

# Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

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## TERMS

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## ADDRESS

Delivered by Rev. P. P. LANE, before the Washingtonian Temperance Society, of Clearfield, on the evening of the 22d of February. Published by request of the Society.

### Ladies and Gentlemen:

To-day we commemorate an event held dear by us all—the birth of GEORGE WASHINGTON! The mere pronunciation of that name, acts as with magic power upon every American heart, and brightens the incense flame of Liberty upon all its altars under the whole heavens. Washington! the warrior of human freedom, whose sword is said never to have been drawn but in defence of his country, and never sheathed but when a glorious and triumphant success returned it scabbard, without one stain of cruelty or dishonor upon its shining blade: Washington! whose wisdom, benevolence, and bravery in war—whose affability and uprightness in peace, have rendered him the beloved of his country and the venerated of the world! And surely the natal day of such a man—such a blessing to America—such an honor to his species—deserves to be appropriately observed. His services in the field of battle, and in the chair of State—in war and in peace—demand a public expression of our grateful remembrance. Patriotism and justice call upon the sons of Columbia, who have lived to reap the rewards of his labors, and to share in the laurels which his own right hand has won, for such a manifestation of their respect and love "for the first in war, the first in peace, and the first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Influenced and animated with such feelings, we have met in the capacity of a Temperance meeting, as the most patriotic and expressive manner of honoring the memory of our National Guardian.

The nature of the Temperance Reform is not unlike that of the revolution led on by the gallant chieftain whose name has become associated with every thing great and good in America; and is not inferior in its purposes to that mighty conflict for altars, homes, and trampled rights. Temperance proposes the repulsion of an evil infinitely greater magnitude than the oppression of the powers of England; the removal of a yoke more grievous than ever British tyranny fixed upon the colonies; and the relief of miseries beyond the capability of a House of Lords to inflict.

Intemperance has ever been the avowed and perpetual enemy of all national prosperity and glory. Wherever it has been fostered, or tolerated, it has played the part of the ungrateful serpent, and infused its deadliest poison into the vitals of its kindest benefactors. Some of the mightiest political establishments and powers on earth, have trembled at its approach, and fallen beneath its giant tread. The history of intemperance is inseparably connected with the decay of national freedom, and the fall of national glory. The records of this vice are not the mere registers of individual ruin, or of family sorrows, but also of the decay of empires, the prostration of thrones, and the extinction of nations. And this is a view of the subject which deserves to be impressed upon the heart of every patriot and of every freeman. A view which I, influenced by the associations connected with this day, by your generous indulgence, will endeavor to present to your consideration. It is a matter of such deep and vital importance to us, as American citizens, that every ray of light, and every fact of history, bearing upon it, should be seized with avidity, and pondered with the deepest solicitude; and though I am but ill prepared to conduct this discussion, yet I cannot suffer the present opportunity to pass without giving you a few facts and reflections that have weighed heavily upon my own mind; for I cannot help but think that if ever our country is to go on in her career of glory—if the fair fields of this united confederacy are to remain untrod by the hirelings of despotism—if the flag of our national pride is to continue its stripes and stars floating high, to cheer the hopes and animate the oppressed of every clime, Temperance must be one of the first and highest virtues to be practiced and cultivated by our citizens. All writers of credit and respectability, who have touched upon the subject, concur in this opinion; that submission to the sway of intemperance among any people, is incompatible with a nation's freedom, or even with a nation's prosperous existence. Dr. Benjamin Rush, whose name is familiar to every medical gentleman, as one of the greatest writers on the science of medicine that our country has ever produced, and no less a statesman than a scholar, has remarked, in reference to this matter, that it is contrary to all the laws of things, for a people corrupted by strong drink, long to be free. Sir Edmund Burke, whose genius, virtues, accomplishments, and sound philosophy, constitute him one of the brightest gems in the crown of Ireland's glory, beautifully observes: "It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds

cannot be free—their passions forge their fetters." Disney, a modern English writer, of no mean acquirements, in his "Ancient laws against immorality," also remarks on this point—"The vice of intemperance debases the genius and spirit of a nation; indispenses them to noble deeds and generous actions; and either softens them to an effeminate indolence for the public welfare, or fires them to seditious tumults." And the great Washington too, whose memory a nation of freemen this day turns to honor, has said, that "it is substantially true, that virtue is a necessary spring of popular government"—that "it cannot be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue."

Nor are these statements the mere opinions of visionaries and speculators in philosophy and state policy. They are the well matured convictions of those who have moved the master wheels of human governments. They are statements which come to us, substantiated and confirmed by the voice of all history. They come to us with Revelation itself, attesting their truth, for "the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God."

The records of the past are crowded with instances in which indulgence in the use of stimulating beverages, has been the grand instrument of national degeneracy and ruin. Egypt, once at the head of nations—the birth-place of literature—the cradle of science—Dr. Lyman Beecher, whose research and literary acquirements entitle him to respect, affirms, has gone down to the dust under the weight of her own effeminacy. Intemperance sowed those seeds of ruin on the banks of the defiled river, the developments of which have blotted the "land of fable and mythology" from the chart of nations.

Babylonia, too, was once among the mightiest nations of antiquity. The trophies of her successful wars and active industry, filled her metropolis with such treasures and magnificence, as rendered it the glory of the kingdoms and the praise of the whole earth. The greatness and grandeur connected with it, have been so graphically described, both by inspired and profane writers, that it has been appropriately reputed one of the wonders of the world. The state of the arts and sciences among the Babylonians, attest that they had advanced a considerable distance in the scale of civilization. Every historian acknowledges their greatness, and proclaims their fame. But the luxury and dissipation to which they finally became addicted, have been no less notorious and celebrated than their national glory. Those active and industrious habits, which had been instrumental in securing their exaltation, were at length exchanged for the most effeminate and vicious indulgences. They became as famous for their intemperance as they had been previously for their warlike achievements. And so injurious was their example, upon neighboring kingdoms, that one of the Prophets represents a Babylon as a golden cup, of which all the nations had tasted, and became drunken. Her luxury at length became her bane; & whilst in the pride of her heart she styled herself "A Lady for ever;" whilst her nobles and her lords were exulting in the impregnability of her bulwarks, and celebrating with song, revelry and wine, their triumphs and their glories, the shadowy hand in Belshazzar's palace recorded the sad truth, that the Mede was in her gates, and the Persian on her throne! Nor was it the power of the Persian arms, nor the ingenuity of their leader, so much as the vines of her own delightful gardens, that brought the daughter of the Chaldeans to the dust. It was wine that wasted their patriotism, and destroyed their concern for their nation's welfare. It was wine that caused them to neglect guarding the entrances into the city, and blinded their eyes from beholding the manoeuvres of the enemy until the river was turned off from its proper channel, and the whole city was in the hands of the conqueror. Thus Babylon fell—through her intemperance fell. And so complete and tremendous has been her fall, that Isaiah represents the grave itself as starting up, and all the shades of the mighty dead, as rising in astonishment at her overthrow!

Cyrus, the conqueror of Babylon, soon became the illustrious founder of the Medo-Persian empire. At first possessed of a country containing only 100,000 inhabitants, by his temperate example, and warlike abilities, he became the sole head of a nation, considered boundless in extent, and unrivalled in its power; and so long as they continued the simplicity of their mountain fare—when, as one says, "their clothing was skins, their food wild fruits, and their drink water," so long were the Persian arms the dread and terror of the world. But their conquests furnished the causes of their ruin. The acquisition of the luxurious Medes, and the idling and dissipation of the Babylonians, so corrupted the Persians' manners that even before the death of their renowned general, their intemperance began to be manifest. Their famed sobriety and abstemiousness began to dwindle away, and with them, their strength and prowess. The coarseness of their mountain fare, soon gave place to all the dainties of a tropical clime. Their passionate fondness

for stimulating beverages began to be excessively indulged. The praises of wine became the inspiring theme of their poets, and voluptuousness and debauchery were lauded as virtues. Thus were the seeds of ruin being sown, which, if not checked in their first growth, must eventuate in the fall of the empire.

Nor were they checked, but nurtured with all the care and anxiety of a favorite plant. At length the deadly upas waved its stately boughs over the high places of the nation, blanching the cheek of Persian glory, and palsying the strength of the Persian arms. But few generations passed away before they fell by the sword of the Macedonian conqueror. So completely were they enfeebled that Alexander, with an army thirty times inferior in numbers to that mustered by the satraps of Darius, in two brief hattes at the river Granicus, and the town of Issus, struck the death-blow to their mighty name, and quenched the flame of their country's glory! Intemperance among them had done its work.

Greece in her turn now assumed pre-eminence among the nations of the earth, and well does she deserve the exalted name she bears among all people. Literature, art, science and religion, all of which were so diligently cultivated upon her soil, furnished a wreath for her brow such as no nation ever wore before her. Everything that was noble, praiseworthy and conducive to a nation's renown, the Greeks sought after and appropriated to their use. No pursuit was deemed too laborious—no enterprise too hazardous to elevate their country's honor above all the kingdoms of the earth and they well succeeded. But they failed to leave behind them the luxurious habits and intemperate practices of the Persians. Though they succeeded in erecting a national edifice, which all the world admired, they neglected to expel and reject every corrupting element, and soon its massive pillars began to evince signs of decay. Intemperate drinking not only became fashionable in Greece, but was even made a subject of legal enactment. Cicero tells us that a law regulation instituted in reference to all their feasts and entertainments, that each guest must drink his share, or be compelled to depart—that "one must either partake of the pleasure of drinking & be merry, or leave the company." Drinking became so honorable among the Greeks, that the most magnificent rewards were offered to such as could drink the most or be drunk the soonest. Dionysius is said to have offered a golden crown to the successful champion in one of these contests. Anacreon sung in the most fascinating strains, the glowing encomiums of wine, and its convivial associations. Every victory was celebrated with wine and debauchery. Beauty was not properly complimented—respect for departed worth was not appropriately evinced, nor the Gods themselves sufficiently revered unless their mention was followed by drinking of enormous quantities of wine!

Under such a state of things, we may well suppose that the valor and greatness of the polished Greeks soon departed.—Rocked and tossed by seditions and revolutions, and rent by the fury of intestine wars, the sun of their glory went down amid the gloom and shame of fratricidal blood, whilst a few inglorious victors fell an easy prey to the valor of Roman arms. Thus did drunkenness triumph over the tomb of Greece.

And if we follow the course of the Roman victories—we examine conquest after conquest of the path in which this nation travelled up to the very pinnacle of national renown, we shall find that nearly all who fell into their hands, fell through intemperance, and consequent effeminacy. Even the astonishing Carthaginian, the illustrious Hannibal, after having crossed the Alps to the consternation of Rome, put to flight the armies of boasted Italy, and strip three bushels of golden rings from the fingers of her slaughtered knights, had his army overtaken in a scene of debauch, and to bow to the "mistress of the world."

But the causes which contributed so largely to the success of the Roman arms, and aided so much in paving their way to universal dominion, also contributed their triple share in palsying the hand that held the mighty sceptre. Rome in her turn became the victim of intemperance.—Though victory had everywhere perched upon her banners, and monarch after monarch was compelled to march as a degraded captive in the triumphal processions of her successful generals; yet her race was soon run, whilst the enervating influences of Asiatic dissipation and luxury were generating a mighty destruction within her own territory, the frozen regions of the North, deemed too cold and inhospitable to be the residence of a great and powerful people, by those who were basking in the sunny sky of Italy, were maturing a race of hardy warriors, before whose resistless force the Roman eagles quailed, and the throne of the mighty Cæsars was prostrated. When the Roman armies were brought into conflict with the blue-eyed barbarians, the patriotism and courage which animated them in other battles, had been wasted in the "delights of Barenton." Hence the Gauls pierced to the very heart of the empire—razed the proud metropolis of Rome to its lowest

foundation—and mingled its ruins with the blood of her Senators.

Nor did the conquerors of Rome escape the degradations of intemperance. The Gauls too, have felt the plague heavy upon them. It was on account of the disorder, drunkenness and riotousness which pervaded their camp on the plains of Arden, that Camillus and his few brave accomplices routed them with such a prodigious slaughter. The Germanic tribes were all once highly renowned for their love of liberty, and the warlike deeds, and military achievements by which they maintained it. Whilst France and Spain, and even the remote isle of Britain were regularly incorporated into the vast Empire of the Romans, the ancient Germans never sacrificed any portion of their proud independence. And though the mighty generals Cæsar, Germanicus and Drusus, spent their strength upon them in various battles, yet Rome always deemed herself fortunate to preserve inviolate the boundary of the Danube and the Rhine. But intemperance ruined them. "Indulge their love of liquor," observes Tacitus, of this brave people, "and you need not employ the power of your arms; their own will subdue them." And it was thus paralyzed and enfeebled that Charlemagne was able to set the imperial foot upon the neck of German freedom.

Intemperance in its effects upon the French, also brought down that nation to such a state of degradation and misery, as made one of the darkest epochs in its history, and had it not been for the alarm taken by king Francis, at the wretchedness of his subjects, and the severe laws he enacted for the suppression of drunkenness, the whole country must have been inevitably ruined.

The early history of England might also be cited as an illustration of the ruinous influences of intemperance, upon national freedom and glory. Strong drinks were gradually, but successfully introduced under the peaceful reign of Edward the Confessor. One writer remarks in reference to this age, "that the nobility were much given to lust and gluttony, but excessive drinking was the common vice of all ranks of people, in which they spent whole days and nights without intermission." Nor were these things without their effect upon the strength and prowess of the nation. The night before the famous battle of Hastings, while the Normans were spending their time in fasting and prayer for success, the Anglo-Saxons were rioting and revelling in debauchery. And though the Normans were as inferior in numbers to the English, as the latter sunk beneath them in point of sobriety, yet England fell, and on that occasion received a master whose authority she has never since been able to throw off. And it was only when the people returned to the practice of the more rigid virtues of the Normans, that proud England was righted in the path, through which she has travelled up to the lofty eminence she now occupies among the nations of the earth.

But there is one country more on the Eastern continent furnishing a still more striking illustration of our subject. A country which must rush to the recollection of every man, who attempts to speak upon the subject of Temperance. I mean the emerald isle of Erin. Never—never was there a country suffered more from intemperance, than Ireland. Surely it would require the glowing eloquence of a Curran or a Burke, to give you a full picture of her misery during the past six hundred years. Though, as one has remarked, she is one of the loveliest spots on the bosom of the ocean—the parent of great men—the land of clear heads, of eloquent tongues, of warm and valiant hearts—the nursery of genius and wit—the home of beauty, of chivalry, and of song; yet mired out, misgoverned, trodden down by the iron heel of oppression—manacled by the most abject ecclesiastical despotism—reduced to the last stages of depletion by abominable profligacy, and scorched and consumed by intoxicating liquors!

(Concluded next week.)

## NATIONAL CONTRAST.

In a noisy mob, two handsome young women, who were very much alarmed, threw themselves into the arms of two gentlemen standing near, for safety. One of the gentlemen, an Irishman, immediately gave her who had flown to him for protection, a hearty embrace, by way, as he said, of encouraging the *cratur*. The other, an Englishman, immediately put his hands in his pockets to guard them.

Two officers, observing a fine girl in a milliner's shop, the one an Irishman, proposed to go in and buy a watch-ribbon, in order to get a nearer view of her. "Hoot, mon," says his northern friend, "there's nae occasion to waste ailler, let us gang in and see if she can gie us twa saxpences for a shilling."

It is notorious, that in one of the Duke of Marlborough's battles, the Irish brigade, on advancing to the charge, threw away their knapsacks, and everything which tended to encumber them, all of which were carefully picked up by the Scotch regiment that followed to support them.

"I am not fond of such vanities," as the pig said when they put the ring in his snout.

From the Pittsburg Commercial Journal.

## Chloroform.

Within a few weeks several facts relative to this new agent for producing insensibility to pain, have been placed in our possession, and by us submitted to the public. Prejudice has given way to its excellence, and it is now coming into general use among medical men. The Surgeon General of the American Army has adopted it in the hospitals, and large quantities have been ordered by Government for the use of our armies in Mexico. Its inhalation produces complete insensibility to pain; and the most terrible operations are performed without disturbing the patient in any manner whatever. Whoever has witnessed a painful surgical operation, must have observed the inconvenience which the writhing of the patient, in uncontrollable agony, gave to the surgeon—this crawling of the flesh rendered operations not only more perilous, but more tedious. The inhalation of Chloroform, however, obviates these difficulties, and renders the patient entirely unconscious of pain.

The National Intelligencer details at length some experiments which have been tried at Washington with complete success. A Dr. Lieberman of that city, recently removed a cancer from the breast of a woman. While the operation was being performed, the patient remained, apparently, in a calm and tranquil slumber, without manifesting the slightest symptom of pain in any manner; though the operation she was undergoing is considered one of the most painful in surgery. A correspondent of the National Intelligencer, who witnessed the operation, says:

"When the whole was over, the patient was aroused; and on inquiry as to her feelings, she stated that, after her long and refreshing sleep, she felt much better and stronger, and requested the surgeon to proceed at once with the operation, being evidently wholly unconscious that it had already been performed; and it was not till after the lapse of some time that she could be persuaded of the reality."

"Thus far, not the slightest injury has resulted from the use of the chloroform; and in every respect the patient is now doing well, and gives fair promise of a speedy and perfect recovery."

At Boston, last week, a lady had a tumour removed from her side which weighed nine pounds and a half. The chloroform was used in her case, and she experienced no pain. But a still more singular use has been made of chloroform. It has been used to soothe the pains of the dying—to dispel the "thick egging fancies" that so often render death-bed scenes so harrowing in their character. It was tried on a patient in Boston, who was rapidly approaching his dissolution. "The success of the application," says the physician, "was complete, and the patient's last moments were tranquil and void of pain."

"The mode of administering the chloroform is as follows: It is dropped on a sponge or a handkerchief, which is applied to the mouth—and in a minute or two it takes effect, and entire insensibility to pain seems to be superinduced."

We have thought the history of this great invention, capable of producing such benefits to humanity, worth investigating, and we have selected the facts above as illustrating its uses and demonstrating its value.

It was discovered in 1831, at about the same time, by Liebig and Sombier. In 1835 its composition was accurately described by Dumas, and it has now become a favorite and acknowledged agent in medicine and surgery. It is supposed that it will be used in mitigating many of the most distressing symptoms of consumption.

*A Keen Reply.*—John Wesley, in a considerable party, had been maintaining with great earnestness the doctrine *Fox Populi, Vox Dei*, against his sister, whose talents were not unworthy the family to which she belonged. At last the preacher, to put an end to the controversy, put his argument in the shape of a dictum, and said:—"I tell you, sister, the voice of the people is the voice of God." "Yes," she replied, mildly, "I cried, crucify him! crucify him!" A more admirable answer, perhaps, never was given.

*State of the Churches.*—After noticing the brightening condition of many churches, the Boston Traveller says:

"We have reports also of the existence of unusual religious interest in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee, Indiana, and Mississippi. Indeed, from nearly every section of the country we are receiving intimations of the existence, here and there, of special religious interest at the present time, and this is not confined to any particular sect or denomination; and as would appear, not generally the result of any special exertions, but of the blessing of heaven on the ordinary means of religious improvement."

*A Peculiar Word.*—Heroina is, perhaps, as peculiar a word as any in our language. The first two letters of it are male, the first three female, the first four a brave man, & the whole word a brave woman. It runs thus: he, her, hero, heroine.