

The LICENSED VICTUALLERS

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BISHOPS AND PROHIBITION.

THE Rev. Dr Lyman Abbott, the Editor of *The Outlook*, recently wrote to Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York, asking him for his views on the saloon, or bar, evil. The Bishop has aroused the fury of the prohibitionists by calling them hypocrites, and by likening them to the Scribes and Pharisees. Mr Tommy Taylor, M.H.R., boasted on Saturday night of having "bagged" a bishop. The junior member for Christchurch alluded to the statements made by Bishop Julius in a recent address that he would vote "no license," that he would advise his clergy to do the same, and that he had requested his clergy to ask their people to vote the same way. We are not so sure that Mr Taylor and his prohibitionist friends have "bagged" the Bishop. Bishop Julius has hitherto appeared to us to be a strong-minded man, and the writer only a few months ago had the opportunity of hearing exactly what the Bishop thought of the prohibitionist fanatics. It can hardly be possible that such a marvellous change can have come over the head of the Canterbury Church as that intimated by the junior member for Christchurch, when he used the expression, "they had bagged a bishop." No doubt any declaration of sympathy from such an august personage would be valuable to Mr Taylor's sadly-wounded spirit, but time will show whether Bishop Julius openly stultified all his previous utterances on the question, or whether he left to the discretion of his clergy the subject of voting "no license." For the present that is sufficient. In a very short time we shall know exactly what the Bishop meant, and until then the matter can rest with Mr Taylor firmly of the opinion that he has the Bishop of Canterbury "in the bag." Bishop Potter, of New York, has been not at all indefinite in his reply to Dr Lyman Abbott. His letter reads as the reply of a thinking man who has given the subject very considerable attention. There is no hesitation about Bishop Potter. He tells the prohibitionists exactly what he thinks about them; there is no beating about the bush, nor is there any attempt at glossing over the faults of the prohibitionists. The Bishop hits out fairly and squarely, and he hits hard. It were well if, now that Mr Taylor thinks he has "bagged" one bishop, the member for Christchurch should read what the American Bishop wrote on the subject of prohibition. Members of the Trade throughout the colony should know also, and therefore we print the subjoined extracts from Bishop Potter's reply to the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott. The Bishop says:— "It is the old situation—as old as the religion of Jesus Christ—with the Scribes and Pharisees on the one hand, the Sadducees on the other, and, over against them, the truth. No more perfect reproduction of the first-named has appeared in our day than the prohibitionists, *et id omne genus*, arrogant, denunciatory, igno-

rant, unscrupulous, and untruthful; holding one meagre fragment of the truth to their eyes, and denying great and fundamental facts in human nature, in their foolish and futile endeavor to remedy the perversion of human instincts by extirpating them; true children of the mediaeval systems of monastic ascetism, which they would fain substitute for the freedom of a regenerated manhood. The grotesque hypocrisy of the prohibition system, from Maine to Kansas, is a sufficient commentary upon their theories. Meantime the endeavors of the wiser men and women do better the condition—the homes, the domestic life, the recreations—of their less favored brethren go untouched of these, fit successors to those to whom Jesus said, 'Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye bind heavy burdens upon men's shoulders, and grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves will not touch them with the tips of your fingers!' And over against them, as of old, are the modern Sadducees, critical, indifferent, apathetic. The dissensions of those who are not agreed to the problems of intemperance and its cure are entertaining and amusing to these—and no more. Yet let me not do them injustice. What I have said has its considerable and inspiring qualifications, and men of wealth and intelligence who had originally dismissed the 'saloon' question and all that it involves as equally hopeless and insoluble have in recent years, and in some conspicuous instances, which I need not recall, grappled with the larger problems of the housing and bettering of wage-earners in all the various aspects in which these various problems present themselves; and have done noble and generous things along the line of a wiser and more brotherly consideration for their fellow-men. But the whole movement is as yet in its infancy, and waits for guidance, enlightenment, and, above all, co-ordination. As yet we have been but fumbling with social problems, whether in this country or elsewhere, unable or unwilling, apparently, to recognise that the radical changes in our industrial and social conditions which have come to pass during this century have brought with them demands upon wealth, experience, scientific sympathy, and self-sacrifice which the favored classes are as yet but slow to recognise. The permanence, however, of our present social structure will depend upon their recognition, and of the appreciation of this fact I am glad to see that there is daily increasing evidence. Of course, in this larger object of a vast question, the saloon is a mere incident. Its causes, its phases, its relation to the home life, as well as the individual life of communities; the evils that feed it, the miseries that support it—a whole host of questions such as these, wait for a consideration which as yet they have hardly had. Meantime, it may be well to relieve the minds of fanatical and hysterical people by saying that there is no one cure for so vast a mischief as the saloon stands for, and, generally, that, in dealing with humanity and its perverted instincts and appetites, the divinest Teacher that the world has had would seem to have taught us a law of transformation, as that for the regeneration, whether of society or of the evil instincts of individuals—not extirpation."

MR J. H. WITHEFORD.

On Friday afternoon several citizens waited upon Mr Joseph Howard Witheford at the Star Hotel, and presented him with a requisition signed by 3,125 voters of Auckland City, asking him to consent to be a candidate at the next General Election. There were present Dr. McArthur, Dr. Wilkins, J. McLachlan, J. J. Holland, M.H.R., F. J. Bennett, Thomas Gee, Joseph Barber, B. C. Roberts, E. D. Halstead, P. M. Mackay, J. Callinan, A. T. Rose, E. W. Page, T. Harle Giles, T. Harbutt, G. A. Cole, and H. Gillfillan. Dr. McArthur made a neat little speech in presenting the requisition, and Dr. Wilkins, who spoke in support of the petition, testified to the sterling qualities of Mr Witheford and said the number of people signing the

requisition showed plainly the opinion of the voters as to Mr Witheford's qualifications for the position of member for Auckland. The requisition was as follows:—

To J. H. Witheford.—Dear Sir,—We the undersigned electors of the City of Auckland, beg respectfully to invite you to be nominated as a candidate for Parliament at the coming election. We are induced to do so, being firmly convinced in our minds that the interests of Auckland, as well as New Zealand at large, would be safe in your hands. We recognise that the tact and ability displayed by you in your negotiations with the Home Government in connection with the Calliope Dock, together with your large experience and untiring energy put your abilities to represent us beyond question; and it is in the firm belief that your presence in our House of Representatives would do credit to us as a constituency that we ask your kind consideration of this requisition.

In replying to the deputation Mr Witheford said he was very grateful for the honour done him in asking him to become a candidate. After referring to Mr Seddon's friendly aspect towards Auckland, Mr Witheford said, I have thus far to regard Mr Seddon as a friend of Auckland, and you will therefore understand that whether in all political matters we agree or not, I greatly appreciate his support in the matter I have referred to. If, however, Mr Seddon were to oppose the continuance of the San Francisco mail service I should have to oppose Mr Seddon, or any one else who did so. I note the *Wellington Post*, in referring to the action I took in Sydney recently to have the Pacific mail service put upon a permanent basis, and subsidised by the Australian and New Zealand Governments, was not aware of the broad Colonial grounds upon which I approached the Postmaster-General of New South Wales. I laid my proposition before Mr Ward, the late Postmaster-General of New Zealand, who arrived in Sydney just at that time, previous to sending it in, and he expressed entire approval of my action, and said he would do anything he could to secure the establishment of an improved service for a fixed period. Should I decide to stand for the City it would be with the intention, if returned, to spare neither time, trouble, nor expense to advance the interests of the colony and Auckland, and I should consider myself free to support all measures calculated to promote Auckland's prosperity, perfectly independently of any party. In giving my reply I shall endeavour to state clearly the political platform upon which I should stand.

Mr Gee, Mr McLachlan, and Mr McKay also spoke a few words adding their personal request that Mr Witheford would consent to the earnest desire of those who had signed the petition. After a vote of thanks to Mr E. W. Page, for his efforts in getting the requisition signed which Mr Page said was very easy work, the proceedings were brought to a conclusion. It is to be hoped that Mr Witheford will give his consent and allow himself to be nominated. He will make one of the best members Auckland has had for a very long time. Mr Witheford will call a meeting so that he can make known his intentions as soon as he has made up his mind. There is one thing certain, that is that if Mr Witheford is elected—and if he stands he will be at the top of the poll—the Trade will have a strong friend in the new member.

TRADE TOPICS.

The prohibitionists in the Taranaki districts are displaying a great deal of activity, and it is reported that endeavours are being made to run a prohibition candidate for each electorate. Evidently all political questions must be subordinated to this end.

The Prohibition League in Palmerston North recently issued a quantity of envelopes with printed matter on them, but minus the necessary trade imprint. Counsel for the League argued that such envelopes were circulated every day and that the law was appealed to only against a prohibitionist. The Magistrate, Mr Greenfield, said that a breach of the law had been committed and that the theory that the League was proceeded against because of its views was nonsense. A fine of £2 was inflicted, but the costs only amounted to eight shillings.

The following yarn is from the *Christchurch Spectator*:—"That two female prohibitionist spies recently visited a leading Auckland hotel, and tried to trap the landlady into supplying them with whisky and seltzer, as they were 'very ill.' The landlady, being applied to by his wife, said: 'Let the ladies bring me a doctor's certificate and I'll let them have what they want.' Whereupon the disappointed charmers vanished. That's the sort of thing publicans have to put up with at the hands of the Pump people. Cold water saints think 'trapping' justifiable. Ordinary sinners think it mean."

Ward and Co., Limited, brewers, Christchurch, have set a lead which is deserving of the greatest praise (says *The Spectator*). One of their senior carters, George Hamilton, has been serving them in that capacity for over twenty-four years. Meanwhile, age has crept on with its attendant sciatic and rheumatic troubles, so Hamilton decided to retire from the work of hauling horseheads of beer. The co., however, recognising that they were about to lose a faithful servant, at their last director's meeting, accepted the old chap's resignation with regret, passed a highly eulogistic resolution in his services, and voted him a pension of one pound a week for life. Such recognition of fidelity and long service is unhappily not common in mercantile firms in Maoriland, and *The Spectator* records the above facts with pleasure. It is also a practical reply to the howls so often raised as to the sordidness of those engaged in the liquor trade. This paper hopes that George Hamilton will long live to enjoy his pension.

Tim O'Connor had a very unpleasant occurrence at the Victoria Hotel on Monday. A settler named Sherbourne Dutton shot himself through the head with a revolver early in the morning and died at nine o'clock. No reason can be assigned for the deed.

Bishop Julius has lately made two very dissimilar statements on the prohibition question. This is the first:—"There were two ways of dealing with the evil, the legal, which he would not touch upon, and the moral. In the work of the Society, the moral side of temperance reform was emphasised, for on that side they were on certain, but on the other on debatable ground. The Bishop spoke of the necessity of influencing the younger and the value of an example of total abstinence. When he came to Ballarat from London he found that he was called on to make a great jump. He was faced with the question of local option, which had never occurred to him in England, but he had after a time seen his way to make a jump, and had assisted to close hotels there, as he had done in Christchurch, and would do again. But when he came to New Zealand, where, if one was not a prohibitionist one was nothing, he found that he had to jump a terrific chasm, and he was getting too old and 'rheumatically' to do it. He was not a prohibitionist, but he was a total abstainer, and he believed he was as earnest as any prohibitionist, but he could not work their way. He could, however, say 'God bless prohibitionists,' and if they would only occasionally say 'God bless the Bishop,' he thought it would be better than giving him hard words. He would urge them not to lose sight of the moral aspect of the question, because they might drive out all drunkenness and yet have worse sins left."

Here is the second:—"There were three courses open to them at the coming triennial poll: They might vote for continuance. Few would be found to do this; for 'the Trade' had not taken warning by the past, and was as objectionable as ever. Then there was the vote for reduction. He had always voted reduction, and would continue to do so. Then there remained the no license vote. He would urge the clergy to vote no license themselves, and to advise their people to take the same course. He pointed out that the effect of 'no license' would be to shut up the wholesale as well as the retail trade, and expressed the wish that it were not so, as he would much prefer to vote for the closing of the open bars, but until that were possible, he would vote no license."

Last November Bishop Julius, when preaching at Ashburton, spoke very strongly against prohibition and the methods of its advocates. Did he not say that drink was not the evil New Zealand would have to contend against in the future? And did he not say that the juvenile depravity was a subject that needed the most steadfast attention, for in the demoralisation of the youths and maidens of the colony lay New Zealand's greatest danger. By asking the clergy to vote "no license," and requesting them to influence the people to vote that way, Bishop Julius appears to have nearly got across that chasm.

The Liberty League thus refers to Bishop Julius in connection with the "no license" movement in Christchurch:—"This league regrets that Bishop Julius should have departed from the logical position of the Protestant Church, which teaches morality by moral suasion and example, and that he has joined the ranks of those extremists who seek to enforce their opinions by coercion and persecution, and the sacrifice of the hardly-won personal liberties of the people."

The following order has been posted in the orderly rooms at the Timaru Drill Shed by the officers commanding companies, "That in the future no intoxicating liquor be brought into the orderly rooms at the Drill Shed, and any volunteer disobeying this order shall be reported to the officer commanding the district with a recommendation for his dismissal from the force." Future volunteer socials at Timaru will have to be conducted on strictly teetotal lines.

In this impression appears a card of the Bridge Hotel, Waitara, the property of Mr S. R. Fairweather, formerly of Raglan. Since the proprietor has settled in Waitara he has made a large circle of friends, and has filled many public positions. At present he is the chairman of the Harbour Board, a position which he most capably fills, and also is president of several of the local clubs. The Bridge Hotel is replete with all conveniences, and so much has the trade increased that Mr Fairweather intends to put on an addition to the house. A first-class billiard table is kept on the premises, being in charge of Mr Sid Poll, an experienced marker; and sample rooms for travellers are always available. Conveyances can also be obtained, as there are stables run in conjunction with the house.

The many friends of Mr Ryan, of Ryan's Hotel, Karangahake, will be grieved to hear of the sad death of his brother Mr Patriok Ryan. The young man was in the habit of taking laudanum as a cure for sleeplessness, and it is supposed that he took an overdose of the sedative on Sunday night. He was found by his brother in an insensible condition, and though medical assistance was called in and everything possible done to get rid of the effects of the drug, young Ryan died at eleven o'clock on Monday morning. The members of the family have received many expressions of sympathy in their bereavement. Young Ryan took a great interest in matters athletic, and was a prominent member of the Ohinemuri Football Club. He represented his Club against Auckland last year.

The following are among the reforms suggested by an advocate of a change in the Victorian licensing law:—1. A reduction of spirit duties to 7s per gallon. 2. Beer duty removed. 3. Rateable value of hotels to be the legal rent. 4. Recovery of debt for refreshments by law. 5. Bar door clause removed. 6. Light in bar clause removed. 7. Certain hotels to have all night licenses to supply public. 8. Knocking at an hotel door, otherwise than boarders, or in case of sickness, to be prevented by a heavy penalty or police intervention. 9. Limited Sunday trading.