

Moral Reform.

Daniel Webster's Opinion of Freemasonry.

"I have no hesitation in saying that however unobjectionable may have been the original objects of the institution, or however pure may be the motives and purposes of the individual members, and notwithstanding the many great and good men who have from time to time belonged to the order, yet, nevertheless, it is an institution which in my judgment is essentially wrong in the principle of its formation; that from its very nature it is liable to great abuses; that among the obligations which are found to be imposed on its members, there are such as are entirely incompatible with the duty of good citizens; and that all secret associations, the members of which take upon themselves extraordinary obligations to one another, and are bound together by secret oaths, are naturally sources of jealousy and just alarm to others; are especially unfavorable to harmony and mutual confidence among men living together under popular institutions, and are dangerous to the general cause of civil liberty and good government. Under the influence of this conviction it is my opinion that the future administration of all such oaths, and the formation of all such obligations, should be prohibited by law."—From a letter dated Boston, November 20, 1835.

Federal Law on Sale and Use of Opiates.

The federal law regulating the sale of opiates went into effect March 1. The law provides that each person who sells or distributes opium or coca leaves, their salts, derivatives, or preparations, must be registered with the collector of internal revenue and pay a privilege tax. Druggists who sell the drugs shall keep the name and address of each person purchasing, and these lists are to be open for inspection by government officials. Physicians who administer an opiate must keep a record of the name of patient, amount administered, and the time the drug was given. The maximum penalty for failure to observe the provisions of the law is a fine of \$2,000 and five years in prison. The new law will no doubt be of some service in checking the alarming increase in the use of habit-forming drugs. It will at least make more careful the sellers and dispensers of such drugs and save many who ignorantly would begin the use of preparations containing opiates.

A Great Temperance Convention.

The Anti-Saloon League of America is building a program, including the greatest speakers in this country, for the National Biennial Convention, which will be the greatest convention of temperance forces ever held in the country. This convention will be held on the Steel Pier at Atlantic City from July 6th to 9th, inclusive.

Because of several facts, this convention promises to draw more attention from both friends and foes of prohibition than any other gathering that ever has been held. Since the holding of the convention at Columbus, Ohio, in November, 1913, great strides have been made in temperance reform. The vote in the House of Representatives, when the prohibition amendment received a majority of the votes cast; the imperial edict whereunder Russia has become a prohibition nation; the voting dry, in November, of five out of seven states voting; the great attention which the industrial world is giving to the temperance issue; the making dry of the American navy; the pronouncement of the Catholic convention at Niagara Falls, and the general denunciation of the liquor traffic by other denominations; these and other great occurrences of the past year and a quarter are making all men take notice of the rapid advancement of the prohibition cause. Then, too, while the convention is being held, campaigns for state-wide prohibition will be in progress in several states.

Truly, the attention of not only America, but the entire world will be focused on Atlantic City during that week of July. All persons will be recognized as delegates, who are appointed by local church, Sabbath school, Gideons, Young People's societies, temperance organizations, Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A., or district or annual associations, synod or conventions of a religious body, or by any state board of trustees or state headquarters committee, or any other organization co-operative with the state department. Each local organization as indicated in the above is entitled to one delegate and one alternate.

If pastors, Y. M. C. A. secretaries and others entitled to representation will forward at once the names and addresses of their delegates and alternates to the Anti-Saloon League of America, Westerville, Ohio, literature and other information will be mailed to them immediately.

Mr. Lincoln said: "The liquor traffic is a cancer in society eating out

its vitals; and all attempts to regulate it will only aggravate the evil; it cannot be regulated; it must be eradicated." The people of Ohio are in a fair way to learn this. They have what they call a "license law" just now. The whisky people worked for it with might and main, and they got enough ignorant and gullible people, who were deceived into thinking that the saloon could be regulated, to vote with them and carry it. And now they have it and they have been rebelling against and threatening to break every one of its restrictions. They will break it at every point they can. They are a lawless, anarchistic crew, who can be held in only by the most forceful measures. The result of it all will be entire prohibition in Ohio before long. The whole horrible business must be wiped out as tuberculosis and cancer and smallpox are being fought to the death, and as gambling and theft and murder are outlawed and are being crushed out of existence.—Herald and Presbyterian.

Lutheran Charities.

We are often told that if the churches had been as charitable as they ought to have been, there would have been no occasion for lodges. Contrast the charitable work of any denomination of Christians of this country with the similar work of any lodge, the Masonic for example. Take the Lutherans, and we are not naming now all of their charities, but only the larger. From the latest figures it appears that the Lutherans have institutions as follows: Thirty-nine homes for the aged; forty colleges; fourteen homes for the helpless; fifty-six orphans' homes; one home for the feeble-minded and epileptics; a sanatorium; a deaf mutes' institution; nine deaconess' homes; eleven home-finding societies; sixteen missionaries in East India; seventeen Inner missions; eleven young ladies' seminaries; fifty-four academies; eight missionaries for deaf mutes; seven "foreign" missions in this country (among Estonians, Poles, Lithuanians, Slovaks, Finns, Persians); five Emigrant missions; a Seamen's mission; a Jewish mission; an Indian mission (in Wisconsin).

The above is only a partial showing of one denomination. The churches of the United States spent for mission work in foreign lands last year more than sixteen million dollars.

The lodge, the saloon and the dance are a triplet, and either one will defile pure religion and make it void.