

THE ONTARIO CONFLICT.
(Tune:—"From Greenland's Icy Mountain")

1 From scenes of wealth and splendour,
Where wines pass freely round,
From bar-room and from gutter
Where filth and vice abound
From highest and from lowest,
From poor and rich the same,
The call comes to deliver
Our land from drink's domain.

2 What though of wealth uncounted
Our country's foes may boast!
What though their influence reacheth
Where influence counteth most!
The cry of starving children,
Of homes and wives forlorn,
Will surely break our slumbers,
And make us sloth to scorn.

3 What though we're poor and friendless
Of human power devoid!
What though by foes despised
By traitorous friends destroyed!
We know our God is with us,
We need not be afraid;
'Faint not for I am with thee,
Fear not nor be dismayed.'

4 From village and from hamlet,
From towns or near or far,
There comes the sound of conflict,
The clash and din of war.
Soon will the fight be over,
The mists be rolled away;
And on our own Ontario
Shall dawn a brighter day.

H. Mortimer.

Parkdale, 10 Jan., 02

THE REIGN OF DRINK.

Do you hear an ominous muttering,
As of thundering gathering
round?

Do you hear the city tremble, as an
earthquake shakes the ground?
'Tis the walking of a people—'tis a
mighty battle sound.

Do you hear the grand uprising of
the people in their might?
They are girding on the armour,
they are arming for a fight,
They are going forth to battle for
the triumph of the right.

For the power of drink has bound us,
and the power of drink hath
reigned.

Till the glorious robes of Liberty are
tarnished, torn, and stained,
Till the struggling city shudders, as
its forces lie enchained.

It hath trampled over hearthstone,
and hath left it desolate;

It hath slain the wife and mother,
it hath filled the town with
hate;

It hath wrecked the noblest man-
hood, and hath laughed to scorn
the great.

Shall it longer reign in triumph, long-
er wear its tyrant crown?

Shall it firmer wield the fetters that
now bind the city down?

Shall this grand old city longer bow
and tremble 'neath its frown?

No! let every heart re-echo; rouse,
ye gallant men and true!

Rouse, ye broken-hearted mothers!
see, the night is almost
through;

Rouse ye, every man and woman—
God is calling now for you.
—Selected.

THE VOICES.

"Why urge the long unequal fight,
Since truth is fallen in the street,
Or lift anew the trampled light
Quenched by the heedless millions'
feet?"

"Give o'er thy thankless task; for-
sake
The fools that know not ill from
good,
Eat, drink, enjoy thine own, and
take
Thine ease among the multitude.

"The work is God's, not thine; let
Him
Work out a change if change
must be;
The hand that planted best can trim
And nurse the old unfruitful tree."

So spake the tempter, when the light
Of sun and stars had left the sky,
I listened through the cloud and
night,
And heard, methought, a Voice
reply:

TO HON. G. W. ROSS

And the Ninety-Three Other Members of the Ontario Legislature.

GENTLEMEN:—

You are called upon to face an issue of the most momentous character. You know that the liquor traffic in the Province of Ontario as everywhere else, is the prolific cause of pauperism, insanity, crime, disease and death. No evidence is needed to convince you of this terrible truth.

Your own Prison Reform Commission said a few years ago: "Drunkenness does more than any other cause to fill the jails, and it unquestionably does much to recruit the ranks of the criminal classes," and referring to one year's criminal record, adds, "the number of convictions on charges of drunkenness in the province during the year was 7,059, very nearly one third of the whole, and of the 675 prisoners in the common jails at the close of the year, a very large proportion were habitual drunkards."

Our present esteemed Lieutenant Governor has said that "An enormous proportion, probably three-fourths of the vice that prevails at the present day, of the crime which they have to contend with, of the lunacy, the idiocy, the poverty, and the misery of every kind, is owing to the foul evil of intemperance."

Statistics are however, totally inadequate to convey any idea of the misery, suffering and sin involved in these appalling facts. Behind every case that is added to the list, there lies a sorrowful tragedy. Every step in the downward career of nearly every drink victim is a step upon some weary, aching, bleeding heart. Behind the figures lie heart-sickening histories of ruined homes, blighted lives and all the details of a drunkard's wretched career.

These are the stern realities with the cause of which you are to-day called upon to deal. It is your business and your privilege as statesmen, to devise such measures as will be the most effective legislative remedy for these evils. This solemn responsibility cannot be ignored. This question must not be dealt with from the standpoint of party exigencies, but from the standpoint of patriotism and Christian duty.

You must admit that the prohibitory law now before the Legislature with the conditions attached to it, is unreasonable and absurd. You do not think that it will be brought into operation on the terms proposed. It may provoke the enmity or win the favor of partisans. It may antagonize votes or may catch votes. It may have some effect upon the movement of party politicians. It is not a measure devised to secure the speediest and most effective relief for the terrible evils for which it is your duty to seek a remedy.

This great issue, this serious question, ought not to be considered with a view of mere political effect. It is your business to enact such a liquor law as you honestly believe to be best adapted to the present position of this province, having due regard to the practicability of enforcement and the strength of sustaining public opinion. It is your duty to take the responsibility of putting such a measure into actual operation. If you are convinced that such operation would be made more effective by the previous ratification of a popular vote, you ought to submit it to such a vote under conditions that will ensure the fullest and fairest expression of opinion, giving no special advantage to any selfish interest, and ignoring no principle of political equality.

The second part of the present bill is a rigid measure of provincial prohibition, probably as comprehensive as the legislature has power to enact. Is it not a mockery to make such useful legislation conditional upon requirements that are unjust, unwise, and so difficult as to make their attainment almost impossible, thus strengthening an evil and hampering the forces that oppose it? In the interests of all that is good and true, and ennobling to humanity, you are respectfully and earnestly urged to remove these unfair conditions, and to use the power placed in your hands for the advancement of that which is right, instead of for the strengthening and sustaining of that which is everywhere and always our country's greatest curse.

Thy task may well seem over-hard,
Who scatterest in a thankless toil
Thy life as seed, with no reward,
Save that which duty gives to toil.

The meal unshared is food unblest,
We heard in vain what love should
spend.

Self-ease is pain; our only rest
Is labour for a worthy end.

A toil that gains by what it yields,
And scatters to its own increase,
And hears while sowing outward
fields
The harvest song of inward peace.

What is it that the crowd requite
Thy love with hate, thy truth with
lies?

And but to faith and not to sight
The walls of Freedom's temple rise?

Yet do thy work; it shall succeed
In thine or in another's day;
And, if denied the victor's meed,

Thou shalt not lack the toiler's
pay.

Faith shares the Future's promise;
Love's
Self-offering is a triumph won,
And each good thought and action
moves
The dark world nearer to the sun.

Then faint not, falter not, nor plead
Thy weakness; Truth itself is
strong.

The lion's strength, the eagle's speed,
Are not vouchsafed alone to wrong.

Hast thou not on some week of
storm

Seen the sweet Sabbath breaking
fair
And cloud and shadow, sunlit, form
The curtains of thy tent of prayer?

So, haply, when our task shall end,
The wrong shall lose itself in right,
And all our week-day darkness blend
With the long Sabbath of the light!
—J. G. Whittier.

DECLARATIONS

OF THE PROHIBITION CONVENTION

Held in Toronto, February 25th, 1902.

That this convention hails with pleasure the decision of the Privy Council sustaining the Manitoba Liquor Act, thus affirming the right of a provincial Legislature to prohibit transactions in intoxicating liquors which take place wholly within the territorial limits of its jurisdiction, by the residents of the Province.

That the Bill introduced into the Ontario Legislature making prohibition conditional upon difficult, unreasonable and unjust requirements cannot be accepted as a fulfillment of the Government's pledges, and this convention expresses its deep regret that the Government has not carried out the simple definite promise of Sir Oliver Mowat, reiterated by Hon. A. S. Hardy and Hon. G. W. Ross, to introduce a bill to prohibit the liquor traffic to the limit of the declared power of the Province.

That a specially objectionable and unfair feature of the bill is the provision that even if the bill is approved by a majority of the electorate voting thereon, it will not become law unless that majority attains very large dimensions, and this convention begs to respectfully inform the Government that legislation limited by any condition that would permit the opinions of a minority of the voting electorate to prevail, would not be considered by the prohibitionists of Ontario as a fulfillment of the Government's promises, nor as entitling members of the Legislature who voted for it to their confidence and support.

That this convention also objects to the unfairness of a method which makes it necessary for the prohibitionists to poll a large vote in order to secure legislation they desire, while anti-prohibitionists are required to do so, but may succeed without taking the trouble of voting.

That this convention further protests against the fixing of the date for the proposed voting at an inconvenient time, although such voting might be provided for at a time of a municipal election with an important economy of public funds and the time and effort of the voters, and we call for a vote, if at all, on that date.

That a deputation be appointed to lay before the Government the foregoing resolutions, and to ask for the removal from the bill of the unfair conditions complained of, and that every member of the Legislature be urged to do all he can to secure the elimination from the bill of those conditions.

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