

THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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25 CENTS PER YEAR.

BOTH SIDES.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FOES ARE DOING.

NOTES OF NEWS FROM THE FIGHTING LINE.

What it Costs.

Dr. Dawson Burns has prepared his usual annual statement of the liquor bills of England, Ireland and Scotland. He estimates that the total outlay upon drink is 162,163,474 pounds sterling, being an increase of 7,682,540 pounds over the drink bill of 1898.

One of Many.

A melancholy case was reported to the police in Toronto on Sunday, April 5th. Mrs. Kate Ruby, a woman of about forty-five years of age, of very dissolute habits, was found dead in her home on Pearl St. beside a jug half full of intoxicating liquor. It was believed that she died of alcohol poisoning.

A Very Good Work.

The report of the British Army Temperance Association for 1898 shows that during that year, the Association in India has 18,663 members, all of whom were soldiers. The total number of soldiers outside the Association was 48,842. The punishment for insubordination among the members of the Association were 741 and among the non-members 4,509.

A Wise Ruler.

The Emperor Menelek, of Abyssinia, has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of distilled spirits into his country from Europe. This is in striking contrast with the action of the European rulers of African territory which derive large revenues from duties on intoxicating liquors, which liquors are working fearful ruin among the native population.

A Failure.

The *New Voice* calls attention to the utter failure of the famous Raines High License Law of New York State. Special attention is given to the city of Syracuse in which representatives of *The Voice* visited sixteen saloons on Sunday and found all open and selling liquor freely. Two of them belonged to city Aldermen. In a number of the saloons illegal gambling machines were in full operation.

Prince Edward Island.

The Charlottetown, P.E.I., *Guardian* which for some time has been advocating the enactment of a prohibitory law for the Province of Prince Edward Island, says in a recent issue: "It is now the boast of the Manitoba prohibitionists that their Province will carry the banner and lead the procession for Provincial Prohibition. We shall always feel that Prince Edward Island ought to have taken and held that place, but failing that we shall still hope that the lesson of events in Manitoba will not be lost upon our public men here, and that if not first in the race the Island may still be a very close second."

Prohibition Works.

The city of Salem, Mass., publishes a report of the arrests for drunkenness made in the year 1899, during which time prohibition was in operation. The number is 270. In 1898 under license, the number of arrests for drunkenness was 1,147.

A statement is also made regarding the city of Waltham which is also under prohibition. The total arrests for drunkenness under prohibition in 1898-9 was 443. The total number of arrests under license for 1895-6 was 1,629.

Getting Worse.

The Leeds *Mercury* recently discussed the great increase of the drink habit on the European continent, mentioning the case of a German youth who won a wager by drinking seventy five large glasses of beer at a sitting. It also states that the French are now regarded as being more addicted to alcohol than either German, Dutch or English. Out of 1,000 patients examined in a Paris hospital, seventy per cent of the men and thirty-one per cent of the women were practically hopeless victims of inebriety.

Per Capita Consumption.

A British parliamentary paper compiled by Sir Courtney Boyle shows the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, United States and British Colonies from 1885 to 1898. Canada stands at the head of the list in point of sobriety. Leaving out fermented liquors and taking spirits alone, it is found that France and Germany consume nearly two gallons per head of the population, the United Kingdom and the United States about one gallon per head, and Canada less than seven-tenths of a gallon.

The Gothenburg System.

Among the startling statements reported by Mr. W. E. Johnson as the result of his recent investigation of the Company System in Sweden and Norway, are the following: Since the establishment of the Companies, the number of paupers per 1,000 of the population has increased fifty per cent. The number of convictions for drunkenness has nearly doubled, the cases of delirium tremens have more than trebled. Mr. Johnson gives the number of arrests for drinking in the city of Gothenburg for 1898 as 6,883, the population was 129,151.

Rowdyism Rampant.

The Town Council of Summerside, P.E.I., has lately taken vigorous measures to secure the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act to the satisfaction of order loving citizens. The would-be liquor sellers have resented this action by smashing valuable windows in a place of business occupied by some of the most active friends of the temperance cause. It is to be hoped that the Council which refused to permit lawbreaking in liquor selling will be able to detect and punish the scoundrels who resort to such treacherous and revengeful methods of showing their disappointment.

Liquor Men Win.

A vigorous fight has just been concluded in the riding of East Simcoe between the friends of the temperance cause and the Board of License Commissioners. The question at issue was the granting of a second license to take effect in village of Hillsdale with a population of 400. A strong deputation of prominent residents of the neighborhood urged the Commissioners to refrain from unnecessarily increasing the number of places permitted to sell liquor, but their efforts were unavailing. At a time when licenses are being diminished in obedience to public opinion, it is regrettable to find Commissioners who will use their position to secure an extension of the liquor business.

A Good Convention.

The Prince Edward Island Branch of the Dominion Alliance held its annual meeting at Charlottetown on April 12th, presided over by Mr. J. K. Ross. Encouraging reports were presented relating to the enforcement of the Scott Act in different parts of the Province. Strongly worded resolutions were adopted declaring in favor of total national prohibition as the most effectual

remedy for the drink evil, disapproving of all legal protection for the traffic, calling upon Parliament to enact prohibition for the provinces that voted in favor of it, demanding repeal of the law licensing liquor selling in Charlottetown, and urging the enactment of provincial prohibition. John Anderson, of Kensington was elected President, A. W. Tanton, of Charlottetown, Secretary, and A. W. Sterns, Treasurer.

PROHIBITION IN PARLIAMENT.

On Monday, April 23rd the long expected prohibition debate was opened in the Dominion Parliament by Mr. F. B. Flint, who moved the resolution of which he had given notice. Mr. Flint stated that the motion was made at the request of the Dominion Alliance, and made a strong argument in favor of the reasonable proposal that prohibition should be enacted for those provinces which had given very large majorities in its favor.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. A. C. Bell of Prince Edward Island who endorsed the proposal as a reasonable compromise. He warned the Government not to ignore the situation, as he felt confident the electorate would hold their representatives to account for any failure to carry out the implied promise which had been given. He believed that inaction would result in turning many supporters of the Government into opponents.

Mr. F. McClure moved an amendment declaring that Parliament was prepared to promote legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverage purposes. He favored prohibition for the whole Dominion as against Mr. Flint's plan for the places which had voted in favor of it. He charged the Government with having failed to do its duty, but considered that the opposition had been equally guilty. He did not think the Dominion Alliance represented public opinion in the line it advocated, and was certain that the people of the Maritime Provinces would not support Mr. Flint's proposal.

Dr. T. Christie stated that in his opinion it was imperative, that some policy should be formulated to carry out the will of the people as expressed at the polls by a large majority in favor of prohibition in every province but one. He believed that prohibition would prove itself so successful that Quebec would see the advantage of that policy and fall into line, thus securing prohibition throughout the whole Dominion.

Mr. T. D. Craig believed that the plan of Mr. Flint's resolution would make matters worse that they are at present, and that legislation such as was proposed could never be enforced. He said that the proposal was a plan to get the government out of a hole. He made a long argument to prove that the resolution was a political movement in the interests of the Liberal party.

Mr. R. Holmes declared himself in favor of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Dr. P. McDonald supported the Flint resolution. He did not think that the time had come for the enactment of total prohibition, but believed the traffic ought to be prohibited where the people so desired.

Mr. George Taylor read a resolution passed by a temperance society in his constituency criticising the Government's policy. He stated that the Dominion Alliance was run in the Government interest.

Mr. G. W. Ganong followed up Mr. Taylor's line of argument stating that Mr. Flint was acting as an apologist for the Government and that the resolution was a farce.

Mr. C. H. Parmelee argued that temperance legislation had gone in Canada, fully as fast as public opinion. He stated that the vote in Quebec had been honest and above board, and was more nearly

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perance cause, with no trouble to yourself

an expression of the real public opinion
than was the result in any other province.
He went into the question of percentages
of votes polled to show that there was
not a strong enough public opinion in
favor of prohibition to secure the enforce-
ment of a thorough going law. In con-
clusion he moved an amendment
stating that for the reasons which he
had set out, a prohibitory law should not
be enacted at present.

Mr. A. H. Moore made a strong attack
upon the Government, which he said
had deceived its own followers, and
declared his intention of voting, if at all,
in favor of Mr. McClure's amendment.

Mr. James McMullen declared his
adherence to the Flint resolution which
he believed was reasonable and right.

Mr. F. Oliver also favored the Flint
resolution and stated that he believed
that the question of prohibition was one
that could be much more effectively
dealt with on provincial lines.

Mr. John Charlton believed in pro-
hibition, but did not consider that the
majority in the plebiscite was large
enough to warrant legislation. He feared
that a law enacted now would be a dead
letter and bring disaster to the temper-
ance cause.

Dr. J. G. Rutherford declared himself
a practical prohibitionist. He favored
the policy of giving the provinces the
legislation which the electors had voted
for, and stated that he would support
the Flint resolution.

Mr. George Casey believed that the
Government was justified in refusing to
introduce a prohibitory law in view of
the small vote polled in the plebiscite.
He declared himself a supporter of Mr.
Parmelee's amendment.

Mr. D. Henderson represented a
county (Halton) which was sound on the
prohibition question. He had personally
been a supporter of prohibition and was
prepared to vote for a prohibitory law.

Mr. J. Godbout moved the adjourn-
ment of the debate. Mr. Flint objected
to this course as likely to shelve the
matter. Mr. Foster urged the Govern-
ment to promise that an opportunity
would be afforded for a thorough dis-
cussion of the questions and a division
upon them. In reply, the Premier
promised to favorably consider the
advisability of having the question
definitely dealt with during the present
session of Parliament.

The Camp Fire.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

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NOTE.—It is proposed to make this 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, MAY, 1900

PROHIBITION.

The debate in the House of Commons on April 23rd, on the question of prohibition, was very interesting and instructive. Seventeen members took part, not one of them ventured to directly advocate a continuance of the liquor traffic, and only three failed to declare themselves prohibitionists.

The Alliance resolution which was presented to the House by Mr. T. B. Flint, declared "that Parliament should without delay enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favor of such prohibition." Mr. McClure's amendment declared in favor of total prohibition and Mr. Parmelee's amendment declared that a prohibitory law should not be enacted at present.

Seven of the speakers supported the original resolution, five were in favor of Mr. McClure's amendment, three supported Mr. Parmelee, and two contented themselves with criticizing the Government without advocating any of the proposals.

A good deal of partisan feeling showed itself during the debate. Thirteen of the speakers were Liberals and many of them evinced a strong desire to deny the action or rather inaction of the Government regarding the question. The Conservative speakers criticized the Government very strongly, and most of them objected to Mr. Flint's resolution as being one which would, if carried, in some way assist the Government.

It is no doubt right to assume that if the Liberal party adopted the line of action proposed in Mr. Flint's resolution, and enacted legislation along that line, the result would be to strengthen the party with the temperance electorate, while not alienating the Government supporters in the Province of Quebec who voted so strongly against prohibition. On the other hand the adoption of Mr. McClure's amendment would bring down upon the Government the indignation of the French population who would resent the enforcement of a prohibitory law, and probably ensure the defeat of the party that promoted it.

It is not therefore strange that Conservatives who are strongly partisan would favor the McClure amendment as against the original resolution. Those of them who represent constituencies that are strongly prohibitionist could thus vote for prohibition while at the same time helping to weaken their political opponents.

Some Liberal members believe that any prohibitory legislation promoted by the present Government would be a

weakness to their party. They fear the anger of the liquor men which would follow prohibitory legislation, more than they fear the dis-satisfaction of the prohibitionists which would follow inaction. They therefore desire to see the Parmelee amendment prevail. Many prohibitionist Liberals who represent constituencies that went strongly for prohibition, are naturally anxious to vote in harmony with the wishes of their constituents, and it may be that some of them believe they can do this with least injury to their party by accepting the plan set out in Mr. Flint's resolution. In view of this complicated situation it is not strange that party feeling should crop out strongly in the discussion, and it is unfortunate that in some cases party feeling should prevent a fair consideration of the merits of the important question at issue.

Whatever may be said as to the motives actuating Members of Parliament, and whatever may be said as to motives actuating any prohibition advocate, it is right to say that the Alliance Convention held in Toronto last July, made up of experienced and earnest workers, practically representing every part of the Dominion and every section of the community, ought to be a safe guide as to the line of action most likely to be beneficial to the temperance cause. That convention was in no sense partisan. It contained many ardent Conservatives as well as many strong Liberals, who were all guided by a desire to adopt the policy most likely to be useful to the cause, regardless of its effect upon political parties. The Convention was unanimous in formulating the policy set out in Mr. Flint's resolution, and it was introduced by Mr. Flint at the request of the prohibition party.

We are fully convinced that some of the men opposed to this resolution are honestly and conscientiously convinced that they are right and that the policy they advocate is most useful and hopeful. Their motives must be honored and their arguments respected. It may be that the carrying out of the Alliance plan might save the Liberal party from bitter opposition that it would otherwise meet in the next general election. We submit however, that while the peculiar situation may make the defeat of the Flint resolution a help to the Conservative party when the next appeal to the people is made, its adoption will be of immense advantage to the temperance cause and will be a parliamentary embodiment of a policy which has the endorsement of thoughtful, progressive prohibitionists who put principle before party, and who would sacrifice any mere partisan prejudice for the advancement of the cause which they have so much at heart.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

The annual session of the Ontario Legislative Assembly is over. Both Bills introduced regarding the liquor traffic were withdrawn. The Government has promised that at next session the License Law of the Province will be revised and consolidated. The only actual result of the session as far as the liquor traffic is concerned, is the enactment of a provision that hereafter license fees may be paid in half-yearly instalments instead of being paid in full at the beginning of the license year. The liquor men have got a very little. The temperance people have got nothing at all.

In view of the situation in Ontario, in view of the tremendous prohibition vote polled in two plebiscites, in view of the known strength of public opinion and known dis-satisfaction with the present

inconsistent, imperfect and in many respects unworkable License Law, in view of the fact that the head of the Government is a known and avowed prohibitionist, it was reasonable to expect that something more would have been done.

Consolidation and revision are however, promised. Consolidation is badly needed. Revision is needed much more. The door of legislation being thus opened, it behooves temperance people to see that important changes are made before the door is again closed. The revision must be even more than the consolidation. In different respects Ontario, with its strong temperance sentiment is behind other provinces in the embodiment of that sentiment in law. Temperance people must prepare to demand, and the Ontario Government must prepare to grant at next session of the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive measure of license law reform.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION.

The speech from the throne at the opening of the present session of the Manitoba Legislature, announced definitely that a prohibitory bill would be among the Government measures to be laid before the House. No details have yet been given, and prohibitionists throughout the Dominion are anxiously waiting to see the result of this new action.

If Manitoba passes a thorough-going provincial prohibitory law and the courts sustain this legislation, other provinces will follow suit. The prohibitionists of Prince Edward Island are already strongly advocating a similar line of action.

The Conservative party in Manitoba has made itself strong by its sound and aggressive policy thus far. If the Conservative party in Dominion politics, were equally aggressive and wise it would rally such a support of the very best elements of the Canadian electorate as would be certain to produce startling results at the next general election.

PICNICS.

The summer time is coming on. Indoor meetings will soon be wearisome and poorly attended. Any falling off in interest in our work may however, be averted, if friends will wisely take advantage of the opportunities that will come for work in the open air. Every Union, every Lodge, every Division, every Council, every temperance organization should plan for a camp meeting or picnic, in as large a way as possible. People can readily be gathered in a cool grove to listen in comfort to short, sound, pithy speeches that may have a wonderfully educative effect. Music and games may make these gatherings attractive, and wise management may make them productive of important results. Earnestly we urge upon all our friends to get ready for a vigorous outdoor campaign.

A SENSIBLE YOUNG WOMAN.

A young couple at Philadelphia were preparing for marriage—the day was fixed and invitations sent out. Just a week before the time, the lady smelled whisky on her lover's breath. She at once declared the engagement off and nothing could induce her to change her mind. He brought suit for breach of promise. The judge instructed the jury that "It is a woman's privilege to annul her promise of marriage if she believes, in good faith, that good reasons for so doing have arisen since she entered into the contract." The jury considered whisky drinking a good reason for breaking the contract and found for defendant. Wisely the brave young woman said: "I'd rather have to work all my life and die an old maid than marry a man who drinks whisky.—N. T. Advocate.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes**.

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year**.

While a necessity to every prohibition worker the **The Camp Fire** will also be of special value for distribution. Literature won the plebiscite victory. We must keep up the educating work. Printed matter tells. It does its work continuously, silently, fearlessly and No form of literature is so generally read and so potential as the up-to-date periodical. It comes with the force and interest of newness and life. For this reason the form of a monthly journal has been selected.

This journal will be in every respect reliable and readable. Every article will be short, good and forcible, containing nothing sectional, sectarian or partisan. The literature of the old world and the new world will be ransacked for the most helpful and effective material. The price is very low.

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Selections.

PROGRESS.

Slowly the times do change. The age-old customs slow
Departing from the world do leave
The kindlier thoughts and actions. The old rule,
"Thyself the foremost and thy neighbor last,"
Has met the law of love, "Thy neighbor as thyself,"
And fallen. Here and there to-day
This law takes form and substance in such acts
As set the seal of kinship among men,
And link the human with the heart Divine.
'Tis true the world grows old, yet here and there
Comes new blood thrilling all its shrunken veins,
And new hopes surging in its aged heart,
And new strength lifting up its palsied arm
To strike straight home for manhood. Here and there,
The Christ incarnate stands, and kinder life,
And gentler creed, and sympathy unclanned attest
The slow progress of the ages gone,
The certain progress of the years to be.
—H. J. Hughes, in *The New Voice*.

A TUMBLER OF CLARET.

I poured out a tumbler of claret,
Of course with intention to drink,
And holding it up in the sunlight
I paused for a moment to think;
I really can't tell you what made me—
I never had done so before,
Though for years every day at my dinner,
I had emptied one tumbler or more
"A friend" in the loneliest hours.

"A companion" I called the red wine,
And called it a "nectar divine,"
And sometimes I poetized alighty,
But to day as I gazed on the claret,
That sparkled and glowed in the sun,
I asked it, "What have you done for me
That any true friend would have done?"

"You have given me some pleasant feelings,
But they always were followed by pain;
You have given me ten thousand headaches,
And are ready to do it again;
You set my blood leaping and bounding,
Which, though pleasant was hurtful no doubt,
And if I keep up the acquaintance,
I am sure you will give me the gout.

"I remember a certain occasion
When you caused me to act like a fool;
And, yes, I remember another,
When you made me fall into a pool.
And where is Tom Smither—you killed him!
Will Howard you made a poor knave;
Both my friends, and I might count a dozen,
You have sent to prison or grave.

"Is this a loyal friend's treatment?
And are you deserving the name?
Say! What do you give those who love you
But poverty, sorrow and shame?
A few paltry moments of pleasure,
An age of trouble and grief;
No wonder you blush in the sunlight,
You robber, you liar, you thief!

"I'll have nothing more to do with you
From this moment, this hour, this day;
To send you adrift, bag and baggage,
I know is the only safe way."
And I poured out that tumbler of claret,
Poured it out, and not down, on the spot,
And all this, you see, was accomplished,
By just a few moments of thought.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

"MR. OLDWAY HAS SIGNED THE PLEDGE!"

This was whispered from one to another all round the Temperance Hall, during a meeting held there on New Year's Eve, as a venerable-looking gentleman rose from the table where the pledges were being taken, having subscribed his name in the book and taken up his card of membership. These whispers were changed into ringing

choirs as he mounted the steps and took a seat on the platform, thus identifying himself with the temperance movement.

Mr. Oldway was a local magistrate, the senior deacon of an influential congregational church, and a leader in most social and philanthropic movements. He had, however, never taken kindly to the temperance cause, and his influence had been pretty well known to be on the other side.

He was naturally of a conservative temperament, generally suspicious of new ideas and radical changes; for him to sign the pledge, therefore, was a matter of the greatest wonder to all present. When, at the invitation of the chairman, he rose to say a few words he received quite an ovation, and was then listened to amid silence almost breathless by the crowded assembly.

"I am not," he said, "about to enter at length into the reasons which have led me to take the step you have doubtless witnessed with some degree of surprise; but will content myself with a simple statement which it seems nothing but right that I should make.

"Some two years ago I was led to investigate, it is to be feared with anything but a friendly spirit, the basis of the temperance movement in respect to its physical, social, moral, and religious aspects. My investigations extended over a period of eighteen months, the result being that I fully satisfied myself that my previous views, and actions taken thereupon, were erroneous in every respect. Some of you, perhaps, will say that a like result might have been arrived at in eighteen minutes; but you must bear with an old man whose years are now verging upon threescore and ten, remembering that long cherished opinions are not easily changed, and the habits of a lifetime with difficulty broken off.

"Having six months ago thus become a total abstainer in theory, I forthwith became one in practice, determined to persist in that course whatever might be the cost. No alcoholic liquor has, therefore, passed my lips since last midsummer day. I never dreamt what a struggle I should have, and nothing but strong conviction could have kept me firm to the resolution I had taken. I took the old moderation pledge more than forty years ago, and that pledge I have faithfully kept, taking alcoholic stimulants only on certain occasions, and in certain quantities. But those limited quantities I have taken with the greatest regularity day after day, and year after year. Doubtless that very regularity enormously increased the difficulty in breaking off the habit. For weeks, as the accustomed hour came round, there came over me a most unaccountable longing for the prohibited stimulant, and the sight or smell of wine on the table of a friend was quite sufficient to arouse within me a craving for it I never before experienced. All this surprised and rather ashamed me, but mightily strengthened my conviction as to the dangerous character of alcoholic beverages.

"One word more and I have done. On this platform I have on more than one occasion advocated the moderate use of intoxicating drinks, and spoken disparagingly of the temperance cause. I now desire as publicly to confess that I was in error, and with true statements which have been made on those occasions. I also now, and here, identify myself with the temperance movement, hoping to do in the future all that lies in me to forward its interests."

I need not say, in journalistic phraseology, that the speaker resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged applause.

The following day I, in company with the young fellow known as Tom, went to take tea with Mr. Oldway. There were also present to complete the home circle two of our good host's fellow deacons, a Mr. Williams and a Mr. Samuel, neither of whom were total abstainers. Mrs. Oldway, a true queen among women, was of course present. Knowing that conversation would be almost sure to turn upon the event of the preceding evening, I felt no little interest in meeting our good friends. As for Tom, he was quite excited by anticipation. Mr. Williams opened the subject almost before we had tasted our first cup of tea. He was many years younger than Mr. Oldway, rather consequential in manner, and of rationalistic tendencies. Mr. Samuel was nearer the age of Mr. Oldway and of pronounced evangelical sympathies.

"So you signed the pledge last night, I understand, friend Oldway," said Mr. Williams, with just a suspicion of sarcasm in the tone of voice.

"You have surmised correctly," was the quiet reply.

"I cannot for the life of me understand your reason for doing so. You are about the last person in the world, I should have thought, to be taken up with a fad."

"Then, in your view, my conduct affords presumptive evidence that teetotalism is not a fad, as some have thought?" laughed Mr. Oldway.

"Or that—"

"—I am getting weaker with my years."

"No; I won't say that," laughed Mr. Williams.

"I should think you wouldn't, Mr. Williams, spoke up Mrs. Oldway with some spirit. "My husband's mind was never stronger than it is now, and I know his heart was never fuller of love."

We all believe that, Mrs. Oldway," said Mr. Williams, apologetically.

"I was very much struck," said I, "by your experience in breaking off the habit. It so remarkably illustrates a statement by Dr. Edmunds. I will read a short extract from his paper on "Alcoholic Beverages," if you have no objection: "If a person who for many years has used alcoholic beverages several times a day is moved by an intellectual conviction to abstain, that intellectual conviction will not govern the action of his stomach. At first his stomach, in the absence of alcohol, will feel very much like the head of an old snuff-taker in the absence of snuff, and unless the person has courage necessary to emancipate himself from the habit—to persist in total abstinence until the local itch for alcohol which has been developed in the palate and stomach be cured—he had better not make himself uncomfortable for a week and then drop back into his old habit. He must predetermine upon total and resolute abstinence for as many weeks as the years during which he has taken alcohol. Until that period has expired he will not recover a healthy palate nor a healthy stomach, and he will not be able to measure the advantage he has gained by emancipating himself from the habit of using alcohol."

"That statement is in complete accord with my own experience," said Oldway, "and I am glad to be emancipated from such a habit."

"But surely!" exclaimed Mr. Williams, "you had no fears as regards your personal safety in respect to the use of wine."

"Certainly not. I should doubtless have continued to the end a moderate drinker."

"Then why at your age submit to the inconvenience, to say the least of it, of such a change of habit?"

"Christian duty, sir," was the reply. "As soon as I perceived the true nature of alcoholic drink, and that the horrible evils of intemperance arose from the drinking habit, I had no other alternative."

"But why sign the pledge?"

"Because I wanted to make it evident to all persons that I was out of the trade," said Mr. Williams, rather puzzled.

"Not as a seller, but certainly as a buyer, and it seems to me that seller and buyer must share together the responsibilities of the trade."

"Then do you mean to say that friend Samuel and myself are in the liquor trade?"

"Most assuredly you are," was the laughing reply.

Mr. Williams shook his head and was silent for a while.

"It seems to me," said Mr. Samuel, rather softly, "that while Mr. Oldway has liberty to abstain from either meats or drinks, he need not have signed the pledge, because in so doing he casts in his lot with the teetotalers, many of whom are unconverted."

I looked at Tom and, seeing him color up, rather feared an explosion, so gently trod on his toes by way of warning.

"To cast in my lot with the teetotalers is exactly what I intended to do, brother Samuel; and if there are those among them imperfect in other respects, all the more reason why I should join them."

"But the Word says, 'Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers,'" said Mr. Samuel.

"And the Word also says," replied Mr. Oldway, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Among those 'things' I am very certain teetotalism has a rightful place," and with deep feeling he added "I only regret I did not sign the pledge fifty years ago."

"I daresay there are good people among them—I mean the teetotalers," said Mr. Samuel, in his soft way.

"Yes," said Mr. Oldway; "and I feel in joining them that I am getting nearer to those whose names are written in heaven."

"Do you expect," asked Mr. Williams, "that many will follow your example in signing the pledge?"

"How many followed me last night, Mr. Tom?" he asked, turning to the young fellow with a smile.

"Fifty-six! Mr. Oldway," said Tom with almost a jubilant shout, "and we shall have a lot more yet."

"And many of them sign without thinking," I have no doubt, said Mr. Williams.

"That's very likely," replied Tom; "but they can do the thinking after they have signed."

"You are an enthusiast, Mr. Tom."

"I wish I could enthrone you two deacons to sign the pledge. If all the deacons signed, the drink trade would almost tumble to pieces."

"How do you make that out?"

"That's easily done; if you take away the pillars down comes the house; and deacons I reckon, as long as they drink, are pillars of the 'trade.' A queer thing rather for pillars of the church to be pillars of the 'trade.'"

"Gently, Tom, gently," I whispered.

"All right, Mr. Smith."

Much more was said during the evening, and though there was some plain speaking, we all separated in the best of spirits.

As we were walking home Tom said:

"Did you see old Samzy wriggle when we got him in the corner?"

"O Tom, Tom, I wish you would speak more respectfully of deacons," I said.

"All right, Mr. Smith."

That young fellow Tom says things nobody else would venture to say, and yet everybody likes him.—T. F., in *Temperance Record*.

ONE OF MANY.

Michael Spaad lived at 546 West Fiftieth street. His family consisted of his wife Mary, Thomas, the son, aged 6, and baby Winifred. That is, this was Spaad's family who were living home. Three other children are in an institution over in New Jersey, where they were sent by the Gerry Society to get them away from the abuse of a drunken father. Five children lie in the churchyard buried, victims of the neglect which curses the family where grog is the slave driver of the household. The Spaads came from Ireland. Spaad is a hod carrier and makes \$2 a day, but the bulk of the wages went for grog. This is the way the *New York Press* told the rest of the story:

"Saturday the man got his \$12 for his week's work and went direct to a saloon. When his wife found him drunk outside he grudgingly gave her a dollar.

"He came home late that night so drunk that he was just able to reel into the basement and fall on the floor.

"The next morning he kept it up. He came home at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, and when Mrs. Spaad asked him for 50 cents he picked up a large stone used to keep the door shut and hit her in the breast with it.

"The baby, Winifred, was sitting in a chair, and, seizing the stone a second time, the drunken father threw it at the baby, striking her on the head and causing a concussion of the brain.

"Mrs. Spaad grabbed the unconscious child and fled into the street. She went toward the river, but had gone only a short distance when the baby died in her arms.

"When she came home her husband was gone. Thinking she would shield him she told a policeman the baby had summer complaint. But he was suspicious and Dr. O'Hanlon was sent from the Coroners's office to investigate.

"Mrs. Spaad first insisted that the child's death was due to natural disease. But Dr. O'Hanlon saw she was concealing something and when pressed she finally told her story"—*The New York Defender*.

A VOICE FROM THE PRISON.

Among all the influences that have tended to hasten man's degradation, none has reaped so great a harvest as intemperance. From its towering pedestal of supremacy it has looked down upon wavering man and yielding woman. The realm of its influence extends from horizon to horizon. Ever and anon its sceptre is wielded with great power. From the great white city, where the stars and stripes are wafted in the breeze from the capitol dome, to the realm of the Queen, where floats the Union Jack, whether the nation raises aloft the tricolor or the dragon and the fly, King Alcohol wields a power greater than the sword. Civilization is the greatest ally of which it boasts, for wherever civilization goes to instil into the hearts of the heathen the teachings of the lowly Nazarene, and to lay the foundation rock upon which all must stand, King Alcohol follows like a specter in the night. Its poisonous fangs touch the thin, pale lips of old age and smile in the presence of the nursing babe. It goes to bring false merriment to the scions of the rich in the mansions, while it deadens the heart and warps the soul of those who abide in the hovels. With merciless grasp it robs the cheek of young manhood and young womanhood of the flush of health and kills the lustre of the eye, which is the window of the soul. There sleep to-night in the cities of the dead countless thousands of bright gems, who to-day might stand erect as defenders of the nation and of home, were it not for rum.

Legions upon legions of young men and women are marching on toward the premature sleep from which there is no awakening, and o'er the mound where mothers weep and sisters mourn and pray will be placed a slab, upon which might be written in scarlet: "A victim of drink." I speak no words of censure, nor do I condemn, for man is weak and woman will yield, but to the councils of the nation I ask: How long, O how long? Will it ever be true, that our country join hands with the assassin of virtue and of honor, the destroyer of home, and of peace, and rob from humanity the hope of eternity and immortality? How long, O how long, will the treasure vaults of the nation be opened to receive the silver and gold upon which rests the stam of human blood, a soul destroyed, a heaven lost?

From the cities and the wilderness the cry goes up to night. Ten thousand times ten thousand eyes are peering out from the windows of humble homes toward the cold, grim walls of the nation's darkest spots in every State. Ten thousand times ten thousand voices are speaking prayer this very night for the deliverance of fathers, brothers and husbands from the bondage of body and soul. A thousand homes in Michigan are sad tonight; the firesides are not what they used to be; the loneliness of death has entered; the mantle of gloom has fallen down upon the waiting loved ones. In vain do they seek consolation from the motto on the wall, "God Bless Our Home," for while gazing upon the motto, babes are crying for food and raiment. The cold and snows of winter are upon them, but King Alcohol laughs at the scene. O spirits of dead poets, arise. Arise, O ye sweet songsters and ye painters of ages gone. Let singers sing the story of sadness. Let poets write of sorrow, and ye master painters of centuries dead, arise, and in the light of truth, stretch the canvass from earth to heaven, so that all people, both here and there, may read the words in brightest scarlet: "King Alcohol, the king and curse of earth."—J. M. Higgins, Jackson Prison.

JUST KEELER OVER.

In one of the breweries up town there is quite a system in dispensing drinks to the employees. Every man is graded according to his capacity, and tickets are issued to the men when they come to work in the morning. Each ticket is good for a glass of beer. Some men get 100, others 80, others 60, and so on down to the novices, who are only allowed 25, until their capacity is accurately judged through the system of graduation. The brewers claim that no drunkenness results from this, as the men perspire freely in the hot atmosphere and the liquor has little effect upon them. If by some mischance a man should become incapacitated for work, he is doomed to the next lower class, and that is looked upon as a keen disgrace, and very rarely

happens." "Of course, it ultimately leads to cirrhosis of the liver," said a prominent brewer yesterday, "but the men are bound to drink beer, and it is better to have a system. It saps their vitality to such an extent that they become easy victims to any disease. We lost two workmen last month from broken legs. To any ordinary man no importance would be attached to a fractured limb, but these fellows never rallied. They just keeled over and died.—Philadelphia Record.

THE MISUSE OF WHISKY.

W. R. Hearst, Esq., Editor the Journal: How much alcoholic liquor may a young man drink in a month without injury to his health? "Injury to health" to be understood as meaning any decline from the person's highest physical efficiency. J. C. F.

New Brighton, S. I., January 21. Anything in the way of food or drink that is not beneficial to the system is necessarily injurious to it. This is a paradox, but a true one. You might swallow a bottle of ink without material injury other than physical revulsion, but that would be sufficient to classify it as an injury.

No scientist, medical or otherwise, has ever yet demonstrated that whisky is of any earthly benefit to mankind except in the matter of snake bites.

In a case of this kind it is merely pitting one evil force against another. A man is like a thermometer, his spirits are equable—neither joyous nor sad. He takes a drink. It fills him with joy. When he recovers from its effects the reaction carries him just as far in the other direction.

You cannot take a drink of whisky without an injury, either mental or physical. Let it alone.—New York Journal, Jan. 21st, 1900.

A STRONG DELIVERANCE.

At its annual session last month, the Dominion Council R. T. of T. representing prohibition workers from every part of Canada, adopted the following forcible deliverance upon the question of prohibition.

It is apparent that our political leaders consider they have baffled us in our fight for this great measure of reform, and we feel assured that they will do nothing to restore the prestige of prohibition as a political agitation. It is theirs to play the role of politician for the present; ours to make parliaments; ours to so organize and so vote as to hurl from power any and every government that ignores the wishes of the people of Canada. We do not believe that a prohibitory liquor law will be passed until those in power are made to understand that governments have no strength without the temperance vote. Ours it is to make this prohibition cause the stumbling block of every anti-prohibition politician, and every anti-prohibition candidate for parliament; but a source of great strength to those in accord with our views.

The political parties are at present not divided by any great issue. It is a mere struggle between the ins and outs. Both sides are eagerly reaching out for support. No more opportune time could be pre-ented by prohibitionists to make their votes count for our cause. No better opportunity has been presented to us in recent years to strike a blow for God and Home and Canada. There never has been a time when there was less calling for fidelity to party and more calling for fidelity to country.

Your committee recognizes in the principle of the pledge an element of great value and efficacy in the work of moral and social reform. It has been the mainstay of the great temperance movement, an ever-present warning to the citizen in moments of temptation and a great safeguard to the home, which is the mainstay of our social and national life. We believe that it will serve with equal value in purging our political system, and in drawing the voters away from the ties and prejudices of party to the better consideration of necessary reforms. Therefore, your Committee recommends a full endorsement of the plan of the Dominion Alliance to secure 100,000 pledged voters to fight the battle of prohibition at the polls in the next Dominion election, and we would urge that every Royal Templar elector in Canada sign this pledge and aid in securing the same endorsement from as many others as possible.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY.

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter and hotter, and the 100,000 voters begin to get in their work. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 2.

Although the price of the CAMP FIRE—Twenty-five cents per year—is very low, we have decided to make a special offer of premiums for subscriptions received during the early part of the present year.

We have secured a line of interesting and attractive books which we propose to present to both old and new subscribers on the plan below set out. Those who are already on our list and send money to take advantage of this offer, may either have another paper sent them or have their present subscription extended one year.

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This is a new book, just published, and contains one hundred and sixty-four funny stories, anecdotes and jokes by such famous humorists as Mark Twain, Max Adeler, Josh Billings, Bill Nye, R. C. Burdette, and many others. It is full of fun and nonsense from cover to cover, and a sure cure for "the blues." All the best jokes, anecdotes and stories of recent years have been carefully selected, and are now offered in this large and splendid collection, which will be richly enjoyed by all who love genuine humor and fun. Among the titles of the anecdotes and stories contained in "A CART-LOAD OF FUN" are the following: "A Man with a Liver," "Punkin Pie," "Pots and the Lightning-Bolt Man," "How to Go a-Courting," "Baumgartner's Dog," "Stowe's Elephant Story," "Marriage a la Mode," "Manufacture Happiness," "Mrs. Jones's Burial," "The Facts About Sam Snyder," "Dorcas and Tenderloin Discusses Dudes," "The Sad Case of Filly du Bill," "The Dead Gull Christmas Tree," "A Primal Scrap," "Marty Became Reconciled," "One Ephraim's Wisdom," "A One-Horse Hotel," "He Concluded not to Commit Suicide," "Querly Married," "Hannah was Arrested," "How the Tired Patient Man had his Feelings Upset," "Why the Tree Man Departed," "Jones's Hat," "Breaking up a Cat Concert," and 143 others. "A CART-LOAD OF FUN" is a book of 64 large, double column pages, neatly bound in attractive colored paper covers, and will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

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This book contains a large and careful selection of the most popular recitations in the Yankee, Negro, German, Irish and other dialects, as recited by the leading elocutionists of the day. The contents embrace humorous, dramatic and pathetic selections, both in prose and verse, some of which are the following: "The Stolen Watermelon," "The Swelling Bee at Angel's," "Caleb's Courtship," "Denver Jim," "The Foreclosure of the Mortgage," "The Hunkin' Story," "The Hunkin' Bee," "Grandpa's Courtship," "The Cowboy's Christmas Ball," "Teaster Jim," "Mike's Confession," "The Surprise Party in Dutchman's Alley," "Old Daddy Turner," "Paddy's Courtship," "Sambro's Dilemma," "Davy and Golar," "The Darkey Boot-black," "Little John's Christmas," "Joe's Wife," "Uncle Anderson on Prosperity," "The Irishman's Panorama," "Ruddy's Troubles," etc. etc. The contents of this book have been selected with great care, the aim being to include only the best, hence it contains the cream of fifty of the ordinary recitation books, and is without doubt the best collection of dialect recitations and readings ever published. A book of 64 large double column pages, neatly bound in attractive paper covers. It will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.

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Modern Entertainments.



Modern Entertainments is a new book by Mrs. Elie W. Merriman, describing numerous forms of entertainment for evening companies which have been successfully given by a satiric humorist in all parts of the country. "How can we entertain without dancing or cards?" is the ever-recurring question of that large class who consider such amusements harmful, and this book has been written to meet this precise need. Its possession will enable any hostess to entertain her guests in a most agreeable and entertaining manner, though enjoyable, and so numerous and varied are the entertainments described that it will furnish all the material needed in this line for many successive seasons. The following are the titles of the entertainments described: "Entertainment as an Art," "Entertainment," "The Modern Seating Rec," "The Five Senses," "An Enjoyable Musical," "The Round Table," "A Valentine Party," "The Bohemians," "A Book Party," "A Geog Party," "A Charade Party," "A Kindergarten for Adults," "An Evening with the Occult," "The Artists at Play," "A Spinning Party," "A Drawing Attraction," "A Halloween Party," "A New Year Party," "Out Door Entertainments," "Breakfasts," "Luncheons," "Teas," "Dinners," "Wedding Anniversaries," "A Meeting of Celebrities," "ENTERTAINMENTS FOR CHILDREN," "An Old Fashioned Party," "A Punch and Judy Party," "A Modern Battle," "A Mystic Circle," "A Shooting Match," "A Peanut Party," "A Christmas Entertainment," "A Hairy Bury," "Modern Entertainments" is a book of 64 large double-column pages, neatly bound in attractive paper covers. It will be sent by mail post-paid upon receipt of only Ten Cents.