

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

A NUMBER of complaints have come to hand from subscribers to the effect that they do not receive THE ADVOCATE regularly. While sorry of course that there should be cause for such complaints we are pleased when our subscribers take the trouble to advise us. We, therefore, request each and every one of them who fails to receive even a single copy to lose no time in notifying us. If that is done we will not only supply the missing number, but will take such steps as will ensure regular and prompt delivery in the future. Subscribers to a paper who do not advise the publishers of non-receipt are guilty of an injustice both to the paper and to themselves.

The Montreal Recorder has decided upon a table of fines for drunks. Ordinary week-day inebriates are to be charged \$5 while the Sunday fellow will have to pay \$5 as a tribute to outraged virtues.

The Prohibitionists of New York City have nominated a complete city ticket, and have agreed to raise a campaign fund of \$1,000. Just think of it—a cool thousand to fight against Tammany's millions! What a revolution there will be!

It is stated that the Patrons of Industry of Manitoba and the Prohibition party of that Province are talking of sitting on a common platform. It is one of our concerns what they do, but we hardly imagine one will add strength to the other. All Patrons are not teetotalers, and all Prohibitionists are not Patrons, either in theory or belief. If, however, they choose to unite we shall not oppose, for their differences will be our strength.

The Knights of Pythias have not only resolved to convert themselves into a temperance society, but they have forbidden the use of the German language in the ritual. It is hardly to be wondered at that some of the lodges in Milwaukee and other German centres have resolved to quit. The K. of P. resolution passed at the recent session of the Supreme Lodge

spoke of "liquor-sellers, bartenders and gamblers." Liquor sellers and their employees are no more entitled to be classed with gamblers than prohibitionists are with infidels.

BISHOP WATTERSON, of Ohio, is quoted as saying: "I have never condemned the business of selling liquor as being evil in itself, but because of the abuses that have attended the traffic I made regulations in the disease." The more the recent Sattoli-Watterson incident is sifted the more it becomes plain that its importance has been greatly exaggerated. It was stated that Bishop Watterson was a stout and determined Prohibitionist; now it appears he is nothing of the sort and that, like every other right thinking man, he is an enemy to abuse and not to use. Still his lordship should not seek to punish the innocent for the sins of the guilty. His decree called upon Catholic societies neither to elect to membership nor to office men engaged in the liquor traffic. Now, if the selling of liquor is not evil, and his lordship admits that it is not, then those who sell it are entitled to all the liberty and rights of mankind that other people enjoy.

Mr. Gladstone in power and Mr. Gladstone out of power are two very different personages. Mr. Gladstone in was in favor of the local option law for England; Mr. Gladstone out is in favor of the Gothenburg system. One is nearly as bad as the other. The revelation of a change in his opinions was made by the Grand Old Man in a letter to the Bishop of Chester, who recently has gone in for the Gothenburg bid hot and strong. Mr. Gladstone now says the local option system is little better than an imposture. The right honorable gentleman is strictly correct that far in his conclusions, but he should be sure the Gothenburg idea was something not only practical but not a violation of the most important principles of commerce before giving it his influential endorsement. Sir Wilfred Lawson thinks Mr. Gladstone's change of front a heavy blow to the temperance cause. Sir Wilfred perhaps is right, seeing that it shows the leading statesman of Great Britain at last recognizes that the people have some kind of right to say what they shall drink; in other words are at liberty to consider for themselves what they most need in the shape of food and refreshment.

One of the great features of the present day (says *Laud and Water*, published at London, Eng.) is the large number of fads and the zeal with which the faddists advocate them. Socially, politically, morally, fads are upon us on all sides. There is the temperance faddist, the purity faddist, the anti-vaccination faddist, the anti-opium faddist, and the hundred and one others that will occur to anybody. Her Majesty's Government consider the faddist too important a person not to be made the most of, as he usually can command a few votes; but really he does not so many as is supposed, and therefore the adventurers who now make up Her Majesty's Ministers are willing to become all things to all faddists, and promise to each the legislation they demand. The Chancellor of the Exchequer "contesting" Local Option is a good instance of this. The Government no more intend to legislate on Local Option than they do on the House of Lords, yet the temperance vote must not be lost, and in his most solemn and most heavy manner Sir William Harcourt every year tells the temperance faddists he is burning with anxiety to bring in a Bill to establish Local Option, and the faddists rest satisfied with the assurance and speech of Sir William Harcourt as a great and enlightened statesman; such is the effect of fads. All of which show that professional political methods are about the same all the world over.

At a recent meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal conference in Tacoma, Wash., the following resolution was passed by a rising vote:

"Inasmuch as approximately all of the hops grown in this State was used for brewing purposes, be it resolved, that the Puget Sound conference put itself on record as opposed to the hop industry, and insisting that the subject be brought before our members by presentation of facts and Christian admonition until they shall cease to be affiliated directly or indirectly with this business, which is surely in league with Satan. We are not unmindful of the pressing wants of many who seek employment, but the Methodist watchword is 'no compromise' with intemperance whatever, even if it should require temporal sacrifices. This is a relentless warfare. We dare not camp on the enemy's ground while he is still in possession. Let us be more decidedly a peculiar and separate people in the temperance cause in the name of Christ, and looking to Him for leadership we will never lay down our arms until victory is His, the saloon extinguished and there

prevail righteousness and peace and soberness."

Now, if our good friends the Africans will only go a little further as regards their the-house-that-Jack-built idea, and advocate the abolition of the earth in order that what they call temperance may be served, we shall be in a position to judge of the full logic of their reasoning. Hops must go because they're made into beer! By the same reasoning, so must water; so must barley, rye and, in fact, pretty well everything, for just as alcohol is a prime element in many foods that even temperance people partake freely of so do the processes of ordinary manufacture enter into the making of beer, whiskey, wine, etc., etc. Truly this species of the genus Africans is a peculiar and separate people.

REVOLUTION upon revolution follows. Miss Frances E. Willard, the friend and companion of Lady Henry Somerset, an equal leader with her in the proposed world's campaign, has seen new light on the temperance question. The news is too alarming for either comment or immediate consideration by us. We will, therefore, quote the words of a contemporary, who says:

"She has, it seems, devoted much study to the question during her recent residence in England, and she has arrived at the conclusion that it is not only useless but mischievous for a government to attempt to force prohibition in any community where such a law is not sustained by a very great preponderance of public sentiment in its favor."

"In future Miss Willard's efforts in the direction of temperance will not be put forth to compel people against their will to stop drinking, but to persuade them by exhortation and reason and good influence. Her future policy will be along the lines of love, not force."

"This complete change of front on the part of Miss Willard has caused intense excitement in the W. C. T. U. Some of the more aggressive ladies in the organization do not hesitate to denounce their leader as an apostate, and have hastened to repudiate her new opinions. So bitter a feeling has been engendered that Miss Willard was accused the other day of actually drinking wine out of a bottle in company with her friend Lady Somerset. The alleged crime occurred at Chautauque park. The accused ladies admitted that they had drank out of a bottle, but explained in their defence that the beverage was nothing more deadly than unfermented fruit juice. Even this explanation did not modify their accusers, who exhorted them for not avoiding the very appearance of evil."

After this, what? We fear to anticipate.

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