June 20, 1930

Dear Mrs. Aldrich:

I am sorry for my delay in replying to your letter of last week. I was out of town when it arrived and have been very busy since I came back.

It is always painful for me to find myself holding and airing opinions contrary to those of my friends. However, a journalist must speak his mind or give up his profession.

I am not ignorant or forgetful of the scandals of the old saloon. True, I never worked myself in the Red Light District, though as an editor interested in social progress I kept myself very well informed and ocasionally was able to lend a hand.

I never saw prohibition as a final solution of liquor abuses, but I did recognize the coditions which persuaded so many of my friends to accept it as a cure. I thought it was working at first. I took pains to say so in print, but I said too, that it seemed to me an spisode on the road to National temperance - like a Revolution in a National evolution - a Revolution which rips out some established form of evil but does not destroy the evil - that finds new expression. The return of the old evil partnership between the politicians, police and liquor sellers has ome back more quickly than I dreamed possible, and it must be faced.

Prohibition gave us a temporary relief from the saloon. It has given a wonderful demonstration of the material and social benefits of sobriety, but its strength seems to me to be

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rapidly spending itself. I see nothing for us but a return to education and regulation.

As one whose aim is National temperance by any road which I believe to be basically sound I naturally feel like protesting when I am classed as a wet propagandist. My interest is temperance not politics. Do try and not think bitterly of me, dear Mrs. Aldrich. I really feel very solemn about this matter - the more solemn because I do not see clearly the way out.

Always faithfully yours

Mrs. Richard Aldrich
Rokeby
Barrytown on Hudson

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