

The Prohibition Convention.

From the New York World.

PERFECT harmony prevailed throughout the sessions of the convention of the Prohibition Party at Syracuse, September 8 and 9, a full account of which appeared in *The World* of September 10. The platform, a model of conciseness, was ratified by acclamation, as were the candidates proposed for the various State offices.

The names of H. Clay Bascom and W. Jennings Demorest were advanced for the Gubernatorial nomination by their respective friends, but the latter positively declined in favor of Mr. Bascom and was immediately afterwards unanimously named for Lieutenant-Governor amid the wildest cheers and enthusiasm. Mr. Demorest responded to the compliment as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-DELEGATES: I am most happy in being the recipient of this ovation—this splendid compliment to the Empire City of the Empire State. Your plaudits overwhelm me, and have made this the proudest moment of my life. I heartily thank you for this generous recognition, and accept the nomination at your hands of Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York. The evils of the liquor traffic are so conspicuous that we need have no fear of exaggerating them. It cannot be portrayed in too glaring colors when it destroys one hundred thousand lives annually, manufactures one hundred thousand drunkards, squanders billions of property, causes nine-tenths of the crime and pauperism of our country, desolates our homes, debauches our political machinery, and corrupts our judiciary. We are justified in calling it a social and public nuisance generally. We ought not to parley any longer with this monster evil. The sound of the conflict is in the air. Every day, every hour brings some new encouragement. The best interests of the people demand our consecration to the work of putting down the saloon. Time, money, social influence, and personal sacrifice are now demanded of us. We should put zeal, energy, and a determination to secure success into all our efforts. It is marvelous how often one man's enthusiasm will arouse a whole community. We have had numerous illustrations of the electrifying influence of a determined, persevering effort by one individual. If this be true of one, what may we not expect from thousands of earnest men and women, inspired by a principle which is constantly widening in extent and influence?

If our subject and its demands are exciting, there need be no fear that there will be any unwholesome excess in our action; for when we, as a nation, shall arrive at the point that prohibition shapes our political purpose and dominates our political policy; when we shall practice as we preach, and vote as we pray, then we shall have political purity, political progress, political patriotism, and political prosperity?

The ratification meeting which took place at Chickering Hall was strong and enthusiastic beyond expectation. Ladies decorated the platform with flags and palms, and Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems eloquently introduced the candidates, and the nominations were received with every demonstration of approval, and confidence in ultimate success.

Mr. Demorest spoke as follows:

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN: I thank you heartily for this kind reception, which I take partly perhaps as a personal expression of cordiality toward myself, but prompted more, far more, by your enthusiasm in the great cause of temperance, your confidence in the party of prohibition and in those men whom you have honored with the leadership and direction of this grand movement.

Deeply sensible of the burden that is incurred in con-

senting to be one of the standard-bearers in this crusade against the gigantic evils of the liquor traffic, I accept your nomination with a firm reliance on divine aid to meet its responsibilities.

The monster evil of liquor selling towers high above all others; its devastating influences on the homes of our country are far beyond all ordinary calculation. The rum traffic is a hydra-headed monster that cannot be destroyed by any ordinary means. It is so firmly entrenched behind the social customs of society, the appetites of its devotees, and more especially in the moneyed interests involved, that with our best endeavors it will require a persistent and intelligent array of all the forces that we can command to combat the evils; but when we arouse the community to the necessity and feasibility of prohibition we may confidently expect results that will astonish the world.

Sympathy, and sentiment with the wrong-doer, are out of place in this matter—our work is aggressive. The object of our effort is the annihilation of the liquor traffic. No other one thing bears any proportion to this desolating and consuming curse. No other form of selfishness reaches out so boldly from its whitened sepulchers. Self-interest, social and political influences are combined to barricade our progress, but our motto must be "Onward!" We must take advantage of every honest means to make the people see the necessity of putting down this hideous evil. We see where the most liquor is sold there every legitimate industry languishes. Its influence is always demoralizing and its blighting effects can be seen on all its surroundings. Politicians have come to know there is no other way by which a community can be controlled so effectually as by a liberal distribution of this fiery curse. It is by this agency that we as a people have been hoodwinked until the whiskey men have become openly defiant, making no secret of their policy besides boldly demanding of us the recognition of their poisonous traffic as legitimate business.

For a long series of years we have vainly depended on the Republican Party to inaugurate some measure that would give the people relief from the curse of the rum traffic; we can no longer depend on this party or expect that they will oppose the liquor interest. We have only to look at their attitude at the present time; their candidate for Governor being one of the largest wholesale liquor dealers in the country, and also interested in three liquor saloons in this city.

Their candidate for Lieutenant-Governor was elected two years since to his present office by the liquor interest, running 15,000 ahead of his ticket, against a temperance man. So while we have been knocking at the door of the Republican Party for some crumbs of encouragement, this is their attitude. We have asked for bread, they give us a stone; we have asked for fish, they give us a serpent.

How many centuries would we have to wait for the destruction of the liquor traffic? As the two dominant political parties are now constituted, there is no alternative left us but a third party—a party which will embrace all the good and true men of both parties; a party that will crystallize and concentrate the moral and Christian sentiments of the people in a determined crusade against this law-defying and dehumanizing liquor traffic.

You have only to remember that liquor selling produces by an acknowledged and careful examination, fully 75 per cent. of all the misery, pauperism, and crime of our country. Therefore it must be a criminal business, and should be prohibited and not legalized or sanctioned by law as right.

You sanction the crime by a license. Is this a judicious and respectable way of regulating the evil?

There is nothing that a politician dreads to meet more than an opposition vote, and it is by this effective argument that we propose to defeat the rum-seller.

It is our right to be represented through the ballot-box, and when we find that our politicians are leagued together to deny or ignore the suppressing of this monstrous evil, the people will rise in their strength and demand protection through an independent mode of action, a party formed on a moral issue, a party that will receive and command the respect of the civilized world, a party that must necessarily be in advance on all moral questions.

Our justification for this progressive and persevering work is that we may not only have a Prohibition Party to vote, but we want a Prohibition Party behind the vote; a party that will enforce the prohibition ever after it is embodied in our organic law, for it is morally certain that there will always be a lawless and unscrupulous opposition, backed up by moneyed interests and unbridled passion, which will be ever vigilant to take advantage of any opportunity that we may afford them to nullify the enforcement of a prohibition law and bring it in disrepute. It will require, therefore, the combination of all our moral forces, and an equally vigilant use of our opportunities, to make the law effective, so that we can maintain and secure all the advantages and blessings that are sure to follow a faithful and active development of our principles.

Our movement is, therefore, the development of a moral issue that must and will command approbation. We have a decided advantage in asking for *moral* support; every good and patriotic vote will be on our side of the question just as soon as we give evidence that the moral forces of the people are determined to combine in a grand struggle for the right, and what we most want is a concentration of this moral strength, a generous enthusiasm in the work before us, and just as sure as God reigns, and the people do their duty, we must and shall succeed. For in the path of duty, and God on our side, "one shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight."

But we must show a brave front and exercise all our moral courage; we must remember that we have a determined and vigilant foe; that they have vast moneyed interests, great social advantages, with nearly the whole of the political machinery of the country under their control, all of which they will use to counteract and destroy our work and influence. Besides, they are unscrupulous as to the means they employ; so that we must go into this work with a zeal and determination that knows no defeat, and success will finally perch on our banners, and the world will rejoice with us in the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic.

The problem has especial reference as to the future of our great and fast-growing cities. It is at the front and demands our attention. The number of saloons is one of the subjects that is not fully appreciated. To my mind it is simply appalling. In many sections of our city there are half as many liquor stores as there are houses.

In Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love, it is reported that in one ward there are 276 liquor saloons against 16 bakeries and 33 groceries. Similar figures can doubtless be given of Chicago, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Washington, and others of our large cities. What an awful picture this is to present. What must be the results of such sink-holes of iniquity patronized and dignified by the sanction of the law in this our boasted land of religious activity?

All of us know there is no greater curse to the human family, especially in our so-called civilized communities, than the traffic in alcohol as a beverage, and most of it grows out of the selfish interest of a few who would enrich themselves at the expense of the lives and souls of the best men of our country. No movement, therefore, of our age, no grander or more effective lever for our future prosperity has ever been inaugurated than the entire prohibition of this gigantic evil. The people are beginning to

wake up to their responsibility for its toleration. They are just beginning to see that they have been giving the best possible justification and encouragement to the liquor traffic by licensing it.

Lincoln once said, "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." So we say of liquor selling, if that is not wrong, nothing is wrong; that it embodies all other wrongs, is seen in the fact that it is the prolific source and cause of nearly all the crime in the community, and worse even, it perpetuates all the most hideous forms of the consequences of crime to posterity.

The various specious arguments and delusions which have taken possession of the minds of some of the people in respect to their personal rights is marvelous. They seem to have had the impression that a popular vice should have protection; that it is entitled to fostering care to prevent its annihilation. To this end they claim it should be licensed to the highest bidder to preserve its respectability. Thus by a license we furnish the rum-seller with a justification, giving him the sanction of law, even the highest form of law; assuming it to be among the constitutional rights of the people, just as if law and government were not instituted to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. In giving the rum-seller a license we reverse the whole machinery of law; we protect the guilty by giving immunity to the lawless disturber of the peace; we bribe him by a concession or justification of his unholy work. Armed with a license he outrages the people by pauperizing his victims and filling the whole land with deeds of violence, and then coolly turns on his heel and charges the people with the crimes that have been produced by the vile stuff with which he has poisoned his victims. He washes his hands, exclaiming, "See thou to that." We tell him that by paying a certain amount he has our authority and sanction for the business of making drunkards; giving him this authority we become responsible for all the misery and crime that we charge upon the liquor-seller.

All bad men seek for a justification of their wrong-doing, and they are strengthened when the good and representative men of our country join hands with them in legalizing the liquor traffic.

But why declaim against the liquor traffic, and denounce the liquor-seller, and hypocritically profess to be opposed to it while holding out an itching palm to receive a bribe? How can we sanction and justify the curse of the liquor selling without being morally responsible for all the evils growing out of it, and who is responsible if not the bribe taker? Is there no remedy for all this? Cannot the people in their sovereign capacity protect themselves from outrages on their peace and happiness? Are they so tied up by their constitutional law as to be without remedy? Do we not all know that all law grows out of the necessity for mutual protection?

"We the people," says the preamble to the Constitution, "in order to secure to ourselves and our posterity life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—and more, "to provide for the common defense." From what do we defend ourselves when we prohibit the liquor traffic but the great stream of crime and pauperism that now flows almost unchecked through the land, debauching every department of our political machinery, poisoning every good influence, and destroying our households? And yet we are to sit tamely by and see this devastation going on, hearing men tell us that we have no constitutional remedy, that no law can be legally created or enacted to stop the blighting scourge.

We have the remedy. It is a simple one—Prohibition. Let it ring through the land. Proclaim it from every hill-top. Prohibition must be our watchword, and our motto be, "Prohibition, our high Ambition."

"Prohibition does not prohibit," say some of our mistaken

friends, but this is not so popular a pretext for opposing prohibition as formerly. The fact that prohibition does prohibit has been so fully demonstrated by the results in Maine and elsewhere, and also in places where they have local option, which is prohibition on a limited scale, that we shall hear far less of this fallacy than heretofore. Prohibition is so effective in Maine that all sorts of subterfuges are resorted to to conceal the illicit traffic. If it is found necessary to hide a barrel of spirits under piles of lumber and rubbish, and, as was found in one recent case, under a heap of manure, then prohibition does prohibit. When we find there are no manufacturers of the vile stuff in the State, and when we find the liquor secreted in all sorts of out-of-the-way places, and when found is seized upon and immediately destroyed, then prohibition does prohibit.

When the dealer declaims against the effect of the law in depriving him of his former profits, then prohibition does prohibit. When the old victims of a craving appetite find they have to resort to a long and tedious effort to secure the accustomed stimulant, then prohibition does prohibit. When liquor-sellers lose caste in society by being stigmatized as violators of law, and find themselves shut off from the opportunities to sell in public, except by incurring the penalty of crime, then prohibition does prohibit. When the prison and penitentiary are nearly depopulated on account of the difficulties in the way of manufacturing and selling spirituous liquors, then prohibition does prohibit. When savings banks have greatly increased deposits; when education flourishes as it has never done before; when the poor-houses are empty; when a higher standard of morals prevails in the community, and churches have an increased attendance, then be assured that prohibition does and will prohibit.

And when we arrive at the culmination of our work, when prohibition shall have been proclaimed by the voice of the people and is incorporated in the organic law of our nation, then we shall gather round our hearthstones and sing, "The good time has come." A continuous and grand jubilee of praise and thanksgiving will be heard all over the land, to be echoed and reverberated around the whole civilized world, "The good time has come."

From the 16th Amendment, Buffalo, N. Y.

W. Jennings Demorest.

HIS MORAL CHARACTER. HIS CHARITIES. AN ABOLITIONIST. HIS BUSINESS SUCCESS.

WE can give our readers no better idea of the character of W. Jennings Demorest and his fitness for the position of Lieutenant-Governor than to give the following statement which was made by J. W. Lee in presenting his name to the convention as a candidate for Governor:

"I have the pleasure and honor of nominating a gentleman who will command the respect of this convention. A man who is honorable in all his dealings, whose character is above reproach, whose record in the cause of temperance and prohibition is of the highest order, a most successful and enterprising business man, whose liberality is as broad and widespread as the needs of humanity and the glorious cause we represent. His name is a household word throughout every city, town, and village in our land; being the editor, proprietor, and publisher of a most popular household magazine.

"He was strongly identified with the old antislavery movement, being an earnest abolitionist when it was not so safe to express his convictions on that subject as at present. He has been a life-long temperance man, and when the people resolved to carry the temperance banner into the promised land of prohibition, he placed himself in the front ranks of the Prohibition Party; the party of progress and civilization, the party of morality and sobriety, the party of reform and victory.

"This gentleman has always displayed wonderful executive ability in conducting his numerous business enterprises. He is the sole proprietor of a large establishment in New York, employing a vast number of people, a large majority of whom have been in his constant employ from fifteen to twenty-five years. He is also a partner in one of the largest printing houses in that city, employing hundreds of hands. He owns twenty houses on Fourteenth Street near Fifth Avenue, in the best business portion of the city, and to show his ability as a business man, he was his own designer and architect. Everybody in that vicinity gives him the credit of doing more for the welfare of Fourteenth Street than any other man. His tenants will all vote for him, for they know how to appreciate a good and generous landlord. His great benevolence and philanthropy far surpass our comprehension. No charitable enterprise ever sought help from him in vain. He contributes liberally and frequently to all benevolent purposes. His wife, Mme. Demorest, is the treasurer of the Woman's Hospital and College in New York city; she also organized a woman's lodging house, and both now have in contemplation a hotel for women. His old homestead in Saratoga is the pleasure-ground for Sunday-school picnics, and this summer he gave entertainment to about 450 poor children at his own expense. He is a Congregationalist, and was formerly a member of Dr. Cheever's old church, and was for 30 years an active worker in the Sabbath school. He is a man who will command the respect of business men and the admiration of the Christian people of the State. Wm. Jennings Demorest will confer on the party by being its candidate a greater honor than it can confer by electing him Governor of New York, and I have the honor of presenting his name for the first place on the ticket."

The *Real Estate Record* remarks that "Mr. W. Jennings Demorest has been nominated for Lieutenant-Governor of this State by the Prohibitionists. This will interest real estate circles, in which Mr. Demorest is well and favorably known as the capitalist who has revolutionized Fourteenth Street, between Sixth Avenue and Broadway. These two blocks have been changed from a residence to a business quarter almost exclusively by Mr. Demorest. He was the first to perceive the inevitable change which would occur in that street after the establishment of the elevated railroad depot on the corner of Sixth Avenue. He has made a very large fortune by his real estate operations in this now famous retail emporium for all manner of household and fancy goods. Mr. Demorest is also a member of the printing firm of J. J. Little & Co., Astor Place, one of the largest establishments in New York, and the one which has the printing of General Grant's autobiography. He has in his time published newspapers, and he is now the author of a popular magazine. He is also an inventor. It would be well if the other parties in their coming conventions would nominate enterprising and public-spirited men like Mr. Demorest."

A Roll of Honor.



GREAT work has been undertaken, that of building a fitting monument to America's greatest general, and foremost citizen. It is not a question if he was the wisest, or shrewdest of men from a business point of view. The very simplicity and truthfulness of his own character made him the prey of others. The question is only, what the people, what we as Americans owe to the man who saved the country, who in its darkest hour carried it, with its awful burden of responsibility, on his shoulders, and brought it out, whole, sound, without spot or blemish, and for himself created, and maintained the reputation, not