Temperance

an address

Original manuscript

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Temperance.

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   a. speeches always to temperance people.
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   c. progress too slow
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4. Pervasive condition of our society
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(e') Cultivate motion wine
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(i') Various canons of life &c others, working the system

(6') Neophrans. (b') Social clubs with money
(b') Money pools
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(5') Effect of a billion of dollars

(6') Jewish Army (a') Total obduracy, religions, affairs, issues, movements
(b') Division and the Eastern Social Temple Club.
I speak on the subject of temperance with considerable reluctance.

One reason is that I seem destined to bring the subject before those who agree with me—before temperance audiences.

Again from past experience I believe that I have reason to distrust my powers as a temperance advocate. [Here relate an incident of Governor Word.]

Further being of a sanguine temperament, the progress of the campaign against strong drink is too slow for me; too discouraging.

Indeed for purposes of entertainment the good old subject is somewhat seedy and threadbare. The horrors of drunkenness and the concomitant evils have ceased to make any considerable impression upon audiences or upon the community or upon anybody except those who are dwelling in the shadow of the sorrow or in the blackness of the despair. [For example the Carroll case.]

The intense pictures of poor suffering humanity so powerfully presented by our noble friend John B. Gough do indeed stir the hearts of all who hear him. So also the feeble presentations by numerous other temperance orators of the woe of disrupted families, the painful torture that every drunkard himself undergoes, and the
woe upon woe, calamity upon calamity
sure to follow his continued sedulity. Do
doubtless find echoes of response in the hearts
of good men and women.

I am glad to believe that the effect of
such teachers is good, particularly of those
who make this temperance teaching a part of
their Christian work, good for the children. It is
so much the case, that should you confine your attention
to the schools, you would say that the next generation
will have the majority of men and women in the temperance
army. But
2. Particularly of those who, while teaching a part of their Christian work, appear very effective among the children. So much so that, should you confine your attention to the schools, you would say that the next generation will have the majority of men and women in the temperance army. I would have said so thirty years ago; I mean, judging from my limited field of observation, that I would have predicted a temperance era before 1882. But for this wholesale and retail dealers in strong drink would have found the business otherwise (previously one). And the drunks would have been few in number, that the criminal list would as a consequence have been diminished more than one half. That it would have been a beneficence instead of a grievance, which makes women war against men and children a work and disposed to crime. That our legislators and public men everywhere would have become less evil, they would have grown up into men imbued with all the wholesomeness of temperance constitutions. The history of reforms in human society encourages us to persevere! From our savages' day to the present, there has been first, the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. But some how in our temperance reform we
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domestic and foreign liquors consumed in
this country as a cost of $785,720,048. Every
gallon of that liquor paid a revenue tax into the
United States Treasury.

That year there were 7,276 wholesale and 161,144
retail liquor dealers or one liquor dealer to every
240 persons of the population, who
paid a license to the United States Government for
the privilege of selling unadulterated that which kills
men body and soul and fits them for eternal
separation from God and from all good. 

The year there were in the District of Columbia from
where the citizens are denied the right to vote, 15
breweries in full blast producing 15,956 barrels of beer;
54 wholesale liquor dealers and 1,094 retail liquor dealers,
making an aggregate sale of $45,185,000 worth of liquor.

All of which business was done under the aegis of the
great Republic; as is more, in the very presence of
the Government itself. The liquor business an
influence in its own right: there is not a
dollar coined in this business but the Government takes
to share, dips off one fifth of it to pay its own
legitimate expenses. And our Chief Executive, and our
Senator, and our Members of Congress, and our judges,
all must, are compelled to receive their proportion
of percentage from this source of revenue.
Order to get their salaries. Their compensation for service rendered. They are obliged to take money that is blood money, which has been gained out of the tears and sorrow and grief of poor humanity.

For 1881 the U.S. drinking income amounted to round numbers to about $365,000,000 or one million daily. Of this enormous liquor gross $69,153,978.86, or more than one-fifth of the total revenue.

I do not know that the position of those who deny the government because it draws its revenues from this source is altogether a sound one. It would increase the evil to lessen the tax; it would add to the fearful scourge immensely to remove it altogether. Free whiskey is not a very boon that the worst men desire. Why should we pay a larger proportion of our income than dealers in corn, wheat or other commodities? Such are the exasperations and queries of men in the liquor interest. It was always said by Charles Sumner and Henry Wilson that Mr. Lincoln was radical in theory but often impracticable in the execution; whereas Mr. Lincoln was radical in theory also, but always practical in its accomplishment. Sumner said: "Assess the entire..."
Slight of duty at once and unhesitatingly—ben
Wilson said, "Take a step forward and onward when
you cannot take two." I sympathize more with
the practical processes. I see abundance of
sills in human society that cannot be done
away with a single blow of legislation. Allegiance
for example should be abolished. But the simple
abolition or prohibition put into immediate
execution is not enough. Humanity demands
that the redundant wifes and wids and the
hundreds of innocent children should
at the same time be properly provided
for. Otherwise the corrupted community
might be driven into worse forms of sin
and than exists at present.

So with the liquor revenue to abolish
the tax and let good men feel that their salaries
did not proceed the hurt from this blood-money
would be a relief to their feelings doubted.
But while an enormous capital remains
invested in this business—while the wholesale
and retail men filled their business
of death dealing without apparent serfdom,
and as the majority of the people
sustained them by their drinking sentiments
and practices, it would be a mistake
to solicit the abolition of the liquor.

It would be reforming backward.
It would perhaps be better to keep increasing
the tax and within the discretion of the
revenue officers until this action becomes
irreversible by legislation. Still such legislation would probably prove by experience
to be unwise, unworkable and impracticable. Or
is it an attempt to spring from the bottom of
the stairway, to the life of the world or to ascend by impossible degrees.
I have referred to this discussion of the liquor revenue
to show how deeply ingrained and how widely
spread is this plague spot of evil, this demoralizing
making. Every class and condition of our society is
involved. As our government is of the people, for
the people, and by the people, it is plain that in the
long run the people themselves are responsible
for the making of strong liquor, for the
demoralizing making.
It is said by a prominent religious teacher
who has visited the different cities and villages
of New York State that the majority of the attendants
upon church upon the Sabbath are women,
a small proportion are men and a much
shrinkage are young men.
So it is in the Temperance assemblies. The majority
are women. The male proportion
men may be young men are few
and far between. There appears to be
some great gulf that like the red
sea, swallows up the hosts of the young
between childhood and early manhood.

General Sherman was remarkable for
several qualities of mind. He once learned the
position and topography of a place he never lost the
picture from the tablet of his memory. If he
mentally put his army forward into a new
place he could predict almost with certainty
the consequences of his move in the action
of his enemy. How important then to have
knowledge of positions and topography in
the enemy's lines. How necessary to make
judicious moves in this power of prediction!

How stands the temperance and the
liquor armies today? They are squarely opposed
but the liquor people are thoroughly entrenched.
They are entrenched behind the social custom
of nine tenths of the fashionable society people
of the United States. This custom--giving a little
beer and wine, but its front has never been broken.
It passes various wines and liquors before the face of crime.
The pride of every ambitious rising young man. It says if I ever have my children drink at home as though it were a matter of course, they will always be temperate men and women. It argues that if strong beer was encouraged and given freely to children, the appetite thus cultivated would preclude the wild uncontrollable whose effect may admit desire for brandy, gin, rum and whisky which leads to wretchedness and crime, so it goes to the children the strong beer. It urges upon society to produce native wines, and asserts everywhere where native wines are cultivated there is little or no drunkenness.

They are instilled in the favorite literature of the present age. Temperance books and papers with temperance' are the topics and aim. But now it is like speaking of the sight of the bird, the sight of the deer, the sight of the fish. The trees, give the truest pictures of life as it was when they wrote the pictures of delight and reveling not only witnessed. The hilarious effects of brandy and gin, the nights spent in jovial sport, the songs sung by good fellows over the flowing bowl, are very acceptable to ordinary human nature. The severe penalties for these pictures express are seldom presented at all.
10. The liquor people are entrenched, particularly in the cities, in their clubs, round tables, leagues, and other associations. The greater number of these is for the special purpose of good fellowship; and they say almost with one voice, how can we have good fellowship, a good time, without a punch bowl? They are entrenched in their public dinners, even in those of an official character. How does he attempt to entertain the Russian, the English, the French, the German—without wine and beer? The very proposal appears to most people of social character, an absurdity, a folly. So a president attempting it would be suspected of possessing in his wife a disposition to carry matters too far. These public dinners swallow up not only young men and young women, but members in good regular standing in all the churches.

There are various lines of intrusions on the behind another running into practices and canyons of our social life. The poor railway man, a day-laborer, wants a bit of rest from this toil and worry of the poorer classes but hungry mind and heart. Where does he find it? Always in the
Whiskey shop. What is there in this rough boarding-house to meet the want that he feels? To sit around with others and talk stories with no family ties, no love of books, no talent for music - this constant association grows wearisome in its monotony. It acts sharper relieves, keeners relieves mean. The poor laborer affords a hope, a kind, a kind, after they die libations, requipecs, or foolish from drink. This poor day-laborer is a type of multitudes who try every expedient to satisfy a perennial discontent. How restless they are. They cross Minneoa, they cross the city. They span the continent by their elimination. They go up, down, the rivers. They turn back from the Pacific, they meddle with the elimination, they mingle with the Indians. It is a vast multitude which frets, flows, rises and falls with an eternal sameness of morning restless energy. What will satisfy this mingling? First, the Millions! Oh, says Mr. Spuyten Duyvil, and workmen take a bottle of the sparkling wine. It will do you good - it will warm your heart, it will lighten your spirits, as you hung on to your coveted fortune in this new country. How bright and beautiful the windows of the liquor shop! How kind and pleasant the hand of welcome!
Is it a wonder that we have never been left to make a living in some distant sloth or territory during the period of early civilized manhood are we safely tempted? It is less a wonder that the working man's son, who has not had the privileges, nor may not have the resources of our sons, falls into the society that his father has mingled in, and is drawn into the common maelstrom of engulfment.

I notice a letter from Senator Blair to the Boston Temperance Social Club that he turns at the main feature of the case, as the weapon of the enemy of Temperance reform.

He says: "It is not strange that in a world where money buys everything from the best book-binding to the best preaching, that a billion of dollars should exert some influence and control of that fact I consider the organization of the Social Union (club) in the immediate vicinity of the heaviest money bags of the country as the best means to the cause - an ocean which has been the one thing needful to the Temperance reform. If I had a billion of dollars I could enact a national prohibitory law and a local prohibitory law in every state and territory, and enforce them besides.

This saving men without hard cash is slow business. It costs a billion a year to destroy them by the single process of men-drinking in this country.
12 alone, and when there is the fixed capital in the cursed plant. It cannot be expected that much head-way will be made uphill toward a higher life and more notable conditions, unless from some source the funds are provided. It is costs so much to go to — to the bottom with gravitation it will certainly cost something to get to the summit against it."

Thus the Senator not only points out the strong equipment of the enemy that indicates a proverbial weakness of our own weapons of defense and offense.

He deems and I fear it is relatively true:

"Here is not a temperance organization in the land which has a dollar where it should have thousands. x x x a temperance worker is worn off when a missionary to the Caribbea Islands. He or she cannot begin to live as well as an entertaining ten dollar, or a good looking apple woman on the corner of the street, to say nothing of laying up money enough to secure a decent burial."

If now we turn to our own position and examine it — if we consider the foreword moves we may judiciously make, we can the better predict the results which we do indeed hope for in no very distant feature.
14. First among the temperance army, or are we not established on the hills tops of right? Then are several divisions in the field and their banners are thrown to the breeze. Let me enumerate:

First, the division of total abstinence—true legal prohibition.
Second, the advocacy of local option, the moral sanitarians. We open and close temperance societies, such as the Sons of the Good Templars.
Third, the organization of the religious type, the temperance churches, temperance Sunday schools, and special temperance bodies pushing for the reform of drunkenness. Here, the process of regeneration, we might call their leaders, temperance evangelists.

Fourth, then are the organized appetites for men and women. To come clean from intoxication. Furnishing to people eager with the delirium of drink a place of refuge and voluntary restraint. These are the "houses for the sick and tired." Fifth, then are the women associations, who, often colder than men, pushed the war into the enemy's strongholds, as in the crusades, carrying forward like Cromwell's troopers with hymns of praise and prayer to God. Sixth, then are the men, who like the Girondins of the French Revolution, sincerely skirmish between moderate drinking nobles and the hard drinking.
masers. It may be hard to cut off the poor main which retain the rich main's social
but still they stand like water fountain, like temperature
ice, and prosecute with energy the violators of the
law.
Now I want to stick to the good old Bible principle,
wisdom is justified of all her children... and I
especially welcome a new division—I called a social
club composed of men and woman and beginning
view at New Home of the Minnesotan among people
who have family position & recognized social
standing. I know a good many people who would give
up campaign to be received into such society.
Just think of it, here we have governors, mayors,
ministers, legislatures and men of wealth owning
together in the bands of good fellowship & thinking
not the influence colors to the breeze.
Now as to the question of right. It strikes me
that one solid principle binds us together. It is not that
I must abstain altogether from meat, but that it is
my privilege to do so; that I ought to do so when
it is plain that I am best fitted to save my
brother. I guess we can generally agree upon
another, Henry Wilson's principle, viz: Take one forward
step when you cannot take two.
Perhaps we can here & elsewhere make the Boston
Men and adopt what I think I shall name

The Blair movement. Rig work money into

temperance and do it by clearly showing to numerous

holders of capital that temperance will pay in

every lawful business.

The United States financially would do a much

better business, if the States and Territories paid into the

national treasury one half of what it costs them

to support the victims of strong drink in their

gas & alms houses and gave up Dr. Rankin's

blood money to the temperance societies. This

appears impracticable. Still when the money and

influence get on our side, the temperance

side, the country, the government will not

feel its loss of revenue.

And from my heart have a deep sympathy with

the temperance evangelists. They are always on

the skirmish line and fighting for position. They

are always exhibiting progress. A soul truly regenerate,

truly joined to Christ in the bonds of love, is

saved from drink & will work for others.

The Crusaders started my marrow like soul, but

I have seen some grand fruit of their labors.

(Here related the incidents of a Saloon keeper's change)

There is still one thing that troubles me: it is to get

an answer to the question: Where are our young men,
Those who are strong, brave, and sturdy should lie in the forefront of church and temperance work. Are they not? You say they are doing the world's work, they are absorbed in getting a living. Let them go then if we must. I ask again how may we proceed to prevent the next generation of children from ever leaving the teachings of the Sunday schools, the church, and the temperance order? May I mention an answer. It is: provide for their increasing needs before they think of departing. Keep them in the school by adapting the school to them. Give to a restless boy something to do that will interest him. We may make circles like the bold and successful Dr. Vincent at Chattanooga. How many poor wasted intellects brighter under his wondrous provisions are found in our land? Often a Christian boy full of gentleness, beauty, and winning manners will gather and keep a class of young men when the rougher, moist newer would drive them into the street. Often a reading circle or debating club will keep boys and girls who feel too big for the children's classes.