

METUCHEN'S NEW INN GETS NO LICENSE

Court's Reply to Those Who Quote the "Best People."

No More to Say Under the Law, De-
clares Judge Strong, than the
"Meanest People."

Special to The New York Times.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Dec. 24.—
Some of the first families of Metuchen
interested themselves lately in establishing
an inn in the village which would be an
improvement on the present village hotels
and give them the opportunity to entertain
visitors to Metuchen on a little better scale.

The old Robins mansion, a roomy, Co-
lonial structure on Main Street, was se-
cured, and Edward Busch, a steward, once
connected with Sherry's and other estab-
lishments of that class, was put in charge.
The establishment of the hotel was par-
ticularly pleasing to the commuter class
in Metuchen, which includes one or two
magazine editors, several artists, a dis-
tinguished lawyer, several newspaper edi-
tors, and many others who are not famous,
but enjoy very comfortable incomes.

There is another element in Metuchen
which believes that all drinking places are
snares of the devil and should be put down.
One of the most energetic of these is the
Rev. Dr. J. G. Mason, who does not believe
in saloons and sometimes takes a lively in-
terest in politics when a saloon man is up
for office. Dr. Mason heard that a license
to sell liquor was to be asked for the Me-
tuchen Inn, and he wrote a letter to Judge
Woodbridge Strong protesting against an-
other licensed hotel for Metuchen. Several
people in his congregation did the same.

The question came up before Judge Strong
several weeks ago, but he was unable to
decide it. When the matter came up again
to-day, George S. Silzer, representing Mr.
Busch, offered a petition signed by fifty-
five representative people of Metuchen,
asking that Mr. Busch's place be licensed.
He added:

"The best people of the borough favor the
granting of the application."

"The best people," said Judge Strong,
"under the laws of the State, have no
more to say than the meanest people. The
law put all men on a dead level. It is de-
cidedly offensive to the Court for people
to come here and say 'We are the best
people,' and then dictate what they want."

Judge Strong then went on to say that
he thought those who wrote to him to
remonstrate with him were wrong on the
temperance question. He did not believe it
right to bring up by hot-house means. The
sturdy man of the world, he thought, are
the men who have encountered temptation
and who have overcome it.

"I think," he said, "that the original de-
sign was to bring man up under tempta-
tion. I can't think why he put the tree in
the Garden of Eden if not for tempta-
tion."

Judge Strong then denounced the minis-
ters who have attacked him in the past and
have charged him with being the advocate
of intemperance. He ended by saying that
in accordance with the wishes of many peo-
ple of Metuchen whose judgment he re-
spected he would decline to grant the li-
cense to Mr. Busch, although the decision
was against his personal opinion.

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