

presentation of petitions for pay; and also persuade you to penitence for past practices, lest my patience perish prematurely."

Canada Temperance Advocate.

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License or no License.

Many there be who imagine that this or that regulating measure for supplying the thirsty throats of tipplers, would have a wonderful effect in suppressing intemperance. But, alas! how vain are all human expectations, when the thing proposed is based on essential error and wrong. In our own city and country we all know how difficult it is to prevent evasions of law, and hinder wicked men and women from committing wickedness in the face of the law. We admit something may be done where there is an earnest desire to do it, but when magistrates and police authorities connive at crime and disobedience, how can hope of better times be cherished? How can even a comparatively good law be executed? Read the following from the London "News and Chronicle," and remember human nature is every where the same, so that without the Maine Law there is no hope for our country or any country. Our English contemporary reports that:—

In the Court of Inland Revenue, Mary Morgan, keeper of a private boarding-house, in Cecil-street, Strand, was charged on several informations with having retailed wines, spirits, and beer, without license. Mr. Savage, an officer of Excise, said that, on the 11th of February, he went to the house of the defendant, No. 12, Cecil-street, Strand, where he took lodgings. He dined there that evening with several other persons in the public room, and after dinner he was asked by the defendant's son-in-law if he would take anything to drink. He replied that he would take a little brandy and little water, upon which this person gave a key to a waiter, who returned with a bottle of brandy and set it before him. The waiter was not gone more than two minutes. On the following day he dined with a friend, when they had stout, and a bottle of sherry, both of which articles were served immediately. On the next day, being Sunday, he dined with the company, and had brandy again, and on Monday he had ale and liquors. He then called for his bill, which he paid, and went away. The defendant said she did not know that she was doing wrong, and might have gone on for years in ignorance of having violated the law. In answer to one of the commissioners, the supervisor said Mrs. Morgan had occupied these premises for about fourteen years. Mr. Commissioner Stophenson said this was a very flagrant offence, and it was the impression of the Court that it had been committed for years. It was only a short time since they fined an hotel keeper, in St. James's-street, £180 for a similar offence, and it would be an injustice to him if she was not now visited with a heavy penalty. They should give judgment against her in the penalty of £120.

It appears that there are in London a class of bibulous philosophers who unite the wisdom of the serpent to the subtlety of the fox, and who, drunkards as they mostly are, have been wary and expert enough to baffle persons and powers of no meaner note than the House of Lords and Commons. These are the Sunday "dram-waiters." The Legislature has said to the dram-waiter, "John Smith,

during such and such hours, when divine service is performed, you shall not buy beer of Thomas Swypes." To the publican it is said, "Swypes, you shall not, during the aforesaid hours, sell any beer to John Smith; and if you do, I, the law, will send my lictors or 'bobbies' after you, and I will mulet you of golden pounds and take away your license, and bring you very low, and, in fact, play the devil with you." But the "dram-waiter," wiser, subtler, and warier than even the collective wisdom of the nation, forthwith sets to study parochial law and parochial regulations. He finds that in one parish afternoon service begins at one hour, and in another at another; that in the one street in the county of Middlesex, called the Strand, there are houses that closes from two till four, from three till five, from three till eight, from six to seven, p.m. respectively; that some publicans are extra-parochial. The "dram-waiter" will do without his Sunday morning drink by taking as much home over night as he wants, or he will introduce himself surreptitiously into a "public" with the connivance of a lawless licensed victualler; but he is not to be balked of his post-brandial potation. He knows to a moment when the Bag o'Nails opens, and when the Elephant and Shoestrings closes. He can roam from bar to bar, suck sweets from every noggin, and keep himself all the time within the strict limits of legality. He is never hard up for a drink. He may get as drunk as an African king between litany and sermon, and endanger no man's license.

The returns from London, Leeds, Manchester, and all large towns, show a great decrease in cases for magisterial adjudication since the Act of 1848, requiring the closing of public-houses from twelve o'clock on Saturday night to half-past twelve on Sunday. From an appeal which has been put forth at Bristol, directed against all Sunday traffic in intoxicating liquors, it appears there has been a decrease in that city of one-half.

Reform in Toast Drinking.

The absurd practice of drinking on public occasions, in response to toasts and sentiments, good or bad, must, with many other social evils, be banished from civilized life, and no longer be regarded as evidence of civilization. St. George and St. Andrew, and all the other Saints, would, we think, be quite as well pleased, if their devotees would abstain from washing down their annual acclamations with what is called wine. A good sign and a noble example was a little while ago manifested by a gentleman who took the chair at a public dinner in England. It was a testimonial dinner complimentary to Sir George Grey, to whom was presented a splendid silver Candelabrum, provided by subscription from about 13,000 of the working classes. A pavilion at Alnwick, Northumberland, was the place of meeting, and the large daily commercial papers reported the proceedings. It is a little strange, and perhaps not strange, that the dailies did not report the speech of the chairman, Sir Walter C. Trevelyan. The address, however, is far too good to be lost, and we are, therefore, glad of an opportunity of printing it from the columns of the *Weekly News and Chronicle*, of April 9. Sir Walter dared to be singular, but we hope the time is not distant when such conduct will not be singular, but general. All honor to Sir Walter, and to all who may hereafter imitate his praiseworthy example.

Sir Walter Trevelyan opened the proceedings after dinner in the following manner:—

"I must beg, before proceeding to the more immediate business of this auspicious day, that you will kindly have patience with me for a few minutes, whilst I explain why I consider myself obliged to make a slight departure from the usual forms on such occasions. That most of the social evils under which too many of our fellow-