

S. P. Gardner and wife attended Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and some other meetings on their way therefrom.

JOSEPH FRITTS.

Macedon, N.Y., 11, 11 mo., '87.

*Editors of Young Friends' Review:*

I saw in a late REVIEW that liberty was given and a request made that any one might give an opinion as to the best methods of ridding our otherwise beloved land from the greatest bane and curse that can prey upon a nation or individual. Those who were upon the stage of action when human slavery was sustained and sanctioned by law, and the whole power of the government was pledged for its maintainance and extension, can realize the folly and criminality of concession and compromise with an institution that was a sin against God and man, and cannot fail to remember the just judgment that fell upon a guilty nation because it refused to "break every yoke and let the oppressed go free," and obey the divine law of justice and mercy. Now, as then in regard to the slave power, so in regard to the rum power which is making such exorbitant demands upon the people, even that legislative enactments should be made to subserve to the interest of the soul-corrupting business, and that the devoted mother must sacrifice her son, the idol of her heart, on the altar of mammon.

Many people, perhaps honest and endeavoring to live true to their convictions, advocate the method of licensing the traffic, as if an evil and wrong and an outrage upon innocence and purity could be made right by giving it the sanction of law, and claim that license is restriction and a sort of prohibition; but according to Webster "it is to remove from legal restraint by a grant of permission." Thus when a grant or permission to sell is given to men it cannot make wrong right even by the payment of the enormous price of five hundred or a thousand dollars, but

creates a monopoly and places a barrier in the pathway of the poor man, who, if the business is honest and honorable, has an equal right with the millionaire to engage in so lucrative an avocation. Numerous statistics have been published to prove that high license has not diminished the quantity of liquors drank, only transferred the sale from the low, dark caves to gilded, attractive, aristocratic saloons, which more surely entice and entrain the innocent and unwary youth. Many claim that absolute prohibition is setting the mark too high, that it can never be reached; but if it is policy to be in complicity with wrong it is not principle, and would that every human being would set their mark as high as truth and justice and endeavor to reach the ultimate point of purity and perfection, practicing the injunction of the prophets: "Come out from them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing." Since the business is criminal, and the fruits of it are pauperism and crime, no price, high or low, paid for the privilege of sanction by law can make it right, elevating or hapifying to a community; and well would it be if every man would accept God's mercies, nor wait for His judgments to fall upon this guilty nation, as did the people a quarter of a century ago, but rather use the freeman's high prerogative—the ballot—a peaceful weapon, which wields an almost omnipotent power in the hands of a loyal American citizen.

SARAH H. RATHBURN.

Macedon, N. Y.

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