the Arthabaska Temperance League. The Hon. Wilfred Laurier, and other prominent gentlemen, including several members of the legal profession, were members of this organization. The League took up the Scott Act agitation about a year ago. Having matured and fully arranged their plans they secured the approbation and co-operation of Bishop Laflèche, of Three Rivers. His lordship visited every parish in the county and spoke words in favor of the Act. The liquor people made an effort to defeat the Act. They came out with a circular which they distributed far and wide.

Four of the most prominent priests in the county brought out a circular in favor of

the prohibition movement. That is the last circular I have ever seen.

They begin by saying, "Like as the ancient serpent deceived Eve by saying that the fruit of the tree would do her good, so these advocates for intoxicating drinks tell you that liquor is a good thing."

The circular then set forth the excellent provisions of the Scott Act and urged all to vote for it. The result was a majority of 1252 in favor of the Act. The vote was taken in July, 1884.

We had held a large and enthusiastic convention in the County of Stanstead for the purpose of organizing a campaign for that county. An effort had been made three or four years ago to carry the Act in Stanstead but it had failed. Here was a good opportunity to test the growth of public sentiment. Our opponents put forth a strong effort. One of the cleverest speakers in the county, and in fact in the Province, was employed to oppose the friends of the Act. This time it was a complete failure on the part of the liquor people. The Act was adopted by a majority considerably larger than the majority against it three years before. There had been a large increase of public sentiment in favor of prohibition. There has been formed a strong committee in the county with a subscribed fund of \$500 at their back, for the enforcement of the law as soon as it comes into operation, the first of May next. Some of the most prominent business men of the county are connected with the committee. I know these gentlemen well. Woe betide the men who dare to sell liquor in Stanstead contrary to the law. If they don't soon find themselves stretching their bones on the bunks of the district jail, after having paid their two fines of \$50 and \$100, then I shall miss my guess.

To all, I would say, gentlemen, keep the law, keep the law; you will find it safer and more respectable. The temperance people of Canada were never more determined than now. They look upon the liquor business as a great wrong to thousands of innocent women and children, as well as to the drunkards, and they are determined the wrong shall be righted.

A Town that Voted "No."

The following is an extract of an address recently issued to the voters of a Massachusetts town which votes against the sale of liquor:—

"The vast amount yearly saved to the town by this reign of temperance is placed very low at \$15,000, kept from rum-sellers; while as much more has been indirectly saved by the continuance of industry which alcohol suspends, and by the prevention of that waste to which the drinker is driven by his desperate enemy."

"Meanwhile we have been educating the young in principles of sobriety and good morals, and reducing pauperism and crime. The appeals for local charities have been less numerous and pressing. During a period of depression, the small amount of suffering in our midst has been largely due to the absence of pauperism. Every man, every wife and mother, feels more secure against the evils of social life. In the light of duty to their less fortunate brothers, even those who are free from the alcoholic curse cannot be indifferent. We have nothing to regret on account of three years' enforcement of law, but every reason to stand firmly to its record, and re-assert our overwhelming "No."

NEWS AND NOTES.

TEMPERANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.—Miss Cleveland, sister of the new President of the United States, is now the mistress of the Presidential mansion, the President being a bachelor. For many years she has been an active temperance worker and a prominent member of the Women's Christian Temperance Association. The President is not a teetotaler, however, and it is doubtful if his sister will have the courage of her own convictions about providing strong drink to the guests of the White House. She has stated that she does not intend to interfere with the President in the matter of supplying liquors to all comers.

DRUNKARDS' EXCUSE.—A drunkard is

always ready to excuse his transgression, when charged with it by one whose position makes it expedient that he should be conciliated. Sometimes, as in the following specimens, these excuses are amusing: An Irishman not long since was summoned before a bench of county magistrates for being drunk and disorderly. "Do you know what brought you here?" was the question put to him. "Faix, yer Honor, two policemen," replied the prisoner. "Had not drink something to do with bringing you here?" said the magistrate, frowning. "Sartinly," answered Paddy, unabashed; "they were both drunk." "Hilloa, James, tipsey as usual! What in the world has set you on a spree now?" "Ah, ye mauna be harsh, governor; did ye no hear my grand whistling canary was deid?" "Stupid fellow! leaving your work and getting drunk for the death of a bird! Don't you know a man should look upon such incidents as trifles?" "So I do, governor, so I do, man; but if ye wanted a spree yersel, ye wad be glad of any handle to turn the crane wi'."

GOOD TEMPLARS.

R. W. G. LODGE.—The next annual session of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge I. O. Good Templars will be held in Toronto, commencing Tuesday, May 26th. A large attendance is expected, representing, probably, nearly every Grand Lodge in America, besides those of Great Britain and Ireland. The Hon. Minister of Education has kindly arranged to allow the use of the public hall in the Provincial Education Buildings for the accommodation of the sessions.

RECEIPTS FROM LODGES.

The G. W. Secretary acknowledges the following receipts from lodges during March:—

FOR TAX.	
Mountain Village, Ancaster.....	\$ 3 03
Union Star, Eglinton.....	4 00
Clear Water, Washago.....	1 40
Collins Bay, Collins Bay.....	1 28
Hammond, London W.....	1 05
Crusade, Arthur.....	2 00
Pedanton, Cape Croker.....	1 54
Napanee, Napanee.....	3 43
Woodstock, Woodstock.....	1 75
Safeguard, Welland.....	1 47
Rising Sun, Pickering.....	5 39
Pride of Moore, Colvilleville.....	6 51
Gilford, Gilford.....	5 60
Huron Hope, Amherley.....	3 20
Mt. Brydges, Mt. Brydges.....	1 12
Rising Hope, Newcastle.....	3 57
Forest, Thearalon.....	2 80
Lorne, Markville.....	2 73
Hiawatha, Hiawatha.....	2 10
Humberstone, Humberstone.....	4 55
Victory, Merrickville.....	1 35
Young Canadian, Mt. Forest.....	1 12
New Hope, Guthrie.....	5 74
Thamesford, Thamesford.....	1 40
Royal Oak, Smithfield.....	3 50
No Surrender, Renfrew.....	3 03
May Flower, Greenock.....	3 85
Florence, Florence.....	4 06
Metcalfe Star, Metcalfe.....	4 27
Napean Rescue, Fallowfield.....	9 50
Evergreen, Southampton.....	1 40
Morrisburg, Morrisburg.....	4 27
Hope of Brampton, Brampton.....	3 50
Lansdown, Lansdown.....	2 10
Carlton Union, Davenport.....	3 85
Victoria, Munsey.....	1 40
Dunchurch, Dunchurch.....	2 45
Excelsior, Toronto.....	2 68
Evening Star, Shelden.....	1 40

FOR SUPPLIES.	
Thos. Lawless, Napanee.....	\$15 00
Dalston, Dalston.....	60
Scotia, Comet.....	2 35
Star of Essex, Cottam.....	5 00
Gordon, Peterboro.....	5 00
Hammond, London W.....	60
Safe Guard, Welland.....	2 00
N. Enterprising, Bell's Corners.....	50
Gilford, Gilford.....	60
No Surrender, Ottawa.....	5 00
Humberstone, Humberstone.....	1 00
Thos. Lawless, Napanee.....	18 00
Never Failing, Toronto.....	1 00
Golden Star, Windsor.....	30
Florence, Florence.....	1 70
Metcalfe Star, Metcalfe.....	1 20
Kempensfeldt, Shanty Bay.....	1 00
Mt. Olivet, Hillsdale.....	95
Refuge, Varney.....	1 70
Thos. Lawless, Napanee.....	18 00
Codrington, Codrington.....	2 40
Woodstock, Woodstock.....	1 60
Evergreen, Southampton.....	2 00
Stratford, Stratford.....	85