

Q+A 13-E

"Elmhaven", R. 1, St. Helena, Calif.
May 31, 1929.

Elder O. A. Tait
Pacific Press
Mountain View, Calif.

Dear Elder Tait:

A few months ago, you wrote to us and asked for a statement of Sister White's in which she said we should support the temperance cause by our pen, voice and vote. At the time, we could not find it, but this afternoon, while copying from the Review and Herald, of 1881, in the November 8, number, I came across the article containing this statement. The title of the article is "Temperance and the License Law", and paints a very vivid picture of the evils brought upon the home, upon society, and upon the country, by the liquor traffic. Here is the paragraph containing the statement you asked for.

"Satan exults as he sees the slaves of evil habit daily crowding under his black banner, going down to misery, death, and hell. We may call upon the friends of the temperance cause to rally to the conflict and seek to press back the tide of evil that is demoralizing the world; but of what avail are all our efforts while liquor-selling is sustained by law? Must the curse of intemperance forever rest like a blight upon our land? Must it every year sweep like a devouring fire over thousands of happy homes? We talk of the results, tremble at the results, and wonder what we can do with the terrible results, while too often we tolerate and even sanction the cause. The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty ~~max~~ unless they exert their influence by precept and example--by voice, and pen, and vote--in favor of prohibition, and total abstinence. We need not expect that God will work a miracle to bring about this reform, and thus remove the necessity for our exertion. We ourselves must grapple with this giant foe, our motto no compromise and no cessation of our efforts till the victory is gained.

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"Our law-makers have endeavored to restitute the evils of intemperance by licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors. The result of their efforts is before us. It is evident to every intelligent observer that inebriety with its train of crime and misery is steadily increasing. The victims of alcohol are more numerous today than at any former period. The politicians' plan of licensing "for the public good" has proved itself a curse.

"What can be done to press back the inflowing tide of evil? Let laws be enacted and rigidly enforced prohibiting the sale and the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. Let every effort be made to encourage the inebriate's return to temperance and virtue. But even more than this is needed to banish the curse of inebriety from our land. Let the appetite for intoxicating liquors be removed, and their use and sale is at an end. This work must be a great degree devolve upon parents. . . ." R + H Nov 8 1881

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We trust this material will be of service to you.

Very sincerely your brother,
Virgil Robinson