

Lincoln and the Liquor Question



*"It is not the use of a bad thing, but
the abuse of a very good thing"*
—LINCOLN

Compiled from the
Most Reliable Authorities
By Robert J. Halle

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LINCOLN AND THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

The attempt of the Prohibitionists to make capital out of the centennial celebration of Lincoln's birthday and to divert the honor and glory due the great emancipator to their own un-Christian and heathenish doctrine is too serious to be allowed to pass unnoticed.

The Pharisees of old who denounced Christ as a wine bibber were but the forerunners of the Pharisees of to-day who endeavor to persuade their over-credulous adherents, that the wine that Christ made, drank, blessed, and gave as a memorial of His divine person, was nothing but pure, unfermented grape juice, are the same Pharisees that to-day are claiming Lincoln as a prohibitionist in order to cover their tattered garments, stained with corruption, deceit and dishonor, under the broad cloak of the martyred President.

Lincoln has been called the "Man of Sorrow," and as the Christ-like "Man of Sorrow" of old, preached and practiced "temperance in all things" and at all times.

Both Christ and Lincoln drank moderately and abhorred drunkenness, and preached the doctrine of moral and not legal suasion for those too weak to withstand temptation.

Let not the honors that are bestowed upon the great emancipator by a grateful people show him in a wrong light on the Mahommedan doctrine of prohibition.

The early history of Lincoln reveals him as a country storekeeper who kept in stock and sold liquor as others did in those days. It reveals him as a moderate drinker of wines and liquors. It reveals him as a statesman voting and opposing prohibition and its twin brother, local option. It reveals him as an orator advocating temperance and opposing the false doctrine of prohibition, declaring that the injury done by liquor did not "ARISE FROM THE USE OF A BAD THING, BUT THE ABUSE OF A VERY GOOD THING."

A year ago the writer published an article in the "Champion" on "Lincoln as a Saloonkeeper," which aroused the ire of some very staunch prohibitionists who took exception to the following quotation from a speech 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 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."

Mr. Alonzo E. Wilson, chairman of the Prohibition Committee of Illinois, offered \$50 for proof of the authority of the above passage, while the Rev. Royal W. Raymond, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of the State of Washington (who has since resigned under a cloud), offered \$100 reward "for the citation of any accepted authority wherein may be found the words of Abraham Lincoln," as quoted above. Mr. Raymond just now does not care what Lincoln said on any subject.

This indignant protest on the part of the prohibitionists caused a general research into the Lincoln archives at Springfield which has resulted not only in the absolute proof of the truthfulness of the above quotation, but in the production of the most positive proof that Lincoln was not only a moderate drinker but an opponent of prohibition and local option.

The absurd outcry of the Women's Christian Temperance Association and some ministerial organizations against the serving of wine at the Lincoln banquet at Springfield, the attempt of the Anti-Saloon League to make capital out of the memorial celebration by the "breaking of ground" for "a Lincoln Temperance Memorial Building," to be used for a printing office in which their official organ, the "American Issue," is to be published, is a sufficient excuse for the publishing in a concise form the facts concerning Lincoln and the prohibition question.

LINCOLN DRANK MODERATELY.

The prohibitionists claim that Lincoln was a total abstainer because some very eminently respectable people declare that *they never saw him drink*. Lincoln did a great many things that a host of people never saw him do, but there is a cloud of witnesses who know and saw him drink among them. We quote from three of his best biographers:

The Hon. John Hay, late Secretary of State, who was at one time private secretary to Lincoln, who prohibitionists delight to quote in defense of their claim. They have circulated a letter, said to be written by John Hay, in which he states that Abraham Lincoln never took a drink of "*whisky*." The letter, however, is most cunningly worded and even if genuine it is very inconclusive. It runs as follows:

Dear Sir—Mr. Lincoln was a man of extremely temperate

habits; he made no use of either *whisky* or tobacco during all the years that I knew him.

(Signed)

JOHN HAY.

The impartial reader will observe that this letter is undated and the name of the person to whom it is supposed to have been sent carefully omitted; and it covers only a small period of Lincoln's life—about four or five years. The writer makes reference to only *one* kind of alcoholic beverage, viz., "whisky," although there were in Lincoln's time a score or more different kinds in common daily use. This letter therefore is not straightforward or to the point. Probably it is not authentic, though we do not actually say so. John Hay is now dead, and if he lived he would certainly make a frank denial or no denial at all. Even if this letter is admitted to be genuine it contains no proof whatever that Lincoln "never tasted any kind of alcoholic beverage." In fact, it may be considered evidence to the contrary; else why is the name of only one intoxicating beverage mentioned? The natural inference is that Lincoln drank some of "the other kinds" to his private secretary's knowledge. Upon investigation we find that such is the case.

In November, 1890, Hay wrote an article in the *Century Magazine* in which he makes the positive and most emphatic declaration that Abraham Lincoln was *not* a total abstainer, but occasionally drank a little wine. The following is a quotation from the article:

"The pleasures of the table had few attractions for Lincoln. A portion of the ledger leaf showing Lincoln's account, he rarely took more than a biscuit and a glass of milk, a plate of fruit in season; at dinner he ate sparingly of one or two courses. He drank LITTLE or no wine; NOT THAT HE REMAINED ALWAYS ON PRINCIPLE A TOTAL ABSTAINER, as he was during PART of his early life."

Every just minded reader must acknowledge that the above duly authenticated sentence is good and substantial evidence that Abraham Lincoln, when President of the United States, took a drink of wine occasionally to the full knowledge of his then private secretary.

Further proof that Lincoln drank has been found in the long forgotten ledger of a drug firm doing business at Springfield. A portion of the ledger leaf showing Lincoln account which we reproduce herewith.

Abraham Lincoln for many years had an account at the drug store of Corneau & Diller, located on the east side of

the public square, in Springfield, Ill. The junior member of the firm, Mr. R. W. Diller, was one of the popular characters of the day and the drug store was the social center for all the

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Dr. Abraham Lincoln

1853	Coamt Brot from page 126	#2 145	
Mar 18	" 1 st Cr. Sarter	48	38
May 2	" Mini Sarsaparilla & Pills	77	25
10	" Box Pain Extractor	51	1 00
"	" "Lake & Monitor Soap	"	40
19	" 1/2 pt Brandy	"	50 *
July	" "C. C. pills	120	15
25	" Paragorie	124	16
Aug 1	" Bot Sarsaparilla ¹⁰⁰	128	1 00
"	" Cast. Oil ¹⁰⁰ Castile Soap ¹⁰⁰	"	20
4	" 1/2 pt Brandy	130	50 *
6	" Cr Sarter Sweet Oil	131	25
12	" " 2 ^o pt Brandy ¹⁰	134	70 *
"	" 1 st Spanish Brover	"	10
13	" 1/2 pt Brandy	135	50 *
18	" Castile Soap	138	10
24	" Bot Cordial	143	10
Sept	1/2 " 1 st Spanish Brover ¹⁰	147	10
9	" 1/2 Cr. Sarter & Coffee ²⁵	153	25
17	" Cordial ¹⁰ 1/2 Cr. Sarter ²⁰	154	30
20	" Sweet Oil ¹⁰ 2 ^o Soda Water ³⁰	163	40
27	" Extolomon Ven Red ¹⁰	164	35
Oct 1	" 1/2 pt Brandy	118	25 *
Oct 5	" Cr. Sarter ²⁵ Cr. Sarter ²⁵	172	50
8	" 2 qts Brandy ¹⁴⁰	174	2 00 *
12	" Soda ¹³ 2 ^o Cr. Sarter ⁴⁰ Soda ²⁵	182	78
29	" Cr. Sarter ²⁵ Br Sarter ²⁵	188	35
"	" Hair Brush ¹²⁵ Beef Manner ²⁵	"	1 50

* Stars Indicate Charges for Brandy.

Fac Simile of the Leaf from the Ledger of Corneau & Diller, Druggists, of Springfield, Ill.

local celebrities. It was at the Diller drug store that Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas often met and exchanged stories. Mr. Corneau retired from the firm and the business

was conducted by Mr. Diller until a comparatively recent date. In 1905, the business having passed to the firm of Hoy & James, there was discovered an old ledger containing the account of Abraham Lincoln from 1849 to 1853, inclusive. The first entry in Lincoln's account was made August 10, 1849. Up to 1853 the account does not specify the articles purchased, the charge being entered simply as "merchandise." The page reproduced is a part of the account of 1853:

Mr. Whitney, who was one of Lincoln's lawyer-partners at Springfield, Ill., is the author of a book entitled, "*Life on Circuit with Lincoln.*" It was published in Boston in 1892, and may be found in any public library. On page 157 the following paragraph appears:

"Once I remember, several of us drove out to the residence of Reason Hooten near Danville, Ill., where we were treated to SEVERAL VARIETIES of home-made wine. A mere sip of each affected Lincoln, and he said, 'Fellers, I am getting drunk.' That was the nearest approach to inebriety I ever saw in him."

The plain meaning of this paragraph is that Abraham Lincoln, when he was a lawyer did, once upon a time, indulge in a glass of good liquor and actually became a "little elevated." Mr. Whitney's evidence on this point is conclusive, and he knew Lincoln personally and intimately for a long period.

It will be observed that Lincoln "sipped several varieties of wine," a thing which of course no true total abstainer would do; but then Lincoln was *not* a total abstainer.

Colonel Ward Hill Lamon was at one time Major Domo at the White House and United States Marshal of the District of Columbia during the Lincoln administration. Before that he had been intimately associated with Lincoln as his law partner and bosom friend. Lincoln was in the habit of telling Colonel Lamon about his early life, his struggles, trials, adventures and habits.

It was only natural, therefore, for Colonel Lamon to become one of his friend's best biographers. In 1872 he published a "*Life of Abraham Lincoln*"—a volume of over 600 pages. (Osgood & Co., Boston.) Upon page 80 the following sentence may be read:

"In those days Abe (then a young man), as usual, is described as being funny, jokey, full of yarns, stories, rigs, as being tall and green, frequently quoting poetry and reciting prose-like orations. They had their own amusements. Abe (who was the camp cook while boat building) extracted a good deal of fun out of the cooking and **TOOK HIS DRAM WHEN**

ASKED TO, and played 'seven-up' at night, at which he made a good game."

Does not this paragraph contain an emphatic declaration that Lincoln "TOOK A DRAM?" A "dram" means a glass of whisky, rum, gin, or brandy, which judging from his drug store bill must have been his favorite tippie.

The same historian, on page 65 of the work referred to, describes a fight which Lincoln broke up. He says:

During the time Lincoln lived at Gentryville he seems to have spent his spare time in writing very bad doggerel containing sarcastic, ironic allusions to some of his neighbors; this resulted in a fist fight between one of the men who had been slandered and John Johnston, who was Abraham Lincoln's step-brother. Johnston appeared to be getting the worst of it, when Lincoln, "bursting out of the crowd, seized Grigsby by the heels and flung him off. Having righted John, and cleared the battle ground of all opponents, 'he swung a whisky bottle over his head, and swore that he was the 'big buck of the lick.'"

Herndon and Weik, on page 44, refer to this incident in the following language: "There he stood, proud as Lucifer, and, swinging a bottle of liquor over his head, swore he was 'the big buck of the lick.' 'If anyone doubts it,' he shouted, 'he has only to come on and whet his horns.'"

Isn't that a dainty dish to set before a prohibitionist?

Mr. Foster, a lawyer, of Peoria, Ill., in an interview in the Chicago Tribune declared he saw Lincoln drink whisky several times in a law office in Bloomington, where Mr. Foster was a law student in 1851. The law firm was Rogers & Leeming. Mr. Leeming was afterwards a master in chancery in Chicago. He died a few years ago.

"I saw Lincoln drink more than one time and more than one day, and saw him drink whisky that had been given him by my preceptor, Mr. Rogers.

"I don't believe Mr. Leeming ever saw Lincoln drink, for Rogers and Lincoln were close together and generally came to the office by themselves, had their quiet little drink, then sat down and talked about the day's work for a long while.

"Lincoln would come up from his home on law business when court was in session, and after a hard day's work he would come over to our office with Mr. Rogers, who would get the jug of whisky, pour out a generous drink for Mr. Lincoln and one for himself, and then drink it right before me. I was 19 years old, and considered too young to drink, and so was

not asked. They generally had but the one drink, but on unusual occasions would take a second glass, smaller than the first one.

"Abraham Lincoln was a temperate man, but he would take a drink of whisky with a personal friend when he felt its need. I have seen him drink whisky under such conditions. He did not use tobacco."

C. H. Smith, 266 31st street, Chicago, who was sutler for a Wisconsin regiment throughout the war, offers "circumstantial evidence" that President Lincoln drank claret:

"Lincoln visited our regimental headquarters with Secretary of War Seward. I had five cases of claret in my stores, and this wine was used for entertainment of the party. I can't say that Mr. Lincoln really drank any of the wine, but others who were in the tent said he did. I only know that I never got back any of the wine."

Further proof, if necessary, could be furnished, but even the most skeptical must admit that Lincoln was a moderate drinker.

LINCOLN KEPT A SALOON.

In McClure's Magazine for February, 1896, page 220, appears the fac simile of the tavern license issued to Lincoln and his partner March 6, 1853, which we produce herewith. Some of the clerical prohibitionists have declared this to be a "fake," but we give herewith a fac simile of the certificate from the County Clerk of Sangamon County to the effect that it is absolutely on record in his office.

The following is the form of the license and the bond that was used in those days:

THE LICENSE GIVEN TO LINCOLN.

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

Franch brandy, per half pint	25
Peach brandy, per half pint	18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Apple brandy, per half pint	12
Holland gin, per half pint	18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Domestic gin, per half pint	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wine, per half pint	25
Rum, per half pint	18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Whisky, per half pint	12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Springfield Wednesday March 6th 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 here to be paid as per Treasury receipt and that they be allowed the following rates (viz)

French Brandy per 1/4 pint	25	Breakfast dinner & supper	25
Peach	18 3/4	Logging per night	12 x
Apple	12	Horse per night	25
Holland Gin	18 3/4	Single feed	12 x
Sausage	12 1/2	Breakfast dinner & supper	25
Wine	25	Supper for 5 persons	37 x
Rum	18 3/4		
Whiskey	12 x		

who gave bond as required by law.

Fac Simile of Lincoln's Saloon License.

State of Illinois } ss
Sangamon County }

I, Charles E. Opel, Clerk of the County Court in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true, perfect and complete copy of an order of the County Commissioners Court of said County, made and entered of record on March 6th, 1833, as fully and completely as the same appeared from the records in my said office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office in Springfield, the 25th day of April A.D. 1838.



Charles E. Opel
County Clerk
By Geo Ambrose Deputy

Fac Simile of Clerk's Certificate That the Above Is Genuine.

Breakfast, dinner or supper.....	25
Lodging, per night	12½
Horse, per night	25
Single feed	12½
Breakfast, dinner or supper for stage passengers.....	37½

who gave bond as required by law.

COPY OF BOND WHICH LINCOLN GAVE.

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 three hundred dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seal and dated this 6th day of March, A. D. 1833. Now the condition of this obligation is such that whereas the said Berry & Lincoln has 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.

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

“Lamon, a Lincoln historian, in his “Life of Lincoln,” says (page 137), ‘Of course he (Lincoln) sold liquor by the quantity and probably by the drink, * * * some of it he gave away; for no man could keep a store without setting out the customary dram to the patrons of the place’—mostly farmers and backwoodsmen.’ On page 480, the same authority declares that President Lincoln himself drank spirituous liquors in moderation—nothing to his discredit—and, further, that ‘he disliked sumptuary laws (prohibition?) and would not prescribe by statute what other men should eat or drink.’”

Miss Ida Tarbell in her most interesting article on Lincoln in McClure’s Magazine for February, 1896, says:

LINCOLN HAD A BARTENDER.

The license seems to have stimulated the business, for the firm concluded to hire a clerk. The young man who secured this position was Daniel Green Burner, son of Isaac Burner, at whose house Lincoln for a time boarded. He is still living on

a farm near Galesburg, Ill., and is in the eighty-second year of his age (he has since died). "The store building of Berry and Lincoln," says Mr. Burner, "was a frame building, not very large, one story in height, and contained two rooms. In the little back room Lincoln had a fireplace and a bed. There is where he slept. I clerked in the store through the winter of 1834, up to the 1st of March. While I was there they had nothing for sale but liquors. They may have had some groceries before that, but I am certain they had none then. I used to sell whisky over their counter at six cents a glass—and charged it, too."

N. A. Lamon, on page 137 of his "Life of Lincoln," says: "When Douglas, with that courtesy for which he distinguished himself in the debates with Lincoln, revived the story that Lincoln kept a saloon, *Lincoln replied, that there was but little difference between them; for, while he figured on one side of the counter, Douglas figured on the other. It is certain liquors were a part of the stock of all the purchases of Lincoln & Berry. Of course they sold them by the quantity, and probably by the drink. Some of it they gave away, for no man could keep store without setting out the customary dram to the patrons of the place.*"

The building in which this saloon was conducted is still in existence, but of course in a very dilapidated condition, as will be seen by the accompanying cut.

In connection with this we quote the following from the "Champion's" report of the recent convention of the National Liquor League:

"Mr. R. J. Halle, on behalf of the Illinois delegation, presented National President McDonough with a very handsome gavel of historic origin. In making the presentation, Mr. Halle said:

"Among the many statesmen that Illinois has sent to Washington none stands out more prominently in American history than the immortal Lincoln. The Prohibitionists have recently canonized and claimed him for their patron saint.

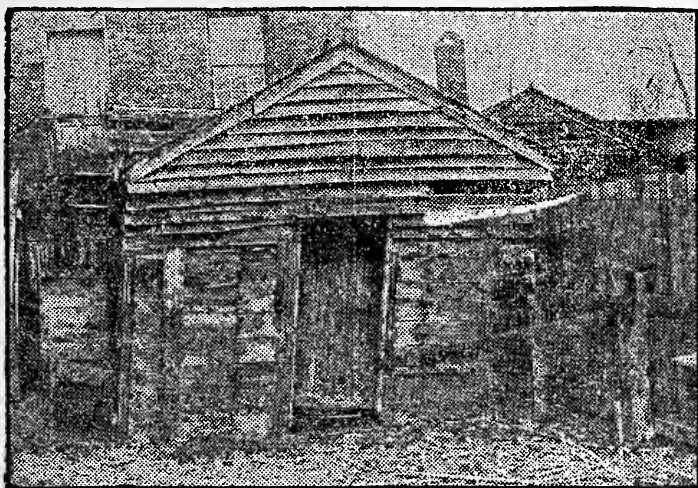
The great emancipator who freed the black man never uttered one word in favor of adding 'to the white man's burden' the shackles of prohibition.

While Lincoln occasionally followed St. Paul's advice to Timothy and took a little wine for his stomach's sake, yet he strongly advocated temperance—temperance in all things, par-

ticularly in speech—and total abstinence for those who could not resist temptation, but, never prohibition.

Records of the Illinois Legislature show that while a member of the House of Representatives (1834-1842), Lincoln voted against both prohibition and local option, against local option on December 26, 1839, and against prohibition, December 19, 1840.

Furthermore, in 1833, when Lincoln was in partnership with one Berry, as owners of a general store at New Salem, now known as Petersburg, liquor was sold, as was the custom in those



The Building in Which Lincoln Kept a Saloon as It Stands To-Day on the Property of Mr. John Hoffing at Petersburg, Ill.

days. Lincoln, like a true American citizen, believed in 'Rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's,' and the complying with the law, and on the 6th day of March, 1833, the firm of Berry & Lincoln applied for, and was granted a license to sell liquor at their store.

A few weeks ago it was my privilege to visit Petersburg and to hold a meeting in the identical building in which Lincoln sold liquor, and at the request of Mr. Otto Lenz, Mr. John Hoffing, the owner, gave me a portion of the logs of this historic building from which this gavel has been made.

On behalf of the Illinois delegation, we present to you this emblem of your authority, and in doing so, protest against the

Pharisees of to-day condemning men because they may be engaged in a business that in their ignorance they wish to terminate, but which is recognized by every civilized country in the world, and consecrated by divinity itself.

We believe that every true American should be judged for what he is, and not by the clothes he may wear, or the business he may be engaged in. May this gavel be a solemn protest again all such uncharitableness."

Lamon also claims that Lincoln worked in a distillery, for in the last paragraph on page 114 of his book, appears the following: "It is *true* that *Lincoln did work* the latter part of one winter in a little *still-house*, up at the head of a hollow."

LINCOLN AS A LEGISLATOR VOTED AGAINST LOCAL OPTION AND PROHIBITION.

Mr. Nicholas Michaels, Assistant State's Attorney of Chicago, in his pamphlet, "The Rise and Fall of Prohibition in Illinois," proves from the records of the Illinois Legislature that while a member of the House of Representatives, Lincoln voted against local option and against prohibition. Mr. Michaels says:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND LOCAL OPTION.

As a member of the House of Representatives of the Illinois General Assembly from 1834 to 1842, Abraham Lincoln took an active part in the early efforts of the advocates of prohibition to foist upon the statute books of Illinois a law embodying their views. As a law maker he was a consistent opponent of local option and prohibition. But let the record speak for itself.

The following is taken from Journal of the House, December 26, 1839:

Journal of the House of Representatives.

"Mr. Webb from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred 'A bill for an act to repeal an act entitled, "An act regulating tavern and grocery license, and for other purposes;"' reported a substitute for the bill entitled 'A bill for an act concerning groceries,' and recommended its passage.

Mr. Walker, of Vermillion, moved to amend the report by adding to the end of the first section, the following proviso:

Provided, That if a majority of the qualified votes of the incorporated towns, justices' district, or ward of any city in which said grocery is to be licensed, shall remonstrate against the granting of such license, the same shall not be granted; which amendment was decided in the negative by yeas and

nays, upon the call of Messrs. Edwards and Pace as follows, viz: Yeas, 39; nays, 39; Mr. Lincoln voted 'No.'"

We can readily understand what the leaders of the Anti-Saloon League (had it existed in those days) would have said about Lincoln for his vote against local option which, as in 1905, was defeated by one vote. Rev. P. A. Baker would certainly not have been celebrating the event by the erection of a Lincoln Temperance Memorial Building, or seriously consider the prospective change of name from the Anti-Saloon League to the Lincoln League, owing to the discredit that has been cast upon the Anti-Saloon League all over the country.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND PROHIBITION.

The following appears in the Journal of the House for December 19, 1840:

House Journal, December 19, 1840.

"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. 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 the proposed amendment on the table. Mr. Lincoln voted yea. The motion of Mr. Murphy was defeated. by 75 yeas to 8 nays."

It will now be in order for Alonzo E. Wilson, chairman of the Prohibition State Central Committee, to change the name of the Lincoln Press to that of some real friend of prohibition.

Lincoln served but two terms in the State Legislature, and from 1840 to 1846, he took no active part in public affairs. In 1846 he was elected to Congress from the Sangamon district, but served for one term only, and from 1848 to 1854 he again retired from public life and resumed the practice of the law, and it was doubtless on this account that there is no record of his taking part in the prohibition campaign of 1855, when the Maine prohibition law was submitted to the people of Illinois and ignominiously defeated by nearly 30,000 votes.

It was Stephen T. Logan, a representative from Sangamon County, who sponsored this bill in the House. So sure was he of the appreciation of the people that on the strength of his agitation and vote for the law he became a candidate for judge of the Supreme Court, but he was snowed under at the same election that enabled the people to show their antipathy for the principle of legal prohibition. And in like manner history repeats itself in the defeat last fall of Judges Artman and Christian, of Indiana, who rendered the absurd decision that the liquor business was illegal. During the campaign Lincoln's eloquent tongue was silent. The men who so flippantly claim him as their own to-day, forget that Lincoln was an honest advocate of true temperance, but not a prohibitionist.

However, three days after the defeat of the prohibition law and its sponsor, Judge Logan, Lincoln wrote to his old partner, Mr. Whitney, the following letter, which clearly shows that he had no sympathy with the prohibition movement:

Springfield, June 7, 1855.

My Dear Sir—Your note containing election news is received; and for which I thank you. It is all of no use, however. Logan is worse beaten than any other man ever was since elections were invented, beaten more than 1,200 in this county.

It is conceded on all hands that the prohibitory law is also beaten.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AS A TEMPERANCE ORATOR.
From His Address Before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society, February 22, 1842.

See page 33, "Letters and Addresses of Abraham Lincoln," by Howard Wilford Bell.

Mr. Lincoln said: "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. These 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. They are supposed to have no sympathy of feeling or interest with those very persons whom it is their object to convince and persuade.

And again, it is so common and so easy to ascribe motives to men of these classes other than those they profess to act upon. The preacher, it is said, advocates temperance because

he is a fanatic, and desires a union of the church and State; the lawyer, from his pride and vanity of hearing himself speak; and the hired agent for his salary.

Too much denunciation against dram-sellers and dram-drinkers was indulged in. This I think was both impolitic and unjust. It was impolitic, because 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. When the dram-seller and drinker were incessantly told—not in accents of entreaty and persuasion, diffidently addressed by erring man to an erring brother, but in the thundering tones of anathema and denunciation * * * that they were the authors of all the vice and misery and crime in the land; that they were the manufacturers and material of all the thieves and robbers and murderers that infect the earth; and 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 their denouncers in a hue and cry against themselves.

To have expected them to do otherwise than they did—to have expected them not to meet denunciation with deunciations, crimination with crimination, and anathema with anathema—was to expect a reversal of human nature, which is God's decree and can never be reversed.

When the conduct of men is designed to be influenced, persuasion, kind, unassuming persuasion, should ever be adopted.

On this point the Washingtonians greatly excel the temperance advocates of former times. Those whom they desire to convince and persuade are their old friends and companions. They know they are not demons, nor even the worst of men; they know that generally they are kind, generous, and charitable, even beyond the example of their more staid and sober neighbors.

But I have said that denunciations against dram sellers and dram drinkers are unjust as well as impolitic. Let us see. I have not inquired at what period of time 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 long as we have seen the other. When all such of us as have now reached the years of maturity first opened our eyes upon the stage of existence, we found intoxicating liquor recognized by everybody, used by everybody, repudiated by nobody. It commonly entered into the first draught of the infant and the last draught of the dying man. From the sideboard of the parson down to the ragged pocket of the houseless loafer, it was constantly found. Physicians prescribed it in this, that and the other disease; government provided it for soldiers and sailors; and to have a rolling or raising, a husking or 'hoedown' anywhere without it was positively insufferable. So, too, it was everywhere a respectable article of manufacture and merchandise. The making of it was regarded as an honorable livelihood, and he who could make most was the most enterprising and respectable. Large and small manufactories of it were everywhere erected, in which all the earthly goods of their owners were invested. Wagons drew it from town to town; boats bore it from clime to clime; and the winds wafted it from nation to nation; and merchants bought and sold it, by wholesale and retail, with precisely the same feelings on the part of the seller, buyer and bystander as are felt at the selling and buying of plows, beef, bacon or any other of the real necessities of life. Universal public opinion not only tolerated, but recognized and adopted its use.

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.

In this same address Lincoln criticised the methods of the arbitrary reformers. He said: "When the conduct of man is designed to the 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.' So with men. If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend."

LINCOLN AS PRESIDENT.

The following anecdotes are told of Lincoln when President: During the famous battle of Shiloh, President Lincoln was extremely anxious to hear from the front. Late in the evening he slipped out of the rear entrance of the White House and found his way to the office of the Washington Post, and climbing the dark stairs, led by the ticking of the telegraph instruments, found his way to the operators' room. When the President opened the door the operator was regaling himself by drinking

beer out of a can. Looking up and recognizing the gaunt form of the President, the operator sheepishly slipped the can under his desk.

Lincoln said: "What have you there?" pointing to where the can was hidden.

"Only some beer, Mr. President," said the abashed man.

"Let me look at it," said Lincoln, and being handed the half emptied can, proceeded to drink the remainder of the beer, and with a smack of his lips reached down in his pocket for a quarter, called the office boy and instructed him to "go and get some more."

Lincoln and the operator received reports from the battleground, discussed the condition of affairs and drank beer out of the can until after midnight.

LINCOLN REBUKED THE TEMPERANCE PEOPLE.

After the battle of Shiloh had been won a delegation of prohibitionists called upon the President to protest against General Grant remaining at the head of the army, as it was claimed that he was intoxicated the morning of the battle.

"Well," said the President, "the charge is serious, and if I knew the brand of whiskey Grant drinks I would send a barrel of the same kind to every general in the field."

STRIKES A POPULAR CHORD.

(Page 58—Lamon.)

"Abe was very fond of music, but was himself wholly unable to put three harmonious notes together. Religious songs did not appear to suit him at all," says Dennis Hanks, "but of profane ballads and amorous ditties he knew the words of a vast number, among which the following was a prime favorite:

"Hail Columbia, happy land!

If you ain't drunk, then I'll be damned."

(In Herndon and Wiek's Life of Abraham Lincoln, page 56, this song is also mentioned.)

However, it is said that Lincoln's favorite song was that most beautiful song of friendship and wassail in any language:

THE DAYS OF O' LANG SYNE.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

An' days O' lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne,

We'll take a cup O' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

We two have run about the hills,
And plucked the berries fine,
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
Since auld lang syne.

We two have paddled in the creek
From morning sun till "dine"
But seas between us broad have roared,
Since auld lang syne.

Then here's a hand my trusty friend,
An' give me a hand O' thine,
An' we'll take a right good bumper cup,
For auld lang syne.

And surely you'll fill your pint-stoup,
An' surely I'll fill mine,
And we'll drink a cup O' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

In conclusion, we believe that we have forever established the fact even to the most ardent prohibitionist that Lincoln was a man of the people, for the people and with the people on the liquor question. Although it may be impossible to prove conclusively that Lincoln used the exact words in the disputed sentence, yet there is no reasonable person but will admit that the preponderance of evidence is in favor of Lincoln being the real author and there can be no dispute that Lincoln gave utterance to the following denunciation of prohibition:

"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."

