

The Drunkard's Wife.

[Chicago Inter-Ocean.] In a hospital ward a woman lay Painfully gasping her life away; So bruised and beaten you scarce could trace Womanhood's semblance in form or face. Yet the hair that over the pillow rolled In a tangled mass, was like threads of gold; And never a sculptor in any land Molded a daintier foot or hand. Said one who ministered to her need, "None but coward could do this deed; And what bitter hate could have nerved the arm That a helpless creature like this could harm?" Then the dim eyes, hazy with death's eclipse, Slowly unlock, and the swollen lips Murned faintly: "He loves me well— My husband—'twas drink—be sure you sell. When he comes to himself—that I forgive; Poor fellow—for him—I would like to live." A shudder, a moan, as the words were said, And a drunkard's wife on the couch lay dead. O fathers, who your daughters rear, Somebody's daughter is lying here. O brothers of sisters, come and see What the fate of your precious one may be. O man! however you love your home, Be it palace, or cottage, neath heaven's blue dome, This demon of drink can enter in; For law strikes hands and bargains with sin. You have legalized crime, you have the gold Now hand them over, the sons you sold— Keep pushing them forward. Drink, boys drink! Your fathers are paid for your souls they think; And in the great mart where mammon strives Cheapest of all things are human lives.

W. C. T. U. DEPARTMENT.

APPREHENSIVE BREWER. The brewers are becoming anxious, as well they may, concerning the future of their "vested interests" in beer-making and vending. To the general public their talk is boastful and defiant. Among themselves, as in their late annual convention, they betray unmistakable anxiety. One of their official reports, referring to the progress of prohibition in the South and elsewhere said: "Some well-informed people incline to the opinion that now, prohibition being upheld by the Democratic party in the South and the Republican party in the North, East and West, there is a greater chance than was ever offered of forcing prohibitory legislation through Congress." The report touching this point adds with great significance: "It would be hazardous to express any positive opinion in this respect." The foe is beginning to crack under the elephants feet.—National Temperance Advocate. The National Whisky organ, Bon-Jour Circulars, says: "Prohibition is proving itself a terrible power, and the need of an active moneyed organization to combat it is being felt each day. It will not stop short of national success if let alone, and the way State after State is dropping into their net indicates that they mean to make their work a short one." The W. C. T. U. workers of Concord are wide awake and full of enthusiasm. In a letter from the Cor. Sec. she tells of a Crusade day meeting held under the auspices of their Union. The Court House room in which it was held was crowded with an intelligent and interested audience. Rev. W. S. Cressy of Durham delivered the address. Some members of our Union are under bereavement. Concord Union has recently sustained a sad loss in the death of Mrs. M. M. Cross, one of their most earnest and active workers. But we have the assurance that our loss is her gain. And at Winston, Mrs. Dr. Ector's home has recently been saddened by the visitation of the death angel which took from her fond embrace her darling little daughter Effie. May the bereaved hearts find comfort in the thought, "They are not lost, only gone before." After careful deliberation the general officers, and Mrs. Sallie F. Chapin decide upon Nashville, Tenn. as the home of the next National W. C. T. U. Convention. Warm greetings have already reached us from leading ladies of that beautiful and cultured capital, the seat of Vanderbilt University, and the city of all in America that has the longest percentage of its population in schools. We had counted on the presence and welcome of Mrs. President Polk, the most honored resident of Nashville, who sent a sisterly message to the Minneapolis Convention, but her recent death at the advanced age of eighty-three, cuts off that rare anticipation.

Let all hearts pray for the most blessed convention of the series in 1887.—Union Signal. During the Xmas holidays the Winston's visited the Alms-house, and no doubt made glad the hearts of many of its inmates. In a letter from one of the W. C. T. U. members, she says a feast indeed was given the poor, but in the giving some of the girls declare that nothing so pleasant has occurred during the holidays.

STATE PROHIBITION PLATFORM.

Greensboro, Dec. 10, 1885. Whereas: The traffic in alcoholic liquors has grown and is growing out of all ratio to the increase of population in this country; and, Whereas, said traffic unjustly burdens every legitimate industry, imposes grievous taxation upon honest labor, curses social life, begets crime, breeds pauperism, antagonizes the church, corrupts politics, nullifies law, is a menace to good government and a peril to State; and, Whereas, The policy of licensing said traffic has proved a policy of perpetuation instead of suppression, with the perpetuity of all its alarming conditions and results; and, Whereas, We believe license not only non-restrictive in fact, but immoral in principle, debasing in practice, criminal in effect, and an unworthy national law; and that such prohibition, to be effective, must be bedded in the organic foundation of nation and state, and be secured through and be guaranteed by a politics party; Resolved, That as all secondary matters are treated by political parties from the standpoint of expediency; as with the two old parties of our former affiliation this question of the liquor traffic is and must remain secondary; and as we can no longer support either of these old parties, in North Carolina and the nation, with our endorsing saloon influences, encouraging the power of the saloon in politics and aiding to perpetuate that power; we do hereby declare the imperative necessity for a new party, with prohibition of the traffic its prime object; we urge and will labor to secure its prompt and thorough organization everywhere, and for it we invite the votes of all who cast ballots, and the sympathy of all others. Resolved, That with the liquor traffic costing over two thousand million dollars annually for liquors bought and drunk, for crime and pauperism growing out of their consumption, for judiciary and constabulary and penal and charitable institutions, made necessary by such crime and pauperism, for unproductive life resulting from it, for unproductive labor involved in it and the enormous waste inevitable under its with political corruption its legitimate child, public abuses its natural brood, profitable production discounted because of it, helpful consumption limited, the equitable distribution of wealth, and the equitable adjustment of public burdens made impossible, and every material and moral interest enforced by its organized selfishness; the issue of its prohibition, already fixed in politics by the repeated action of the liquor dealers themselves, more closely involve the welfare of all the people and is of far greater concern to state and nation, than any other or all other issues now politically recognized and that as such it deserves and for it we may justly claim the acceptance of every candid citizen.

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