

invention. The immense moral and social, financial and industrial, civil and political mischiefs produced by the liquor traffic are constantly augmenting. Either the liquor traffic must be made an outlaw, or the safe government of crowded populations under universal suffrage must become impossible.

In an alternative of life or death, the American republic, in a conflict with the liquor traffic, will be found to be as heroic and wise as it was in the conflict with slavery.

IX. In full view of the reasons now given for a re-organization of parties in support of National Constitutional Prohibition, it is not difficult to reply to current objections to such a political reform.

1. It is objected that a third political party cannot succeed. The reply is that the new party is to be made a success by its necessity. If there can be only two great parties in the country at once, the new party proposes to be one of the two. As only one party can succeed in gaining the highest place of power, the new party proposes to be that one.

Dr. Spear's proof that a third political party cannot succeed is extremely like the ancient proof of the impossibility of motion. A body cannot move where it is, and it cannot move where it is not, and therefore it cannot move at all. A third political party must either be where it is, i. e., in a minority, or where it is not, i. e., in a majority. In the former case it can effect nothing in legislation; in the latter it is not needed, for other parties will do its work, and therefore a third party is not desirable and cannot succeed at all. This dilemma is more curious than cogent. *Solvitur ambulando*. As the alleged proof that motion is impossible is overthrown by motion itself, so the assertion that a third political party cannot succeed is overthrown by the historic fact that such a party has again and again succeeded in American politics.

The Republican party was once a third party. The Whigs and Democrats were both its opponents. It ultimately absorbed most of the former, and a few of the latter, and so defeated both, and became one of the two great parties of the country.

The Whig party was once a third party. Its opponents were the Federalists and the Democrats. It absorbed most of the former and some of the latter, and so ultimately became a second party.

The Federalist party died partly because its objects were accomplished, and partly from opposition to the war of 1812. It attempted to swallow the Hartford Convention, and so hastened its own destruction.

The Whig party died from subserviency to slavery. It attempted to swallow the Fugitive Slave law, and so perished.

Every great reforming party for nearly a century in American politics has begun as a third party, and little by little won the position of a