

THE PROGRESS OF PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO.

The temperance cause in Ontario has undoubtedly advanced of late with rapid strides, until it stands to-day far in advance of its position at any time in the past. The unexpectedly large majority in favor of prohibition given at the late plebiscite vote has strengthened the hands of the temperance people and inspired them to go on and complete the work. The great convention which met in the Horticultural Pavilion, Toronto, on the 6th of this month, consisting of delegates from organizations of every kind, having the temperance cause at heart, was the largest and most important ever held in the Province. Fifteen hundred delegates were in attendance, and enough spectators besides to pack the building. Of the convention the *Globe* says:

"The proceedings were simple, and occupied but one day of close application to the business in hand. The preliminary formalities were soon cleared away, and the relics of the plebiscite campaign disposed of: the resolutions prepared by the Union Committee, which met on Monday evening, were passed, after debate, which was keen and intense, but full and fair; a large deputation waited upon the Ontario Government, and received an answer which aroused the liveliest satisfaction: and the evening was given up to rejoicing and renewed resolves to work on towards the attainment of complete prohibition. Such in brief were the proceedings of the great prohibition convention which will long be remembered as an historic event in the onward march of prohibition."

The decision arrived at was to ask the Government at Toronto, and the Government at Ottawa, each to introduce and further prohibitive legislation to the full extent of its jurisdiction. The power to pass prohibitory laws by the Province has been questioned, and the extent of its jurisdiction is now

being tested in the higher courts. Between the afternoon and evening meetings a large and representative delegation from the convention waited upon the Ministry of Ontario to ascertain just what legislation they might expect in view of the recent vote. Space will not permit to print the addresses pro and con, but the interview was altogether satisfactory. The Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat, summed up his answer and gave it in writing as follows:

"If the decision of the Privy Council should be that the Province has the jurisdiction to pass a prohibitory liquor law as to sale, I will introduce such a bill in the following session, if I am then at the head of the Government. If the decision of the Privy Council is that the Province has jurisdiction to pass only a partial prohibitory liquor law, I will introduce such a prohibitory bill as the decision will warrant, unless the partial prohibitory power is so limited as to be ineffective from a temperance standpoint."

Representatives of every shade of temperance was here, the different religions and Sabbath school organizations, temperance societies, and other societies, were working together harmoniously for the procuring of prohibition. Prominent ministers, politicians, representatives of the press, clever women, Commodore and Mrs. Booth, and not least, Hector, "The Black Knight," mingled promiscuously upon the platform and spoke with effect.

There is a power in unity of purpose and in united action. The foremost workers for religious and moral liberty and freedom are recognizing this more and more. As Isaac Wilson and the writer sat together, as delegates, in this great convention, we were reminded of a like pleasure and upon an occasion somewhat similar, but a few months ago, in the Hall of Columbus, Chicago.

Coldstream, 2 mo. 12. S. P. Z.

The strongest man is he that can overcome the enemies of his own household.