

OUR RIGHTS.

WILMINGTON, N. C., JUNE 24, 1881

TO OUR READERS.

We shall endeavor to make all that we write in these columns so plain that every one, even a child, may understand. We shall do this because very many into whose hands "Our Rights" may fall will have no other papers to read, and can know nothing beyond what is plainly set before them here. Others possibly will have seen circulars containing opinions and unsupported statements which it will be our aim, God helping us, to prevent from doing mischief.

We do not intend to appeal for the sake of any political party, or against any political party, but we intend to address our readers as Christian men, willing, even anxious to work for the good of their fellowmen, because love to their fellowmen is a first principle of Christianity.

We intend to address our readers as parents, that is as true North Carolinians, lovers of their State, and determined to do what will be for the best interests of every man, woman and child in the State.

We intend to address our readers as reasonable men and women (for we recognize the noble women of North Carolina as worthy of our respect), and so will appeal in all that we say to their sense of right and justice as dictated by the plainest principles of reason and of common sense.

We intend to appeal to every one of our readers as having personal rights which are interfered with, and trampled upon. In this we appeal to each reader as a man, or woman, who has just rights under the government, and who is in duty bound to use all legal, fair and proper means to have them secured and maintained. Every person is entitled, as to a right from God himself, to life, liberty, and to do as he pleases where it does not interfere with what is due to others; to the privilege of gathering together and the keeping safe of property, where the means used do no wrong to his fellowmen; and to happiness where the pursuit of happiness by one does not cause the unhappiness of others.

Every government is in duty bound to aid and protect to the full extent of its authority and power every man, woman and child in the having and holding of these God-given rights. Is North Carolina doing this? Is she not doing exactly the contrary? By allowing the liquor traffic does not our dear old Mother, yearly, yes daily, kill numbers of her own children? Does she not give to a few liquor sellers the liberty of interfering with the rights of others? Does she not give to them the privilege of getting rich by making many poor? Does she not give to a few of her citizens, the privilege of spreading unhappiness, yes the deepest misery broadcast through the land?

We hear a good deal of Prohibition being an interference with the personal rights of liquor-sellers. But have they a moral right to trample upon the God-given rights of you and of me, and of other citizens in North Carolina? Honestly, and as we shall answer to the Judge of all the earth, we think not. True they have exercised the privilege, under sanction of the State, of pursuing this terribly ruinous business, and this brings us squarely to face the question, Shall it not be stopped?

Reader, you have rights, as a free citizen of North Carolina, as a patriot, as a Christian. Is there either reason or common sense in granting to a few liquor sellers the right to trample on your rights. Answer it to your conscience, as you will be called to answer it to your God: This liquor traffic, shall it not be stopped?

The liquor traffic is the great source of poverty, crime and wretchedness.

FOR THE RIGHT.

The prospect for Prohibition grows brighter every day. Every mail brings fresh encouragement. Up to this time no prominent gentleman in either of the great political parties has been found willing to take the odium of leading the Liquor-Dealers in the war which the President of their Convention says, is a war against the preachers and the women. Gen. J. M. Leach (reported as opposed to Prohibition) says "there is not money enough in North Carolina to induce him to make a speech against Prohibition." Meanwhile on the other side the most prominent men and the very best men in our State are working for it; such men as Gov. Jarvis, Judges Merrimon, Reade, Avery, Russell, Albertson, Henry, Buxton, Bond, Gudger, Dick, Schenck and others (we are naming from memory; besides Gen. Barringer, Hon. D. A. Jenkins, Hon. Lewis Hanes and a host of others. The ministers of the Gospel of both races almost without a single exception, are for Prohibition. Among the colored people Rev. J. W. Hood, Bishop of the A. M. E. Church and Rev. J. C. Price are addressing people every where.— We cannot even name the great number of ministers, in fact, of both races who are addressing the people in their neighborhoods. We do not know of one opposing.

The journals advocating the keeping up of the liquor traffic see what a tremendous moral effect the facts we give above must have; for if a cause cannot command a single champion both of respectability and prominence we may set it down as a fact that the cause is not worthy of the support of the people. If it be so very indefensible that nobody will defend it, how can it succeed?

The journals advocating the liquor-traffic see the point we have made above, and they are writing to prominent politicians, and calling on Judges, and even without permission announcing the names of persons, in order to force them to espouse the liquor cause.

We do not deny that some of the most respectable men and some of the most prominent men of North Carolina may and perhaps will vote against Prohibition. Some may think that party exigencies require them to do this, but they are not hurrying to the front that's evident.

Don't forget the moral of all this: Prohibition is right; Anti-Prohibition is wrong, and the eminent sons of North Carolina, let God be thanked, are battling nobly for the right—because it is the right.

BRING ON THE CORNE-BENE

In the good old times, as we call them, fifty years ago or more, an old Indian chief was invited by the Governor of New York to an old time dinner party. We give the account as we find it given in a paper at hand: "The Governor's dinner was a stately affair of five courses, with a change of plate at every course; all of which made a profound impression upon the old warrior, but of course, being an Indian, he did not allow himself to appear surprised at anything he saw or heard. Afterwards, when the Governor and his suite returned this visit at the "Oneida Castle" (for so the rude council-house of this tribe was called), the chief was at great pains to give his distinguished guests a most hospitable reception, and that in kind. Nothing would do but he must give them a dinner party, and it must be a dinner of five courses. It was green corn time of the year, and to his taste the best thing in season was "succotash"—green corn and beans boiled together—of which all ate sitting round a large wooden bowl, and helping themselves; the old chief presiding, while they were at their feed, with benign dignity. After eating awhile, at a wave of his hand, his squaws made a dash at the big bowl on the ground and bore it away. Directly at the word of com-

mand, "Bring on more corne-bene," back it came full of succotash smoking hot. The five courses, from first to last, were all of "corne-bene," and there was nothing else to be had for dinner that day."

We are reminded of the above by noting how regularly in course the New York and the Delaware opinions appear in the service of the liquor cause. They have been served up as the staple dish of the liquor advocates again and again. Their last appearance is in a circular which has just made its appearance.

It would seem that there is no paper in North Carolina whose opinion can be obtained in favor of whiskey, that can carry sufficient weight. Hence the importation.

Why the liquor advocates impress Senator Bayard into service is very evident. Up to this time not a single man of any eminence or conspicuous position in North Carolina has been found willing to confront the moral sentiment of the State by championing the liquor cause. Not one.

Let it go forth to the world to the credit of the Old North State, that within her borders she hasn't a man of eminence willing to do this thing.

PROHIBITION IN PENDER.

The Prohibitionists of Pender are not afraid to avow themselves openly and boldly for the cause. The leading men there are for it. A Prohibition picnic and mass meeting will be held at Burgaw on the 4th of July. Capt. W. H. Day, of Weldon, Major James C. McRae, of Fayetteville, Hon. E. W. Kerr, of Sampson, and Hon. Edward Cantwell, of Columbus, have accepted invitations to attend and address the meeting. Hon. D. L. Russell has also been invited, and may be expected to speak. Music and basket dinners will enliven and add to the comforts of the occasion. The ladies will be out in large numbers. A fine time will no doubt be had. It is expected the fare on the railroad will be reduced. We hope many of the citizens of this city will attend.

It is noteworthy how zealous the editors of Anti-Prohibition papers are for stringent liquor laws. But, gentlemen, your zeal is too recent. About twelve months ago the liquor dealers laid on that straw that broke the camel's back. They got the tax on liquor reduced, and so built better than they knew. Gentlemen, where were you then? Not one of you had a word to say. Not one voice was raised against the liquor traffic until Prohibition came humming through the air.

Now, let us be plain with you. The people are not deceived. To be frank, they don't believe you. They regard your new born zeal for temperance as merely a ruse to divert them from the main issue. And please note that you are far behind the liquor dealers themselves, who tell us their objection to the law is that it won't prohibit. In the one case, as in the other, the people think it altogether too unlikely.

But, gentlemen, doesn't it strike you as significant of the nature and the strength of public sentiment in North Carolina when not a single paper advocates, not a single man, woman or child—not even a liquor seller—defends the liquor traffic, or claims from first to last that it is not a monstrous evil. Notwithstanding you assert that a very large percentage of the opponents of Prohibition are the most respectable people of the State, you don't pretend to prove it. Where is the man in North Carolina, of good reputation, who will come out and champion the liquor traffic? Where is the man who over his own proper signature will defend it in the public prints? You, gentlemen, editors, do not defend the traffic. Oh, no! you write around it and over it and about it, but you don't write for it. Such unanimity of sentiment on this subject means a great deal—does it not?

JOTTINGS.

READ "OUR RIGHTS," AND HAND TO YOUR NEIGHBOR, OR MAIL TO A FRIEND.

The liquor traffic is a moral and a political evil, hence it requires moral and political action to suppress it.

Prohibition is a living issue, and politicians must respect it or find themselves without friends or following.

If there be feeling in humanity, virtue in patriotism, or love in Christianity, the cause of Prohibition must succeed.

The amount of liquors consumed annually in the United States is estimated at the enormous sum of \$600,000,000.

As an ever present obstacle to Christian progress, the liquor traffic must be condemned by every true Christian in our land.

The right of society to protect is the fundamental principle of all governments. The license system is a violation of that right.

The Prohibition sentiment is growing all over the nation, and the party that does not recognize its force and influence is doomed.

Prohibition is the divine method of treating evil. Has man improved upon that method by licensing the most gigantic of all evils?

The Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly affirmed decisions of State Courts deciding prohibitory laws constitutional.

The right to sell liquors is not, and can never become, of such a character as the constitution of the United States forbids a State to abridge.

The "irrepressible conflict" is the struggle of right against wrong, and if Christian civilization is ever triumphant, the liquor traffic must be suppressed.

If laws for the suppression of evil cannot accomplish it, then are the foundations of society on a false basis, and our boasted civilization but the veriest barbarism.

Anything that tends to impoverish the individual should never be regarded as a source of revenue to the government, which is but an aggregation of individual interests.

There are many noble women in our city whose prayers are ascending for the success of Prohibition. Friends! stop and think before you vote against a measure that is thus supported.

Entirely unsolicited, a friend to the cause dropped in, in the absence of the editor, and left a donation to help things on. We will use it, and as much more as may come, and with many thanks to the donors.

An enlightened public sentiment is the fundamental source of strength to all reformatory legislation, hence the appeal is made for every good citizen to lend his influence that Prohibition may become a success and power in our land.

With the liquor traffic suppressed, light will enter many a darkened home, happiness fill many a saddened heart, and life, love, religion, and hope for eternity to many a wandering and well-nigh ruined victim of intemperance.

Several of the most distinguished sons of the Old North State are out-spoken for Prohibition. The world honors the men who, knowing the right, dare maintain it; while it condemns those who, fearing what "Mrs. Grundy" might say, act from policy only.