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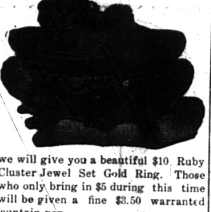
A Man Charged With Murder Tells the Cause of His Downfall Just Before His Execution

"Prisoner at the bar, have you anything to say why sentence of death shall not be passed upon you?"
A solemn hush fell over the crowded court room, and every person waited in almost breathless expectation for the answer to the judge's question.
The judge waited in dignified silence. Not a whisper was heard anywhere and the situation had become painfully oppressive, when the prisoner was seen to move, his head was raised, his hand clinched, and the blood had rushed into his pale, careworn face.
Suddenly he arose to his feet, and in a low, firm, but distinct voice, said:
"I have! Your honor, you have asked me a question, and now I ask, as the last favor on earth, that you will not interrupt my answer until I am through."
"I stand here before this bar," convicted of the willful murder of my wife. Truthful witness have testified to the fact that I was a loafer, a drunkard, and a wretch; that I returned from one of my prolonged debauches, and fired the fatal shot that killed the wife I had sworn to love, cherish and protect. While I have no remembrance of committing the fearful crime, I have no right to complain or condemn the verdict of the 12 good men who have acted as jury in the case; for they were in accordance with the evidence.
"But may I please the court, I wish to show that I am not alone responsible for the murder of my wife."
This startling statement created a tremendous sensation. The judge leaned over the desk, the lawyers wheeled around and faced the prisoner. The jurors looked at each other in amazement. The prisoner paused a few seconds and then continued in the same, firm, distinct voice:
"I repeat, your honor, that I am not the only one guilty of the murder of my wife. The judge on this bench, the jury in the box, the lawyers within this bar, and most of the witnesses, including the pastor of the old church are also guilty before God, and will have to stand with me before His judgment throne, where we shall all be rightly judged.
If it had not been for the saloons of my town, I never would have become a drunkard; my wife would not have been murdered. I would not be here now, ready to be hurled into eternity. Had it not been for these human traps, I would have been a sober man, an industrious workman, a tender father and a loving husband. But today my home is destroyed, my wife murdered, my little children—God bless and care for them—cast out on the mercy of strangers.
I know I tried to reform, but as long as the open saloons were in my pathway, my weak, diseased will power was no match against the fearful consuming, agonizing appetite for liquor.
"For one year out town was without a saloon. For one year I was without a man. For one year my wife and little children were happy, and our little home was a paradise.
"I was one of those who signed remonstrances against reopening the saloons of our town. One had been for years, the prosecuting attorney on this case, and the judge who sits on this bench, all voted for the saloons. By their votes and influence saloons were reopened, and they have made me what I am."
The impassioned words of the prisoner fell like coals of fire upon the hearts of those present, and many of the spectators and some of the lawyers were moved to tears. The judge made a motion as if to stop further speech, when the speaker hastily said:
"No! No! your honor, do not close my lips; I am nearly through.
"I began my downward career at a saloon, and I realized and predicted to the voters of this town. After the saloons you allowed you have made me a drunkard and a murderer.
"Before another bar—the bar of justice, and now, the law power will conduct me to the place of execution, and hasten before another bar—the JUDGING BAR OF GOD—and there you will have to appear with me. Think you the great judge will hold me for my poor, weak, helpless victim of my traffic—alone responsible for the murder of my wife? No! I in my drunken, frenzied, irresponsible condition, have murdered thousands, and which I am in full operation today with your consent."
"All of you know in your hearts that these words of mine are not the ravings of a madman's mind, but the truth of the Almighty God.
"You legalized the saloons that made me a drunkard and murderer, and you are guilty with me before God, and man for the murder of my wife. I beg your honor, I am done, ready to receive my sentence, and I stand forth to the place of execution. You will close by asking the lord to have mercy on my soul. I will close by solemnly asking God to open your blind eyes to your own responsibility, so that you will cease to give support to this dreadful traffic."

The statements of the Anti-Saloon League are an open insult to the business men of Michigan. They charge the business men with insincerity in their efforts to enforce the law and reorganize and regulate the liquor traffic instead of to abolish it. They say that the purpose of the business men's associations is to protect the saloon instead of to reform it and declare that the regulating the liquor traffic cannot be enforced. If they tell them that legislation can not be enforced they accuse us of slandering the American people and declare that the people of this state can enforce any law they enact. Still they turn around and tell us that the law regulating the interior and order saloons can not be enforced, and that nothing can prevent the violations of the law but to abolish the saloon.
A few years ago it was discovered that there were great frauds being committed against the people of this government by irregularities in the various laws of the west and that by fraudulent means a few men had come into possession of vast tracts of land. What should be done? What could Anti-Saloon League philosophy do? Would that league have advised to reform and regulate that department of the interior and put better men in these land offices and enforce the law, or would it advise that the land offices be abolished?
When it was found that the railroads were violating the law by taking rebates would the Anti-Saloon League say that the law regulating the railroad traffic could not be enforced, that the people who were demanding the regulation of the traffic and the enforcement of the law were not sincere, that they only wanted to protect the railroads in their lawlessness and that the only remedy was to abolish the railroads? When it was found that the churches, the sugar trust, and Standard Oil were violating the law, and frauding the people, did the Anti-Saloon League recommend that these organizations be put out of business and their property confiscated on the grounds that the law can not be enforced? When it is known that great corporations have violated the law by employing children under age and by failure to properly provide for the safety of the streets, would the Anti-Saloon League declare that the law regulating these corporations can not be enforced?
It is well known that there are thousands of decent orderly saloons where the law can not be enforced. It proves that all saloons could be made so but the Anti-Saloon League can not name one dry city that is really "dry" where the intent of the law is enforced, and where there is not more whiskey drinking than elsewhere, and the attempt to enforce the local option law.
The Germans have so well regulated the liquor traffic that men, the best of the world, go to their beer gardens with their families and mixers with their congregations without feeling any more sense of shame than if entering the most respectable concert hall. And the liquor traffic might have been regulated the same way in America if it had not been for the efforts of the prohibitionists to corrupt, degrade and damn it and ostracize all who engage in or patronize it.
The letters from business men praising the local option are either from men who are avowed prohibitionists or partisans who drift with the crowd and want to be on what they consider the popular side. They are men who are working for the patronage of the saloons. Many of them were "wet" when they thought the majority would be "wet," but as soon as they thought the "drys" had the majority they became afraid to speak their sentiments for fear of losing trade, for they have done great things for the clamorous and are working for the destruction of every man financially, socially and politically who dares to oppose their tyrannical movement.
Their rejoicing at the heavy fine and imprisonment of the man in Cadillac for selling his neighbor a case of beer is on a level with the rejoicing among the Puritans of Massachusetts in the seventeenth century over the hanging of Mary Dyer because she refused to cease teaching the Quaker doctrine. It is the same kind of a law enacted and enforced by the same prosecuting spirit.
Their boast over the attempt to make Chicago "dry" is only an attempt to delude. The Anti-Saloon League does not expect to make Chicago dry, but the League needs free advertising. It was losing prestige, collections were decreasing, it must make the world think they have done great things. A spectacular light in Chicago would give a wonderful amount of free advertising

would create renewed interest among the uninitiated and increase the dwindling collections. It is for these reasons and for no other that the fight in Chicago was started and the League knows that it has not the slightest chance of making Chicago "dry."
The petition for the election was not signed by one and a third of the voters of Chicago as boasted by the League, but only by one-tenth.
The St. John's Republican talks "dry," evidently because it wants to be on what it considers the popular side. It fails to tell its readers as does the Hastings Banner that the firm of Freer & Holly, of Hastings, has bought two carloads of empty whisky bottles within the last year picked up around Hastings by small boys. These editors fail to tell their readers that in Hastings and St. Johns and every other "dry" town in Michigan, hundreds of boys are drinking from whisky bottles carried in the pockets of their companions, and that these boys could not enter the saloons under the Michigan license law, but that they never tasted liquor until the closing of the saloons started the liquor brigade. These editors also fail to tell of the 19 boys that were arrested at Middleville for stealing whisky and violating the local option law, and of the boys from good families in Clinton county who were arrested recently for violating the local option law by passing the bottle. They fail to refer to the conditions in Michigan when the state had constitutional prohibition, and the fact that its repeal was advocated and asked for by the leading statesmen and most representative men of that time.
Every one of common sense ought to know that it is impossible to regulate a few saloons that guard and control the habits of every man and boy in town. All this talk about making the boys and girls better by closing the saloons is the veriest rot and is simply circulated to deceive and create sentiment.
Closing the saloons simply throws the temptations of the secret bottle in the way of young men and the longer the bottle brigade and the greater the crop of drunkards.
Honest liquor dealers oppose prohibition because they do not want to lose their property. Dishonest ones do not oppose prohibition because they think they can make as much money without having to pay the license tax. Brewers oppose local option because they know that even though it does not stop whisky drinking the brewers lose their business and investments as each county goes "dry." Every one knows that if the prohibition movement continues to grow it will stop all honest and legal manufacture of liquors and the brewers and distillers of the liquor from the hands of honest men to the hands of the "moonshiner," and those who manufacture vile drinks in the cellar. And yet the Anti-Saloon League has the dishonesty or the inability to ask the question "If prohibition doesn't prohibit, why do brewers and distillers oppose it."
The Anti-Saloon League works for local option because, for the sake of its salaries, it would rather see a legal liquor traffic than a legal one and because it would rather have men buy and drink their liquors dishonestly, hypocritically and secretly than honestly and openly.
The Anti-Saloon League committee attempts to make it appear that the people of Maine have more money than the people of Michigan, but why do they not compare the finances of Maine with those of her sister states in New England? The report of the comptroller of the currency for 1907 shows that the average per capita banking resources of all the New England states was \$408.67 while that of Maine was \$254.57. If prohibition is good for a state why should the banking resources of Maine be so far behind that of her near-by sister states? In the average per capita amount of bank deposits, Maine is also far below the other New England states.
Maine is a manufacturing state. Her farms are neglected and more than a million acres once in cultivation have grown up a second time in brush since the adoption of prohibition in that state. A very large per cent of her people have nothing but their wages and their savings. It is very different in Michigan. Here the wealth of the people is not represented by a few weeks' wages laid up in the bank as in Maine but is largely represented in the hands of the capitalists.
If Maine has more wealth per capita than Michigan she ought to be ashamed of the wages she pays her school teachers. Their average wage is but \$30.85, while the average wages paid to teachers in Michigan is \$44.85.

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