Prosser, Washington
September 7, 1928

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
% Collier's Weekly
New York City

Dear Madam:

Your article in "Collier'S", "Why Smith Gets My Vote," reminds me of an incident which a friend of mine told me in connection with Rev. Parkhurst about the time, years ago, when he was a much talked of preacher.

The lady who told me the incident said that she went one Sunday morning to Parkhurst's church. She said a lady came into the same pew with her and asked in a whisper whether or not Mr. Parkhurst was to speak that morning. She stated that she was from out of town and was so anxious to hear him as she had heard and read a great deal about him. The first lady assured her that she would soon have the privilege of hearing Dr. Parkhurst. When the services were over the visitor turned and said, "I am so sorry I heard him." She said this in a tone which showed only too plainly that her ideal had been shattered.

I have enjoyed few books more than your masterpiece--"The Life of Lincoln." After reading such a wonderful work I was naturally filled with a very high ideal of the author's greatness.

However, when I found you, a woman, trying to defend Al Smith's warped ideas on Prohibition I am just like the lady in Parkhurst's church--sorry I ever saw your article.

After months and years of study of this great question the only remedy Smith can suggest is "state rights." How clearly you brought out in your book that Lincoln convinced the people that the nation could not exist half slave and half free. Now you are trying to defend a man who is preaching the same false doctrine which Lincoln exploded.

You praise Smith for standing for "Personal Liberty." Would you still defend him if he insisted that people be allowed to sell opium and similar drugs to the general public, because, forsooth, "personal liberty" demanded that they be allowed to do so?

There is only one common sense view of the matter. If alcohol is a good thing for people let them have it. If it is not a good thing for them and does the enormous harm that undisputed records show it has done, than any government has a perfect right to prohibit its use.

Smith knows and you should know that alcohol used as a beverage has never done any person any good and has done incalculable harm. Hence all this talk about "state rights" is either nonsense or subterfuge, or both, and the people of this nation will so declare it in November.

Yours very sincerely,

J. J. Stockdale

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