

Temperance Journal.

ORGAN OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF AMERICA

OUR MOTTO—NATIONAL PROHIBITION.

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Editor and Proprietor.

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Our Only Salvation.

BY W. JENNINGS DEMOREST.

The blood-curdling crimes that are undoubtedly a result of the liquor traffic, which meet the eye in the newspapers and are daily portrayed in their horrid details, are almost every day experience in every great city in the world, and ought to awaken the most energetic action on the part of thinking minds as to the best means to exterminate and utterly destroy this poison of alcohol from the face of the earth. That the human mind should tolerate and sanction this monster evil is one of the marvelous contradictions of our civilization.

To permanently secure the comfort, life and property of the nation, is the true function and design of government, therefore the homes of the people demand protection against the insidious poison of alcohol which constantly threatens every phase of our civilization, menaces our lives and property, is the most prolific source of crime and pauperism, and a public nuisance generally.

That the grace and beauty of God's image in either man or woman should be so thoroughly defaced that the brightest and best intellects can be reduced to such a horrible depth of degradation as is often evident in the bloated bodies, poisoned brains and miserable lives of those who indulge in the use of intoxication liquors, is one of the most marvelous illustrations of moral degradation to be found in all the annals of human depravity.

The paralyzing influence of alcohol, the poisoning of every fiber of the body, together with the certainty of hereditary taint to posterity, ought to awaken in every thoughtful mind the most utter abhorrence to its use as a beverage. That alcohol does inflame the passions, poison the brain, benumb the conscience, predispose the body to disease, and demoralize the whole community, are facts too evident to require argument. The only wonder is that the moral sense of the people does not rise up in rebellion and denounce this monster evil in such vehement terms as to drive the vile poison beyond the pale of civilization. This ought to be done with great earnestness by the Christian church, and also with a zeal and energy that could not be diverted until the last vestiges of its baleful influence are obliterated from the world.

Therefore to talk of 'moderation' in the use of a compound so vile and poisonous, and so dangerous in its exhilarating effects on the brain, as is found in alcoholic beverages, the very essence of the devil in solution, is simply a monstrous delusion. Nothing in all nature, or that can be connected by art, is so deceptive as alcohol; in fact, this poison of alcohol is not found in nature at all, but is the product of decomposition and putrefaction, and until recently has been regarded by some as one of the good gifts of a wise Creator; but such blasphemy ought to be regarded as intolerable. This fallacy has been effectively exploded by the recent disclosures of science, which has given us its conclusions in such explicit terms, followed by such definite facts that leave no room to doubt the poisonous character of alcohol in its destructive influence on the nerves, the tissues of the coating of the stomach thus predisposing the system to all the diseases common to humanity, besides poisoning the brain and bringing in its train all the degradation and misery that make this world a hell of debauchery. It is also the means of scattering broadcast over the land the most monstrous crimes and wretchedness, making the evils of war, pestilence and famine small affairs compared to the devastating influence of this alcoholic poison on the people.

We are fast approaching the time when all good men who value their reputation for virtue and consistency will be impelled to come out on the side of entire Prohibition as the only remedy for this most destructive and demoralizing traffic. Even now we hear the echoes and reverberations of the grand revolution that is inspiring the people and concentrating

its forces in a thorough organization all over the country, making the very air fairly ring with the signs of the coming conflict. Every sensible man now freely admits the terrible amount of crime and misery that is constantly developed by the alcoholic poison that has become worse than a pestilence in the community, but appetite and passion for strong drink are now so prevalent and so thoroughly confirmed by the long usages of society, that they are groping about and grasping after some modified arrangement by which the evils of the traffic can be remedied or so restricted that they may be justified in what they term "moderate use" of stimulating drinks; but all these stratagems only serve to sink its enemies into a deeper mire of degradation.

These efforts and struggles for relief are only the precursors of the final result for Prohibition pure and simple. We have faith to believe that the whole world will soon be in arms against the liquor traffic, with determination that will secure the entire prohibition of the manufacture, sale and importation of this poison of alcohol as a beverage, as the only means to secure the people from its awful ravages on their homes and their best interests.

The questions will naturally arise in conscientious minds, Can we afford to be the pioneers in this grand work that promises so much for the good of the world? Can we take the initiative in this new political campaign, to inaugurate the necessary and preliminary steps that will require so much real moral and physical courage, and also so much thankless effort? That many men will be inspired with strong convictions and manly determinations to make the requisite sacrifices, there is no reason to doubt.

The reason for this expectation lies in the extraordinary claim this cause has upon the best instinct of our nature. The satisfaction that we have in knowing that we are right, and that we stand on an impregnable basis of truth and justice which is for the best interest of the people, fortifies our convictions, and justifies all the sacrifices and efforts that we are called upon to make to accomplish this grand purpose. The exigencies of the times, therefore, call for redoubled energy to redeem the country from the threatening desolation that now hovers over our civilization, and which can be averted only by a diligent use of our political rights at the ballot box; for it will be only by a purified and exalted use of political power that this monster evil, the liquor traffic, can be hurled beyond the limits of civilized society, and thus thrust out of its present strong and seemingly impregnable hold on the passions and appetites of its victims, and buried in a sea so deep as to be beyond any hope of a resurrection.

And this will be done by and through the political power and vote of an enlightened, exasperated and determined people, who will not listen to any concession or compromise short of absolute Prohibition and the destruction of every vestige of this monster of iniquity from the face of the earth.—*Demorest's Magazine* for November.

GRAND DIVISION OF ONTARIO.

Owing to the extent of some of the reports we are unable to find space to publish them in full, we give, however, a synopsis of them.

GRAND WORTHY PATRIARCH'S REPORT.

Officers and Representatives:

With devout gratitude to the "Giver of all good," it affords me sincere pleasure to meet you in our Annual Session, and to hail you as co-workers in the cause of all mankind.

You will be pleased to learn that from my own knowledge, and from information supplied me by Deputies, our Order in this Jurisdiction is in a vigorous and healthy condition. I am pleased that the spirit of apathy, which seems to have prevailed in the

Temperance community, has not affected our Order to any great extent. Amid all the discouragements which seemed to prevail, I would not have been surprised had we at this session been compelled to report a decrease in place of a decided increase. I refer to the reverses caused by the repeal of the Scott Act in several counties, as well as the many rival organizations of a Temperance and benevolent character, which are continually being introduced into the country, and with which many of our members have been induced to unite, thus dividing their interests in the work of our Order, and creating an indifference as to the welfare of the Division of which they are members.

Notwithstanding those conflicting influences, I firmly believe that we have at the present time more moral and available power than for several years past. We have a force in the field still firm, unwavering and invincible. Yours is the task, upon the present occasion, to dispose of this force in such a manner as shall render it most effective. I have therefore every confidence in the hope that you, as the representatives of our Subordinate Divisions, will apply yourselves to the labors of this Session with a firm determination to do all in your power to bring this Order, to which we are so devoutly attached, to consider its powers, its duties, its responsibilities, and by your legislation at this session, to render our organization more efficient in directing public sentiment to the criminal and degrading influence of the liquor traffic.

QUARTERLY RETURNS AND PER CAP. TAX.

In my report at the Brantford Session I referred to the necessity of a strict enforcement of our rules in regard to making quarterly returns and payment of *per capita tax*. I am pleased to be able to report that by persevering in this line a great improvement is manifested, and I believe the system of withholding the password from delinquents has proved beneficial to the Order numerically and financially.

Some of our Divisions were under the impression that so long as the returns were sent *even* without *per capita tax* they were not liable to suspension. This in my opinion is a mistake, the returns not being complete unless accompanied by the *per capita tax*.

From the reports which will be presented, you will be able to judge how far the system has met with your wishes.

I have requested the Grand Scribe to lay before you a full and detailed comparative statement showing our actual numerical strength for the past two years, as well as our present position, as shown by returns received to the latest date.

To those figures I ask your special attention and careful consideration, which will enable you to arrive at the true state of our Order at the present time.

The statements of receipts and accounts of subordinate Divisions will show that the cash system inaugurated has proved most successful.

No new indebtedness by divisions is shown, and most of the old accounts have been collected.

THE GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

I also anticipate that the report of our Grand Treasurer will show our treasury to be in a satisfactory position.

No unnecessary expenditure has been made, and while the strictest economy has been practised, the interests of the Order have not suffered, the propagation work having received special attention so far as our funds would permit.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to visit several of our Divisions in different parts of the Province, as well as presiding officially at public meetings, and advocating our cause and Order from the public platform. On all such occasions I have been received, as your representative, with the utmost courtesy and respect. And here I may be per-

mitted to urge upon my successors in office, as well as upon all Officers and Deputies of the Grand Division, the importance and necessity of repeated official visits to subordinate Divisions. Such visits tend to create a unity of feeling, and manifest an interest which is not experienced when such duties are neglected. For myself I wish to state that, while I was assured my visits proved beneficial to the Division, I realized that I was also greatly benefited, as well as enabled to ascertain the wants of the Order in the Districts which I visited.

CORRESPONDENCE.

My correspondence has also been very large. I have received and answered over four hundred letters during the past term, in addition to the numerous post cards received, and letters of inquiry containing suggestions to Deputies and others, regarding the work of the Order.

DEPUTIES' REPORTS.

I regret that the large majority of my Deputies have not reported as required. In accepting their commissions they agree to fulfil all the duties of the office, but this duty they do not seem to appreciate, although it would require only a short time to furnish the information asked for in the blank form. From those I have received, I learn that the Divisions are in good working order, fraternal and harmonious. For the good of the Order lectures are asked for, and the sick benefit and insurance system suggested. In regard to regalia, some of the Divisions report: "We have badges, but not regalia," and do not seem to understand that there is but one uniform regalia to be used in meetings, as laid down in the Blue Book. Very few of our Divisions report taking advantage of the Act of Incorporation.

The organization of the young seems to be generally overlooked, and very few of our members are reported as supporting any temperance paper or periodicals. I am pleased, however, to notice that the large proportion of our Divisions hold public meetings, and adopt other means for the advocacy of the cause.

COUNTY DEPUTIES.

Referring to those Officers in my report at last annual session, I suggested to the Grand Division the advisability of selecting brethren for this office who fully understand the work of the Order, and who could devote the time, on payment of their expenses, to visit each Division in his county. I would again urge this matter for your consideration, and to the satisfactory experience we have had in the County of Welland, where our veteran brother, Robert Coulter, Prov. D. G. W. P., has for several years, followed up this system of official visits.

DISTRICT DIVISIONS.

I have no progress to report in this branch of our work. Divisions, as a general thing, seem to be averse to increasing the machinery of the Order. At request of the County Deputy I visited the County of Welland, and organized a District Division for that county, it being formerly attached to the Niagara District Division. I have endeavored, by correspondence and personal effort, to organize in other counties, but without success, for the reason already referred to. From my own experience and knowledge of the work performed by those branches of our Order, I would earnestly recommend our Divisions in the several counties to unite in their organization, for District Divisions are well calculated to extend and build up the Order, as well as promote a fraternal feeling among the different Divisions.

LECTURE AND AGENCY WORK.

We have been unable to keep a regular lecturer in the field for want of the necessary funds at the disposal of the Executive. We have been considerably hampered in this respect, and though it was evident the field

of labor was very promising, your Executive did not feel warranted in running the Grand Division into debt by undertaking the work. The services of our talented Brother, P. M. W. A. Carswell, were, however, secured during the past two months and his labors have met with much success. Bro. J. C. Tisdale, Prov. D. G. W. P., has also devoted a portion of his time to agency work, and has succeeded in organizing several Divisions. The particulars of the work done by these brethren, as well as by several of our zealous Deputies, will be laid before you in the report of the Grand Scribe. While referring to this subject, I would, with all earnestness, urge upon the Grand Division the necessity of making financial provision for organization work. I am confident there never was a mightier call to engage in this work than the present time. It demands greater energy than it has yet received, and may profitably be the chief subject of consideration at this meeting. I would respectfully suggest that a special committee be appointed to prepare some effective plan for propagation work, and report at this session; and that this Grand Division do not close the labors of this session until we have a plan matured which, if at once carried out, will result in the extension and building up of the Order throughout this Province. I am encouraged to urge this duty upon you, because I have found that wherever an honest and persevering effort has been made, we have succeeded, and I have felt it my duty to make myself fully acquainted with the present condition of the Order, and its future prospects in this province. I have, therefore, no hesitation in asserting that never in the history of our Order were our prospects brighter for missionary work than at the present time. The land is before you, and it is for you, worthy representatives, to say at this session, shall we go forward and occupy it.

THE NATIONAL DIVISION.

In compliance with your invitation, the National Division held its forty-fourth annual session in this city in July last, and were accorded a reception under the direction of your Reception Committee, to which, as the Supreme Body of the Order, they were worthy of, and which was highly appreciated by the representatives. Your Committee will present their report, which I have no doubt will prove highly satisfactory. The proceedings of the session having been published, it is unnecessary for me to refer specially to them in this report.

GRAND DIVISION SESSIONS.

At the Brampton session in January, 1886, the semi-annual sessions were abolished on the ground that the necessity for them no longer existed. I think this is a question which we at this session might profitably re-consider. I find in my intercourse with members that the opinion prevails that the period is too long between our meetings when only annual sessions are held; that the extent of our jurisdiction is such that the Executive should have more frequent opportunities of meeting with the representatives of the Subordinate Divisions; and that quarterly or semi-annual sessions held in different parts of the Province are preferable, and offer opportunities to members to meet with the Grand Division, that otherwise are deprived of that privilege, and thus more fully understand the working of the Order.

(Continued next issue.)

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The members of the Committee *in re* District Divisions, appointed by the Subordinate Divisions in St. John Co., will meet at Gordon Division Hall, King Street, St. John, on Wednesday evening, January 2nd, at 7.30 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing. It is requested that every member of the committee be present.

J. KING KELLY,
R. S., Sub. Div.