

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED

—BY—

CHAIRMAN PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE NEW TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

(From Theo. L. Cuyler, D. D.)

BROOKLYN, N. Y., January 7th, '90.

I am thoroughly non-partisan on the great question of total abstinence and dram-shop suppression. * * * The weapons of your organization are prayer, persuasion and persistent toil to overthrow the fatal drink customs of society. You can fight the accursed saloon also, as in the early days of the "Crusade," without using the shibboleth of party politics. These views I hold with increasing strength of conviction. May the great God of all wisdom guide you to the best policy for the promotion of our beloved and sacred reform. With sincere regard,

Yours teetotally, THEO. L. CUYLER.

(From Mary A. Peloubet.)

AUBURNDALE, MASS., Jan. 17, '90.

I can heartily endorse the non-partisan and non-sectarian policy you outline. * * * Hoping to know that your new society is put on the broadest Christian basis, so that we can all come in who feel that a different policy than the one we have been under, will help us better to promote the great cause we are interested in, believe me

Yours very sincerely, MARY A. PELOUBET.

(From John G. Whittier.)

AMESBURY, MASS., Jan. 18th, '90.

Dear Friend. Illness prevents me from doing more than to thank thee for thy letter, and to say that I have always regretted the action of the W. C. T. U. in taking a partisan position. I do not, by any means, impeach the motives of the noble and devoted women of that organization, but I have seen no good accomplished by their separate political action. I hope the non-partisan temperance workers will not waste time and strength in combatting the political organization; but go forward in their own way, which I think is the best way, and as far as I can see, the only one likely to accomplish the great object of temperance effort. With all good wishes, I am

Thy friend. JOHN G. WHITTIER.

(From Rev. Alex. Danskin.)

VASSAR, MICH., Jan. 8, '90.

To organize upon a strictly non-partisan basis will, as I think, be a return to the spirit and method of the crusade sixteen years ago. If our dear sisters, who prefer the party plan, can thereby accomplish anything, I shall rejoice, but I fear the plan will prove a snare and a delusion, and like David, going in Saul's armor. This is pre-eminently a spiritual work, and calls for the earnest and united effort of the entire church of Jesus Christ. May He who has called you to this work impart the spirit of wisdom and harmony to this convention, that it may mark the dawn of a new era in this grand work which seeks the establishment of the kingdom of temperance throughout the land.

Yours truly, ALEX. DANSKIN.

(From Rev. A. E. Dunning, Ed. of the Congregationalist.)

BOSTON, Jan. 7, 1890.

It is my conviction that there are multitudes of noble women in our country who would gladly unite in an organization to do Christian work, of which the cause of temperance should be most prominent, who would wish these organizations to be as free from connection with any political party as is the Christian church. * * * I, for one, shall watch your movement with interest, prayerful sympathy and good hope for your success.

Sincerely yours, A. E. DUNNING.

(From Prof. H. S. Lehr.)

ADA, O., Jan. 13, 1890.

I am fully in sympathy with your movement. If the women wish to accomplish much for the cause in which they are engaged, they must, in my estimation, do so on non-partisan lines.

Yours in the faith, H. S. LEHR.

(From D. C. Woolpert, Pres. Christian Temperance Alliance, Ind.)

WARSAW, IND., Jan. 18, '90.

It occurs to me that the call is timely, and will receive the endorsement of multiplied thousands. There is a growing sentiment in favor of placing this great cause where it of right belongs, upon a platform higher than party and broader than sectionalism, lifting it to a plane where can be crystalized the various temperance elements of the land. Upon such a basis, I believe can be organized an auxiliary to your Union in every nook and corner in the land. * * * I send you greeting, and pray for your prosperity.

Very respectfully,

D. C. WOOLPERT,

(From Simeon Gilbert, Editor of the Advance.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 13, 1890.

It has been given of God to the W. C. T. U. to aid gloriously in lifting up a banner because of the truth, and in setting in motion certain influences and agencies of immense value, which, at the same time, have not been infallible. All the facts in the case being as they are, it seems to me to be well, indeed to be providential in a gracious way, that a movement has been started for the proposed non-partisan organization.

But I desire to say with equal emphasis, that as it seems to me, nothing can so eminently become the grand and noble Christian women interested in the new organization, as the disposition to avoid to the utmost every unkind reference to those women who think differently from yourselves. There is room enough, there is alas, need enough, for all that you can do in your own way. Be assured, I shall watch your movements with the deepest interest. I most earnestly wish for you immeasurable success, and in addition to all your own wisdom, the continual illumination of the wisdom that comes from above. I cannot express how earnestly I desire that such women as you may "tread the new path carefully,"

Very heartily yours,

SIMEON GILBERT.

(From Mrs. Wittenmeyer, First Pres. National W. C. T. U.)

PORTSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 11, '90.

Your letter stirs old memories of the time when in weakness and humility we came together in Cleveland and organized the National W. C. T. U. But we were not weak for God was with us. While I am in most hearty sympathy with the purposes of your convention, I must hereafter know before uniting with a woman's tempe-

rance organization that it is to be non-woman's suffrage, as well as non-partisan. I shall watch with great interest the newspaper reports of your convention. Praying that the old crusade fire may come down upon you all and baptize you anew for the temperance work.

I am very cordially yours, ANNIE WITTENMEYER,

(From Miss Mary F. Lathrop.)

DENVER, COL., Jan. 17, '90.

Count me among the recruits; God bless the scarred and weary veterans who are ready to level the earth-works of politics, and wage war for Christian temperance. I have no advice to give and no policy to outline. I think we are unanimously ready to forget all save the pleasant things behind, and press on to battle with an eye single to God's glory and man's redemption. Absent in the body, but present in the spirit, Yours to help all I can,

MARY F. LATHROP.

(From Miss Grace H. Dodge.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, 1890.

I have studied the cause of much of the poverty and ignorance that surrounds us, and am always deeply interested in any practical uprising in behalf of temperance and preventive measures. Thanking you for thus allowing me the privilege of hearing of your plans, believe me

Sincerely yours,

GRACE H. DODGE.

(From President Fairchild.)

OBERLIN COLLEGE, Jan. 21, 1890.

Dear Mrs. Phinney: The movement for the organization of the women of the country upon a non-partisan basis for Christian temperance work is in accordance with my judgment, and commands my sympathies. I see little encouragement at present, for work upon any other basis. In this field there is abundant room for effective work, and I am glad that there are those ready to enter it. The situation calls for much patience and grace. There will be a temptation to waste strength upon regrets and recriminations and rivalries. The organization that can go forward in the work without being led aside by any of these temptations or bewilderments, cannot fail to prove a blessing to the country in this emergency. May such wisdom be granted to those soon to assemble in Cleveland to consider the situation.

Truly your friend, JAS. H. FAIRCHILD.

(From Rev. E. C. Macnichol.)

FELTON, Del., December 30, 1889.

I want to do myself the honor of bidding you God speed in your efforts. My church and my home stand wide open to any who will advocate the Gospel of temperance upon the broad and common sense platform you announce.

Your brother,

E. C. MACNICHOL.

(From Rev. R. E. Smith.)

MANCHESTER, O., Jan. 8, '90.

* * I am convinced that your form of organization and line of aggressive work, in order to be continually successful, must return to its original idea, and unite the temperance people, of every creed, and political faith, against a common and malignant foe, because of this conviction, I wish you a hearty God-speed in your present undertaking.

Very respectfully,

R. E. SMITH.

(From Geo. W. Cable.)

NORTHAMPTON, January 21, '90.

I think the temperance reform is the same as that of any reform measure not yet definitely accepted and embraced by one or another of the great political parties. It is undoubtedly right to make it eminently a moral question and therefore a question of the individual conscience requiring wide and diligent advocacy as such, but I do not see how it, more than any other great social interest, can be kept from becoming also a question of legislation, and therefore of politics; nor do I see any sufficient reason why women should abandon it at this point. That I take it is not your intention. * * * I think the disposition of certain sorts of people to demand party support of their measures without pledging themselves to support other measures is a great mistake. With my cordial wish for your success in the advocacy of temperance, whether within the domain of private conscience or public policy.

Yours truly,

G. W. CABLE.

(From the Hon. A. W. Tourgee.)

MAYVILLE, N. Y., January 22, 1890.

* * I have watched with peculiar interest the progress of the effort to separate woman's temperance work—and the beneficent work that grows out of the organization—from any taint or touch of partisan character.

As a student of political history, I venture the assertion that no minority has ever withdrawn from the parent body under greater provocation or more thoroughly exasperating conditions, or has ever done so with more self-respecting dignity. This fact of itself must place the new movement on a very high plane in public esteem. Intolerance is an unwise method in a free country.

It seems to me that good must certainly result from your organization, which I trust will be really representative in its constitution and character, and especially render impossible the assumption by any delegate body, of a right to commit the subordinate bodies and individual members to the support of any party, or of new methods and dogmas without the voice of the subordinate bodies first had and obtained. We send to all our joint greeting and to many of your number the warmer gratulation that springs from pleasant memories. With the earnest wish for your success in the new movement

I remain sincerely yours,

A. W. TOURGEE.

(From J. H. Vincent, D. D.)

En-route, January 20, 1890.

I fully sympathize with the good women of the W. C. T. U., who protest against political partisanship, and especially with those who object to the introduction of woman's suffrage as a question for present discussion in connection with that of prohibition. You who hold these views have as good a right to organize as do any other people who, in pushing a cause, object to policies they cannot approve, and are convinced that there is a better way. Thus individuality, investigation and independence, will be promoted, and the cause advanced, but above all, let all things be done in charity.

Truly yours,

JOHN H. VINCENT.