

they were carried by their opponents. On the other hand, the first Reform Government hesitated (at the right time) to abolish slavery, for fear of damaging their party : they were forced to do it by Fowell Buxton, who acted as a third (Abolition) party, and nobly risked all political ties by dividing the House on this great issue, which he justly regarded as paramount to all other considerations.

So again, if we wait till we are in a majority before we struggle for our cause, we may wait for ever ; for so long as drink is sold, it keeps drawing sober men into its snares. We are fighting for the tempted and the fallen ; and are the real friends of the very men who are, in their practice, opposing us. Whence come the majorities for prohibition, as shewn by petitions, in the English cities ? From the temperance men ? Nay : but from the drunkards and their victims. It is in the most drunken districts, and the most drinking classes, that the largest majorities are found. The drunkards say in act, sometimes in word, " We will drink as long as we can get it ; but we wish we could not get it." Ten men might have saved Sodom. A little sprinkling of temperance men are bound to save this country. How ? (1) By *consistent Lives* : (2) by *Christian Persuasion* : (3) by securing the *Compulsions of the Law*. Every little speck of each of these three good things gives weight in the right direction ; provided it is not outweighed by evils in the contrary direction."

The Maine Law, that new and (till then) untried truth that a Christian State had no right to license men to vend intoxicants, and that *liquor selling was a Crime*, was not carried because there were a majority of abstainers. The great body of the Maine people drank. A noble band of Christian men saw the evil, devised the remedy, and banded as a Third Party between the As and the Bs, neither of which could count on success without them. At last, party A promised to insert the Prohibition plank in their platform : they were victorious ; the Maine Law was passed : Liquordom joined party B, and upset the Law. But the people, having now had experience of the benefits of Prohibition, turned out party B by a crushing majority ; and, by popular vote, made Prohibition part of the Constitution of the State. It is then a *Minority* of Canadians, who are bound (with God's help) to prohibit the Traffic. How can they possibly do it ? Just simply by their more abundant energy, integrity, and self sacrifice. If they fight with the devil's weapons, they deserve to lose. But if they use every right means ; if they care nothing for themselves, but only for the victims of drink, and for those as yet untainted, they may confidently hope to win. How are they to win, over the overpowering majority ? by the tongue, the press, the money, the vote, the time, the labour, the prayer ; and, in all, by *uprightness of Life*. If the timid draw back because the odds are against us : let the faithful be bold and firm as a lion. In our voting, or in our refusing, let us remember that we are responsible to each other, as members of this League ; to our Country, which has given us this privilege for her own good, not for ours ; and especially to the Lord, who is served at the ballot box, as well as at the altar. And if we are really seeking God's blessing, let us remember the inexorable terms on which that blessing is granted. " To him that hath, shall be given ; but from him that hath not, shall be taken away even what he hath." Let temperance men everywhere use what they have ;—the Permissive Act, which the English Parliament persistently refuses to either of the three Kingdoms ; the protesting