

Crime in Cincinnati.

Extract of a Sermon preached in the First Congregational Church, July 24, by Rev. A. A. Livermore, Pastor.

"But the specific king's evil in this matter is Intemperance. Where there are from one thousand to fifteen hundred misnamed coffee houses—for no coffee is known there—in a city of this size, and they are well enough patronized to be kept up, that there should be crimes of all descriptions, and of endless amount is as natural as the night when the sun sets. All other causes might be in vigorous application to stay human passion, but if this were let loose it would be more than a match for them all. These shops are the slaughter-houses of young men. It is in vain to say that men would drink at all events: they are tempted to drink twice as much and twice as often by the importuning frequency of these places at every corner—walk in. They are kept by a class of men who have sunk below the jurisdiction of any public opinion, except that of the wretched victims who haunt their purlieus. A murder in one of these places does not stagger its reputation; perhaps it gives it effect and piquancy. Many are involved in the responsibility of an extensive intemperance in the community; the manufacturer, the moderate drinker, the owner of property rented for the traffic in spirituous drinks, but the men who carry on the retail business are in general destitute of any but the short and selfish purpose of making as much money as they can, no matter if it is coined out of the tears of the widow and the portion of the orphan. Nothing but law—the Maine Law if it can be enacted—can arrest these Burkers of the poor and the ignorant, the young and the gay. And when, as during the present year, taxes have risen to \$18 50 on a thousand, a good portion of which has gone to pay for pauperism and crime, created by spirituous liquors, many formerly opposed will begin to think more frequently of a law which, wherever it has been honorably carried out, has diminished to an incredible extent these sluice-ways of public expenditure. Intemperance has reached in this community too deep a hold to be loosened by any such rose-water applications as the introduction of native wines. The American character will go to the extent in drinking as in every thing else. Those whose appetites are up to gin, whisky and brandy will not soften down to Catawba. The habit is not from more to less, but from less to more.

It is no objection to a law of total prohibition to say that it cannot be executed—for neither can your laws against other crimes and offenses be enforced, as you know from constant experience, except very imperfectly. A great city will always be a great moral anomaly, but that is no reason why the country at large should not have good laws where they can be executed, and where the experience of six States testifies they work a boundless benefit to every interest of the community, both material and moral. At least we are at the bottom of the ditch now, let an experiment not be refused to try something better. We can

scarcely imagine a worse state of things than now exists. We ought to have some courageous enough to dare even a critical operation, rather than have the present butchery of the souls and bodies of men go on.

But, dark as the present is, there is signs of hope. The battle is not lost. Individuals may be mown down but society is eternal. There are agencies at work which will yet recover us our order and our good name. But every citizen, every good man, woman and child, whether standing on a high or low place, has something to do, and can do it, to stay the present alarming increase of disorder and ruffianism in this community. In union there is strength.—There is, there must be Christian sentiment and principle enough in Cincinnati to reform the horrible prevalence of drunkenness, homes broken up, wives and children in danger and despair, youths ruined even before they enter life, and the prosperity and morals of a whole city lying at the beck and mercy of the traffickers in ardent spirits. God help us not to destroy at its birth the fair hope of a virtuous and law-abiding Christian state, by a deluge of crimes and vices. For we end as we begun, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the city, the watchman walketh but in vain.'

Cincinnati Commercial.

One of the last week's issues of this paper contains quite a lengthy article on the "Temperance movement." The Editor, after referring to the "rainous effects of intemperance on the physical, moral and intellectual condition of its victims," says:—"In applying a specific remedy or preventive of social disorders, we are bound to consider, besides minor and subordinate points, two material questions. 1st. Is the proposed measure suitable to the actual condition and circumstances of the community to which it is to be applied? 2nd. Can it, if a Legislative enactment, be executed in practice?"

In relation to the first interrogatory, the Editor appears to think that the Maine Law would not be suitable in this State. It is well enough that he, and all others, should discuss closely the merits of this law, for it is the first trial of a great experiment. But does he not yet understand that the friends of the movement do not insist upon a rigid enactment of this "specific law?" What they desire is, to have a stringent and efficient prohibitory law, one that will sweep from our State every vestige of the liquor traffic. But he rather inclines to the opinion that any prohibitory law would not be suitable, from the fact that the interests of a certain class of poor people are identified with the manufacture of wine. This wine business appears to be the "sticking point" with very many. But in the name of "common sense," are there not as many poor people whose interests are connected with the manufacture of whisky and all other kinds of liquor, as with wine? We have no hesitation in saying that there are more; for distilleries and other manufactories of ardent spirit

have long been in operation in our State, and their dependants have become very numerous, while the wine-making business is just growing into existence and its dependants are comparatively limited. Then why not arrest this growing evil before it becomes formidable? Moreover, a law would be very unequal in its operation, that would drive every other kind of liquor from the State and leave wine remaining, because the poor laborer is just as fond of his glass of whisky, at 3 cents, as the rich nabob is of his bottle of "sparkling catawba," at \$1.25. And such a half-way law would cut off the poor man's liquor resources entirely. But still these questions, in comparison with the great one, are of minor importance. Does the Editor of the "Commercial" pretend to offset the interests of a few poor, against the deadly and damning ravages of intoxicating liquors in our land? Would it not be infinitely better and cheaper for our State, even to appropriate to this poor class a pecuniary relief sufficient to indemnify them for the loss they would sustain by the suppression of their business? Most assuredly it would.

But his second fundamental question is, whether such a law could be "executed in practice?" And he seems to think not, effectually, in this city. Well, now suppose a gang of land pirates were infesting our State, and committing unmerciful depredations upon the people and their property, could our laws be executed against them? We mistrust if they could not, a still stronger instrumentality would be very soon called into requisition.

And yet this traffic, which has swept away more property and more lives, than all the wars that have ever visited this country, is invulnerable, and cannot be touched. Let us take another instance. We will take the case of the counterfeiters that were recently arrested in our city. They were engaged in an unlawful business, but in a peaceable manner, and in an obscure place, decoying no one into the haunts of ruin, periling no one's peace or life; the criminality of their business consisted only in its encroachments upon the rights of property; the law against counterfeiting was made to act promptly and efficiently upon them, and they are to bear the penalty thereof. But grog-shops, the hell-haunted ornaments of our city, are flaring in all their deathly splendor on every street, catching up our children, our brothers, our fathers and friends, and feeding them a poison that burneth them to death. And yet our laws can protect the miserable gains of this world, can they? but can not shield from harm this immortal flower, this mind, which is not long to be compassed, even by a myriad of worlds like this. We do not believe in any such hard doctrine. We have too exalted an opinion of the dignity and majesty of the laws of our free country, to believe that a law so just and humane as the one sought by temperance men, cannot be enforced.

Cincinnati Atlas.
It is most encouraging to have this paper come out for a law of prohibi-

tion in so bold and manly a manner. The Editor does not exactly like the Maine Law, but affirms that some severe legal measure is necessary. He goes for it in the absence of a better remedy. This is all right. When a more efficient law shall be devised, we go for it with all our hearts. The Atlas says:

The Maine Law and its Advocates.

The "Times" of yesterday, has the effrontery to say that "not a single paper of this city has come out equivocally or unequivocally, for or against the Maine Liquor Law, except the Times." Our readers know how false this declaration is. The "Atlas" for one, has repeatedly avowed its convictions, that the highest welfare of our city and State requires a prohibitory law. While we make this declaration unequivocally from a profound conviction of its necessity, we have no disposition to conceal our belief that, in some important respects, the Maine Law needs some modification, in order to its immediate success, and to the permanency of the reform it may effect.

We are in no way the organ of the Maine Law leaders; we express nobody's views but our own; we see and are willing to acknowledge the very grave objections which may be urged against the proposed law; but at the same time, so great, so growing and so overwhelming are the evils attendant upon the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks, and so useless have all other modes of stopping the evil proved, that we are constrained to say "God speed" to a law which in other States has swept paupers from the poor house, left jails without inmates, restored domestic peace to the drunkard's fire-side, and covered towns and cities with unnumbered blessings. Rather than have a prohibitory law fail in Ohio, we are willing even to forego our convictions of what both principle and policy seem to us to require in the details of legislation.

Object as we may to theoretical defects in the law, there stand out in all their horrible atrocity, murder, assassination, robbery, breaches of trust, domestic abuse, poverty, wretchedness and crime of every sort, as the daily effect of the sale of ardent spirits, and every humane and every patriotic man is compelled to decide either to defend or oppose the only law which, as yet, has proved itself competent to destroy these monstrous evils. We are no bigot to the Maine Law. Show us a better way, and one that has any chance to succeed, and we will give it our hearty support. But in some way the traffic is doomed to be put down. The humanity of the State stands pledged for its suppression. The movement is no mere temperance one. Men of all ways of thinking upon that subject, will unite in a solemn determination that they and their children shall not be met by temptation at every corner and every turn, that they will not suffer the further wreck of the best hopes of parents and friends, that no more colossal fortunes shall be built up on the premature graves of the young and the promising, and that the common mother of every crime which ruins individuals, and burdens down the State, shall be banished from society. We regret the position the "Times" appears to have taken—we regret that it has no better remedy for the confessed evils of the trade than the moral suasion, whose absolute failure is borne witness to, by hundreds upon hundreds of grog-shops in our midst, and we still hope that it may yet be found an earnest advocate of the only treatment which possesses the power effectually to cure the evil.