

West Shore

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The WEST SHORE offers the Best Medium for Advertisers of any publication on the Pacific Coast.

Saturday, May 24, 1900.

AT last the supreme court has fixed the status of the prohibition movement. It can no longer be said that it is not a national question, since the highest judicial authority in the nation has so declared it to be. While recognizing and deploring the monstrous evil of the liquor traffic; while pitying the thousands of human beings wrecked in body and mind by alcoholism, as well as the other thousands living in anguish of mind and misery of body through no fault of their own but brought to that sad condition by the acts of others, while seeing the burden upon the people of the overflowing almshouses, the crowded hospitals, insane asylums, reformatories and penitentiaries, and while abhorring the demoralization in politics caused by the baleful influence of the rum power, WEST SHORE has not favored prohibition as a political movement, because it has not considered it practicable. It has always looked upon it as a question of practical solution in localities only where the sentiment, the aggressive sentiment, is strong enough to support it. Local option has seemed, and still seems, the best present solution of the saloon problem. In communities where the prohibitory sentiment is sufficiently strong not only to abolish the saloon officially but actually, let it be abolished; where this is not possible, but where high license will curtail its evil influences, let high license be adopted until the prohibitory sentiment becomes strong enough to render more radical measures effective. In other localities where the temperance feeling is not strong enough even for high license restriction, time only can create it. This has seemed, and still seems, the only practical method of achieving this great reform, toward which the growing sentiment of our better civilization is gradually tending; but the supreme court of the United States has issued its dictum, has declared that this question

can not be treated locally, and that congress alone has power to pass laws that can effectively control the liquor traffic. This decision declares that one state can not prohibit the importation of liquor from another state, nor its sale while in the original package in which it was imported. This nullifies all prohibition laws at one blow, removes from the state the power to prohibit, renders impossible the enforcement of local option laws, and lifts the fight for prohibition to the position of a national political question, where both of the great parties have strenuously insisted it does not belong. There are thousands of temperance men who have clung to the old parties and have sought to bring about this great reform locally without making it a political issue. They have opposed the "third party" movement as unnecessary and unwise; but now they must choose between abandoning the reform or abandoning their party, and there is no question but that thousands of them will throw the old parties overboard when the direct choice has to be made. Undoubtedly this decision will open the eyes of multitudes of voters to the potency of the rum power in politics, and will have an effect upon the presidential election of 1892 that can be but faintly predicted.

Since the expiration of the copyright on the original Webster's dictionary expired there have been issued several reprints of it, cheaply bound and on cheap paper, the pages reproduced by photo-engraving process, which are sold at from \$2.00 to \$4.00. If anyone wants a dictionary forty years old here is his chance to get one cheap; but if he wants to know how people talk and write to-day he should invest in a modern work.

Possibly the democratic legislators of Ohio would not have gerrymandered Butterworth out of congress had they known he would oppose the McKinley tariff bill. Butterworth does not object to a tariff fence, but he does not like to see it built 'cross lots. He thinks it ought to go north of Canada instead of south of it, and there are a great many who agree with him.

Stanley is doing his utmost to spur England on to African conquest. He sees Germany rushing in to reap the fruits of his labors, while England hangs back and loses the golden opportunity, and with it is slipping away his prospects of going down to posterity as Stanley Africanus.

A number of candidates for office at the June election are eager to know whether the "June rise" will be along in time to make good navigation up Salt creek.