

THE RECORD OF AN AGITATION.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, acting through its President, the late Miss Frances Willard, sent out on January 21, a letter to a number of women regarding the conditions at Yale in respect to the use of intoxicating liquors and urging certain action in the matter. The letter took as the premises for its conclusions and the motives for the action suggested, the statement made by the Funk and Wagnalls Company's weekly paper, *Voice*, which is considered the New York organ of the Prohibition party. Miss Willard's letter, after reviewing these statements, read as follows:

"In view of the alarming facts concerning Yale University, I would earnestly urge you to use all your official and personal influence to secure the following early action:

"First: That all local unions, at the earliest convenient time, pass resolutions expressing deep regret that the Yale authorities permit students to enter saloons, and to have intoxicating liquors in their dormitories, and to have them served at their class spreads; also expressing horror and grief at exposing young men, the majority of them in their teens and away from the restraining influences of home, to the frightful dangers of the saloons and brothels that infest the neighborhood of this great and venerable institution. Let the resolutions forcibly declare that until these evils are remedied we will do all in our power to have our sons and brothers seek their education at institutions where the environments are less dangerous. The resolutions should also urge upon the authorities at Yale to help carry no-license in New Haven, as has been done in the city of Cambridge by the help of Harvard professors and students for these eleven successive years; also to have as far as possible the inter-collegiate sports held in places that are free from saloons.

"A copy of the resolutions should be forwarded either to Rev. Timothy Dwight, D.D., LL.D., President Yale University, New Haven, Conn., or to Henry P. Wright, Ph.D., LL.D., Dean of the College Faculty, New Haven, Conn., and copies should also be sent to the *Union Signal*, Chicago, and the *Voice*, New York.

"As this desired reform at Yale is of such grave and far-reaching importance, I urge

"Second: That each union secure the signatures of a number of parents to the following petition, and send the same to one of the Yale addresses given above, also a copy each to the *Union Signal* and to the *Voice*."

The petition is here given:

PETITION.

As the students in our universities and colleges are in large majority only lads in their teens and away from the restraining influences of home, and in view of the fact that these students are the very flower of American youth, and are to be the future leaders in literature, science, education, and government, as well as in many of the industrial enterprises, and of the fact that the use of intoxicants is exceedingly detrimental to fixed habits of study, to mental clearness, and to moral character, while the example of drinking habits among students is very widely corrupting among the young men outside of college and who look upon college men as examples of cultured manliness;

Therefore, We the undersigned parents respectfully petition:

First: That you will forbid students under your charge to enter places where alcoholic liquors are sold for beverage use, to keep such liquors in their dormitories or rooms, or to have them furnished at their class or other spreads and banquets.

Second: That you will use your great influence to secure prohibition of the sale of intoxicants within the city of New Haven, the same as has been secured at Cambridge.

Until such action is taken by your honored body, much as we honor Yale University, we feel compelled to send our sons and brothers to institutions where these provisions for safety against intoxicating drinks have been adopted.

THE BASIS.

The statements of the *Voice*, referred to, were contained in different articles published in the last two months. The

first was an article which purported to describe the celebration of the Yale-Princeton game. The article was a letter from New Haven, which was headed up in scare-head style, as follows: "Old Yale's Triumphant Drunk. The Great Yale-Princeton Football Game Inaugurated and Ended in a Monster Carouse Lasting From Friday Afternoon Till the Dawn of the Sabbath—Two Nights and a Day of Maudlin Revelry.

Directly under the head was this table:

CASUALTIES OF THE GAME.

Students killed.....	—
Students wounded	7
Students drunk, not less than	1,000

In regard to this table it ought to be said that the reference of the last item must be to Yale students exclusively, as it refers to the celebration, and as the article expressly states that all the Princeton contingent went out of town on the first trains, early in the evening, after the game. This estimate means that forty per cent. of all the students registered at Yale University this year were drunk on the night of November 20.

A few sentences taken from the article may show its nature. "Friday afternoon the trouble began. The saloon-keepers knew what to expect, and had added to their stock of liquor by the wagon-load. Late in the afternoon, a thousand Princeton students came in, mostly on a special train." This last statement shows that on Friday afternoon there were left at Princeton, at the outside, sixty-five students, eighty-five members of the Faculty and ten officers.

Speaking of Saturday morning the account says: "The drunken uproar around the New Haven House became so intense that Yale's trainer took his team away to No. 250 York street for their lunch before the game. About 12.30 the great throng began the march to the seat of war, the Yale athletic grounds, which are discreetly located in one corner of the St. Lawrence cemetery. The cold wind was bitter, and it seemed as though everybody was armed with a whisky bottle. Every blast of Notus was a signal for all hands to take a nip—'just to keep warm, you know.'"

As to Saturday night the account says: "I made repeated efforts to count the students who were drunk at Sandall's, at Heublein's and at the Tontine. In no case could I succeed. In each place I got into the hundreds, but would be swept from my position by the screaming mob. * * * * * It seemed as though at least every other man to be found anywhere was drunk. But by repeated attempts to count the drunken men in various places and ascertaining those who appeared to be college boys from the others, I could not possibly estimate less than one thousand drunken students in New Haven last night."

A great deal of space is given to describing the alleged over-crowded condition of the lock-up, in which the police placed one Yale student in the course of the evening.

A later issue of the Funk and Wagnalls Company's publication, which advertises itself as "a paper that should be in the hands of every lover of humanity," contained a repetition of the statements of the first letter and what is called evidence in support of these

statements in the writings of two New Haven reporters, who have already made quite a reputation hereabouts in the writing of yellow material.

On December 23, the same paper contained a long article purporting to be a history of the conditions at Harvard University relating to drinking. The contents of the article are sufficiently indicated by its head: "Harvard is Born Again.—Marvelous Transformation Wrought at the Big University by Ten Years of Prohibition.—Two Hundred and Fifty Years of College Carousals Followed by Ten Years of Prohibition Sobriety.—One Hundred and Twenty-Five Saloons Wiped out—Alcohol Banished From Social and College Circles.—President Eliot and 393 Associates Vote for Prohibition in Cambridge."

A SECOND CHAPTER.

On December 30 a letter from New Haven called "staff correspondence," filled up most of the issue of this paper. The head is again used to indicate the trend of the article: "Yale's Battery of 66 Saloons.—They Surround the University Within a Radius of Two Blocks From the Campus and Green—Disgraceful Orgies Among Students are Considered Very 'Funny' by the Editors of College Papers.—Out of a Faculty of 250 Members, but Three are Suspected of Voting No-License for New Haven's 400 Grogshops—Disgraceful Practices of Visiting Alumni.—Professors Wink at Alcoholic Revels in the Dormitories, and the Beer-Wagons Make Regular Rounds to the College Clubs, Some of Which Hold Regular Saloon Licenses."

By including in the starting-point the Green, which covers two blocks, the "battery" includes nearly all the saloons in the heart of New Haven. The use of the word block is an unusual one. It will be clear to those familiar to New Haven to say that this territory, containing the "battery," is bounded by York street at one end and State street at the other, and by Wall and George in the other two directions. Some of the finer passages in this article are the following:

"Drinking and bibulous carousals are popular at Yale. Excesses of this nature, unless of such an atrocious character as to compel recognition, meet with no frowns from the powers that be."

"Yale is subdivided into a multitude of little clubs and secret societies, most of which have degenerated into little better than drinking clubs."

"The Junior Promenade, which usually takes place in January, is another season of drunken carousals at Yale."

"The semi-conivance of officers of the University with this sort of debauchery has demoralized Yale student life almost from top to bottom."

In one of the following numbers a long article was printed on Dartmouth's record as to intoxicating drinks, and on February 3, all the worst things that had been said against Yale were repeated, in an article headed "The Drink Devil in Colleges."

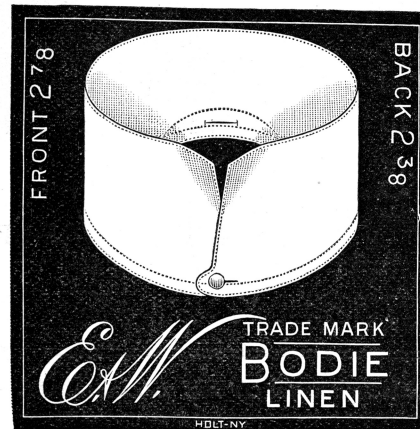
This issue also contained a number of portraits and letters from "men who would not send a son to Yale." These names included ex-Judge Noah Davis, Bishop Mällalieu, Rev. H. K. Carroll, Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon, Mr. James B. Hobbs of Chicago, Bishop J. H. Vincent, Mr. Ferdinand Schu-

macher of Chicago, Helen M. Gougar and ex-Senator W. A. Pepper.

BISHOP VINCENT HEARD FROM.

Bishop Vincent's name in this list occasioned much surprise. He has since been heard from in the following letter:

"Dear Dr. Funk: I do feel grieved at the sensational announcement in the *Voice* that I 'would not send a son to Yale.' I never said or thought any such thing. And I never signed any document relating to 'no license in a College town' with the thought of Yale [Continued on 10th page.]



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