

THE CAMP FIRE

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST. FROM MANY PLACES.

A Great Petition.

A memorial in favor of the closing of public houses on Sunday has been prepared for presentation to the British Government. It is one of the most remarkable documents of the sort that has yet been presented, being signed by 18,542 clergymen representing nearly every religious denomination. Classified according to denominations the clergymen signing are as follows:—

Church of England	10,993
Congregational	1,924
Wesleyan	1,656
Baptist	1,334
Primitive Methodist	923
Roman Catholic	523
United Methodist Free Church	335
Presbyterian	262
Bible Christian	184
Methodist New Connexion	176
Unitarian	171
New Church	30
Reformed Episcopal, etc	32
Total	18,542

Socialists For Temperance.

A special correspondent of the New York Voice writing from Brussels in Belgium under date August 15th, gives an account of the organization of a National Socialist Anti-Alcoholic League in affiliation with the Belgium working men's party. The constitution of the new organization declares that its object is to combat the use of alcohol as a beverage. The members are pledged to total abstinence.

A Wonderful Record.

Forward, the Nova Scotia Sons of Temperance paper, publishes an interesting table prepared by Henry H. Faxon ex-Mayor of Quincy, Mass., showing the progress made by his city in the past seventeen years, during which time the electors have steadily voted against license, the vote polled in 1898 being for license, 1,191, against license 2,126.

The statements furnished by Mr. Faxon give the following interesting facts regarding the position of the city in 1898, as compared with its position in 1881, the last year that license was in operation.

	1881	1898
Population	10,855	23,549
Valuation	\$7,560,381	\$19,236,322
Savings Bk Deposits	173,950	488,453
No. of Depositors	2,530	7,411
New Houses built	24	236
Paid for support of poor	15,415	8,534

Mr. Faxon compares Quincy with the other cities of the state, showing that it presents a marvelously favorable contrast in amounts paid for support of poor, cost of police and arrests for drunkenness.

Civilisation.

The official returns for the first five months of 1899 show that under the rule of the United States, liquor is poured at a fearful rate into the countries recently acquired from Spain. The total value of intoxicating liquors exported to the different countries for the whole of the year 1898 as compared with the value of that shipped during the five months named is shown in the following table:—

	1898	Five mos. of 1899
Cuba	\$10,796	\$472,272
Puerto Rico	3,668	191,422
The Philippines	337	86,833

A Great Collapse.

It is only a short time since English capitalists invaded the United States buying up and consolidating breweries throughout the country. Altogether some seventy-nine extensive breweries were purchased and consolidated into some twenty-four trusts or combines. Heavily inflated stock was issued and investors expected to make a great deal of money. These expectations have been wonderfully disappointed. The total capitalization amounted to \$62,855,514 and at the value of the shares as now quoted in the English market, the total stock is only worth \$15,810,125. It will thus be seen that the depreciation has already amounted to over fifty million dollars.

Encouraging Progress.

The annual statistical returns of the Primitive Methodist Connection in Great Britain contain much information regarding the progress of the temperance cause in the denomination. The reports show in operation 1,999 Bands of Hope with 220,803 members and 316 adult temperance societies with a membership of 87,877. The total increase in abstainers reported for the last year is 10,060.

THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.

SOME SPECIMEN CASES.

The past few weeks have been unusually prolific in sad calamities directly attributable to intemperance. The columns of our daily papers have given startling evidence of the extent to which we have been harvesting the fruits of the liquor traffic. From among the catastrophes that resulted fatally, the following may be cited:—

Two colored men were drinking in a hotel together in Windsor. One of them who was pretty well intoxicated, was found shortly after, murdered and robbed. His companion was arrested for the offence.

A number of men got on a big spree at Welland, Ont., on the evening of August 12th. Next morning the dead body of one of them was fished out of the canal.

A horrible tragedy occurred not long ago near Sidney, C. B. Two drunken men quarreled in a boat which they upset in their dispute. Both were drowned. A third man who was with them was unable to rescue them. The drowned men were brothers-in-law and leave two wives and seven children to be supported by others.

At Simcoe, Ont., on the evening of August 5th, a bricklayer who had been drinking hard, was seen going in the direction of the railway track. About eleven o'clock a train struck him, probably while he was asleep, and hurled him into eternity in a moment.

A reliable correspondent from Rat Portage writes as follows:—Some time ago an Indian belonging to the Lebas kong reserve, got whiskey when in our town, went home and had a big spree. While under the influence of drink, he took up his little child eleven months old, one of the most beautiful children in the country. The little tot was just able to stand alone. He was very fond of the child and often let her stand on his hand and would toss her up and catch her again. This he tried to do now but his hand was unsteady and the little creature fell backward, breaking her spine and after a few hours of intense suffering died. Her father and mother were almost inconsolable with grief.

And yet in spite of such cases as these, there are men, white men, who to make a few shillings, will sell these people drink. Shame on such people, defying law and regardless of consequences of their actions. Verily a day of reckoning must come for them.

WISE WORDS, WORTH WEIGHING.

No vote can be lost or thrown away when it is cast against corrupt political parties, or to express desire for a reform in government. Always vote for a principle, though you have to alone, and you can cherish the sweet reflection that your vote is never lost.—*John Quincy Adams*

The moral tone of the community is lowered by licensing the liquor traffic. There is no single channel through which such depths of misery flow over the human race as though this. No ravages of disease, no devastations of nature, no kinds of vice of crime work such woe as this.—*Prof. J. H. Seelye, D. D.*

As well try to regulate a rattlesnake by holding it by the tail as to permit and then attempt to regulate saloons. The way to regulate a rattlesnake is to kill it, smash its head—its tail may live until sundown, but it cannot bite. The way to regulate the liquor business is to kill its head, the licensed grog-shop—the school of vice, crime, and political corruption.—*J. B. Finch.*

Some people say the saloons pay the revenue and so save the people immense amounts of money. What generous fellows saloonkeepers are to be sure! They drain the pockets of the people, mostly the poorer classes, then from their immense profits they turn a small share over to the government. Who pays the revenue after all?—*Indiana Patriot-Phalanx.*

Drunkenness is the curse of England—a curse so great that it far eclipses every other calamity under which we suffer. It is impossible to exaggerate the evil of drunkenness.

I can keep no terms with a vice that fills our goals, destroys the comfort, homes and the peace of families, and debases the people of these islands.—*Lord Chief Justice Coleridge.*

To do away with this ghastly curse, to wipe this fretting plague-spot from our national life, to save another generation from the burden, the shame, and the ruin which one preventable vice has inflicted on our own, is emphatically the task which we, of this generation, have to do. No work that any nation ever had to do can be more immediately and, indeed, overwhelming important.—*Dean Farrar.*

It is always interesting to trace the origin of popular phrases. I wonder how many readers have heard the source of the hackneyed phrase, 'The skeleton of the feast.' It is said that it dates back to the time of the Pharaohs. Those kings were so convinced of the evils of strong drink that when the wine at their banquets was beginning to 'tell,' a skeleton, crowned with a funeral wreath, was placed in the centre of the guests. Happily, nowadays one of the distinguished features of our public and private festivities is the patronage accorded to 'Polly and Jo' (as *Punch* called Apollinaris and Johannis), and similar non-intoxicating drinks.—*The Temple Magazine.*

"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?" A law framed to protect evil is a method of framing mischief by a law. A law which assumes that a thing is wrong, and yet tolerates it; which attempts only to check and regulate it, without utterly prohibiting it; which aims to derive a revenue from it for the purpose of government; which makes that which is morally wrong legal, is one of those things in human affairs with which the throne of God can have no fellowship.—*Albert Barnes, D. D.*

Let us suppress this systematic agency for the temptation and ruin of men. With absolute certainty while it remains, this traffic will powerfully resist us at every point. Our moral means have no relevancy to this part of the work. The enemy is now entrenched in a fortress as impregnable as rock to all mere influence and argumentation. The whole artillery of moral suasion glances from it as a powerless impertinence, harmless as the pattering of hail on a rock. The strong arm of law alone can reach it. Our business now is with the traffic. We must stop this authorized trade in destructive drinks.—*H. D. Kitchell, D. D.*

Before God and man, before the church and the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it with the murder of innumerable souls. 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 hill-tops, 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.*

To sanction by law the recruiting and equipping of such an enemy (the liquor traffic), and the sending out of him to desolate the fairest portion of God's heritage, is an outrage upon all principle, not only of patriotism, but of humanity, which bids defiance to parallel in the history of legislation. It is an outrage too gross for sober consideration. It would seem to be hardly possible, in view of its fruits, that it should be tolerated we will not say in any Christian, but in any civilized State. Even paganism under the first rays of civilization, had almost instinctively denounced it. And were it not for the pestilential moral atmosphere which it produces, and the deteriorating and stupefying effects which that atmosphere occasions, its continuance would seem to be hardly possible, or its removal need anything more than its own doing.—*Justin Edwards, D. D.*

There was a time when the temperance movement was largely the struggle of a few poor victims of the traffic to free themselves. That day has passed. The reform has become a part of the religious faith of the nation, and in spite of all the sophistries and work of the drunkard-makers and their aiders and abettors, the day is not far distant when the State will no sooner license a man to carry on a business to debauch the loved ones of the women of this land, than it will license a man to steal the jewels from their jewel-cases.—*John B. Finch.*

The church of to-day, much more the church of the future, must take to its heart the duty of combining and massing its forces against that gigantic atrocity of christian civilization that mothers nine-tenths of the woes and sorrows that blight and curse our modern age—the traffic in intoxicants, which hides its deformity under forms of law. Are we reduced to the shame of admitting that a civilization that has grown up around our altars is impotent to cure the evil? If ever the pulpit had the right, the duty to flame with unsparring rebuke, it is here.—*Bishop R. S. Foster.*

The Camp Fire.

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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, SEPTEMBER, 1899

THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

The plan of campaign set out in the CAMP FIRE of August is meeting with strong commendation in every part of the Dominion. The principles and methods which it details are warmly approved and in many places steps are being taken to carry them into practical operation. Conventions are being planned, and organization arranged for.

Now is the time for action. Meetings should be held as early in the cool weather as possible. All preparations ought to be made long enough beforehand to ensure their being perfect. Elections sometimes come on unexpectedly. We must be always ready. The Alliance Secretary is always ready to give information, advice and assistance. Write him if needful. In any case push on the work.

TOTAL PROHIBITION.

The total prohibition of the manufacture importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, is the only legislative method of dealing with the liquor traffic that can be accepted as final or satisfactory. For that and towards that we must continually work. We may, however, accept and use any measure of prohibition that promotes progress or relief.

The adverse vote of Quebec is paraded as a reason why the Dominion Parliament should not enact a prohibitory law to take effect in that province. We do not admit that the reason advanced is a sound one. We say however at once, that even that adverse vote can only be cited in its relationship to the province in which it was polled. The Dominion as a whole gave a substantial majority in favor of prohibition. The liquor favoring vote of Quebec cannot by any process of sophistry be twisted into the appearance of a reason for refusing prohibition to the rest of the country.

To say that Ontario, with her mighty majority for temperance, must still submit to the wrong of legalized debauchery because Quebec is not ready to give it up, is an outrage on all decency and fair play. To suggest that we take something less than what we voted for is very unfair. We voted for total prohibition. That we must have. We want no manufacture, no importation, no sale. If Parliament is determined to continue the liquor traffic in Quebec because Quebec wants it, then parliament must

find a plan of confining that liquor traffic to Quebec.

The whole plebiscite campaign was conducted so far as the prohibitionists were concerned with moderation, reason and fair play. We have not followed up our victory with any unreasonable impatience or extravagant demands. We must however insist upon at least such legislation as no one can say our vote did not warrant, and the very least that parliament can reasonably offer is total prohibition for all Canada outside Quebec.

PARTY BONDAGE.

We do not profess at this time to discuss the question of whether or not party government is the most desirable, or the only practicable, method of managing public affairs in a country like ours. It may be admitted that the party system is right without any weakening of the argument against party tyranny on the one hand and party subserviency on the other.

There are times and instances in which parties are separated from each other by differences of opinion regarding important issues. Men rally round ideas and unite to strive to secure the embodiment of those ideas in law. There are other cases in which the rallying is merely round a party name, or an organization that has for its main object the obtaining or retaining of office and power. Any good that comes from partyism must come from the partyism of ideas. All the evil comes from the partyism of blind adherence to traditions or names, and the greed for office and emolument.

It follows then that all the advantage that can come from partyism must come through the action of men who are not extreme partisans. Fortunately for society there are many men of principle and character who will not follow leadership that they believe to be wrong. If the party which they have been supporting adopts a policy or methods of which they disapprove, they are ready to leave the party. Hence party leaders are impelled toward the devising of wise policies and the adoption of such ideals as will command approval and attract support.

It is true that many men, some of them loudest in their professions of party loyalty, are selfish enough to unhesitatingly desert the party with which they have been connected, if they believe that they will personally be financially benefited by the triumph of the other party. They are also ready to change sides, and party leaders sometimes pay much attention to their views and desires.

It will thus be seen that the purely party men, those who pride themselves in their loyalty to the party to which their forefathers belonged, are the men who have least influence and are of least use. The men who determine politics, the men who force issues, the men who ensure progress, are those who must be considered, who will not yield unthinking allegiance to any party authority. The man who is ready to leave his party if his party goes wrong, is a power for good, but the man who stands by his party under all circumstances, imagining that he is therefore a party strength, is the man whose views are least considered, and whose opinions have least weight.

The men who will vote Conservative or Liberal according to the methods and principles of the Liberal or Conservative leaders, govern the country to-day. The men who are party first, well deserve to be called party slaves. They are simply the political chattels of those who are independent, never free enough and feared enough to be considered and respected.

Selections.

POETICAL QUOTATIONS.

Touch the goblet no more:
It will make thy heart sore
To its very core.
Its perfume is the breath
Of the Angel of Death:
And the light that within it lies
Is the flash of his evil eyes.
For sorrow, sickness, and care
Are all there.

—Henry W. Longfellow.

Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne;
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim Unknown
Sitteth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.

—James Russell Lowell.

Wherever God erects a house of prayer,
The Devil's sure to build a chapel there;
And 'twill be found upon examination,
The Devil has the largest congregation.

—Daniel Defoe.

A weapon that comes down as still
As snowflakes fall upon the sod:
But executes a freeman's will,
As lightning does the will of God;
And from its force, nor doors, nor locks,
Can shield you; 'tis the ballot-box.

John Pierpont.

He who drinks when he's hot
To keep himself cool,
Adds the vice of the sot
To the deed of a fool.
He who drinks when he's cool
To keep himself hot,
Adds the deed of a fool
To the vice of a sot.

—G. W. Bungay.

Thou sparkling bowl! thou sparkling
bowl!
Though lips of bards thy brim may
press,
And eyes of beauty o'er thee roll,
And song and dance thy power confess,
I will not touch thee; for there clings
A scorpion to thy side, that stings.

—John Pierpont.

Once to every man and nation comes the
moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood,
for the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
offering each to bloom or blight,
Parts the goats upon the left hand, and
the sheep upon the right,—
And the choice goes by forever, 'twixt
that darkness and that light.

—James Russell Lowell.

John Adams lies here, of the parish of
Southwell,
A carrier who carried his can to his
mouth well;
He carried so much, and he carried so
fast,
He could carry no more—so was carried
at last;
For, the liquor he drank, being too
much for one,
He could not carry-off—so he's now
carri-on.

—Byron.

O madness, to think use of strongest
wines
And strongest drinks our chief support
of health,
When God, with these forbidden, made
choice to rear
His mighty champion, strong above
compare,
Whose only drink was from the liquid
brook.

—Milton.

"Far hence be Bacchus' gifts," Hector
rejoined.
"Inflaming wine, pernicious to mankind,
Unnerves the limbs, and dulls the noble
mind.
Let chiefs abstain—and spare the sacred
juice
To sprinkle to the gods—'tis fitter use."

—Homer.

RESCUED, YET LOST.

By H. HOLME (Honorary Secretary of the
Commercial Travellers' Christian
Association).

One fine morning in April, some years ago, I found myself, in the course of my usual South Coast journey, in the Mitre Hotel at Chatham, at that time a roomy, old fashioned hostelry, with a fine howling green in its rear. I had done a fair amount of business by noon, and, having no other engagement till after dinner, was just passing out to the green, to enjoy a saunter in the sunshine, when I met in the hall a brother commercial whom I had known for some years, not intimately, but in the usual friendly fashion of those who, travelling over the same ground, frequently meet, and grow pleasantly familiar.

I knew he was not staying in the hotel, his quarters being elsewhere. As we met he seized my hand in a somewhat warm and excited manner, and detaining it in his, asked if he might speak with me a few moments.

"Certainly, I am quite at leisure," I replied; "and if you step out with me to the bowling green as there is no one there, we shall be quite free from interruption."

We did so. Seizing my arm, as we strolled over the grass, I noticed that his whole frame was trembling with excitement, and I was somewhat astonished when he suddenly exclaimed, "I am going mad! I am going mad!"

Before this I had noticed nothing particular in his demeanour. I knew he was of a lively, excitable, and somewhat quick and irritable disposition: but I was quite unprepared for his next exclamation:

"Yes, sir, I am just going off into delirium tremens; but I knew you were a kind, earnest man, and felt sure you would help me if you could. What am I to do?"

From his appearance I judged that he might not be quite so bad as he thought he was. After-experience showed me that his was one of those temperaments which, with the help of a fine constitution, could carry an immense amount of strong drink without showing it. I had no idea, though so often meeting him, that he was an habitual drinker, and seldom went sober to bed; but so it was.

The tale he unfolded was sad in the extreme. But, not to anticipate, I may state that he represented one of the best and largest city firms. He was well and widely known, holding a good position, and for years had the high respect and esteem of his firm, who had reposed the highest confidence in him. He made a large and profitable return, and was thoroughly respected by a wide range of the best class of customers over the ground he covered. But gradually a change had come over his standing with the firm. His orders had diminished in size and regularity, and twelve months before they had taken off his salary, and placed him on commission only.

"And now," said the poor fellow, whilst every limb shook, "I am expecting every post my final dismissal. Why yesterday I drank a bottle of port wine, nine glasses of brandy, eight glasses of old ale, and a quantity of sherry and bitters, and I have been going at about the same rate for over three weeks. During that time I have not seen my wife and children. I am unfit to go home. I cannot write out my sheets; but some of my customers have written out their orders on my sheets for me. What am I to do? I dread to meet my wife and children. My home will be broken up, and we shall soon be beggars."

He wept like a child. Much more to the same effect he told me, as we sauntered over the green. It was a painful position, but I felt it must be met somehow.

To his oft-reiterated request, "What must I do?" I at last replied:—

"You must act like a man. You know your danger, and, what is better, you know and freely acknowledge its cause. Make up your mind. All is not lost yet. Now or never! You must give up the drink at once and for ever, and be determined by God's help you will never touch it again."

"Give up the drink!" he exclaimed. "How can I? It will kill me at once."

"The old fallacy," I said. "A devil's lie, which has hurried many a man on to a drunkard's hell. Ask the best physicians in London, and they will

tell you that it is the only way of escape you have."

For a moment he seemed staggered at my firm assertion. He needed firm handling, and I knew that he had a dogged will of his own, if it could only be aroused.

But the next moment, in despairing tones, he went on:—

"How can I, after training so many of my customers to take wine with me every journey? They all look for it, and I could not do my trade without it."

"Another fallacy! Depend upon it, my dear friend, if in a manly, quiet way you let them know the risk you have run, you will find that you will not lose a single customer worth having. Here and there you may lose a shaky one, but your time will be more profitably spent in seeking worthier men."

"But if I do, how can I as a commercial traveller go in and out of the hotel, sit down to dinner, or spend the night in a commercial room without drinking?"

I confess that this question was a harder one to meet at that time than it is now. It was in the days of the old wine dinners, when every man was expected to pay his share of the wine, whether he drank it or not, and do other things in the drinking line for the "good of the house." The man who shirked the dinner, i.e., "boxed Harry," as it is technically termed, or who for conscience sake refused to drink intoxicants, in those days was regarded by the elite of the road as an outer barbarian, unworthy of the commercial room, and by many of the landlords was looked at askance, treated by the waiters with a sort of ineffable scorn, and by the usually civil "boots" with contemptuous indifference! It was a trying ordeal for any man with nerves, or respect for himself, and few cared to run the gauntlet. So trying has it proved to many high-minded men, that the writer once heard Mr. Samuel Morley assert that he was exceedingly glad when the time came for him to quit the commercial room.

Thank God! those days are past. The life of a commercial will always prove an ordeal to the weak-kneed, undecided character; but if a man has the right ring of high character and indomitable pluck, he has fewer temptations to go wrong, and more help to go right, than in the old drinking day of the past, when to sit down to a wine dinner, especially on the Sunday, might mean anything between 5s. and 15s. per man. The consequences may be better imagined than described.

But to resume. My reply was: "It must be tried at any risk. You know that I am not a teetotaler myself, but if you will go in with me now, this 8th day of April, and pledge yourself to do without intoxicants of any kind for six months, I will pledge myself with you by God's help to do it. It is of little use asking you to do a thing I won't do myself."

It was a trying moment. I could see that my friend was suffering veritable agony. The sweat stood in great beads on his forehead. We took a turn or two in silence. Then pulling himself together, he remarked:—

"No half measures will save me now. I will do it!"

"Thank God!" I said. "Now come with me to dinner."

It seemed almost a mockery to ask a man in his state to dinner. But two ends were served—it prevented him going back to his own hotel with no one to help him to resist the temptation there, and it publicly committed him to the course we had taken.

I was president of the day. We sat down. I explained the circumstances, with my friend's permission, and said: "As president, I will order wine in the way you require, but I and my friend must neither touch it nor pay for it; but will pay an extra price to the landlord instead."

There was some demur, but I carried my point. I felt, I think righteously, indignant with one, who did all in his power to persuade our poor friend "to take a hair of the dog that bit him"—a piece of mischievous proverbial lore that has lured many a poor struggling wretch to his ruin.

After this I persuaded my friend to see a doctor, and then get home as quickly as possible. It was Friday afternoon, and I arranged with him to meet me on the following Monday at the Bull Hotel, Sittingbourne, so that we might travel together.

Fortunately, on leaving the hotel that memorable afternoon, he met a customer who had often drunk with him. He told him the state he was in, and the pledge he had taken. To his surprise this man, who had suffered from delirium himself, said:—"The gentleman who has persuaded you to do this is the best friend you ever had, and I know it is the only thing that can save your life."

To my great delight my friend met me on Monday. He was better, though he still felt very bad. The rest at home had somewhat steadied his nerves. A formidable difficulty presented itself. He told me that he had an appointment with one of his best customers there, which would probably take him the greater part of the day. "When dinner time comes he will ask me, as usual, to dine with him; and he generally provides an extra bottle of wine. What can I say?"

"Tell him that you are especially engaged to meet me at dinner to-day, and that I can take no excuse. But," I added, "make a clean breast of it; let him know the state you are in, and the pledge you have taken."

It happened just as he had anticipated. His client told him that he had just had in some of the best port wine he ever tasted, and remarked: "We will crack a bottle, and finish the order afterwards."

It was a great temptation, but my friend's strong will conquered, and he told his customer exactly how he stood. When he heard it, to my friend's great surprise, the generous, kind-hearted man, a true gentleman, stretched his hand across the counter, and said: "I am right glad to hear it; go and dine with your friend, and thank him for me. When you have finished come back, and I will make the order as large as I can."

This was a powerful lift. The fact was, that our friend was highly esteemed amongst the best of his customers. They had seen his danger, and were glad to help him to retain his former position.

We travelled together for some time. He took a seat in my trap, sending his luggage by rail.

Day by day he became freer from the effects of excess. Each day at dinner we had to fight the old battle over again. We were, as a matter of course, unmercifully chaffed; but I am pretty certain the wine drinkers by no means got the best of it. As a sample of its general effect: When we were dining with a large party at the old Royal Oak, Dover, the president, whom I knew well to be a sufferer, leant his head upon his hand, and in a most depressed tone ejaculated, "Well, I can only say I wish I could do the same thing."

"What," I exclaimed, "you know it does you harm, and you have not the manliness to say 'No!' Come, that is not like you, make up your mind, and join us in trying it out."

But we made no converts that journey. The whole thing seemed so startling. My friend's account of himself was listened to eagerly, and the experiment was watched with great interest. I had anticipated the greatest difficulty with the landlords and waiters. I made it a point to tell them, asking them to charge us something extra for dinner, to make up for the profit on the wine. To my surprise, on the following journey, there were notices in many of the best hotels, to the effect that "Gentlemen not taking wine at dinner will be charged one shilling extra."

This was the real beginning of the breakdown of the strict wine system on the South Coast, and with gratitude I remember—and that to the honor of the landlords—no real difficulty was placed in our way. Many, too, of our commercial friends, who felt not the slightest inclination to give up the wine themselves, when the facts of the case became known, gladly helped us all they could. As an instance of this, I may state that some two years after, as I was about to sit down to dinner in one of the best known hotels in Brighton, I told the president, a stranger to me, that I did not join in the wine. He at once, somewhat offensively, said that he could not permit me to sit down with them unless I divided with them the bill. I was saved the trouble of either protesting or retiring, for two or three voices defended me to the effect that they knew the reason I did it, and would be sorry to see me touch a glass of wine, and that if I could not sit down neither would they. The president subsided, and I quietly enjoyed my dinner.

But to resume. We travelled together till we reached Hastings, where our ways parted. I shall never forget the difference in the face of our now happy friend. Health restored, full of vigour and energy, he came to me the last night we were together that journey, in the Old Swan Hotel, at Hastings, and with a jubilant light on his countenance, said, "I have done over £250 to-day, and don't believe I could have done a tithe of it with a glass of wine in me!"

Three months after that I met him again. I have seldom seen a finer picture of rude, robust health. He was in the best of spirits, and doing a magnificent trade.

The next time I met him was in Margate, a few days before the expiration of our six months' pledge.

"Now, my friend," I said, "what about the pledge—are you going to drop it, or carry it on for ever?"

"Drop it!" he replied. "Why, if you offered me a glass of wine in one hand and a thousand pounds in the other if I would drink it, I wouldn't do it. Do you know I have received no less than four letters of congratulations from the firm during the last six weeks upon the enormous increase in my returns. The best day's work they ever did for me was to put me on commission. I never made so much money in my life."

"And what about your wife and children?" I queried.

"Happy as the day is long. I never miss reaching home on Saturdays now, and Sunday is a real day of rest and thankfulness for us all. No bad headaches. Temper all right. I have a good chance of saving something for the rainy day."

For about four years we met much as usual on our journeys. The rescued man was always the same, full of fine animal spirits; busy as a bee, and the very picture of robust health. As I have said, he was a man of strong will and prompt action. But one thing very often raised in my mind strong misgivings. I knew what great danger there was when a constitution like his had once been saturated and diseased with strong drink. I had read that even John Gough, the great Temperance orator, dare never trust himself even to take the ordinary Sacramental wine, and was compelled to avoid even the smell of it to his dying day. I felt the only safety for such a man was in Christ. But my friend was not a converted man. He was a professing Christian, nothing more. My poor efforts failed to show him the difference. He trusted in his own strength, and laughed at the idea of ever going back to his old drinking habits.

But a testing time came. One morning, as he was passing down the South Eastern line, the train met with an accident. No lives were lost, but many were terribly shaken, and amongst them our friend was much unnerved. He had to lay up for a time. The family doctor insisted on his taking port wine. Alas! alas! How a valuable life has been wrecked, wives made widows, and children fatherless, by the light and careless prescription of a well-meaning family doctor, who imagines that a fire brand can be safely thrown into a building full of inflammable material!

The port wine was taken. The old devil sleeping with him was thoroughly aroused. He went from one excess to another. I met him but once after that. Oh, how changed! He avoided me by every means in his power.

In one short twelve months alcoholic liquors had done their worst, and his broken-hearted widow, with eight fatherless children, followed him to a drunkard's grave.

Verily, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

—Alliance News.

AN IMPORTANT GATHERING.

The National W. C. T. U. of the United States holds its 26th annual convention at Seattle Washington, Oct. 20-25. This great organization now represents about 10,000 local unions in the different States and territories. Similar organizations are in existence in about 40 other countries, nearly all the direct result of the efforts of this parent body.

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 partizan. 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.

Such literature will convince many a man whom his neighbors cannot convince. It will speak to him quietly, in his own home, in his leisure moments, when he can listen uninterruptedly, when he cannot talk back and when the personality of the talker cannot interfere with the effect of the talk.

It will ply him with facts, arguments and appeals, that will influence, instruct and benefit him. It will set him thinking. This is half the battle. Its wide circulation will swell the victory that we are about to win. This is its object.

Your help is asked in this great work. Every society should subscribe for and distribute hundreds of copies. This is the easiest and surest plan of making prohibition votes. Look at the terms:

Twenty copies will be sent to any one address every month for six months, for ONE DOLLAR, payable in advance.

On no other plan can a small investment be made to produce so much of educative result. One hundred and twenty copies may be placed in as many homes, and have more than HALFA THOUSAND readers. One dollar will cover this placing of the claims of our cause before five hundred people. Ten dollars may reach FIVE THOUSAND. WILL YOU HELP US?

Address,

F. S. SPENCE,

51 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto

NOTES OF A YEAR'S WORK.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The agitation for a Dominion Plebiscite on prohibition was started in this Province by the *Sons of Temperance* in 1887. The promoters, however, failed to secure the necessary co-operation, and later on a Provincial Plebiscite was proposed. The Grand Division prepared and circulated petitions asking for the necessary legislation. Voting took place on March 15th, 1894, when a general Provincial election was being held. Over five-sixths of those voting for candidates voted for or against prohibition also.

The time allowed for preparation in the 1894 campaign was only a few weeks. Churches and temperance organizations worked enthusiastically. The W.C.T.U. superintended literature distribution with much success. Meetings were largely attended. Interest and energy characterized the whole campaign. In the campaign of last year our workers had more time for preparation, and more thorough organization, but had to face the great difficulties of independent voting, and a campaign in midsummer when a large number of the best workers were away and successful indoor meetings almost impossible. Party feeling also was rife, detracting from the interest and enthusiasm that would otherwise have prevailed, and though earnest efforts were made, and more literature circulated, it was not found possible to evoke as much spontaneous work and energy as on the former occasion.

A Provincial Convention was held at Halifax, on August 23rd, 1898. Organization had, however, been commenced earlier in some counties. Arrangements were made for reaching points not yet organized. About 200,000 copies of "Forward," and about 2,000,000 copies of leaflets were circulated. The vote polled for prohibition, however, was only 79 per cent. of the prohibition vote of 1894, and the vote against prohibition was only 43 per cent. of the anti vote of 1894. Every county in the Province gave a majority in favor of prohibition.

An instructive feature of the voting results is the fact that the parts of Nova Scotia in which at present the Canada Temperance Act is in force, and which have had from fifteen to nineteen years' experience of actual prohibition, although containing only sixty-nine per cent. of the electorate, gave in 1894, eighty-four per cent., and in 1898, eighty-five per cent. of the majority given by the Province for prohibition in each case.

Under license law the universal result has been increased consumption of intoxicating liquor; under the Canada Temperance Act the universal result has been a steady falling off in liquor consumption.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Prohibition work during the past year in the Province of New Brunswick, as in other parts of the Dominion, was chiefly in connection with the Plebiscite. The Province was fairly well organized for the campaign, which, especially in the few weeks preceding the vote, was carried on with commendable vigor. Many public meetings were held, a great deal of literature was distributed, the several organizations, including the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, were actively engaged in the work, and many churches rendered valuable service.

A few counties in the Province—those in which the French population is a large factor—were practically without general organization, though in some sections of them inhabited by English-speaking people, some very effective campaign work was done. The only parts of the Province which gave majorities against prohibition were those in which the French vote is very large.

The President and Treasurer of the Provincial Prohibition Association, Rev. Dr. McLeod and Mr. J. R. Woodburn, were appointed by the Executive of the Association to form part of the deputation that waited upon the Dominion Government in November last, to ask for legislation following up the victory of the Plebiscite. Rev. Dr. McLeod was one of the speakers.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The year that has closed was one of high hopes, earnest work and sad disappointment to the prohibitionists of this Province.

When it became known that a Plebiscite on prohibition was to be held, the Executive of the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Dominion Alliance at once took steps to secure thorough organization and to carry on an effective campaign. The services of several prominent speakers were secured and meetings held in every part of the Province. About 310,000 pages of the Alliance campaign literature were procured and circulated. We were able, through the liberality of our friends, to cover all the expense of the contest. Every constituency in the Province gave a splendid majority in favor of prohibition, the aggregate vote polled being as follows:—

Votes in favor of prohibition	9,461
Votes against prohibition	1,146
Majority for prohibition	8,315

This splendid result, accompanied as it was, by a majority throughout the whole Dominion, made us sanguine that some action would be taken by Parliament, and our workers were deeply grieved and dissatisfied when the Government refused to promote prohibitory legislation.

When the Federal Government's insincerity became apparent, we turned our attention to our Local Government, asking them to increase the restrictions of our present regulation law, which is in force in the City of Charlottetown, the only part of the

Province not under the operations of the Canada Temperance Act. We prepared an appeal proposing to further restrict the sale of liquor to minors, abolish treating, banish bar maids from saloons, delegatize clubs, prohibit liquor-selling on public holidays and prohibit sale in a polling division by a majority vote. We found the Government opposed to our appeal, and were told that unless we agreed to a tax upon liquor-sellers, the bill would be thrown out. The Alliance protested against the Province receiving any revenue out of the liquor traffic in any form. The Legislature, at the request of the Government, however, imposed a tax upon liquor selling and rejected all our proposed restrictions excepting that regarding treating, and the right of a majority to prohibit saloons. The advocates of the taxing plan claim that the fee imposed will close up smaller saloons. Our workers object to it as being the thin edge of the wedge of a license system, and fear that the proposal to raise a revenue from the liquor traffic, which has not been done in Prince Edward Island for many years, will be used as an inducement to some counties to repeal the Canada Temperance Act, which at present is accomplishing much good.

We are still looking to the Dominion Parliament for some advance in temperance legislation, which in view of the great majority secured in the Plebiscite, we have a right to expect.

MANITOBA.

The prohibition workers of Manitoba were well organized and the result of their activity was shown in the splendid majority polled against the liquor traffic in this Province in September last.

Early in February of the present year, the Manitoba Branch of the Alliance decided to ask the Provincial Legislature to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor to the fullest constitutional limit of the Province's power. Petition forms were prepared and sent out for circulation and signatures. A majority of the electoral divisions sent in petitions, in some cases very largely signed.

The local Branch of the Alliance followed up the petition movement in general by a deputation to the Government, urging the prayer of the petitioners. The deputation was joined by representatives of the Methodist Conference for Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and was thoroughly representative, numbering between five and six hundred persons. The President of the Alliance, Mr. W. R. Mulock; President of the Conference, Rev. Dr. Gaetz, and Mr. W. W. Buchanan, spoke in behalf of the deputation.

The Premier promised that his Government would endeavor to get their friends at Ottawa to enact legislation under which the Province would have a complete prohibitory law, but failing to obtain such legislation, his Government would cause legislation to be enacted to the fullest extent of the present power of the Province. The Premier's promise was understood by the deputation to mean legislation at the present session of the Legislature. The Premier has since stated that this was not his intention, but that such legislation will be introduced at the next session.

Since the deputation waited upon the Government, a general convention of the Conservative party has made prohibition of liquor-selling one of the planks of the party platform. Both parties are thus appealing to the electors upon practically the same platform in relation to this question. The Alliance will take steps to pledge all candidates.

It is the opinion of the Manitoba Branch of the Alliance that prohibitory legislation, to be effective, should be initiated and passed at the instance of the Government which must administer the law. It then becomes a feature of the administrative body, and a failure on the part of the Government to enforce the law would bring upon them the displeasure of a large number of electors.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The result of the Plebiscite campaign in this Province was exceedingly encouraging, considering the difficulties that prohibitionists had to encounter. The immense distances between various points of settlement, the geographical separation of the Province into sections, and the varied character of the population, were serious impediments to organization and work. At a well-attended convention, held in Vancouver, a Branch of the Dominion Alliance was formed and plans laid out. Some of our best workers took the field, the various churches and temperance societies joined heartily in with the new organization. A weekly paper, beginning at four pages and increased to eight, was published, entitled "The Campaign Bulletin," under editorial management of Rev. Dr. Eby. It started with 10,000 circulation, which grew to 12,500, being distributed gratuitously throughout the Province. An immense quantity of other literature was also circulated. The press of the Province as a whole, was not in sympathy with prohibition, which fact made an independent publication necessary. Campaign meetings were held in every part of the country, at street corners, in cities and other outdoor places, as well as in churches and schoolhouses. It had been predicted that British Columbia would be certain to go in favor of the liquor traffic. This opinion was not shared by those who had most knowledge and fullest faith in the moral sentiment of the country. The constituencies of Vancouver and Victoria, which are largely urban in their character, voted against prohibition. The other three constituencies gave good majorities in its favor, and the Province as a whole recorded a majority of 975 for prohibition out of a total of 10,487 votes polled.