



# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of The Temperance Reform.

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## . Manifesto .

### TO THE PROHIBITIONISTS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO :

Another step has been taken in the settlement of the question of the jurisdiction of Provincial Legislatures over the liquor traffic. The Supreme Court seems to be equally divided.

It is of the utmost importance that this matter should be speedily settled. The immediate future of our cause in Ontario depends upon the final decision regarding it. The Provincial Legislature cannot be expected to enact laws regarding which their authority is uncertain. Even in reference to the passing of local option by-laws, there is anxiety and uncertainty as to our position.

A deputation from the Alliance Executive recently waited upon the Ontario Government and was assured that the appeal to the Privy Council would be pressed with all possible despatch, and it is hoped that a decision will be arrived at in June of the present year. We shall then know exactly where we stand, and will be in a position either to call upon the Provincial Government to redeem the pledge given a year ago to prohibit the liquor traffic as far as the courts would warrant them in going, or else to urge upon them a radical reform of our licensing system, so as to restrict the liquor traffic far within its present limits.

In view of this uncertainty it has been thought wise to defer the annual convention of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance until the decision of the Privy Council. There will then be issued immediately a call for a general convention to which every temperance and prohibitory organization, every church and young people's Christian society will be asked to send delegates, and at which the whole situation will be considered with the full knowledge then in our possession, and we can decide upon a definite policy of immediate aggressive provincial prohibition work.

In the meantime a most important duty is upon us. A general election for the House of Commons will be held before long, and it is imperative that prohibitionists should be thoroughly organized and active so as to make that election tell for the advancement of their cause.

It is to be regretted that neither of the political parties as such, has taken the position upon this question which its importance demands, and which the advanced public sentiment of the Dominion would warrant. The Government at Ottawa refuses to deal with the subject until there has been an opportunity to consider the report of the Royal Commission, a report which has been most unreasonably delayed, and which, judging from the composition and course of the Commission, is not likely to be fair to our cause. The Liberal party has declared in favor of a Dominion plebiscite, which policy that party still advocates, although votes have already been taken in most of the provinces, clearly showing an overwhelming public opinion in favor of prohibition.

It is manifest that to obtain a fair consideration of the prohibition question in the Parliament about to be elected, we must secure the return of members who can be depended upon to support our cause altogether regardless of party exigencies, who will put their prohibition principles before any mere partisan considerations.

The representative National Convention held in Montreal in July last, adopted a political platform embodying the following resolutions:—

That prohibitionists ought to firmly stand by the position that in political matters they will support only known, avowed and reliable prohibitionists.

That to aid in securing the nomination and election of such candidates, our friends everywhere are urged to organize prohibition clubs, which will take advantage of every opportunity to plan and work for the carrying out of the objects above set out.

That it is also recommended that in order to secure the nomination of prohibition candidates, our friends take a more active part in political organization so as to secure the nomination, by all parties, of men who can be depended upon to support our cause, giving it to be understood distinctly that any other candidates will have their active opposition. That no candidate for Dominion Parliament or Local Legislature receive our support who will not publicly pledge himself to work in the interest of prohibition at every opportunity, regardless of fealty to his political party.

That where such prohibition candidates cannot be nominated by any political party, our friends nominate independent candidates, and make special efforts to secure their election.

The carrying out of the important plan of action detailed in this platform must devolve upon the friends of prohibition in the different localities, who are again earnestly urged to take immediate steps to see that there is before the electors in every constituency a candidate who complies with the conditions above set out.

In every constituency where such action has not already been taken, there should be held forthwith a conference of representative prohibition workers to consider and decide upon what ought to be done in regard to the matter mentioned. A "Call" for such conference might be signed by a few representative temperance and Christian workers, taking care to have as far as possible, different churches and temperance societies represented, in persons signing such "Call." Special care should be taken to keep such action entirely free from any political partizanship.

The liquor curse is still rampant in our Dominion, loading us down with an awful weight of disaster, wretchedness and crime, the consequences of which fall heavily on many who are entirely innocent of any complicity with that traffic. We owe it to these to do our utmost in their behalf. There is sentiment enough against this evil. We want such unhesitating, determined and judicious action as the necessities of the case demand. Let there be no time lost in responding to the call.

Organization for the election and preparation for the Convention need not interfere with each other. They may help each other.

In view of the urgency of the present situation, and the opportunity that it offers for materially helping on the prohibition movement, YOU are earnestly and respectfully urged to consult with other friends, and do what you can to secure the working out of the principles which have been laid down.

On behalf of the Alliance Executive Committee.

F. S. SPENCE,

Secretary.

JOHN J. MACLAREN,

Chairman.

### THE FIELD OF FIGHT.

#### WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

Twenty-two newspapers in Kansas are edited by women.

A local option bill is being considered by the New York State Legislature.

A woman suffrage amendment has been submitted by the California legislature.

Submission of a prohibitory amendment will be asked of the Michigan legislature.

The W.C.T.U., of Alabama, is working for the passage of a general prohibition law.

The Local Control Bill has been unanimously endorsed by the Women's Liberal Federation of England.

Within twenty-four hours at Christmas, nearly five hundred arrests for drunkenness were made in Philadelphia.

The Manitoba Prohibitory League has passed a resolution endorsing the action of the Patrons in making prohibition a political plank.

The temperance workers of New York State are making a splendid fight against the proposition to authorize the sale of liquor on Sundays.

A bill is before the Colorado Legislature providing for the submission to the electors of the State of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution.

In all the ninety-five grammar schools of New York City the Anti-Cigarette League has been organized, and now has a membership of 40,000 boys.

In Utah, a movement is on foot to secure a popular vote on the question of prohibition at the same time as the vote is to be taken on the adoption of the State constitution.

The Street Railway Company of Hamilton has issued a regulation prohibiting their employees from entering saloons either when they are on or off duty.

In Carleton County, N.B., the prohibition party men have formed a permanent organization and nominated Mr. J. K. Fleming, of Woodstock, as a candidate for the House of Commons.

The prohibitionists of King's County N.B., and the prohibitionists of York, N.B., have tendered to Dr. Joseph McLeod nominations as candidate for the House of Commons.

The Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance will hold its 16th Annual Provincial Convention at Montreal, Monday, February 26th, beginning at 10 o'clock in the parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association Building.

General Booth, the great Salvation Army leader, received a cordial reception in Toronto. He received addresses from different temperance organizations and spoke on the question of temperance in Massey Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 10th.

W.C.T.U. workers of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, carry on a lunch and oyster room that is very popular and successful, furnishing a much valued place of resort for country people visiting the city.

The prohibitionists have come out victorious in North Dakota in the fight over the re-submission to the people of the prohibition question. The re-submission bill was defeated in the House of Representatives by a vote of 34 to 32.

The British Government have declared their determination to stand unflinchingly by the Liquor Traffic Local Control Bill giving districts the power to say whether or not they shall have the liquor traffic continued.

L'Electeur, a French-Canadian paper, declares that the violation of liquor laws in the Province of Quebec is "simply immense," that thousands of illicit stills are running, and that smuggling is being carried on on a vast scale.

Manitoba Patrons have adopted prohibition as a plank in their political platform. The organization in Quebec has done the same, and it is expected that the grand association for the Province of Ontario will follow suit. This will practically give us a political party pledged to prohibition.

The Inland Revenue Returns for the year ending June 30th, 1894, show that the amount of spirits entered for home consumption in Canada during the year, was 2,749,108 gallons. The quantity of malt liquor manufactured was 18,290,696 gallons. There was an increase in spirits consumed of about 1400 and an increase in malt liquors of about 1,000,000 gallons.

Read carefully the **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** on the third page.

# The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

ADDRESS - - TORONTO, ONT.

Subscription, FIFTEEN CENTS a Year.

NOTE.—It is proposed to make "THE CAMP FIRE" the cheapest temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers. The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words—If shorter, still better.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1895.

## PROHIBITION CLUBS.

Now is the time to organize them. Every locality ought to have a club, or league, or alliance, it matters little what it is called. It ought to be a union of prohibitionists for the purpose of seeing that a prohibition candidate is before the electors and that every candidate who comes out is made to declare himself definitely upon the prohibition question.

The simpler the organization the better. Only let us have the organization. Any one desiring any information or assistance in this work is invited to correspond at once with F. S. Spence, Secretary Dominion Alliance, 51 Confederation Life Building, Toronto. Now is the time for work.

## THE DOMINION ELECTION.

Special attention is called to the manifesto of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, published on the first page of this paper.

We have reason to be thankful that the importance of the prohibition question is to some extent recognized by Canadian politicians and legislators.

Before the last general elections the Dominion Alliance issued an earnest appeal to Canadian prohibitionists to press this great reform upon the attention of prospective candidates. This was done in many constituencies, and no doubt thousands of electors were influenced in marking their ballots by the attitude towards prohibition of the candidates appealing for support. Shortly after the election the Hamilton Templar reviewed the situation in an extensive article giving the names of earnest prohibitionists cordially supported by temperance workers, who were successful in the election, and mentioning many gains for the cause in the new Parliament.

When the question came up for discussion in the House of Commons, it was found that there was a strong feeling of the necessity of action, in view of the sad character and great extent of the liquor evil and the anxiety of the people for remedial legislation. The Royal Commission stratagem, however, side-tracked the great issue for the time being, there not being in Parliament a majority of members true enough to the prohibition cause to demand immediate, definite, effective action regarding it.

We need more strength in Parliament. We need more members alive to the necessities of the situation, earnest in their opposition to the liquor curse, and determined to fearlessly insist upon its prohibition.

The plan of action laid down in the manifesto has been thought out with much care. It has been advocated for years by the Dominion Alliance. It was endorsed unanimously by the great Montreal Convention of last July. It will do greater things than ever before if rightly worked in the approaching election campaign.

Earnestly do we appeal to every friend of right, every lover of humanity every true Canadian patriot to do all possible to secure the success of this important movement.

## LOCAL OPTION.

The British Parliament is in session, and the Government has declared its determination to press forward the Local Option measure for the enactment of which prohibitionists in the old land are so anxious.

The measure is modelled to some extent on the same lines as are the different local option laws in force in the Dominion of Canada, the main differences being that the British Local Option will require a larger majority of the electors than is required here to secure its adoption or repeal, and that the electors are also to have an option of voting on the question of reduction in the number of licenses.

Local prohibition, wherever fairly worked, has been a temperance agency of remarkable value. It has limited the evils of the liquor traffic and has been a strong educator of public sentiment.

It has always, however, been disappointing to certain persons who had formed exaggerated ideas of what it would accomplish. This was notably the case with the Dunkin Act and the Scott Act in the province of Ontario.

The fact of a bare majority being sufficient for repeal, naturally led to the loss of the Act on a second vote in many localities before time had been fairly given for the measure to prove its worth. Had repeal of the Scott Act required a two-thirds majority, the Scott Act would in all probability be still the law of a great part of this province. Where sentiment has been strong enough to sustain the law for a number of years, public opinion stands fairly by it, as is the case in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

One of the disappointments that prohibitionists have had to meet has been the readiness with which our friends become disheartened by temporary defeat. When the Scott Act was repealed in Ontario, thousands of temperance men declared that it was gone forever, and for years we have left idle a weapon with which powerful blows might have been dealt the liquor evil.

We have also been impatient. We wanted broad results. In our anxiety for national prohibition and provincial prohibition we have been impatient of measures that promised less, although they would have been more easily attainable.

There should be no slackening in our zeal, no lowering of our standard, no hesitation in our demand for right laws for Canada and for every province. Our earnest desire that legislators should do their full duty does not however, absolve us from the exercise of all the power that we already have.

The best kind of liquor law for Canada would be a law of total national prohibition. For this we must earnestly pray and work. We will not, however, hinder the result of our work, nor the answer to our prayers, by doing what we can every where, every time, to bind down the liquor evil by the shackles of available legislation, that we may impose upon that traffic if we will.

Our remissness in this matter in this land, has already been forged into a weapon with which the liquor traffic is fighting the advancing prohibition army in the old world. Our temporary abandonment of local option is paraded by British brewers as an evidence of the failure of partial prohibitory law. Anything that weakens the cause in the mother land must react upon that cause in Canada. We are weaker in Canada to-day than we would have been had we done our whole duty in regard to this matter.

Local option is not, however, the immediate issue upon us. The Scott Act is available now. The Ontario Local Option Act is available now, and may be still stronger after the decision of the Privy Council, which is expected in June. But the most pressing duty of the moment is the election of a Parliament that will give us better legislation than any now upon our statute books.

Let us then for the time being, bend every energy to the important work of electing sound prohibitionists to the Dominion Parliament.

When that work is done, we must turn again to the always present duty of using the legislation we have and steadily pressing our legislators for more.

The ruin that intemperance is making in many thousand Canadian homes, the insidious efforts of the liquor traffic to entrench itself more strongly, all the present circumstances and phases of this warfare in which there is "no discharge" emphasizes the necessity for prohibitionists remembering that the fight is always on, and that the time for action is always now.

## ANOTHER CHAMPION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The Marquis of Lorne, Ex-Governor General of Canada, addressed a letter on January 15th to the National Conservative Temperance Union Meeting at Manchester, Eng., in which he condemned prohibition in language that certainly was, strictly speaking, neither temperate nor truthful. Among other things he said:—

"Prohibition has been tried over and over again in the United States and in Canada, and has failed. What reason is there to expect that it would be successful here? It may be imagined that the circumstances are dissimilar. They are not. Among constituencies the counterpart of those here, this thing has been tried, not once, but many times—not in one place, but in many places—and has failed. They who have voted for it have, on experience voted against it. They have done so, not because they have changed their convictions, or have become anti-temperance, but because they have found temperance is not promoted by the plan of prohibition. The people who vote for it here are either ignorant of what can be done, or imagine that in this liberal age a few politicians, well-meaning, perhaps, and not wanting in conceit of themselves, should be given tyrannical and autocratic powers to make men do what pleases those few gentlemen to decree. To make their prohibition effectual they would probably ask powers to employ a large detective service, pry into all men's business, stop suspected traffic in street or roadway, and dance attendance on every man going to his dinner."

To Canadians this outburst of denunciation is remarkable not only on account of its absolute lack of harmony with facts, a lack which needs no demonstration, but because it is so utterly at variance with former statements made by the same noble lord. In a book published by him some time ago, entitled "Canadian Pictures," on page 105, is the following statement:—

"Whiskey is thebane which drives the savage wild, and is the fruitful cause of every crime amongst white men in the American western villages, and the prohibition placed upon its use does much towards preserving order among the young communities on

Canadian soil. You do not hear in villages in our land, as you do hear it said further south, that 'shooting was pretty lively here last night.'"

Sir Wilfred Lawson has publicly stated that some time ago he inquired of Lord Lorne how prohibition had worked in Canada, and the Marquis replied "Why the fact is it makes the whole difference between civilization and barbarism."

The tenacity with which the maritime provinces, that have had some experience of the Canada Temperance Act, adhere to that measure, is in itself a complete refutation of the misrepresentation that those "who have voted for it, have on experience voted against it." The further statement that this change was because the voters "have found temperance is not promoted by the plan of prohibition" is completely met by the overwhelming majorities recorded in favor of the principle of prohibition in all the provinces that have voted, even Ontario in which the Scott Act was repealed, giving a majority in favor of prohibition.

It is practically impossible that Lord Lorne should be in absolute ignorance of the attitude of the Christian sentiment of Canada toward the liquor traffic, or that he should have completely forgotten what he saw while here. The effect in Canada of his tirade will simply be to make him ridiculous. It is possible, however, that he may mislead some of those in the old land who do not know how absurd and foundationless his statements are.

## CHARLOTTETOWN.

The chief city of Prince Edward Island has now had six months experience of the Scott Act after its interregnum of permitted liquor-selling. The Guardian publishes the following interesting table giving the number of convictions for drunkenness during the six months since the Act came into force and the number for the corresponding period of 1893. It is as follows:

	1893.	1894.
August .....	20	6
September.....	43	16
October.....	18	11
November.....	22	10
December.....	11	8
January.....	5	4
Total .....	119	55

An interesting little book, "The Gatling, with Ammunition for the Temperance Warfare," by Rev. D. Rogers, with an introduction by Rev. John Potts, D.D., is what its name suggests, a weapon for warriors in the fight against the liquor evil, embodying a great collection of facts and arguments convenient for reference and use. About fifty different articles, many of them attractively illustrated, are condensed into the space of 142 pages and sold in neat and attractive form, paper binding, for only fifteen cents, English cloth with gilt lettering, thirty-five cents. We have much pleasure in commending it to Camp Fire readers. It may be ordered from the author, Dungannon, Ontario, or from our office.

Here is what Miss Francis E. Willard states as her view of the present social struggle that is going on:—"We believe there is no way out of the labyrinth of misery and sin in which the masses of the people wallow except by opening the sluiceways of the law and pouring in the pure and steady current of Golden Rule legislation until the classes built on artificial distinction shall be blotted out and the masses shall rise to the utmost that their inherent powers of brain and heart and hand can work out under a co-operative rather than a competitive system of industry, finance and law.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

KINDLY READ IT CAREFULLY.

Canadian moral reform workers know and prize THE VANGUARD, a monthly magazine devoted to expert discussion of social problems, specially the liquor problem. It is a pleasure to be able to offer them for a short time at a very low price, the numbers already issued, bound in

TWO VOLUMES,

making the most complete encyclopedia of information relating to the temperance and prohibition question ever published in Canada.

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These books are practically invaluable to moral reform workers. Every article is written by some person specially qualified to deal with the subject he discusses.

Among a great many subjects comprehensively treated, are the following:—The Liquor Traffic (in Different Countries; Legislation Relating to the Liquor Traffic;—The Working of High License;—Prohibition in the Northwest;—Prohibition in Maine;—Prohibition in Kansas;—Prohibition in Pitcairn Island;—The Canada Temperance Act;—Local Option;—The Scott Act and Drunkenness;—The Gothenburg System;—The Question of Jurisdiction;—Constitutional Prohibition in the United States;—The Plebiscite Movement;—The Plebiscite Returns;—The Drink Bill of Canada;—The Drink Bill of Great Britain;—The Drink Bill of the United States;—The Drink Bill of Christendom;—The Indirect Cost of the Liquor Traffic;—Drink and Mortality;—Alcohol in Medicine;—Beer Drinking and its Results;—Drunkenness and Crime in Canada;—Drunkenness and Crime in the United States;—Drunkenness and Crime in Great Britain;—Drunkenness and Crime in other Countries;—The French Treaty;—Beer and light Wines; Adulteration of Liquors;—The Revenue Question;—The Compensation Question;—The Liberty Question;—Bible Wines;—Total Abstinence and Longevity;—The Catholic Church and the Temperance Question;—and others too numerous to mention.

The number of sets available is limited. They cannot be reprinted except at very heavy cost. Those who apply first will be first supplied. Address

F. S. SPENCE,  
51 Confederation Life Building,  
Toronto, Canada.

SELECTIONS.

STORY OF A WICKED LIFE.

BY THE REV. CANON ELLISON, M.A.,  
CHAPLAIN TO THE QUEEN; CHAIRMAN OF C.E.T.S.

[In the year 1877, the body of a young man, about twenty years of age, was found in the Mersey, at Liverpool. He was well-dressed, evidently one of a well-to-do class. There was no clue to his identity, but in his pocket a paper was found with these words written on it:

"Let me rot!—I have good friends, have had good friends, but am now a miserable sinner—not a farthing. Everything has been done to make me a useful citizen of the world, but I have abused everybody's confidence. Let me perish! God be merciful to me a sinner! Nothing will be found on me to show who I am, but I might have been in a very comfortable position all the days of my life, if it were not for drink. This accursed stuff has led me to commit suicide."

The report of the inquest went the round of the press. In less than two months the coroner received more than 200 applications from parents in different parts of the country, asking for particulars—such as height, color of hair, etc.—200, that is, who had sons, lost to them, and to whom the description in the papers might have applied.]

"Let me rot!" 'tis all I'm fit for!  
Not in consecrated grave,  
Where Christian men, whom mourners weep for,

Their resting-place and burial have.  
But down amidst the silent waters,  
Dark and deep as my remorse,  
Away from wandering eyes, forgotten,  
Let me lie a nameless corpse.

"Let me rot!" 'Twas not so always!  
I was once a happy boy,  
Strong, courageous, hopeful, truthful,  
A father's pride, a mother's joy;  
And I had visions, like my playmates,  
Of a future yet to come,  
When I perchance should gather round me  
The blessings of a Christian home.

And I had friends:—one friend who gave me  
The love of her young trusting heart;  
Friends to help, and friends to save me,  
If I, poor fool! had done my part.  
Where are they now? All, all have left me,  
As, yielding to the cursed drink,  
Step by step it has bereft me  
Of prospects, reason, power to think.

"Let me perish! none will miss me,  
None will seek to know my end;  
No mother's lips would care to kiss me,  
No weeping eyes would o'er me bend,  
"Let me perish!" Friends are round me,  
Mocking, beckoning, urging on.  
They have tempted, fast have bound me,  
Now they claim me for their own.

"Let me rot!" but O, my brothers,  
You who hold your lives in hand,  
By your love for fathers, mothers,  
By your love for fatherland;  
By the Name of Him who bought you,  
And who now your service claims;  
By the holy book that taught you  
Not to live for selfish aims;

Up and drive the drink fiend from you,  
Dash his poison from your lip;  
Ye are freemen—free your country  
From his desolating grip.  
"Let me perish!"—but let others,  
Musing on this shipwrecked life,  
Take arms, and look for no discharges  
In their righteous, life-long strife.  
—C.E.T.S. Chronicle.

"YOU CAN'T COME IN, SIR."

If you would not be a drunkard  
You must not drink a drop;  
For if you never should begin  
You'll never have to stop.

The taste of drink, good people say,  
Is hard in driving out;  
Then, friends, in letting in that taste,  
Why! what are you about?

Out of your house to keep a thief,  
You shut your door and lock it,  
And hang the key upon a nail  
Or put it in your pocket.

So, lest King Rum within you should  
His horrid rule begin, sir,  
Just shut your lips and lock them tight,  
And say "You can't come in, sir."  
—Dominion Churchman.

TWO SCENES.

Beautiful night, the moon's clear light  
Streams in thro' casement fair;  
Wines ruddy glow and plenteous flow.  
In cut glass, rich and rare.  
A happy throng, glad bursts of song;  
Perfume of flowers sweet;  
A blushing bride, and at her side  
The tread of manly feet.

A still, cold night, the moon's pale light  
Shines down on ice and snow;  
Through trees so bare the frosty air  
Makes moaning sad and low.  
Requiem sung, in unknown tongue,  
O'er form so stiff and cold;  
An open grave its welcome gave  
A bed of frozen mold.  
An empty jug, a battered mug,  
Fetid lying side by side;  
They tell the tale of lips so pale,  
Tell how and why he died.  
—Marion A. Murphy, in the Advance

SIGNING THE FARM AWAY.

Fine old farm, for a hundred years  
Kept in the family name;  
Cornfields rich with golden ears  
Oft as the harvest came;  
Crowded barn and crowded bin,  
And still the loads came coming in  
Rolling in for a hundred years;  
And the fourth in the family line  
appears.  
Orchard covered the slopes of the hill;  
Cider—forty barrels they say  
Sure in season to come from the mill,  
To be tasted around Thanksgiving  
day;  
And they drank as they worked, and  
they drank as they ate,  
Winter and summer, early and late,  
Counting it as a great mishap  
To be found "without a barrel to tap."

But while the seasons crept along,  
And habits into passions grew,  
Their appetites became as strong  
As ever drunkard knew.  
And they labored less, and they  
squandered more,  
Chiefly for rum at a village store,  
Till called by the sheriff, one bitter  
day,  
To sign the homestead farm away.

Oh, many a scene have I met in life,  
—And many a call to pray;  
But the saddest of all was the drunkard's wife,  
Signing the farm away;

Home, once richest in the town,  
Home in that fatal cup poured down,  
Worse than fire or flood's dismay—  
Drunkard signing the farm away!  
—Rev. W. R. Cochrane, in Congregationalist.

THE DRUNKARD'S WIFE.

In a hospital ward a woman lay,  
Painfully gasping her life away.  
So bruised and beaten you scarce could trace,  
Womanhood's semblance in form or face,  
Yet the hair that covered the pillow,  
rolled  
In a tangled mass, was like threads of gold.  
And never sculptor in any land  
Moulded a daintier foot or hand.  
Said one who had ministered to her need:  
"None but a coward could do this deed;  
And what bitter hate must have nerved the arm  
That helpless creature like this could harm."  
Then the dim eyes, hazy with death's eclipse,  
Slowly unlocked, and the swollen lips  
Murmured faintly, "He loved me well—  
My husband—'twas drink—be sure you tell  
When he comes to himself, that I forgive,  
Poor fellow—for him I would like to live.  
A shadow, a moan, as the words were said,  
And the drunkard's wife on the couch lay dead.  
Oh, fathers, who hold your daughters dear,  
Somebody's daughter is lying here,  
Oh, brothers of sisters! come and see  
What the fate of your precious ones may be;  
Oh, men, however you love your home,  
Be it palace or cottage, 'neath heaven's blue dome,  
This demon of drink can enter in,  
For law strikes hands and bargains with sin."  
—Selected.

THE CAMP FIRE.

BY MRS. J. B. SHINGLEY, DORSET.  
Brightly gleams the Camp Fire's light,  
Like a beacon in the night,  
Sending forth its rays afar,  
Pure and bright as evening star;  
Guiding many a wanderer back  
From the perils of the track  
Leading to the rocks, that lie  
Hidden from the unwary eye;  
'E'en the treacherous rock of drink,  
Where so many strand and sink,  
Burying hope, and love and truth—  
Brightest promises of youth.  
Manhood too in all its pride,  
Sinks beneath the fatal tide.

Brightly may the CAMP FIRE burn;  
Fearing not the wrong to spurn;  
Fearing not to shed its light,  
Ever in the cause of right,  
May its rays reach far and wide,  
Spreading truth on every side,  
Till dark error, like the night,  
Flees before the morning light.

ONLY A SONG.

(Apropos Music in our Meetings.)

It was only a simple ballad  
Sung to the careless throng;  
There were none who knew the singer,  
And few that heeded the song;  
Yet the singer's voice was tender  
And sweet as with love untold:  
Surely those hearts were hardened  
That it left so proud and cold.

She sang of the wondrous glory  
That touches the woods in spring,  
Of the strange, soul-stirring voices  
When "the hills break forth and sing."  
Of the happy birds low warbling  
The requiem of the day,  
And the quiet hush of the valleys  
In the dusk of the gloaming grey.

And one in a distant corner—  
A woman worn with strife—  
Heard in that song a message  
From the spring-time of her life.  
Fair forms rose up before her  
From the midst of vanished years;  
She sat in a happy blindness,  
Her eyes were veiled in tears.

Then, when the song was ended,  
And hushed the last sweet tone,  
The listener rose up softly  
And went on her way alone.  
Once more to her life of labor  
She passed; but her heart was strong,  
And she prayed, "God bless the singer,  
And, oh! thank God for the song."  
—British Good Templar.

THE BLACK KNIGHT.



REV. J. H. HECTOR,

is open for engagements in Canada.  
SOME SPECIMEN EXTRACTS  
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"The most original and acceptable colored temperance speaker of the day."—New York Herald.  
"His remarks were gems of wit, humor, logic and eloquence."—Troy Daily Times.  
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## A NEW PLAN

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### A CATHOLIC VIEW.

At the Catholic temperance congress held in Chicago recently, Father Maddock of Winona said that of the effectiveness of prohibition in suppressing intemperance there could be no honest difference of opinion. "Where no liquor is to be had," he said, "men will not drink. The reformed drunkard is always in danger of returning to his cups while the saloon stands invitingly open on every corner. But close those saloons, and he cannot fall. It is the duty of every good Catholic to work with might and main for the enactment of prohibitory laws. But he should not cease his effort there. The only benefit of this legislation comes from its enforcement, and officers sworn to execute the law should be compelled to do their duty."—*The Constitution*.

"The saloon is sometimes called 'the poor man's club.' It is, literally. It 'clubs' him into the gutter and jail. But it don't stop there. It is laid on the backs of his helpless family without mercy. On their shoulders rests the curse of the saloon. Are you voting for it?"—*Morris County Journal*.

**Read carefully the IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT on the third page.**

## DEMOREST MEDAL CONTEST BUREAU.

### 'FROM CONTEST TO CONQUEST'

Education of Youth in the Principles of Temperance and Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic.

By Means of a Series of Elocutionary Contests in which Silver, Gold and Diamond Medals of Honor will be Awarded the Successful Competitors.

Mr. W. Jennings Demorest of New York has devised a plan for promoting the development of public sentiment on prohibition lines that has probably never been equalled for either ingenuity or liberality.

Recognizing the intense interest always taken by the public in everything of the nature of a contest or competition, he has developed a scheme for utilizing this tendency to secure the presentation and consideration of sound argument on the prohibition question. He has published a series of capital books of selections entitled "From Contest to Conquest." He has had prepared a number of magnificent Silver, Gold and Diamond Medals. These Medals he generously donates to young people who make the best elocutionary presentation of selections from his books on the following plan:

A public meeting to be arranged, for which the recitations will form the programme, which may be interspersed with music.

Three disinterested persons of intelligence are to be chosen to act as judges, for whom suitable blanks will be furnished. Judges are advised to avoid a tie, as but one Medal can be presented at a contest.

A competition class shall consist of not less than six nor more than ten persons.

When not more than six young persons of either sex, between the ages of twelve and twenty-five, shall recite before an audience selections taken from either of the volumes "From Contest to Conquest," the one adjudged to have made the best recitation will be awarded a Silver Medal in satin-lined case.

When not less than six of the Silver Medals are secured by as many contestants, the winners will be entitled to compete for a Gold Medal.

When eight or more have won Gold Medals they can compete for a Grand Gold Medal.

When eight or more have won Grand Gold Medals, the holders may compete for a handsome Gold Medal studded with diamonds.

On these terms the Medals will be presented by W. Jennings Demorest, free of expense.

The headquarters of the Demorest movement are at No. 10 East 14th St., New York City. F. S. Spence of Toronto is, however, the Canadian Superintendent, and will cheerfully and promptly supply information to all who desire to take hold of this work, and will forward the medals when the conditions have been complied with. He should be written to for full details.

A very small fee will be charged for each medal to cover necessary cost of postage, etc.

### ONLY A BABY.

One sultry day last summer, at a time when children of the poorer class in Philadelphia were dying by the score every week, a bloated old man staggered up the steps of a physician's dwelling.

The boys shouted after him, "Old Bourbon," the name by which he had been known in the locality in which he had lived for many years.

"The baby's worse," he said standing, hat in hand, when he met the doctor coming out.

"You've been here for me every day for a week," exclaimed the doctor. "I cannot go again to-day. I told the child's mother there was no chance, this morning; it was dying then."

"Won't you come now?"

"No; I have not a minute to spare. There are patients waiting whom I can help."

"Old Bourbon" followed him to his carriage door, twisting his rag of a hat in his shaking hands. "She's—she's all I've got, doctor."

But the doctor, with a pitying nod, drove away, and the old man, nearly sobered by his keen distress, crept to the attic where his little grandchild lay dying. Whatever nursing or kindness little Mary had known had come from "Old Bourbon." Her mother had six other children, and went out washing every day. The poor old drunkard

and the innocent baby were left to form a strange friendship for each other. She called for him now feebly, as she lay on her mother's lap.

"Daddy! daddy! come to me!" He knelt down, and put his fingers into the tiny, withered hand. The tears ran down his bloated cheeks.

"God leave her to me!" he muttered. "Daddy, come to Mary!" she cried once more, and then the little soul whose taste of life had been so bitter, passed into the unseen.

It was only a baby. Its mother, who had six other half-starved children to feed, shed but few tears over it.

The doctor sent in a certificate of its death with a dozen others. In the weekly bill of mortality, there was an item, "Of cholera infantum, seventy." That was all. Her record was ended. The world had done with her. But an old, trembling man crept next Sunday into the back pew of the little mission church, not far from the attic in which he lived. He stopped the clergyman when the service was over.

"Why, is this you, Bour—I beg your pardon. What is your real name?"

"John Black, sir. I want you to take my name again. I'm thinkin' of signin' the pledge, 'n pulling up for the rest of the time left," stammered the poor wretch.

The clergyman was wise and helpful. John did "pull up." He lived but a few months after that, but he did what he could to live a decent, honest, Christian life in that time.

"The Lord is merciful, John," his friend said to him, as he lay dying.

"I know it, sir. I'm not much acquainted with Him, but I've been tryin' to follow little Mary. I hear her always cryin', 'Daddy, daddy, come to me! I'm comin', and I reckon He'll not turn me back.'"

Even the baby had its work to do, and had done it.—*Exchange*.

### WHOM IT BENEFITS.

Prohibition benefits the butcher, because he will sell more steaks and fewer five cent soup bones.

The baker, because his bread will go into homes where the black bottle and growler held sway.

The clothier, because the overworn garments will be cast aside and not be made over a dozen times.

The shoemaker, because many who now go barefooted, even in bad weather, will become wearers of shoes.

The publisher, because men and women, having more desire for advancement, will naturally take to reading; the old, greasy, fifty times-read newspaper of the grog shop having lost its powers, the whole family will read.

The landlords, because they can then collect their rents and get better prices.

The farmers, because more will be consumed of better quality and at better prices.

The preachers, because more men would join the church and improve their opportunity to do good.

The buggy maker, because more men could afford to ride.

The iron merchant, because the increased use for useful material would demand his services.

Merchants, mechanics and manufacturers of all kinds, because the one billion five hundred million dollars now spent for liquor in this country would go into legitimate circulation for healthful and useful pursuits.

The foregoing are some of the financial reasons why all classes will be benefited by the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. The moral reasons are too numerous to mention and the political reasons are myriad.—*Southern Journal*.

### ROTTED OFF BY BEER.

This is a fact that the total abstainer may show to the beer-drinker when ever occasion offers. The attention of the New York hospital surgeons has been called to the big number of bartenders that have lost several fingers from both hands within the past few years. The first case was that of an employee of the Bowery concert hall. Three of the fingers of his right hand and two of his left were rotted away when he called at Bellevue one day, and begged the doctors to explain the reason. He said that his business was to draw beer for the thousands who visited the garden nightly. The man was in perfect health otherwise, and it took two young doctors quite a time to arrive at any conclusion. But they did finally, and it nearly took the beer man's breath away when they did.

"Your fingers have been rotted off," they said, "by the beer which you have handled."

Other cases of a similar nature came rapidly after this one, and to-day the physicians estimate there is an army of employees of saloons whose fingers are being ruined by the same cause. The acid and rosin in the beer are said to be responsible.

The head bartender of a well-known down town saloon says he knows a number of cases where beer drawers have, in addition to losing several of the fingers of both hands, lost the use of both members. "Beer will rot iron, I believe," he added, "I know, and every bartender knows, that it is impossible to keep a good pair of shoes behind the bar. Beer will rot leather as rapidly almost as acid will eat into iron. If I were a temperance orator, I'd ask what must beer do to men's stomachs if it eats away men's fingers and their shoe leather. I'm here to sell it, but I won't drink it, not much."—*Selected*.

### DOWN WITH THE SALOON.

Down with the saloon! Let that be the slogan and every voice a trumpet to proclaim it.

Down with the saloon! It is God's relentless enemy, the nation's and yours.

Down with the saloon! It has no respect for home, the church, the Sabbath. It curses the one, blasphemes the other and tramples upon the third.

Down with the saloon! It breeds violence and ruin. Twenty anarchists were dragged from an apartment of a Chicago doggerly the other day. It was a fitting place for them. The two bad things mix.

Down with the saloon! It is pledged by the most infamous means to perpetuate its diabolical ruin. It fattens upon the corruption it breeds, and, like the wrecker, is enriched by the ruin it works.

Down with the saloon! It multiplies madhouses and prisons and crowds their cells with brutalized, raving, cursing human wrecks.

Down with the saloon! It controls our politics, corrupts our legislators, intimidates our judiciary and insults every sense of decency with insolent contempt.

Down with the saloon! Its ranks are filled with troops of murderers, thieves, perjurers, tramps, libertines and harlots, who scoff at the restraints of society and thirst for blood.

Down with the saloon! It robs thousands of homes of their most promising boys, and, all besotted, and ruined, hurls them into drunkards' graves.

Down with the saloon! Talk against it. Work against it. Fight against it. Pray against it. Vote against it.—*Official Organ of Epworth Leagues*.

### A CURSE.

Before God and man, before the church and the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it as the cause of almost all the poverty, and almost all the crime, and almost all the ignorance, and almost all the irreligion that disgrace and afflict the land. I do in my conscience believe that these intoxicating-stimulants have sunk into perdition more men and women than found a grave in the deluge which swept over the highest hilltops engulfing the world, of which but eight were saved. As compared with other vices, it may be said of this "Saul has slain his thousands, but this David has tens of thousands."—*Dr. Chalmers*.

### TORONTO.

DISTRICT LODGE.  
SUBORDINATE LODGES.

Pride of the West Lodge, No. 130, meets at W.C.T.U. Hall, 171 Bathurst Street, every Monday.

Prospect Lodge, No. 352, meets every Wednesday at Bracondale.

The Toronto Lodge, No. 827, meets at Temperance Hall every Wednesday.

John B. Finch, No. 326, meets at W.C.T.U. Hall, 171 Bathurst Street, every Thursday.

Dominion Lodge, No. 498, meets at Woolley Hall, Yonge, corner Gerrard, every Thursday.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 680, meets at Jackson's Hall, corner Yonge and Bloor Streets, every Thursday.