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(Official letterhead of Ottawa)

A. W. Benson, Mayor (paper torn) H. Paramore, Clerk

CITY OF OTTAWA

Mayor’s Office June 3d 1879

Prof M. L. Ward,

Manhattan Kans

My dear Sir; - I have yours of the 29th ult. and am very willing to give you any suggestions growing out of our experiences here, that may be useful to you—

The difficulty with the detective system is this—You cannot get a good open honorable man to go into it—People look upon it as in some degree dishonorable. So we have to look among people of questionable character for help in this direction, and here comes in the danger—your detective may or may not be serving you, and sometimes you can not tell which—

I employed a man here—who was in with the whisky people—a drinking man—agreed to give xxx so much for each successful case—He xxxx (lailent) about the saloons, drank and treated, and reported to me names of parties who drank—dates etc—We did not use him as a witness of course until he was “spotted” and co ([could] paper torn) no longer be useful. Even with the [arra](paper torn) it was very difficult to convict s (paper torn)e men

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who drink at malicieuse bars—have such a fine sense of honor (!) that they will—the most of them, indeed—swear to a lie to shield the rumseller, and the bar-keeper is usually ready to swear to a lie, at any time, when he is not in dread of the penitentiary—He looks upon it as his duty to his employer—and part of the services for which he is paid—I believe there is no such difficulty in punishing any of other kind of crime—There is that about the whisky business that corrupts every one who has to do with it—You would be astonished (as I have been) and mortified to hear the names of citizens of this city-high in social and business life who were thus detected in drinking, and who when called as witnesses positively denied the fact—However we had reasonable success all things considered—and I suppose we ought to be grateful for what has been done—I confess however that we ought to be able to do much more—The person whose se [paper torn] an—has

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gone away—but any sharp unscrupulous man—will do as well—until he goes back on you—Be sure you watch your man closely and drop him before he drops you—

Another plan we used—was to get farmers boys—who came to town and drank—to “give away” as the phrase is - the person who sold the liquor—this can be done through merchants or other friends of the young men in town—Above all we find it necessary to keep our own friends up with work in earnest and aggressive—while they are united and persistent—success will come when they get indifferent and apathetic—it will not—

I wish you great success—but after some experience, I am reminded that we must be content with slow progress—and never be discouraged over present defeat—

Very truly yours

1. W. Benson