

they are satisfied and happy. Or do they remain only to join the old Moravian woman who remarked just before entering her Church one evening: "Me! *ah wooden go to one ah day Church to discommode anybody, not me*".

Shall these people ever have their good old Church restored? How very sad this word when used in the positive — "never" — Prohibition the "motto" of the day".

With thanks for space Mr. Editor,

Earnestly yours;

H. C. B.

Christiansted, July 26' 1920.

Editor St. Croix Avis

Dear Sir:—

As was stated in the Colonial Council by their representatives, the people of St. Croix have full confidence in His Excellency the Governor of these islands, and verily believe that he is wise enough to know whether the liquor bills should be sanctioned or vetoed. We believe that he has no personal motives in doing whichever pleases him, but that which ever he does is for the general benefit of the community. He as the representative of the Mother Country, must certainly know better than any one else from a legal standpoint what can be done in these islands and what not. We as natives, therefore might keep quiet and await results were it not for foreigners, some of whom with the usual cunning, have got certain unwary and ultr-abstinent (from strong drink) natives to join with them or have joined themselves with such natives and from purely selfish motives are endeavoring through the press and by unwarranted petition to give the world and His Excellency a wrong impression of the people's use of strong drink in St. Croix. It is therefore time we put a stop to this.

Some of those thus placing a stigma upon the community know comparatively next to nothing as regards the people's use of strong drink here, and it is nothing short of a base falsehood and an insult to us to thus brand us as drunkards.

That there have been some cases of drunkenness cannot be denied, but can there be any comparison between those few and the hundreds, nay, thousands of cases in the very native homes of some of those raising the hue and cry here? Charity begins at home, and since it is for the sake of humanity why don't our esteemed friends go home and start a campaign where there is a broader field and where inebriety and its consequent evils have been and are still notorious?

There seems to be quite a love for the people in this particular case.

Strange it was not manifested in every other case! The reasons are however too well known to every intelligent man or woman to need explanation.

We cannot instil virtue by removing evil nor are the Creator's gifts to man

evils. Every one was given for man's use and not abuse and there is danger in removing any one of them from man's reach. Rather let society punish the inebriate if he be caught being a nuisance to or injuring his neighbor or himself by his intemperance and let him be an example to his fellowmen. It is undoubtedly not spirituous liquors only that are injurious to man when abused, and a fine world indeed we would have (if we existed at all) if we got everything that could be made an evil removed. Let us for instance remove all the men from the women, or vice versa, that the evils of impurity may be avoided. What then?

No, rather let those having the love of their fellowmen so much at heart educate such among the masses as may not be able to discriminate between use and abuse; teach them to guide themselves aright through life amidst all the evils real or imaginary. There are many spiritual guides (in some cases spiritual profiteers) who would then be usefully occupying their time diffusing concrete Christianity rather than making a hollow noise of it, often to the annoyance of intelligent people. It is a useless soldier who parades around with never an enemy to fight and conquer.

We certainly are not in favour of the unlimited or uncontrolled sale and abuse of spirituous liquors for the very reason that there will ever be some who would over-indulge. But such persons form a very small minority and can in no way injure or benefit the reputation of a community; yet for the sake of such we need control and regulations and severe penalties for infractions thereof.

To make it appear however that the entire community consists of men of the above type, and that absolute prohibition is necessary in the island, is certainly a deal of impertinence towards the great majority among whom are men and women of as great intelligence as those who thus insult them, and who have ever taken and can still take care of themselves in every way.

We are happy to welcome strangers among us, we esteem many highly and we are willing to show and do show them every courtesy, but we expect them, and their own sense of decorum ought to teach them, to leave our domestic affairs to us and not dabble therein without our invitation to do so nor upon the invitation of such as would sell their birthright, or we might be compelled to legislate to keep them altogether out of our politics. We have tolerated such things long enough.

Finally, if all U. S. territory must "go dry" and the statement that we too are included is correct, His Excellency would be compelled ex officio to veto the bills. What then is the use of a petition to the effect? Evidently there is a doubt somewhere.

Granting however that there is the

possibility of "going wet", and His Excellency has seen it to be for the general welfare, a petition contrary is nothing short of an attempt to deprive us of a good, and is purely an opposition to the Government. Down with the petition and let the matter be brought to vote and His Excellency will then know the opinion of the majority if it be necessary.

Report says that certain promoters of the prohibition-petition scheme were told by certain persons that just prior to prohibition drunkenness was so prevalent here that men and "women could be seen lying drunk in the gutters." What a stretch of imagination to use a mild term."

Of course in every country there are men who would sell their honour, traitors to their country and their fellow citizens, having their own self interest at heart; therefore we are not very much surprized at such reports, but we are indeed surprized at the confidence placed in such persons. Any one having a wish or desire to do anything for the people ought first to hear the majority's opinion, interview intelligent ones among them and in such wise obtain the right if he did not have it, or in default thereof, avoid interference.

Yours truly

SOBRIETY

*To those of the St. Croix Clergy engaged in a Prohibition Campaign:*

Gentlemen:—

On the basis of the Christian theory that the Creator endowed man with a free will to choose good or evil and that, although God could have made man immune to temptation and thus precluded sin and its consequences, He elected that man should by his own efforts and struggles improve his condition and attain ultimate perfection; and by virtue of the fact that there is not a single passage in the Holy Scriptures wherein Almighty God is shown to have exercised coercion in order that man should desert his (man's) own paths, or follow the guidance of the Divine Master, it is, to say the least of it, astonishing that a campaign for prohibition, a law whereby man is, unquestionably, deprived of the God given right of choice, should emanate with the accredited doers of the Holy Word, and it is in all sincerity and with the utmost due respect for your motives, brought to the attention of the reverend gentlemen associated with the movement to petition His Excellency the Governor to withhold his sanction of the antiprohibition bill, to make clear your position, from a religious point of view; and to explain the apparent lack of consistency, and the impossibility to reconcile with God's word your action in the present question, all a puzzle to

MANY RATIONAL MINDS.