

The liquor interest will work with more desperation. The surprise of unlooked-for success must be made helpful to more than compensate for the increased energy that will come of the surprise of a defeat greater than was expected. The influence of this contest will extend beyond Provincial lines. Let us make the most of it.

Megantic will doubtless now try again to bring herself under the Scott Act. With the example of success on her boarder she need not be discouraged with the former defeat. She will expect more good from the Act now that her borders are brought under the better conditions.

The vote for the Act (1,487) is within 13 of being one-half of the whole number of voters on the list (3,000.) The vote against the Act (235) is about one-thirteenth of the whole number of voters. There are few political contests with like results. Let the lesson be heeded.—*Correspondence of the Montreal Witness.*

Sons of Temperance.

The National Division of North America, composed of representatives from the United States and British Provinces, held its annual session at Halifax, commencing on the 9th inst. M.W.P., Bro. Benj. B. Jewell, presided, and about 150 representatives were present. Those from the Grand Division of Ontario were Geo. Maclean Rose, Henry O'Hara, W. H. Orr, Toronto; J. M. T. Hunnum, Ottawa; Edward Carswell, Oshawa; Platt Hinman, Grafton; W. H. Bewell, Whitby; Rev. E. B. Young, Bowmanville. The following is from the report of the Most Worthy Patriarch:

MOST WORTHY REPRESENTATIVES:

The Temperance Reform is to-day commanding the attention of the civilized world. The question of self-government is on trial for all time. The American Republic is passing through trials that are straining every fibre of the ship of State. The Dominion Government is wrestling bravely with the liquor problem. The hope of liberty-loving nations is largely dependent upon the sobriety of their citizens. Freemen! there is no question so vital to our interests as this. The battle waged against intemperance is not for an hour, not for a day, not for a generation; as long as man has the appetite and temptations to allure, so long must this conflict continue. Our freedom can only be maintained by an intelligent, virtuous, sober and loyal people. An evil that invades the cabins of the poor, the homes of those who have neither "poverty nor riches," and the abodes of wealth and luxury; that is confined to no age, sex, people, nor condition of life; whose ravages are almost universal, and among whose victims are found the young, the gifted, and the beautiful of earth—an evil like this must be destroyed, or we shall soon see the beginning of the end of successful self-government.

In the last two decades, Europe has poured upon our shores tens of thousands of her criminal classes, bringing with them the customs vices and sins of the old world. We gladly welcome the honest laboring class who come to the new world to better their condition; to enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty; to make homes in our broad domain, from the icy banks of Hudson's Bay to the sunny shores of the Gulf of Mexico. These we welcome; but those who attempt to introduce the beer-drinking customs of Europe, who desecrate the Sabbath, who foster communism, who would pervert and supplant the principles of right and justice, should be watched with a jealous eye. The sterling independence of our ancestry, and the firm principles of the early settlers of the new world are in danger of being forgotten. The religion that gives independence to thought, that denies the power of the church in national affairs, that encourages the education of the masses, that demands that the Bible shall not be excluded from the public schools, is assailed by a false liberalism, and false ideas of personal liberty.

Let the liberties, the government and the laws of our State, Province or Nation, be determined by an ignorant, debauched or criminal suffrage, and what hope have we for the future. Place our liberties in the hands of the vicious, the drunkard and the drunkard-maker, and the hope of self-government is gone for ever.

Shall we yield to the demands of the Liquor Traffic? If we yield, we are far on the road to anarchy, and nearing the overthrow of all we hold dear as Christians and as lovers of our race. From our opponents we can learn wisdom if we will. They are united in action; we are not. They are true to their interests; are we true to our convictions of duty?

Let us bring against this "crime of crimes," the intellectual power that sustains our principles, the moral influence of men and women of culture and refinement, of social standing and position, the Christian ministry and the church, and the membership of our temperance organizations in one solid phalanx, and success will be certain.

There can be no compromise, no surrender on our part. It must be a war of extermination. Forty-six years ago an eminent lawyer said in Massachusetts, "The sale of alcoholic liquors should be prohibited, because they

are to the human constitution a poison, the use of which is always hurtful; because they produce and aggravate disease, weaken the understanding, stupefy the conscience, cause insanity, occasion the loss of a great amount of property, destroy social happiness, increase domestic wretchedness, weaken the motives to do right, and increase the motives to do wrong, cause most of the crime and pauperism in the community, counteract the efficacy of moral instruction, and all the means of intellectual elevation, the moral purity, the personal benefit and usefulness of men and because they corrupt public morals, endanger the permanency and purity of free institutions, and shorten human life."

Do you desire to witness drunkenness in its folly, loathsomeness and beastliness; poverty in its most deplorable forms, disease in its most malignant guise; chastity outraged by brutal lust; crime in all its hideousness arrayed in garments made crimson by the blood of its victims; support the *Liquor Traffic*.

Do you desire to see knowledge generally diffused; enterprise everywhere apparent; a pure patriotism, loyalty to free Government, a progressive exhibition of the missionary spirit; and the universal dissemination of Christian principles; *exterminate the Drink System*.

No form of license, however specious the argument in its favor, can receive the support of a true Son of Temperance. What is morally wrong can never be made right by legislative action; no person can have a moral right to traffic in what deprives the purchaser of his reason or manhood, or which will in any manner endanger the safety of society.

We may teach our sons the evils of intemperance, and send them into the world to battle with the evils of life; but while temptation invites them on every side, we may well fear the result. It has been truly said, "Precepts are of little value if temptation abound." Millions have fallen and millions are now tottering, soon to fall, our sons are not safe. We cannot tell the hour when they may weakly yield to the solicitations of some companion and enter the wide open door of ruin.

Are we wise and good citizens to commission men to do the evil work of enticement; to encourage them to corrupt and destroy, to hesitate over some vague ideal of human liberty when the sword is among us, slaying our best and dearest?

Let us not deceive ourselves. As an Order, it is our duty to boldly and fearlessly stand for the right. Let us nail the flag of Statutory and Constitutional Prohibition to the mast, and never compromise our principles.

On the question of License, let every Son of Temperance—

Vote no! and the mother's heart will leap,
The sister's tears be dry,
The poor inebriate clasp his hands
And raise his voice on high.

Vote yes! and the careworn heart will break,
The pale lip hush its prayer,
The wretched drunkard, clamoring, haste
To realms of dark despair.

Oh, then, by the life which God hath given,
By your power to curse or bless,
By your fears of hell and hopes of heaven,
Let not your vote be Yes.

By the cherished hearthstone's bitter wrong,
By the spirit's deathless woe;
In name of God and name of man,
Let every vote be No!

The Most Worthy Scribe says—

In my first official communication to the National Division, made at Saratogo Springs, three years ago, though required by the stern logic of facts to report a loss during the year 1880, of 4,693, yet I was encouraged by my correspondence, and by "Supplementary Returns," to express the opinion that the Order in many localities, had "touched bottom," and that the general tendency was upward. One year later, I was permitted to say that, "For the first time since the Philadelphia Session of 1876 [six years], the regular Returns show a very considerable increase in membership," the net gain in 1881, being 2,017. One year later, the outlook was better still, the net increase for 1882, as officially reported, being 6,248. And now, after another of progress, assembled at the invitation of the Banner Grand Division of the World, we can rejoice over a net increase for 1883, of 10,707, and for the three years last reported, of 10,152 members.

The reported gains are:—Eastern New York, 159; New Jersey, 22; Maryland, 10; Pennsylvania, 674; Connecticut, 690; Massachusetts, 1,209; Maine, 250; Kentucky, 304; North Carolina, 990; Illinois, 168; Rhode Island, 141; New Hampshire, 50; New Brunswick, 456; Wisconsin, 130; Nova Scotia, 4,449; Prince Edward Island, 139; Ontario, 1,224; Newfoundland, 12; Quebec, 135; Vermont, 164; Maryland Junior, 152; South Carolina, 178; Missouri, 344; Kansas, 515; Bahama Islands, 15; Iowa, 249; Minnesota, 36. Total gains, 12,865; net gain 10,707.