

## HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

One of the crying needs of our country to-day, is the lack of adequate provisions for the treatment of hopeless inebriates. There certainly rests upon Government a responsibility in relation to the community that is injured by the vice of inebriety and also a responsibility towards the direct victims of the vice. The latter responsibility is increased by the fact that Government derives a revenue from the traffic which facilitates the developments of the vice.

Cures for intemperance are plentiful. Gold Cure Institutes and other establishments advertise their ability to reclaim drunkards. All these institutions are however beyond the reach of all except persons of means. The treatment for the drunkard who is poor is the farcial Police Court treatment of "One Dollar and costs or thirty days." We do not excuse the man who has cursed himself with the terrible drink appetite. His condition, however, is none the less one that, for the sake of his family and the sake of society, demands consideration and action.

Nearly six years ago a Commission appointed by the Ontario Government reported a recommendation of so much importance, and the carrying out of which would have been so beneficial that it is strange that no action has been taken regarding it. The matter has been pressed upon the attention of the Government from time to time by influential deputations. There is need for the proposed reform. The present is a favourable time for action.

It is suggested to friends of our cause in every part of the Province of Ontario and other provinces, that they write at once to the Premiers of their respective provinces, earnestly urging them to take action in the direction of the establishing of Reformatory Institutions for drunkards, either on the lines set out in the report referred to or on some other line likely to be equally effective. The plan recommended by the Ontario Commission was the following.

The Commissioners recommended that the government, out of the funds derived from the fees for Provincial licenses (which might be temporarily increased for that purpose) shall erect in the centres of population one or more industrial reformatories for inebriates. Every such reformatory should be near a city, and should have attached to it a sufficient area of good land for the employment of the inmates in farming and market gardening; it should also be furnished with means for employing the inmates in suitable industrial occupations.

While the institution should be chiefly an hospital, having for its main object the reclamation of drunkards and the cure of inebriety, it should also be provided with the means for the safe custody of such of the inmates as may attempt to escape therefrom. When the reformatory has been established by the Province, the cost of maintaining it should be defrayed by the respective municipalities from which the inmates are sent.

That to this reformatory be committed all habitual drunkards, that is to say, all who have been previously convicted of drunkenness three times within two years; such other persons addicted to the use of strong drink as in the opinion of the county judge may be reclaimed by timely restraint and judicious treatment; and those who may be compulsorily committed to an inebriate asylum under the provisions of the Inebriate Asylum Act.

The first committal to this reformatory should be for a period not shorter than six months; the second not less than one year, and the third for two years, less one day. That any inmate whose term of imprisonment exceeds six months, may, after he has been detained after six months or more, be permitted to return home on parole, if he has given satisfactory evidence of a sincere desire to live soberly, and of strength of mind sufficient to enable him to keep his good resolution—such license to be granted on the recommendation of the superintendent, endorsed by the inspector of prisons, and approved by the Provincial secretary; such license to be revoked if the conditions on which it is granted be not observed.

That if the families of any inmates of a reformatory for inebriates be wholly dependent on them for support, a portion of the proceeds of the earnings of such inmates be paid to their families; also that a portion of the net earnings of the inmates after defraying cost of maintenance shall be set apart to form a fund, out of which those

whose general conduct has been good, and who give evidence of being reformed, shall be assisted in their efforts to earn a living for a time after leaving the reformatory.

That if, after a third commitment to an industrial reformatory for inebriates, a drunkard again be convicted of drunkenness, he shall be sentenced to the Central Prison for the full period authorized by law.

## UNITED STATES ITEMS.

The annual convention of the National Prohibition Party of the United States will be held in the City of Pittsburg commencing on May 27th.

## WHOSE MONEY?

It is computed that the aggregate wealth of eight millionaire brewers of New York City is \$52,500,000. The money spent by workmen to help provide these eight men with palatial residences would furnish 52,500 of their families with pretty \$1,000 cottages.

## A LOCAL OPTION FIGHT.

The State of Ohio is in the heat of a vigorous campaign. An Anti-Saloon League has been formed with headquarters at Columbus, and branches in nearly every city and town in the state. The object of the league is to secure the enactment by the Legislature of a local option law on the lines proposed two years ago. The liquor party is offering a vigorous resistance.

## GETTING TOGETHER.

There has been organized in the United States a National Anti-Saloon League to oppose the liquor traffic. A great convention was recently held at Washington addressed by Dr. Clarke head of the C. E. Society, Bishop Waterson, Rev. Father Cleary, President Bashford, Rev. Dr. D. H. Moore and a great many other leading social reformers. The Society proposes to fight on non-partisan lines.

## A GREAT SCHEME.

The liquor party is making a desperate effort to undermine the prohibitory law in Kansas. A new secret organization known as the Order of the Mystic Brotherhood has been organized with branches in different cities and towns. It claims to have a membership of 50,000 and is simply a big conspiracy to secure the repeal of prohibition. The State Temperance Union expects to be able to defeat the plot.

## CLEANING UP.

The State of Mississippi has made wonderful prohibition progress on local option lines. There are 75 counties in the State. 61 of these have outlawed the saloon and only 14 permit the issue of licenses. In the prohibition counties there is a population of 1,003,522. In the 14 license counties the population is 286,078. There is neither a brewery nor a distillery in the whole State.

## LAW STILL REIGNS IN NEW YORK.

In the recent election the Tammany party won a signal victory and the saloon keepers expected that there would be a slackening up in the rigidity with which the excise law had lately been enforced. They made a mistake however. Police Commissioner Roosevelt will hold office for a long time to come, and will insist upon having the law obeyed. On the Sunday after the election eighty-one arrests were made of persons for violating the law. Among the parties taken up was Henry Hirsh, who is President of the Liquor Dealers Association.

## THE WAY THE MONEY GOES.

A St. Louis brewer, Col. Busch, is reported to have spent \$100,000 on his daughter's wedding, and that he also gave her an estate in Germany worth \$100,000. She married a German baron. How many of the men who drink his beer can give their daughters \$100 as a wedding gift or spend that amount on the wedding outfit? Not many. The brewers get the money and their patrons get the beer, and with it, poverty, disease and many other things not pleasing to have. If they would let beer alone, Col. Busch wouldn't have so much money, and his immense possessions would remain in the country and be enjoyed by a multitude of families that are suffering for lack of the necessities of life.—N. Y. Advocate.

## "THE BLACK KNIGHT."

Rev. Mr. Hector has now recovered from the severe illness which interfered with his work for a time. He has had a remarkably successful tour in the Maritime Provinces, where he has many invitations to return. In the meantime he will likely spend the month of March in Ontario. Already a large number of applications for his lectures have been made. Those who wish to secure him should apply immediately.



REV. J. H. HECTOR.

Is one of the most remarkable men of the present day. His life story surpasses any romance in its startling realities. Left an orphan at an early age, he passed a youth of vicissitude, hardship and privation such as few have experienced. Later on he fought in some of the fiercest struggles of the great American war, and was five times frightfully wounded, so that his survival was almost miraculous. Subsequently as an engine driver he had many a perilous experience; but he came through all to be a converted man, an earnest Christian, a successful minister of the Gospel, and one of the most effective advocates of prohibition and other moral reforms.

Mr. Hector is a full-blooded negro of superb physique and great natural abilities, to which, despite all difficulties, he has added a self-education which must compel admiration. As an orator he is a phenomenon, carrying his audience along with him by a tornado of eloquence, humor and pathos that is fairly irresistible. His originality, wit, readiness of repartee and intense earnestness, quickly open the way for the shafts of truth which he hurls with consummate tact and telling force.

Everywhere he goes he captures the hearts of the people, rouses their sympathies, appeals to their best nature and purest motives, and does them good. Everybody should hear as many as possible of his wonderful sermons and lectures.

Subjoined are a few specimen press notes of his work:

## PRESS OPINIONS.

## A FEW OF MANY SIMILAR NOTICES.

"His remarks were gems of wit, humor, logic and eloquence."—*Troy Daily News*.

"For an hour and a half he held his hearers spell-bound, now eliciting bursts of laughter, and again bringing them almost to tears with his pathetic incidents. He is full of fun and wit and his portrayal of ludicrous scenes was so real that one could almost imagine being present with the narrator."—*Valley Echo*.

"The rev. gentleman is as full of wit, humor and sound logic as an egg is full of meat. It is certainly a rare treat to listen to such a speaker. His lecture of nearly two hours duration

seemed but a few minutes."—*Elmvale Chronicle*.

"His speech was irresistible in its eloquence and pathos."—*Toronto Globe*.

"The speaker's power and logic were unanswerable, and at times his flights of eloquence were beyond the power of pen to describe. In our opinion Mr. Hector has but a few equals as a convincing orator. Besides all the praise we have for him, we know him to be a grand christian gentleman of the highest type."—*Royersford Bulletin*.

"It is safe to say that the Tabernacle never held a more delighted audience than the one that last evening heard the colored orator, Rev. J. H. Hector. Mr. H. possesses that ready wit and humor that always please. The incidents of his life were presented in a manner that led his audience from one round of laughter to another until, as one gentleman said, his sides fairly ached."—*Portland Oregonian*.

"Seldom has so large a congregation—somewhere about two thousand—attended a morning service in St. James' Church as yesterday greeted the Rev. J. H. Hector, the Black Knight. The sermon was an extraordinary pulpit effort and greatly affected the large assemblage which listened, was inspired, amused, thrilled and almost caused to weep in unison."—*Montreal Witness*.

"The lecture delivered yesterday afternoon by Rev. J. H. Hector, the celebrated colored prohibition orator from California, was a masterly, eloquent and convincing arraignment of the liquor traffic. The audience, the largest of the season, were at one time thrilled by the flow of language which fell from the lips of the speaker, and at others convulsed with laughter by his epigrams, sallies and witticisms. He is a splendid specimen of the race to which he belongs, being powerfully built and showing to great advantage a cultured mien and deportment while thundering forth invective against what he terms worse slavery than that which prevailed in the South."—*Toronto Mail*.

Rev. Mr. Hector, popularly known as the "Black Knight," is open for engagements during the coming fall and winter. His time is already filling up fast, applications should be made at once. For terms, dates &c., address

F. S. SPENCE,

51 Confederation Life Buildings,  
Toronto.

## "THE BLACK KNIGHT."

BY C. A. INGRAHAM.

He followed where the roisterers go,  
And felt the avenging rod,  
And heard his curse from Heaven pronounced  
As blindly on he trod;

But God leaned down from His great throne  
And to the Negro spoke,  
And Hector heard his tender voice,  
And into light awoke.

"Take from me now this maddening thirst  
And I will serve Thee well;  
Cut loose the chain of appetite  
That drags me down to hell."

He prayed and with the Lord prevailed,  
And in His favor grew,  
Fulfilled the promise made to Him,  
And went His herald true.

Then rang his voice o'er all the land,  
And thousands felt the spell  
Of ardent words that sparkled wit,  
And melted, where they fell,

The stony heart's indifference  
To mirth and mingled tear,  
That glittering in Love's coronet  
As precious gems appear.

That soul were cold that heard his voice,  
And felt not God was there,  
In majesty beside the black,  
And with His arm made bare;

Plead on, great Hector, noble knight—  
Your skin is black indeed,  
But white your sympathetic heart  
And quick to throb and bleed

In sorrow for the multitude  
Sunk deep in sin's disgrace,  
Speak ever gainst accursed rum  
And save our suffering race.

—The Pioneer.