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# Prohibition.

Of all God's creation man stands at the head; <sup>and</sup> being created in the image of his Maker, he alone possesses reason, by means of which he judges, draws conclusions, <sup>and</sup> makes distinctions. The will, guided by the reason - not always from pure <sup>and</sup> holy motives - springs into action; <sup>and</sup> man performs deeds which will elevate <sup>and</sup> ennoble the race <sup>and</sup> make him man immortal, or he will perpetrate crimes

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which will degrade <sup>and</sup>  
dethrone that God-giv-  
en power, leaving an  
eternal stain upon  
his name. Man is a  
free moral agent, <sup>and</sup>  
can exercise his powers  
for good or for evil, in  
the right or wrong  
direction. But, sooner  
or later, he will be com-  
pelled to settle his  
accounts; <sup>and</sup> will be  
held responsible ac-  
cording as he used  
those powers. The  
question, How should  
I vote? is one of the

most vital importance,  
and appeals to the  
reason of every man  
in our grand and most  
glorious Republic. For,  
upon his decision  
hangs the fate of hun-  
dreds, yea, thousands  
of our most promisi-  
ng young men. Let  
him decide wrong, and  
he will add a link  
to the chain which  
robs and degrades the  
mind of man, and  
binds the immortal  
soul to an eternal  
hell. But, let him

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decide right, <sup>and</sup> he  
will add a link to  
the chain which lifts  
man into a higher <sup>and</sup>  
nobler sphere in life,  
<sup>and</sup> anchors the soul  
within its God. The  
curse of slavery - in  
which the soul re-  
tained its liberty -  
existed only a brief  
period; for, as soon  
as man realized its  
awfulness, <sup>and</sup> saw  
his duty, he resolved  
to right the wrong; <sup>and</sup>  
wiped it out of ex-  
istence. of grand <sup>and</sup>

most glorious work.  
 But the greatest <sup>and</sup>  
 most heinous curse  
 of our land - the grant-  
 ing of license to all  
 that which steals  
 away the brain <sup>and</sup>  
 makes the man a  
 brute - still remains.  
 It makes the pleasant  
<sup>and</sup> happy hours desti-  
 tute <sup>and</sup> robs it of  
 all its former joys.  
 It steals the blush  
 of youth from many  
 a rosy cheek, leaving  
 a pale, careworn, <sup>and</sup>  
 sorrowful countenance.

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It poisons the life  
blood of the brightest,  
the fairest, <sup>and</sup> the most  
intelligent minds, <sup>and</sup>  
conveys them to a  
premature grave. It  
tampers, not only  
with man's body, but  
also with the immor-  
tal soul, hastening it  
where neither human  
nor divine aid can  
reach it - the drunk-  
ard's hell. Who has  
not seen gray hairs  
brought with sorrow  
to the grave because  
of this awful curse?

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Who has not heard  
the low, sad wails of  
orphans? Who has  
not seen beauty  
clothed with rags  
and man-hood  
shown of all its  
glory? Who sees  
things in this en-  
lightened age <sup>and</sup>  
Christian land? I  
will tell you. It  
is thus because  
the Christian people  
do not perform  
their duty. Thus all  
almost daily - the  
results of the

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damning and soul  
destroying cups; but  
notwithstanding their  
startling and blood  
curdling exhibitions,  
they do not hesitate to  
co-operate with the parties  
who encourage the  
run traffic and the  
sending of human  
souls to an eternal  
hell. Is it not high  
time that the Christian  
people of our land  
awaken to this fact  
and put a stop to  
this fearful traffic,  
this run slavery, this

destruction of human  
souls? But when, <sup>and</sup>  
how, will this be ac-  
complished? It will  
not, <sup>and</sup> cannot be  
accomplished while  
those who profess the  
name of Christ, in-  
dulge in the social  
glass, not while they  
wear the cloaks of  
those parties which  
encourage this slow,  
but sure method of  
poisoning both body  
<sup>and</sup> soul, not while  
those say who bear  
the name of Christians

There is no harm in  
 an occasional glass.  
 But, let the professors  
 of Christ Jesus learn  
<sup>and</sup> fully realize the  
 meaning of the words,  
 "Look not thou upon  
 the wine when it is  
 red, when it giveth  
 his colour in the cup,  
 when it moveth it  
 self aright; at the  
 last it biteth like  
 a serpent <sup>and</sup> sting-  
 eth like an adder."  
 Let them arise from  
 their lethargy <sup>and</sup>  
 awake to a deep

sense of their responsi-  
 bilities, <sup>and</sup> the intox-  
 icating cup will be  
 banished from the  
 land. Let them lay  
 aside the tom, tattered,  
<sup>and</sup> rotten garments  
 of the Democratic  
<sup>and</sup> Republican par-  
 ties. <sup>and</sup> so be them-  
 selves with the robe  
 of Prohibition, <sup>and</sup>  
 the strong fortress  
 of the sun fixed  
 will not only be  
 shattered - but utterly  
 destroyed. Let the  
 dry bones in the

open valley to the sea;  
 and let the pure, sweet  
 air of God sweep over  
 them, breathing into  
 them the breath of  
 life, giving health <sup>and</sup>  
 vigor to both mind  
 and soul; and <sup>and</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>and</sup>  
 alcohol will be com-  
 pelled to surrender  
 his dominion. There  
 is a remedy for this  
 great evil; <sup>and</sup> <sup>and</sup>  
 the work of the Chris-  
 tian people to apply  
 it. If they but do  
 their duty, the cap-  
 tives will be lead

out of their dark,  
deep, dangerous into  
the bright <sup>and</sup> glori-  
ous sunshine of God's  
smiles. But if they  
do not please to ask  
the question, how  
should I vote, <sup>and</sup>  
persist to vote with  
the parties who en-  
courage the sale of  
human souls, we  
do not their duty.  
The intoxicating cup  
is the fountain of  
almost every crime,  
and to vote with par-  
ties who favor the

run traffic is to  
endorse every crime  
springing from said  
mountain. May the  
eyes of the people be  
opened so that they  
may see <sup>and</sup> realize  
this awful fact.

May they arise to a  
sense of their duties  
<sup>and</sup> do all in their  
power to drive - by  
means of the ballot  
box - this curse from  
our land. Right in  
due time - will con-  
quer might <sup>and</sup> herald  
the soul destroying

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cast back into the  
hell from whence  
it sprung, giving  
life <sup>and</sup> liberty to  
those who are held  
in its powerful  
grasp. Then, <sup>and</sup> not  
until then, will the  
sun beams play up-  
on the countenance  
of a free <sup>and</sup> inde-  
pendent people; <sup>and</sup>  
as darkness is  
compelled to flee  
before the rising  
king of day, so will  
the darkness of sin,  
sorrow <sup>and</sup> eternal

death or compelled  
 to flee before the  
 glorious dawn of  
 temperance. To this  
 end then, let us  
 act wisely <sup>and</sup> vote  
 conscientiously, <sup>and</sup>  
 victory will surely  
 crown our efforts.  
 By doing this we  
 will aid in lifting  
 up our fellow men  
 out of their low,  
 sinful, <sup>and</sup> degrad-  
 ed positions into  
 a loftier <sup>and</sup> holier  
 sphere, where they  
 will enjoy the best,

fresh air of God,  
 their Creator. We  
 will receive God's  
 approving smile by  
 thus aiding man  
 to regain his form-  
 er state. Let us then  
 so live <sup>and</sup> act as  
 that the world may  
 be the better for our  
 having lived in it,  
 ever having for our  
 motto, "which is not,  
 taste not, the in-  
 clear thing".

Jos. H. Correll,  
 Hamburg,  
 Class '86.

Commencement Oration of John M Correll, Class of 1886  
Transcribed by Terry K. Sheldahl, August 2011  
Edited by Stephenie McGucken, August 2011

## Prohibition

Of all God's creations man stands at the head; and being created in the image of his Maker, he alone possesses reason, by means of which he judges, draws conclusions, and makes distinctions. The will, guided by the reason – not always from pious and holy motives – springs into actions; and man performs deeds which will elevate and ennoble the race and make his name immortal; or, he will perpetrate crimes

which will degrade and dethrone that God given power, leaving an eternal stain upon his name. Man is a free moral agent; and can exercise his powers for good or for evil; in the right or wrong direction. But, sooner or later, he will be compelled to settle his accounts; and will be held responsible according as he used those powers. The question, How should I vote? is one of the

most vital importance; and appeals to the reason of every man in our grand and most glorious Republic. For, upon his decision hangs the fate of hundreds, yea, thousands of our most promising young men. Let him decide wrong, and he will add a link to the chain which robs and degrades the mind of man, and binds the immortal souls to an eternal hell. But, let him

decide right, and he will add a link to the chain which lifts man into a higher and nobler sphere in life, and anchors the soul within its God. The curse of slavery – in which the soul retained its liberty – existed only a brief period; for, as soon as man realized its awfulness, and saw his duty, he resolved to right the wrong, and wiped it out of existence. A grand and

most glorious work. But the greatest and most heinous curse of our land – the granting of license to sell that which steals away the brain and makes the man a brute – still remains. It makes the pleasant and happy hour destitute and robs it of all its former joys. It steals the flush of youth from many a rosy cheek, leaving a pale, carnivoreus, and sorrowful countenance.

It poisons the life blood of the brightest, the fairest, and the most intelligent minds, and coveys them to a premature grave. It tampers, not only with a man's body, but also with the immortal soul, hastening it where neither human nor Divine aid can reach it – the drunkard's hell. Who has not seen gray hairs brought with sooner to the grave because of this awful curse?

Who has not heard of the low, sad wails of orphans? Who has not seen beauty clothed with rage and man-hood shorn of all its glory? Why these things in this enlightened age and Christian

land? I will tell you. It is thus because the Christian people do not perform their duty. I have seen – almost daily – the results of this

demeaning and soul destroying cup; but notwithstanding these startling and blood curdling exhibitions, they do not hesitate to vote with the parties who encourage the rum traffic and the sending of human souls to an eternal hell. Is it not high time that the Christian people of our land awaken to this fact and put a stop to this fearful traffic, this new slavery, this

destruction of human souls? But where, and how, will this be accomplished? It will not, and can not be accomplished while those who profess the name of Christ indulge in the social glass, not while they wear the cloaks of those parties which encourage this slow, but sure method of poisoning both body and soul; not while those say – who bear the name Christian.

There is no harm in an occasional glass. But, let the professors of Christ Jesus learn and fully realize the meaning of the words, “Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright; At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.” Let them arise from their lethargy and arise now to a deep

sense of their responsibilities; and the intoxicating cup will be banished from the land. Let them lay aside the torn, tattered, and rotten garments of the Democratic and Republican parties and vote themselves with the vote of Prohibition, and the strong fortress of the rum fiend will not only be shattered – but be utterly destroyed. Let the dry bones in the

open valley be shaken; and let the pure, sweet air of God sweep over them, breathing into them the breath of life, giving health and vigor to both mind and soul; and King Alcohol will be compelled to surrender his dominion. There is a remedy for this great evil; and it is the work of the Christian people to apply it. If they but do their duty, the captives will be lead

out of their dark, deep dungeons into the bright and glorious sunshine of God’s smiles. But if they do not pause to ask the question, How should I vote? and persist to vote with the parties who encourage the sale of human souls, they do not their duty. The intoxicating cup is the fountain of almost every crime, and to vote with the parties who favor the

rum traffic is to endorse every crime springing from said fountain. May the eyes of the people be opened so that they may see and realize this awful fact. May they arise to a sense of their duties and do all in their power to drive – by means of the ballot box – this curse from our own land. Right – in due time – will conquer man and hurol(?) the soul destroying

curse back into the hell from whence it sprung, giving life and liberty to those who are held in its powerful grasp. Then, and not until then, will the sunbeams play upon the countenances of a free and independent people; and as darkness is compelled to flee before the rising sun of day, so will the darkness of sin, sorrow and eternal

death be compelled to flee before the glorious dawn of Temperance. To this end then, let us act wisely and vote conscientiously, and victory will surely crown our efforts. By doing thus we will aid in lifting our fellow men out of their low, sinful, and degraded positions into a loftier and holier sphere, where they will enjoy the pure,

fresh air of God, their Creator. We will receive God's approving smile for thus aiding man to regain his former state. Let us then, so live and act as that the world may be the better for our having lived in it, ever having for our motto, "Touch not, taste not, the unclean thing."

Jno. M. Correll,  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
Class '86