

F. S. SPENCE AT LAKE WINONA.

minds that there was anything wrong in drinking. More is known to-day of the nature and effects of alcoholic liquors. We know that lives may be shortened, health impaired, money wasted, moral character lowered, by the drinking of men who are never seen drunk. The early temperance reformers started out to remedy the evil of drunkenness by promoting what they considered to be wise kinds of drinking. Sometimes they tried pledges against anything but moderate indulgence in intoxicants. Sometimes they tried abstinence from ardent spirits, and encouragement of lighter beverages. They failed, but in their efforts they learned that drunkenness grew out of liquor drinking, and that if lager beer and light wines were tolerated the worst forms of drink would be sold under false names. Driven by the logic of the effects that they could not ignore, they boldly struck all permissions out of their pledges and came up to the position of total abstinence in which all consistent, well-informed temperance men stand to-day.

When this point was reached, they thought that they had solved the problem, but they found themselves still facing failure. The evil they opposed had a two-fold character; it was popular and legal. Wrong customs and ideas can only be met by moral suasion and total abstinence practices. The law protecting the liquor traffic can only be opposed by political action. The law provided temptation, and lured the reformed drunkard back to the abyss from which he had been rescued. Legalized liquor-selling trained the youth to believe that alcoholic indulgence was proper and safe. Driven again by stern necessity, the temperance reformers broadened their plans, enlarged their programme, and hoisted the battle flag of "total abstinence for the individual and total prohibition for the community."

That flag floats over the fighting line to-day. We are told to remedy intemperance by moral suasion. What use is moral suasion, while the forces of law and government are arrayed in defence of the liquor evil? Some people believe that prohibitory legislation alone will be effective. This is another blunder. Prohibitory law is the embodiment of public