

lity. The story of her life might well be termed a tragedy; some terrible denouncement was hid in the future; in fact it had already come—the assassin's blade would only have brought relief to the weary soul.

Now tell me, is not that man by every principle of right and wrong known to the world, a criminal? May he with impunity bring such sorrows to the soul, such tears to the eyes, such sighs to the bosom, such poverty to the fireside, such black despair to the heart of one of the loveliest and best of God's children, and still be guiltless? Hopes were there sacred to the soul, as the saint in the sight of heaven. Love was there—that fond heart must love, or life were a misery; and behold the object on which she must lavish her heart's affections—behold him, the byword of the town, the laughing-stock of the rabble, shunned by the virtuous and good, his associates are only the vile and low. Those eyes in which she gladly read her life's history in earlier times, are now bloodshot and wandering; and she beholds, if she gazes upon them instead of the love of other days, the expiring gleams of a murdered mind holding dark revels in their rum-reddened depths.

To-day they live on the charity of friends.

He a gutter drunkard, and she a broken hearted wife. And their child! ah, name the name lightly in her hearing or speak it not; their child, the beautiful, the innocent, the winsome Flora, gladdened the mother's heart but three short years, when the father's brutality, in a drunken fit, tore it from her embrace and the little one found a home in heaven.

Reader, have you no sympathy for that wife *without a husband*, for that childless mother? Could you, as I have, see the scalding tears rain down her cheeks, and the stifled sobs heave her breast, as she spoke of the noble, generous man she married, and the husband he had become; of the child she took to her bosom, and the grave that is now its habitation, you would vow eternal hate against the cause of all this evil, and use every method to banish this hydra-headed monster from our land.

NOLAN KREEN.

The Doings of the last Connecticut Legislature on Temperance.

BY GOVERNOR DUTTON.

The last Legislature of Connecticut was a different body of men from those which are usually assembled for the purpose of legislation. Most of the Senators and Representatives were new members. They were not hackneyed politicians; they had not been accustomed to view measures with reference merely to their influence on the success of a party. They were apparently governed by a desire to promote the morality, and in this way to secure the happiness of the people of the State. It is not our purpose to examine at this time the numerous acts, both of a public and private character, which were passed during the session. But there were two statutes enacted, which should command the attention of every statesman and every philanthropist. These as will doubtless be anticipated by every reader, are the Prohibitory Liquor Law for the Defense of Liberty.

The first of them proceeds on the assumption that the sale of spirituous liquors, for the purpose of being used as a beverage, should be totally suppressed by law. This is the leading principle of the bill. Some of the strongest men in the State, in the Legislature, and out of it, harmoniously combined their efforts to accomplish this

object in the most efficacious manner. The consequence was that a bill was deliberated, and carefully drawn up, applying the power of the law, in every conceivable mode, to the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating drinks. Before we examine the details of the law, we have a word to say as to the principle of it.

We have not a shadow of doubt that the total prohibition of this kind of traffic comes within the legitimate sphere of legislation.—No one can doubt for a moment that a groggery is a nuisance. It is as injurious to the health of the community in its vicinity, as a pest house would be. It is as destructive to the morals as a bawdy house or a gambling saloon. Why, then, should it not be abated by law, as well as those establishments? But the outcry is raised, that men are not compelled to buy nor drink, and that they ought to do as they please. We answer, why should men be allowed to do as they please in this respect, and yet be prohibited from doing as they please in other matters far less injurious? No man would be obliged to buy lottery tickets, if flaming advertisements were stuck up on every corner, deluding and tempting the weak-minded and incautious to waste their earnings, and leave themselves or their families destitute of the necessaries of life. Why has not a man as good a right to buy a lottery ticket as a glass of liquor? The tickets will only strip him of his money. The liquor will deprive him not only of money, but of character, health and life.

Yet no one complains of any infringement of liberty, in not being permitted to buy lottery tickets nor is sympathy felt for a lottery ticket vender, for being broken up in his business.—The Governor of New York does not hesitate to sanction a law, making Gift enterprises highly penal, yet his conscientious scruples compel him to veto a bill suppressing a business in New York, which is constantly filling to overflowing the almshouses and the prisons. What consistency! One of the great objects of legislation always has been and always ought to be, to protect men against the controlling influence of their own appetites and passions, when excited by temptations presented by the cupidity of their fellow men. We rejoice that the Legislature of Connecticut have fearlessly asserted this salutary principle.

The law itself is of the most uncompromising character. It carries the war into the enemy's camp. It proceeds both by assault and by siege. The law first very properly makes all sales of spirituous and intoxicating liquor, except in a particular way, and for other purposes than as a beverage, unlawful. It prohibits absolutely and under all circumstances, the traffic in such liquor, as a business for the purpose of making gain. The remedy is applied directly to the cause of the mischief. The law is not an abstraction. It is eminently practical. It does not proceed on the assumption that the sale of liquors is a *sin per se* without regard to its consequences. It finds merely that the traffic is pernicious, and therefore prohibits it.

Not content with a general prohibition, it makes both the sale and the keeping for sale of the prohibited article highly penal. A fine of twenty dollars on the first conviction, thirty on the second, and one hundred on any subsequent conviction, together with not less than three nor more than six months imprisonment, and a provision that the person convicted shall pay the fine and cost of prosecution, or be kept in jail thirty days, are calculated to deter every man, who believes that the law will be