

You perhaps have heard the story of the man who died, and whose character was such that it was thought that no one could possibly say a good word for him. Finally a charitable man, while gazing at the face of the corpse, remarked: "Well, he had a good set of teeth." The speaker had something good to say about the Council. They had probably had too much to do in other directions and had not had time to give attention to the enforcement of the laws for the preservation of morality. There was much in their course, however, that was open to censure. This gathering is in the nature of a terrible rebuke to them, and is a strong weapon in the hands of the political opponents of the "Liberal" party. It is time the city authorities mended their ways. Crimes are being condoned, highway robberies are being committed daily or nightly, licenses to sell whisky are granted without limit. The non-enforcement of the laws has brought many vicious men to our city. The councilmen must be given to understand that they are not in office as individuals, or as representing individuals or classes. The whole trouble lies in the fact that every member of that body has been approached by friends and interested persons, who have said: "Now you must understand that we must have so and so." This has brought the city to the situation against which we most emphatically protest.

DR. LILFE

said that never before had there existed in this city the necessity for a meeting of this character. He had a genuine respect for the mayor of the city and for certain other members of the city council. He had voted, and enthusiastically too, for every member of the present city council, because he thought that in doing so he was working for the best interests of the whole people. But when he found that ordinances, which every good man believed were just and right, were ignored, he was before the audience to most earnestly and vigorously protest against such a state of affairs. Every lover of morals and good order should use all the influence which he had, and put himself squarely on the question under consideration. The situation not only involved the reputation of the Liberals in this city, but in the nation abroad. We pledged the country that if we obtained control we would insure a better government than that which had so long existed. I appeal to you to place yourselves squarely on the right side of this question.

H. W. LAWRENCE

made remarks on the leading object of the meeting. He said we all feel a pride in the maintenance of the integrity of our city government. We all want to see law and order prevail—and of course this is a difficult thing in a city with so large a floating population. But we should control the dens of vice as well as we can. The best of the saloons are bad enough, and the lower order, the worst of the saloons, should be deprived of their licenses. There

are too many of these particularly demoralizing saloons in the city. The more such places are controlled—the fewer there are—the better will be the order and peace of the city. The officers of the law must be fully supported in the carrying out of the laws, and if this support be freely and fully given, that is the mainspring of the movement for purification of the morals of the community. The existence of dens of vice is a menace to the young and a cause of alarm to all parents, the preservation of the virtue of whose children is dearer than life.

JUDGE WAMPLER

said he was not in accord with some of the views expressed. Preceding speakers had been too lavish in denouncing the City Council. There were two classes responsible for the criminal condition of the city—the Council was not one of them—Mayor Scott and the people. The suppression of vice belonged to the executive, and not to the law making department. If Mayor Scott were to direct Chief of Police Young to put down the dens of vice complained of and enforce the laws, it would be done. Let the demand be made of the Mayor and place the gentleman Scott on record. If the result desired is not attained, then the people will be to blame if they do not take the matter into their own hands.

E. T. CLAY,

a comparative stranger in the city, having only resided here a few months, was the next speaker. It appeared to him that the great audience assembled meant business, and that it was here for the purpose of protesting against the crime and lawlessness which prevailed in the city. The speaker could not, under any circumstances, favor a license system. He could not understand why for a certain sum of money we should license a man to take the virtue or the manhood or the womanhood of our people. But the meeting was not for the purpose of considering whether we should license the saloons, but merely whether the laws and ordinances existing should be legally enforced. We would better, however, not antagonize the officials by rebuke, but rather beseech them to see to it that the laws are enforced. We do not want the officials "on the other side" from us, but we want them on our side. We do not want them to compel us either to re-instate in office those who preceded them, or elect men as inexperienced in the administration of public affairs as they were when they took hold of the city government.

REV. W. S. HAWKES

commended an editorial which appeared in a morning daily newspaper. It made grave charges against officials, and called for a remedy for the existing epoch of vice. The publication of such statements alone was sufficient to show that something was radically wrong.

HON. EDWARD BENNER,

Principal of Hammond Hall, said he was glad to see so many voters present at the meeting. Sunday school scholars and women had an

influence, but the voters had the power. The speaker told the story of the sick Irish woman, who said to her friend: "Mrs. Hanigan, no wan will ever know what's aillin' me until I have me post martem." "Faith, Mrs. Grady," said the friend, "ye're too weak to shand a post martem." And so the speaker thought the Liberal party was too weak to stand a post mortem examination at this time. We must defend our boys and girls from the evils that disgrace the city. We try to suppress the evil by making it high-priced. We should grant no more licenses. A license was recently given to a variety theatre. They wanted no liquor license. Very good. But it was not long before another party wanted a license for a saloon in the basement and the speaker did not know what they would next want in the upper stories.

The speaker concluded with an earnest appeal to the people to insist on the rectification of the morality of the city by means of a rigid enforcement of the laws.

AT THIS POINT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Rev. J. B. Thrall appeared on the platform and, on behalf of the committee on resolutions, stated that we had met as members of the Liberal party to consider the existing low state of morality in this city, and the excessive criminality which prevails. We had voted for the city officials and he himself had worked actively for the Liberal cause. Before introducing the resolutions it was deemed advisable to read a clause from the Liberal platform and declaration of principles, that it might be seen that the pledges made for good government had not been kept and we had a right to insist on their fulfilment. He then read the following from the Liberal platform, adopted in July last:

That while the Liberal party recognizes the fact that there are vices and crimes which human laws and human efforts cannot wholly eradicate, it also recognizes the fact that honest persistent efforts under the law can break the power and influence of these and render odious and measurably harmless those who live by the violation of law; that the Liberal party gladly and fully acknowledges the abiding obligation it is under, whenever and wherever it shall have the power so to do, to uphold virtue and morality and suppress vice and crime; that the Liberal party enjoins upon and requires all those who have been or may be elected to office by it, that whenever they have the power so to do they shall without partiality, fear or favor, in good faith execute the trust committed to them so as to rid this community of all those who, without further enumeration, live by the breaking of the law and preying upon the community.

The resolutions were then read and their adoption moved.

MR. SPARKS,

said to be proprietor of the Variety Theatre, stated that he appeared in the interest of fair play. He was invited to the stand, when he resumed by stating that he did not deem it proper to denounce any class of business (referring to whisky selling). A man had a right to make