

him with power in any shape whatever, would be allowed supremacy for a moment when the voice of the people could be heard.

It is considerations of the kind which I have endeavoured to indicate herein which will give some faint idea of the meaning of the words of a distinguished prelate of the English Church, when he said that he would rather see England free than England sober.

## PRESS COMMENTS

ON

### "AN OBJECT-LESSON IN PROHIBITION,"

By the same Author.

(*Vide Nineteenth Century*, May 1895.)

#### The Guardian.

The *Nineteenth Century* is unpleasant reading for liquor prohibitionists. Mr. Down gives us the history of an experiment tried in the Canadian North-west Territory for some twenty years previous to 1892—the year which saw its complete abandonment.

#### Morning Post.

Attention is drawn by Mr. Down, in the *Nineteenth Century*, to the system that formerly prevailed among the settlers of North-west Canada as "An Object-Lesson in Prohibition." The subterfuges, dishonesty, and police tyranny that the conditions promoted were such that Englishmen may well hesitate before taking a step in this direction.

#### Saturday Review.

Mr. T. C. Down contributes a conclusive demonstration of the futility and tyranny of prohibitive drink legislation in "An Object-Lesson in Prohibition," which records the utter collapse of a most stringent liquor law in the North-west Territories of Canada. The failure of this experiment was signal. It caused the most scandalous demoralisation among the white population. . . . For ten years the North-west groaned under this legalised tyranny, with results that Mr. Down proves to have been exceedingly disastrous to the community.

#### Religious Review of Reviews.

To the Local Veto Bill we owe the contribution of Mr. T. C. Down, who tells the story of the working of the prohibition law which was in force in the North-west Territories of Canada from 1873 to 1892. His conclusion is that such a law cannot fail to be ineffective, its main result being a lowering of the moral tone of the community, who do not hesitate to evade it on every possible occasion.

#### Christian World.

Under the title of "An Object-Lesson in Prohibition," Mr. Down relates the results of total prohibition in the Canadian North-west Territories. . . . The results, according to the writer, were unlimited smuggling, an immense amount of drunkenness, a contempt for the law among all classes, the demoralisation of the police occupied in enforcing prohibition, and the final collapse of the system as soon as the districts in question were allowed a voice in the question. . . . The business was finally disposed of by a new licensing law which came into operation during the summer of 1892.