

in its favor, to fifty against it. In Canada, the vote in the legislative assembly was *thirty-two* against it, to *twenty eight* in its favor. In several States, vigorous efforts are being made to create a public opinion in its behalf. Measures are being adopted to call a grand Temperance Convention in New York during the World's Fair, which, if held, *must* exert a mighty influence on public sentiment. These facts are full of encouragement. They call for gratitude and increased exertion. The victory is only sectional and partial as yet. It will be complete only when the Maine Law is triumphant all over this continent. The time for repose has not, therefore, yet arrived. It would be fatal to complete success, if the friends of the cause were to renit their labors in the least. They should rather inspire fresh zeal, and push the battle to the gate. Watching at every point of assault from the enemy; armed and active in the field; making aggressive movements on the foe, they must persist until the goal is reached. Then it will do to stack arms and hold a jubilee—but not till then."

Those who are afraid of mixing religion and politics in the progress of the temperance reform, may profitably study the remarks of the Rev. Stephen Mills of Harrisburg, Pa. He says:—

"I believe that every Christian man in the United States ought to take an interest in politics, and that any of them have the most unquestionable right to speak in public on political subjects.

In this country of freedom, all men think politics, and most men act politics; and those who do not, in my humble opinion, sin against God and their country, and should be sentenced to live under a despotism, until they suitably appreciate their responsibility and privileges. And surely if it be right to think and act politically, it cannot be wrong to talk on the subject to our fellow citizens. This is my position, this is my lawful right, and on proper occasions I shall not fail to exercise it.

The day that shall witness the entire withdrawal of Christian men from the political field, will be the darkest in our country's history, and will be followed by the utter destruction of all that is valuable and glorious in our institutions.

If by the curse of God, and the folly of the American people, we should ever become the subjects of a tyrant, he would, no doubt, kindly relieve us of many of our duties. But, so long as our liberties are worth preserving, let our obligations to the present and future generations prompt us to think, act, and speak; nor let us cease our exertions, until every political knave who has crept into power, is notified in thunder-tones that he must either change his conduct, or surrender his situation to more reliable hands."

Important Discussion—British Parliament.

On the 20th of April, the House of Commons went into committee on Mr. H. Mackenzie's Bill for the regulation of public houses and spirit shops in Scotland. A long discussion ensued, many valuable facts were elicited, and various useful suggestions were offered. Every movement of this kind is evidently tending in the right direction. Many honorable members already see the futility of every project which falls short of absolute prohibition; and in this discussion Mr. L. Heyworth expressed a hope, that the House of Commons would legislate in the spirit of the Maine Legislature." So that on the floor of the British parliament, an eulogy has been pronounced on the State of Maine which will lead to enquiry, and aid in producing the best results. We wish also to call attention to the fact referred to by Mr. Hume, that the British Government have agreed to a Committee of enquiry on the licensing system throughout England. We trust it will be thorough and searching, and we are persuaded that the evidence will prove, that it is not owing to any constitutional aptitude for drinking that Englishmen are such guzzlers of strong drink; but that the system of manufacture and sale has produced the army of drunkards, and regularly recruited the ranks of intemperance.

If, as Mr. Heyworth observed, this Bill of Mr. Mackenzie's is to be considered as the "Thin end of the wedge," then we wish it success; but we are persuaded that any legislation which regulates and justified the traffic must be to a great extent migratory,

or only advantageous partially. But let us turn to the discussion—Sir H. Davie, with a charity worthy of a better cause, proposed to add to the end of the first clause a provision, that these spirit-dealers who at present had a license for groceries should not be deprived of it.

Mr. Mackenzie opposed the amendment. The Bill did not propose to deal with the legitimate dealers in spirits, but to combine the grocer's shop and the tipping shop was, he thought, the very worst possible practice, and the great mischief against which they had to contend.

Mr. John McGregor supported the amendment, and contended that a most vicious principle would be extended to the retail trades of the country if the clause in its present form were agreed to. Sunday, instead of being a day of sobriety, was a day of drunkenness in Scotland. He was in favor of the regulation of public-houses, but that should be carried out by the local magistrates; and, after all, it was not in public-houses that the great excesses were committed, but in secret and solitary drinking.

Mr. Ewart objected to the Bill, on the ground of its being opposed to the general principles of Free-trade.

Mr. C. Bruce thought it was pushing the principles of free-trade too far to say that the House must not touch an evil which interfered with the welfare of the souls and bodies of the people of Scotland. The great cause of the intemperance in Scotland was the practice of selling spirits over the counter at grocers' shops.

Mr. Hume expressed his deep regret that the vice of drinking had spread so much through Scotland. Nothing was more melancholy than to observe, as regarded the manufacturing towns, the difference, in this respect, from the state of things which existed a few years ago in Scotland. He disagreed, however, with the promoters of the present measure as to the proper remedy, and he feared the bill would operate harshly in country districts. He suggested that, as Government had agreed to a committee of inquiry into the licensing system throughout England, it would be right to stop any further proceedings on the present bill with the view of having the same inquiry extended to Scotland.

Mr. Mackenzie said, it was not the licensing system he complained of, but the means of regulating public-houses. A select committee was appointed on this subject some years ago, and the bill was founded on their report. The object of the bill was not to interfere with the trade of grocers. They did not sell their groceries to be consumed on the premises, and all that was desired was, that they should sell their whiskey in the same way as they sold their groceries.

Mr. S. Wortley hoped the Government would not consent to the postponement of this measure, which was as much needed as it could well be for the correction of a great vice—a vice which was, unfortunately, too prevalent in Scotland. The hon. gentleman the member for Glasgow, said the vice of drunkenness was indulged in in private houses; but where did the maid-servant or the child first taste spirits—where did they first taste "blood," and acquire such a passion for it, but in those houses which it was the desire of this Bill to regulate.

Mr. Cowan agreed with the hon. and learned gentleman, and hoped the useful provision with respect to the sale of whiskey by grocers would be retained in the Bill. The hon. gentleman then read a document showing the result of an inquiry which had taken place in Edinburgh. The total number of licensed houses there, including hotels, was 975; of these 312 were public-houses. The population of the city of Edinburgh numbered a little more than 150,000. The number of persons who entered public-houses in Edinburgh in a single Sunday were 22,202 grown up men, 11,031 women, 4,631 children under the age of 14, 3,032 under the age of eight years, making in all 41,790, who went into public-houses in a single day in the city of Edinburgh. At the same time, he hoped the operation of the Bill would be confined to towns and burghs and not extended to rural districts.

Mr. Dunlop supported the clause, and thought the present system led to vice, and tempted the thoughtless and innocent into habits of drunkenness—habits which subsequently led to crime and disgrace. He wished the clause to stand as it was now framed, in the hope that it might abolish this snare and trap for virtue. Let Parliament, at all events, encourage virtue and discourage vice. That, surely, was one of their paramount duties.

Mr. Feigus said this was a measure for the protection of people