

PROHIBITION has been forced by its adherents on the public. It demands public attention. It is a political question and hence its political record challenges discussion.

Prohibition does not represent temperance any more than somnambulism represents wholesome sleep. There is an exaggeration of sentiment, an impossibility of purpose, a fanaticism of desire, an intoxication of effort about it that makes its ends and aims injurious to public policy, destructive to public property, and detrimental to public peace.

Born of an insane desire to wreck a great political party that fostered and encouraged true temperance, it demanded the suicide of that party as the price of its adherence and when that was denied it did its best or worst to strangle the very party that aided and countenanced the principles it has perverted to a radical and impossible creed.

Unable to tyrannize over the Republican party, it has tried to tyrannize over the minds and hearts of the American people; beaten in Michigan, beaten in Texas, beaten in Tennessee, it now has the effrontery to ask the votes of the Republicans of Oregon, to ask the men who voted for Blaine in '84 to endorse by their votes in '87 those that secured his defeat three years ago.

If this be deemed unwarranted, we point to the facts. In the presidential campaign of '84, in the south, prohibition went no further than talk.

Our prohibitionist friends are fond of pointing to Georgia. Very well; Georgia be it. In Georgia three-fourths of the counties enforce prohibition. In Georgia in November, '84, of a total vote of 143,610, St. John, the prohibition candidate for president, received 195. It was all right to talk, but votes were not allowed.

But in New York, the pivotal state, where the contest was really fought; where Conkling sulked and the mugwumps sneered; in the great Empire state where Jas. G. Blaine only needed 700 more votes to be president, St. John received 25,001 votes.

Straight as if winged from a Democratic bow flew the prohibition arrow to the Republican heart, in the state where the Democratic party had the best show for victory.

Torpid in all the states where it could harm Democracy, prohibition in 1884 was most active where it could most vitally injure Republican success.

Republicans of Oregon! You who worked and voted for Blaine in '84; those who beat him and bragged of it then, ask you on the 8th of next month to endorse that action; they ask you to tell them they were right, by now voting for the prohibition amendment. Will you do it?

A LITTLE ARGUMENT. A LADY friend asks, "Why do you who so ardently advocated woman suffrage, so ardently oppose woman's effort now for prohibition?"

So just and courteous a question demands explicit answer, and while we regret that logic is not always respectful; that facts are sometimes distasteful; and plain talk may occasionally offend the fastidious, yet, in answering honestly and truthfully we must at the risk of offense, use some plain English, in what is necessarily a hasty and general way.

This present effort on the part of women is misdirected energy. It weakens respect for women and makes the advocates of a vote for woman pause in wonder as to whether her sympathies or her strong common sense would sway that vote if she had it.

The president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union says that the enforcement of the ballot of the Nation must be woman's—because women as a class are free from the appetite for drink! This is foreordained failure! There is neither justice, logic, rhyme nor reason in the assertion. All assertions are worth just where they lead: just what they prove. Not one step is ever made by resisting somebody else's temptation. Man's appetite pitted against woman's muscle will always win. Refusal to see or acknowledge this in no way affects the fact. Here's the point. A ballot is not might any more than a greenback is money. The greenback by common agreement passes for money and is a convenient device. The ballot by the common consent of the highest civilization stands for physical power and is even more convenient. It would be very clumsy and awkward to fight out every election, but voting it out would be of no use except to show that it could be fought out if necessary. Women make a mistake in assuming that a

ballot is but a piece of paper which a woman can drop into a box just as easily as a man. A ballot means a bullet, marches, digging trenches, carrying a knapsack, blood, havoc, death. It is the peaceful solution of conflict. It is a safety valve for the combative instincts of man. In 1861 the Nation voted: some of it refused to abide by the result. After four years' fighting the refusing portion found that physical power was what the ballot meant.

In our American civilization woman never has been and never will be called upon to lift her hand in the enforcement of law, any more than if she didn't possess a hand. No success of woman prohibitionists can lend any strength to the material enforcement of the law. Whatever woman cannot do by moral power she cannot do at all. So long as men will drink, drink they will. Woman can do effective temperance work just so far as she frees man from the appetite for drink, and no farther. Prohibition is valuable just so far as it frees men from that appetite, and not one step more. The only preventive of drunkenness is character: the only remedy for drunkenness is character. The formation and development of character is woman's business. The care of souls is her mission work. The child rightly raised will never be a drunkard. Not in the noisy notoriety of impossible discussion of impracticable theories, but in the sacred home is woman's sphere.

To build up the human being is no easy task, but it is easier than, after he has shambled up to be a violent, indolent, self-indulgent man, to keep him from lapsing into degradation.

The efforts of woman in general on behalf of prohibition are akin to the individual action of a foolish loving girl who marries a man "to reform him."

All temperance work is worth only its influence on the drunkard's will. Audiences and printed speeches and towns visited by itinerant lecturers whose expenses you pay, are no test of work done. Men rescued from low habits, children reared to high tastes, an orderly and elevated social life—by that sign alone, you conquer.

TWENTY-TWO years ago last April General Grant was telling the paroled prisoners at Appomattox to go home and take their horses along, as they would need them for raising a crop. The men were ragged and the horses were jaded, but they went home and did the best they could. It is now estimated that during the next three months the southern people will receive about \$275,000,000 in payment for their cotton product. There is nothing in the story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp to beat this.

OFFICE OF LIGHT-HOUSE INSPECTOR, THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, PORTLAND, OREGON, October 28, 1887. PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT this office until 12 o'clock on the 8th of November, for furnishing supplies for the Light-House Establishment. The articles needed consist of three lots embracing, respectively, Engineers Supplies, Supplies for buoys, and Fuel, all of which are enumerated in specifications attached to form of bid, which may be obtained on application to this office. Bids will be received for each lot separately. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects. URELL SEBREE, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, Light-House Inspector.

Boat Building. JOE LEATHERS is at the old stand prepared to build all kinds of boats used on the Pacific Coast. Builder of steamers Electric, Favorite, Tongva, and others. Model Making a specialty. Stock and Workman-made first-class.

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Notice. THE DELINQUENT CITY TAX ROLL of the city of Astoria for the current year is now in my hands for collection. Parties interested will take notice and save costs. A. M. TWOMBLY, Chief of Police and ex-Officio Tax Collector. Astoria, October 11th, 1887.

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