



Beer, The Temperance Drink

I believe that Germans are destined to be really the greatest benefactors of this country by bringing to us, if we choose to accept the boon, their lager beer.—Dr. Henry I. Bodwitch, in Third Annual Report, Massachusetts State Board of Health.

The introduction of beer in America has done more for temperance than all the temperance societies and all the prohibition laws combined.—Henry Watterson.



UNTIL within recent years American statesmen and lawmakers universally recognized beer and other fermented drinks as agents of temperance. Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, opponents in everything else, agreed in favoring wine and other light fermented drinks as the most effective temperance measure.

Dr. Benjamin Rush and Tenche Coxe, both well-known temperance workers, spoke in the same sense. The legislatures of a number of the colonies, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, distinctly and outspokenly, encouraged beer as a temperance measure. Gov. Oglethorpe tried to introduce brewing in Georgia to promote temperance. George Washington was choice of his wines. Wm. Penn was a brewer of beer, the Congress favored wine and beer from temperance motives, believing, as Jefferson said: "No nation is drunken, where wine is cheap," lager beer at that time being practically unknown in this country.

And yet the American beers of colonial days contained considerably more alcohol than the beer of today, which averages $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent—just a trifle above the limit established in other countries for beers not subject to tax as alcoholic beverages.

The temperance workers—not the prohibition workers—of today agree with those of colonial days that beer is the most effective temperance agent.

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