

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

PROHIBITION OF THE SALOON.

All that can be said for prohibition can be said with manifold additional reasons for prohibiting the saloon. If the drink traffic is to be destroyed because of the intemperance, poverty and vice resulting from it, then the saloon calls for the most direct and deadly blow. It is the chief source of temptation in the community, largely absorbs the poor man's wages, is responsible again and again for making men drunken when it could easily stop short of doing so, and fosters every sort of vice which comes of drunkenness and evil living. If, as Archdeacon Mackay Smith said the other night, the saloons were, as he called them, the mouths of hell, nothing this side of hell more deserves to be prohibited and closed up.

But there is more than this. The saloon is the natural resort and head centre of the depraved and vicious, of thieves and harlots and of those dangerous classes of all sorts who are at war with law and order. It is not only a moral pest house but the breeder of whatever preys upon social order or private virtue. Over and above being a drinking place it is a place for broils and fights to break out in, for housebreakers and schemers to find congenial company and accomplices in, for socialists and anarchists to plot in and for the manifold company of man-haters and society-haters to encourage one another in their antipathies and hates. The saloon, with the vicious, lawless frequenters which it gives refuge to, needs constant watching and deserves to be prohibited because it is a standing peril in the community. But more than this. The saloon has come to be but another name for an aggregated centre of vicious politics. It is here that the foul, detestable stream takes its rise which sets the machine in motion, that elaborates and perfects all manner of deals and bargains, which provides lavish corruption funds with which to buy up votes like ordinary merchandise, which gives us politicians without patriotism or principle, legislators without knowledge and too often without any sense of decency, and functionaries of all sorts to be ashamed of by the high-minded and good and flattered by the obsequious and vulgar, and who invariably have an eye to plunder, and not so much as half an eye to the public interest. The saloon richly deserves to be prohibited, if for no other reason, because of what it has done to scandalize and disgrace American politics.

In his address above referred to, the Archdeacon said he had little expectation that the saloon would be abolished until something was ready to take its place. The saloon, in fact, was the workingman's club, and where he found his social enjoyment. Perhaps that is so; but if the saloons are the mouths of hell, it is indeed a pity if the workingman cannot be put in the way

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of finding his club and favorite enjoyment in mouths which open in some other direction.—Temperance.

MUCH can be done by judicious legislation in the way of reducing the number of saloons and diminishing the temptations to intemperance. Much more can be done by moral suasion, by convincing young men that the path of safety and of profit, as well as of true manliness, lies along the lines of total abstinence. But the most effective branch of temperance work, in our judgment, is that to which Mr. Robert Graham and the Church Temperance Society are especially devoted, which seeks to establish everywhere in our great cities places of social resort, which may counteract the attractions of the liquor saloons. The need of such places in all large cities is not sufficiently recognized by those who think that the instincts of youth and the habits of mature manhood can be changed by legislative enactment. It is not the craving for alcohol, but the craving for congenial association that is at the bottom of the drinking habits of the country. Give our young men, in every ward of our great cities, a club room or other place of resort, where they can meet to talk and smoke and indulge in harmless recreation, without Paritanical supervision, and the saloons will soon lose their most profitable customers.—Brooklyn Times.

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