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AN APPEAL

TO THE VOTERS OF OREGON TERRITORY.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

The time is drawing nigh when you are to decide by your votes, whether the word "prohibit" shall be substituted for the word "regulate," in our Organic Constitution, and thus instruct your representatives to enact laws, with such pains and penalties attached to them, as may be required to prohibit the manufacturing, importing and vending intoxicating liquors in this territory; except importing and vending what may be required for sacramental, medical and chemical purposes.

All governments consider it their duty to take every precaution to guard the morals, and to promote the happiness, of their people. The pagan Chinese prohibit the use of intoxicating liquors. With the Mahomedans, its prohibition is an article of their religious faith, and they enforce it by the sword. But in christian countries, in consequence of the habit our pagan ancestors had of indulging in it, and at present, on account of the influence of those interested in manufacturing and vending intoxicating liquors, by which they enrich themselves in proportion as they render their fellow man degraded and miserable; christian governments say they have been unable to suppress the use of it, though the sacred volumn tells them "Drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom of God," and soothe their consciences by laying a tax on it to defray, as they say, the expenses of government. But man cannot disobey the command of God with impunity. These very governments, after suffering in numerous ways from the misconduct of drunken persons, are obliged to erect jails, lunatic asylums, poor and orphan houses, and to pay the expenses of supporting them, and of the people to take care of the unfortunate inmates, for which purposes they have to tax themselves to a greater amount than the revenue they derive from licensing the importation, manufacturing and selling of intoxicating liquors, which ought to convince christians that God commands them nothing but what is to their good.

But we are a young community, and we know that the first settlers in this country were men who had traversed it in every direction to hunt beaver, and were accustomed to the free use of intoxicating liquors, yet so fully were they convinced of its injurious effects, that they were easily persuaded to form themselves into a temperance society, and settle to cultivate the soil, totally abstaining from manufacturing, importing, or vending intoxicating liquors in this community.

The first organization of our territorial government adhered to the same principles. The second organization, in June, 1845, introduced the word "regulate," which was understood, until December, 1846, by the great majority of the community, to mean "prohibit," except for sacramental, medical, or chemical purposes, and the laws inflicting pains and penalties on the manufacturing and selling intoxicating liquors were allowed to expire. In consequence of this, you are now called on to use the noblest prerogative of freemen, and to decide, by your votes, whether you will admit among us the greatest enemy to the temporal and spiritual happiness of the whole human family, or by using your sovereign authority, save our community from the ravages of its most insidious and cruel foe.

We have the happy privilege of enjoying a free constitution, which gives us the right to make the laws by which we are governed, and while we are bound to be grateful to our heavenly father for this inestimable blessing which he has mercifully bestowed on us, we must bear in mind that it is a power which he has en-

trusted to us to do good, and that he will hold us responsible for the use we make of it, and therefore it becomes not only our duty, but it is also our temporal and spiritual interest, to do all the good we can, to our fellow men.

Every one of you have friends whom you love dearly. Most of you are blessed with children, whom you love dearer than life itself. You toil and you labor for their present comfort and future happiness, and there is nothing which you can do, that will tend so much to secure their temporal happiness and future bliss so effectually, as to remove from their reach, in the days of their youth, the temptation to indulge in intoxicating liquors, and save yourselves, hereafter, from the anguish you will feel when you see them descend into the drunkard's grave—when your heart, broken with sorrow, will force you to exclaim, 'I had the power to prevent this—but, alas! I did not exercise it.'

Besides, with what reproaches will not posterity load our memories, for not saving them from so great a curse, when we had the power to do it? and, if it is considered glorious to fight and conquer the enemies of our country, how much is it not more so to conquer the greatest enemy of the whole human family, who has done, and is doing, it more injury than war, pestilence and famine united; and to conquer, not by shedding blood and taking life, but by doing good.

It was the boast of ancient Rome, that the name of a citizen of Rome was a pass through the then known civilized world. Poor and humble as we are, we can render the name of 'citizen of Oregon' more glorious. The Roman was considered, on account of the war-like character of his countrymen—while our will be respected from the good character of his. By making it certain that they are free from the baneful and degrading use of intoxicating liquors, and this will give them a recommendation that will secure them employment and credit, and enable them to earn their livelihood respectably, wherever the name of Oregon is known, and do more to secure their comfort and happiness than if you gave them the gold of the whole world. And people that dwell in countries where the baneful manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors is allowed, anxious for their own interests and those of their families, will hasten to join us, as some of you are said to have done, because you understood this was a country where intoxicating liquors were neither allowed to be manufactured or sold. And such it was for a time; and if it is your will, it can be so again. And by this, you can raise this country, which is now your own, to greater respectability of character, than any other country has hitherto been, or is at present blessed with, and confer a greater blessing on its inhabitants, than has yet fallen to the lot of the inhabitants of any other country in the whole world—and the close of your days will be soothed with the consoling reflection that you have done good in your day; as we live to do good or we live in vain.

From the salubrity and mild temperature of the climate, and the fertility of the soil, nature has made this country the finest portion of North America, for the comfortable residence of civilized man, and from its situation, having only the Pacific ocean between it and the most populous and industrious portion of the globe; this must become a great commercial country, and it depends on you, now, to render it the happiest residence of civilized man, on the face of the whole globe.

The eyes of the whole civilized world—the eyes of our relatives and friends, whom we left in our far distant native homes, are upon us—posterity will judge us;—may we act so as to oblige it to pronounce—'You have done well.'

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