

ratification by popular vote. The prevailing opinion among these representative men appeared to be that the time for half-way measures had passed; that these had been tried long enough to demonstrate their insufficiency to impose any effectual restraint upon the demon of intemperance; that nothing short of the most radical and comprehensive legislation will touch the core of the evil, and effect the desired reformation; and that the common sense and conscience of the masses of the Canadian people may be relied on, not only for the acceptance but for the execution of such a law as will fully meet the exigency of the case. We sincerely hope that in this latter particular they have not reckoned without their host, or reposed a more generous confidence in the people than is deserved. We are by no means prepared to say that they have. Indeed, we are unwilling to think so meanly of our countrymen as to suppose that if the question of the continuance or non-continuance of a traffic which has proved such an unmitigated curse to tens of thousands, and is at this moment doing more mischief than pestilence, famine, and war put together, were fairly submitted to them, they would deliberately vote for it to be continued. We cannot, however, close our eyes to the fact that a tremendous battle remains to be fought. The enemy has too much vitality and energy to be easily vanquished. Opposition to the contemplated law will often be found coming from quarters from which it would have been least expected to come. The temperance men, however, are not afraid to meet the issue. In the name of the Lord they have set up their banner; and, knowing that they have right upon their side, they are prepared to make the trial and abide the result.

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FAVOURABLE INDICATIONS.

If we read aright the signs of the times, there are not wanting in our Church indications of the approach of increased prosperity and power. We hear of extensive and careful preparations in many places for the approaching winter campaign. The missionary anniversaries are appointed early, in order, among other things, that they may be out of the way, and leave ministers and members of churches free to devote their undivided energies to the direct work of soul-saving. Conventions have been held for the consideration of questions closely affecting the most vital interests of the Church. One of these at least, we are pleased to observe, has been devoted exclusively to the subject of the Higher Christian Life. Intelligent, serious, and reverent exchange of thought and sentiment on such a subject can scarcely fail to do good. Another of these gatherings has been called for the consideration of matters more practical, such as, "The relation of fidelity to our Methodist economy and success;" "How may stewards assist in the working of a circuit?" "What should be done to maintain the interest in our classes?"