

Rev. Edward L. Ogilby's Great Sermon Against Liquor, Preached in '04

At St. Peter's Episcopal church on May 7, 1904, Rev. Edward L. Ogilby preached a powerful sermon against the saloon evil. The News published a summary of his sermon at that time and had this to say in the introduction to the sermon: "There was a large audience at St. Peter's Episcopal church last night that heard with much gratification the masterly handling of the saloon question by Mr. Ogilby. He was temperate himself in his discussion of the subject, and of course this added touch force to a lecture on temperance. At the same time he was a trained forward in his utter condemnation of the saloon evil and his words to christian people concerning their duty in the present contest in our city was plain enough. The sermon made a fine impression. "Thus 2: 11 and 12: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we would live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world."

mind cannot take in their vastness. As to quantities, the nations at war could float their battleships in the flood of liquor that is annually poured down the throats of mankind. The great amounts in dollars and cents paid out for the purchase of liquor are but a fraction of the enormous expense connected with the untidy traffic. Five-sixths of the criminals and paupers that occupy the time and attention of the police forces, magistrates and other public servants, and that crowd our prisons, reformatories, asylums, almshouses and other public institutions are brought to their miserable condition through intoxicating drink, resulting upon the soberly industrious citizen taxpayers an enormous outlay in money in the aggregate, in order to keep up and support these various institutions, and all this that a comparatively small and largely unprivileged class of the community may be said to reap most themselves through the traffic. Then again every dollar spent for drink, taking into consideration the loss of time means more than a dollar taken from better food, better clothing and better homes for both the drinker and those dependent upon him, and all this enormous waste is to temporarily excite and gratify a base carnal appetite. Money, time and health thrown away with nothing gained in return, but on the other hand poverty, disease and misery follow, in increasing ratio, as this time goes on. But time will not permit us to go into the endless details of statements, figures, statistics and even if we had the time, where would we find the space on which to place the figures of our statistics? Take the walls of this church building, inside and outside—take the walls of all the churches in this city; take the school houses, colleges, city hall, postoffice and business blocks—take the long stretches of our great main structures—cover them all with figures of microscopic fineness; borrow the vast expanse of the blue sky above us, and cover its space with letters of fire as numerous as the stars of the milky way, and still we would fail to reach the extent of the desolation and misery of want and distress of heartaches and despair, the waste of time and money, and opportunities for good, the cries of little children, the agony of women's souls, the degradation and ruin of manhood, the despoiling of abandoned, the blasting out of heaven from earthly homes—oh the list of appalling woes is never ending; heart cannot conceive, mind cannot grasp the enormity and extent of this hell-born traffic. The countenancing and legalizing of his most evil damning business, and the indifference to its results, is a most terrible arraignment of the people of the land, the citizens of our country, for fostering and favorable legislation this principal ally of the devil, and all for a delusive idea, the license fees are so much money gained to the public treasury. No true follower of Jesus Christ, no sincere christian, will countenance or uphold the liquor business in any form, but on the contrary will throw their every effort and influence against it. The individual cannot excuse himself under the plea that it is of no use to fight against it; that it is a hopeless task to overcome the evil, impossible to accomplish its downfall. One might just as well claim that it is of no use to fight against evil in any form; that we might as well close our churches and disband all organizations that have been formed for the spiritual and moral welfare of mankind, because sin inevitably exists in the world. I tell you, in all seriousness, my friends, that Almighty God will surely hold each and every one of us to a terrible reckoning some day for all this district and indirect upholding and encouraging of these most awful forms of sin that exist in our midst. How earnest people, well-meaning people, and professed christians can refrain from constantly raising their voices against this gigantic curse, is just comprehension. If you can persuade good men to start in the right direction, it is not so difficult to them to advance gradually from one vantage point to a higher position. Our Church Temperance Society does well to include these two lines of work, as the two branches of its organization. Let no one differ on these points, but let us all work together in the same direction, doing our plain duty as christians, with all the energy and power we possess, and as fellow soldiers in different positions, advancing on the same road to meet our common enemy—an enemy ever alert, always unscrupulous, more treacherously deadly than any other foe—like the dragon of mythology, striving to satisfy its insatiable appetite with the nation's heart blood. Oh let us stand up bravely, shoulder to shoulder, to fight to a finish this common foe of our common humanity. Brethren, you have the weapon, the elective franchise; you have the ammunition, the ballots. Then I beseech you to use them righteously; with them you can drive Satan's greatest ally, the saloon, from your midst. With the ballots silently falling from your hands you can obliterate the hell-borne traffic as the snow-flakes falling on the earth blot out the unsightly things, leaving all the landscape fair and white to look upon. With your ballots driving out the saloon you can take one great step in advance in the welfare against intemperance, one great stride in controlling the deadly traffic, putting it in a position where it can be safeguarded from the grossly selfish interests, whose greatest object and effort is to ever increase the output of the liquid damnation. And now I can do no better, in closing my discourse, than to quote the burning words of Hon. Henry W. Grady, that comprehensive writer, that eloquent orator, that brilliant exponent of the sterling young manhood of the New South, as he uttered them in one of the last speeches he made before his untimely death, a speech in which he most forcibly renounced the liquor traffic. Each separate count in his indictment is true, and each count is in itself a sufficient reason for annihilating the cursed things. Listen to his words: "Tonight the demon alcohol enters a humble home to strike the roses from a woman's cheek, and tomorrow it challenges this republic in the hands of congress. Today it strikes the last crust of bread from the lips of a starving child, and tomorrow it levies tribute from the government itself. There is not a cottage in this city humble enough to escape its deadly approach, no palace strong enough to resist it. It defies the law when it cannot coerce; it is flexible, it is subtle, but merciless in victory. It is the moral enemy of peace and order, the despoiler of men, the terror of women, the cloud that shadows the faces of little children, the demon that has dug more graves, and sent more souls unsaved to judgment than all the pestilences that have ravaged the earth since Joshua stood before Jericho. It comes to ruin, and it shall profit mainly by the ruin, of your sons and daughters. "It comes to mislead human souls, and to crush human hearts under its rumbling juggernaut wheels; it comes to bring gray-haired mothers down in shame and sorrow to their graves; it comes to change the wife's love into despair and her price into shame; it comes to still the laughter on the lips of little children, and stifle all the music of the home, and fill it with silence and desolation; it comes to ruin men in body and mind and wreck their homes; forever, and it knows it must measure its prosperity by the swiftness and certainty with which it destroys humanity." Brethren, though the eloquent lips of Henry W. Grady are cold and stiff in death, yet they speak to you again in this night as forcefully and as pleadingly as of yore. Oh will you not heed them and act upon them in the holy cause of right and justice. Of ye men of this fair Southland, will you not rise in the courage and true bravery and upright manhood and strive to wipe out this dark blot that is upon the civilization of today? I tell you plainly that on you rests the awful responsibility of these most terrible consequences of this hellish traffic and ruin, all the sorrow, misery and want, the awful cost in treasure and lives, is all brought right back to each one of you, for you with your ballots, either license it to continue its hellish work, or you restrict and control its worst features by eliminating the saloon, and thus put the traffic in a position where you can hope to so regulate it, that it will not be such a terrible and successful drunkard maker. Again I say that the fight against the liquor saloon and intemperance is a holy and righteous cause, which every christian man and woman should engage in. Oh ye christian voters, enlist in the temperance army, let your term of enlistment be for the term of the war. It is a present day army whose banner can well be the blended folds of the stars and stripes and the stars and bars, with the cross of Christ on the top of the flagstaff. Fight bravely and valiantly for God, your country, your homes, your loved ones, and when the fight is won and the demon foe is vanquished let the Southern yell and the Northern hurrah blend together in one grand harmonious cheer of victory. Alleluia, Amen. o, qeningaon yvbgk of bgkq xzhlfrzll

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NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE. Mrs. E. D. Charles, of Harbor, Maine, speaking of Electric Bitters, says: "It is a neighborhood favorite here with us." It deserves to be a favorite everywhere. It gives quick relief in dyspepsia, liver complaint, kidney derangement, malnutrition, nervousness, weakness and general debility. Its action on the blood, as thorough purifier makes it especially useful as a curing medicine. This grand alterative tonic is sold under guarantee at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store, 50.

Low Rates and Mileage Books Via Seaboard Commencing April 1st. On April 1st the Seaboard Air Line Railway will put on sale intra-state rates in the state of North Carolina at rate of 2 1/2 cents per mile, and as soon as possible thereafter, will issue tariffs showing inter-state rates to all points south of the Ohio and Potomac rivers on basis of 2 1/2 cents per mile, it being understood, however, that the R. F. & P. will continue to use \$2.50 rate between Richmond, Va., and Washington, D. C. Two thousand mile books Inter-State and interchangeable will be sold for \$40.00, good for five or less people members of a firm or corporation, only one person being allowed to use it at a time. One thousand mile books Inter-State and interchangeable for \$20.00, for person whose name is shown on cover. Five hundred mile books (family) good on the Seaboard in North Carolina only, for \$11.25, good for five or less people, members of family, who can all use it at the same time. The two thousand and one thousand mile books sold at rate of \$40.00 and \$20.00 respectively, will be good over practically all of the principal lines in the South and East, including the Southern, Norfolk & Southern, Atlantic Coast Line, R. F. & P. W. S., Aberdeen & Ashboro and Bay Line, Seaboard. For further information apply to ticket agents or JAS. KER, JR., C. P. A., Charlotte, N. C. C. H. GATIS, T. P. A., Raleigh, N. C. Baseball Game Between University of Virginia and University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C., April 6th. For above occasion Southern Railway will sell round-trip tickets from all points within one hundred miles of Greensboro. Following rates will apply from points named: Charlotte \$3.00 Concord 2.50 Salisbury 2.10 Winston-Salem 1.10 Durham 2.20 Raleigh 3.20 Tickets on sale April 6th, and for trains arriving at Greensboro before noon of April 6th; final limit April 7th, 1908. R. L. VERNON, T. P. A. 31-5t

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NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE. Mrs. E. D. Charles, of Harbor, Maine, speaking of Electric Bitters, says: "It is a neighborhood favorite here with us." It deserves to be a favorite everywhere. It gives quick relief in dyspepsia, liver complaint, kidney derangement, malnutrition, nervousness, weakness and general debility. Its action on the blood, as thorough purifier makes it especially useful as a curing medicine. This grand alterative tonic is sold under guarantee at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store, 50.

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