

A CASE FOR PROHIBITION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

By CLARENCE H. POE, (Editor of Progressive Farmer.)

The influence of no whiskey town ends with its corporate limits. It is not a local matter. No community has a right to prostitute the plea of local self government in order to make itself a center of moral contagion nullifying the effect of temperance legislation in all the surrounding country.

The whiskey advocates appeal to us in the name of "liberty" and "local self-government." It is "liberty" for a mad dog, for a smallpox patient, for an outlaw—and in such cases the theory of liberty does not apply. It is "local self-government" for a pest-hole, for an enemy's fort, for a robber's stronghold—and in such cases the theory of local self-government does not apply.

"But will prohibition prohibit?" The best answer to that, as some has said, is that drunkards and whiskey manufacturers fight it so bitterly. If it did not prohibit, they would not oppose it.

Of course, it will not stop whiskey drinking utterly. Our laws against murder do not prevent all homicides; our laws against stealing do not prevent all thefts. The question is not, "Will it utterly stop drinking?" The question is, "Will it measurably decrease drinking?" And upon this point there can be no doubt. Only last week the editor of the leading paper in Knoxville, Tenn., spoke to me of the results of prohibition adopted by Knoxville a year ago. "Drinking," he said, "has decreased 66 2-3 per cent and the average number of arrests per week has gone down from 150 to 40. It is my belief that the abolition of the dispensary in Raleigh in spite of the jug trade has decreased drinking among the dispensary's former patrons from 40 to 60 per cent.

AND NOW A WORD ABOUT THE TAX QUESTION. Of course, we are having to increase our taxes somewhat, but who will weigh even the total amount of the increased taxes in one balance and the weight of one human soul in the other? When the great Horace Mann was agitating Massachusetts for the establishment of a reformatory, some one counted up the cost. "It would be worth that if it saved one boy," many declared. "Would it?" replied a listener. "Yes," replied the great educator, "yes—if it were your boy!"

Moreover, we cannot too strongly emphasize the fact that the temporary loss of a few dollars in whiskey taxes is as nothing compared to the enormous material gains through temperance in the way of increased earning power and property gains for the individual tax-payer. The folly of regarding whiskey selling as a source of wealth to the State should be apparent when we reflect that of all things it does most to impoverish the citizen from whom taxes come and most to increase criminal expenses for which taxes are used. Barring war only, the greatest economic waste, the greatest poverty-breeder North Carolina has known, is probably the drink habit, and a State might as well expect to enrich itself by licensing a Sherman's army to plunder its people for a certain small per cent in loot tax as to expect to enrich itself through poverty-breeding whiskey taxes.

Seen from any large viewpoint, I make bold to claim that the increase in taxes resulting from increased property values will more than make good the temporary loss in whiskey taxes.

In other words, the money you

get from the drunkard in whiskey taxes—as your Judas's price of his ruin—is less than the money you would have had from him in property taxes if whiskey had been taken from him.

And one tax is the life and health of a people; the other is their shame and their undoing.

SAVING ONE GENERATION OF BOYS.

It should not be forgotten that the one great object, the goal, of temperance agitation is to grow one generation of young men free from the drink curse. We cannot save the men already addicted to drink, but we can, at least, generation after generation, save an increasing large number of boys. And this is our hope.

State prohibition in North Carolina will help mightily to this end. With the bar-room or the dispensary, the old, old question, "Is the young man safe?" must always be answered in the negative. Even with the jug trade, bad as it is, the danger is far, far less. It is chiefly the older men with appetites already developed who will order from other States.

It cannot be denied that with the manufacture and sale of liquor forbidden in every part of North Carolina it will be immeasurably easier to grow a generation free from the blighting slavery to strong drink.

And if we can get one generation free from the habit, what race of grown men will walk open-eyed again into the shame and pollution from which we now vote to save them?

THE JUG TRADE IS DOOMED IF TEMPERANCE MEN STAND FIRM.

And the jug trade—it will not always be with us. Let the present agitation continue five years more and as surely as the sun rises, the inter-state jug trade will be stripped of its power for evil. Was it not Mr. Dooley who said: "The constitution may not follow the flag, but the Supreme Court follows the illicit ray-turns?" At any rate, Supreme Court or no Supreme Court—even if we must have a Constitutional Amendment—the inter-state jug trade is doomed, if the prohibition States only stand firm and fight, letting no lust of golden taxes lure them into fatal compromise with their retreating and beaten enemy. It is time for our leaders to cry out with Moses of old: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

THE CITIZEN'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD.

But even if prohibition did not prohibit—though it does—what matters that to you? You pass the law; the officers are charged with its enforcement. The call is to you to say whether the manufacture and sale of whiskey shall be forbidden in North Carolina; the sheriffs, the mayors, the police and the judges will then be sworn to enforce our mandate. Was it not Daniel Webster who said: "The most tremendous thought I ever had is that of a man's personal responsibility to God." And your personal responsibility, remember, is as to your vote on the law—simply this, and nothing more. If you vote against liquor, you are free from the reproach of the drunkard's shame, free from the rebuke of the drunkard's mother, free from the shame of a whiskey-sodden State. Your skirts are clear.

THE TREMENDOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ELECTION.

Prohibition will carry—there is no doubt about that. But, men

and women of North Carolina, it must be carried by no half-hearted, no indecisive majority. The call of humanity, of patriotism, yea, of the God of Nations Himself, is for each man and every man to go out into the highways and hedges and convert the erring and rouse the indifferent and see to it that the majority on the 26th of May is so overwhelming that this hydra-monster will not again find legal covert in our State till time shall be no more. If slavery was an anachronism in the glow of nineteenth century civilization no less is the drink evil in the fuller glow of twentieth century enlightenment. The time has come to bury it not merely for a few years or for one generation, but to trample it under foot overwhelmingly and for all time—just as we have done with monarchy and slavery and witchcraft.

And not only is an overwhelming majority necessary to secure this result in North Carolina, but we are fighting a battle here on which the contending armies in all parts of America are looking with keenest interest—for North Carolina, as I have said, is the first State in the present temperance revival to decide the prohibition question by popular vote. Let the majority, May 26th, be narrow, and every saloon and den of vice in wide America will rejoice—and celebrate over elections in New York city—and even the arch-enemy of human souls himself may well take fresh courage.

The call to North Carolina, therefore, is to do well her part in the eyes of the world. Napoleon with his legions encamped among the ruins of Egyptian glory, thrilled his men to new deeds of heroism by his famous appeal. "My soldiers, from yonder pyramids, forty centuries look down upon you."

It may be well that in the long years of God forty centuries of the future look to the men of North Carolina today and call them to do well their part even as forty centuries of the past looked down on the imperial armies of France.

And then that other great battle watchword, this time of British history: "England expects every man to do his duty." Reverently may we not paraphrase this cry and say now in conclusion that in the present moral warfare in North Carolina—

"The God of Battles expects every man to do his duty."

Child Fell Into Old Well.

What may prove a fatal accident occurred in Morganton last Monday when little Elizabeth, the 2-year old daughter of Mr. Z. T. Corpening, fell 56 feet to the bottom of an old abandoned well back of the Corpening residence on West Union street. The child was playing on some planks which were nailed over the mouth of the well, when they broke. "Uncle" Jerry Gordon, an old drkky who was working near, hastily seized an old rope and at the great risk of losing his own life descended to the bottom, where he found the child in an unconscious condition. "Uncle" Jerry was furnished with a stronger rope and was drawn safely up with the child. Luckily there was no water in the well and the soft dirt prevented instant death. Drs. Riddle and Phifer were hastily summoned and the last report says the child is resting well, but grave fears are entertained for its recovery. The old darkey showed the hero, and a purse is being made up for him.

Dr. J. Francke Fox, of Bluefield, W. Va., is visiting his brother, Mr. E. D. Fox.

GUBERNATORIAL BULLETIN.

Showing Number Of Votes In State Convention Secured By Each Candidate In Counties That Have Held Conventions To Date, May 5th.

Table with columns: County, No. Votes, Craig, Kitchin, Horne, Uninstructed. Lists counties from Stanley to Rowan with their respective vote counts.

NOTE.—The returns from Cabarras, Caldwell, Henderson, Chatham, Orange and Granville counties are unofficial, but substantially correct. The primaries in these counties were held on Saturday, May 9th, but the County Conventions have not yet been held. Yadkin primaries were not held on Saturday, as had been advertised, and Rowan failed to instruct for Governor.

WOMAN ROTTEN-EGGED.

Female Minister Ninne-compoop Disgusts The Citizens of Salisbury. Salisbury, N. C., May 11.—The first anti-prohibition speech of the State campaign was made on the streets in Salisbury Saturday night by Mrs. Isabell Rice, of New York, who addressed about three hundred people for more than an hour. She disclaimed that she was sent out by the whiskey interests but claimed that she was here simply in the interest of humanity. She stated that she has been preaching sixteen years and that for six years she has not told a lie. In her address she held up the State of Kansas as being worse off with prohibition rule than formerly under the whiskey administration. She declared that she had bought quantities of whiskey in various prohibition States and that prohibition does not prohibit. Her remarks were cheered by many while many others turned away in disgust at the sight of a woman taking the stump against temperance. Several who had intended to vote wet went away declaring they will now vote dry.

The interest in the gathering reached a climax when some unknown person threw several eggs at the woman preacher, all of which missed her and bespattered the clothing of men in the crowd. On Sunday Mrs. Rice was denied permission by Mayor Boyden to speak on the streets again, the mayor declaring that the issue is purely a political one.—News and Observer.

Prizes For Chrysanthemums.

A Floral Fair will be held in Charlotte, N. C., next November for the benefit of St. Peter's Hospital. Prizes will be given for the best Chrysanthemums, both for plants and cut flowers.

Friends of the Hospital and flower growers are asked to remember this in their Spring planting and summer cultivation.

Correspond with Mrs. John Wilkes or Mrs. J. S. Walters, Managers, Charlotte, N. C.

Miss Florence Rhyne goes to Hickory Saturday to attend the commencement of Lenoir College.

Mr. Minter Appreciated.

In speaking of the memorial exercises at Shelby Sunday the Cleveland Star has the following kind words: to say about one of our most popular Lincolnton ministers: "The memorial sermon was preached by Rev. W. E. Minter who came by invitation of the loyal Daughters of the Confederacy. His sermon was one of rare beauty, tender and eloquent. "Instead of portraying the gallant deeds, the dash and daring of those matchless Confederate leaders whose fame as soldiers has become world wide, he pictured the deep piety and religious nature of the peerless Lee, Jackson, Stuart and Davis.

"Taking as his text, those ringing, triumphant words of the old warrior Paul, 'I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith,' in tender beautiful word painting he portrayed the deep and abiding piety of those peerless and princely leaders of the Confederacy. In closing he made a touching and eloquent appeal to the Confederate veterans that if they had not already done so, to embrace the religion of their Generals whom they had loved and followed even to the very jaws of death. It was an earnest and deeply touching appeal and sunk deep into the hearts of his hearers.

"This greatly beloved minister is always sure of a warm welcome in Shelby. The beauty and strength of his character has left a deep impression upon the hearts of our people regardless of denominational affiliation and he was heard gladly and with appreciation."

A Large Crane.

Mr. Ross Dellinger killed a large crane Wednesday morning on South Fork river near Horse Shoe Park. The crane is a beautiful specimen of the blue fisher variety and measured six feet from tip to tip and was five feet six inches in height.

Miss Rosa Hinson is spending a few days in Maiden this week the guest of Miss Maud Allen.

CHARLOTTE A GAY CITY.

Has Ten Moving Pictures and Vaudeville Shows. May 20th Next Week

Charlotte, May 14th. Never in the history of Charlotte has there been a greater demand by the public for amusements than at the present time. Every available store room has been rented and is now occupied by moving picture and vaudeville shows. There are ten such attractions operating in the city and all are flourishing. The people have the moving picture and vaudeville craze.

Next week, the twentieth of May week, will be unusually gay, for, besides the above number of attractions as many more will be here. The committee of citizens is arranging a fine program of entertainment for the occasion, and it is very probable that the people of Charlotte and the out of town people who are here during the week, will have, for the first time, an opportunity of seeing the flight of an air ship. Several parties want to bring their flying machines to the city and should an agreement be reached as to terms a flight will be made on each of the six days.

The visiting baseball fans will have an opportunity of witnessing three League games. Charlotte plays the Greenville club on the first three days of the week.

A Strong Ticket Suggested.

The following ticket for County Commissioners from the several Townships of Lincoln county is suggested by a number of large taxpayers who are deeply interested in having an unusually strong board of County Commissioners elected for the coming term. The men named below are eminently fitted to handle with economy and discretion any amount of money entrusted to their care for public improvements:

- FROM NORTH BROOK. DAVID J. BEAM. FROM HOWARD'S CREEK. CHARLES L. HAVNAER. FROM LINCOLNTON. D. E. RHYNE. FROM CATAWBA SPRINGS. W. C. PROCTOR. FROM IRONTON. J. E. REINHARDT. (Adv.)

The Very Latest.

"Let me see some of your black kid gloves," said a lady to a shopman. "These are not the very latest style, are they?" she asked, when the gloves were produced.

"Yes, ma'am," replied the shopman: "we have had them in stock only two days."

"I didn't think they were because the fashion paper says black kids have tan stitches and vice versa. I see the tan stitches, but not the vice versa."

The shopman explained that vice versa was French for seven buttons, so she bought three pairs.—Detroit Free Press.

To Work A Mine In Catawba County.

Mr. B. V. Hedrick, at one time a well known Spencer merchant, has returned from Villa Rica, Ga., where he has been engaged in the mining business and will in the next few days open a new mine near Catawba Station, Catawba county. He will be associated with S. L. Griswold and H. A. Wurhm, of New York, both of whom are experienced miners. The new company will put in modern machinery with capacity of 100 tons per day and will dig for gold in Catawba.—Spencer Dispatch.

The Laboratory and Crouse base ball teams crossed bats Saturday, the former winning by a score of 13 to 5.