Western Civilization.

Editor Deseret News:

1420 Second Street, SACRAMENTO, California, September 15th, 1893.—If it will not be considered an intrusion on your valuable space and time, I would like to add a little to my last article which you so kindly published.

The "city fathers" of Sacramento are at last trying to handle an evil, which, to say the least, is of a peculiar character. It is nothing less than enacting an ordinance, lately created in relation to muzzling up saloons that have "mirror entrances" or "family entrances." Where it is understood that these entrances are being used by the greater one to an alarming extent, it is quite surprising that the men in this country are so much a shattered condition.

The following from the *Record-Union* will speak for itself:

A delegation of ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union waited on the board in relation to closing into entrances, and Mrs. Mayhew made a strong appeal, saying that the only authority had decided that the board has power to close them. The saloon at the corner of North and K was watched one night, and it was seen no less than 15 women and girls went into the side entrance. These places would rule the wives and daughters of the members of the board as well as other women, if they were able. She noted that the stands be removed from the city. These saloons, she said, were not working for temperance; they were not patronized exclusively, but were working in the interest of immorality.

Harry Newman said that an ordinance closing all side entrances would work a hardship on a number of respectable places. There were several places where he took his wife and daughters and which were properly conducted. He would not like to take them through the bar. If the ladies will point out the more suitable places, we have the commissioners recommend their being closed. The board will comply with these recommendations, as the ladies had seen. There is no use for passing an ordinance not making it a dead letter, as in Los Angeles.

Beside the numerous saloons above mentioned, we find that easily every grocery store in the large cities have liquor and beer on ice straight. So that those who do not patronize saloons, and who have any taste at all for such things can, and do, satisfy those appetites under cover of getting supplies for the house. And it is not always the people who go shopping; the children are frequently sent to make a purchase, and are at many times thrown into the society of persons who indulge in vulgar conversations, and an impression is made that is lasting, for ideas formed in youth do not vanish soon.

This condition of things existed for years, and has had its effect upon the adult portion of the people, who in turn have transmitted it to their offspring, and they in turn are exhibiting upon their appetites and passions to an alarming extent.

There is one terrible feature connected with the drinking habit in this country. There are very few who become real drunk as compared with some other cities. But it is an every day occurrence for people to indulge to some extent in drinking. In fact it is a part of the daily routine for them to stop in at their favorite room and get a drink. It is an uncommon sight to see a woman carrying home a pail or pitcher of beer from the store, to have it to use on the table at meal time; and she does not attempt to conceal it from the gaze of the people she may meet, because it is a common occurrence. So deeply rooted has it become that they look surprised when they meet with a person who will not accompany them, or indulge with them at home; and they hardly know what to think of a person who will show them in a kind, quiet manner the effect it has upon them and future generations. And if we add to that the statement that it is not pleasing in the sight of God for people to indulge in that way, their enlightenment seems almost unbounded. Adjoining many of the saloons are houses of prostitution, that now work the reputation of being "first-class" houses, and are looked upon by many as a legitimate business.

If anyone felt the disgusting time sufficiently it would only be necessary to visit this city to see the effects as they exist in many cities of this state. For instance, there are two asylums in the city of Stockton, one of which is the state asylum, with an enrollment of 1,100 male and 445 female insane, and the other, which is a private concern, has several hundred inmates. It can hardly be denied that the greater part of those unfortunates are living monuments of the effects of drink and tobacco.

When we as Elders see how mankind is, and have for so many years been imposed upon by evil men, instead of the word of the Lord, who are first and foremost in many of the evils in the present day, we could wish the people not to be so interested in anything of a religious nature for when imposed upon for long they become tired of it, and when the genuine article is offered to them they hardly notice it. It is not so far in the future when Book 103 there we come good people here, and in time they may be convinced that the Church of Christ is again upon the earth, with all the gifts and blessings that were enjoyed by the ancient saints.

I desire to mention that there are some members of the Church in this state who are only waiting for an opportunity to dispose of their property here, and then they will gather to the home of the Church. Among those are Brother Aaron Garrick and wife, who their sons and some of their families. These good people have kindly take the Elders into their home and given them a home when ever an opportunity offered itself, and are extremely kind to them. Brother Garrick is the president of the branch in this city, and is doing all he can to assist in spreading the Gospel.

The Children celebrated the anniversary of their country's independence yesterday, by doing exercises consisting in singing, dancing and speaking. On such occasions they have a great time, and have free whisky and their drinks all day and night, and they do not always exhibit the fighting qualities from the drinks, which seems to them, but seem to think it quite essential in having a good time, which is to keeping with ideas of many of the white population.

J. D. CHARISTON.

Mr. Robert H. Beasley

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