

**A Discourse On Prohibition.**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY.**

By Rev. L. M. Colfelt D. D.

Before the completion of my course at Princeton Seminary, I was called to the Pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Allentown, Monmouth County, New Jersey, at a salary of \$1500 per year and a parsonage. I was installed May, 1872, in my 22nd year. This was the happiest pastorate in my life when all was so novel and the whole world was young. Dr. Perkins, who had served the Church for fifty years lent me every encouragement and my Elders were so many lay helpers. The two years of my stay were one constant revival. The church was transformed, a new organ was purchased and shifted from the location in the rear of the church and was placed behind the pulpit which itself was displaced by a reading desk, enabling the preacher to speak with his whole body and bringing him directly in rapport with his audience. The singing was led by a Precentor and every effort made to encourage congregational praise. The gallery benches were superseded by comfortably upholstered family boxes or stalls and all were rented. This was the only church edifice I ever preached in or saw that fulfilled my ideal of what a church should be, most pulpits being "Devils Inventions," barricades perched high above and far from the audience as if all machinery of flesh or iron did not lose power working at long distances. In two years the church doubled in income, benevolence and numbers and when I severed my relations, the congregation offered me \$3200 and a new parsonage and was better able to fulfill the obligation than discharge the original salary. Among my parishioners was the Ex-War Governor of New Jersey, Dr. William Newell, whose hospitality I often enjoyed and whose conversational powers were of the first order. He told how the night of his inauguration at Trenton, a blizzard with its drifts made the roads impassable for his team and he must needs walk the wobbly distance of ten miles which savors of the democratic simplicity of those times. Among his reminiscences of Congress, of which he was previously a member, was the experience of going from the House to the Senate Chamber to hear Daniel Webster deliver his celebrated reply to Hayne. He said that Webster was a massive man of compact frame, with beetling brows and piercing black eyes, that in the beginning as was his wont, he thrust both hands deep down in his side pockets, seemed to halt and stumble much as if at a loss for words and so he labored heavily for as much as a half hour, but it was only to warm up his gigantic mental machinery and like some stupendous ocean liner, having gotten up steam he swept on in stately periods, with indescribable grandeur of manner and diction, bearing down all mental opposition with his massive, unmatched eloquence.

At this period, Prohibition was beginning to project itself upon the political horizon. An Elder of my church, Mr. Robbins had a son just elected upon a Prohibition platform to represent Monmouth County in the Legislature and the father was such a fanatical Prohibitionist that he was never satisfied unless I made a hobby of and perpetually preached upon, or alluded to the subject in some form in the Sabbath services. This made it necessary for me to work out the problem mentally, fix my bearing and take up a position tenable for life. After the most careful deliberation I settled down to the position of the Apostle Paul, that while the Christian is morally bound to refrain as a matter of example from everything that is calculated to make a weak brother offend and while it is proper to preach temperance and even total abstinence as an entirely individual and voluntary matter yet to impose Prohibition upon the mass of ones fellow men by legal coercion is extra Scriptural and could not be harmonized with either my reason or conscience. From this position is a rule of personal conduct and pulpit deliverance desiderated more than sixty years ago I have found no adequate reason to swerve by a hairsbreadth. And as the years have gone by they have both strengthened my conviction that the attempt to force absolute Prohibition upon a not inconsiderable body of citizens must prove abortive and even if successfully enforced must end in a greater evil than that which is aimed to abolish. My position is so flatly opposed to that usually championed by men of my cloth that I must crave indulgence from my readers while I set forth at considerable length my reasons for daring to differ from prevailing religious sentiment upon a subject which I firmly believe must be threshed out in the near future despite the efforts of politicians to shelve it after the same manner as Fiat money, Trust regulation and Slavery. My reasons for antagonizing coercive legal Prohibition are not utilitarian but fundamental. It runs counter to the whole trend of the Divine Government of the human race. The history of Man is Divine Providence in human action and it makes plain the fact that nothing is further from His purpose than untempted innocence. Even the Christ was tempted in all points as we are. To evolve moral strength men from the beginning and through the ages have been put into the furnace of moral temptation that they might come forth with robust virtue. Not to abolish outward solicitation but to develop inward self restraint seems to be the Divine plan. "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world but that thou shouldst deliver them from the evil. It is not written I will prohibit Satanic temptation, but Peter, Satan had desired to have thee that he may sift thee as wheat but I have prayed for thee that thy

faith fail not." A race of moral automata with no capacity for voluntary and unselfish virtue would be a blot upon creation and reduce man to the level of the brute. Besides, if you begin the prohibition of outward solicitation where are you going to stop?

Will you prohibit food because there is wide spread gluttony, women because there is abounding licentiousness, the production of wealth because there is a deal of avarice, and so on to the end of the chapter, or content yourself with the plan of evolution which permits the free play of temptation and aims at the production, not of artificial but actual virtue. Triumphant virtue is a million fold more precious than untested innocence. Neither the crucifixion of an inward passion that God has put into the making of a man nor the abolition of the outward object of solicitation will ever work out any permanent reform. The only solution of the matter for individuals and communities is to struggle on to the only goal worth while which is Individual Self Restraint, Temperance in all things, the use of all God's gifts and the abuse of none.

If a boy be isolated in the period of his upbringing by a rigorous parental discipline and absolutely protected from the temptations incident to the normal life of his neighborhood, almost without exception, he will go to pieces morally as soon as he arrives at his majority and the exercise of conscious liberty. So also if a fool's paradise is inaugurated by Prohibition and its national enforcement succeeds in the complete suppression of the exercise of moral freedom in the use of intoxicants, in thirty years all the previous progress in the attainment of temperance will be rendered vain, and a generation of moral weaklings will succeed who will fall an easy prey to intemperance just as soon as they arrive at the sense of conscious power and find or make a feasible way to modify or repeal the Volstead Act, which was passed in ignorance of its deleterious byproducts and in the panic engendered by the world war.

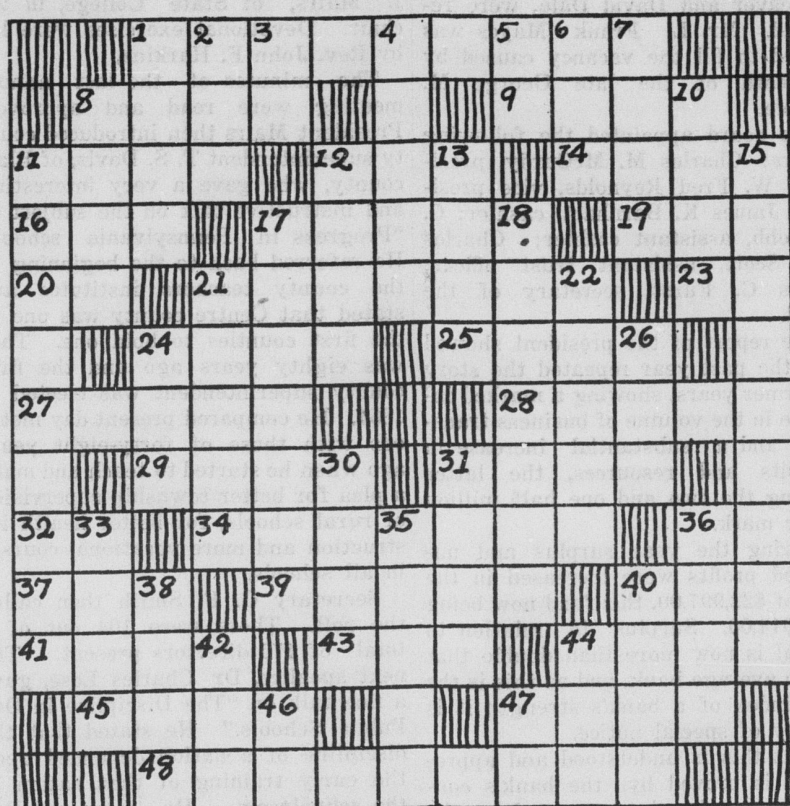
But there is a more fatal objection to absolute Prohibition which must foredoom it to ultimate failure in spite of all the frantic efforts at enforcement. It is the fact that absolute Prohibition is subversive of Christianity. Jesus Christ challenged the ages with the interrogation, "Which of you convicteth me of sin?" and up to this century the most microscopic analysis of his character has revealed no minutest defect and the most blatant skeptic has been compelled to echo Pilate's words "I find in Him no fault at all." But if the position taken by Prohibitionists be the true one, that the use of any intoxicant is illegal and immoral, then the impeccability, the Divinity of our Lord and the whole structure of Christianity collapses in ruin for Jesus without question made wine and drank it and therefore was guilty of moral fault in miracle and example. The master of the feast said to his host, "Thou hast kept the good wine to the last." That Jesus partook of wine freely is proven by his own words, "Yea, like children playing in the market place and saying we have piped to you and ye have not danced, mourned to you and ye have not lamented. John the Baptist came neither eating nor drinking and ye say he hath a Devil, the Son of Man is come eating and drinking (wine) and ye say he is gluttonous and a wine bibber." Not only does Prohibition convict Christ of moral fault but of error. If the temperate use of wine is harmful to man then Christ countenancing it was in error and ignorant of its deleterious effects upon the race, therefore was not a prophet and could not properly say "I am the truth, To this end was I born and for this purpose came I into the world that I might bear witness to the truth." He did not bear witness to the truth in setting such an example at Cana of Galilee and again the fabric of Christianity collapses. If the position of Prohibitionists be true, then Christ is not the Truth.

Palaces of ice are sometimes built in Russia, the work of a season to disappear in the spring. They are real habitations presenting every appearance of solidity but one condition is necessary to their permanence, the continuation of cold and where this is wanting all melts away and some day leaves not a vestige remaining of that splendid specimen of art. Well, the Divinity of Christ is that edifice! It subsists only upon one condition—the absence of error. Suppose to imagine an impossibility, the discovery of a single failing in the life of Jesus such as we find in our lives by scores then the whole magnificent edifice of Christianity melts away. Nothing remains of it, you take it up and like a snowflake it melts in your hand, not an atom is left worth preserving. For twenty centuries millions of men of every class, of every shade of culture including the most profound thinkers, the most subtle moralists and the most competent scientists have been contemplating the personality of Christ, weighing his character, reading his soul and they proclaim unanimously in the face of the world that he is absolutely perfect. It remained for the Prohibitionists in the beginning of this century to find a spot on the Sun of Righteousness, a flaw in the diamond of Truth and proclaim to the world that Jesus of Nazareth committed sin in making and drinking wine and was ignorant of the moral consequences of his act during the future history of mankind.

What wonder that such presumptuous folly has already produced a frightful harvest of disastrous results? It has trampled on the personal liberty of millions who have never abused it in this particular. It has laid a burden of coercion upon the consciences and the reason of a considerable minority of the nation which they have been unable to bear. It has reduced life in this country to a system of espionage akin to old world despoticisms. It has created in the minds of millions of working men a ranking sense of injustice by the revelation of fact, that rich men can afford to pay for good liquor, ad libitum

**HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE**  
When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill all the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

**CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 2.**



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| <p><b>Horizontal.</b><br/>1—Journal of current events<br/>2—Weathercock<br/>3—A common astringent<br/>11—Highest point<br/>12—Used on a door step<br/>14—Level<br/>16—Consume<br/>17—Minute particles<br/>18—Before<br/>19—Pronoun<br/>20—Thoroughfares<br/>23—Southern state (abbr.)<br/>24—Quarrel<br/>25—To idle<br/>27—Resist<br/>28—Destroys<br/>29—Operatic solo<br/>31—Countenance<br/>32—Negation<br/>34—Rub<br/>35—Personal pronoun<br/>37—Division of time<br/>39—A relative<br/>40—Disfigure<br/>41—Proof mark<br/>42—Accomplishment<br/>44—Careses<br/>45—Indian servant<br/>47—Site<br/>48—Reproduce</p> | <p><b>Vertical.</b><br/>1—Back of the neck<br/>2—Being, in abstract sense<br/>3—Personal pronoun<br/>4—Used on the table<br/>5—Eastern state (abbr.)<br/>6—Sprite<br/>7—Govern<br/>8—Ballot<br/>10—Fertilizer<br/>11—Tropical trees<br/>12—Hunting call<br/>13—Chinese coin<br/>15—Drivers<br/>17—Native of Italy<br/>18—Safekeeping of goods<br/>21—Spawn of fish<br/>22—Seasoning for food<br/>24—Mineral springs<br/>26—For shame<br/>30—A continent<br/>31—Truth<br/>33—Grain<br/>35—To wait upon<br/>36—Measure of electricity<br/>38—Period of time<br/>40—Flesh of animals<br/>42—Bind<br/>44—To write<br/>46—Spain (abbr.)<br/>47—Point of compass</p> |
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Solutions will appear in next issue.

while they must drink poisonous stuff within their means or deny themselves altogether. For its enforcement it has created an army of drones who consume but produce nothing and too often are over tempted to become copartners with bootleggers. It has converted the coast lines and frontiers of the nation into flood gates through which foreign liquors pour. It has added to national taxes hundreds of millions which have proved totally inadequate for the object in view. It has vastly increased disrespect for law, fostered the use of dope and other death dealing substitutes, multiplied murders and special crimes, broad-casted illicit stills and not perceptibly decreased the drinking habit. That it will prove an ultimate failure is as certain as the fact that this world is built on right lines that no human tinkering can alter and that Truth is mighty and will prevail.

**Nineteen Hundred Sites of Indian Villages Located in Pennsylvania.**

Miss Frances Dorrance, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in giving her report on the Indian survey of Pennsylvania, to the American Anthropological Association, in session last week at the University of Pennsylvania, exhibited a map, on which are indicated the sites of over 1900 Indian villages.

These sites are east of the Allegheny mountains. The survey to be extended into the western part of the State, during the coming summer. This remarkable archaeological study is being made under the auspices of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., of which Miss Dorrance is director. It has the endorsement of the historical societies of the State. The American Anthropological Association, the National Research Council, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Museum of the American Indian are cooperating. The colleges and universities of the State are lending their assistance. The work is under the direction of Miss Dorrance. Rev. John Baer Stoudt, D. D., Allentown, Pa., noted historian and antiquarian, is acting executive secretary of the survey.

Boy Scouts and "Summer Camps" are assisting in the preliminary survey. Trained archaeologists and local experts will follow up their work. The work will be done by counties and the relics will be placed with local historical societies or educational institutions.

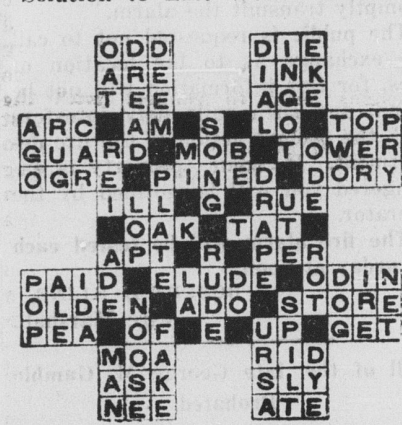
Pennsylvania is exceedingly rich in aboriginal remains, and yet we know less about the pre-history of Pennsylvania than almost any other State. "In spite of local excavations and 'findings,' the life of the Pennsylvania Indian still lies buried in our soil.

"It is imperative that the work be carried out at once, before modern developments, railroads, super-power dams, etc., and spreading population obliterate all traces.

"The object of the survey is to dig up all evidences of Indian life, and to issue an authoritative history of the Pennsylvania Indian.

"Interested persons are asked to communicate with these societies. "A fund of \$200,000 is contemplated and a number of substantial gifts have already been received."

**Solution to Last Week's Puzzle.**



**A WAY OF ESCAPE.**

(Continued from page 2, Col. 6.)

understand? You didn't think I decided badly. . . " "Look here," said Arthur wickedly. "I thought married people decided things together!"—By Zona Gale.—Woman's Home Companion.

**Proposed Changes in the Election Laws.**

As a result of the recent survey made by Governor Binchot's "Committee of Seven-six," the following changes in the present election laws have been recommended to the new Legislature.

1. An act to compel the opening of the ballot boxes used in any district at a primary or election upon the oath of five voters of the county that they believe fraud or error occurred in marking the ballots or counting the vote contained in the box.
2. An act restricting assistance to voters to cases of actual inability to mark the ballot.
3. An act requiring voters at primaries or elections to sign their names on the ballot check lists upon receipt of their ballots.
4. An act providing for the permanent registration of eligible voters.
5. An act providing for the optional use of voting machines in any city, county, borough or township of the State.
6. An act to render impossible the so-called "chain system" of voting.
7. An act to compel the ballot boxes to be delivered to the court house not later than six o'clock p. m. of the day following any primary or election.
8. An act giving any citizen the right to inspect, under proper supervision, the election records (excepting the ballots in the ballot-boxes.)
9. An act prescribing jail sentences for election offenses.
10. A constitutional amendment permitting the Legislature to compel the use of voting machines in any city, borough or township, without being obliged to compel them to be used in all cities, boroughs or townships.
11. A constitutional amendment permitting the courts to appoint overseers of elections not residing in the districts in which they are to serve.
12. A constitutional amendment abolishing the tax qualification for voting.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

The Law, it is said,  
makes a good Will.

**G**ENERALLY speaking this is true. But there are many particular cases to which this saying does not apply. Every man should make his own will for each one may have special reasons for disposing of his estate in a manner different from that which the law provides. We are prepared to help you in this important matter.

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