

For The Weekly Visitor.

PAPERS
ON A
PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW
FOR CANADA.

BY A. W. G. GERRARD.

NO. 11.

VARIOUS and diversified are the objections raised against the enactment of this law. A few of the more prominent ones we will mention, and humbly endeavour to answer:—

In the first place—Our opponents tell us that "it destroys private property." This assertion is incorrect. It destroys nothing legally held; it allows a man to keep, use, or sell what is lawful.

Secondly—"It interferes with, and destroys business." So do labor-saving machines. So do canals with turnpikes, and railroads with steamboats.

Thirdly—"It renders that unlawful which has been held legal." Formerly there was a law in Canada which, in case of the Father's death made the eldest son heir to all the property; but that law has been repealed. Now, every member of the family receives his or her equal share. The good of the community requires it.

Fourthly—"It affects the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the country." Though some crops may be rendered useless, yet it will leave the ground for others. If all the money which is now expended for liquor in Canada were to be applied to the purchasing of bread, meat, comfortable houses, and education, we would be relieved of nine-tenths of our taxes; every branch of industry would be benefited, and capital would be added to the country.

Fifthly—"The people are not prepared for it." We think otherwise. The crime, pauperism, taxation, and suffering humanity of our country call for it.

Sixthly—"The requirements of the law are too stringent." Not at all. Where there is a will to obey there is a way to do it. To secure the object in view it is necessary to be stringent.

Seventhly—"It can never be enforced." In the State where the law received its birth it has been demonstrated beyond contradiction that no other law ever was enforced so easily. It enforces itself. The people are too well convinced of its inestimable qualities and benign influences to allow it to remain a dead letter on the Statute Book. When it will have had a fair trial, those who now oppose it will then bestow flattering encomiums upon it.

Eighthly—"It deprives men of their

rights." It has not in those States where it is in operation, and it never will do so. The rum-sellers, it is true, will be deprived of their rights in so far that they will no longer be allowed to destroy the bodies and souls of our fellow creatures.

Ninthly—"Dissatisfaction will prevail, blood will be shed, and difficulties of every imaginable description will be the result of the enactment of such a summary law." Behold the blood-stained walls of the temple of alcohol; gaze on the hundreds of thousands of bleeding bodies and broken hearts strewn before us, throughout the length and breadth of our land; remember that there are two or three hundred millions currency expended in this wholesale licensed human slaughter-house business, lose not sight of the six or seven millions of abandoned and almost hopeless objects that are still indulging in the besetting sin of drunkenness. A few lives could be sacrificed or spared in this conflict for one of the greatest reforms that ever blessed our race. Intemperance has ever been the bane of society.

Tenthly—"It is fanaticism." Were the men fanatics who legislated for and passed laws for the abolition of war and despotism; breaking up of counterfeiting and forgery? The liquor traffic is a warfare against the immortal spirits of men; it is a species of despotism more oppressive and intolerable than it is possible to conceive. Man is performing a duty that he owes to his God and his fellow creature when he stretches forth his hand to snatch an inebriate from the brink of a drunkard's hell.

Eleventhly—"The public would sympathize with the rum-seller on account of the stringency of the law; consequently intemperance would increase." Not a tear would be shed if the liquor-vender were to loose his license to-morrow. No one would be found to weep for the man who poisons our nearest and dearest friend, regardless of age, station, life, death, the resurrection, or the final judgment.

Twelfthly—"It mingles temperance with politics." Well, we will take it for granted that it does. Has it not been in former years, the custom in Canada to mingle whiskey with politics—for party demagogues to purchase votes with whiskey? And now have not the friends of the Prohibitory Liquor Law a right to purchase votes with cold water influence, if it be for the good of the people so to do?

Lastly—"If the traffic be abolished it will destroy the sources of human health, comfort, and social enjoyment!" It is our opinion that the passage of this law

will preserve health, and lengthen life; it will afford pure, hallowed, and heaven-born comforts and enjoyments,—while the liquor traffic would ever place from within our reach those advantages and gratifications. Our goals, almshouses, penitentiaries, and drunken and brawling families establish the correctness of our statements.

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PEN AND INK SKETCHES
OF SELF-TAUGHT MEN.

By MARCUS.

No. 111.

GEORGE STEPHENSON—JOSIAH WEDGEWOOD.

It is not improbable that the greatest triumphs in skill have already been achieved, the most valuable theories made, and the deepest depths of literature fathomed. Truly there have lived as brilliant examples of men having risen from penury to opulence, from obscurity to eminence, and from ignorance to knowledge, as it is possible for to live. Yet the future is a sealed book, and the great power may so actualize our progeny as to revolutionize our apparently orthodox system, and bring light out of darkness, virtue out of vice, and burst a fount of erudition from the sterile ranks of the illiterate; thereby mentally remodeling our race, expunging new theories, and establishing a firm moral, intellectual and physical basis for all time.

George Stephenson, whose name is so identified with the introduction of steam as a self-acting power, but especially with that great triumph of modern volition, the Railway Locomotive, was born of humble parents in the county of Durham, England, in 1787. Their limited means prevented their giving George much schooling, hence he was early set afloat on "life's tempestuous sea," for we find him at a very youthful age picking turnips for two pence per day, and subsequently a brakeman on a wagon train-road. His versatility would not suffer him to step in the beaten to-tprints of his ancestors, for he is next engaged in repairing clocks and watches at which he was reported very clever. This, however, was not the turning point in his life, which may be attributed to an invention of a safety lamp on a similar principle to Humphrey Davy's. This gave him means, enabling him to enlarge his views and expand his mechanical intellect,