

Temperance Department.

Temperance Pic-Nic.

SHEDD, OR., July 23, 1882.
Editor Herald:

DEAR SIR,—Doubtless the readers of your spicy paper will be glad to learn (even at this late date) that our two days temperance pic-nic and meeting, held on the 15th and 16th inst., were a positive success.

Dr. Watts, pursuant to appointment, arrived on the 15th, at 10 o'clock A. M., and proceeded at once to "business."

The Ladies Brass Band, of Albany, were also with us, and they played a very important part in entertaining the large congregation of people, who had assembled under the shade of Thompson's beautiful grove. Mr. M. Thompson was elected chairman of the meeting, who presided with dignity throughout. The exercises were commenced by the band playing several charming pieces, which had the effect to collect the audience near the speaker's stand, after which the morning services were opened with prayer by Rev. W. Hurlburt, followed by a very interesting, instructive and earnest lecture by Dr. Watts. His subject was Alcohol and its effects upon life. With his new charts the Dr. made plain the effects of the curse of curses on the human stomach from the first glass down through all the stages of drunkenness until the inevitable drunkard's grave. The Dr.'s discourse held us until about 12½ o'clock, when a recess of 1½ hours was declared for the purpose of inspecting the contents of the suspicious looking baskets to be seen on every hand. The result of the investigation was very satisfactory, and proved that the ladies of Shedd and vicinity are second to none in preparing the good things necessary for luncheon on such occasions.

The assembly was again called together at 2 P. M. by music of the band, after which Dr. Bosswell, of Halsey, delivered a very interesting discourse on the subject of temperance. Music by the band, followed by more talk by Dr. Watts, after which a short speech from Rev. Mr. W. Hurlburt, closing the day's services about 4:30 o'clock P. M.

SECOND DAY—SUNDAY.

Convened at 10:30 A. M. Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order. Prayer by Mr. F. M. Rinehart. Dr. Watts then opened on

the enemy one of his heavy guns and successfully battered down the last stone of their defence in the

plea that "you have no right to legislate away the private rights of others by forbidding them to eat and drink as they please." The Dr. proved by Scripture and history that the laws of God always have restrained men from evil doing, even though such evil doing did not directly injure others. He also proved that our law makers have ever been ready to "legislate away the pure rights of others" in restraining them from wrong doing in everything except in the use and abuse of alcohol. His speech must have convinced the most skeptical that the people have the same rights to protect themselves against outrages caused by the wholesale abuse of alcohol as they have to protect themselves against any other transgressors of public rights.

The Dr. held an attentive audience until 12 o'clock, when recess was had for lunch, after which the services were closed by a very impressive lecture by Dr. Watts, showing up the hereditary evils of alcohol and tobacco.

By the way the Dr. did not fail to give tobacco a shot here and a stab there all through the entire services.

The congregations on both days were estimated at from 400 to 600 persons, and a more orderly or attentive audience seldom convenes for out door exercises of any kind.

The Dr. did not neglect the Prohibition petitions; he took up 196 names; this number added to the 100 obtained last winter at one of his lectures, and some 90 more obtained and sent to him in the meantime by friends of the cause residing here, makes about 380 names from this little place; pretty good for Shedd.

Shedd has always been noted for the sobriety of its citizens. Supports one church, a fine public school, two stores, one drug store, one shoe shop, one blacksmith shop and a grain warehouse, but no mills of any kind, not even a "whisky mill." Shedd has also several societies worthy of mention. 1. The Shedd Temperance Literary Society. 2. Shedd Blue Ribbon Club, and lastly, though not least of all, a Lodge of Good Templars, to whom, I believe, the credit of the pic-nic is due.

The above has been penned from memory, the writer having taken no notes on the ground, hence may

contain errors; should any appear, it is the fault of memory and not intention. Respectfully,

OBSERVER.

An Afterthought.

I do not wish to make it appear that there are no successes in temperance work, but I do think that we, as workers, are too shortsighted, or there is a screw loose somewhere, and we all stop just where vigilant and untiring work is most needed. From what I can gather, it has been the case in all places where legislation has been sought, and whether successful or not, when the light was over the excitement dies away and interest flags. Now, that is just the time that work is needed, every precaution should be taken that those new laws should be enforced. The mere fact of amendments being made to the Constitution is no great help to the cause of temperance, if we do not stand firm as a body to see that all the abuses and violations are punished. Prompt work at the outset will outweigh ten times as much work done in a year or two, after a habit of evading this law becomes fixed on the class who deal in liquor, and the people themselves become accustomed to seeing the laws ignored. It is a well known fact that people do become indifferent to such things after becoming accustomed to seeing them, although they may have been quite shocked at first and readily have lent their aid to enforce laws, which after a time, they learn to say, Oh, well, that seems to be a sort of dead letter, and it is none of my business.

This is just the same as working hard to get an inebriate to sign the pledge, and then leave him alone with his old associates expecting him to become sober and upright without assistance or aid from any of his new friends. What is the consequence? Why, he naturally struggles feebly for a short time and then falls back into his old habit, or else makes no struggle but goes right along. Is he to blame? Yes a little, but not half so much as the enthusiast who worked on him and led him to think he might reform and then left him at the hardest place in the road to reformation, where he is left balancing between a wish to be something better and more respectable on the one side, and all the allurements and temptations on the other. In one side of the scale he remembers the extended

hand of fellowship, the welcoming smile and kindly greeting; but it is only a remembrance, for he is left to himself, with a weakened stomach, long used to the "brace up" of stimulants, and a brain and mind correspondingly weakened by the same cause. He begins to think to himself "How good it would seem to have just one drink; then this side of the scale is weighed down by the appearance of old boon companions and they are delighted to see him and all join in urging a little refreshment and say no one will ever know it. He takes a little for old time sake and then he is gone, for what more harm is it to keep on after the oath is once violated. If he had been sustained in his efforts and encouraged until nature had time to resume her duties and his unnatural craving for stimulants had given place to a healthy action of the stomach and brain, then he would have been comparatively safe. My heart has bled for many a poor fellow fallen lower from the well meant efforts of temperance workers who had done their work in this way and who thought they had done their duty. They are mistaken, their duty had really just begun and they left their work in such a cruel condition that nothing short of a miracle could bring it to any perfection.

I consider that prohibition acts and liquor laws leave the cause in exactly the same shape. If at first, great care is taken, watchful and patient care, that these laws are not secretly violated (usually these things are no secret, but no one feels called upon to hunt them out,) they will soon be respected, and a success; but if, as is too much the case, in many places, everybody drops his hands and says, "we have got a law now and every thing will be all right," and they wait for the law to work out a reform of itself, we will see but little change. For that matter, we have laws now which we do not enforce, each one waiting for some one else to do it.

The class of people who are carrying on the liquor business, not respecters of law. They are dealing in drugs which destroy principle and self respect in its consumers and makes them law-breakers. You may talk till the end of the world of your good citizens engaged in selling liquor, and I will never believe it. I believe that they, some of them, have good traits of