

denses the drinking customs to fractions of time, forces it to special days, and impels to periodical heavy drinking, instead of leaving the drinker free to spread his drinking thinly over every day, and imperceptibly attain and retain habits of strict moderation. I have known it to happen in British cities in which a Sunday liquor law existed, that the poor man, who would otherwise have been content with a glass in moderation on Sunday, laid in a stock in self-defence on the Saturday night, which he used before the Monday morning, just because he had it handy. Moderate drinkers are thus sometimes made immoderate drinkers by unwise legislation, brought about by popularity hunters, and well-meaning but weak-minded people, who leave human nature out of their count. Such is the perversity of nature that it refuses to be put in prohibition moulds or other inventions of strait-jacket reformers. A resident of Kansas City interpolates that Kansas City, which is a democratic non-prohibition city, permits no drinking on Sunday, and on that day, the curious sight can be witnessed of citizens of Kansas City, Missouri, going over to the Prohibition State of Kansas to do their liquor-drinking."

THE Mowat Government are so much concerned for the professional advancement of Canadians that they have called upon a Buffalo architect, a Mr. Waite, to superintend the planning of the new Legislative buildings. —*London Free Press*.

IN the short period of its existence, THE WEEK has established for itself an honourable position in Canadian journalism, which will hardly be affected by such expressions as those applied to it by our correspondent, which savour too much of the style adopted by advocates of prohibition towards all who presume to criticize or dissent from the methods by which they hope to hasten the coming in of the millennium. We cannot believe that THE WEEK would willingly misrepresent any speaker for the purpose of obtaining a cheap advantage over him. —*Halifax (N.S.) Chronicle*.

THE *Evening Post* publishes a letter giving some official statistics of the liquor business and its effects in Maine. There is not a county in the State which has not places where liquor is sold openly, and many more where it is sold on the sly. One of the prison inspectors, who has travelled all over the State repeatedly, says he does not believe there is a village or town where liquor cannot be obtained by any one familiar with the ways of finding it. Intemperance is said to be the cause of three-fourths of the sentences to jail, and the principal directions in which crime is on the increase are violations of the liquor-law and drunkenness. —*New York Nation*.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD has won in his long contest over the Franchise Bill in the Dominion Parliament. The Bill gives the right to vote to Indians in all the Provinces except British Columbia and the North-West Territories, and, as most of them live on reserves, makes them merely the tools of agents appointed by the Government. Still more objectionable is the creation of a class of "revising barristers" to prepare the voters' lists, who are given almost tyrannical powers, which they may be trusted to use for the benefit of the authorities by whom they are appointed. When the final vote was announced, Sir Richard Cartwright quietly remarked, "It is the Fourth of July—a fit day on which to disfranchise your own countrymen." —*N. Y. Nation*.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD thinks a just settlement of the Fisheries Question, coupled with a renewal of Reciprocity, is indicated by the tenor of his correspondence with Mr. Bayard. It will not do for Sir John to be too confident. It is one thing to get an agreement accepted by the State Department, and quite another to have it accepted by Congress. We advise him to make inquiry of Mr. Bayard as to what became of the reciprocity treaty which Hon. George Brown negotiated, and what are the chances that a new one may not meet the same fate. If he is working for both reciprocity and a settlement of the fisheries dispute, by all means let him keep the two things separate. Mr. Bayard will be for coupling them in the same treaty. The probable effect of that will be the rejection of both. —*American*.

THE golden sword which the Emperor of Russia has presented to General Komaroff, and which has just been completed by M. Kleiber, a St. Petersburg jeweller, is described as being a very magnificent weapon indeed. Its shape is that of an old French sword; the blade is made of Damascus steel; the scabbard as well as the hilt is of gold; between the chased ornaments on both sides of the scabbard there are rows of jewels, and at the upper end of the sword there are clusters of six or seven large diamonds. At the lower part of the scabbard are engraved the words, "For valour," also surrounded by precious stones. Further ornaments in the shape of roses formed of jewels are set in different places. The cost of the sword is estimated at \$750.

THE high license system is making steady progress in the States. In Missouri high license was first applied to bars dispensing spirituous liquors, and it worked so well that they have just extended its provisions to saloons selling malt liquors. In Michigan prohibition proved a failure, and high license reduced twenty-five saloons which were run in one town under prohibition to nine under the tax. In Ann Arbor there were seventy saloons under prohibition in 1872, and now only thirty-two under license. In Minnesota, in a single city, high license reduced the saloons from five hundred and forty-seven to two hundred and seventy-four, while the revenues were more than trebled and the decrease in the number of saloons increases the effectiveness of the police service. In nineteen cities in Illinois the number of saloons were reduced from seven hundred and thirty-three to four hundred and sixty-eight, and the revenues increased from \$89,950 to \$253,000. There will probably be a move for high license in Ontario when the farmers begin to feel the loss of revenue through the operation of the Scott Act. —*Mail*.

## MUSIC.

THE new oratorio "The Three Holy Children" by Dr. Villiers Stanford, occupies a prominent position in the magnificent programme of novelties to be performed at the approaching Birmingham Festival. Its subject is taken from the 3rd Chapter of Daniel, with portions of the Psalms and Apocrypha, arranged by Canon Hudson. The first part of the oratorio is laid by the waters of Babylon, and the second on the plains of Dura. The first chorus is one of Jewish women singing "By the waters of Babylon," the subject of which is that of the instrumental prelude. At the close of this number the character of the music changes and, gradually increasing in power, culminates in an effective chorus of Assyrian soldiers, followed by a passionate soprano solo with chorus, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem." The entire first part is occupied with the lamentation of the Israelites contrasted with the defiant denunciations of their conquerors. The opening chorus of the second part is "Bel, great is thy name," followed by a trio of Azarias, Ananias and Misael, "As for the images of the heathen, they are but silver and gold." The Three Holy Children appear for the first time in this part, during which there is hardly any pause between the movements. All the Assyrian choruses in the first part are for two tenors and two basses, but most of those in the second are for the usual voices. Then an instrumental interlude occurs, with voice passages repeating the words, "Bel, great is thy name." The next number has a choral refrain, "O King, there are certain Jews," replied to by the King in a solo, "Is it true, do ye not serve my gods?" to which the three Jews answer, "Our God, whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace." A chorus in A minor then follows, describing the anger of the king and the casting of the Jews into the furnace. An orchestral interlude of eighteen bars leads from A minor to A flat major with a solo for Azarias "Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers." The rest of the story is told in several descriptive numbers, the work concluding with a choral setting of the "Benedicite Omnia Opera," closing with a *maestoso* movement to the words, "For his name only is excellent, and his praise above Heaven and Earth." The oratorio is said to be the finest and most ambitious yet produced by Dr. Stanford and one that will add to his high reputation.

ITALIAN Opera is not yet quite dead. London is having a short season of twelve nights with Patti, Nicolini and Scalchi. Patti has made a new departure, appearing in "Carmen." For this short season the *Diva* has magnanimously consented to receive the reduced terms of two thousand dollars a night. No wonder that Italian Opera is moribund and with it the "star" system.

MR. COTSFORD DICK's new comic opera, "Dr. D.," is now being performed at the Royalty Theatre, in London. It is drawing well, but has brought on its composer the charge of plagiarism, which, one critic says, if it can be proved, will "deprive him of his newly acquired laurels." This by no means follows. There is plagiarism and plagiarism. No more audacious appropriator exists than Sir Arthur Sullivan, most of whose comic opera airs the hearer knows he has "heard somewhere before," even if he cannot place them, but his plagiarism is done so adroitly and his artistic sense of fitness in the connexion of words and music so consummate, that one is quite satisfied to accept what he offers and ask no questions as to whether they be stolen goods. Musical phrases are now, like literary ones, fast becoming common property and it may well be doubted if it is possible to invent a melodious phrase of eight bars which shall be entirely new.

SOME idea of the extraordinary activity of music in London may be gathered from the fact that in one day's issue of the *Times* the announcements included fourteen orchestral and military band concerts, three concerts of chamber string music, two choral, seven piano recitals, five organ recitals, one violin recital, one concertina recital, eight matinees and miscellaneous concerts and five operatic performances. It is doubtful if all the continental cities united could produce such a daily programme of music as can be heard in the metropolis of the most "unmusical" of countries.

THE Buffalo German Young Men's Association have decided to erect a building which, amongst other conveniences, will include a music hall. That chamber will be 80 by 92 feet, with a seating capacity of 1,667 in the auditorium, which is so arranged that every one can have a perfect view of the stage, and the gallery will seat 826. The gallery is hung on a cantilever truss. The design selected was the work of Mr. R. A. Waite, architect of the Toronto *Mail* building.

HANDEL's oratorio "Israel in Egypt" and Mackenzie's "Rose of Sharon" will be put into active rehearsal by the Toronto Philharmonic Society early in September, and Mr. Torrington also hopes to commence the practice of Gounod's new oratorio "Mors et Vita" later in the season.

ON Tuesday evening, the 7th inst., Arthur Sullivan's oratorio, "The Prodigal Son," was given at Knox Church, London, Ont., under the direction of Mr. W. C. Barron, the organist. It being the first time this work has been produced in London, or even in Canada, I think, its performance was looked forward to with unusual interest. The soloists were Mrs. P. J. Watt, London; Miss Duggan, London; Mr. F. Jenkyns, Cleveland, and Mr. E. W. Schuch, Toronto. The chorus—of about thirty-five voices—sang remarkably well, especially in "Let us Eat and Drink," "Let us Praise the Lord," and "Thou, O Lord, art our Father," Miss E. Raymond's admirable leading being of great value. The amateur lady soloists were received with much favour, and the lovely contralto aria, "Love not the world," displayed Miss Duggan's voice to advantage. Mrs. Watt has a very sweet soprano, but her style is not sufficiently broad for oratorio singing. Mr. Jenkyns was at his best in the tenor recitative and aria, "Come, ye Children," which he sang with much feeling and careful