

## SOJOURNER TRUTH.

### Her Radical Definition of What Coercive Temperance Means.

#### It Includes Abstinence from Tobacco and Abolition of Hanging.

A three-hours' prayer-meeting was held in Lower Farwell Hall yesterday afternoon under the auspices of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The attendance was very large, especially between 3 and 4 o'clock, when Sojourner Truth spoke.

The leader from 1 to 2 was Mrs. M. B. Willard, and the subject of prayer—"That the power of the Holy Spirit may keep and guide in all the deliberations of our women in National Convention, and that they may not fail to remember that their work is for God and souls."

Mrs. S. M. I. Henry led between 2 and 3, when the subject was: "That grace may be given the President of the United States to keep the example already set before him, and banish the *who-cup* from all state and private banquets at the White House, and that his influence may be given toward removing the drink traffic from our land; that the meeting of the National Convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Washington may impress the truth for which we labor, not only upon the lawgivers of our Nation, but upon the Capital of the United States."

The subject for the last hour was: "That God by His Holy Spirit will unite all our forces to the end that salvation may come to the lost, and peace to the home and Nation."

It had been announced that

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would lead the meeting, but she was unable to do so, since she cannot tell A from Z. So Mrs. T. B. Carse gave out the hymns and read a chapter from the Bible.

The venerable negro woman—she says she is now 100 years old—was introduced, and spoke for half an hour in a very clear voice. She said:

"Friends. It is very wonderful! I was a slave in the State of New York. All my children were born while I was a slave. That is so many years ago that, when I look around, it seems as if I was here when the world began. Everything here has come since then—the people and all. When I look back this country appears like a barren place. It is wonderful, and I believe God has spared me to bear testimony in behalf of this Nation. I have been robbed of every God-given right—mother, father, children, husband (so-called) and my own person? How could anybody be robbed of more? I never had an opportunity to learn the word of God. I cannot read or spell my own name.

"As I have said a number of times, there is no need of sending the Gospel to the heathen abroad. There are heathen at home. God will take care of the outside heathen as He took care of me.

"I want to bring forward the truth that we don't live in self-denial. I know many 'temperance' people who profess to be temperate, yet they chew tobacco and smoke. [Applause.] What kind of 'temperance' people are they? [Applause.] We never can gain any ground without denying ourselves. They wouldn't deny themselves a cigar or a chew of tobacco for Jesus Christ. It is the truth. I have known ministers who smoked. What dirty mouths to take the name of Jesus in! Tobacco will kill a snake if you put it in its mouth. Do you expect the Spirit of Jesus gets into the body of the man who has

**TOBACCO ROLLING AROUND HIS TONGUE,**  
and who slobbers around. [Laughter.] No, never! Jesus is pure and undefiled. I was at a 'temperance' meeting this fall, where they were praying and talking, and the President was a smoker. Think of it! He spoke about whisky and purifying the men in the traffic. He needed purifying himself. [Laughter and applause.] Think not that tobacco-chewers are any better than whisky-drinkers in the sight of God! They set an example to children—little boys—Sabbath-school scholars. See them around the cars at the depots picking up the ends of cigars and smoking them! Do 'temperance' people look at that?

"Talk about 'temperance'! A chew of tobacco makes an appetite for spirits. Haven't you got sense enough to know it? If you belong to the 'temperance' people throw tobacco overboard as well as whisky. [Applause.] I have seen 'temperance' people in the church chewing and making a puddle on the floor almost big enough for a bug to swim in. [Laughter.] I have seen that in the churches and on the cars, and the chewers were religious people too. I have seen ministers lay aside a quid, pray, and then put the tobacco back into their mouths again. [Laughter.] Only think of it! Look at the heathen at home.

**"I WANT TO TALK ABOUT HANGING,**  
and women take heed. We are the makers of murderers because we have malice in us. Vengeance is born in the children. We don't wait for God to take vengeance, we take it ourselves. I heard the other day about two men being hung, and how women and children—women with babes in their arms—and men went to see them. See the spirit we bring into the world. We make murderers, and then rejoice when they are hung, and in looking at them *hang, too. How good are you?* The second murder is worse than the first, because we all unite to have it done, and are answerable as the one who did the first killing. I have known ministers to go and pray with one who was about to be hung, and it was said he was converted—that God had forgiven his sins for Christ's sake. Did they save him? No. They put him to death. What a terrible thing to

**HANG A MAN AFTER HE IS CONVERTED!**  
It is said, 'May be he wouldn't stay converted.' Have we no faith, no confidence in our conversion? [A Voice—"Give us a little more temperance."] I tell you that is temperance. [Laughter.] I am putting those things before temperance people that you may see what belongs to temperance. There are enough who talk about whisky. I talk about the things you don't talk about at all. You talk about whisky enough, but you don't talk about tobacco. [Applause.] *The biggest part of society, I have found, are tobacco chewers.* [Applause.] You cannot be 'temperance' people without cutting loose from tobacco—the nasty weed. [Laughter.]

"But I must hurry, because I suppose some one wants to take my place. This dwells on my mind—seeing so many young men and women who will not deny themselves of the ungodly things of the world for the sake of Jesus. They tell how much they love Him, but won't throw a single idol away for him."

And then Sojourner took her seat upon the platform, and thankfully received the pennies, nickels, and 10-cent pieces put into the collection basket for her benefit.

The remainder of the hour was spent in prayer for good results to come from the Washington convention.