

Leading Wholesale Trade of Montreal

JOHN OSBORN, SON & CO.**WINE**

—AND—

Commission Merchants,1, CORN EXCHANGE,
MONTREAL.*Sole Agents in the Dominion for*

BISQUIT DUBOUCHE & CO.,	Cognac, Brandy.
PIPER HEIDSIECK,	Champagnes.
H. PIPER & CO.,	Reims, Champagnes.

CARTE BLANCHE—SEC.
 DRY VERZENAY—EXTRA DRY.
 PRIVATE STOCK—IMPERIAL.

JOHN HAURIE NEPHEW, Xerez, Sherries,
WELSH BROS., Funchal, Madeiras.
OSBORN & CO., Oporto, Ports.
"RIP VAN WINKLE," Schiedam, Gin.
T. P. GRIFFIN & CO., London, Export Bottlers
 of "BASS'S" AND "ALLSOPT'S ALES, AND
 "GUINNESS'S" STOUT.

AND IMPORTERS OF

Fine Old London Dock JAMAICA RUMS and
 the leading brands of GINS and BRANDIES.

The Journal of Commerce

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, FEB. 9, 1877.

TEMPERANCE BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.**THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM.**

Such is the title of an article contributed to Belford's Magazine by the Hon. Wm. McDougall, who claims to have had an opportunity, during his sojourn in Sweden in 1873, of witnessing the operation of the Gothenburg System, and who gives his adhesion to the views of Mr. Chamberlain, who has lately published the results of a visit to Sweden, undertaken for the purpose of studying that system. We observe that the prohibitionists have succeeded in carrying the Dunkin law in some districts in Ontario, and the Government of that province has a measure before the local legislature for amending the license law recently enacted. Concurring as we do with Mr. McDougall, that "the temperance movement is one of the great moral reforms of the 19th century," and believing that it has already accomplished more than could reasonably have been anticipated in the time, we cannot but regret that well-meaning men should attempt to coerce others into their views, with the certainty of inflicting a deep injury on society if their efforts should prove successful. We need hardly remind

our readers that the enthusiasts in any cause are those who make the greatest noise, and who often appear to have much greater influence than they really have. It is well known that there are many warm adherents of the temperance cause, who do not go the length of the prohibitionists, and, judging from the consumption of the obnoxious liquors in the Dominion, it is hardly conceivable that both classes combined can be anything like a majority of the population. Mr. McDougall quotes a passage from Dr. Dio Lewis, the originator of the "Women's Temperance Movement," on the subject of legal prohibition, which well deserves the attention of our prohibitionists: "The prohibitory liquor law thoroughly enforced would, I have never doubted, contribute more to the wealth of the state and the welfare of society than all the other of our statutes put together. But if this law be enacted before public sentiment is prepared to enforce it, it must divert the attention of temperance men from the vigorous and undivided employment of those moral influences which alone can give development and power to public sentiment." Such warnings coming from zealous advocates of the temperance cause seem to be wholly thrown away on our prohibitionists, who never condescend to reply to arguments, but labour to excite their hearers by vivid descriptions of the evils of intemperance, regarding which there is a general concurrence of opinion. Neither Mr. McDougall, nor the writer that he has cited, has put the case against prohibition as strongly as might have been done. We are not without the light of experience to guide us in this matter. Prohibitory duties are only a stage short of prohibition, and what government, we would ask, has ever been able to prevent the evasion of laws establishing excessive duties? Sir Walter Scott was a faithful delineator of the manners and usages of the times on which he wrote. In three of his novels depicting the state of society in Scotland about a century ago, we may learn the fearful consequences of holding out temptation to smugglers or persons concerned in illicit traffic. A reference to them may not be out of place. The plot of Guy Mannering turns very much on the proceedings of a desperate gang of smugglers, engaged during a period of years in systematic violation of the law, and countenanced almost openly by the population. "People must have brandy and tea," says Mr. Bertram and there's none in the country but what comes this way." One time the revenue officers, supported by military, "poured down upon the kegs, bales, and

"bags, and after a desperate affray, in which severe wounds were given and received, succeeded in clapping the broad arrow upon the articles and bearing them off in triumph to the next custom house. Dirk Hatteraick vowed in Dutch, German and English a deep and full revenge both against the gauger and his abettors, and all who knew him thought it likely he would keep his word." The revenge was the murder of the gauger and the kidnapping of the magistrate's son. So much for the fiction. In a note to one of the later editions we find that "the prototype of Dirk Hatteraick is considered as having been a Dutch skipper called Yawkins. This man was well known on the coasts of Galloway and Dumfriesshire as sole proprietor and master of a Buckkar or smuggling 'lugger' called the Black Prince. Being distinguished by his nautical skill and intrepidity, his vessel was frequently freighted, and his own services employed by French, Dutch, Marx and Scottish smuggling companies." We may remark that such companies organized for that trade in the United Kingdom were common within the last fifty years. The plot of the Heart of Midlothian likewise turns very much on the proceedings of smugglers. In the introduction to the story we find the following passage: "Contraband trade, though it strikes at the root of legitimate government by encroaching on its revenues, though it injures the fair trader and debauches the minds of those engaged in it, is not usually looked upon either by the vulgar or their betters in a very heinous point of view. On the contrary, in those countries where it prevails, the cleverest, boldest and most intelligent of the peasantry are uniformly engaged in illicit transactions, and very often with the sanction of the farmers and inferior gentry. Smuggling was almost universal in Scotland in the reigns of George the 1st and George the 2nd, for the people, unaccustomed to imposts, and regarding them as an unjust aggression upon their ancient liberties, made no scruple to elude them whenever it was possible to do so." We earnestly recommend the foregoing passages to our enthusiastic prohibitionists, and at the same time warn them of what would be the certain result of the policy which they advocate. Assuming, for a moment, that they could succeed in carrying a prohibitory liquor law, can there be the slightest doubt that vast numbers of the people would look on such a law as an aggression upon their liberty, and would deem themselves at perfect liberty to countenance