

Temperance Column

Dear Editor:

In the book of I. Kings, chapter 21:1-20 we read of an incident so inhuman we little wonder that our God, though long-suffering toward the sinner and plenteous in mercy, took immediate action.

We marvel that any person, or persons, could be guilty of a deed so mean even in that stage of man's history. And yet, wonder of wonders, in this day of boasted "Fatherhood of God" and "Brotherhood of Man" our political leaders have committed a crime against the social, religious and home life of this fair province which indeed has a very striking likeness to the crime committed by that covetous king; only their sin is so much greater, in that it effects so many more people.

Ahab, being the appointed leader of this people, was to serve for the best interests of this people. But like so many of the political leaders of this day he set to making fat his own wallet, and grieved like a spoiled child because certain right laws prevented him from increasing it more. Naboth's vineyard, possessed and enjoyed by a pious, God-fearing man, was the source of Ahab's difficulty. Naboth held it, not alone because he had the right to do so, but because he was duty bound to do so. (Read verse 3).

Something must be done, and when Ahab could not think of a plan, his cabinet ministry (Jezebel) deliberated for him. Methinks it was no special love for Ahab that induced Jezebel to assist in so nefarious a crime. She knew it would add to her own interests as well as to the king's. Let us note the plan:

1. The king must take an unfair advantage.
2. He was assisted by the elders and nobles.
3. They must bring the enemies of truth to bear false witness against Naboth.
4. They must put Naboth to death.

Now, in drawing the picture, this leads us to remark:

Prohibition has been the Naboth in the eyes of our political leaders. They seemed to see nothing but "blue ruin" for themselves and everyone else so long as prohibition existed. Hence, we feel that, like Ahab of old, filthy lucre and greed was at the bottom of the plan.

We, who had fought hard for this possession and held it by right of inheritance, would not accept a substitute, neither would be induced to surrender our claims by the offers of more money to build better roads, better opportunities to educate our boys and girls, and greater revenues by which to meet our financial obligations. Knowing that in so doing we would be adhering to a principle more heathen than Christian.

This being the case, something must be done, and something was done. Mr. Baxter must take an unfair advantage. His position apparently made it possible, and at the cost of his word to a people who had put so great reliance in him he, without giving the people a voice in the matter, declared that prohibition must die.

True, Mr. Baxter was not alone in this matter, even as Ahab was not alone. We were not surprised that many of the worshippers of Belial assisted in this work, but we were more than surprised to learn that one who had claimed to be of the "same craft" with Elijah, would dare to assist in so mean a work. Like Naboth, many false accusations were brought in against prohibition: viz., more liquor being drunk, more crimes being committed; no power to enforce the law, etc., etc. But if such was the case, we can only say that, first, men must have had a better way of concealing their booze under the

prohibition law than they have under the present one; secondly, our province seems very far from being free from crime and law-breakers under the present regime; and, thirdly, if the law can be enforced under this policy, why could not the same men enforce the law under the old?

Unfair advantages have been taken; false accusations have been made; prohibition is dead; sorry conditions exist; but God is still on the throne. I believe if He can find some true Elijahs who will dare to stand out and condemn this flaunting evil until Ahabs and Jezebels will indeed know us as their "enemies," that same God will not permit the good to be trodden down by the evil, but will give prohibition a glorious resurrection, and reinstate us in what has been wrongfully taken from us.

The Baxter Government has certainly "killed and taken possession." It has been my privilege in the last few months through many of our towns and villages, and I find that the "liquor stores" are doing a large business. Somebody must be drinking. Liquor isn't bought to be poured out on the ground.

Mr. Fulton in a recent speech in the city of Moncton stated that much less hard liquor is being sold these days. Pray what difference does that make? If their "light wines" (?) will make a man act just as simple, captivate his will power, take all his money, rob his children of a father's care, make him hit his wife just as hard, make his home just as unbearable, close the gates of heaven against him, I say, what then is the difference between his drinking their famous "sherry-wine" or raw alcohol?

The fact remains that liquor has the stamp of hell upon it, the Word of God against it, and no man can be the husband, father or citizen that he ought to be, unless he is using his influence to rid our fair province of so great an evil. And mothers, we appeal to you, don't be Jezebels.

Give us higher taxes, if need be, but save us from trafficking in that which costs us our honor, our homes, our churches, our boys, and our girls.

REV. F. A. DUNLOP.

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

In the early days of the Persian Empire the people were well known for the simplicity of their manners and the purity of their morals. The first condition of national prosperity was understood and realized. They were universally educated and trained in habits of sobriety. Herodotus says: "The early Persians were strangers to the taste of wine, they drank water only." From Persian history we learn that the discovery of fermentation is attributed to Jemsheed, a monarch who lived soon after the flood. It is stated that he was very fond of grapes, and on one occasion put some away in a jar for future use. When next he wanted them, instead of the luscious fruit, he found wine; so pleased was he with the taste that he called the wine "the elixir of life," and he had a special cup made, carved out of ruby, to drink from. In the course of time the "elixir of life" became the elixir of death, for the people of Persia forgot the principles of sobriety which had exalted them among the nations and eventually the corrupting influence of strong drink destroyed their power and glory. For centuries they have shown a fondness for wine, although Mahomet, whom they profess to serve, forbids its use. The decline of Persia is another standing warning against the use of intoxicating liquors.

OBITUARY

Mr. Charles Douglas, age 76, passed this life the week of January 11. Mr. Douglas, who was staying with his son-in-law, Mr. Marsello Williams, went out on Wednesday to hunt rabbits. When night came on Mr. Douglas did not come home. Mr. Williams, with others, went out Thursday but did not find him. On Friday the town sent out a number of men to assist Mr. Williams in the hunt. He was found about eleven a.m. It is believed he had been dead for some time. Mr. Douglas was a member of the Salvation Army. The funeral was held at the home of Mr. Williams, conducted by the writer and assisted by Captain Cummings, the leader of the Salvation Army, of St. Stephen. He leaves to mourn one daughter, Mrs. Williams, on Garfield St. Our prayers, and sympathy go to those who mourn.

C. R. HAGERMAN.

On Tuesday morning, January 9th, Mrs. Apt, age 72 years, passed to her eternal reward at the Calais Hospital. Mrs. Apt, for many years was a member and faithful worker of the Reformed Baptist Church at Calais. She joined in the battle with the holiness folk in the early years of their work here. Her faith never waned, but grew stronger and stronger as the years passed by. She did not speak of death as many do, but looked forward to it as a great blessing; something that would transfer her to the clime of eternal rest where she would be with her Lord, and with her loved ones. I visited her many times while she was at the Hospital, and always came away with a stronger faith in God, and in the reality of salvation. When I stand beside the bed of an elderly saint, and watch them slipping away from these mortal shores with a calm and peaceful countenance, I think of David's words, "Yea, though I walk through the valley and shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for they art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Mr. Benjamin Apt, who had been a Civil War veteran, passed away some eighteen years ago. And, although Mrs. Apt had no children, brothers, or sisters living, no daughter could do more to comfort her in her reclining years than her niece, Mrs. Lewis Campbell, of High street. The funeral was held at the home of the deceased on Monro St., conducted by the writer, and assisted by Rev. Mr. Lidstone, of the Methodist Church of Calais. The remains were laid to rest in the Calais cemetery. C. R. HAGERMAN.

"Some. . . think of us (Apostles) as walking according to flesh. (But) walking in flesh, we do not war according to flesh. For the arms of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful according to God to the overthrow of strong-holds; overthrowing reasonings and every high thing that lifts itself up against the knowledge of God, and leading captive every thought into the obedience of the Christ; and having in readiness an exaction of satisfaction for all disobedience when your obedience shall have been fulfilled." 2 Cor. 10: 2-6. Lit. Translation.

"God wants elect men—men out of whom self and the world have gone by a severe crucifixion, by a bankruptcy which has so totally ruined self and the world that there is neither hope nor desire of recovery; men who by this insolvency and crucifixion have turned toward God perfect hearts."—E. M. Bounds in Power Through Prayer.