

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Liquor and Law—Licence and Prohibition.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
January 17th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The charter of Salt Lake City gives to the City Council in its 23rd section the power and authority "to regulate the selling or giving away of any ardent spirits or other intoxicating liquors," and in the 24th section the authority "to license, regulate or restrain the manufacturers, sellers or venders of spirituous and fermented liquors, tavern keepers," &c. Unfortunately for the welfare of our citizens, that body has not the power to totally prohibit this infamous traffic. An attempt was made, not many years ago, to have the charter amended, but the act of the legislature was vetoed by the Governor and the people still suffer.

It is assumed by the advocates of the traffic in intoxicating liquors that there is a distinction between the right of government to enact legislation totally and partially prohibitory. Government, it is said, may license and regulate, but may not prohibit. But there is no distinction in reason at all. The power to partially prohibit by license, which is prohibition so far as it restricts, is the same power and stands upon the same ground, that is, the obligation to promote the general welfare, as that to prohibit absolutely. A license to one man to make or sell ardent spirits is an absolute prohibition to all the rest of the community to do so at all. The advocates of the license and regulation of the traffic have no logical grounds on which to object to absolute prohibition, if necessity requires. It is only a question of degree. Again, for any person to cry out against a law against the use of intoxicating liquors, and say that it injures the cause because you cannot compel men to do right against their will, is to say that all crime and every public evil shall go free of the law; not only that, but that society shall abandon all conservative and preventive means for the protection of those who come after us.

That prohibition does effect good, we have the most conclusive evidence. It has probably been more honestly and thoroughly tried in the State of Maine than anywhere else in America. The following is what Hon. W. P. Frye, when its Attorney General, wrote in this relation—

"I can and do, from my own personal observation, unhesitatingly affirm that the consumption of intoxicating liquors in Maine is not to-day one-fourth as great as it was twenty years ago."

Now for the reverse of this qualifying picture. In November, 1867, Massachusetts repealed her prohibitory liquor law. In his message to the Legislature, January, 1869, the Governor said—

"The increase of drunkenness and crime, during the last six months, as compared with the same period of 1867, is very marked and decisive as to the operation of the law. The State prisons, jails, and houses of correction are being rapidly filled, and will soon require enlarged accommodations if the commitments continue to increase as they have since the present law (a license law) went into force."

We have another evidence that prohibitory laws do actually accomplish much that is intended, shown in the hostility of the manufacturers of intoxicating drinks to such statutes. At the meeting of the U. S. Brewers' Association, held at Cincinnati in 1875, it was—

"Resolved, where restrictive prohibitory enactments exist, every possible measure be taken to oppose, resist, and repeal them."

"And it is further Resolved, That politicians favoring prohibitory enactments, who offer themselves as candidates for office, be everywhere strenuously opposed."

In an address before the convention it was stated—"Very severe is the injury which the brewers have received in so-called temperance States." Is not this proof enough?

To return to the powers of the City Council. Individually the writer of this communication does not think the city authorities have done all that they might do, and yet not exceed the powers granted to them by law. To begin with, the ordinance makes it an offence to supply liquor to a minor under fourteen years. The great evil com-

plained of, to-day, is that our youths, sixteen, eighteen and twenty years old, are learning habits of intoxication. If the City Council has the right to say that liquor shall not be supplied to those under fourteen years of age, it has just the same right to say under eighteen or twenty-one years, and by making such an alteration in the ordinance much good would be done.

If the City Council has the right to restrain this traffic, which it most certainly has, what reason is there that that honorable body should not restrict the number of places at which liquors may be sold within the city limits? There is no good reason why Salt Lake City should be cursed with forty or fifty saloons. If the sales of liquor cannot be entirely prohibited, let it be reduced to a minimum. Would it be fatal to our interests or happiness if there were only half a dozen saloons in the city? Again, would it not be well for the City Council at its regular sessions to decide who shall have licenses to sell liquor, as is now the case with auctioneers? To-day it is made mandatory with the executive officers of the city to grant licenses to all who conform to the requirements of the law governing this matter. Why should not the Council take upon itself a discretionary power and only grant licenses to those who they believe will not abuse the responsibilities of so much power for evil? The Council, it seems to us, should most stringently enforce the conditions of its license law, and when it had been proved that any one holding a liquor license had broken any of its provisions, kept a disorderly house, permitted gambling, &c., the license of such a party should at once be revoked and never again be re-issued.

The Coliseum and Paris by Night—The Elders.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 11, 1877.

Editor Deseret News.

After visiting public buildings in Philadelphia that Elder Musser spoke of, I will mention a building called the Coliseum, as it is seen at the south-east corner of Broad and Locust streets. It is an iron cylindrical building, one hundred and fifty feet in outside diameter, and eighty feet in height from the curb to the line of the cornice, the highest single room in America. The outside of the iron framework is four hundred and fifty feet in circumference, and is richly painted. The promenade between the tower and outer walls is twenty-seven feet wide, three hundred feet long, and twenty-four feet high, the circle being defined by sixteen highly ornate columns and sixteen pilasters, forming fifteen alcoves around the side. The roof is covered with tin and contains forty-eight skylights. The main entrance is one of the most striking architectural features of the vicinity.

The facade, of ornamental galvanized iron, stands diagonally across the corner of Broad and Locust streets, and is thirty-two feet wide and sixty-five feet high. The effect of this grand frontage is very imposing. The engine for working the elevator is located in a basement in the centre of the structure, but the boiler is at the rear of the lot.

The "Cyclorama of Paris by Night," which for the present constitutes the central attraction at the Coliseum, was painted by the Parisian artists, Messrs. Danson & Sons. It represents the city as it was prior to the riots of the Commune. The painting covers forty thousand square feet of canvass. The spectator, being carried by the elevator, capable of carrying forty persons to a platform from which the view is obtained, is supposed to be in a balloon hovering over the city, and to be gazing upon the brilliancy spread in all directions at his feet. The illusion is perfect and is broken by no disturbing influence. Below is the city, and above and beyond are the heavens, fretted with golden fire. The moon adds her soft enchantment to the view, and the whole effect is such as to powerfully appeal to the imagination. At certain intervals a novel scenic change is made, whereby the appearance of a storm is produced. By the aid of ingenious mechanism the whole landscape takes an altered phase, clouds drive over the moon and stars, the myriads of lights in the streets and buildings are blurred or extinguished and there are indications of sweeping rain, heavy gusts of wind,

rolling thunder, and flashes of lightning. This transformation never fails to excite the liveliest surprise among spectators. Being at night, too, the very kind of illumination is necessary which best serves to show off a painting of its character and cause its main features to stand out with magical vividness. The manifold bridges, the winding course of the river, the long sparkling lines of the Boulevards, the theatres and cafes, the scenes of wondrous historic events, and all that centre of brilliant social life which has no parallel anywhere on the globe, are shown on this giant canvass with a realism which excites never-ending delight.

I intend leaving for Norristown on Saturday, and then to Phoenixville. Elder Lorus Pratt is at Fish-back, well and prospering in the work of the Lord. Elder Groesbeck is in New York State, Elder Brington in Chester County, with their relatives, all well. Elder Phillip H. Boyer has arrived at his friends at Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

I remain your brother in the Gospel of Christ,

HENRY GROW.

A DELUSION.—A young man who thinks that he can lead a reckless and profligate life until he becomes a middle-aged man, and then repent and make a good and steady citizen, is deluded by the devil. He thinks that people are fools, destitute of memory. He concludes that if he repents everybody will forget that he was a dissipated wretch. This is not the case; people remember your bad deeds and forget your good ones. Besides it is no easy thing to break up in middle age bad habits that have been formed in youth. When a horse contracts the habit of baulking, he generally retains it through life. He will often perform well enough until the wheels get into a deep hole, and then he stops and holds back. Just so it is with the boys who contract bad habits. They will sometimes leave off their bad tricks, and do well enough until they get into a tight place, and then they return to the old habit. Of those boys who contract the bad habit of drunkenness, not one in every hundred dies a sober man. The only way to break up a bad habit is never to contract it. The only way to prevent drunkenness is never to drink.—Trade List.

About this time farmers are sitting in the evenings by their comforting firesides, with a pitcher of cider, plate of apples and pan of nuts before them. In the interim between eating and drinking, they look solemnly upward and exclaim, "What awful hard times!"—Buffalo Express.

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