

### Touching the Liquor Problem.

A sermon preached on the World's Temperance Sunday, Nov. 24th, 1907.

BY REV. R. OSGOOD MORSE.

2 Cor. 4 : 9. Smitten down, yet not destroyed.

At no time for a full generation has temperance sentiment been at a lower ebb. The life of the temperance movement has been sapped by that parasite which has spread itself like an octopus over every moral and spiritual movement of our age. Would you know its name. It is Indifference. Its mother is Materialism. Its Father is the Devil. It has thrown its blighting pall over the life of our age. It has lulled conscience to sleep, until men refuse to act even when duty calls with bugle blast for men to "forward march." Like the executioner who bowed before Charles I, kissed his hand, and begged pardon for undertaking the unpleasant business, but who, nevertheless, beheaded him just the same, this parasite, Indifference, wearing a mask and uttering courtly words, is sharpening the axe, and will not be slow, when the auspicious moment arrives, to cut off the head of every moral movement. So dead in Indifference had the world become that the English speaking world must pass through bloody war that it might learn anew that life does not consist of mountains of silver, mines of gold, nor miles of railway. The nations had to learn anew that there are some things for which men must count their lives of little value. It is a lesson, the enemies of the saloon must learn, anew, ere victory can perch upon their banners.

1. In Canada we are beginning a new stage of the strife. We are smitten down but not destroyed. The Plebiscite with all its forces, frauds and Phariseisms has passed into history. It was an episode filled with bitter disappointment for every lover of truth, righteousness, and honor in public life; an episode soiling indeed, to the army opposed to purity of person, happiness of home, and righteousness of rule. We accepted the unlawful challenge to battle on Sept. 29, 1898, and suffered a severe reverse. We are but beginning to counter-march, gather anew our forces, learn the lessons of the defeat, and in Jehovah's name begin anew aggressive warfare.

Truly, we are smitten, but as evidence that we are not destroyed let us carefully review our situation. The Plebiscite has gone into history and God forbid that history may ever again record that force in our free country with its Responsible Government. But we have learned some things. We have learned our weakness and we have learned our enemy's strength. The whole force of the liquor traffic was arrayed against us and the battle fought with consummate skill. And yet this "priestess of the vaults of hell," could amass but 19 per cent. of the voting strength of Canada against us. We had but 22 per cent. of the voters of Canada. Where were the others who were so cowardly indifferent to the country's welfare that they did not even vote? We had always thought it was right to claim the proportion corresponding to our polled vote. But the stern logic of events has taught us another way of reckoning. The powers that be reckoned strictly on the principle that he that is not for us is against us, and the mandate of the people was cast aside. One factor of our problem is to reverse the figures of the vote. It is not a just factor but the heritage of the stern logic of historic facts. Truly we are smitten down but in the name of Jehovah of hosts let us declare that we are not destroyed.

2. Our idea of Temperance defined. We have learned the character of the battle. Let us now define our own relation to it. What is your idea of it? One says his idea is to leave the accursed cup alone. That is very good so far as it goes but it does not go far enough. And let us be very sure that we do that. If we go that far not only will the cup that curses be crushed forever beneath our feet, but every filthy habit that militate against the purity of the individual shall be utterly eradicated from our lives.

But mere abstinence is too selfish a view for any Christian to be content with. Am I my brother's keeper? And all the songs of heaven, and all the voices of earth, and all the wallings of hell unite to declare that I am, and that I am held to full responsibility for that stewardship. It is ours to do all in our power to put the draught that lures our brother to destruction beyond his reach. Every power of our being shall be consecrated to driving from our land this deadliest foe to purity of person, happiness of home, and freedom of native land.

Public sentiment must be aroused and educated. Remember, I say "aroused and educated." Public sentiment aroused is a very dangerous thing. It is almost sure to go wrong. Public sentiment roused and you have rabble, riot, and revolution. Public sentiment aroused and educated results in reason, relief, and reform. It is the latter we need to-day.

In this educational campaign the home must be enlisted. The home is the heart of our civilization. The moral sentiment of the nation can rise no higher than its level in the home. Here, parents must teach their boys that all that debases is dangerous, that all impurity is unmanly, that anything that undermines manhood destroys God's image in the soul. Here, too, parents must teach their girls the same things, and to it add that the

young man in whose life there is any impurity is unfit for her friend and that if such an one dare to lay siege to her heart and to sue for her hand he thereby declares himself the enemy of her heart, her happiness, and her home.

And our schools must contribute to this education. Simple scientific teaching from the best of authorities must have its place there. The injurious effects of alcohol, tobacco and other narcotics must be distinctly taught. The schools must show the action of these things that destroy that they may thus become a stepping stone in building the structure of noble manhood. But this negative teaching is not enough. One of the most baneful effects of our day and land is an improper diet, creating disease in the body and rendering it the easy victim of spirits and narcotics. The school must be enlisted in this matter of teaching what to eat and how to cook it and this done a long step toward the solution of the liquor problem will be taken.

And the Sunday School must add to this its moral and religious teaching. I have a word to utter here from which many may dissent. But I have convictions on this matter and the courage thereof. Some people would revolutionize the world by pledging the children to the so-called Triple Pledge. Such persons would reform the world without doing the work of the Reformer. It cannot be done that way. The "Triple Pledge" has its place and use if rightly used. If you are willing to teach the child the meaning of that pledge and to keep on teaching its ever enlarging meaning as each successive year of boyhood and of girlhood brings to you enlarged relations of life and duty, use the "Triple Pledge" and God speed you in your work. But unless you are willing to do that, I beg and entreat you do not offer that pledge as an insult to the manhood of a boy, an injury to the womanhood of a girl, and as a sin against Almighty God. The world is strewn with the wrecks of manhood and womanhood whose powerless wills still of the baneful influence of pledge-taking without pledge-teaching.

The Temperance Society must be a factor in rousing and educating public sentiment. But if they are to do this there must be a resolution among them. Of all the effete reminders of the life of a former age found among the institutions of today the average Temperance Society is about the most lifeless. Dressed in the paraphernalia of half a century ago, with the spirit of that day gone, it is trying to drag out a weary existence instead of adapting itself to the life of this new age. Let these societies so adapt themselves as to appeal to the manhood of our own day and a useful career will yet be theirs.

And this is true in part of the W. C. T. U. Let that organization bury a thousand fathom deep its impracticable fads, and concentrate its energies on fruitful fields; let it forsake its comfortable ensconce in the softly cushioned and heavily curtained parlors of the elite social set and reach out loving hands to those wives and mothers who stand in need of helpful ministries in the practical duties of the home and it will be baptized anew into that spirit whence it was born, and will girdle the world with blessings surpassing any with which it has ever been fraught.

And what, O church of the living God is to be thy work in this great campaign? It must be more aggressive and more strongly support attempts at the enforcement of efficient legislation. Nevertheless, every utterance of the pulpit in favor of personal righteousness is a blow at this giant evil—and not an indirect blow either. When the membership of our churches seek first of all the glory of God, the church will be recognized the mightiest factor on earth in arousing and educating public sentiment looking to the extermination of the most deadly foe to personal purity, happy homes, and righteous rule which to-day curses our land.

4. The Legal Phase—And this problem has a legal aspect. We can never fight the devil in twentieth century equipment with legislation worthy only of the dark ages. We must have legislation adapted to destroy this octopus root and branch. Give us such a weapon backed by aroused and educated public sentiment, and the powers of darkness will sneak back into the haunts whence they issued.

But a prohibitory law upon the statute books which stands there as a dead letter would be a curse. During the present reign of indifference and loose enforcement of the laws of the land its wisdom would be questionable. The utter neglect of those whose duty it is to secure the respect for our laws which legislation implies is raising up not simply a class but a community of people, who will snap their fingers at the laws of both God and man and treat with scorn attempts at the efficient enforcement of righteous legislation. Nothing so surely saps national vitality as disregard for the nation's laws. When we realize that our pressure for prohibitory legislation pledges us to the enforcement of such legislation we shall have taken a long step toward ridding our land of its greatest menace to purity of person, happiness of home and righteousness of rule.

5. Finally, in this war we are on God's side. This is my crowning assurance that though we are smitten we are not destroyed. Men are usually anxious in these questions of moral reform that God should be on their

side. I am much more anxious that we shall be on God's side. That assures us that he is directing the campaign and that he will press forward his forces to victory. Yes! We are on God's side and he is leading us to victory. We tried to direct the war, entered the field, and suffered its reverses. Let us put ourselves under directions to Jehovah of Hosts and soon the glowing assurance of victory in his name shall color the horizon. And while the fact that we are on God's side is the assurance of success, let it also be the bugle blast calling us to a new and stronger charge in this campaign for purity of person, happiness of home and righteousness of rule.

Be true to your noblest ideals. Let this call to duty bring forth the best, the hardest, the most consecrated efforts of every Christian and send them forth trained and equipped into the forefront of the hottest battle, the battle for God, and home, and every land.

The Duke of Wellington walked along the trenches before Waterloo, and said not once, but a score of times, "Men, what will England say if you falter now?"

Comrades; we are under divine inspection, under the eye that penetrates the very thoughts of men. A greater than any human leader is saying to us, "What will heaven think, if you waver in your allegiance to your God?"

Chester, N. S.

### Pan-American Notes.

HENRY FRANCIS ADAMS, M. A.

No. 2. APPLEDOM.

One of the attractions to a Nova Scotian was the Horticultural building, because in it were exhibited the great varieties of apples grown in all the Americas. As I walked up and down the aisles gazing upon, and discussing with the exhibitors, the fragrant beauties, how I did wish that all the apple growers of our glorious Nova Scotia valleys were there. I never saw such a variety of and so many colored apples before. By some unfair arrangement the best spaces and largest areas had been too lavishly bestowed on a few of the U. S., squeezing N. S. into a wee bit of a corner. This made it impossible for the latter to show her fruit to advantage. The word "pan" can not be always a true prefix to the Americas, when such preference is given to the stronger of them. Of all the exhibits of apples I limited my Notes to New York state, Illinois, Ontario, Nova Scotia, with a few references to some specialties from Nebraska. Of course in speaking of apples a man cannot really judge of their true value, except he tastes them. And as cards said "Hands Off" and "Don't Touch," it was not possible to judge from experience the quality of the fruit. Although one exhibitor was so delighted by my interest in his beautiful fruit that he gave me some to sample by my palate.

In an exhibition of apples it must be expected that there would be many duplicates. But one of the singularities was, that the same kind of apples had different names in U. S. and N. S., though such differences were few. Americans think themselves a very shrewd folk, but they were outwitted on this occasion by the gentleman in charge of the Nova Scotia growers' exhibit, Mr. Bigelow. Seeing that U. S. tables contained many new varieties, and thinking it possible to introduce some into our valleys, he went round and obtained samples of every kind of apples not grown now in Canada. Mr. J. H. Hadkinson, the very courteous gentleman in charge of the Nebraska exhibit informed me of this move, and said it was such an eye-opener that he wished he could do the same.

As New York State obtruded its bigness everywhere in the buildings, we will give her first place in apple-talk. But of course I can only give what seemed to be her best apples which were the Spy, King, Jacob Sweet, Greening, Baldwin, Pound Sweet, Dutch Mignon, Haskall Sweet, Peach Apple, Nelson, Walbridge, Newtown, Pippin, Pecks Pleasant, Sallawater, Celestia, Rome Beauty, 20 oz apple, Bismark, Golden Russett and Mama.

Evidently New York State does not make very much progress in her variety of apples. But her grapes and quinces are simply wonderful. Most of her apples appear to be winter keepers, for they were a very hard-looking lot. This is understood when we remember that her people eat few apples in the summer and fall, but luxuriate themselves with grapes, melons, oranges and bananas.

I was much struck with some varieties on the benches of Illinois. Both the fruit and their names were new to me. The Jonathan has a great sale in Illinois. Then came the Shannon, Arkansas Black, Fall Orange apple, Missouri Pippin, Rome Beauty, Winesap, Baldwin. I was much struck by "Grimes Golden," an early fall, heavy bearer, extra fine. I hope Mr. Bigelow will introduce it into the Valley orchards. Then I saw Penn Red-stead, Maiden Blush, Willow Twig, Gano, Mammoth, Stray Benuth. But the courteous exhibitor told me that for dollars and cents old Ben Davis stands first in the market. It may seem strange to lovers of new varieties, but it is true that for saucers all the European cooks cling tenaciously to old Ben. You can't kill the old fellow off by any new fandangled and pompous looking apples, so you may as well give him a tree or two in all your orchards. Then he sails well in ships, and sells well in London and Liverpool.

For a young state I was greatly surprised by the apple show from Nebraska. It must have stirred feelings of