





THE ARKANSAS METHODIST.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30, 1884.

Temperance.

Temperance, and Against License.

Our State Election will be over before another issue of our paper, and we now address our temperance folks a few earnest words on the crisis of the present hour. A fearful responsibility is now resting on every legal voter in this state. A question of vital importance is to be settled by ballots. That question rises above all others involved in this canvass, as far as matters of eternal moment rise above mere questions of dollars and cents. Souls are involved. The dearest interests of home and family are involved. Our altars and our firesides are threatened. The very peace of society is at stake and the dearest interest of every man, woman and child, is deeply and eternally involved in this question. What is the question? For, or Against License! License of what? Why, the retelling of vinous, spirituous or malt liquors. Who will be benefitted by this sale? We are told the state will be. How? By a largely increased revenue. If that be true, does any man doubt the fact, that for every dollar paid into the counties or state for whisky license, that both of these pay out five times as much to prosecute crime, and to support paupers. We beg to refer you to any clerk in any county for information. Look at what it requires to run the courts of this county, and pay all the officers of the law; and see how much our city is making by the liquor traffic. But, fellow citizens, is there not a question far above mere dollars and cents. Has a city, county, or state the right to license men to debauch their own citizens to raise revenue. Grant what liquor men say, (but what we deny), that no state, county or city can flourish without this traffic—still we ask, can they afford to ruin their people to run these governments on blood money. Must we fill jails and penitentiaries, erect gallowes, and make widows and orphans, to raise revenue to run our governments. Is not any government a nullity and absurdity, that has to be supported in this way. Government is for the protection of the good and the punishment of the vicious—but if it is to be contravened, and we are to allow the vile to injure and corrupt the good, then away with all government. Again: Has any government the right to license men to do an illegitimate business? Of course, in that form of the question, there can be but one answer. But then, says one, it is begging the real question in assuming its illegitimacy. We do not assume it; but we claim it as of divine right and sanction, and as a fair law, settled by the highest legal tribunal. Our God has forbidden a man to injure his fellow, and demands that he love his neighbor as himself. Can any government contravene or annul this authority, and license a business thus rendered illegitimate and only injurious to the race. What is there in the liquor business that should induce any man to vote for it. Will our people take time to think. The State of Arkansas gives every township, town and county in the state the right to say whether they will have any liquor sold in their bounds. How will you answer this great demand upon you. Remember, if one township votes it out, the vote of the rest of the county can't put it in that township. And if two or three townships vote for liquor, and the vote of the county is against it, then those townships can't have it. The law is good. See that you vote to sustain it.

Many counties and towns are free from the curse; how many more will be after September 1st. I appeal to you, people of Arkansas, do your duty. Let us see how many thousands we can roll up AGAINST LICENSE next week. Go to the polls and vote. Stay at the polls and work. Vote right yourself. Get your neighbor to vote right. Go after your other neighbor. See that all people that love good order vote right. While others are talking for party and office, do you talk for TEMPERANCE! and AGAINST LICENSE. Let the women talk and pray, and let the men work and vote, and next week will tell the freedom of Arkansas from the greatest curse that ever afflicted our race. Oh, Lord God, give us this great deliverance.

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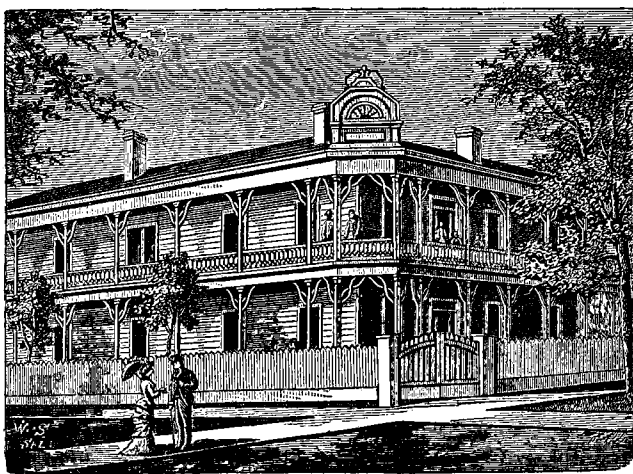
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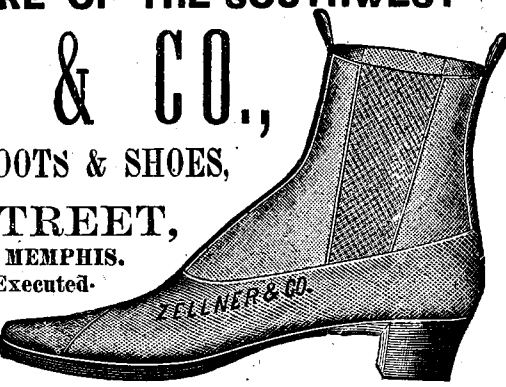
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