

Temperance Journal.

ORGAN OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF AMERICA

OUR MOTTO—NATIONAL PROHIBITION.

Herman H. Pitts
Editor and Proprietor.]

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NOT FIT TO KISS.

BY ANNA LINDEN.

"What ails papa's mouf?" said a sweet little girl,
Her bright laugh revealing her teeth white as pearl;
I love him, and kiss him, and sit on his knee,
But the kisses don't smell good, as kisses should be.

"But, mamma,"—her eyes opened wide as she spoke—

"Do you like nassy kisses of 'bacco and smoke? They might do for boys, but for ladies and girls I don't think them nice," said she shaking her curls.

Don't nobody's papa have moufs nice and clean? With kisses like yours, mamma, that's what I mean;

I want to kiss papa I love him so well,
But kisses don't taste good that have such a smell.

"It's howid to smoke, and eat 'bacco and spit And the kisses ain't good, and ain't sweet, not a bit!"

And her blossom-like face wore a look of disgust,
As she gave out her verdict so earnest and just.

Yes, yes, little darling, your wisdom has seen
That kisses for daughter and wife should be clean;

For kisses lose something of nectar and bliss
From mouths that are stained and unfit for a kiss.

—Western Good Templar.

THE WINE DRINKER'S WIFE.

BY MRS. W. H. M.

The mystic shadows of the night
Have shrouded all in gloom,
But there is one her watch doth keep,
Within a cheerless room.
The dying embers on the hearth
Burn with a feeble power,
And the old clock, in solemn tones,
Speaks out the midnight hour.
All—all are wrapped in slumbers soft,
Save she, the wretched wife;
Oh, who dare say a woman's love
Is not the pearl of life.

The candle now is flickering,
The embers grow more dim,
Yet, still with throbbing brow and heart,
She watches still for him.
At last she hears a footstep nigh,
Her soul is filled with bliss,
She hastens with outstretched arms
To greet him with a kiss;
She welcomes him with eyes of love,
With smiles that are divine;
Oh, God! he reels! he cannot stand!

He is overcome with wine!
Night after night she watches thus,
Her frame grows thin and weak,
Yet still to him, the cause of all,
Complaints she will not speak;
And when at last the lamp of life
No more its light doth shed,
And he who swore to cherish her
Is absent from the dead,
She chid him not, but did forgive
With her expiring breath.
O woman, when she truly loves
Is faithful unto death.

Forty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

National Division

S. of T.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

REPORT OF THE

MOST WORTHY PATRIARCH.

Most Worthy Representatives:—We have met to wake the echoes of Saratoga Springs, and to mingle with its pleasures our songs of joy and triumph. It is fitting that our annual festivals should be held amid flowing fountains, and that in the high places of beauty and gladness we should rejoice in the contemplation of our encouragements, and string ourselves to future labor.

We stand at the head spring of influence more potent than those of sceptre or sword, bench or bar, statutes or decretals, whose range is as wide as the continent, whose sphere is the empire of conscience, and whose function is the shaping of human character and destiny. We are met to devise methods for advancing and consolidating an Order whose sublime mission it is to rescue our fellows from the government of pas-

sion and our country from the tyranny of the saloon, and to establish the dominion of Love, Purity and Fidelity. How great therefore, how momentous, how far reaching are our responsibilities! and how necessary that we should place our hands in that of our Heavenly Father, and at every step in our proceedings rely upon His guidance!

STATE OF THE ORDER.

Our Order, always sensitive to the touch of popular excitement, and unsettled by the fluctuations of public opinion, has survived another presidential election, and with a step of stateliness and ranks of gathering strength is marching on in triumph. Our larger jurisdictions are applying their resources to propagation work in new fields, and the weaker are projecting new plans of expansion and learning the advantage of system and economy. The "color-line is growing slender day by day, and two more states, Tennessee and North Carolina, will shortly sunder it, while farther south, the opposition of prejudice is gradually yielding to the "logic of facts." Our Order is winning its way among the cultured, and drawing to its standard men of strength and high endowments. Its affinity to the church is being better understood and is gaining wider recognition, and the fields on which they meet and blend for the uplifting of our race are growing broader every day. To the state our Order is loyal and true; and for state co-operation for the attainment of its ends it will prosecute its suit by every constitutional and manly method, but with a constancy that will not falter and a courage that will not die.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

Since the last Annual Session, I have officially visited the Grand Divisions of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and also the jurisdictions of Quebec, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky; Ohio, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia Junior, West Virginia, Maryland, and D. C., Maryland Junior, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. During my extended tour I have had ample opportunities to observe the working and wants of the Order, and its adaption to the requirements of the country, and to the needs of this progressive age. In all of the jurisdictions which I have visited I met leading members of the Order for consultation and advice, and addressed public meetings on the principles and aims of our brotherhood, and was everywhere received with the warmest cordiality. It would be premature to calculate at present the final result of these visits; but I will affirm that the promptitude and readiness with which the several jurisdictions adopted the plans and suggestions which I had occasion to offer, and the energetic co-operation which they rendered in launching such plans, could not but afford the highest satisfaction to this National Division, and awaken the best hopes for the future.

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

As far as my observation has extended, I have found, in the several jurisdictions, the most loyal and devoted attachment to the Order, its principles, laws and usages. If the love of some has "waxed cold," and placid indifference has stricken them into helplessness and hopeless paralysis, the rank and file of our Order are brethren of large souls and high purpose—men whose hearts of constancy quail not, who hold the Order shined in their affections, and who are confident in the grandeur of the destiny which awaits it. And even where the Order has sunk in decay I have found faithful watchers sitting amid the ruins, and regarding them with a veneration akin to that which the bearded Jew cherishes for the very stones and dust of Jerusalem of old. While such men live none but charlatans with "large loads of

fine frenzy and infinitesimal grains of common sense," need talk about the faded greatness and prostrate might of this great Order.

DANGER SIGNALS.

This report would be essentially incomplete did I not invite the attention of the National Division to some of the ground of anxiety (if not causes of alarm) which have forced themselves upon my attention.

When this Order entered upon its career half a century ago, it proposed, as its primary objects, "to shield its members from the evils of intemperance, to afford mutual assistance in case of sickness, and to elevate personal character." The grandeur of these objects took the heart of humanity by storm, opened a radiant pathway to success, and planted our standard on three continents. These exalted rules of action will never die, nor grow old or out of date, as long as humanity, petrified and prostrated by the Gorgon of Intemperance, remains to be lifted up. If our Order is venerated and loved today, it is pre-eminently where its foundation principles have been most steadfastly adhered to and made the elements of its life.

In 1852 the National Division declared itself in favor of "suppressing, by all legitimate and honorable means, the manufacture of, and the traffic in, intoxicating drinks." This can scarcely be considered as the adoption of a new principle. Prohibition is rather the logical sequence and development of the maxims and tenets on which our Order was founded. The proclamation of prohibition as the sentiment of the Order, implied no change of base in its operations—no abrogation, but rather a wider application of its original principles, and rules of conduct. No Son of Temperance, therefore, lays himself open to the charge of inconsistency, or disloyalty to our cardinal principles, who uses his personal influence and efforts, as his judgment may dictate, to bring the laws of his country into harmony with the moral convictions and declared objects of our Order, which are now and ever have been unalterably settled—"to destroy the enemy of our people, and to promote the virtue and happiness of mankind."

Nevertheless, recent occurrences have developed in our Order a tendency to divide and separate what the interests, the harmony, the very existence of the Order require should be kept conjoined; to degrade moral suasion and elevate legal coercion to the rank of a dominant principle in our councils; to take its crown from the head of our Order and to establish a despotic dictatorship of what are called "modern ideas." The result, where this tendency has taken root, is only what might be expected. The non-partisan character of our Order has been compromised. Elements have been evoked which can never coalesce. Disruption and disintegration have scattered the ruins of our Order on fields consecrated to unity and brotherly love. Misguided empirics would bring back the disasters of 1874, when Sons of Temperance threw themselves into a great popular movement and closed their Division room doors behind them; and when the inevitable reaction came, and the tide of enthusiasm began to recede, the bleaching bones of multitudes of Subordinate Divisions were scattered along the shore.

Brethren of this great Order, write "Prohibition" on your banners in flaming capitals; "vote temperance as well as practice temperance;" make, if you will, your Division room a highway to the polls; pledge your suffrages only to the man whose ticket is "Prohibition, absolute and eternal, and no compromise" and I go with you all the way. But let no man pluck from the head of our Order the laurels which it won on the fields of moral suasion. Silence not the "prayers, entreaties and appealing words" of yearning, loving

sympathy. Stand in firm phalanx around the frame-work of our Order, and permit no profane hand to mar its beauty or dislocate its symmetry. If others are disposed to clear a new path with their own hatchet, God speed them; but let us keep to the good old path trodden by the kingly men who founded this Order, and stamped the form and impress of their character on every timber of the structure.

MUTUAL RELIEF SOCIETY.

In my progress through the jurisdictions I not unfrequently came in contact with strong prejudices against our Order founded upon its alleged instability. Scattered all over the land are the charters of Subordinate Divisions which never lived to fulfil the promise of their birth—whose life was but a short December day. Their love had grown cold before its ardor had been well kindled. And where discriminating justice would place the cause of decay at the door of the individuals, blind prejudice fastened it upon the system, and the result was a want of confidence in the Order. The interests of the Order require that steps should be taken to cut the ground from under such prejudices, and restore confidence; and I know of no scheme better adapted to accomplish this result than one which shall provide for a vigorous prosecution of the objects of the Relief Society. This Society is no mere private enterprise launched with a view to personal gain. It is the product of the wisdom and zeal of men whose sole object was to give stability and permanence to our Order. It has outlived the experimental period of its existence, and multiplied proofs to attest its adaptability to the purpose of its institution. A dozen members of this Society in a Subordinate Division will plant that Division on a rock, and personal interest, one of the strongest of human motives, will chain it in its place. An agency which places our Order on such high vantage ground, which touches with such a magic hand the weak points in its working, and which provides so efficacious a remedy for decline and decay, should gather to its support the sympathies and co-operation of every true Son of Temperance. Another agency which claims recognition as a means of giving strength and stability to the Order, is

THE DISTRICT DIVISION.

The capabilities of the District Division, when organized and working under the constitution and by-laws provided by the National Division, are of a high order. It is a representative body, and holds its authority directly from the Grand Division. It is composed of the cream of the Subordinate Divisions within its bounds. Its functions are limited to the propagation and establishment of the Order. Embracing a circumscribed area, it knows its ground and can push the work of propagation from its own centre. Keeping its finger on the pulse of each Subordinate Div., it can immediately detect the first symptoms of irritation or decline. By appropriate and energetic committees it provides for the organization or resuscitation, and the encouraging and strengthening of Divisions, the visiting of public schools, the formation of juvenile societies, and the distribution of temperance literature. A fine field of enterprise is thus offered to call out the dormant energies of Sons of Temperance who are spoiling from inaction. Success stimulates the zeal of the workers and reacts on the Division to which they belong; nay more, it will act on public sentiment at large, raising the Order to a higher elevation in public esteem, and quietly but surely moulding and shaping public opinion for decisive action in the great conflict in which we are engaged, and on the issue of which the weightiest interests of the country are staked. My own observation, which has extended over a wide compass, bears its testimony to

the value of District Divisions as a means of quickening the life of Subordinate Divisions, giving compactness and solidity to the Order within the range of their operations, and impressing the public mind with the grandeur of our work.

PROPAGATION AGENTS.

Among the resources to be relied on for giving stability and permanence to our Order, a most important place must be assigned to the employment of a salaried organizer in the field. The system of remunerating organizers by a premium for each Division organized is practised by some of our larger jurisdictions with success; but it is open to the strong objections that under it the labours of the organizer are, for obvious reasons, confined to the organization of new Divisions; and that under the pressure of pecuniary considerations such Divisions are not unfrequently constituted of very unsuitable material. On the other hand, the salaried organizer, unmolested by personal anxieties, and independent of surrounding influences, is free to devote his time, not only to the formation of new Divisions, but also to the instruction and training of such Divisions, to the resuscitation of lifeless Divisions and the strengthening of the weak, to the enrollment of the children and the distribution of temperance tracts—to all the varied kinds of work which may tend to diffuse our principles, build up our Order, and cultivate public sentiment. The comparative advantages of such a system, operated by an active and true-hearted Son of Temperance, it would be impossible to over-estimate. And taking high rank among such advantages is the circumstance that our Order will present itself before the public mind in the loftiness of a character so rounded and complete, so consistent and unselfish as to challenge the tribute of public confidence and approval, and win the merited recognition of its claims.

THE PRESS.

In these days of ubiquitous newspapers and insatiable reading, our Order is too sparing in the use of the press. Of all the forces at work in the field of human progress; of all instruments for enforcing man's rights, redressing his wrongs and advancing his noblest mission, "the mightiest of the mighty is the press." It is a mistaken idea that our Order is dependent for its propagation on the eloquence of star lecturers. It is said that "the audience which listens is insignificant in comparison with the audience which reads, and the impassioned eloquence of the orator rarely survives the sight of half a score of newspaper reporters with busy fingers." Brethren of the Order, if we expect to win empire on this continent we must lean more on the arm of the press. I have been surprised to find how little is known of our Order in this country. Millions are ignorant of its very existence. Is it not time for us forever to wipe out the reproach of being a "secret society?" I am persuaded that the resources of the Order could not be employed with greater advantage and more telling effect, than by flooding the country with printed information, in a readable and popular form, respecting the work of our Order, its principles and aims. We advertise too little. Every Subordinate Division should have its card in the local papers, and the "star of our Order" should blaze where it can guide the steps of strangers to our doors.

The National Temperance Society and Publication House, to which our Order owes an inextinguishable debt of obligation, is deserving of a more extended notice than can be given to it in this report. It holds an imperial place among the educational forces of this country. Though it has but recently passed the period of its majority, it has given to the world a collective literature, varied and comprehensive, which is the product of the ablest minds, and which treats of every phase of the temperance ques-

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