

THE PRESS FOR TEMPERANCE

IS THE TITLE OF A PAPER
READ AT W. C. T. U.
MEETING

AT FRIENDS' CHURCH

By Eliza D. H. Mendenhall and Print-
ed by Request of the Union.

The following paper was read be-
fore the W. C. T. U. at a meeting
held recently in this city in the East
Main Street Friends' church, entitled
"The Press for Temperance."

The Press for Temperance.

In addressing temperance conven-
tions there is a discouraging consci-
ousness that probably no one is pres-
ent who does not already agree with
every thought to be enunciated.

Our temperance lecturers and or-
ators speak at rare intervals and to
limited numbers.

Our temperance papers and maga-
zines go mostly to the homes of those
already interested in the work.

While these do an untold amount of
good "among the brethren," they
are not gathering new converts and
new workers for temperance as they
ought to do.

It is our fifteen thousand daily
newspapers, speaking to more than
twenty million daily readers that can
carry our message most effectually
into every home. There is now en-
ough public opinion to back us and
there are enough sound temperance
men to open the editorial pages to our
pens, if we have our message ready
for the people.

The slow coming of this great na-
tional reform is not due to the slow
stepping of Jehovah but to the na-
tion's lukewarmness and to her
greed of revenue.

Richmond could speedily close her
fifty saloons in the same way that she
got her new railroad—by bringing the
question as a single issue to be voted
upon without respect to party—by the
people. True to their instinct for civic
righteousness we do believe the
body of our citizens would vote
"rank and file" for temperance.

All this cutting off of the Hydra's
heads and this weary trimming of the
Up as tree would then be past. Sim-
ply because there would be no Hydra
to multiply its heads and no Upas
tree to drop its poison.

Our church members and our min-
isterial associations cannot hope to
equal or to outwit the low cunning of
the saloon element. They have not
been reared in the school of treachery
and deceit, nor can the God fearing,
law abiding element always stand dis-
comfited and defeated—with the sal-
oon man leering a whole year ahead.
But if they could be entirely victori-
ous it would be at the cost of per-
petual vigilance and there are nobler
uses for our time and our talents—
"The Saloon must go."

We commend the consideration of
the Initiative Referendum to our
committee on civic improvement. It
would mend slippery ways for un-
wary feet, build bridges to moral and
financial success, illumine the moral at-
mosphere, rear happy homes and win
not only the respect but the support
of the people of Richmond.

But if there is to be no quick deliv-
erance from this evil a temperance
corner in every paper would enlighten
the people in all our towns and cities.

If every county in every state had
its W. C. T. U. organization and if
each Union had a live press commit-
tee, it would accomplish wonders, nor
need we be discouraged with the num-
bers, the zeal and the organization we
already have.

Let this organization remain as it
was organized and as Frances Willard
so strongly advised simply a band of
mothers, with no political connection
or aspirations, a federation of hearts
and hands to guard the interests of
the home, so that every mother in the
land can find a place amongst us and
however we may differ in creed or
politics we can be one in our organi-
zation and our work for the protec-
tion of the home.

There is need of great wisdom—
the kind that cometh from above—
promised liberally to them that ask
of God. There is need of kindness and
courage, courtesy and moderation in
this press committee work.

There is no necessity to draw upon
the imagination nor multiply our ex-
pectations.

There is already a curse upon the
saloon keeper and upon his children
deadlier than the hereditary curse

pursuing the house of Atreus.

All the history of the past and our
every day happenings will give the
texts and the facts. They themselves
will make an energetic introduction—
a well sustained middle and an effec-
tive peroration to every article your
pen shall write.

Let a well selected committee in ev-
ery locality prepare short pungent ar-
ticles for each weekly issue. If we
mix with them a little brains, it
won't be a drawback, but above all
is the clear enunciation of conviction
and the spirit's power to reach the
people.

Ask your local editors, whether
you be on this press committee or off
of it—ask them as subscribers to
their valued paper to place the tem-
perance reform and the great moral
issues of the day in which you are in-
terested upon the front page occasion-
ally—that they may not be entirely
outranked by the polo, the football,
and the race track.

This press committee must have
tact and a great deal of good common
sense—in active exercise.

It will need grace and grit as well
as Prohibition sentiment, if it suc-
ceeds well with the managing editor.
A gracious presence and a persua-
sive tongue are helpful adjuncts in
wedging temperance convictions.

This committee should not be com-
posed entirely of those old and tried
but of those young and eager as
well, who only need the breaking and
the harnessing to do effectual service.

The same elderly, well balanced,
very much respected member of this
committee need not always present
the temperance report. The editor will
like to look at a fresh face occasion-
ally. He knows our spectacles and our
angularities by heart and is mistak-
enly prone to think that "There are
no others and we are Hobson's
choice."

Our message can always be fresh
and in touch with the every day hap-
penings in national life.

When an application for license ap-
pears then should come the protest—in
the nick of time and not a week
too late.

Send the protest where it can count
for righteousness and reform and time
just talking it over among yourselves.

When your relief corps finds cases
of abject poverty the result of liquor
habitually doled out to a drunkard—
when you can prove it to have been
sold on Sunday or on election day—
or to a minor then is the time and the
opportunity to use your fact for a
pen point in the daily paper.

Let the press committee reiterate
high license law to be a delusion.

Liquor dealers pay their license
fees but they resist the enforcement
of the law in every detail, moreover
high license money becomes a corrupt
ion fund to induce men to support the
traffic because of the revenue it
brings.

It puts the people to the alternative
of voting away thousands of dollars
from our city, or voting to sustain
the traffic that the revenue may come
in.

Regulating the evil is like cutting
off the rattle snake's tail. It don't
make so much noise rattling its warn-
ing note, but it does its biting all the
same.

If the people must have deadly
serpents, let them have them tails and
all.

The only way to cure rattle snakes
is to kill them and there is no other
cure for the liquor traffic.

An exchange sums up the year's
work by the liquor traffic in the fol-
lowing figures:

5,000 suicides.
10,000 murders.
60,000 fallen girls.
100,000 paupers.
100,000 orphan children.
100,000 maniacs and idiots.
100,000 criminals.
100,000 drunkards' deaths.
100,000 boys to take their places,
besides the small sum of two billion
dollars in money.

How shall we help you to feel a
tithe of the meaning hidden in these
figures? How shall we find a way to
stir your apathy as you read these
words in your happy homes tonight.

In preparation for another year's
work, the liquor league is raising a
5,000,000 dollar defense fund, with
which to control temperance legisla-
tion in congress and in the state leg-
islature. They are employing the
ablest legal talent in the land to pro-
tect their interests, and in the face
of all these facts there is a report
just now circulated called The report
of the Committee of Fifty.

This report condemns all scientific
temperance instruction in our public
schools.

It fails to prove after ten years in-
vestigation that alcohol is indeed a
food.

It feeds our jails and our peniten-
tiaries, our poor-houses and our in-

sane asylums.

It feeds crime and misery and
brings forth progeny—enervated, im-
bruted beings whose children and
whose children's children bear an her-
editary curse upon their foreheads,
and in their souls, where their spiri-
tual perceptions are blunted and the
image of their Master blurred.

In face of all these facts arrayed
against them by the leading scientists
of Europe this self constituted com-
mittee asks that the 16 million chil-
dren enrolled in our public schools
be brought up in ignorance of the
death traps laid for their feet.

No great political party dares put
in a temperance plank to save the na-
tion from this peril and every mother
in the land, defrauded of the ballot is
helpless to protect her home. She
can only plead and wring her hands
and pray—but remember! She prays
to a God who hears and answers pray-
ers.

Let the press committee impress
that fact. Already there are rifts in
the horizon and we see the hand of
God writing upon the wall.

The people are more intelligent.

The church is awakening.

Strong men are coming to the res-
cue. Our final success depends upon
that unremitting effort, that infinite
patience, the tender charity that be-
lieves all things, hopeth all things,
endureth all things.

Somewhere—away out in the ocean
—there is a place where the waves
lift themselves to turn and drawn by
a steady, shining influence, rush in
high tide to the land, and we have
almost reached some such place as
that in our struggle.

It is not now all against both wind
and tide.

Lifted by our hope in God, drawn
by the steady influence of His will
for righteousness in this earth, our
prayers shall have their answers
brought to land, and there shall be no
more curse of drink to blight our
homes and our civilization.

Be Strong!

"We are not here to play, to dream
to drift,

We have hard work to do, and loads
to lift,

Shun not the struggle, face it, 'tis
God's gift.

Be Strong!

Say not the days are evil—who's to
blame

And fold the hands and acquiesce—
Oh, shame

Stand up, speak out and bravely in
God's name.

Be Strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched
the wrong

How hard the battle goes—the day
how long

Faint not, fight on, tomorrow comes
the song."

Eliza D. H. Mendenhall.

Printed by request of W. C. T. U.
Wayne County Temperance Institute.

RICHMOND LAWNS

Would take on a beautiful green if
Mertz's Bone Fertilizer were used
now. Send or telephone your orders
to Tom Mertz. Both 'phones 103, or
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lars regarding time of trains, etc., see
Local Ticket Agent of those lines.

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their best, the best crackers, the best bakers ever
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You Hear
Is the Sign
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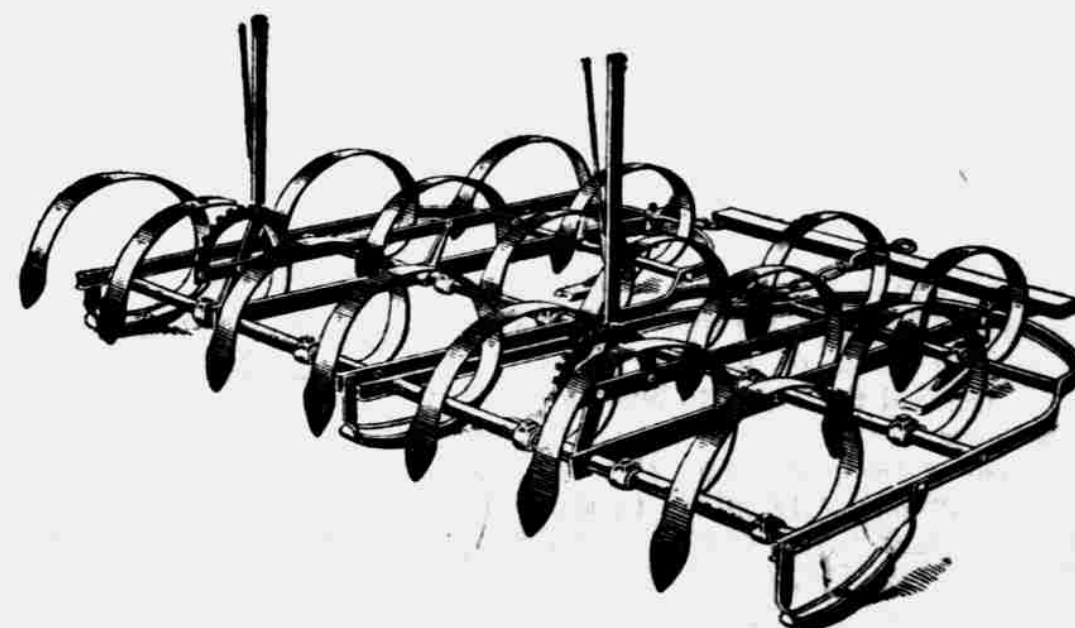
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