

Prohibition

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Abraham Lincoln's Habits

Prohibition

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

WINE AT LINCOLN BANQUET.

Lincoln was a temperate man. Temperance to him meant moderation in that which is good, and total abstinence from that which is evil; and in all the years that I knew him, I never knew him to touch either liquor or tobacco.—J. G. Nicoloy, Lincoln's private secretary.

Does it signify progress or retrogression that champagne is to be served at the centennial banquet at Lincoln's old Springfield home?

Doubtless the question can be answered in both ways. There has been both progress and retrogression since Lincoln first committed himself to the cause of total abstinence. There is not the coarse and bestial drunkenness today, the Illinois frontier of seventy-five years ago knew. On the other hand, what is known as the polite use of liquor is now on the gain in the west.

It was not so many years ago that such a thing as a public champagne banquet would not have been thought of in any western city. Much less would wines have been served at a banquet so national in character and therefore so representative. There has been a great lessening of abstinence sentiment as the west has grown in wealth and begun to indulge in the luxuries.

It may be admitted that it would be more in keeping with the character of Lincoln to celebrate this anniversary in the Lincoln spirit of simplicity and abstinence. Lincoln took his stand when coarse liquor drinking was all but universal. He was faithful throughout to the vows of his youth. It would not be a bad thing for the boys of the land to be reminded of this phase of his character when his name is honored.—Register and Leader.

1505

Deny Lincoln Was Prohibition Opponent

Chicago, July 10.—(Associated Press)—Denial that Abraham Lincoln had once declared himself as opposed to prohibition was made today by the Rev. Duncan M. Milner, associate minister of the Presbyterian church, a civil war veteran, and chaplain of the Loyal legion.

In a statement intended to refute the claim of "certain wet organizations" that the "immortal Lincoln had ever lent even a hint of approval to the liquor traffic," Rev. Milner made public an affidavit signed by three nationally known men setting forth that an alleged quotation from Lincoln which was used in a local option campaign in Georgia in 1887 was an admitted fraud. 1522

LINCOLN AND LIQUOR.

[Nashville American.] 1505

A banquet is to be given at Springfield, Ill., in honor of the Lincoln centenary. At this banquet wine is to be served and the prohibitionists are vigorously objecting and declare that such conduct will be in "defiance of the martyred President's principles." They assert that on June 13, 1860, Lincoln drank a toast with cold water and said that "The next great question after reconstruction will be the overthrow of the liquor traffic." On the other hand, the brewers are flooding that region with souvenir postal cards containing quotations from Lincoln to the effect that prohibition menaces individual liberty, dangerously extends the power of government, and if triumphant will mark the decline of American freedom. As a matter of fact, Lincoln at one time sold liquor, though rather incidentally than otherwise, for it was part of a general stock of a store of which he was one of the proprietors. There were not many prohibitionists in those days and not many teetotalers. Whether Lincoln was a teetotaler or not, he never drank to his injury, for no man who was as industrious and as close a student as Lincoln was could have been a drinking man. The objection to wine at the Lincoln banquet on the part of the prohibitionists on the ground that Lincoln was a prohibitionist is absurd and shows to what ridiculous lengths this class will go.

Lincoln as a Whisky Seller.

Concerning the statement made in a paper recently that Abraham Lincoln sold whisky, the fact is that when he was a very young man he kept a "grocery" in New Salem, Ill., and had a partner named Berry. It is not questionable that a part of the stock in trade was whisky. It has been denied strenuously that Lincoln sold the whisky by the drink. It was certainly sold in quantities to suit purchasers. Whether it was drank on the premises, we presume depended upon the custom of the country. One custom to which, no doubt, the firm of Lincoln & Berry conformed was to give persons who patronized the store a dram. Stephen A. Douglas once referred to Lincoln as keeper of grogshop, and Lincoln's reply was that when he practiced at the whisky bar, Douglas was, as usual, on the other side, and, perhaps, drank quite as much as he sold. It didn't seem that the Little Giant had much the best of this.—Aug. 10, 1882.

The Grocery and Tavern Over Which
He Presided at New Salem, Ill.

1894

Special Correspondent.
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., March 10.—Did Abraham Lincoln sell whisky? This question has never been conclusively settled. Trustworthy witnesses have been hard to find. Some say yes; others no. Some assert that he sold it only by the quart or gallon; others confidently declare that he sold it over the counter by the dram. The preponderance of evidence seems to be with those who take the affirmative side of the question. Mr. Lincoln himself once had an opportunity to answer the question, but he declined to say either yes or no. Once in the course of the memorable joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas, in 1858, Mr. Douglas attempted to cast a shadow upon his rival and make a little capital for himself by declaring that Lincoln had once been engaged in the business of selling liquor. The charge was not a serious one, for at that time liquor sales were much less than now the objects of popular opprobrium; but Mr. Lincoln shrewdly evaded a direct answer by retorting that, assuming the charge to be true, it did not establish any great difference between Mr. Douglas and himself—they were merely different sides of the counter. Mr. Douglas was quick to see that the whisky-selling story was of no advantage to him and he never told it again. At this late day, whether Lincoln did or did not sell liquor, so far as the facts might affect the popular estimate of his character, is a question of no consequence. The world long ago made up its mind about Lincoln. The fact—if it is a fact—that he was once a whisky seller is interesting only as a curiosity of history. In his early years, Lincoln was the aerial circus attendant. Sixty years ago whisky was as much an article of merchandise as coffee or calico. Under every bed there was a jug. Liquor was not swallowed by stealth. There were no heavy screens before the doors of public inns. The sturdy pioneer gulped down his toddy with less hesitation—and more relish—than he drank water. It was no breach of propriety for a minister of the gospel to drink himself under the table. The good deacon from the farm generally took his "dram" to warm him on his journey home. The business of liquor-selling was as necessary and as legitimate and as respectable as any other known to the frontier. Those engaged in it stood in no fear of being ostracized from the company of the righteous. It occasioned no surprise to find an elder of the church behind a tavern bar, serving his brethren with the essence of good cheer.

It may readily be imagined that Lincoln, born and reared in such an atmosphere, may have fallen into the ways of the elder and the good deacon. He may have sold liquor. It is well known that Lincoln kept a store, and no doubt many a stranger straggling into New Salem sixty-one years ago was confronted with this cheerful sign:

LINCOLN & BERRY'S
STORE.
GOOD WHISKY SOLD HERE.

The history of Lincoln's mercantile career is interesting. It was Denton Offutt who got him first in the notion of becoming a grocery clerk. In the spring of 1831 Offutt hired Lincoln to build a flatboat, load it with pork and provisions and take it to New Orleans. Offutt liked the way he did the job. The boat was well built and the trip paid. So when Lincoln got back to New Salem Offutt decided to open a store and put Lincoln in charge of it. "I can trust Abe Lincoln," he used to tell everybody. "for there ain't a dishonest hair in that head of his." After a vexatious delay, which gave Lincoln plenty of time to "loaf around," we are told, Offutt's goods arrived. Lincoln unpacked them and put them on the shelves, and the store was opened. The county records here tell us something of the magnitude of Denton Offutt's store. On July 8, 1831, the County Commissioners' Court granted a license to Denton Offutt to retail merchandise at New Salem. It was the custom of the Commissioners' Court to make the license fee \$5 for every \$1000 worth of goods on hand. Denton Offutt paid a fee of \$5. A thousand dollar store was an emporium at New Salem. Offutt, a man of many

which clung to him ever afterwards. As closed, Lincoln, after Offutt's store was closed, tried his hand at politics. He had chopped wood and split rails, but the truth is that, while he did both well when necessity forced them upon him, he was not devotedly in love with either as a regular vocation. Some people who knew Lincoln about this time have called him shiftless and lazy. This, however, is not strictly the fact. But clerking in a store for a few months had put into his head several new ideas. He had acquired an ambition to get out of the backwoods. The spring of 1832 was now at hand, and about the only easy job in sight was a seat in the Legislature. This Lincoln resolved to get. But just then he had a chance to go to war, and he went in delight. The Black Hawk war, however, lasted only a few months. Indeed, it closed before the August election, and Lincoln returned home just in time to get beaten for the Legislature. He was now near his wits' end. He was without employment of any sort. He had no money. His venture in politics had lifted him still a little higher above every day drudgery. But New Salem offered little other employment than drudgery of the commonest kind. It occurred to a friend that a strapping fellow five feet 4 inches high, and as stout as an ox, was cut out for a blacksmith, and Lincoln was urged to buy an anvil and bellows and open shop, but he did not take kindly to this advice.

In the early days the greatest institution of a frontier community was the village store. It filled a unique place. Its like we shall never see again, for the days of pioneering have gone forever. Imagine, in a village of scattered cabins, a crude structure of logs and clapboards; narrow windows letting in the light at the sides; at one end a door, at the other a fire-place, with its mammoth back-log, and its cheerful blaze; rough counters of hewn slabs extending down the sides of the room; shelves along the walls laden with groceries and calico, hardware and crockery, tobacco and whisky; an obliging clerk behind a counter waiting on an occasional customer; men sitting and standing around, some in lazy comfort on the counters, others on hickory-bottomed chairs in front of the fire drowsily absorbing its warmth; a cat on a barrel in the corner, a dog stretched out in blissful dreams upon the hearth; imagine the loungers listening to the storekeeper as he reads a piece from the only paper that has found its way into the wilderness; that you hear them spinning out yarns and cracking jokes, or talking politics or religion—getting excited at times, sometimes angry, then slapping each others' backs and exploding a hearty guffaw; the scene occasionally shifted, the subject suddenly changed, or all voices hushed by the appearance of a woman—and you have in your mind a fairly accurate picture of a pioneer store. On the frontier school houses were almost unknown. Churches were scarce. There were no public halls. The store was a sort of commercial, intellectual and social center. The storekeeper was the most prominent man in the village, sharing his importance and popularity with no one but the keeper of the tavern.

tavern. It is no wonder that Lincoln liked the atmosphere of the store, and that the first employment he now sought was that of a clerk. There were then three stores in New Salem. To each of them in turn Lincoln applied for a job, but without success. The situation was becoming desperate, and as a last resort he made up his mind to buy a store. He fell in with one William F. Berry. Their joint possessions were little more than those of a latter-day pauper, but they performed the miraculous financial feat of buying out every store in New Salem. They began with the little grocery owned by Rowan and James Herndon. Another storekeeper—Reuben Radford—was unpopular with the "Clary's Grove boys," and one night they broke in the doors and windows of the store and left it a wreck. Radford was glad enough to sell the remnant to Wm. Greene for \$400. But Greene did not care to keep store, and he sold to Lincoln for \$650. The only store now remaining was that of James Kettleidge. This Lincoln and Berry got at a bargain, and they bought up the whole stock of goods and all the retailing merchandise in New Salem. The aggregate cost of the three stores was something like \$1200. Not a cent of money changed hands in any of these transactions. The notes of Lincoln and Berry were accepted for the whole amount.

for the whole amount. Bill Berry was a hard drinker. He spent much of his time gambling. Lincoln displayed little aptitude for making money. The partnership was uncongenial. The notes were coming due. So when two brothers named Tront came along and offered good price for the store, Lincoln and Berry were glad enough to sell out. The Trents had no money, either, but their notes were accepted,

time their notes tell que the Trent brothers disappeared. Misfortunes now crowded upon Lincoln. His old partner, Bill Berry, following the shameful example of the Trents, one dark night sneaked away. New Salem never saw him again. Rum had gotten the better of him, and soon the news came back that Bill Berry was dead. The appalling debt which had accumulated was now thrown upon Lincoln's shoulders. It was then the fashion with men who became deluged in debt to "clear out," as Berry and the Trents had done; but Lincoln, in this as in most things, was unfashionable. He settled down among the men he owed, and promised to pay them. For fifteen years he carried this burden, which he habitually alluded to as the "national debt." As late as 1848, so Mr. Herndon, his law partner tells us, Lincoln, while in Congress, sent home money saved from his salary to be applied on the "national debt." All the notes, with interest at the high rates then prevailing, were finally paid off. Lincoln was still "Honest Abe."

New Salem for the most part stood on a broken bluff overlooking the Sangamon River. From the old Rutledge & Cameron mill on the river a road wound over the hill. Along this highway were most of the houses and stores. In 1833 there were probably fifteen of them, all built of logs and roofed with clapboards. In the center of this little row of huts, some 400 yards from the river, stood Lincoln & Berry's store. They ran this store through the winter of 1832-33, and some time into the spring. It is uncertain just when its affairs were wound up. There is a tradition that in the spring of 1833 they decided to open a tavern in connection with their grocery. The only tavern in New Salem at that time, was kept by James Rutledge. It was a log structure of four rooms, and stood just across the road from Lincoln & Berry's store. Here Lincoln boarded, and so conveniently was it situated that he and Berry, it is said, shortly before their joint career ended, contemplated buying it out. Certain it is that they meant to embark in the tavern business, either by purchasing the one already there, or by putting on an addition to their store for tavern purposes, for the records of the County Commissioners' Court of Sangamon County show that on March 6, 1833, they took out a tavern license, of which the following is a copy:

copy: Ordered, that William F. Berry, in the name of Berry & Lincoln, have license to keep a tavern in New Salem, to continue twelve months from this date, and that they pay \$1 in addition to the \$8 heretofore paid as per Treasurer's receipt, and that they be allowed the following rates viz: 25

that they be allowed the following rates	25
French brandy, per half pint	34
French brandy, per half pint	12
Apple brandy, per half pint	12
Holland gin, per half pint	12 1/2
Domestic, per half pint	26 1/2
Wine, per half pint	18 1/2
Rum, per half pint	12 1/2
Whisky	12 1/2
Breakfast, dinner or supper	12 1/2
Lodging, per night	26
Horse, per night	12 1/2
Single feed	
Breakfast, dinner or supper for stage passen-	37 1/2

Who gave board as required by law.

The "bond as required by law" which they gave is couched in the following language:

Know all men by these presents, we, William F. Berry, Abraham Lincoln and John Bowling Green, are held and firmly bound unto the County Commissioners of Sangamon County in the full sum of \$300, to which payment we do and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seal and dated this 10th day of March, A. D. 1835. Now, the condition of this obligation is such that, whereas the said Berry & Lincoln have obtained a license from the County Commissioners' Court to keep a tavern in the town of New Salem, to continue one year; now if the said Berry & Lincoln shall be of good behavior and observe all the laws of this State relative to tavern-keepers, then this obligation to be void, or otherwise remain in full force. In

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Seal).

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Seal).
WM. F. BERRY (Seal).
BOWLING GREEN (Seal).

Only two of Lincoln's biographers seem to have been aware that he ever thought of becoming a tavern-keeper, and they say the project was never consummated; that no tavern was really opened or conducted by Lincoln and Berry. Probably this is true. Now supervisor of New Salem or its vicinity recalls having lodged at Lincoln's tavern, and there has never been discovered a stage passenger who dined at Lincoln's table.

who dined at Lincoln's table. At the time of Lincoln's ambition to get into the tavern business the modern saloon, or a place where liquors only are sold, had not made its appearance. The tavern was the dram shop of the frontier. The business was regulated strictly by law. The County Commissioners Court of each county was authorized to license taverns and to fix the rates which they might charge for liquors and accommodations. The county derived considerable revenue from tavern licenses. The farmer who had

an extra room in his cabin and an empty stall in his stable, and had an eye to supplying his neighbors with liquor, took out a tavern license. Thus William Clary, of "Clary's Grove," fame, was granted a license, the records show, on December 8, 1829, to open a tavern "at his residence." This was the year in which New Salem was founded, and this was undoubtedly the first tavern opened there. The town was not known by that name, however, until the next year, and June 7, 1830, William Clary was licensed to keep a tavern "at New Salem."

In the days when Lincoln kept a grocery, liquor was sold at all groceries. But no liquor could be sold in less quantity than one quart without a tavern license. The law, however, was not always strictly enforced, and it was the custom of store-keepers to "set up" the drinks to their patrons. It is settled beyond dispute that liquor was a part of the stock of the three stores which Lincoln & Berry acquired. They bought for the sole purpose of selling it, and it is easy to guess that they found no difficulty in making sales in a community in which liquor-drinking was practically universal. It is known that they operated their store for some time after March 6, 1833, and after paying \$7 for the privilege of selling liquor by the dram it is hardly probable that they neglected to avail themselves of it, even for a brief space of time.

The biographers of Lincoln are quite generally silent upon the subject of his alleged whisky-selling. Only two or three of them mention the matter in any way. Mr. Herndon, speaking of the Berry and Lincoln grocery, says that "while Lincoln at the end of the store was dispensing political information, Berry, at the other, was disposing of the firm's liquors, being the best customer for that article of merchandise himself." Some twenty-odd years ago Ward H. Lamon, collecting material for his "Life of Lincoln," made some investigation of the subject. He knew nothing about the old tavern license, and confined his researches to what he could gather from the old settlers then residing near the ruins of New Salem. Among the witnesses he found was one James Davis, "a Democrat," "aged 60," who expressed a desire to "give the devil his dues." Davis settled at New Salem in 1829, and must have known the people of the place quite well. Of the Herndon store, which Lincoln and Berry bought, he says: "The store was a mixed one—dry goods, a few groceries, such as sugar, salt, etc., whisky solely for their customers, or to sell by the gallon, quart or pint, not otherwise. I am a Democrat; never agreed in politics with Abe. . . . But give the devil his dues. He never sold liquor by the dram in New Salem. I was in town every week for years; knew, I think, all about it. I always drank my dram, and drank at Berry's often." One old woman—a Mrs. Potter—was found who declared that "Mr. Lincken did sell liquors in a grocery." Mr. Lamon, from the information he obtained, was unable to settle the question. He says: "Whether Mr. Lincoln sold liquor by the dram over the counter of his shop (his store) remains, and forever will remain, an undetermined question. Many of his friends aver that he did, and as many more aver that he did not. . . . It is certain that liquors were a part of the stock of all the purchases of Lincoln & Berry. Of course they sold it by the quantity, and probably by the drink. Some of it they gave away, for no man could keep store without settling out the customary dram to the patrons of the place." The liquors which Lincoln & Berry were licensed to sell were not to be found at every tavern. The popular drink was whisky. The average pioneer looked upon wine with something like contempt. "Holland gin" it, and Lincoln & Berry probably kept have it in stock.

Lincoln, whether he sold liquor or not, distinguished himself by drinking little of it—less, perhaps, than any other man in New Salem. Some of his early associates assure us that he never drank liquor of any kind, and abhorred tobacco. Mr. Lamon, however, speaking of Lincoln at about this time of his life, casually remarks that "he took his 'dram' when asked to, played 'seven-up' at night, at which he made a 'good game.'" This is not entirely without corroboration. Some of the survivors of New Salem have said that "Abe used to gargle his throat, like, with a little liquor," but they all agree that he knew when to quit, and that no one ever saw him stagger. It was part of the creed of the "Clary's Grove boys" to ostracize every man who declined to share their liquor; but, while Lincoln was the best-liked man in New Salem,

whisky-drinking was not the secret of his popularity. It was vastly to his credit that he was able to participate in all their sports and frolics—to be, in truth, the biggest "snort" among them without being like them.

New Salem, we are informed, was a "fast place." Horse-races and cock-fights were the ruling sports, and Lincoln enjoyed them immensely. History has preserved an account of one celebrated chicken-fight at New Salem at which Lincoln played the part of umpire. The fight was advertised a long while in advance. An entrance fee of 25c was charged, and as the populace turned out in a body the "Clary's Grove boys" realized a handsome sum from the gate receipts. A. Y. Ellis, who saw this fight, afterward described it. "They formed a ring," said he, "and, at the time having arrived, Lincoln, with a hand on each hip, and in a squatting position, cried 'Ready.' Into the ring they tossed their fowls. Bab's red rooster along with the rest." The "Bab" referred to was Bab McNabb. He had a red rooster of boasted fighting qualities. The rooster had never been in a fight, but McNabb had been so tireless in bragging of him that great things were expected of the little-red-rooster. He proved a bitter disappointment. No sooner was he hopped upon by the enemy than he dropped his tail and fled to the nearest bush. The spectators laughed, and picking up his disgraced fowl he went home. There the little red rooster, out of all danger, mounted the wood pile, flapped his wings and crowed and crowed.

"Yes, you little cuss," said McNabb, "you are great on dress parade, but you can't fight worth a d—n." It is said that Lincoln, many years afterward, when President, was one day discussing with a friend Gen. McClellan's blunders. His mind wandered back to the cock-fight at New Salem, and he told the story of it. "Now," said Lincoln, "McClellan reminds me of Bab McNabb's rooster. He ain't no fighter, but he beats thunder on dress parade."

Oddly enough, Lincoln became a teetotaler about the time he got actively into politics. He swore off absolutely very early in his career. Few politicians have been so rigorously temperate as he, Lincoln, the store-keeper, was scarcely 24—little more than a big boy—burdened with debt and the proverbial "wicked partner." Failure came, and to Lincoln and his friends it seemed a dire calamity. Little did he dream that in the desert sands of this disaster were sown the seeds of immortal fame—of freedom for millions of mankind, the destiny of a nation, the glory of all coming centuries. Had Lincoln possessed more money, and a few of the elegant graces of the common kind of men, no doubt he would have lived and died a country merchant, or the contented keeper of a tavern, and there might never have been written an emancipation proclamation to enrich the literature and liberty of the world. This awkward, hapless youth was the child of chance. In the dark shadow of misfortune was the hidden hand of fate. J. McC. D.

Senator Sherman's Health. [From the Boston Advertiser.]

The Republicans are likely to be deprived of the services of Senator Sherman in the approaching tariff fight. Poor health will prevent him from taking the active and important part that would naturally be assigned him. Mr. Sherman, never a robust man, has been losing flesh of late, and is now quite feeble. His voice is weak and manner listless. He is under the care of a physician, who advised against the speech of last Thursday. But the imminent passage of the seigniorage bill through the senate has induced him to force himself upon him severely, and he has spent the time since in his rooms at home. It is expected that Mr. Sherman will shortly leave Washington for a milder climate.

Confirmation Suits at the Globe.

The finest imported and domestic materials—clays, diagonals, tricots, thibets, narrow and wide wales, etc., etc., tailor-made garments, \$8.50 to \$15.
GLOBE,
N. w. cor. Franklin ave. and Seventh st.

The American Climate.

[From the Boston Journal.]
A lecturer advised his hearers the other night to dress "in relation to the seasons." But what are you to do when four seasons come in one and the same day?

SAYS LINCOLN DID DRINK.

Boone Man Adds Another Chapter to
Interesting Topic. 1705
Special to Times-Republican.

Boone, Feb. 11.—A Boone man, Mr. John D. Moore, today adds another chapter to that interesting and all-absorbing topic whether or not Lincoln was a strictly temperate man. Mr. Moore, in giving the correspondent his personal recollections of Lincoln, stated that he absolutely knew that Lincoln indulged, to a moderate degree, in liquor. Mr. Moore has the distinction of sleeping two nights with the man who afterwards became the president of the United States. Mr. Moore states that he distinctly remembers of his father and Mr. Lincoln drinking. Mr. Moore, Sr., always kept whisky in the house, and after one court session the tall rail splitter spent the night at the Moore home. Before breakfast the next morning, out came Mr. Moore's jug, and booth partook.

Two Great Emancipators

February 12

February 22



HETHER or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems to me not now to be an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues, and I believe all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts.

And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—**how proud the title of that Land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both these revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory.**

We have cleaned up, with the help of the people, a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction, the next great question will be the overthrow and abolition of the liquor traffic; and you know that my head, and my heart, and my hand, and my purse will go into that work.

In 1842—less than a quarter of a century ago—I predicted, under the influence of God's spirit, that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of those prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized.

Abraham Lincoln.

*Given under Great Seal of the President
2-7-1868*

Lincoln and Prohibition

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Passing over the flood of rant and ridicule in Mr. Hudson Maxim's communication in The Tribune of Sunday, February 19, permit me to correct that irascible fellow-Jerseyman in a matter of fact:

He denies the truthfulness of a quotation, in my previous letter, attributed to Abraham Lincoln, and arrays Lincoln against Lincoln by quoting an anti-prohibition statement attributed to him. My quotation, which Mr. Maxim repudiates, was as follows:

"Whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems to me now to be an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongue, and I believe all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts."

This quotation is made from an address delivered by Abraham Lincoln before the Springfield Washington Temperance Society, on February 22, 1842, and published by direction of the society in "The Sangamon Journal," Springfield, Ill., March 26, 1842. The full text of the address is in my possession. If Mr. Maxim wishes further light on the subject he will find it in "McClure's Magazine," March, 1908, in an article by the widow of the famous Confederate general, George E. Pickett. Mrs. Pickett quotes a letter from Lincoln to young Pickett, then a cadet at West Point, written just after the delivery of this Washington's Birthday address, in which he says:

"I have just told the folk here at Springfield, on this the 111th anniversary of the birth of him whose name, mightiest in the cause of civil liberty, still mightiest in the cause for moral reformation, we mention in solemn awe, in naked deathless splendor, that the one victory we can never call complete will be the one which proclaims that there is not one slave or one drunkard on the face of God's green earth. Recruit for this victory."

The portion of the address from which Lincoln quotes contains these prophetic words:

"And when the victory shall be complete, when there shall be neither slave nor a drunkard on earth, how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both these revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted, and nurtured to maturity, both the

political and moral freedom of their species!"

Even the liquor propagandists have never attempted to question the authenticity of these quotations. Mr. Maxim makes an awful break in quoting the following miserable forgery as the words of Lincoln:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our government was founded."

I have given chapter and verse for my Lincoln quotation. I will make this proposition: I will donate \$100 to any reputable inebriate asylum, that Mr. Maxim may select (if one be left in the Sahara of Prohibition) if he will find the above statement in any speech, letter or public statement of Abraham Lincoln, or quoted by any reputable historian or biographer of Lincoln; provided that Mr. Maxim will donate a like amount to the Anti-Saloon League of New Jersey if he is unable to find it.

To aid him in the search, I would say that the first trail he will find in Atlanta in 1887, in handbills circulated during a local option campaign among the negro population. These handbills were headed: "For Liberty! Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation." Under this was a picture of a negro kneeling and kissing Lincoln's hand, while near by stood the family and on the ground were the shackles. Mr. Maxim omits from this proclamation the following dramatic piece of demagoguery:

"I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue is silenced in death I will continue to fight for the rights of man."

In response to an inquiry as to the authenticity of this statement John Hay, Lincoln's private secretary and biographer, wrote: "Neither Mr. Nicolay nor I have ever come across this passage in Mr. Lincoln's works, which we have been several years compiling."

That Lincoln was a total abstiner and a prohibitionist can be proven by a flood of witnesses, such as Vice-President Hamlin, Lincoln's son, his three private secretaries, White House attaches, his law partners and a long line of biographers who have made a careful study of his life and his works.

SAMUEL WILSON.

New York, Feb. 22, 1922.

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LINCOLN ON PROHIBITION.

Quotes From Legislature Record to Show Lincoln's Opposition.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In your edition of March 12 appears a report of a statement by Dr. Charles Scanlon, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Temperance and Moral Welfare, denying the authenticity of a statement by Abraham Lincoln quoted from The Congressional Record. The quotation is as follows:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our Government was founded."

Dr. Scanlon is reported to have said:

"I have investigated this matter and find absolutely no authority for the statement that Mr. Lincoln ever used such language."

As Mr. Lincoln made this statement in the House of Representatives of Illinois, of which he was a member, one would have thought the first place Dr. Scanlon would look for information on this subject would be in the record of the Illinois Legislature. In the New York Public Library is the Journal of the House of Representatives of Illinois. On Page 136, under the date of Dec. 19, 1840, he will find the following:

"Mr. Ormsbee from the Select Committee to which was referred the engrossed bill for 'An act to amend an act entitled "An Act to Regulate Tavern and Grocery Licenses,"' reported the same back to the House, with a substitute for the original bill, which was read.

"Mr. Ross moved to amend the report in the second section by striking out \$10 and inserting \$25 when, on motion of Mr. Harden, the report and proposed amendment thereto were laid on the table.

"Mr. Murphy of Cook moved to strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert as follows: 'That after the passage of this act, no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this State, and that any person who violates this act by selling such liquors shall be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars, to be recovered before any court having competent jurisdiction.'

"Mr. Lincoln moved to lay proposed amendment on the table; which was decided in the affirmative by yeas and nays as follows."

Then follows the vote of the Representatives in alphabetical order, Mr. Lincoln voting in the affirmative. Mr. Lincoln's motion was carried, 75 voting in the affirmative, 8 in the negative.

The Prohibitionists seem to have forgotten that Abraham Lincoln led the opposition to State-wide prohibition in Illinois in 1840. There is no disputing the official records of the Illinois Legislature. And from these records it appears that Mr. Lincoln himself made the motion by which State-wide prohibition in Illinois was defeated by a vote of 75 to 8.

CHARLES TABER STOUT.

DENY LINCOLN WAS ANTI-DRY

1922

CHICAGO, July 7.—Denial that Abraham Lincoln had once declared himself as opposed to prohibition was made here today by the Rev. Duncan C. Milner, associate minister of the Presbyterian church. Civil war veteran and chaplain of the loyal legion.

In a statement intended to refute the claim of "certain wet organizations that the immortal Lincoln had ever lent even a hint of approval to the liquor traffic," Dr. Milner made public an affidavit signed by three nationally known men, setting forth that an alleged quotation from Lincoln which was used in a local option campaign in Georgia in 1887 was an admitted fraud.

The affidavit, signed by the Rev. Sam Smail, evangelist; Rev. Sam Jones and Henry W. Grady, declares that "some time after the campaign, Colonel John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces, told that he himself had composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters."

The alleged statement of Lincoln's views were set forth in a circular widely broadcast in the campaign and did much to defeat the local option measure by winning over the entire colored vote to the side of the "wets," Dr. Milner explained.

The words credited to Lincoln, but since admitted to be those of another were:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control man's appetite for legislation and in making crime out of things that are not crimes.

"A prohibitory law strikes a blow at the very principles which our government has founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death, I will continue to fight for the rights of man."

LINCOLN WET DEFENSE DECLARED TO BE HOAX

Minister Gives Out Affidavit That
Quotation Was Fabricated for
Georgia Campaign

922

CHICAGO, July 10.—Donal that Abraham Lincoln once declared himself opposed to prohibition was made today by the Rev. Duncan C. Milner, associate minister of the Presbyterian Church, a Civil War veteran and chaplain of the Loyal Legion.

In a statement intended to refute the assertion of "certain wet organizations" that the "Immortal Lincoln had ever lent even a hint of approval to the liquor traffic," Mr. Milner made public an affidavit signed by three nationally known men setting forth that an alleged quotation from Lincoln which was used in a local option campaign in Georgia in 1887 was an admitted fraud.

The affidavit, signed by the Rev. Sam Small, evangelist; the Rev. Sam Jones and Henry W. Grady, declares that "some time after the campaign Colonel John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces, told that he himself had composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters."

The alleged statement of Lincoln's views was set forth in a circular sent broadcast in the campaign, and did much to defeat the local option measure by winning over the entire colored vote to the side of the "wets," Mr. Milner said.

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"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control man's appetite by legislation and in making crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibitory law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our Government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death, I will continue to fight for the rights of man."

Mr. Milner said that the alleged statement of Lincoln was being circulated today by organizations opposed to the Eighteenth Amendment.

WETS ADMIT DEVISING FRAUD IN "QUOTATION" FROM LINCOLN

Affidavits Show Statement That He Opposed Prohibition Was Framed to Win Negro Vote

CHICAGO, July 11—Denial that Abraham Lincoln had once declared himself opposed to prohibition is made by the Rev. Duncan C. Milner, associate minister of the Presbyterian Church, a veteran of the Civil War and chaplain of the Loyal Legion.

In a statement intended to refute the claim of "certain wet organizations" that the "Immortal Lincoln had ever lent even a hint of approval to the liquor traffic," Mr. Milner made public an affidavit signed by three nationally known men setting forth that an alleged quotation from Lincoln which was used in a local option campaign in Georgia in 1887 was an admitted fraud.

The affidavit, signed by the Rev. Sam Small, Evangelist, the Rev. Sam Jones, and Henry W. Grady, declares that "sometime after the campaign, Col. John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces, told that he himself had composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adherence of the colored voters."

The alleged statement of Lincoln's views was set forth in a circular widely broadcast in the campaign, and did much to defeat the local option measure by winning over the entire Negro vote to the side of the wets, Mr. Milner, explained.

The words credited to Lincoln, but since admitted to be those of another were:

Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control man's appetite by legislation, and in making crime out of things that are not crimes.

A prohibitory law strikes a blow at

the very principles on which our government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death, I will continue to fight for the rights of man.

The quotation was headed "Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation," and was followed with this appeal:

Colored Voter: He appeals to you to protect the liberty he has bestowed upon you. Will you go back on his advice? Look to your rights! Read! Act! Vote for the sale.

Mr. Milner declared that the alleged statement of Lincoln is being circulated today by organizations opposed to the Eighteenth Amendment, and appealed for a "campaign to forever clear the name of the Great Emancipator of so foul a stigma."

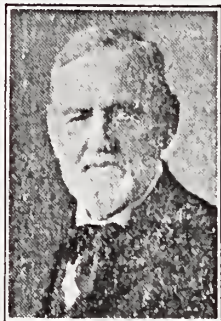
The affidavit made public by Mr. Milner says in part:

That the Rev. Sam Jones, Henry W. Grady, this affiant, and many other speakers then openly denounced the purported words of Abraham Lincoln to be a flagrant forgery, defied discovery of them in any recorded utterances by Lincoln, and offered a reward for proof of their genuineness, but no one produced any such proof.

That some time after the excitement of the campaign had disappeared, this affiant, in conversation with Col. John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces in said campaign, was told by Colonel Goodwin, that he himself devised the circular in question, composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters and had done so because to win them was the forlorn hope of the wets, the country at that time being under a prohibition law.

LINCOLN NOT OPPOSED TO PROHIBITION

Dr. Milner Brands as Fake
Alleged Statement Support-
ing Liquor Traffic



Reitz
Rev. Duncan C. Milner

Chicago, July 10.—Denial that Abraham Lincoln had once declared himself opposed to prohibition was made July 11, 1922, by the Rev. Duncan C. Milner, Associate minister of the Ravenswood Presbyterian church, a civil war veteran, and chaplain of the Loyal Legion.

In a statement intended to refute the claim of "certain wet organizations" that the "Immortal Lincoln had ever lent even a hint of approval to the liquor traffic," Dr. Milner, made public an affidavit signed by Dr. Sam Small setting forth that an alleged quotation from Lincoln which was used in a local option campaign in Georgia in 1887 was an admitted fraud.

The affidavit, signed by the Rev. Sam Small, evangelist, declares that Jones, and Henry W. Grady, declares "sometime after the campaign, Col. John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces told that he himself had composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters."

The alleged statement of Lincoln's views were set forth in a circular widely broadcast in the campaign, and did much to defeat the local option measure by winning over the entire colored vote to the side of the "wets," Dr. Milner, explained.

The words credited to Lincoln, but since admitted to be those of another were:

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"A prohibitory law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death, I will continue to fight for the rights of man."

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"That some time after the excitement of the campaign had disappeared, this affiant, in conversation with Col. John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the anti-prohibition forces in said campaign, was told by Col. Goodwin, that he himself devised the circular in question, composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters and had done so because to win them was the forlorn hope of the 'wets,' the county at that time being under a prohibition law."

Six July 21, 1922

THE NORTH SIDE CITIZEN
(FORMERLY THE RAVENSWOOD CITIZEN)

CARL E. ROTH, Editor

LINCOLN AND PROHIBITION

(Copied From The American Issue July 22, 1922)

AUTHORSHIP OF ANTI-PROHIBITION SCREED CREDITED TO

LINCOLN IS ADMITTED BY GEORGIA WET LEADER

Statement Attributed to Great Emancipator Widely Circulated by
Liquor Advocates in Wet and Dry Campaigns; Challenged
Repeatedly for Proof Which Could Not be Produced

FORMER MAYOR OF ATLANTA, CAMPAIGN LEADER FOR WETS
WROTE SCREED TO WIN THE NEGRO VOTE IN LOCAL FIGHT

It Saved the Day for Booze in That Battle and Wets Have Given
It World-wide Circulation; Efforts to Prove Lincoln Author
Failed; Drys Have Positive Evidence of Origin of Fake

SAM SMALL MADE AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHOR'S CONFESSION
OF DECEPTION

Dr. Duncan C. Milner, of Chicago, Lincoln Student, Makes
Affidavit Public and Thus Exposes One of the Most
Infamous Deceptions Ever Perpetrated On the Public

The liquor interests and their friends for a number of
years have been circulating an Anti-Prohibition declaration
credited to Abraham Lincoln. The most common version of this
declaration is as follows:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of
temperance. It is a species of intemperance itself for
it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts
to control man's appetite by legislation and in making
crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibitory
law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our
government was founded. I have always been found laboring
to protect the weaker classes from the stronger and I can
never give my consent to such a law as you propose to
enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death I will continue
to fight for the rights of men."

Given Wide Publicity

The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment has
been particularly active in circulating this fake. They have

printed it in their circular letters. Their Speakers have repeated it from the platform and occasionally some one of the more prominent of the members will quote it in newspaper interviews. Bishop Gailor recently did this and thereby this base slander on the name of Lincoln was given nation-wide circulation through the press.

Wets Could Never Produce

The booze interests have been challenged repeatedly to prove the authenticity of this Anti-Prohibition declaration. Of course they have never succeeded in doing this for the simple reason that Lincoln never said it or wrote it. Recently it was explained by a prominent wet leader that Lincoln made the statement in the Illinois Legislature when a Prohibition measure was before that body in 1839 and at which time he voted against the proposed Prohibition law. The following letter from the assistant librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library under date of June 30, 1922, is fairly good evidence that the booze apologist made a poor guess.

Illinois State Historical Library,
Springfield,
June 30, 1922.

Dr. Albert Porter,
Westerville, Ohio.
Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives was by him referred to this department for reply. I beg to advise that we can find no record of the quotation "Prohibition will work great injury," in any of the newspapers or published speeches of Abraham Lincoln. In the House Journal of 1839-40 there is a mere record of the vote on the Murphy bill, no speeches being given, nor is there anything published in the Springfield papers of that date.

The Anti-Saloon League and others have had representatives go over the files in this office and also the House Journals of that date but as above stated in none of the material in this library that we have gone over do we find any record of this quotation.

Yours very truly,

Georgia L. Osborn

Assistant Librarian, Illinois
State Historical Library.

Drys Find Real Author of Wets Creed

The Great Emancipator hated the liquor traffic. He himself was a total abstainer and the authenticity of his numerous pronouncements against the traffic and in favor of total abstinence can not be questioned. But where the outlawed liquor interests have failed either purposely or otherwise in running this vicious libel to earth an aggressive Prohibitionist and student of Lincoln's life and writings, Dr. Duncan C. Milner of Chicago, has succeeded and has produced documentary evidence that this so-called Anti-Prohibition statement of Lincoln's was written by a friend of the license system. It has been known that the statement made its first appearance in a local option campaign in Georgia a number of years ago. Dr. Milner's evidence squares with this hitherto one known fact in connection with the case.

Sam Small Makes Affidavit

Dr. Milner in reporting his findings to American Issue says:

"Not long ago I met Col. Sam W. Small, the noted editor, evangelist, and lecturer, and asked him if he could not furnish information on the subject." He said he was in the campaign in Atlanta where the speech was first used and he would make his affidavit to the facts. Dr. Small's affidavit is as follows:

"That in 1887 he resided in the city of Atlanta, Ga., and engaged actively in the Fulton county local option campaign of that year as an advocate of 'no sale' of intoxicating liquors; that during the latter days of that campaign a circular was issued by the Anti-Prohibition campaign committee purporting to quote Abraham Lincoln in the following words, to wit:

FOR LIBERTY - ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION

(A picture of the statue of Lincoln striking off the shackles of a kneeling negro man.).

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance itself for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control man's appetite by legislation and in making crimes out of things that are not crime. A prohibitory law strikes a blow at the very principle on which our government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker class from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law ~~xx~~ as you propose to enact. Until my tongue be silenced in death I will continue to fight for the rights of man."

(Then an appeal as follows:)

h "Colored voter! He appeals to you to protect the liberty he has bestowed upon you. Will you go back on his advice? Look to your rights! Read! Vote for the sale!

"That said circular was lavishly distributed among the colored people of the city and had powerful effect in determining

them to vote against Prohibition.

"That the Rev. Sam Jones, Henry W. Grady, this affiant and many other speakers then openly denounced the purported words of Abraham Lincoln to be a flagrant forgery, defied discovery of them in any reported utterances of Lincoln, and offered a reward for proof of their genuineness but no one offered such proof. Nevertheless the negroes believed them at the time and voted almost unanimously for the wet cause and gave it the very small majority it obtained.

"That some time after the excitement of the campaign had disappeared this affiant in conversation with Col. John B. Goodwin, who had been the director of the Anti-Prohibition forces in said campaign, was told by Col. Goodwin that he himself devised the circular in question, composed the alleged words of Lincoln so as to attract the adhesion of the colored voters and had done so because to win them was the forlorn hope of the wets, the county at that time being under a Prohibition law.

"Col. Goodwin was subsequently mayor of Atlanta and Grand Sire of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and then Grand Scribe of the same, located in Baltimore where he died in a very recent year."

The above affidavit signed by Sam W. Small was made before Notary Alan B. Prosire in the county of Arlington, Va., June 6, 1922.

Dr. Milner says that Col. Small in sending the affidavit stated: "I did not realize until our conversation that the rectification of that roarback was so important as it now appears to be."

This ought forever to kill this contemptible lie that has been so persistently circulated by the booze interests. However, they have so little regard for truth that the probabilities are that they will continue to repeat it. Those who revere the name of Lincoln whenever they see this fake Anti-Prohibition statement published or whenever they hear it repeated should promptly refute it with the true facts.

Let it be known that it was written and put in circulation by the campaign manager of the wets, Col. John B. Goodwin, in a local option fight in Atlanta, Ga., 1887.

CLASSED WITH THE DRYS

Feb 12 '23 Dr. Reisner Declares Lincoln and Roosevelt Were Both for Prohibition.

The Rev. Dr. David James Burrell, pastor of the Marble Collegiate Reformed Church, preached yesterday morning on "Lincoln the Christian." Dr. Burrell was present as a boy in 1858 at Freeport, Ill., when Lincoln and Douglas debated on whether slavery should be abolished. He gave a vivid picture of the scene.

Discussing the religious life of Lincoln, he said:

"Ah, but he never joined the church, you say. And that is quite true.

"But had his life been spared he would have done so. He sent for his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gurley, of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., asking the clergyman to come to the White House to see him.

"The time has come when I feel I ought to confess my faith," said Mr. Lincoln to Dr. Gurley. "And I have made up my mind to apply for admission to your church at your next communion." But, alas, before that next communion Lincoln had passed on.

"There is no lack of evidence to show—and this is the matter of chief importance—that Lincoln believed in all the fundamental doctrines of the religion of Christ. He believed in God. Not once but again and again in the discharge of his high office he spoke of himself as 'an instrument used of God.'

"Lincoln believed in prayer and was a praying man. Witness his farewell address to his neighbors at Springfield when he was setting out for Washington.

"On receiving the news of the capitulation of Lee, the President, when he met his Cabinet, was for a time unable to give utterance to his feelings; then at his request, 'they all dropped on their knees and offered in tears and silence their humble and hearty thanks to God.'

"Lincoln was an earnest and habitual reader and student of the Word of God. A year before his assassination he said in a letter to the Hon. Joshua Speed, 'I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book on reason that you can and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man.'

"Nor is this all. Lincoln was a devout Christian. He frequently referred to Christ as the Saviour. In the darkest days of the war he wrote to a friend, 'I have been reading on my knees the story of Gethsemane where the Son of God prayed in vain that the cup of bitterness might pass from him.' To Newton Bateman he wrote in the campaign of 1860: 'I know that there is a God and that He hates injustice and slavery.'"

"Lincoln and Cheerfulness" was the topic last evening of the Rev. Dr. Christian F. Reisner, in his sermon at Chelsea Methodist Church, 178th Street and Fort Washington Avenue.

"Lincoln and Roosevelt both declared themselves in favor of prohibition," said Dr. Reisner. "One who was touched so deeply by the afflictions of his fellow men as were these two men was bound to see the devilish effect of the liquor traffic."

Special services in commemoration of Lincoln's Birthday were held yesterday afternoon in St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University, with a sermon on Lincoln by the Rev. Dr. Raymond C. Knox, Chaplain of the university.

LINCOLN'S STAND FOR PROHIBITION

Christian Science Monitor
Washington Department
Reveals Interesting Side-
lights of President's View

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1925—In connection with the observance of Abraham Lincoln's anniversary, the information office of the Federal Prohibition Unit and Narcotic Division has released some interesting data concerning Lincoln's attitude toward prohibition. Preceding a statement by Roy A. Haynes, National Prohibition Director, the department reprints the following words of Lincoln spoken before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society, Feb. 22, 1842:

"Whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems to me not now an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues; and I believe all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts. Ought any of them to refuse their aid in doing what the good of the whole demands?"

"And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory."

Mr. Haynes in speaking of Lincoln and his work said:

In 1855, Mr. Lincoln drafted the Illinois Prohibition Act, using the Maine law to some extent as the basic guide, but the Illinois law drafted by Mr. Lincoln and presented with but few modifications, was a wonderfully perfect piece of legal mechanism. The act passed the Legislature, but the liquor people circulated garbled copies with forged interpolations of the bill in the referendum campaign, in which the bill was submitted to the people for final approval. The defeat of the bill in June by a state-wide majority of about 14,000 votes was attributed to fraud. One interesting feature of the bill was a provision, reflecting the great shrewdness of Lincoln and those who collaborated with him in framing the law, for the printing in pamphlet form of 50,000 copies of the act immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature, and sending of 500 copies to each county in the State for general distribution.

At the outbreak of the Civil War President Lincoln directed James B. Merwin, corresponding secretary of the Illinois State Maine Alliance, to make temperance addresses to the soldiers, writing for him, personally, a special pass. This was an innovation supported by Generals Scott, Butler and Dix. The President himself signed a memorial, setting forth the desirability of having this temperance work done among the soldiers. There was very great opposition to Merwin's suggested appointment as major, even to the extent that the papers were "lost" in the War Department and not "found" until Lincoln sent a sharp note asking for their return. Lincoln and Merwin did not abandon their idea, for he was later appointed chaplain of volunteers, and was assigned to duty under Surgeon-General William A. Hammond and C. McDougall. General Scott gave him a written introduction and endorsement, giving him free access to all the camps and posts, and asking that he be given multiplied occasions to enable him to address the officers and men.

So, in the early days, Lincoln took the initiative in a precedent which was violently opposed by many in official life. To this same Merwin, Lincoln's last utterance on temperance seems to have been made on the early afternoon of the day he was assassinated. Merwin, it seems, was carrying an important message for Lincoln to Colonel McClure of the Philadelphia Times, and Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune, with reference to General Butler's proposal to employ colored troops in constructing a Panama Canal. As Merwin was leaving, Mr. Lincoln said: "Merwin, with the help of the people, we have cleaned up a colossal job—slavery is abolished. After reconstruction, the next great question will be the overthrow and abo-

lition of the liquor traffic, and you know, Merwin, that my head and my heart and my hand and my purse will go into that work. Less than a quarter of a century ago, I predicted that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of those prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized."

LINCOLN WAS A DRY.

Chicago, March 1.—Mr. Robert J. Halle, the editor of the liquor paper, persists in his efforts to try to show that Abraham Lincoln was not in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. In his letter of Feb. 22 he repeats the statement that a liquor license was issued to Lincoln, when it has been positively shown that Mr. Lincoln never heard of this license applied for by his drunken partner, and it never was used.

Mr. Halle also quotes Lincoln as saying in his Washington speech that "It is not the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a very good thing that causes our trouble." Mr. Lincoln used this as a statement about popular opinion, and not the expression of his own conviction. Lincoln was not only in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic but favored its annihilation. He said in his noted speech, "whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems to me not now an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues, and I believe all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts."

Mr. Lincoln coupled slavery and intemperance together, and prophesied their ultimate destruction.

DUNCAN C. MILNER.

LINCOLN "WET," DEFI TO DRY

Martyred President Abstainer,
Methodists Say; Opposed
Prohibition, Is Reply

(Copyright 1926 by United News)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—With George Washington more or less firmly established as a convivial soul, prohibitionists and anti-prohibitionists now have turned their attention to determining where Abraham Lincoln stood on the great American question.

"Lincoln was an abstainer and a prohibitionist," the board of temperance, prohibition and public morals of the Methodist Episcopal church announces in observation of the 117th anniversary of the birth of the Liberator of Slaves.

FOUGHT DRY BILL

"The fact that Lincoln fought the Murphy state-wide prohibition bill in the Illinois legislature in 1840, and that he is on record as voting against it, indicates that he was not a prohibitionist," G. C. Hinkley, secretary of the Society Against the Prohibition Amendment, replied.

The Methodist board has quoted Lincoln as saying to Chaplain James B. Merwin, on the day of his assassination:

"Merwin, with the help of the people, we have cleaned up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction, the next great question will be the overthrow and abolition of the liquor traffic, and you know, Merwin, that my head and my heart and my hand and my purse will go into that work."

"Less than a quarter of a century ago I predicted that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of these prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized."

FEB 12 1926

Wash-Evening Star
D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1926.

DENIES LINCOLN HIT PROHIBITION

Speaker Refutes Views At-
tributed to Him by Anti-
Dry Factions.

Two myths surrounding the public life and acts of Abraham Lincoln were exploded by speakers last night at the forty-fourth anniversary dinner of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion at the New Willard Hotel.

Declaring that the entire thought of the phrases attributed to Lincoln on the subject of prohibition were far from Lincolnian, Capt. Sam W. Small, commander of the Naval and Military Order of the Spanish-American War, said the Civil War President never uttered the words he is quoted with saying regarding prohibition. The saying attributed to Lincoln has been used within the last few days by advocates of moderation of the Volstead act, and according to Capt. Small, originated in the mind of Col. John B. Goodwin in 1887 in Atlanta, where a bitter political contest was being waged over the prohibition question.

The phrases attributed to Lincoln, which he never uttered, Capt. Small said, were as follows: "Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and in making crimes out of things that are not crimes. A prohibitory law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our Government was founded."

Denies U. D. C. Charge.

Capt. Small denied that the proclamation of emancipation was prompted by a desire of President Lincoln to incite the negroes of the South to revolt. "Recently," he said, "that estimable lady who is president general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, crediting some author of misinformation, charged that President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation

was designed to instigate insurrection by the Southern negroes, the outraging by them of the helpless women of the South, thereby forcing the abandonment of the battlefield by the Southern soldiers to go to the protection of their women folks.

"Fortunately no shred of basis for this charge against Lincoln can be found anywhere in his character, his words or his acts. It cannot but wither before these words that he wrote into the emancipation proclamation: "'And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.'"

Wets and Drys Drop Washington, Pick Lincoln to Prove Question

2-16-1926

Milwaukee Journal

Washington—With George Washington more or less firmly established as a convivial soul, prohibitionists and anti-prohibitionists now have turned their attentions to determining where Abraham Lincoln stood on the great American question.

"Lincoln was an abstainer and a prohibitionist," the board of temperance, prohibition and public morals of the Methodist Episcopal church announces in observation of the one hundred seventeenth anniversary of the birth of the liberator of slaves.

"The fact that Lincoln fought the Murphy state-wide prohibition bill in the Illinois legislature in 1840, and that he is on record as voting against it indicates that he was not a prohibitionist," G. C. Hinkley, secretary of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, replied.

The Methodist board has quoted Lincoln as saying to Chaplain James B. Merwin on the day of his assassination:

"Merwin, with the help of the people, we have cleaned up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction, the next great question will be the overthrow and abolition of the liquor traffic; and you know, Merwin, that my head and my heart and my hand and my purse will go into that work. Less than a quarter of a century ago, I predicted that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of these prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized."

But as exhibit "A," the anti-prohibitionists present a facsimile copy of an official document purporting to show that on Mar. 6, 1833, Abraham Lincoln, William F. Berry, and John Bowling Green were duly licensed to conduct a tavern in New Salem, Sangamon county, Illinois, and to sell intoxicating liquors in accordance with the scale of prices fixed by the state.

Apparently undisturbed, the Methodist organization again quotes Lincoln as saying, according to Merwin:

"The real issue in this controversy, the one pressing upon every mind that gives the subject careful consideration, is that legalizing the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating beverages, is a wrong—as all history and every development of the traffic proves it to be—a moral, social and political wrong."

In reply to this, those who believe Lincoln was a wet declare that during one of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, Douglas chided his opponent upon the fact that during his earlier years he had worked in a distillery and had sold liquor over the bar. Lincoln replied that it was true, "but that Mr. Douglas had told only half the truth; that while Mr. Lincoln was behind the bar handing out the liquor, Judge Douglas was in front taking it in."

Says Lincoln Would Have Made America Dry but for Death

If Abraham Lincoln had not met an untimely death at the hands of an assassin he would have succeeded in making America dry, according to Charles T. White, a political writer on the Herald Tribune, speaking last night at the first annual patriotic dinner of the Battle Pass Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The dinner, which was attended by 200 members of the chapter and their friends, was held at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, 32 Court st.

Mr. White sketched the life of Lincoln and insisted that two ideals marked his career—the preservation of the Union which resulted in

the freedom of the slaves and the suppression of the liquor traffic. Lincoln's death, he said, resulted in postponing the inauguration of the dry era for 55 years.

Mrs. Smith H. Stebbins, the regent of Battle Pass Chapter, presided at the dinner and the program included soprano solos by Mrs. Robert Starr Allyn, interpretative readings by Miss Dagmar Perkins and community singing led by Howard Wade Kimsey, with Mrs. Kimsey as piano accompanist. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Dr. Frederick M. Gordon, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Federation of Churches.

Brooklyn Eagle 2-12-27

William L. Fish Cites Speech of Emancipator on Temperance Before Washingtonian Society to Refute Idaho Senator's Prohibition Inferences in Boston Address

AN open letter addressed to Senator William E. Borah of Idaho by William L. Fish, editor of *The Minute Man*, published in Newark, N. J., takes issue with Mr. Borah on the question whether Abraham Lincoln was a prohibitionist. In his letter, dated May 12, 1927, Mr. Fish tells the Senator that in his recent Boston speech he pictured Lincoln as a prohibitionist, adding:

"You, however, in the quotation given from the only recorded speech he ever made on the subject of temperance, the title being 'Charity in Temperance Reform,' committed several serious blunders."

Mr. Fish goes on to say:

"The Washingtonian Society was in the main composed of reformed drunkards, men and women who had been and still were down and out by reason of excessive use of intoxicating liquors. Mr. Lincoln was asked to address them, and he did so on Sunday, Feb. 22, 1842, in a church in Springfield, Ill.

"For a complete understanding of the whole occurrence I refer you to the testimony of a man who was there, and a man who three years later became Lincoln's law partner and remained as such until Lincoln's death, William H. Herndon. You will find in his *Life of Lincoln*, Volume II, commencing on page 260, a full description of the event.

Lincoln on Reformers.

"After reading Herndon's remarks, I invite you to read the whole speech, which you will find in Nicolay and Hay. You will not find the word prohibition anywhere. You will, however, quickly see that the speech was a very strong and earnest plea directed to the particular audience he was addressing to remain steadfast in their new pledges. The evils of intemperance were strongly dealt with, to be sure, but so were the wrong and futile methods of the reformers of that time condemned, and those reformers were itemized by him in the following words:

The warfare heretofore waged against the demon intemperance has somehow or other been erroneous. Either the champions engaged or the tactics they adopted have not been the most proper. The champions, for the most part, have been preachers, lawyers and hired agents. Between these and the mass of mankind there is a want of approachability, if the term be admissible, partially, at least, fatal to their success.

On Compulsory Abstinence.

"Lincoln could say those very words today to explain to the full the reason for the failure of prohibition as is. One more selection to illustrate his denunciation of compulsory abstinence is given:

When the dram-seller and the

drinker were incessantly told—not in accents of entreaty and persuasion, diffidently addressed by erring man to erring brother, but in the thundering tones of anathema and denunciation with which the lordly judge often groups together all the crimes of the felon's life and thrusts them in his face ere he passes sentence of death upon him—that they were the authors of all the vice and misery and crime in the land; that they were the manufacturers and the material of all the thieves and robbers and murderers that infest the earth; that their houses were the workshops of the devil; and that their persons should be shunned by all the good and virtuous, as moral pestilences—I say, when they were told all this, and in this way, it is not wonderful that they were slow, very slow, to acknowledge the truth of such denunciations, and to join the ranks of the denouncers in a hue and cry against themselves. To have expected them to do otherwise than they did was to expect a reversal of human nature, which is God's decree and can never be reversed.

"Following this he gives a swift history of 'intoxicating liquor,' which, he said, 'is just as old as the world itself,' ending with the following significant words: 'It is true that even then it was known and acknowledged that many were greatly injured by it; but none seemed to think the injury arose from the use of a bad thing, but from the abuse of a very good thing.'

"I ask you, Senator Borah, are these the words of a prohibitionist?

"It is a matter of record that the firm of Berry & Lincoln was formed in March, 1833, licensed to keep a tavern at Bowling Green, Sangamon County, Ill., and that they kept and sold intoxicating liquors at prices fixed by the authorities.

"Herndon relates that the firm failed very shortly, the cause being that Berry drank up the assets and then decamped. Lincoln, then a young man of 24, took upon himself the burden of the firm's liabilities and finally paid them in full, but it took over fifteen years to do it. At the time the speech was made, he had been paying off these liabilities for nine years. He, therefore, had a strong personal reason to hate intemperance.

His Stand in Legislature.

"Let us now move to Dec. 19, 1840 (just fourteen months before this speech was delivered), and review his prohibition record in the Legislature. A bill was proposed called 'An act to regulate Tavern and Grocery Licenses.' A Mr. Murphy of Cook County moved to strike out all after the enacting clause and substitute the following: 'That after the passage of this act no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this State, and that any person who violates this act by selling such liquors

shall be fined in the sum of \$1,000, to be recovered before any court having competent jurisdiction.'

"This clause became known as the 'Murphy State-wide prohibition proposal,' and if passed would have been the first prohibition law to be adopted by any State. If you will refer to the *Journal of the House of Representatives of the twelfth General Assembly of the Illinois Legislature*, on page 136, you will find that Abraham Lincoln moved 'to lay it on the table,' and on this a vote was taken, the result of which was the Lincoln motion was carried 75 to 8.

"Senator Borah, was this the act of a prohibitionist?

Ran Against Prohibitionist.

"Herndon, his partner, was a fiery prohibitionist, but lapsed into beastly drunkenness many times. Search through the three volumes of his 'Life of Lincoln' for any indication that his partner was of the same persuasion, you will do so in vain. You will find, however, a most practical illustration to the contrary.

"Four years after this speech (1846) Lincoln was elected to Congress, his opponent being the Rev. Peter Cartwright, a Methodist preacher and a prohibitionist. And what, pray, was Cartwright's chief point of attack upon Lincoln in the very vigorous campaign he conducted? Why, the very speech we are talking about. So we find that Lincoln ran against and beat a man because he was against prohibition, and his constituency was also!

"We now approach the . . . literary blunders. . . . The italics in the Borah text will note the substantial errors:

WHAT LINCOLN SAID.

If the relative grandeur of revolutions shall be estimated by the great amount of human misery they alleviate and the small amount they inflict, then indeed will this be the grandest the world has ever seen.

"And 295 words later the following:

And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and cradle of both these revolutions that shall have ended in that victory.

THE BORAH VERSION.

If the relative grandeur of revolutions shall be estimated by the great amount of human misery they alleviate and the small amount they inflict, then indeed will this, the temperance revolution, be the grandest the world shall ever win, and when the victory shall be complete, when there shall be neither slave nor drunkard on earth, how proud the title of that land which may truly proclaim itself the birthplace of both of these revolutions, the revolution against slavery and the

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1927.

revolution against drink, and that shall have ended the thing forever.

"To the casual commentator there is so little difference in the two versions he may wonder why so much is made of 'a tempest in a teapot.'

The Two Revolutions.

"Let us see what Lincoln meant in his reference to revolutions. . . . He had given a masterly résumé of 'our political Revolution of '76.' He then took up the voluntary revolution against intemperance as conducted by the Washingtonian Society, and made his point thereon in the first sentence of the above quotation. It is very simple after reading the entire context to see his point and to agree with it.

"You, however, by using words not in the speech have given to it a misleading . . . twist . . . You interpolate the following words: 'the revolution against drink.'

"Lincoln was never an abolitionist until as a war measure he issued his Emancipation Proclamation, twenty-

one years later. As late as 1858 in the Douglas debates he strongly denied that he was. He was a very great reader, particularly of history, and he, of course, knew that many countries in Europe had abolished slavery, commencing with Denmark in 1792, and including Great Britain in 1833, and, therefore, he could not have referred to slavery when he used the words, this time quoted correctly (in substance) by you as follows:

"How proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birth-place and cradle of both of these revolutions.' &c.

"Senator, you know or should know that the revolution he referred to was the 'political Revolution of '76,' as the first illustration and nothing else. To make matters worse and to clinch your contention you changed the words 'shall have ended in that victory' to 'shall have ended the thing forever.'

"I leave it to your conscience to

justify this bald attempt to convince the people of the United States that he linked slavery with drink by the alteration of the true words to some others, either borrowed or original with yourself."

LINCOLN AND PROHIBITION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In *The Times Literary Supplement* of April 28, in the review of "Prohibition in the United States," I find:—

"Many interesting facts not generally known emerge from this history. We learn, for instance, that Abraham Lincoln was an earnest champion of Prohibition in Illinois. He drafted a Prohibition law which was passed by the Legislature of that State in 1855, and which would have been adopted in a popular referendum that followed but for the opposition of his political enemy, Senator Douglas. And on the very day on which he was assassinated he sent a message to Horace Greeley that, after reconstruction, the next great question would be the overthrow and suppression of the legalized liquor traffic."

Will you permit me to say that the claiming of Lincoln as a prohibitionist began only a few years ago? The claim is based almost wholly on the statements of an old Mr. Merwin, which he did not make publicly till a long time after Lincoln's death. Among other things, he stated that he lunched alone with Lincoln on the day of his death, and that he discussed with enthusiasm the cutting through the Panama Canal by the labour of the freedmen, and that he gave Mr. Merwin this message to Greeley. Yet this most interesting information was not disclosed by Merwin for many years. Barton, in his recent "Life of Lincoln" (1925), expresses a disbelief in Merwin's statements, and says (Volume II, page 450), "Old men remember a great many things that never occurred." Merwin's statements were called, in 1917, to the attention of Lincoln's son, the late Robert Todd Lincoln. He wrote: "I was dumbfounded to know that my father had a friend who claimed such intimacy with him, and of whom I know nothing whatever. . . . I cannot help feeling that he has let his imagination run a little wild."

Laman's "Life of Abraham Lincoln" was published in 1872. He was a personal friend of Lincoln, and he says of him (page 480): "He disliked sumptuary laws, and would not prescribe by statute what other men should eat or drink. When the temperance men ran to the Legislature to invoke the power of the State, his voice . . . was silent. He did not oppose them, but quietly withdrew from the cause, and left others to manage it."

Yours very truly,

CHARLES E. STRATTON.

70, State-street, Boston, Mass.

Received at Post Office 26-27

LINCOLN AS TEMPERANCE WORKER

Tablet to Be Dedicated on Spot Near Springfield, Illinois, Where Emancipator Delivered Temperance Address and Many Signed Pledge He Presented

Abraham Lincoln's activities as a temperance worker will be commemorated at the little South Fork Christian church, 16 miles southeast of Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday, May 29, by the placing of a bronze tablet near the spot where, in 1846, the Civil War president delivered a stirring temperance address, following which many persons signed a pledge he presented.

With appropriate ceremonies, the tablet will be presented and dedicated by Dr. Howard Hyde Russell, founder and associate general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

In announcing the memorial, Dr. Russell asserted that the tablet "forever will stand as a refutation of the wets' claim that Abraham Lincoln was a liberal and that he did not favor temperance and prohibition" and "as a tangible reminder from the past to spur us on in the fight against repeal or nullification of our prohibition laws, and the fight for their strieter enforcement."

What Tablet Says

The inscription on the tablet reads: "At the South Fork log schoolhouse near this spot, Abraham Lincoln in 1846 delivered a temperance address. This was attested in 1903 by Cleopas Breckenridge, Moses Martin, R. E. Berry and Almarinda Galloway who had signed Lincoln's pledge at the meeting. The Lincoln-Lee Legion was founded at Oberlin, Ohio, Oct. 21, 1903. More than six million have signed Lincoln's pledge. This monument was dedicated by Howard Hyde Russell, founder of the Anti-Saloon League and Lincoln-Lee Legion, Sunday, May 29, 1927."

Following is the text of the Lincoln pledge, which more than 6,000,000 persons have signed in the past twenty-four years.

"Whereas, the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is productive of pauperism, degradation and crime, and believing it our duty to discourage that which produces more evil than good, we therefore pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a duty to discourage that which produces more evil than good, we therefore pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

"That pledge," said Dr. Russell, "played an important part in the voting of national prohibition, and the same spirit displayed by Abraham Lincoln in 1846 will do much toward defeating present-day attempts to repeal or nullify our prohibition laws. The Great Emancipator then declared intoxicating liquor a detriment to mankind. It still does 'more evil than good' and the American people know it and never will stand for the repeal or nullification of prohibition. The spirit of Abraham Lincoln, so ably expressed 81 years ago spurs us on to a greater fight for better enforcement of our prohibition and other laws."

The tablet will be erected on a concrete altar in the South Fork Church yard, which is directly across the road from the site of the old South Fork log school house, in the yard of which Lincoln delivered his stirring address.

Judge DuComb of the city court of South Bend, Ind., has served notice that the next person brought before him on a charge of driving an automobile while intoxicated will be fined \$500 and sentenced to the penal farm for six months.

Prohibition can be maintained and enforced in the same way it was secured—by the organized activity of those who believe in it.

Greenleaf Issue May 28, 1927

WAS LINCOLN A PROHIBITIONIST?

(Copied from: Milwaukee Journal, June 4, 1927)

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I invite you to read the whole speech, which you will find in Nicolay and Hay. You will not find the word prohibition anywhere. You will, however, quickly see that the speech was a very strong and earnest plea directed to the particular audience he was addressing to remain steadfast in their new pledges. The evils of intemperance were strongly dealt with, to be sure, but so were the wrong and futile methods of the reformers of that time condemned, and those reformers were itemized by Lincoln in the following words:

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Let us now move to Dec. 19, 1840 (just 14 months before this speech was delivered), and review his prohibition record in the legislature. A bill was proposed called "An act to regulate Tavern and Grocery Licenses." A Mr. Murphy of Cook county moved to strike out all after the enacting clause and substitute the following: "That after the passage of this act no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this state, and that any person who violates this act by selling such liquors shall be fined in the sum of \$1,000, to be recovered before any court having competent jurisdiction."

This clause became known as the "Murphy statewide prohibition proposal," and if passed would have been the first prohibition law to be adopted by any state. If you will refer to the journal of the house of representatives of the twelfth general assembly of the Illinois legislature, on page 136, you will find that Abraham Lincoln moved "to lay it on the table," and on this a vote was taken, the result of which was the Lincoln motion was carried 75 to 8.

Senator Borah, was this the act of a prohibitionist?

Abraham Lincoln and
Prohibition

"**L**INCOLN AND PROHIBITION," by Charles T. White, political editor of the New York Tribune, discusses at length and most interestingly the relation of Abraham Lincoln to the rising temperance movement of his day.

A view is given of Lincoln's early home life, which has been greatly misunderstood. As a matter of fact, Lincoln's father was a man of splendid character and great ability, and the conditions under which Abraham Lincoln was born and lived were general through that portion of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and a great part of the Upper South and Middle West.

Lincoln got his start in life under the influence of Bible reading and Christian living. He delivered his first temperance lecture while still a boy; wrote an essay on temperance at seventeen; and early joined the Washingtonians. He vigorously promoted the pledge signing movement of his day, entered into the Illinois prohibition campaign, writing a prohibition law; and after he became President he constantly maintained his temperance attitude.

The book tells of Lincoln's address to the Washingtonian Society, his letter to George E. Pickett, his connections with the "grocery" of Berry, and his promotion of temperance work in the army under Merwin.

LINCOLN'S IRE INFLAMED BY FANATIC DRYS

Emancipator Urged Temperance in All Things; Quaker Philosopher Praises Contest

Abraham Lincoln was not pleased with the idea of prohibition. He paid his respects to prohibitionists in no uncertain terms, as related in Carl Sandburg's "Life of Lincoln." Reformers complained to him that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Lincoln's master general and strategist in the Civil War, was wont to drink in the field. Lincoln then made his famous reply that he would like to know Grant's particular brand, so that it could be supplied to his other generals. In concluding his remarkable oration, Lincoln spoke for temperance, not prohibition. In a burst of oratory he exclaimed:

"Turn now to the temperance revolution. By it, none wounded in feeling, none injured in interest. Happy day when—all appetites controlled, all matter subjected—mind, all conquering mind, shall live and move, the monarch of the world. Glorious consummation. Hail fall of fury! Reign of reason, all hail! How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity both the political and moral freedom of their species."

EULOGIZES WASHINGTON.

In his famous address before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society, February 22, 1842, Lincoln, eulogizing George Washington on his birthday, said:

"Denunciations against dram-sellers and dram-drinkers are unjust, as well as impolitic. Let us see. I have not inquired at what period the use of intoxicating liquors commenced, nor is it important to know."

"It is sufficient that to all of us who now inhabit the world the practice of drinking them is just as old as the world itself—that is, we have seen the one just as we have seen the other."

"It is true that even then it was known and acknowledged that many were greatly injured by it, but none seemed to think the injury arose from the use of a bad thing, but from the abuse of a very good thing. The victims of it were to be pitied and compassionated, just as are the heirs of consumption and other hereditary diseases."

"Their falling was treated as a misfortune, and not as a crime, or even as a disgrace. If then what I have been saying is true, is it wonderful that some should think and act now as all thought and acted twenty years ago? And is it just to assail, condemn or despise them for doing so?"

"The universal sense of mankind on any subject is an argument, or at least an influence, not easily overcome. The success of the argument in favor of the existence of an overruling providence mainly depends upon that sense."

QUOTED BY QUAKER.

Franklin H. Heald of Fontana, Cal., philosopher of the Society of Friends, is one of those to quote the immortal emancipator for appropriate public use on Lincoln's birthday in connection with the offer of William Randolph Hearst of a \$25,000 prize for the best legally wordable and sensible substitute for prohibition. Mr. Heald adds:

"I was glad to see the purposes and rules of Mr. Hearst's contest. I hope and believe that this effort of a constructive publisher will be the means of saving the country from the curse of prohibition."

"Lincoln was right eighty-seven years ago, at the very start of the fanatic movement. I also believe our new president will back such a movement, if we back him up with our petitions."

"Mr. Hoover and I were members of the same Society of Friends at West Branch, Ia. In fact, we are cousins by marriage, and we both thoroughly understand that prohibition is a crime against good citizenship, as Mr. Hearst says, and as he said at the time prohibition became a theoretical law."

"FORGOT HATREDS."

"Nearly all people who are informed understand that our good old quaker 'uncles' such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, William Penn, Thomas Paine, Stephen Girard and others, helped found this nation in the 'spirit of friendship' regardless of religious hatreds and fanaticisms."

"I should like to see millions of Americans, who understand what temperance means as well as they know what prohibition has brought the Nation, write their prayers and petitions to President-elect Hoover and to their representatives and senators in Congress and force a showdown vote."

"We thus can rout these dangerous fanatics who would ruin the country by their innocent stupidity. If such a campaign to bring our government servants to their senses requires financing I will try to aid and will be a leader in subscribing \$5,000 to save the greatest Nation of known history."

"Everlasting credit to Mr. Hearst, to Mr. Hoover and to the Quaker doctrine of temperance in all things."

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Citing Lincoln

To the Editor of The World

Now that the wets and dries are having lively debates concerning the merits and demerits of prohibition, your readers might be interested in rereading Lincoln's "temperance" lecture, delivered in 1841, entitled "Charity in Temperance Reform." It is printed in Carl Sandburg's "Abraham Lincoln," I., 271 ff.

Among other things, Lincoln noted that "It is not much in the nature of man to be driven to anything, still less to be driven about that which is exclusively his own business, and least of all where such driving is to be submitted to at the expense of pecuniary interest or burning appetite." The "pecuniary interest" and "burning appetite" of some wets is obvious. We are likely to forget that the dries too are victims—not only of the "pecuniary interest" which attaches to paid propaganda, or, for example, to the sale of motor cars, but of the "burning appetite" which impels an enthusiast (fanatic) to make converts—though we have long recognized that religion, as well as "rum," can intoxicate.

Both sides should remember Lincoln's shrewd remark: "A drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall." (I think there is similar wisdom in "Poor Richard's Almanac.")

In the sixteenth century Montaigne wrote: "Nowadays that is not the truth which is true, but that which is persuaded to others. As we call money not only that which is true and good but also the false, so it be current." And Bacon warned: "... therefore care would be had that (as it fareth in ill purgings) the good be not taken away with the bad, which commonly is done when the people is the reformer."

ROBERT WITHINGTON.

Northampton, Mass., March 17.

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
MARCH 24, 1930

DEFEND LINCOLN AS DRY

IT IS PETTY TO PICK AT GREAT MEN, THE REV. G. A. FOWLER SAYS.

He Was a Temperance Worker, Pastor Asserts—The Rev. Walter H. North Cites the Greatness That Lives.

"Edgar Lee Masters's book on Abraham Lincoln strips the garments of heroism from another famous American," declared the Rev. George A. Fowler, pastor of the Trinity Methodist church, speaking yesterday on "Lincoln and Prohibition."

"It does seem rather petty business," Mr. Fowler said, "this attempt to pick flaws in the lives of our great men. These shallow critics cannot deprive them of the place they hold in the affection of a grateful people and the passing of the years will only add to their fame."

"Friends of the liquor traffic have tried to show that Lincoln was against the principle of prohibition. Specifically, they charge that he said prohibition would work great injury to the cause of prohibition; that Lincoln was in the liquor business; that he voted against a prohibition law when in the legislature; that he admitted in a debate with Douglass that he did sell liquor over the bar."

"The first proposition, which appeared years after the Civil War, is

denied even by certain leaders of the liquor traffic. It is denied by best biographers.

LOST PARTNER OVER LICENSE.

"The second is partly true in that a liquor license was taken out in the name of Lincoln and Berry, but as everyone knows, that was the issue upon which Berry and Lincoln dissolved partnership."

"On the third proposition, Lincoln, the leader of the temperance forces in the legislature of 1840, along with every other temperance advocate voted against a measure introduced by the son of a Chicago dram-seller."

"As to the fourth charge, it is possible that Lincoln may have made such a retort to Douglass. Indeed, when one considers the time in which Lincoln lived and that indulgence in liquor was quite universal, it would not be strange if there were truth in the statement."

The Rev. Walter H. North, at the Country Club Congregational church, spoke on "What Would Lincoln Say?"

STORIES DO NOT MATTER.

"It does not matter," he said, "whether the many legendary stories about Abraham Lincoln are true or false because we have the soul of the man mirrored in his productions."

"It is a great testimony to his greatness that in these days all parties seek their justification from Lincoln more than from any other."

"Lincoln was possessed of a sense of destiny. He believed that God was concerned with the welfare of persons and the character of nations."

When he left Springfield to go to Washington, it was not in the character of the successful candidate or the spirit of the conquering hero; rather was it in the mood of the child of destiny."

LINCOLN PICTURED AS A LIBERAL DRY

Stockdale Says He Would Have
Been Sympathetic to Plan
Offered by Anderson.

CITES SPRINGFIELD SPEECH

C. O. Moore, in Another Church,
Views the Emancipator as an
Ardent Prohibitionist.

The Wickersham report and the probable attitude of Abraham Lincoln toward prohibition were discussed in sermons yesterday at Calvary Baptist Church, 123 West Fifty-fourth Street, and at St. James's Methodist Church, Madison Avenue and 126th Street.

At the latter church, the Rev. George Maychin Stockdale said that Abraham Lincoln, if he were alive today, would not be the "kind of dry" who would refuse to consider the plan for liquor control evolved by Henry W. Anderson, a member of the Wickersham Commission on Law Enforcement.

He said:

"Mr. Lincoln was not among the early Abolitionists, though he hated the awful results of chattel slavery. It is doubtful how soon, if ever, in the prohibition movement, Mr. Lincoln would have joined, though even in his own day he hated the fruits of the liquor traffic. On Feb. 22, 1842, before the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, Ill., he said: 'When the conduct of men is designed to be influenced, persuasion, kind, unassuming persuasion, should ever be adopted. It is an old and true maxim "that a drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall."'

An opposite view of Lincoln's probable attitude toward prohibition was taken by C. Oliver Moore, Manhattan attorney, in an address on "Lincoln and the New Emancipation" before the morning congregation at the Calvary Baptist Church. When the Wickersham Commission took a position against the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, he said, it accepted the inevitable and rejected the impossible.

Mr. Moore said that Lincoln, who had been forced to deal with human slavery as the outstanding issue of his time, had looked forward to an emancipation from "the thralldom of drink."

June 3, 1932

3

Tale Picturing Lincoln as Wet Is Exposed as a Fake by W.C.T.U.

Reputed Statement to Effect Prohibition Would Be Undesirable Found to Be Saloon Group Hoax

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

EVANSTON, Ill.—Official refutation of a story circulated to give the impression that Abraham Lincoln was opposed to prohibition has been received by a Woman's Christian Temperance Union member who took the precaution of verifying an alleged Lincoln quotation which she read in a newspaper recently.

A letter from the Clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives on this subject is printed in the current Union Signal, W. C. T. U. organ, showing that the alleged quotation from a Lincoln speech, to the effect that prohibition would be undesirable, is not to be found in the House records of the date claimed in the clipping, nor in any other available record.

In reply to the request for verification, the Clerk of the Illinois House wrote his inquirer:

"This is in answer to your letter of the ninth inst. pertaining to a statement that Abraham Lincoln is said to have made in the Illinois House of Representatives on December 18, 1840, according to the journal of the house on Page 138.

"Said record does not show such a statement by Mr. Lincoln.

"We are informed by the head of the state historical society that upon extensive research no such statement by Mr. Lincoln as mentioned in your letter can be found anywhere of record.

"Trusting this is the information you desire, I am

"Yours very truly,

"George C. Blaeuer,
"Clerk of the House."

"This forgery is an old offender," the Union Signal comments.

"It first appeared in 1887, sponsored by the saloonkeepers of Atlanta, Ga., in their fight against local option. In that campaign the liquor dealers put up posters headed 'For Liberty, Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation.'

"Underneath was a picture of a Negro kissing the hand of Lincoln who was striking off the slave shackles. Then followed the fake quotation, which is restored today as a pro-saloon and anti-prohibition argument even though its complete falsity has been exposed several times.

"Ten years ago this fake was republished, and Sam Small, noted Atlanta journalist, made an affidavit that it had been devised by Col. John D. Goodwin, director of the anti-prohibition forces in Atlanta in 1887; and that Colonel Goodwin had admitted the whole business to Small himself.

"Small said Colonel Goodwin had deliberately misquoted Abraham Lincoln to attract the Negro vote in an effort to keep open the saloons of Atlanta. The affidavit with this information was made by Sam Small before a notary public on June 6, 1922."

LINCOLN ON PROHIBITION.

Vain Effort to Verify a Statement
Often Attributed to Him.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I had long suffered under the ignominy of being the only man who had lived a quarter of a century in New York without writing a letter to THE TIMES. Last Autumn I resolved to break this unfortunate precedent and sent you a short letter from Germany under the heading, "The Lesson of Our Experiment in Prohibition."

What I sought to emphasize was the fact, easily overlooked in our present frame of mind, that national prohibition was about to be abandoned, not merely because it had not succeeded, but because the people had come to realize that it ran counter to the fundamental principle of our government.

My title was too long to fit into a single line—the invariable rule of THE TIMES of London as well as of THE TIMES of New York. Accordingly, the editorial critic replaced it by the shorter one, "Lincoln on Prohibition," since the following statement, attributed to Lincoln, was used to illustrate the main point:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation; and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government

was founded. [Journal of the House of Representatives, 1840, p. 136.]"

I had never known of this statement until I read it last Summer in a European paper, but as it gave chapter and verse I had no doubt of its authenticity.

On my return I received various complaints to the effect that the statement was not authentic. At my request the librarian of the Illinois State University has just caused to be made a fresh study of the archives at Springfield, as well as of the files of Springfield newspapers of that period, with the result that he finds no evidence that the quotation is authentic. I am sorry to have attributed to Lincoln a statement he apparently never made. I am, however, inclined to believe that it is in line with the thinking of the Great Emancipator as to the relation of our national government toward the matter of prohibition enforcement. The Journal of the Illinois House of Representatives for Dec. 19, 1840, shows that a motion was made to put the following into the Illinois law: "That, after the passage of this act, no person shall be licensed to sell vinous or spirituous liquors in this State, and that any person who violates this act by selling such liquors shall be fined in the sum of \$1,000, to be recovered before any court having competent jurisdiction." Mr. Lincoln moved to lay this motion on the table, and this motion was carried by a vote of 75 (including Lincoln's own vote) to 8.

HENRY S. PRITCHETT.

New York, Dec. 23, 1932.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

January 26, 1933

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly inform us whether there is a quotation by Abraham Lincoln which contains the word "prohibition."

I have been asked for a quotation on prohibition by Lincoln. I have been searching through our material with little success.

I have referred the patron to (1) Lincoln's address before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society, February 22, 1842; (2) Remarks on Temperance in the Army to a Delegation of the Sons of Temperance, September 29, 1863; (3) to the story to a young man where Lincoln said, "My young friend, do not put an enemy in your mouth to steal away your brains."

These references do not answer the requirements. If you can help us discover such a quotation containing the word "prohibition" we shall be most grateful.

EW/RB

Yours truly,
Estella Wolf
Reference Librarian

Estella Wolf

Indiana Univ. Library

January 28, 1933

Estelle Wolf, Reference Librarian
Indiana University Library
Bloomington, Indiana

My dear Madam:

With reference to your enquiry about Lincoln's use of the word "prohibition" I cannot find it anywhere in his writings.

I rather suspect that your query has been prompted by the quotation beginning "Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance, etc". This alleged quotation of the president has long since been proven a forgery.

I feel quite safe in saying that Lincoln did not use the word "prohibition" in referring to the legalized liquor traffic but would use the word "temperance" when advocating the control of the system.

Yours very sincerely,

LAW/H

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Lincoln Saw Fight on Prohibition As a Defense of Civil Rights

Memorial Day Recalls His Aid to Trade

NEW YORK—Overshadowing all other historical figures connected with the public observance of Memorial Day, is the tall, sorrowful figure of America's martyred Civil War President—Abraham Lincoln.

It was only after Lincoln was slain in his box at a theatre party that the nation became fully aware of his wisdom as a chief executive and his noble character as an American.

INFLUENTIAL WORDS

Today, when his words are recalled and used to show the merits of various legislative proposals it is sufficient to mention that Lincoln favored a similar proposal when he was President, to earn for the bill a respectful consideration.

Thus it is specially significant, as this Memorial Day is celebrated, for members of the liquor industry to recall Abraham Lincoln's firm stand against prohibition, in any of its forms.

Lincoln was a tavern-keeper himself. In 1833, he and William F. Berry opened a saloon in Springfield, Ill., where the future President played the part of mine-host to such self-satisfaction that he remained opposed to the dries for the rest of his life.

Forever afterward, on his rise to the ultimate political seat of power, Lincoln struck a blow against the repressions and prohibitions sought by the total abstainers of his day.

Denouncing the Murphy Prohibition Bill before the Illinois State Legislature on December 19th, 1842, he asserted:

"Prohibition will work a great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation, and in making crimes out of things that are not crimes.

"A prohibition law strikes at the very principles at which government is founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I can never give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact. Until my tongue shall be silenced by death I shall continue to fight for the rights of man."

His straightforwardness led Lincoln to hurl a challenge and a warning to the dries themselves, when he was invited to address the Washingtonian Temperance



Abraham Lincoln's saloon-keeper's license, issued to him and William F. Berry in 1833, when they operated a tavern in Springfield.

Sketch shows the Great Emancipator just after he was elected to the presidency. From a contemporary photograph.

drinker are incessantly told, not in the accents of entreaty or persuasion, diffidently addressed by erring men to an erring brother, but in the thundering tones of anathema and denunciation, with which the lordly judge often groups together all the crimes of the felon's life and thrusts them in his face just ere he passes sentence of death upon him—that they are the authors of all vice and misery and crime in the land; that they are the manufacturers and material of all thieves and robbers and murderers that infest the earth; that their houses are the workshops of the devil; and that their persons should be shunned by all the good and virtuous as moral pestilences—I say, when they are told all this, and in this way, it is not wonderful that they are slow, very slow, to acknowledge the truth of such denunciation, and to join the ranks of the denouncers in a hue and cry against themselves."

Lincoln knew full well the advantages to the government in a taxes, controlled, alcoholic beverages industry. To pay some of the costs of the Civil War, alcoholic liquors were taxed severely, but the industry paid without a murmur.

After the war, when federal taxes were practically eliminated on all manufacturers, that on liquor and malt beverages was not touched, and for many years these were the main sources of revenue for the government.

BEVERAGE RETAILER WEEKLY

May 30, 1938

A. Lincoln, saloonkeeper, is revered in some quarters more highly than A. Lincoln, emancipator. Facsimiles of his tavern license have become standard equipment in refreshment parlors everywhere north of the Mason-Dixon. Latest to circulate copies of this deathless contract is the Hotel Times Square, New York, in a direct mail solicitation.

VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY!



LIQUOR HAS NO DEFENSE

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY! VOTE DRY!

Chilley, Mo. Rep. 2-14-'51



3 Tales To Brighten Up A Bleak New England Day

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABE or THE SUN
NEVER SETS ON MADISON AVENUE.**

A New York publicity agency, with the awareness and sensitivity typical of the business, sends us this educational tid-bit today:

"Were it not for various circumstances that led Abraham Lincoln into politics and eventually to the highest post of his country, in fact, he might have been a distiller — making whiskey for a living."

What prose to honor one of the masters of the English language! At any rate, the press agent goes on to explain that Abe's father, Tom, was a sometime laborer at a Kentucky distillery before moving his family to Indiana. That move was the first of the "various circumstances" which led Lincoln away from booze and toward the White House.

NATURALLY, if they hadn't moved, Abe would have gone to work in the mash house too and wound up marrying the boss's daughter and running the business. The clincher to this publicity message is that "George Washington owned distilleries in Virginia and has been called, 'The Father of the Distilling Industry.'"

Obviously, what's good enough for George is good enough for Abe. I'm sure the press agent would be astonished to hear that Washington is also called — among the uneducated minority, of course, the Father of his Country.

In another hundred years some press agent is going to be telling our great-grandchildren:

"Were it not for various circumstances that led Jack Kennedy into politics . . . he might have been a peat-dealer, selling turf for a living in Ireland . . ."

Oh, boy! Bartender, another shot of Old Abe!

LINCOLN ON PROHIBITION.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Ernest L. Benson is anxious to know, "if Abraham Lincoln were living today" (and after reading your many anti-prohibition articles), would he renew his subscription to THE TRIBUNE, as shown by his autograph letter which appeared in your issue of Feb. 12?

Permit me to say that Lincoln was not a prohibitionist. He was in favor of temperance, but not prohibition.

Lincoln, in a speech before the Washington Temperance society, delivered Feb. 22, 1842, among other things, said: "The preacher, it is said, advocates prohibition because he is a fanatic and desires a union of church and state; the lawyer, from his pride and vanity of hearing himself speak, and the hired agent for his salary." Later he declared, in the same speech: "It is not the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a very good thing that causes our trouble."

As a member of the house of representatives of the Illinois legislature, on Dec. 26, 1839, he voted against a local option bill, and on Dec. 19, 1840, he voted against a state-wide prohibition bill. (See house records of those dates.)

A further alarming fact is that on March 6, 1853, a liquor license was issued to Abraham Lincoln and his partner, Barry, permitting the sale of liquor at their general store at New Salem, now Petersburg, Ill. The building in which liquor was sold by Lincoln is still in existence. (See McClure's Magazine, February, 1896, page 220.)

The story has never been denied that when the prohibitionists demanded the dismissal of Grant from the army on account of drinking, Lincoln asked for the name of the brand of whisky that Grant drank, so that he might send a barrel of it to each of the other generals on the field.

From these brief excerpts from the life of Lincoln it must be conceded that he would not only be a consistent reader of the great family newspaper, but would heartily enjoy the anti-prohibitionist articles that have appeared in THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE during the last few months, which, permit me to suggest, should be collaborated and put in pamphlet form for general distribution.

ROBERT J. HALLE. ✓

QUOTES LINCOLN ON DRINK.

**General Miles Says Emancipator
Prayed for Revolt Against Abuse.**

CHICAGO, Feb. 12 (Associated Press).—Abraham Lincoln's prayer that America might be the scene of two revolutions, one against slavery and one against drunkenness, has been fulfilled, General Nelson A. Miles, retired, Civil War veteran and Indian fighter, told the Press Club of Chicago today.

"In his speech at Springfield, Ill., Feb. 22, 1843, Lincoln said 'the grandest revolutions the world has ever seen' would be those that would leave 'neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth.'"

General Miles declared, "Lincoln added, 'how proud will be the title of that land which may truly claim to be the cradle of both revolutions.'"

"At the age of 28 years Lincoln added a wise political philosophy in the following language:

"Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher of his posterity swear by the blood of the Revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country and never to tolerate their violation by others."

DID LINCOLN FAVOR PROHIBITION?

That the great Emancipator not only favored the destruction of human slavery but sought to inspire mankind to free itself from the enthrallment of alcohol, is borne out by history. In his famous temperance address delivered in 1842, he maintained that the fall of slavery and the overthrow of intemperance would be the most powerful allies of the cause of political freedom. "And when the victory shall be complete," he exclaimed---"when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth,—how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both these revolutions that shall have ended in that victory."

Lincoln and Liquor.

REV. DUNCAN C. MILNER, D. D., wrote some time ago a volume entitled "Lincoln and Liquor," setting forth with fulness and with scholarly accuracy, after thorough investigation, the stand which Abraham Lincoln took against the use of alcoholic liquor. This book is now sent out in a second edition, with an extensive supplement. Dr. Milner has traced down and disproved all the lies of the liquor men attempting to associate Lincoln with their business and to set him in opposition to prohibition. And further, the volume convincingly shows that Lincoln throughout all his life, in a time of almost universal drinking, was in a most outspoken way an advocate of total abstinence. (Chicago: W. P. Blessing Company. \$1.)

Lincoln and Prohibition.

LINCOLN was among the earliest and most active advocates of prohibition. A writer in *The Christian Herald* gives this bit of history:

"A fight was conducted by the Illinois State Maine Law Alliance, and it was under the auspices of that association as secretary that I went into the campaign in which I had Lincoln as my strong right arm. I got Lincoln to write the prohibitory bill that was to be voted upon. After he had drafted it, he said, 'There, I think it will hold water, but what I want to know is whether it will hold whiskey,' and he sent me to a number of fine lawyers to get their opinion on it.

"He made at least thirty addresses for me in the campaign, and was the most powerful and popular speaker we had.

"Lincoln was so deeply interested in the fight that he helped me raise money for it. In fact, it was through his personal influence mostly that the funds necessary for carrying on the campaign were raised. Mr. William B. Ogden, then president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and a man of tremendous influence, who was deeply interested in the fight for no-license in the State, asked me to bring Mr. Lincoln into his office for a conference as to the most efficient method of carrying on the contest. I took Mr. Lincoln into his office, and we entered seriously and heartily into the discussion of the problem, at the close of which Mr. Ogden wrote out his personal check for \$2,500, and, handing it to Mr. Lincoln, said: 'If you need more, come back to me. I will duplicate that check cheerfully.'

"In that early period we came within 15,000 votes in a popular election of carrying Illinois."

Facts Versus Fallacies

FACT is a real state of things. FALLACY is an apparently genuine but really illogical statement or argument.

MANY FALLACIES have been exploited by Prohibitionists to create the impression that Abraham Lincoln was an advocate of the impractical proposition of law placing a ban upon the use of liquors, when FACTS are to the contrary and point to the great Emancipator being a supporter of Temperance—in all things. And Temperance means moderation—not Prohibition.

LINCOLN was himself a dealer in alcoholics. In Nicolay & Hay's history of the lamented President (Vol. I, Chap. 4) it is recorded: "By virtue of half a dozen signatures, Berry and Lincoln became proprietors of the only mercantile establishment in the village" (New Salem, Illinois).



"IN the Spring of the next year, finding their merchandise gaining them little or nothing, they concluded to keep a tavern in addition to their other business, and the records of the company, according to Sangamon county, shows that Berry took out a license for that purpose on the 6th of March, 1833. A copy of the original license, which appears below, presents evidence which cannot be disputed.

**License
to
Berry
&
Lincoln**

"Springfield, Wednesday, March 8, 1833.

"Ordered that William F. Berry, in the name of Berry and Lincoln, have license to keep a tavern in New Salem, to continue 12 months from this date, and that they pay one dollar in addition to six dollars heretofore paid, as per Treasury receipt, and that they be allowed the following rates (viz.):

French Brandy, per ½-pint....25c	Peach Brandy, per ½-pint....18½
Apple Brandy, per ½-pint....12c	Holland Gin, per ½-pint....18½
Domestic, per ½-pint12½c	Wine, per ½-pint25c
Rum, per ½-pint18¼c	Whiskey, per ½-pint12½
Breakfast, dinner, supper....25c	Lodging, per night17
Horse, per night25c	Single feed1
Breakfast, dinner, and supper for stage passengers	37½

Who gave bond as required by law."

AND it is a further FACT, recorded in history, that in an address delivered February 22, 1842, before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society, Lincoln said: "Too much denunciation against dram-sellers and dram-drinkers was indulged in. This, I think, was both impolitic and unjust."

THUS is shown the FACT that Lincoln did believe in the moderate use of liquor—and that he so thoroughly approved that he owned a tavern, where was dispensed alcoholic stimulants to others.

**Tavern
of
Berry
&
Lincoln**

Published by Personal Liberty League of Allegany county, F. Brooke Whiting, president.

No!

WHERE would our mightiest commoner, democracy's uncrowned king, stand on the Prohibition issue if he were alive to-day?

In conversation with Chaplain Merwin on the early afternoon of the day on which he was assassinated, while discussing intemperance among the soldiers, he said:

"Merwin, with the help of the people, we have cleaned up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction, the next great question will be the overthrow and abolition of the liquor traffic; and you know, Merwin, that my head, my heart, my hand and my purse will go into that work. Less than a quarter of a century ago, I predicted that the time would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see, thank God, one of these prophecies fulfilled. I hope to see the other realized."

We can imagine, if Lincoln were living at this hour, what a thundering No! he would have for "nullification" of the Eighteenth Amendment.



III.

HIS TEMPERANCE VIEWS. That Mr. Lincoln was a total abstainer from all intoxicating liquors, both prior and subsequent to his election as president, and also certainly during the four years and ten days as chief executive of the nation is a matter of sufficient historical clearness and certainty to be forever settled. That he deeply regreted the political exigencies of the day which SEEMED to make it necessary to put a heavy tax upon all intoxicating beverages in order to get a war revenue, is fully and historically accounted for. But he waived his objection to this measure with the full understanding that it was a war measure only, and that when the nation should recover from the ravages of the war, the measure would be repealed. And we are certain that had he been spared, he would have given personal and direct attention to the repeal of the war tax on intoxicating beverages. **AND THIS NATION HAS BROKEN FAITH WITH ONE OF ITS GREATEST PRESIDENTS IN THIS MATTER AND CAN NOT REDEEM ITSELF UNTIL IT HAS, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SALOON TO EXIST,** and the outlook for such a triumph was never so encouraging AS NOW.

In the fight in which we are now engaged and in which the national congress has repudiated the liquor traffic, let us fondly hope that the redeemed spirit of the great martyred president is watching, is not unaware of the struggle, but is near to us and encourages us to invoke the aid of the great Jehovah for a complete victory from the destruction and tyranny of the legalized and licensed saloon.

"THE PRESIDENT (LINCOLN) IS A CONFIRMED DRUNKARD"

34. (ABRAHAM LINCOLN). PHILLIPS. (WENDELL). Famous abolitionist, etc. An almost unbelievable AUTOGRAPH LETTER, prudently not signed!! 8 EXCEEDINGLY FULL PAGES, 8VO., "Boston, March 27th. 1865." To "Dear Conway." (Doubtless M. D. Conway).

"... There have been no SECRETS OF LATE—at least none have floated MY way... I broke voice & said THEY WERE PLANNING THAT PLOT & WOULD CARRY IT OUT IF POSSIBLE. The discussion of it strengthened Macpherson. BUT THE TROUBLE THEN WITH (ANDREW) JOHNSON WAS HE TALKED "FAIR" TO BOTH SIDES AND WAS FOR A TIME BELIEVED. WHEN SUMNER CAME HOME IN MAY HE TOLD ME THE PRESIDENT ASSURED HIM (THE LAST WORDS HE SAW (?) THAT "THEIR VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL & ALL HIS ACTIONS ON RECONSTRUCTION WOULD MEET A.J.'S FULL APPROVAL." He (A.J.) SENT CHASE (AS CHASE TOLD ME) SOUTH, with permission to make those SPEECHES—He (A.J.) HELD THE SAME LANGUAGE TO WILSON (AS WILSON TOLD ME). This still goes on deceives ONE man... I SAY THAT THE POLICY IS GET TEN RADICALS (SUMNER ETC.) TOGETHER, organize a direct resistance to the President AVOWEDLY ON THE BASIS THAT HE HAS. IMPEACH HIM IF POSSIBLE. CONFUSION is a better policy than HARMONY bought at any sacrifice of substance. BUT NOW THE PRESIDENT GETS ALL THE STRENGTH OF ACTING UNDER GARB OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY? OUR MAJORITY WEAKENS EVERY DAY... WE SHALL LOSE THE FALL ELECTIONS. WE CAN, IF WE BEGIN, NOW, DEFEAT THIS, UNMASK THEM TODAY—PROCLAIM THEY ARE NOT REPUBLICANS, AVOW THE QUERREL AND APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE.

THE PRESIDENT IS A CONFIRMED DRUNKARD—AND HAS OTHER VICES COMMON ON SOUTHERN PLANTATIONS BESIDE (DON'T QUOTE ME FOR THIS, I ONLY TELL YOU OUR BEST RUMORS) THEY SAY DETECTIVE (E. D.) BAKER DETECTED TOO MUCH ABOUT THE PRETTY PARDON BROKER, MRS. GABLE OF N. J. A. J. AND HENCE HE MUST BE DESTROYED.

But they fear going too far lest he (B) RETALIATE." etc.

Brought into this are Butler, Andrew, Boutwell, Adams, Garrison, and others. An absolutely amazing letter

\$30.00

Helsi cat 2477

It were well if every man, woman, and child in the United States would read and appreciate the significance of what Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania said in Atlantic City, N. J., the other day regarding Abraham Lincoln and liquor. "Were Lincoln alive today," declared the Governor, "he would be heartily in favor of the Eighteenth Amendment, and would lend his energies without fail to see that it was enforced." Continuing, he said:

He was an enemy of drink. Beyond that he was a supporter of the theory of self-government, the basic tenet of which is obedience by all people to the law made by the people.



LINCOLN SAID:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation, and in making crimes out of things that are not crimes.

"A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker classes from the stronger, and I never can give my

consent to such a law as you propose to enact.

"Until my tongue shall be silenced in death I will continue to fight for the rights of man."



CARSON-HARPER DENVER

WHY ABRAHAM LINCOLN SIGNED THE LIQUOR REVENUE BILL

REV. DUNCAN C. MILNER

Perhaps the most serious mistake in the wonderful political career of Abraham Lincoln was that he signed the internal revenue bill which, in laying a tax on liquors, did it in such a way that their manufacture and sale were put under the protection of the national government.

The story of the passage of the bill and Mr. Lincoln's approval is of great interest. It was the second year of the great war and the expenditures of the government were enormous in comparison with any previous experience of the republic. It was also a critical time in military affairs. The Union armies had met with some serious defeats. The soldiers were unpaid. The proposed internal revenue bill exacted a heavy tax on everything upon which such a burden could be laid. The proposal to exact a large tax from liquor makers and sellers provoked bitter debates in both houses of Congress. Among the leaders were sincere champions of prohibition and they were divided on the bill. Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts made serious objection to the measure because it was a form of licensing the liquor traffic. He said, "I look upon the liquor trade as grossly immoral, carrying more evil than anything else in this country, and I think the Federal government ought not to derive a revenue from the retail of intoxicating drinks."

He had the foresight to prophesy that it would give the business of liquor selling a respectable position and that "It will be hailed from one end of the country to the other by the whole rum selling interests of the country. . . . It will give immense power and strength to the liquor selling interests." Senator Grimes of Iowa and Senator Pomeroy of Kansas stood with Senator Wilson. On the other hand Senator William Pitt Fessenden of Maine, one of the strongest champions of prohibition, took the ground that the license of the revenue bill was only nominal, that it was really a tax and did not authorize any sale of liquor contrary to the state law.

The measure was introduced into the House of Representatives by Anson P. Morrill of Maine, another champion of prohibition. He favored the bill because it imposed a burden on the liquor traffic and said, "If you make this tax so high as to prohibit the traffic, which it does not propose to do, you can do no more

valuable service to your country." He declared he would favor a tax so high that it would wipe out the business and also that if the sale of intoxicating liquors could be stopped the "country would suffer less by the war than it has and does from the use of intoxicating liquors."

Senator Wilson was strongly opposed to the license idea, but favored a tax. He said, "I would like to put enough tax on it to prohibit the manufacture of a single gallon of liquor in the whole country. If I had the power to do that and could do it, I should think that I was a public benefactor."

While the friends of prohibition were divided on the support of the revenue Secretary of the Treasury Chase pressed Mr. Lincoln in behalf of the empty treasury and made the plea that the soldiers and sailors and their families were in great need and money must be furnished. The secretary and friends of prohibition treated it as an emergency measure that would be revoked as soon as the war was over.

The testimony of Major James B. Merwin, an old friend of Mr. Lincoln and a co-worker with him for temperance, is of interest and value. In a letter to the writer he said, "There were tens of thousands of soldiers, faithful, self-denying, patriotic and true, who had not been paid for months. Secretary Chase, a most accomplished and successful financier, had exhausted every resource of the country. The families of soldiers, to my certain knowledge, were without food and some of them without shelter. Napoleon said, 'Make the vices pay the bills,' and so they came to President Lincoln and pleaded with him to recoup the empty treasury by taxing liquors. He revolted at once! 'Never,' said he, 'will I consent to that infamy.' Lincoln, great as he was and good as he was, was not so great as his party. He had to yield to the pressure—to my certain knowledge with the specific agreement that it was only and distinctly 'a war measure' to be repealed as soon as the war was over. I know positively how the great Lincoln struggled days over this matter, but a person not conversant with existing conditions can form no idea of the pressure."

In another letter to me, Major Merwin wrote, "Mr. Chase sent for me for two consultations on the matter, he was so

much afraid I should advise against it. I told Mr. Lincoln, 'I dare not advise you one way or another. I know the pressure for money to pay the troops.' Please always stand on the positive agreement that it was to end with the war. To my personal knowledge that consent was obtained for Mr. Lincoln's signature to the bill."

At the Anti-Saloon League convention at Columbus, Ohio, a few years ago, Major Merwin gave similar testimony. He declared that in the presence of Senator Wilson, Secretary Chase and himself, Mr. Chase said, "Mr. Lincoln, we have got to have the resources of evil as well as good to end this rebellion and we must have the resources. Mr. Lincoln, we cannot stand it any longer."

Then Mr. Lincoln said, "I had rather lose my right hand than to sign a document that shall perpetuate the liquor traffic, but as soon as the exigencies pass away I will turn my attention to the repeal of that document."

If Mr. Lincoln had survived the war there can hardly be any question that he would have sought the repeal of this law that was so shrewdly manipulated by the liquor interests, to give an air of respectability to their business and so intrench it in law, and add to their enormous financial gains.

It may be well to recall the fact that for nearly fifty years before the war there was no Federal tax on the liquor traffic. There were customs duties on imported liquors. While at this time there was no financial burden put upon the liquor business it was the time of the inauguration of the modern temperance reform. During that period there had arisen the American Temperance Society, the American Temperance Union,

the Washingtonian and Father Mathew total abstinence crusades and the beginning of the fraternal temperance societies of which the Sons of Temperance was the pioneer. By the close of 1855 fourteen states were under prohibitory laws. Agitation for both slavery and temperance was before the country, but finally the slavery question took the leading place until it was settled by the war. After the war the liquor makers found that the paying of so large a share of the expenses of the government by the revenue, gave them place and power and made friends for them among many people who were not unwilling to save taxes even at the shameful price of partnership with a business so destructive and dangerous.

On the last day of Mr. Lincoln's life Major Merwin was a guest at the White House. He was to go as a special messenger from the President to Horace Greeley and others to get their influence in forwarding a plan to employ colored troops in the construction of the Panama Canal. After Mr. Lincoln had given the papers and instructions he said, "Merwin, we have cleared up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. After reconstruction the next great question will be the overthrow and suppression of the legalized liquor traffic and you know that my head and heart, my hand and my purse will go into the contest for victory. In 1842, less than a quarter of a century ago, I predicted that the day would come when there would be neither a slave nor a drunkard in the land. I have lived to see one prediction fulfilled. I hope to live to see the other."

Mr. Merwin wrote, "We shook hands and I left for Philadelphia and New York. That night the bullet of the assassin sent him into eternal silence."

NATIONAL WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Price, 2 cents each; per 50, 15 cents; per 100, 25 cents

