

## Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

### NEAL DOW, LEADER IN STRENGTHENING THE LAW FOR PROHIBITION

Neal I Dow was born at Portland, Maine, in 1804. During his long life he lived in this one city, except, of course, when he was away on military duty, or on his numerous lecture tours. His ancestors came to New England within twenty years of the Pilgrims, and were mostly settlers in the new commonwealth. Neal Dow was a splendid student, and was at one time in the same classes with Henry W. Longfellow. Because of the prejudice against a college course among the Friends, he reluctantly gave up his plan to be thoroughly educated. Mr. Dow was a good reader, and all his life was a student.

His father was the proprietor of a large tannery. The son learned the business and afterward succeeded to its management. He did not bury himself in his business, however, but all of his life was a careful student of public affairs. He was a splendid athlete, and a member of the local fire department. In all these relations he showed himself a true man. He conducted his business on the highest principles of probity and honor.

When he was twenty-three years of age he successfully opposed the use of liquors at the anniversary of the Deluge Engine Company of which he was a member. A few years later he advocated the abolition of the custom of furnishing liquors to employees in the factories and places of business. It was customary to ring the town-bell at eleven and again at four o'clock as a signal that the time to drink had arrived.

From this time, at every opportunity, Neal Dow spoke against the liquor traffic. He saw clearly its many evils, and many times sought to aid those who had fallen because of drunkenness. One day he went to a saloon to see if he could not persuade the proprietor to refuse to sell to a certain man who was drinking heavily, and as a result his wife and children were left without support. The saloonkeeper became very angry with this young man who was interfering with his business, and asserted that he had a license to sell liquor and would do so when he pleased. Neal Dow's reply sounded the keynote of a forty years' struggle. "So you have a license to sell, and propose to support your family by impoverishing others? With God's help, I will change all this."

It was almost a score of years before Neal Dow was able to accomplish what was in his mind. As the years went by there was constant discussion. At every opportunity Neal Dow and many other friends of temperance, who increased with the years, showed the evils of drinking and urged that the legislature pass laws against the traffic, just as they did against other recognized evils. In 1842 Portland voted the saloons out, and other cities and villages followed her example.

During these years, and in fact all of his life, Neal Dow had his important business interests to which he gave careful attention. He was a railroad director, a president of the Gas Light Company in Portland, a bank director. It was said that he soon took a leading position with every business with which he became connected. He was not a dreamer, nor did he give his whole time to reform. He was a splendid example of a Christian business man, giving of his ability and time to reforms of civic importance.

Mr. Dow told of an incident which occurred late one night while he was reading in his library.

He heard a little child running by his window crying loudly. Hurrying to his door, he stopped the child. "What is the matter with you, my little boy?" he asked. "My father kicked me out of doors." "Where are you going?" "To my uncle's." "Do you know the way?" "Yes, I've been there many times before. My father always drives me out of the house when he's drinking." Was it strange that, with incidents like these often occurring, a man like Mr. Dow would try to change conditions which were so wrong? What true man or woman would not try in some way to lessen the evils of such a traffic?

In 1846 a prohibitory law was passed in the Maine state legislature, but it was not very successful, because, as some one said, "It lacked teeth and claws." In 1851 a new law was passed in one day, every word of which was written by Neal Dow. This law forbade the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. Authority was given to seize and destroy liquor, and heavy fines were imposed for disobeying the law. Neal Dow, at the time, was mayor of Portland. He enforced the law and great quantities of liquor were dumped into the sewer. The city had never been so free from crime, and in some parts of the state the jails were empty. Until the present time the law, with additions and corrections, has been in force, except for a short time when repealed. In 1884 prohibition was made a part of the constitution. Of course, sometimes those who have sworn to enforce the laws do not do so. It is disobeyed, like other laws. Many of those who have watched carefully are sure that it is a good law. Today many of the states have passed similar laws to protect their citizens from liquor.

Neal Dow responded to his country's call for service in the Civil War, and was made a brigadier-general for distinguished service. He was in the famous Libby Prison for many months, and with others suffered much privation. Much more could be written concerning this man, but enough has been given to let you see a true Christian business man, interested in serving his fellow-men and making his country free from its greatest curse. He died in 1897, greatly honored and respected by multitudes.—Selected.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Moncton, N. B.

A word for the King's Highway. I think a lot of the business manager, editorial committee and correspondents. You are certainly doing a great work. May the Good Lord fill us all with the Holy Ghost and with fire, which is the love of Jesus.

### REJOICE!

Luke 17-19-20. And the seventy returned with joy, saying Lord, even the Devils are subject unto us through Thy name. v. 19. Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20th v. Notwithstanding rejoice not that the Spirits are subject unto you but rather rejoice that your names are written in Heaven.

This is certainly wonderful that even the Devils were subject unto them and to encourage them Jesus promised them power over all evil and that nothing by any means should hurt them. This was another wonderful promise. We remember when Jesus was baptized and sent into the wilderness forty days and nights it was to have a battle with the Devil and surely He came off victorious,

but how and with what implement did he fight, what kind of a sword did he have? Why, the sword of the Holy Spirit which is the Word of God and sharper than any two-edged sword we are told, and at every cunning proposition of Smutty-face, Jesus used the words, it is written, it is written, and the third time said, get thee hence for it is written the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.

And may we triumph so when all our warfare is past and dying, find our latest foe under our feet at last.

### THE STORY TELLER

Note.—The writer of the above article, Mr. George Moore, of Moncton, N. B., says he is 82 years young. He has recently become a subscriber to the King's Highway, and is quite a regular attendant at our church services, especially the prayer meetings. His sunny disposition and joyful testimonies to salvation are an inspiration to us all.—Editor.

25 Florence St.,

Worcester, Mass.

Dear Editor and Highway Friends:

As I am unable to write myself, I would like to put these few lines in The Highway, to extend my thanks and deep appreciation for many encouraging letters and cards, and also donations I have received. I want the good people who have been so kind and thoughtful to feel I am not negligent in failing to write them all sooner. A little later I hope it will be possible to write each person a letter.

I had an appointment with the Hospital on April 4th and also have another for May 1st and 2nd, and for that reason I have been staying out here.

I am gaining as rapidly as can be expected. I have found that promise true, that "He will do abundantly above all that we ask and think."

I will not fail to mention the kindness of Brother Smith, and as I hope later to write The Highway a more lengthy letter showing the many acts of kindness of Brother Smith.

Your brother in Christ,

REV. C. R. HAGERMAN

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find cheque for renewal plus 15 cents bank exchange. Kindly credit my account with same, the remaining \$1.50 to cover one year's subscription for another party who has become an interested reader of the Highway, a new subscriber, Mr. Horatio Knox, of this place.

Thank you for carrying on my paper. Its many splendid features are appreciated by myself and friends to whom I pass it on after I have enjoyed it. The Temperance Column items are very helpful for us in young people's meetings and in the teaching of the Sunday School lessons on this very important subject. Just to mention one of its features.

May the success the Highway has had in the past continue to attend its way in the future is the sincere wish of myself and Brother Knox.

Yours in the love of all that's good, and especially of Him who first loved us,

G. PERLEY WOOD,

Chipman, N. B.

Life is a movement outward, an unfolding—Hubbard.