

against them rose to 68, leaving the number of votes polled for the Act only 33 less than it was eleven years before when the Act was adopted. In Charlottetown the first vote on repeal, that in 1884, left the Act with a majority of 40. This fell to 20 in 1887, and the other day was reversed, repeal being carried by a majority of 15. A change of not more than 28 votes—55 on a division—is the very small effect of the past six years of repeal agitation.

These facts are very significant. A frequent if superficial view, expressed in Ontario, is that the overwhelming defeat of the Scott Act here was a natural and inevitable consequence of the Act having proved a failure. To this failure the "reaction" is ascribed. But a decade of like failure in the Maritime Provinces has produced no appreciable change of attitude towards the Scott Act. Strange to say, like cause has not had like effect.

The religious composition of the population of the Gulf Provinces affords no explanation. It is rather likely to increase surprise at the status the Act preserves there. In Ontario nearly one-third of the population belongs to the Methodist Church, a Church indefatigably zealous for teetotalism—quite as much so in fact as the Mohammedan. The Presbyterian Church, which has repeatedly through Synod and Assembly declared for prohibition, embraces twenty-six per cent. The Baptist and other minor bodies, which have officially taken the same position, add several per cent. more to the population ecclesiastically led towards support of the Scott Act. The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church—non-prohibitionist—together embrace barely twenty-eight per cent. of the people. In the Maritime Provinces these last named Churches are strong—in New Brunswick they include nearly two-thirds of the people. The Methodist Church is relatively insignificant in numbers. Religiously, therefore, the seed bed is less favourable for prohibition than in the Lake Province, and more favourable for repeal. Why then has the reaction not manifested itself?

The truth is that the hypothesis that the failure of the Scott Act in Ontario was the cause of its repeal has no basis in fact. Failure undoubtedly has an effect against prohibition. But if it alone had been depended upon to secure repeal, the Scott Act would still be in force over most of Ontario.

In the Maritime Provinces the total vote cast against the Act was very small compared with the number of names on the voters' lists. The "antis" not engaged in the liquor traffic generally remained at home. In several counties not a hundred votes against the Act were polled; in two counties not half a hundred. There were reasons for this abstention. The liquor traffic fought alone. They fought discredited by the character and sordid doings of many of their number, and by the half century of pulpit and platform denunciation poured on their heads. Ignorant of the strength of their case in religion and science, they made no platform or press appeals to the only arguments that would avail. They shunned public controversy, as well they might when they rested their case on paltry appeals to financial self-interest, on predictions of failure and references to Maine, arguments brushed aside by the organized enthusiasm which from every pulpit and platform confidently claimed support in the name of home and religion. There was boldness and moral enthusiasm on the one side, cowardice on the other; open appeals to what seemed at least to be morality by one party, and silent canvassing in the dark by the other. It was little wonder that the contrast deterred the majority of the anti-prohibitionists from publicly asserting themselves; especially when to organize or even to vote against the Act frequently incurred persecution and a species of boycott dreaded by every tradesman or professional man and by aspirants for public honours.

Added to all this, fifty years of teetotal propagandism had accumulated a mass of assertion—statistical, scientific and religious, which, permitted to pass unchallenged into general circulation, made up in confident iteration what it lacked in truth, and had largely affected the beliefs even of people convinced of the error of the teetotal position. To combat the multitude of assertions, supported as they were by scores of professional agitators, armed with abundance of teetotal and prohibitionist literature, required a preparedness with exact detail which few men had the leisure or the opportunity to acquire. So except here and there the boldest shrank from an arduous and seemingly hopeless struggle. There was no attempt to rally the large forces of the anti-prohibitionists; there was no citizens' movement against the Act, and hence no vigorous effort to prevent its adoption, and no reaction which promised its repeal.

In Ontario the reaction was deliberately created in full view of the situation and its necessities. It appeared suddenly, at a time when one county after another was declaring for the Act by majorities larger than were ever known in the Maritime Provinces, and when, so far as appearances went, the condition of things obtained throughout the Province that had long been chronic in New Brunswick. It appeared before the Act had been put into effect by actual experience. If the failure of the law later furnished an excuse for moral paralytics to shamble to the polls, it had nothing to do with the inception, or the extension of a movement of resistance to the Act which, quiet though it was, rilled in moral enthusiasm and earnestness the movement by which the Act won its long series of victories. The reaction was largely due to the public spirited course of Mr. Goldwin Smith and a number of other prominent men, lay and clerical, and wholly disin-

terested, organizing a society to inculcate what they believed to be the true principles of liberty and temperance. This society, which quietly but rapidly extended its organization throughout a score of counties, relegated the usual arguments against prohibition to a secondary place, and boldly attacked teetotalism, its principles and assertions, on the ground of religion, science and public interest. The appeals issued to Parliament, and to the people, at once gave heart to public-spirited opponents of prohibition throughout the Province, and called the moral sense and intelligence of a large portion of the public to an effective resistance to prohibition. It was in the early summer that this public stand was taken; before the summer closed several signal defeats were inflicted on the Act; before September closed the last Scott Act victory in the Province was won, and within two months thereafter the Act sustained such overwhelming defeats that all further effort to extend the area under the Scott Act had to be abandoned.

The resistance thus organized was such as no State or Province in America had ever witnessed before. Municipal bodies by the score protested against the Act, which was time and again publicly branded as tyranny; remonstrances against the measure were extensively signed, while men like Panton, of Milton, wholly unconnected with the liquor traffic, dared imprisonment rather than testify under the arbitrary rulings of the special tribunals created to enforce the measure. Public resistance to the Act was accompanied by educational effort, on the platform, through the press, and through thousands of pamphlets and other publications, discussing every phase of teetotalism as well as prohibition. The work of organization meanwhile proceeded unostentatiously but effectively, so effectively that when the first ten counties to demand repeal voted upon the question, the Scott Act had to reckon not with the liquor traffic fighting alone, or with timid voters half apologizing for their attitude against the Act, but in almost every polling division in town and country, with large and enthusiastic committees of citizens, who worked with a will to deliver their country from a law which they cordially hated.

The broader the outlook taken the more will it appear that the reaction in Ontario has been exceptional, not the absence of reaction in the Maritime Provinces. In the United States, where repeal of prohibition has been carried as in Massachusetts and in the Western States, its success has been partial, and generally through political complications. In Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont forty years' experience of the failure of prohibition has not, any more than twelve years' like experience in the Gulf Provinces, produced an appreciable reaction. In Ontario, where the verdict for prohibition was quite as decided as in any of these States, prohibition was defeated within three years overwhelmingly and after a manner unexampled in the history of the movement. Not the least significant of the features of this defeat were the character of the opposition offered to prohibitory law and the fact that much of the assault upon it was directed on appeals to the highest moral sense and the broadest intelligence.

WINONA'S TRYST.

FOURTH PRIZE STORY, BY JESSIE M. FREELAND,
BROCKVILLE, ONT.

A FEW years previous to the rebellion of 1837, any one passing down the river St. Lawrence might have seen a large, newly-built stone dwelling-house, situated on the wooded height of a point of the Canadian shore, between the towns of Brockville and Prescott. It gave the impression of solid comfort, rather than of pretentious architecture. A wide verandah, with white pillars almost entirely hidden by the dense growth of Virginian creeper that encircled them from base to capital, surrounded it on the three sides visible from the water. The front faced the high road, which ran parallel with the river, and while fine old trees of maple and pine cast their shadows over its roof, and clustered thickly at intervals through the grounds, care had been taken not to interfere with the magnificent view the house commanded, both across the surrounding country and along the shore for miles in either direction.

At the foot of the lawn and gardens, which sloped abruptly to the water's edge, stood two immense Lombardy poplars, planted many years before by the early French settlers to mark their progress and settlement as they slowly ascended the mighty St. Lawrence for the first time.

Many curious stories more or less tinged with superstition, and savouring much more strongly of tradition than authentic history, were associated with those two particular trees. Beneath one the bones of a murdered Indian were popularly supposed to rest uneasily, while his spirit wandered through purgatorial space, vainly seeking to expiate his sin, that of having loved and forcibly carried off an Indian maiden belonging to a hostile tribe. One might have thought the swift retribution following close upon the committal of this daring act more than sufficient to atone for its enormity, for the legend goes on to say he was almost immediately captured, and the united vengeance of both tribes spent upon his devoted head before he was finally consigned to his resting-place beneath the poplar.

However this might be, it is certain that when Mr. Donald McTavish had selected this spot, with an eye to its

healthiness as well as its fine natural advantages, built The Hall, and settled down to enjoy his comfortable income and well earned repose, after a life of laborious service in the Hudson Bay Company, he found, to his extreme annoyance, that an entirely unsuspected element had been included in his purchase and was attached, in the form of a somewhat unenviable and wholly unwelcome notoriety, to the lovely retreat in which he had elected to spend the evening of his days. His sentiments were by no means shared by the two other members of the family, his only daughter Rose, a spoiled little beauty of fourteen, and an adopted son, Hugh Gordon, a bright, high-spirited youth, a few years older. To them this old legend and a score of others of like ilk associated with the place, which they speedily unearthed, were a source of unmixed delight, and with the refreshing impartiality of childhood they mingled the thrilling tales of pioneer life, gathered from the old settlers around, with the results of their researches into the supernatural. This last pursuit they entered into with all the fearless courage and audacity belonging specially to youth and inexperience; and their painstaking endeavours (worthy a better cause) soon elicited the further crowning revelation, that a former diseased occupant of the land, from all accounts a spiritualist in advance of the times, occasionally reappeared in the vicinity of his mundane abode, and, probably in conjunction with the shade of the Indian brave, held nocturnal seances amid the ruins of his old tumble-down cottage, lying close to the shore in a thickly-wooded field adjacent to The Hall. But at this point the climax of their satisfaction and also the end of Mr. McTavish's patience were reached.

"I am a Scotchman and a Presbyterian," he remarked to a friend a short time after, dropping into the vernacular as was his custom at odd moments. "And, therefore, treat all these 'havers' and nonsense with the contempt they deserve. But anything like the physical discomfort I underwent during that first year in the matter of getting or keeping servants, I never want to experience again. No amount of wages would induce them to come, or once come to stay, and I almost came to the conclusion the morning I had to get up and cook my own breakfast, owing to a general stampede of the whole domestic colony the night before, that the finest view in the world would hardly compensate a man at my time of life for such a humiliation." Long service in a company noted for its rigid discipline and strict enforcement of duty had rendered him, while in general an indulgent father, a good deal of a martinet in the government of his affairs, and he now put a summary stop to all further investigations whatever, with such success that these eerie tales were gradually forgotten, and excepting for a marked avoidance of the ruined cottage after dark, by the servants and country people, left no impression behind.

It was, therefore, with feelings of intensified annoyance that soon after the commencement of the rebellion of '37, Mr. McTavish found that similar stories were again being circulated in the neighbourhood. Strange figures had been seen flitting about the ruined cottage, and voices heard by late passers by on land and water. Determined to sift matters thoroughly this time, the master of The Hall decided to investigate for himself, and accordingly one night in early October, during the second year of the rebellion, repaired in person to the deserted cottage, and took up a position close enough to see and hear anything that was to be seen or heard. Possessing a constitution of iron, troubled with neither nerves nor imagination, and entertaining a profound contempt for all tales of the marvellous, it was nevertheless with an extraordinary sensation in the region of his spinal column, that the watcher beheld, a little after midnight, some half-dozen shadowy figures emerge from the dark recesses of the adjoining woods, and silently disappear inside the ruins. After the first moment his natural courage asserted itself, and, drawing nearer as he heard the murmur of voices, he soon discovered, with mingled feelings of relief and indignation, that he had lighted upon nothing worse than a band of human conspirators, or "Patriots," as the disaffected throughout the Canadas, who advocated recourse to arms in order to reform the prevailing abuses, were called during this rebellion.

A staunch Tory, and loyal supporter of the Government, it may be imagined with what indignation the listener heard all sorts of treasonable plots and disloyal measures discussed upon his own grounds, and he was on the point of stepping forward, unable to restrain himself any longer, when one voice, raised above the others, suddenly arrested him, and he stood rooted to the spot, listening in incredulous amazement and growing anger, to a bold, impassioned harangue from the lips of his adopted son, Hugh Gordon.

With an eloquence and force of argument that might have carried away cooler heads and more mature judgment than his youthful audience possessed, the young orator denounced, in words of scathing scorn, the outrageous abuses and political corruption of the day; condemned the utter incapacity, or more culpable neglect, shown by their present rulers; and after painting in glowing colours the ultimate benefits the country would reap from their justifiable rebellion, urged his hearers in conclusion to accept the assistance offered by their American sympathizers, and, while remaining perfectly loyal, to make use of their help but as a means to the end in view—the freedom of their country from its present state of corruption and bondage.

As he concluded, a low murmur of applause and assent testified the unanimity of sentiment existing among them, and after some whispered consultation they dispersed and vanished as silently into the darkness as they had come.