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The duty of the hour

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"The Duty of the Hour"

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- Of the Class of 1888,

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Every citizen of the United States has a right to be proud of his citizenship. In Paul's day it was a rare honor to be a Roman citizen. Rome was the foremost power in the world.

Yet Rome could not compare with the United States of today. She was ruled by a despot. His word was law in every part of his realm. The senate was a mere toy in his hands. The masses of the people had no rights. They were looked upon merely as the property of the State; as material for war and conquest. And besides this Rome's slaves outnumbered her freemen. If one could be proud of being a Roman; ought he not to be proud of being a citizen of America: "the home of the brave,"

and the land of the free?

England has a grand record and stands today in the front rank of the nations. But England cannot compare with the United States in general intelligence and thrift. In what nation does so many laboring men own their own homes as in ours? What nation has the free institutions, civil and religious? What nation presents such splendid type of manhood? No nation on the globe can compare with the United States in the thrift, in the intelligence, and in the manhood of its citizens. In all that goes to make a nation strong and prosperous America is ahead. To her has been entrusted the rare privilege and duty to lead the nations to a higher type

of civilization

But the more glorious the legacy the more sacred the trust. To you and to me is committed the welfare of this nation. Our fathers bought this freedom for us with their lives. Shall we be untrue to the trust committed to us?

Though our government is the most excellent ever devised by man; though our laws are based on the principles of justice; we are not exempt from watchfulness. Wherever man is there is selfishness and greed. The strong will oppress the weak. The rich will fleece the poor; and the vicious will poison the virtuous. Hence in human society there will always be vices to correct and perils to guard against.

As we look carefully into the life of our Republic we see

many imperfections - plague spots on the body politic, which, if not healed will inevitably bring ruin. Mormonism hangs like a poll over one of the fairest parts of the fair west. Foreign immigrants are sowing seeds of discord and of death. Every friend of the Republic longs to see our civil service on a firmer basis. Our public schools need the best energies of our citizens. The government of our cities demands immediate attention. Our whole tariff system needs a thorough revision.

There is yet another question of great importance. In the judgment of many mature minds the Liquor Problem is the most momentous of all the grave questions we are called upon to study. It should receive our attention before

all others because it underlies several of the other questions that imperil our nation. Both the labor problem and the government of our cities would be greatly simplified if liquor were banished. Foreigners could be much more easily Americanized were they not allowed to perpetuate their drink habits. Our city demagogues and political rings would be shown of their power if their saloon was closed.

But Rum is the chief foe of our nation for a still weightier reason. Alcohol destroys the physical, the mental and the moral life of its victims. It debases the manhood, crushes the will, and leaves its subject a shiftless vagabond, incapable of self-respect or reformation. So does it end with the individual. The blighting curse of Rum extends to the family.

Its rind of death poisons the entire community, destroying thrift and frugality, leaving its subjects fit inmates for the jail or the poor house. Drunkards and children are born into the world with a curse resting upon them. Their physical, mental and moral life is diseased. They are doomed to a brutal existence and perpetuate the same in their children.

When will our people awake to the horrors of intemperance. Many of you remember the bitter experiences of the late war. Upon how many homes the shadow of death fell! Fathers and brothers went out to return no more. Death was in every house. The whole land was in mourning. During the four year's conflict 64,000 of America's best sons were sacrificed on the altar of the Union. A costly and precious sacrifice. Did it ever occur to you to ask how many are sacrificed annually

to Boeclius? Each year Rome sends
65,000 of our boys to drunkards
grottoes, yet to a drunkards eternity.
What could the Salomon destroy ~~more~~ were
in one year than the rebellion did in
four? The war destroyed 16,000 a year;
more 65,000 did yearly for the
nation's honor; 65,000 die to the nation's
shame. With muffled drum and martial ^{music}
the nation's slain were laid tenderly away;
and today loving hands deck their graves
with flowers and the posibly drops a tear
in memory of their heroic deeds. All
honor to the defenders of the Union! All
honor to the nation's dead! But shall
we sit unmoved while 65,000 of our
fottus and brothers, once as brave
and noble as those who led for the
safety of the Union, are marching to
a drunkards eternity? Have we no
concern for them? Will we friendly
hand secure them from their bondage?

Shall we wail of the drunkards' wives
and his fatherless children fall on
deaf ears?

But the number who actually
fill drunkards' graves can but feebly
represent the destructiveness of the
poison. At least 65,000 now die an-
nually whose death is caused indirectly
by such explosions and Rail Road
accidents and such like. But who shall
estimate the number of children who
die from the neglect or brutal treat-
ment of drunken parents. One house
in Philadelphia was entered a few years
ago by a missionary committee. In
one corner of the room lay a child which
had been dead several days. In another
one had just expired of hunger, & the
child passed away in a few minutes.
In the middle of the floor lay the
mother and father, beastly drunks.
All this in a Christian land! In Phil-

adulphia the best of our cities!

We turn from horrible work of the saloon to the saloon itself. A monster that can produce such wholesale slaughter and destruction must have great power when it does his worst. First is the number of men employed in the business. In 1888 there were in the United States about 207,000 dealers and manufacturers of liquor. Allowing two men for each place of business we have the vast number of 414,000 engaged in this work of death. 414,000 licensed to ruin our homes; to enslave and abuse our youth and to scatter seeds of death in every community! All this in Republican America! And the nation a party to the crime; supported by the revenues of the traffic.

Surely this revenue is the price of blood!

The strength of the saloon lies also in the immense capital invested

The North American Review estimates it at \$4,000,000,000, "which is very moderate." 400,000,000 were backed by a capital of one billion dollars! What a monopoly! What a bulwark of death! And this is not all. These 400,000,000 were backed by such an enormous capital as thoroughly organized in every ~~in every~~ state and county in the Union. At the Chicago Congress the brewers resolved: "That we consider it absolutely necessary that our organization should exist in every state and county;" and this resolution has been carried out. The saloons and breweries North and South, east & west are united in their opposition to all temperance measures. They are so ^{thoroughly} organized that they can concentrate their power at any one point and thus defeat legislation.

We desire to emphasize the fact that they are organized for political

purposes. In the introduction to their constitution we read: "That the owners of breweries, separately, are unable to exercise a proper influence in the interest of their craft in the legislature and public administration" (From Our Country as are also the following quotations) The Liquor Dealers and Manufacturers Association of Illinois passed the following resolution: Resolved "That the maintenance of our present State Association is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of our business interests; that the new Board of Trustees spare neither trouble nor expense to properly organize every sectional district in the State, as that, by the time of the next election of members to the General Assembly, the business men engaged in the liquor trade may be thoroughly organized and disciplined." The Brewers and Bottlers' Association of N. Y.

claims to control in that state 35,000 votes
--- Their methods for carrying out
effect these resolutions are the most
thorough and vile. Boycotting is constantly
employed by the slave. A liquor dealer
published in one of the temperance papers the
methods employed to thwart legislation at
Albany twenty years ago. After the election
and before the legislature convened, "Our
correspondents throughout the state gave
us special and truthful descriptions
of every one of the opposition members,
their mode of life, their habits, their
eccentricities, and their religious views;
whether they were approachable; with a
thorough analysis of their character in
every way, so that we might understand
our subjects in advance". Bribery is
the deadly weapon and they make no effort
to conceal the fact. Let me quote but one
more statement of their methods. "If our
tactics failed in the legislature, and

temperance laws were passed, we went home to defeat their execution. The officers designated to execute these laws were generally elected. If by ourselves, it was all right. If by our opponents, we had to bring them up, and but few were found who would not take bribes."

Thus we see the tremendous power of the saloon in the number of men engaged in the business; by the capital invested; by the complete and thorough organization of these men and their capital; by the concentration of this power in the hands of legislation. The New York Times says most truthfully: "The great underlying evil, which paralyzes every effort to get good laws, and to secure their enforcement of such as we have is the system of local politics, which gives the saloon-keepers more power over government

then is possessed by all the religious
and educational ^{institutions} in the city? With such
array of facts can any one doubt
that the crowning evil of this nation
is Rum? All the other evils combined
are not equal to it. Rum sweeps away
the very foundations of ^{national} ~~our~~ security. If
industry, intelligence, and manhood
be wanting what can save us from
speedy ruin? What hope for reform
while the slaves hold the balance
of power? It is high time for the
intellect and heart of this nation
be aroused to the tyranny of the
Rum-power. Summudic action is
demanded. There is danger in delay.

How shall we rid ourselves of
this tyranny? This is the question
of the hour. Many are conscious of
its destructiveness and its power
but feel helpless before its giant
strength. May we not learn our mode

of procedure from the enemy him-
self? All liquor men have united
for mutual protection and common
defense. Can we do less than unite
our forces? Must we not fight the
enemy with his own weapons - through
organization? The weakness of ^{the} tem-
perance cause has been want of union
among its members. I believe the
duty of the hour is for all temper-
ance men, of all shades of opinion,
to unite for the complete overthrow
of the Rum-power. We have temperance
sentiment enough to annihilate
the traffic, if it only acted in concert.
The power of a thorough organization
is almost omnipotent. In 1584 some
young men, with the indomitable Loy-
ola at ^{their} ~~the~~ head, united in a vow of special ser-
vice to the church. With the consent
of the pope they founded the Society
of Jesus. By ^{an almost} faultless organization,

and rigid discipline in fifty years they made themselves masters of Europe. The difference between a close organization and the want of one is forcibly illustrated by ^{the} case of Wesley and Whitefield. The latter was as fruitless in his labors as the former. When Whitefield died his work largely died with him. Wesley left behind him ^{one} of the grandest and most effective ecclesiastical organizations the world has ever seen. It continues to this day to be perhaps the mightiest reforming agency among men. Whitefield preached the same Gospel as Wesley but failed to rally his efforts around a life center. Hence his work crumbled with his day. Want of organization has been the crying need of Temperance ~~work~~. All minor differences of opinion should be laid aside

and all temperance forces concentrated under one head. Then the strongholds of rum would shake and fall as did the walls of Jerico,

But this organization must be political. We must meet the enemy with weapons of their own forging. Rum now holds the balance of power in all political circles. They sit comfortably within their political strongholds and, ^{though} at the voice attempt of temperance people to scale the walls on the ladder of moral suasion and popular petitions, we must organize politically and send men to the legislature and to Congress who are pledged to make war on the solemn -ness of conviction that will fight rum. A bitter end. One ounce of conviction is worth a ton of promises in an issue like this. The enemy is within the walls of party politics and

can never be rooted except by temperance ballots and by temperance men to execute the laws.

Temperance laws have suffered an immense disadvantage, because liquor men have been elected to execute them. Temperance laws have been as well enforced as any other laws when temperance men have been elected to execute them.

Temperance people must not only organize, and that politically, but they must organize to enforce some principle which will utterly destroy the traffic. Half measures have been tried for a century. The time has come for radical action if we would not be swallowed up in the molten furnace of Rome.

Moral suasion must be rejected as inadequate. At best it can only ease ^{here} for the wounded and dying.

It can never go to the front and check
to advancing column. License can
never be a safe remedy because it
compromises with the enemy. It gives
the slave a legal right to exist and
makes the state a party to its crimes.
License is unstable. It depends on the
uncertainties of party strife.

Local Option is a more effective
remedy. But it can never be a final
solution of the problem. Local Option
depends on the uncertain vicissitudes
of annual elections. No work done
one year is liable to be undone the
next. The measure is only temporary and
can never produce permanent results.
And besides this it only drives the
wolf from your own flock to turn
it loose upon your neighbors. Moral
reform, license and local option
like all inadequate as a principle
around which to rally the temperance

forces

of the Republic. We must look for a more comprehensive principle - one wider in its scope and more radical in its purpose. After a careful study of the problem we believe that the only effectual way to deal with this liquor traffic is the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors except for medicinal and mechanical purposes. The sentiment in favor of this principle is growing with great rapidity each year. The temperance elements of this nation are rallying around this principle. If men of conviction be elected, as they surely will be, they will enact and enforce this throughout the length and breadth of our land.

This question is a national evil. Hence it must not be left to the states. Indeed it is folly to talk of suppressing the traffic in the states while

The national government legalises its manufacture and is supported by the revenue derived therefrom.

Is it not time the conscience of the nation was aroused on this question. The national government supported by the revenue of Ruur! monstrous crime. The money is the price of blood. It is wrung out of the hard earnings of the weiblich. Taken out of the mouth of his starving wife and children. The curse of the Almighty will rest on a nation which persists in this crime.

Members of the old parties could if they would handle this question. In both the old parties are many good temperance men. But they are powerless to purge the party, because so large a portion of the Party is committed to Ruur. It would mean death to either party if they declared

war on the solemn. There must be a new nucleus formed - a new life center for all time purposes here. This need has been evident in all reforms since the dawn of history. Our Lord failed to reform the Jewish church. He formed a new life center outside of it, and its walls were crumbled to fall.

Further had the same experience. Outside the church he was powerless to carry forward his work of reform. But protestantism spread rapidly as soon as it began a life of its own. Today Protestantism is the only vitalizing religion. The revival spirit of the Wesley had to find a channel for operation outside the established church before it could accomplish its work. The same principle holds true in political reforms and could be illustrated in the history of our own country. The need of the hour is a new life center of all the time purposes

elements. Such a nucleus is formed by the Prohibition or Third Party. It has had a rapid growth. It increases in strength daily. It polled 300,000 votes in 1884. May we not expect to poll 1,000,000 in 1888? And in the near future it will elect its president and a congress. Will banish liquor from the District of Columbia and the territories? Will submit to the states an amendment to the national constitution forbidding the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors except for medicinal and mechanical purposes.

This day is near at hand. The most hopeful sign is the large percentage of young men casting their first vote with the Prohibition Party. Thousands who voted in the ranks of the old parties ⁱⁿ 1884 will vote with the Third Party in 1888. Public meeting.

movement is being rapidly forward on this question. Our children are growing up with a pronounced hatred of Rum. Like Hannibal they will fulfil their vows. Thousands upon thousands of our boys will vote for Prohibition in 1892. Prohibition is coming the wail of the drunkards widow and the cry of his helpless children shall be heard. America will get rid of herself and be an example to other nations. in the repression and extermination of this arch foe of the human race.

Carl Anderson

June 6th 1888.