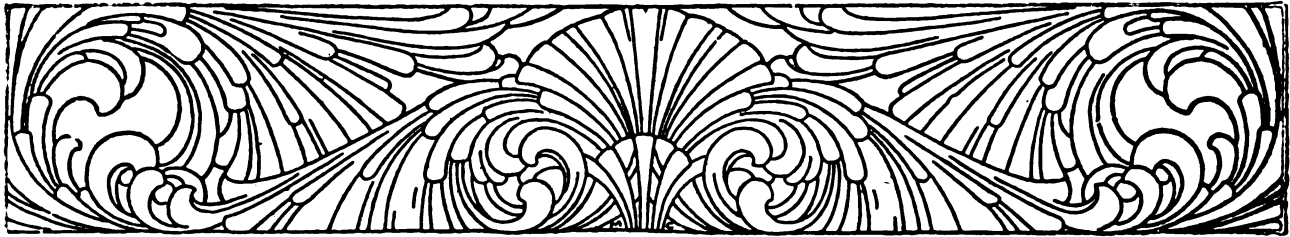


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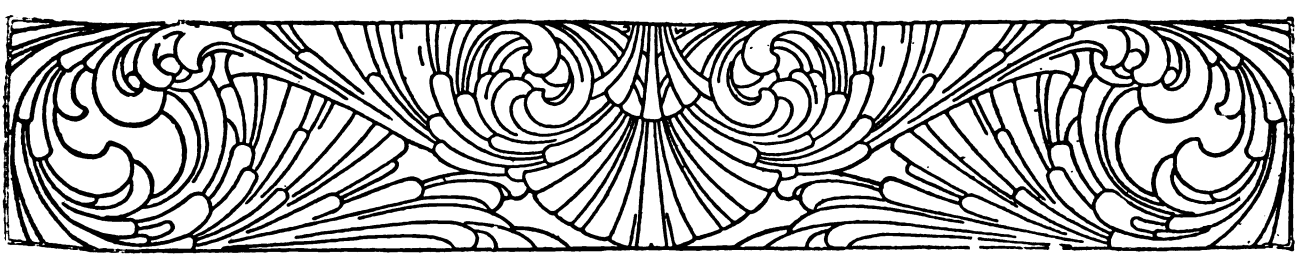
JANUARY 15, 1920

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NOLAN R. BEST, EDITOR. OLIVER R. WILLIAMSON, PUBLISHER. THE M.CORMICK PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS
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An Ever-Memorable Moment of Time

JANUARY 16—the day following the date of this paper—is unquestionably to be a peak in human history. Good men of all future generations will envy the good men of this generation their privilege of living through tomorrow—the initial day of American constitutional prohibition.

For the 16th day of January, 1920, will never be overlooked, no matter how long the world lasts, by any historian who undertakes to write either the story of the United States in particular or of worldwide civilization in general. It will always appear a gateway connecting and yet differentiating two distinct ages in the progress of human freedom and popular power.

Especially will the chronicler of the moral annals of the world write it down as a day of high spiritual triumph—the day when the Adam-and-Eve drift of mankind in the direction of the least moral resistance was checked more significantly than by any previous exercise of democratic resolution—a mighty victory of the common man's sense of duty and respect for right over the downpull of irresponsible inclination and self-indulgent appetite.

Tyrants that sat on thrones were hard enough to overthrow; it took centuries to bring them to the ground. Yet the tyrant of drink, seated in seemingly impregnable habits of men, has been a master far ruder and far stronger. But with not even one century yet gone by since the first declaration of war against him, the liquor despot today is confronted with an unmistakably written doom, and the hour of his total extinction from human life is near.

Truly this well and quickly won crusade stands with the most brilliant achievements yet credited the militant human spirit.



Yet in this matter also, as has been truthfully said about the international situation, "Though war is over, peace has not come."

No dread need be felt of any reversal of national prohibition as the constitutional policy of the United States. The eighteenth amendment to the constitution will not be repealed; the supreme court will not find that the amendment has been improperly or ineffectively ratified; nor will the state be permitted to "supersede" enforcement acts passed by Congress.

The ban on drink has been written into the fundamental law of the land too deep ever to be eradicated. That much is settled.

But that is not all the danger; it would not be the chief danger even if actual repeal loomed up as a possibility. The big peril is the peril that through the indifference or paltering of its friends the eighteenth amendment and laws based on it may become a dead letter even while nominally in force.



That, it is frequently pointed out, is what has happened to the fourteenth amendment, intended to insure voting privileges to emancipated negroes, for which Congress has never been able to enact an enforcing statute.

What is the trouble with the fourteenth amendment? Simply that it is confronted with a strong body of opinion determined that it shall never be enforced and not backed by any dynamic opinion determined that it must be enforced.

Let that situation come to pass in this country respecting intoxicants, and the eighteenth amendment would amount to as little.

Sensible statesmanship ought to know that just as certainly as it takes public opinion to put a new and strange policy into the nation's body of law, so it takes continuing public opinion (and doubtless really more of it) to make that policy effective in later execution.

And that means for prohibition simply this:

It is the big job of the temperance forces today to keep alive and active the tremendous popular contempt for the saloon which brought about the adoption of prohibition in the constitution.

And that is a big job—because the tendency of the moment is to dismiss the saloon as an extinct evil—and "forget it."



It can hardly be supposed that the beaten chiefs of drink really expect to accomplish anything of a serious value to themselves by their maneuvers in the courts, questioning constitutionalities.

Far more likely these elaborately staged plans to "test" the eighteenth amendment are merely cover to obscure the real objective of their main attack—the congressional elections next fall.

Certainly as politicians they must know that nothing else would be so serviceable to them as to change, if they could, the strong majority of the present Congress anxious to enforce prohibition into an adverse majority in the next Congress.

Such a success on the part of the liquorites would result in cutting loopholes through the existing Volstead act by which much of the outlawed traffic could come back to renew its old deviltry.

But that reverse is possible only if men and women who put prohibition through to its present height of triumph assume that the last battle has been fought and demobilize themselves.

Fortunately the fundamental question whether the law of the land shall be upheld will now bring into the dry ranks many not prohibitionists formerly.

And there should be no hesitation in accepting as comrades or even as candidates former opponents of prohibition who ring true today on the necessity of enforcing the law with strict honesty.

But in the main, naturally, it lies with those who have won the victory to maintain and keep it.



However, over against every warning call for watchfulness, there are developing manifold signs that the great popular masses of the country are going to be with this reform.

It is certainly cheerful and promising to see the relatively calm acquiescence with which the great cities of the country have passed under the dry regime. Once it seemed almost inevitable that something like rebellion would have to be coped with in the big population centers before prohibition got the upper hand.

But all such apprehensions have been rendered almost grotesque by the unconcerned and half-jocular air with which the great bulk of city populace has watched the saloons disappear.

This fact ought to have recognition from temperance leaders. It is unfortunate that instead an eminent Anti-Saloon chief is quoted as reviving coarse jibes at New York's morality. Truth is, on the whole, that New York has submitted much more happily than anybody who knew it well would have dared to hope.

Partly this acquiescence is due to a still ingrained American respect for law. Much more it is due to dawning recognition of prohibition's benefits.

Take Chicago, for example. Its great public Cook County hospital reports wonderful decrease in cases of fractured bones, broken heads, frozen limbs, kidney diseases, heart diseases, even pneumonia. The doctors say it is less drinking that accounts for the change.

And do you not suppose that the people who are not going to the hospital so much nor seeing so many of their friends taken there understand the reason just as well as the doctors do?

Hunter Corbett of China Is Dead

With fifty-seven years of vallant missionary work to his credit, Dr. Hunter Corbett has just passed away at his post in Chefoo, China, in his eighty-fifth year. Word reached the Foreign Board at New York Jan. 8 by cable, and also by telegram from Secretary of State Lansing. The cause of death was given as old age, and those who know anything at all about the service of this pioneer missionary are confident that his rest was well earned.

Dr. Corbett was born Dec. 8, 1835, in a log cabin in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His parents were charter members of the Leatherwood Presbyterian church, erected in the uncleared forest. After graduating from Jefferson College in 1860 the young man entered Western Theological Seminary, but took his final year in Princeton.

During the civil war he was torn between love for his country and the urgent need of China. He finally sailed from the United States while the battle of Gettysburg was being fought, leaving a bond of \$1,000 to be used in securing a substitute in case he was drafted for army service after his departure. The insufficient and improper food and the terrible sanitary conditions endured on the six months' sail around the Cape of Good Hope and across the Pacific ocean nearly brought the young missionary to his death. When he landed in Shanghai he was so weakened in health that three doctors advised his immediate return to the United States. He was warned that to remain in China would result in certain and speedy decease. But Dr. Corbett ignored these warnings and went on to Chefoo. The boat in which he sailed was shipwrecked but after many vicissitudes he finally reached the town in the midst of the great Taiping rebellion.

The story of his early days in Chefoo is fascinating. His first teacher in the Chinese language left him within a few days, saying he was not a candidate for martyrdom. During that first year when, weakened by disease, he knew not how short a span lay before him, his constant prayer was that he might live just long enough to see one convert. But the Lord has instead enabled him to see thousands, almost into "the third and fourth generation."

In China Dr. Corbett has been greatly honored. On one of his visits to the home land for rest he was made moderator of the General Assembly, the highest honor the Presbyterian Church can bestow. The Chinese Christians were so delighted by this token of respect to their beloved pastor that when he returned to China at the end of his furlough a great delegation from scores of interior stations gathered to welcome him. On his eightieth birthday the boys' academy at Chefoo, which he founded, was renamed the Hunter Corbett Academy, in honor of his great work there. At this occasion all the denominations doing missionary work in the city gathered to pay him respect, and public officials either sent messages or were present in person. Scrolls and banners were received from churches, presbyteries, business firms and Chinese merchants and friends.

Dr. Corbett kept on working almost to the day of his death. Just a few years ago, when he was 76, a younger missionary wrote of him, after an itinerating trip into the country: "I was simply amazed at the recuperative powers of this man of 76. It was no easy task for the younger man to keep up to his pace. He is like a battleship in full action, delivering broadside after broadside. He is preaching all the time and to every one."

In spite of the hosts of missionaries who have worked in the great province of Shantung during the past sixty years, no missionary's name is so widely and so honorably known as that of Dr. Corbett. From Chefoo in the north to Ichowfu in the south, ten days' travel distant by mule litter or cart, the name of "Pastor Gwoa" is still spoken with tender affection by men and women who were brought into the kingdom by his faithful ministry.

Sets Day of Prayer for Starving

The World Presbyterian Alliance has recommended Sunday, Jan. 18—already designated "law and order Sunday" by the Federal Council of Churches—as a day of prayer for the suffering brethren of the Reformed faith on the continent of Europe. In France, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and the Baltic provinces scores of ministers and students

for the ministry have died, and many are now starving or dying from exposure. In France and Belgium alone the property loss of Reformed churches and parsonages amounts to \$3,000,000.

Unity Spirit Marks Educational Meeting

A note of Christian unity among the denominations marked the conference of church workers in universities at the Edgewater Beach hotel, Chicago, Jan. 7-8. Student pastors of Protestant denominations in universities from New Hampshire to California enrolling 200,000 students, meeting with representatives of the council of church boards of education, adopted plans to coordinate all their work, regardless of denominational connection. A committee was appointed to study methods of interdenominational management of the summer conferences at Lake Geneva.

For the first time the council of church boards this year has put into effect a system of cooperative organization in four universities—Cornell, Stanford and Michigan and New Hampshire Agriculture Colleges. The religious work in these four institutions is paid for from a common fund contributed from all denominations.

The Edgewater Beach meeting was notable because it was the largest gathering of the kind ever held and because for the first time it welcomed three denominational university secretaries as directors of work in the universities for their denominations. In addition to Dr. Richard C. Hughes, for ten years sole university secretary, there now are secretaries from the Methodist and United Lutheran Churches.

Two other educational gatherings met last week in Chicago, conferences of the Association of American Colleges, at the Auditorium hotel, Jan. 11, and of Presbyterian college presidents at McCormick Seminary Jan. 10. More than twenty presidents discussed, with representatives of the General Board of Education, plans for cooperative financial campaigns.

IRISH DELEGATION FINDS WELCOME

Philadelphia People Give Visitors Enthusiastic Reception—Fourth Important Pastorate Vacant, Dr. Robinson Resigns.

PHILADELPHIA—Prominent among the visiting delegation of Protestant ministers from Ireland is Dr. Wylie Blue, pastor of May Street church, Belfast ("Old Cookes"), from which came Dr. Macintosh to Philadelphia and to which went Dr. McCaughan of Chicago. Dr. Blue preached in First church, Germantown, and also in Second church of the city. Others preached in Bethany First church of Frankford, Union Tabernacle, and churches of other denominations. Three of them, including Dr. Blue, spoke at a ministers' meeting in Witherspoon building, and later they addressed a meeting in First church, Camden. A crowded meeting in the Metropolitan opera house, which they addressed, closed their public appearance. They everywhere met enthusiasm.

Returns to Boyhood Church—The fourth important city pastorate became vacant with the resignation of Dr. W. Courtland Robinson, for twelve years pastor of Northminster church. Dr. Robinson's action was a surprise to all Presbyterians of the city. He will leave Northminster church on April 1 to accept the call of First church, Delhi, N. Y., where he grew up and of which his father, now pastor emeritus, served actively forty-five years. The other three vacant Philadelphia churches are Gaston, Calvary and Richardson Memorial.

Brief Items—Rev. William R. Hall, in charge of the young people's department of the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, has been offered a position with the Interchurch World Movement.—Dr. O. G. McDowell recently resigned as pastor of Richardson Memorial church to become financial secretary of the National Reform Association.—A memorial service for Dr. B. L. Agnew was recently held in Temple church.—Friends in Calvary church of Rev. W. M. Auld presented him with \$1,000 on the eve of his departure to Toronto to become a pastor there.—Miss Sarah W. Cattell, daughter of the late Rev. Thomas W. Cattell, former professor of Lincoln University, who has been for twelve years treasurer of the woman's foreign missionary society, died, aged 61, at the Presbyterian hospital.—The Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. threw open their doors to the public on New Year's day, when lectures, recitals and exhibitions were given.—Lieutenant Charles W. Nevin, son of the late Rev. Charles W. Nevin, for a time pastor of Scots church, reported wounded by ruffians in Brest, France, has arrived in this country. W. P. WHITE.

"Just a word to say that the 'Board of Relief which is!the



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COMPASSION
OF GOD'

"SECOND TO NONE" to so many ministers, has cast a handful of sunshine across the continent into our Christmas:"

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