



## The Templar Quarterly

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"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."—Eph. 6:12.

FEBRUARY, 1896.

#### SINCE LAST ISSUE.

Too great nearness to an event precludes a just estimate of its true proportions and relations to the general progress of a reform of which it is but an incident. For this reason the daily, or even weekly, journal, reporting current news, does not enable the reader so accurately to measure the direction and force of the various events, occurring with such astounding rapidity, which constitute the history of Social and Moral Reform in this country, as the "Quarterly" which surveys a wider horizon and detects the marshalling and movements of the forces.

The Dominion Parliament having, for the first time in its history, met in a sixth session, to pass Remedial legislation, Mr. T. B. Flint, M.P. for Yarmouth, N.S., availed himself of the opportunity and early placed upon the Order Paper a notice of his intention to introduce the Prohibition resolution which had been endorsed by the Legislative committee of the Dominion Alliance. On Wednesday, Feb. 12th, he moved its adoption in an able speech which was not concluded when the House adjourned.

Sir Oliver has invited the Ontario Legislature to discuss a bill of fare, which it was hoped, by some, would include the amendment of the Ontario Liquor License Act. In explanation of

the disappointment, the Speech from the Throne says: "There has been unusual, and therefore unexpected, delay on the part of the Right Honorable the Judicial Committee of her Majesty's Privy Council in rendering a decision on the appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada with regard to Prohibitory liquor legislation. This delay indicates exceptional difficulty in agreeing as to the proper conclusion on some of the questions involved in the appeal. The judgment may be expected any day." The sixth of February was the second anniversary of Sir Oliver's type-written pledge to enact the fullest measure of Prohibitory legislation found to be within the competence of the Legislature. We cannot truthfully say that we are surprised at the delay. Indeed, the editor incurred the scorn of a high legal authority, very close to the Government, for daring to suggest, at the time and place of making Sir Oliver's pledge, that it meant two years before any relief would be secured. To this day no attention has been paid to the repeated requests for such amendments to the License Act as were undoubtedly within the power of the Legislature; and another year, possibly two or more, will pass before the first instalment will be paid on account of the Premier's pledge.

The Quebec Legislature, on the other hand, has heeded the request of the Quebec Branch of the Dominion Alliance and amended the license law in the direction desired, while refusing to grant the demands of a large and

wealthy delegation of Montreal liquor sellers.

An appeal to the Manitoba electorate has resulted in the return of the Greenway Government to power. The issue was the School question, and the intense feeling thereon, together with the individual pledges of the Government candidates to support Prohibition, enabled the Liberals to sweep the province and escape condemnation on their administration of the License Law. Thirty-three of the forty members returned, it is said, are pledged to support Prohibitory legislation. Two Patrons were elected.

The bye-elections in Ontario afforded the first instance of a Patron contesting a riding for the Commons. Mr. Brandon, Patron-Prohibitionist, ran in North Ontario, and was opposed by both Liberal and Conservative candidates. The Government retained the seat, but Brandon was a good second and, doubtless, would have won had there been a fair fight, under normal conditions. Prohibitionists—not all—deserted their old parties and gave him support.

The Nova Scotia Liberal party is adjusting itself to the growing Prohibition sentiment. Following upon the re-nominations of Flint, of Yarmouth, and Forbes, of Queens, by their respective party conventions with instructions to make their support of Prohibition supreme, Mr. Firman McClure, a prosperous barrister, of Truro, N.S., in accepting the nomination of the Colchester County Liberal convention, declar-



JOHN G. WOOLLEY.