

Can the most earnest Temperance advocate set forth in terms more forcible and impressive the nature and influence of that occupation upon community, when it is declared by the solemn dictum of our Legislators that he that follows it must do so under a serious statutory disqualification.

But we have upon our Statute-book a still more significant "sign of the times," and one which in fact yields to us the essential ground of prohibitive legislation. So irresistible have become the convictions of the evils of whisky and whisky drinking upon the highest interests of our country; so patent the prostitution of one of our dearest privileges, the elective franchise, to their baneful influences, that even the present Ministry, with all its apparent contempt of Temperance Legislation, has given the strongest proof of the force of these convictions.

In the recent "Elective Franchise Act" an effort—we will say an honest effort—appears to have been made to secure the purity of Elections, and as an important and essential provision the thirteenth section enacts as follows:

"Every hotel, tavern and shop in which spirituous or fermented liquors or drinks are ordinarily sold, shall be closed during the two days appointed for polling in the Wards of Municipalities in which the polls are held, in the same manner that it should be on Sunday during Divine Service; and no spirituous or fermented liquors or drinks shall be sold or given during the said period, under a penalty of twenty-five pounds against the keeper thereof if he neglects to close it, and under a like penalty if he sells or gives any spirituous or fermented liquors or drinks as aforesaid."

Here then, my Brothers, we have our cardinal principle yielded—that is, *Constitutional Prohibition*.

The good of society demands the utmost care—the most essential guard for securing the purity of Elections—demands that the sale of spirituous or fermented liquors—aye, even the giving of them for drinks, shall be prohibited while the elections are in progress. And if it is constitutional for the good of society to prohibit the sale for two days, then it is so to prohibit for a week, for a year, forever.

Again—we invite your attention to an extract from the Presentment of the Grand Jury at the late Assize for the City of Toronto, and not so much to the declaration of the Jury affirming the fearful prevalence of the vice of drunkenness as to the admissions made by Chief Justice Draper in his reply to the Grand Jury. Other Juries in the same place have presented like facts, but learned Judges from the same Bench have scouted the idea of correcting such evils by legislation—or as they said, "to make men sober by legislation."

"In common," say the Jury, "with all past Grand Juries, the members of the present one cannot but reiterate their conviction, from painful experience, that the large proportion of crime and misery found in this city (and everywhere throughout the country) must be traced to the facilities furnished by the Municipal authorities for the sale of intoxicating drinks."

"There is no evil in society which more imperatively demands removal than this, yet everything seems here to indicate that it is on the increase, and our city is being famed for the depredations arising from drunkenness and the crimes it generates."

Now mark the Chief Justice in reply:—

"Most of the evils which have been pointed out and with ample reason, are such as can only be remedied by the Legislature; some, indeed, and

perhaps those of their own influence as in point out as one of the places in which liquor this is certainly a matter in the Courts of Justice and the public officers in proof of the assertion such a state of things power, in relation to held, and having it proved

"This as well as so the Legislature, should

His Lordship, you and yet the admission remedy for this dread of the liquor traffic."

Looking then at the might be enumerated in saying that the price we not "thank God"

Let us remember too of seeing that such proper officers, lest the

To avoid repetitions, of your finances, and Grand Scribe for the latter officer to embrace taken place since our and the legal proceedings interests of the Order and Members of said

No progress has been Patriarch and Grand Act of Incorporation Order," because that matters now pending, we may be required.

A strong conviction last Session of the Grand Legislature for the enactment

I observe that a Com Good Templars, to trust such an arrangement well as every existing order

Another subject of Lecturer to labor in Council

These matters will require

I am sure you will be seated in our Council, and