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THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS IS HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material.

License vs. Prohibition.

LAFAYETTE, Feb. 25th, 1866. Editor of the Argus—DEAR SIR: The temperance question being one of your chosen subjects of investigation, I presume I do not intrude unwelcomely upon your space when I ask permission to continue the discussion of the point in controversy between myself and "Prohibitionist."

The question of the propriety of the prohibitory law is certainly one of importance, and in proportion to the vast and mighty consequence of a proper decision in a given case, should we see that the principle and reasons upon which it is founded are sound, prudent, and judicious.

That "Prohibitionist" aims at a proper object I have no doubt, (and I think I gave him full credit on that score in my former article,) but that he does so by the proper means and for good reasons, I am far from being satisfied, even after reading his characteristic and unargumentative reply to my former article.

"Prohibitionist" says I am "a young not to say timid advocate of prohibition." Upon what authority he speaks when he says that I am "young," I surely am at a loss to guess; but in order to show him that when an opponent makes a forcible argument I am magnanimous enough to admit it, I acknowledge that if years, months, and days were to be the measure of the argument and reason presented by us respectively, I have no doubt but I should come out of this controversy my juvenile skin bearing the marks of an unmerciful exhortation, for while he goes back thirty-five years as but the beginning of part of his life, I can trace myself only back to the fall of 1832 by the aid of my father's old family Bible!

There is a class of men who, when once committed against any evil, and discover the means of reprobating it, are so impatient in their zeal to do a good act, that even things that have the most beneficial influence in mitigating the rigor of the same vice against which they are warring, if they think that they stand in the way of the adoption of their favorite system, are denounced, vilified, and condemned as infinitely worse than the original evil itself.

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As to my "timidity," I will simply remark that I am just bold enough to ask for such a law as will prevent the use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and if friend "P." would not be satisfied with such a law, and thinks that I am afflicted with over delicacy in not demanding the utter and entire annihilation of the article, I am very willing to let the discriminating readers of THE ARGUS decide upon the relative correctness of our opinions.

But let us now define the points upon which we differ. This is necessary in order to a fair comprehension of our arguments:

1st. The object is to prevent the use of liquor as a beverage; and 2d. Now the question is, do license laws tend to that object? I affirm they do—"Prohibitionist" denies it.

I said in my first article that I presumed every one knew and believed that but for the license tax we should have three whiskey retail shops to where one is now found doing its unwholy work. Well, if three gallons of liquor will produce more injury than one gallon sold and drunk, I ask, do we not then by adopting the license sys-

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W. L. ADAMS, Editor and Proprietor. AMERICA—Knows sought of golden promises of Kings, Knows sought of Coronets, and Stars, and Stripes. VOL. 1. OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1866. NO. 47. SUBSCRIPTION, Five Dollars a Year.

tem reduce the evil just two-thirds? And not only that, but we have the license tax besides to aid us in repairing (so far as dollars and cents can repair it) the injury that may result from the use of that one-third. And not only this, but the dealer's tax enhances the price so that it places it beyond the reach of many poor men who might be led into temptation by its very cheapness and current use—thereby we may safely estimate reducing the amount of the sales of the remaining dealer.

If these are not fair and just deductions from a sound premise, there surely is no reliance in facts and figures. This was hinted at in my first article, yet "Prohibitionist" did not deign in his reply to attempt a refutation of it. He has asserted to the contrary in two or three paragraphs, but in no case has he attempted by fact or reason to sustain his assertion.

And we contend further, that just as much as the liquor traffic is reduced by license laws constitutes that far prohibition, and I do not care whether the monster is crippled (for to kill it wholly even by a stringent prohibitory law its strongest friends admit is not anticipated) by amputating his different members or by a theoretical decapitation, it deprives him of power that far, and amounts to the same thing. Suppose, friend "Prohibitionist," for the sake of illustration, that you are a farmer, and the owner of a very fine ox—and I presume you are both—let us suppose, I say, that your ox, like the bull in the fable, should gore the cow of your neighbor, and we will have, in the example, your ox to represent the whiskey traffic, and your neighbor's cow the suffering community which it afflicts; let us suppose that, enraged at the bloody and irreparable outrage by which he has lost his favorite Brindle, your neighbor should fall upon your offending property and knock off one of his horns, slit his nose, bung his eyes, and, in fine, maim and disfigure him till he could be scarcely recognized by his owner, would you, sir, be willing to hazard your reputation for sanity by saying that he was now more "powerful" than before, as well as "more respectable" in appearance!!

Well, sir, when we show by conclusive reasoning that license laws do circumscribe and restrict this detestable traffic to at least one-third of its original extent, if not more, is it not just as irrational to say that we are giving it "power" and "respectability"? But, reiterates "Prohibitionist," in defiance of all this (I present his sentiment in my own words,) you sanction the wrong by giving the dealer the liberty for \$50 to commit it. By no means, sir. I say it is the very essence of superficial sophistry to say that such is the effect of granting a license. Why, my dear sir, suppose that in the case of the ox above supposed your neighbor should be presented to the proper legal tribunal of your county, and that after proof of the maltreatment of your property, he should be fined by the court the sum of \$50, would you say that the law was making cruelty to animals respectable, giving it its sanction, and your neighbor the liberty to repeat it, because it accepted a pecuniary mulct in satisfaction? I think I hear you respond in the negative. Now the only difference between this example and that of the licensed liquor-seller is, that in the case of the latter he pays his fine in advance, and thus has the brand of infamy fixed upon his business far deeper than any mere penal enactment to fine him after he had sold his liquid poison could possibly make it. It is wholly misapplying the intent of the license laws to say that they make liquor selling respectable, when an abhorrence of it is the very basis of the system. And how my friend "Prohibitionist," or any other sane man, can see anything honorable or respectable in the business of one with whom the law thus deals, I am utterly unable to divine.

In the name of all that is righteous, when we have reduced by this scheme the horrors of this traffic to a tithe of its former extent, and because it is not adapted to its total eradication, are we to turn and vilify the very agency by which so much good has already been attained. If we have another plan better suited to the main end, let us adopt it, but not by decrying those very means through which we may be enabled to do it.

"Prohibitionist" denies that the principle of prohibition and the license system is one and the same. Suppose we put up the license tax to ten thousand dollars on the dealer; I should like to know if "Prohibitionist" would not admit such a one to

be a pretty good prohibitory law! The fact is just this: "Prohibitionist" wants to exterminate the whole traffic—the license system which we have is intended to accomplish that object only in part by all-viating its worst evils, and because it does not do all that he wants done he declares in a passion that it does harm instead of good.

Well, he says that the licensed doggery keepers are in favor of it, especially those opposed to prohibition, and seems to think this fact ought to be a clincher. It is about as good an argument against the license system as the opponents of the Maine law made in that State against it by saying that many men who voted prohibit were engaged in the contraband traffic. A few men voted prohibit that they might enjoy the tremendous profits which an exclusive monopoly of the smuggling business yielded them, and those who intend to engage in selling under the license law may favor it for the same reason; but I hope no prohibitionist ever thought of abandoning his plan on such an account; and surely it is no less flimsy an objection against the license system.

But lastly, "Prohibitionist" says, "your license law covers up the evil," and that if only uncovered and presented to view in its naked hideousness, it would lead people to extirpate it in three years. Here we imagine is truly stated the great and real objection of "Prohibitionist" to the system; and yet I must candidly say I cannot agree with him.

Think of it, Mr. Editor! Take off the tax, and let us have free whisky. Let the stinking distillery with its nauseating fith and reeking effluvia be seen snugly nestling below our little hill-side springs. See the streets of our cities lined with dramshops, our public highways saluted with the sign of the groggeller at every mile, and every cross road marked by the shanty of the "soul and conscience killer"—see the community day by day drawn into these sinks of iniquity; and lastly, see the accursed brandy bottle stand daily on the shelf and dining-table in the quiet home of the honest laborer: let all this continue three years, and the monster will have become such a part of every man's being that I venture to say no one would ever think of prohibition, until something like the license system had first prepared the way. It would be like the case of a man who would obstinately reject everything calculated to check the progress of a deadly cancer that was threatening his very vitals, until it had sent its poisonous juices throughout every part of his system, and then hope to cure himself by calling in aid the surgeon's knife and cutting off the offending ulcer or head, when no skill could eradicate the poison of which it was but the mere discharge.

Still, although my friend seems to have a great dislike to being called ultra, does not his desire to drive the people into prohibition by exhibiting to them the unrestrained evils of the liquor traffic give us as unmitigated an instance of reckless ultraism as the eminent example to which I once compared him has ever done? I am glad that my friend has backed out of his position against the use of wine for sacramental purposes. I certainly have no objection to wine on account of its purity—the purer of course the better—but he certainly did not in his first piece hint that he was opposed to its use because much modern wine was not the pure juice of the grape, although he now intimates that that is his objection. This little newspaper war has probably opened the eyes of even "Prohibitionist" to some of the errors of an overwrought zeal. Now, Mr. Editor, I am through with this I fear rather tedious article. I should not have taken so much space for the vindication of the license system if I entertained any hope of the early passage of a prohibitory statute. I do not expect one for years, and it is because I look anxiously forward to the time when we will be able to obtain it that I am in favor of keeping the traffic within bounds which will insure its success.

I have been induced to be thus lengthy too because many prohibitionists have been led by indiscreet advocates, as I think, to adopt the same superficial view of the license system as the one I have been combating, with what success I leave the reader to judge. J. R. M.

The bark of a tree and the bark of a dog are considerably alike. One is formed on the bough, and the other on the bow-wow principle.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

Russia don't Accept the Peace Propositions.

By the arrival of the America at Halifax on the 16th Jan., and the Africa at N. Y., on the 23d, we have dates from Liverpool to the 5th and 9th of the same month.

Peace Negotiations.

There is nothing new of an official character with respect to the peace negotiations, but there is evidently in quarters well-informed, a growing impression that matters will not terminate in a satisfactory manner.

Count Nesselrode has addressed a circular note to the representatives of Russia, at the chief Foreign Courts, dated St. Petersburg, Dec. 22. In this note it is stated that Russia accepts the third point relative to the neutralization of the Black Sea, in the following sense: That Turkey's right to close the Straits be maintained; that no ships-of-war be admitted in the Black Sea, excepting those of Russia and Turkey; that the number of ships to be so maintained be mutually arranged by Russia and Turkey, and that it be ratified by direct special treaty between these two powers, without the interference of other nations. This interpretation the Allies consider to be inadmissible.

Le Nord publishes an analysis of this circular. The circular owns that the desire expressed by the Emperor of the French at a public solemnity in favor of a prompt and durable peace was at the same time, and still is, the dearest wish of the Emperor Alexander. Referring to the Vienna Conference, the circular casts upon the Allies the blame of having rendered them abortive. So long as his enemies resolved to substitute force for the spirit of justice and conciliation, the Czar was obliged to remain silent; but as soon as he heard that his enemies were disposed to take up again the negotiations of peace on the basis of the Four Points, he did not hesitate to come forward frankly to meet those pacific dispositions, and to seek frankly a possible solution for the third point.

Affairs in the Crimea.

Gortschakoff reports Dec. 16th, two bodies of Cossacks defeated a strong squadron of Gen. Vivian's Anglo-Turkish cavalry near Kertsch. The English commander and 47 men were taken prisoners.

A letter from Kamiesch of the 25th Dec. in the Austrian Gazette, says: "According to the latest accounts from the Crimea, the Russian troops have been reinforced by a regiment of the Guard and by the Radetzky regiment of Hussars, formerly stationed at Odessa."

It is therefore evident that no want of provisions is experienced by Prince Gortschakoff.

A letter from Odessa to the 21st Dec., in the Austrian Gazette, says large bodies of troops are marching from the Crimea into Bessarabia. There is not, however, any intention of evacuating the former, as their places will be filled by other troops from the reserve and by the militia. Gen. Gortschakoff will, it is said, be replaced by Count Osten-Sacken. The former will resume the command of the troops on the Danube.

The Allied gun boats which remained at Kinburn have been frozen in, and all the efforts made to release them have been hitherto fruitless.

The Muscovite party are striving to supersede Gortschakoff by Mouravieff in the Crimea. Mentschikoff is appointed Military Governor of Cronstadt.

Asia.

Omer Pacha has returned to Soukhoum Kaleh, renouncing his intention to attack Kutais at present. The Russian General Susloff took possession of the defiles of Hassan Kaleh as soon as Selim Pacha retreated to Erzeroum. The greater part of the Russian army will winter at Kars.

Intelligence from Constantinople of Dec. 24th states that many persons had already quitted Erzeroum, fearing it would be attacked by the Russian army. They had sought refuge at Trebizonde.

The Invalide Russe publishes a proclamation by Gen. Mouravieff, calling the entire population of Imerlia and Mingrelia to wage a war of extermination against the enemies of the Cross. It is this measure which is supposed to have induced Omer Pacha's retreat.

Russia.

The Czar has ordered the commanders of Finland, in the Baltic Provinces, to report means of defense to the Grand Council of War in session at St. Petersburg.

Contracts are advertised for immense quantities of artillery and stores. New rifle regiments are being enrolled. Emancipation is offered as a bribe to serfs, while some of the restrictions imposed by Czar Nicholas on the nobles have been repealed. The publication of the Austrian Concordat is prohibited in Russia, lest it should cause religious discontent.

The Czar has also issued a decree conferring on peasants the right to possess landed property in Poland. Personal serfdom is to be replaced by annual payment. Three years are allowed for the execution of the decree. From Sweden the accounts are very warlike. Military and naval manufactures work incessantly, and the indications are that in accordance with the secret article of the treaty, Sweden will openly take the field with the Allies in the spring.

The Danish government is reported to have consented to the establishment of depots of stores for the English fleet at Suol, the fleet to rendezvous there in April.

Grand Council of War in Paris.

The London Post says that in the course of a few days a general Council of War is to be held at Paris, at which England will be represented by H. R. H., the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Richard Airey, and Sir Harry Jones, together with Admirals Sir Edmund Lyons and Dundas. The object of this Council is to collect, to interchange, and to consider all possible information with respect to the war.

The Advances by the Africa.

The intelligence by this arrival consists merely of an extension of the previously prevailing peace rumor. Nothing definite is yet known from St. Petersburg. Speculations continue to be contradictory. Interviews had taken place between Counts Nesselrode and Esterhazy, but the main questions at issue had not been discussed. The expectation from Russia is neither a refusal nor acceptance, but such a modified counter proposition as may give rise to negotiate and delay. On the other hand, the Palmerston Cabinet must meet Parliament early in next month, with a decided announcement either of peace or war. As regards France, rumor reports the tone of the French Government as again more warlike; but this feeling may be increased or diminished by the decision of the Allied Council of War about to open its session in Paris. Russian preparations to continue the conflict are on a larger scale than ever. Briefly, the hopes of peace have received little or no confirmation.

One of the five celebrated dry docks in the Karabelnaia suburb of Sebastopol, was demolished by the French engineers on Saturday, the 22d Dec., at 2 o'clock P. M., by the explosion of mines. The destruction of the dock was fully accomplished, the blast having almost instantaneously reduced the massive fabric into a ruined and confused heap of stones.

The French Minister of Finance has raised the interest on treasury bonds one per cent. It is inferred from this that there will not be another French loan for some time. In London, on the contrary, rumor asserts that the Chancellor of the Exchequer contemplates a loan for £30,000,000, or \$150,000,000.

It is stated in a despatch from Berlin that the members of the grand Council of War, at St. Petersburg, are chiefly engaged on the question relating to the fortifications of the strategic points of the empire. The fortifications of Kiev will be finished between this time and the end of the winter.

The Russians had increased their fortifications over Inkermann, and had unmasked new batteries on the left of the Tchernaya. Accounts received at Berlin from St. Petersburg, of Jan. 7, are announced to us "less and less favorable to peace."

The preparations for defence are prosecuted with an energy and expense almost incredible. The appointment of Prince Mentschikoff to the command at Cronstadt is merely an indication of the predominance of the old exclusive Russian party. He will be under the surveillance of Admirals Panaitine and Nowositsky, with the assistance of the best officers lately at Sebastopol.

The Sound Dues Conferences, which were to have been opened on the 2d Jan., at Copenhagen, have been postponed sine die.

Asia Minor.

Omer Pacha had arrived at Batoum. The fall of Kars has rendered him unpopular at Constantinople, and his recall was

discussed, but voted to be impossible. His army, when near Kutais, was for two days without supplies, on account of river freshets, and being unable to advance he deemed it prudent to return. Seventy ships are loading at Constantinople with supplies and munitions for Soukhoum Kaleh. Halim Pacha has arrived at Erzeroum, where reinforcements are gathering.

Gen. Williams arrived at Gumri in good health. The grossest speculation and mismanagement took place with the provisioning of Kars, and what little was done was entirely due to the exertions of Gen. Williams and the foreign officers. The garrison behaved nobly, and maintained discipline to the last.

The commission appointed to inquire into the state of affairs in Asia, and the council of war in session at Constantinople, do not positively express disapproval of Omer Pacha's strategy, but the adoption of a new plan of campaign implies a censure on his conduct. Flank diversions are now given up, and all efforts will be directed to the defense of Erzeroum and Trebizonde. At present the ground is covered with snow, and for two months to come there can be no operations.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Withdrawal of Col. Richardson—Nomination of Col. Orr, by the Democratic Caucus.

THE LATEST BALLOT.—The latest reported ballot for Speaker by mail took place on the 28th of January, and resulted as follows:

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND BALLOT. Banks, 90 Richardson, 85 Fuller, 30 Campbell, 5 Porter, Cobb of Alabama, Williams and Pennington, 1 each.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 1866.—The withdrawal of Col. Richardson, to take effect after to-day, created a profound sensation, and members manifested considerable restlessness; and then the refusal to table Mr. Rust's resolution was another indication that all was not right.

Mr. Richardson spoke as follows previous to his withdrawal: He was sincerely desirous that the House should be organized. It has been intimated, here and elsewhere, that there may be an election if himself and other candidates should retire from the contest. The gentlemen with whom he acted would bear testimony that the position he occupied is not of his own seeking, but was one from which he was anxious to recede, to relieve the House from embarrassment. He would, if possible, withdraw his name to-day.

An early adjournment was the consequence, immediately on the heels of which, Mr. Jones informed members that a Democratic caucus would be held in ten minutes from that time in the Representatives' Hall. The galleries and lobby were cleared, and they immediately proceeded to business. Various propositions were presented; the plurality rule under certain contingencies—namely, in case Banks was withdrawn—the propriety of making no nomination, etc., all which were withdrawn, and Mr. Orr unanimously nominated, still adhering to the principles enunciated in the first caucus.

The Democrats will be disappointed in their hope to gain by changing candidates. The national Americans held a caucus this afternoon, and resolved unanimously to adhere to Fuller. The defection from their ranks, if any, will be very small.

At the Republican caucus this evening the speaking was all one way—in favor of Banks. Banks against the world, is the unanimous sentiment, so far as manifested among the Republicans.

WITHDRAWAL OF RICHARDSON.—A NEW NOMINEE.—Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, was unanimously nominated by the caucus in Col. Richardson's stead. The nomination will weaken Orr. Mr. Rust, of Arkansas, proposed that no nomination should be made, but that any man who had constantly supported Richardson be voted for as policy dictated.

The plurality rule, as I mentioned last evening, was considered in caucus by the Democrats, and rejected—forty-seven to thirteen. It is lost, unless supported by the Republicans. Will they go the proviso which kills Banks? Their caucus to-night says no. The contemplated violation of good faith has been abandoned.

The American caucus has re-nominated Mr. Fuller, so the triangular fight goes on for the present.

The new volumes of Macaulay's History of England are entirely occupied with the reign of William and Mary. The author comes down harder than before upon Penn, the Quaker.

HOW MARBLES ARE MADE.—The common mode of grinding children's marbles is a curious instance of simplicity in machinery. A number of stone chips, broken to a suitable size, are put together in a tin box and fastened to the rim of a water-wheel, and there left to grind themselves into shape.

It is with nations as with individuals, those who know the least of others, think the highest of themselves; for the whole family of pride and ignorance are incestuous, and mutually beget each other.