

The year 1888 will then stand for ever, in Toronto's history as a year in which she elected a city council with an overwhelming majority in favor of progressive temperance legislation, and in which the number of grog shops was actually reduced. We believe that every year will tell a similar tale until the last vestige of a legalized liquor traffic shall be swept from our midst.

### FORWARD! MARCH!

Now that the excitement of the annual municipal elections is over, and our workers have time and opportunity to bring themselves back to consideration of the great question of general progress, the subject of Scott Act repeal agitation comes again prominently before us.

From a number of Ontario counties, petitions have already been sent to Ottawa asking for a repeal vote. The petitions which are all right according to law will be received and polling days fixed for the localities to which they refer. Halton is the only county that can legally vote before April 15th next. We may therefore expect to see an early struggle in the little banner county. There need be no fear for the result. Halton will not go back on her record. But, her workers cannot afford to take anything for granted. They are dealing with a most unscrupulous enemy, and, it will be necessary to see that every friendly vote is polled. Toronto's mistake of last week must not be repeated.

Later on, the other counties referred to will no doubt be in line of fight. There are now three months for preparation, organization, education. Every worker in these counties owes to his cause and his county's reputation, all that he can give of energy, time, and substance. Friends in counties where the battle is not immediately on, should aid liberally their militant brothers. Whisky, to-day, feels hopeful—to some extent jubilant. It will go into the coming contest with enthusiasm, vigor, caution and desperation. We must meet the enemy with enthusiasm, vigor, caution, determination and faith. Now is the time for working—for thorough organization of canvassing and polling machinery—for rousing campaign meetings everywhere—for the distribution of literature.

We have in this contest the odds in our favor. The public are with us, if the public will but realize the situation. The facts are all with us. The churches are with us. Our cause is the right cause—the cause of humanity—the cause of God. It can only be defeated through the apathy of its supporters. The Scott Act has never been repealed, and we do not believe that any county in Ontario will be the first to break the record. Enforcement during the past year has been unusually effective. It is this enforcement of the law that has impelled the liquor traffic to seek for its repeal. Liquor selling has been lessened. Drunkenness has fallen off. Crime of every kind has been diminished. The practicability of prohibition has been demonstrated. But it must not be forgotten that untiring vigilance is the price of the liberty we enjoy. We must keep our armour bright and stand to our guns, while we "thank God and take courage."

### NOTES OF PROGRESS.

Kingston temperance workers are thoroughly alive. They have lately had a great temperance revival, and there is some talk of again submitting the Scott Act at the earliest opportunity.

Things sometimes get mixed up through distorted press reports. One of our American exchanges states that under Mayor Howland's administration in Toronto 100 out of 1,000 licensed saloons were closed, but that whisky had triumphed at the recent

election. Toronto never had, and never will have anything like 1,000 licensed saloons. Last year, a temperance council, through Mayor Howland's casting vote, carried a by-law cutting our saloons down to 150, 223. This year we have elected a council with a big temperance majority in it that will sustain all previous prohibitory legislation. Further, our city has largely increased in area and population by the annexation of surrounding territory. Notwithstanding this increase, the number of saloons will remain the same, so that we are really, in Toronto, still making definite and not worthy progress.

The *Milton Reformer* reports that at an anti Scott Act meeting held in the north-east end of Halton county, the chairman stated that their cause was a lost one, and a few present agreed with him that the liquor traffic's case was utterly hopeless.

We are delighted to learn that a decided step of progress has been made in British India. Sir Frederick Roberts, commander-in-chief, has issued an order providing that rations of rum shall no longer be supplied to the soldiers; and the spirit drinking of the army under government auspices is for ever at an end.

Some American papers are complaining about the difficulties which the Prohibitionists have placed in the way of the Republican party attaining power. The *Missouri Agitator* suggests, as a solution of the complicated situation, that the Republican party should put into its platform this plank:

"We are in favor of the utter abolition of the traffic in intoxicants in the United States and its Territories. This line of action would be a crusher to the Prohibition party."

Michigan has six large colleges, and in each of them is a live, working Young Men's Prohibition Club.

The city of New York alone has thirteen junior prohibition clubs in active operation.

Hon. J. P. St. John has gone back to California, where he will spend some time in platform work. He will be in Honolulu in March, and will probably return to Canada about June.

In Samakov, Turkey, a temperance society has been formed among the girls in the mission school. They have all enrolled their names upon the World W.C.T.U. petition and now wear the white ribbon as members of the W. O. T. U.

Our temperance friends in the United States are agitating for a national law prohibiting the importation of liquor into States that have adopted prohibition.

They have lately adopted a liquor law in Belgium, which makes it illegal for a saloon keeper to sell liquor except for cash down.

The Mayor elect of Sheffield, Mr. Clegg, is a sound total abstainer; the newly elected Mayor of Tynemouth is another. Both of those gentlemen are vice-presidents of the United Kingdom Alliance, and Past Grand Counsellors of the I. O. G. T.

We learn from English exchanges, that Mr. Schofield, who visited Toronto some time ago, has been lecturing on his experiences here. He gave the Scott Act credit for doing splendid work.

Dakota has been voting on local option. Sixty-eight counties have been polled. Six of them have declared in favor of continuing the liquor traffic, and the other 62 have voted for prohibition.

### Correspondence.

#### Prohibition and License.

SIR, Many of our earnest temperance workers take up what seems to me an erroneous position on the liquor question, when they draw a distinction between a license law and a prohibitory law. I admit that the distinction, so far as the terms "prohibition" and "license" is concerned, is to some extent justified by the meanings of these words. To "prohibit" should, according to etymology, mean to forbid, and to "license" should mean to permit; but as a matter of fact all our license laws are essentially and primarily prohibitory, the permission being of the nature of an exception or relaxation that is granted for some special reason. On the other hand every prohibitory law is also a license law for the prohibition can never be absolute. It does not make the distinction more valid to say that the prohibition to sell liquor as a beverage may be made absolute, for it is impossible to define "beverage" so as to exclude all permitted sales under the most stringent prohibitory law ever made.

I do not discuss this matter for the purpose of pointing out a mere misconception of terms, but to call attention to what seems to me a gratuitous surrender to the enemy of one of our strongest positions. I cannot illustrate my meaning better than by reference to reports made by the excise board of New York to Mayor Howland of that city. Two of the three members of that board favor a system under which the license would be granted to the house and not to the person, no restriction being made in the number of licenses issued, and the fee being "moderate." They advocate the granting of licenses to keep open all night and also to sell during certain hours on Sunday. As the traffic is liable to abuse they think provision should be made for its regulation, but they also think that it should not be discouraged since it is a source of comfort and convenience to a large part of the population. The third member of the board argues in a minority report very strongly in favor of reducing the number of licenses in New York city from 8,000 to 3,000, of making the license fee very high, of punishing violations of the law by imprisonment as well as fine, of requiring a bond from all license holders, and of compelling the landlord of the premises to go on the bond when he is not himself the applicant for the license. He thinks the law "was not made, and should not be administered, in the interest of the liquor seller. It was made not to promote but to restrict the traffic; not to protect the seller in his business but to protect the public against the inevitable results of that trade. Every step, therefore, should be towards further restriction and repression."

I have never seen anywhere a better description of the real nature, object and effect of a good "license law," and yet many temperance people seem to have a feeling that such laws are in their very nature injurious. If not sinful, instead of trying to make them as perfect, by making them as restrictive as possible, they deprecate high license fees, and openly express a desire to see all license laws prove themselves utter failures. Let me add some of the comments made on these laws by the *New York Nation*, a journal not specially friendly to the temperance movement. "Public opinion demands all over the country, with increasing force, that since liquor selling cannot be abolished, it must be discredited; that entrance to it must be made difficult; that the number of those engaged in it must be restricted; that liquor dealers must by hook or by crook, be ousted from their present influence in our politics; that all regulation of the traffic must openly recognize and provide for the fact that it is by far the most fruitful source of crime and disease and poverty known to the modern world."

In these views I heartily concur, and I am glad to see that an increasing proportion of our Toronto temperance workers are favorable to making the license law as restrictive as possible. There is no reason why the number of licenses should not be still further reduced and the license fee at the same time greatly increased. Both of these are proper objects to work for, and each of them would be useful and effective as a means of social reform. There are difficulties in the way of cutting down the number of licenses after the fashion of the Fleming by-law, but there is no difficulty in declining to issue new licenses in the room of those that are constantly lapsing. This matter rests with the commissioners, but if the commissioners are not amenable to public opinion those who appoint them are. All that is needed to secure the desired reduction in this way is united, energetic, and persistent action on the part of temperance workers. How can such action be secured if we are at variance amongst ourselves on the point, and if a number of us are constantly denouncing all license laws as devices of Satan?

If I may be permitted to do so I would like to give in a subsequent issue of the *Citizen* an explanation of the amendments which I want to see in the license law of this Province, popularly known as the "Creeks Act."

—Wm. HOODSON.

Toronto Jan. 9th, 1888.

### Story of a Wrecked Life.

BY THE REV. CANON FELLISON, M. A., CHAPLAIN TO THE QUEEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE T. N.

[In the year 1877, the body of a young man, about twenty-five years of age, was found in the Mersey, at Liverpool. He was well dressed, evidently one of the well-to-do classes. There was no clue to his identity, but in his pocket a paper was found with these words written on it:

"Let me rot! I have good friends, have had good friends, but am now a miserable sinner—not a farthing. Everything has been done to make me a useful citizen of the world, but I have abused everybody's confidence. Let me perish! God be merciful to me a sinner! Nothing will be found on me to show who I am, but I might have been in a very comfortable position all the days of my life, if it were not for drink. This accursed stuff has led me to commit suicide."

The report of the inquest went the round of the press. In less than two months the coroner received more than 200 applications from parents in different parts of the country, asking for particulars such as height, color of hair, etc. 200, that is, who had sons, lost to them, and to whom the description in the paper might have applied.]

"Let me rot!" is all I met for  
Not in consecrated grave,  
Where Christian men, whom mourners weep for,

Their resting place and burial have  
But down amidst the silent waters,  
Dark and deep as my remorse,

Away from wondering eyes, forgotten,  
Let me lie a nameless corpse.

"Let me rot!" 'Twas not so always:

I was once a happy boy,  
Strong, courageous, hopeful, truthful,  
A father's pride, a mother's joy;  
And I had visions, like my playmates,  
Of a future yet to come,  
When I perchance should gather round me  
The blessings of a Christian home.

And I had friends—one friend who gave me  
The love of her young trusting heart,  
Friends to help, and friends to save me,  
If I, poor fool! had done my part.

Where are they now? All, all, have left me,  
As, yielding to the cursed drink,  
Step by step it has bereft me  
Of prospects, reason, power to think

"Let me perish!" none will miss me,  
None will seek to know my end,  
No mother's lips would care to kiss me,  
No weeping eyes would o'er me bend.

"Let me perish!" Friends are round me,  
Mocking, beckoning, urging on,  
They have tempted, fast have bound me,  
Now they claim me for their own.

"Let me rot!" but O, my brothers,  
You who hold your lives in hand,  
By your love for fathers, mothers,  
By your love for fatherland;  
By the Name of Him who bought you,  
And who now your service claims;  
By the holy book that taught you  
Not to live for selfish aims;

Up and drive the drink fiend from you,  
Dash his poison from your lip;  
Ye are freemen—free your country  
From his desolating grip.

"Let me perish!"—but let others,  
Musing on this shipwrecked life,  
Take arms, and look for no discharges  
In their righteous, life-long strife.

—C. E. T. S. Chronicle.

### Do You Think?

Did you ever think, when you meet and drink,  
Men of the country, men of the town,  
That women's tears and children's fears  
From your crystal glasses are draining down?

That hopes so high are doomed to die,  
Drowned in the liquor you long to taste?  
That grand ambitions, and lofty missions,  
And admonitions are going to waste?

That a demon dire, with fangs of fire,  
Lurks in the wine-cup's sparkling foam,  
Whisperers of death, with fetid breath  
Are poisoning Youth, and Hope, and Home?

Pleasure you sought—what has it brought?  
Has it not lost you friend on friend?  
Do not delay; dash it away  
Ere it shall compass its awful end!

—Edmond B. Kilder.

### A Municipal Victory.

The Rev. W. A. McKay, of Woodstock, seems to have had the public on his side in his hard fight with the whisky council of his town, as in the recent municipal contest the anti-Scott Act Mayor was left at home, and a majority of the new council are in sympathy with Mr. McKay's views on law enforcement.

First Trump—"Now, we've got to divide fair, Ike." Second Trump—"Cert, pard. I ain't had nothin' to eat since Friday, an' you ain't had no sleep for four nights. I'll take th' paler an' you take the fatter an' go over in that air barn an' enjoy yourself."

### UNITED STATES.

#### ITEMS OF NEWS.

##### A Big Majority

The election on the question of Local Option, in St. Joseph county, Michigan, has just resulted in the adoption of prohibition by the magnificent majority of 1,400. This is the tenth county of the State that has "gone dry" since the recent passage of the Local Option law.

##### Not Very Bad.

The liquor party carried the city of Atlanta at the recent municipal elections, as well as in the Local Option contest, and the new council consists of 6 prohibitionists and 10 anti-prohibitionists. Whisky men, however, are evidently afraid to go very rapidly, as they have only ventured upon the following changes in the old system. The license to sell liquor was reduced to \$1,000, the limits of permissible sale were extended, and the hour of closing liquor shops was changed to 10 o'clock. Beer licenses may be granted in any part of the city, but the penalty for selling whisky under such licenses is made thirty days in the chain gang without alternative.

##### High License in Georgia.

ONE of the chief causes of the recent repeal of the prohibitory law in Atlanta, Georgia, was the fact that the law had not been properly enforced, and that the sale of intoxicating liquors had not been diminished. The latter was the most powerful argument that the "wets" advanced against the law, and it was apparently so well founded that a large majority was secured in favor of repeal. It would seem, however, that the saloon-keepers have gained little by their victory, if it be true that they were doing a thriving business under the prohibitory law. The Common Council of the city has just passed a license law which is said to be the most stringent measure of the kind ever enacted. The license fee is fixed at \$1,500, and the Mayor and Council have the right to determine to what localities licenses shall be granted. The purpose of the law is that no licenses shall be granted to the disreputable portions of the city, and that saloons shall be confined to the most frequented parts of the chief business streets. Wholesale or gallon licenses are abolished altogether. The applicant will be compelled to show that he is sober and discreet and of good character generally; and will have to file a description of his place and the affidavits of two respectable citizens that he is a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a license. He will also be obliged to furnish a bond for \$1,000 by two freeholders having no interest in his application. He will be prohibited from using screens, blinds or painted glass, or from establishing himself in a basement and will have to display the sign, "Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors." He will be forbidden to allow gambling, billiards, pool, or ten-pins on his premises, and if a drunken person should be found in his place the license will be revoked. He will not be allowed to sell on Christmas day or Sundays, nor after eleven o'clock at night on other days. Licenses will be non-transferable and will not cover more than one place. Should any person be convicted twice of drunkenness on the streets his name and address will be furnished to every licensed liquor dealer in the city, and any one of the latter convicted of selling liquor to such a person will have his license revoked.

As we have already said this is the most stringent license law ever enacted. In nearly every respect its provisions go further than those of the high-license laws of the Northern and Western States. It follows then that, if the prohibitory law was so badly enforced as the liquor men say it was, their position to-day is much worse than it was before. They have jumped "out of the frying pan into the fire."

##### "Why Don't You Say 'Amen'?"

SOME years ago, as Garland G. Finney was holding a series of meetings in the city of Edinburgh, many persons called upon him for personal conversation and prayer.

One day a gentleman appeared in great distress of mind. He had listened to Mr. Finney's sermon on the previous evening, and it had torn away his "refuge of lilies." Mr. Finney was plain and faithful with him, pointing out to him the way of life and his only hope of salvation. The weeping man assured him that he was willing to give up all for Jesus, that he knew of nothing he would reserve—all for Jesus.

"Then let us go down upon our knees and tell God of that," said Mr. Finney. So both knelt, and Mr. Finney prayed: "O Lord, this man declares that he is prepared to take thee as his God, and cast himself upon thy care, now and forever."

The man responded "Amen!" Mr. Finney continued: "O Lord, this man vows that he is ready to give his wife, family and all their interests up to thee."

Another hearty "Amen!" from the man.

He went on: "O Lord, he says that he is also willing to give thee his business, whatever that may be, and conduct it for thy glory."

The man was silent—no response. Mr. Finney was surprised at his silence, and asked:

"Why don't you say 'Amen' to this?"

"Because the Lord will not take my business, sir; I am in the spirit trade," he replied.

The traffic could not withstand such a test as that. The Lord will not take such a business under his care. —The People.