

Throughout this little discussion, now nearly ended, THE ASTORIAN has given a full and patient hearing to both sides of the controversy; it has surrendered its space to arguments for prohibition, has opposed the policy of that measure, and has been willing to concede to its opponents the same consistency it claims for itself.

For this is an important question; in our judgment the most important that the people of Oregon have ever been called upon to decide. The importance of this proposition to put prohibition in the constitution demands sober thought, cool judgment, intelligent mental action, uninfluenced by prejudice, unswayed by sentiment and unaffected by emotion or visionary appeals.

The principle that goes with and follows prohibition is the point on which we vote next Tuesday. This opens the question to wide dimensions; it makes the great question for us to answer by our votes as wide as American liberty itself.

If you believe in despotism, vote for it, put in a ballot for prohibition, for despotism is its pure and simple. If you are an American, if you love the idea of freedom, of human rights, of individual liberty, the sunlight of reason, vote against this shadow that would gloomily enfold you.

The men who will defeat prohibition next Tuesday are not men who have any use for saloons. They are men who protest against emasculation of their manhood, men who decline to place their consciences in others' keeping, men who refuse to allow others to do their thinking for them.

This proposition of prohibition is the thin edge of the wedge. Let prohibition carry and a start has been made. The next thing will be other attempts equally sumptuary in character. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and the way to keep free is to repel the first assaults on freedom. Liberty and freedom in this country have cost too much to be surrendered in this afternoon of the nineteenth century by these sniduous seas to oppression and intolerance, no matter how plausible the guise.

Next Tuesday's vote will thus be a direct measure on the part of Oregon's voters of attachment to country, of belief and confidence in American institutions. Those who want to stand in the sunlight of freedom will vote against prohibition, those who seek the shadow of old world intolerance will help by their votes to bring it here.

The great New York election comes off next Tuesday. On a straight vote New York will go Republican. The prohibitionists, who beat Blaine in '84, are doing their best to beat Fred Grant in New York next Tuesday. That's business. If they can fool Republicans in Oregon into voting for prohibition next Tuesday, that'll be business, too. Any Republican in Astoria who will vote for prohibition next Tuesday will do what the New York prohibitionists will do in New York next Tuesday—all he can do to beat the Republican party. If, after giving this due reflection, he still determines to vote for prohibition, why, of course, he has a right to.

MEN whose sympathies are easily excited should stop and analyze the principles involved and contemplate the results of their action. The passage of the prohibition amendment would not do away with the drinking of liquor, nor with municipal expense. It would simply result in higher taxes without any corresponding benefit. Is Astoria too prosperous now? Look before you leap.

FOURTEEN hundred years ago St. Jerome exclaimed, "In want of reflection the world is lost." A little reflection is necessary in all centuries to avoid evils and refrain from causing

disaster to individuals and communities. Thought rules the world and thinking men who see clearly the results of their deeds can always be depended on to do right.

"A BLACK REPUBLICAN" may vote for prohibition if he wants to, but there are a good many white ones in whose craws still stick the defeat of Blaine by the prohibitionists and who feel like getting even the first good chance they get. There's a heap of human nature in some folks.

It is a poor compliment to a man to tell him that he hasn't backbone enough to live right, but must have a prohibition constitution to keep him straight. Some people are good because they are paid to be good; others are good—for nothing.

THE American board of missions has decided that the unconverted heathen must go to perdition. A suspicion, however, is gaining ground in some regions that the final decision in this matter does not rest wholly with the American board.

TWENTY thousand annually are the latest numbers given of the exiles from Russia to Siberia, on the authority of Prince Krapotkine. Thousands of these are young girls not one of whom escapes the worst indignities en route.

PROHIBITIONISTS say free will, God's gift to man, should be denied him. If so, why doesn't God kill the devil and improve upon His alleged plan of salvation?

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THE PEABODY LETTER.

The publication a few days since of the fac-simile of President Peabody's letter is still the subject of much comment.

It used to be considered a question of propriety to say a kind word of the result of a treatment other than that prescribed by a regular practitioner; and the time was when a man using an advertised remedy did so more or less surreptitiously. However, this has happily given away to a broader and more liberal view of things.

Certainly this would appear fair in the face of the facts. He was assured that the injury would confine him to the house for three weeks or more, yet in three days' use of the Oil he was up and about his duties as if nothing had happened. Surely a remedy that will so practically demonstrate its efficacy and that has stood foremost, as has St. Jacobs Oil, upward of forty years as unapproachable for the eradication of pain, is justly entitled to rank as a standard.

That many physicians prescribe it as a standard is a fact that many physicians use it. Not long since one of these doctors, a confidential note to a friend, requesting three bottles be sent for his personal use immediately, as without it his hands were "simply no hands at all," continued but, "Heaven's sake, don't say I said so." This is literally true.

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