GOLDWIN SMITH'S LETTER.

Prohibition is Impracticable and Impossible in the Opinion of the Learned Professor.

We have been asked to republish Professor Goldwin Smith's views on Prohibition. It was in response to a query from the Globe last October as to his attitude regarding the then forthcoming plebiseite that the Professor wrote.

I believe in temperance, not in total abstinence to which the name of temperance is, by a mismomer, applied. I do not think it possible, even if it is desirable, to enforce total abstinence. I do think it possible to promote temperance by wise license regulations and by discriminating in favor of the lighter against the stronger and more inflammatory drinks. I say this with perfect respect for the opinions of those who take the opposite view; and they, I hope, will give me credit for desiring the suppression of vice and the missry which attends it, as heartily as they do, though I cannot agree with them as to the best means for the accomplishment of that end.

The taste for fermented liquor is common to all races of markind, and it ante-dates the beginning of history. We find it embedied in the mythodoges, Hindu, Greek, Roman or Scandinavian, as well as in Hebrew tradition. This taste the extreme Prohibitionish hopes to eradicate by a single stroke of prohibitive legislation. Unless he can eradicate the taste, experience shows that he cannot not down

the habit.

is not unlikely that the plebiscite may be carried by religious influence of intimidation. It is not unlikely that when the plebiscite has been carried, legislators may be persuaded or driven into giving it the form of a law. the difficulty will commence. Make what laws you will, you cannot make people believe that drinking or selling a glass of wine or beer is a crime. Not having pub-lic conviction really with you, you will be unable to carry your law into effect. The same things will happen which have been proved by overwhelming evidence to have happened in Maine, in Vermont, in Boston, in the Northwest, and which happened here during our trial of the Scott Act. Law will be practically set at defiance; perjury will be rife; drinking will go on in secret, and, therefore, in an aggravated form; and liquor will he worse and more unwholesome than ever. last point is to be noted. In the North west under the prohibitive system they have been drinking rank poison, such as well might madden and incite to crime. In Maine they have had forty-three amendments to their law to increase its stringency. Nevertheless it appears that liquor is just as much sold and there is just as much drunkenness as ever. city, Bangor, seems to have taken itself practically out of the law. In Vermont, according to the testimony of Mr. Edward Johnson some years ago in The Popular Science Monthly, there were 446 places where intoxicating liquors were sold, and, though the population was stationary, the number of these places was on the ase. It su. sty cannot be contended that heaven enjoins a policy which heaven evidently does not bless.

If Canada were sinking into an abyse of drunkenness, as some temperance orators would lead us to believe, resort to extreme measures might be necessary and right. Canada, on the contrary, is temperate, and has been growing more so for many years past, thanks to the spontaneous agencies of church, school, voluntary association, and last, not least, medical science, the voice of which is daily gaining power. Opinion, which used not to

le, is now thoroughly on the side of temperance; and it inflicts on drunkenness penalties, the application of which is more extrain than that of any penalties threatened by law. Of the drunkenness, I believe, a large proportion is inmigrant. A temperance lecturer told us that there were 10,900 deaths in the Dominion from drinking every year. This would be nearly half the adult made deaths in the country. In eight of our principal cities about that time the numher of deaths in a mouth from alcoholism was two.

was two.

It is needless to go over the whole subject again, and to prove what has been proved before, that crime, to which Prohibitionists imagine their policy would put an end, has deeper seats than the love of lupur. It is needless to prove over again that the moderate use of wine or beer does not, as Prohibitionist or beer does not, as Prohibitionist of the great wine growing countries are generally temperate, and thousands of English gentlemen are taking wine every day with their dinner without ever running into excess. They no more think of emptying the docanter than they think of emptying the mustard pot.

The clergy, in denouncing all use of formented luptors as criminal, abor under the awkward necessity of holding up as a model of character One who certainly did drink wine and introduced its use into the most sacred ordinance of His religion. The attempts to make out, in defiance of the lexicon and of unbroken church tradition, that the wine of the New Testament is syrup, can, by no impartial scholar, be treated with the slightest respect.

ABOUT BEER.

Notes on Customs in Ancient Days.

The products of the domestic breweries of all times would be quite honest; for no od wife and mother would knowingly make and give to her household and fam ily bad beer, any more than bad bread more particularly, since in the days ere tea and coffee were known in England beer was the common beverage at meals en at breakfast. It would be what was known as single or small beer. But those who brewed for sale, and those who retailed the liquor ("tipplers" they were called) had to be looked after then as well There were no analysts then ; as now. there were, however, ale and beer tasters who had delicate palates. At the Michael-mas Court Leet held by the Baron of Morpeth, at which all the freemen of the town were bound to appear, two ale-tast ers and bread-weighers were annually ad Each of them received a pert, in token of his office and authority On their election the following oath was administered to them in open court by the Lord of the Manor, his steward, or deputy-steward

"The Ale Tasters Onth: You and other of you shall swear that you shall well and truly serve in the office of the Ale-Tasters and Bread Weighers for this year next ensuing, that the bread brought to the market to be sold be truly weighed, and the same do continue the weight according to the price of corn sold in the market. Likewise you shall see that ale-brewers and tipplers within your office that they and every of them shall make good and wholesome ale and beer for man's body, and every one so offending you shall present at the Court. And in everything you shall well and truly behave yourselves in the said office, so help

At the Court Leet for the Manor of Ulgham, now the property of Sir James Joncey, Bart, M.P., the same appointments were made. The Ale-Tosters for Morpeth in the year 1632-3 were Edward Bewick and Thomas Gavre the elder: and

those for Ugham in 1619-20, were Robert Pace and William Robinson, and so to rever busy and manor throughout England the courts of the time took neasures for assuring the public that the ale and beer made for common consumption were good and wholesome. One of the last of the Morpeth Ale-stasters beasted that he had, during his year of office, tasted "weep' pain the bown.

A RISHOP'S ALE-TASTER. In 1617, Arthur Lake, Bishop of Bath and Wells, appointed John Shurle, ale-taster to the University of Oxford. His duty was to go to every ale-brewer that brewed, according to day they courses, and taste their ale; for which his ancient fee was one gallon of strong ale and two gallons of small wort worth a penny. The Bishop of Durham has thugood episcopal sanction and precedent for interesting himself in the purity of that beverage which the English people have drunk, do drink, and in spite of all that is likely to be said or done, will continue The best beer brewed in England in feudal times was that made in the abbeys, priories, and other religious houses. The beer produced at the brewhouse of the priory at Durham was not without repute. The medieval skill in the art which reached the greatest per fection in the monasteries, was handed down to quite a recent time at the univcresities and colleges, for they too were originally religious houses, and in them also the making of wholesome beer was one of the "good works" most diligently attended to. The first tankard of 'Varsity or College beer yielded a new sensa tion in life. If it is still as good and as pure as it was at Durham even, not to mention Oxford and Cambridge, a generation ago, it should be made the standard to which all beer for public sale should come up. The universality of the domestic use of ale and beer in Norman and Tudor England receives further proof from the fact that on the festival days of the old guilds, crafts and companies freemen, the brethren drank wine, just as the pious gossips did, and for the same reason—they had ale and beer at home every day of their lives.

WAR'S EFFECT ON ENGLISH BEER. One other remark about English beer must be noted. This is the effect war has had upon it. The first tax put upon The first tax put upon malt was imposed during the great civil war between the King and the Parliament, and from that time forward the history of the malt tax is nothing short of a commercial and political romance, a grievance and a hustings watchword. The long and heavy wars in which Britain engaged consequent on the French Revolution raised the price of barley, and the high duty levied upon malt made the price of ale and beer almost prohibitive. Mr. Jackson, who kept an apothecary's shop on Tower Hill, hit upon the idea brewing beer from various drugs instead of from malt and hops. He worked out, but did not set up as brewer himself. He taught his method to the London brewers; and Mrs. Piozzi vouches for the fact that he contrived to realize a fort out of ohe great brewer alone. Piozzi was competent to speak, for her first husband, Mr. Thrale, was proprietor of the brewery which afterwards became that of Barclay and Perkins. The Thrales, husband and wife, especially the wife, will ever be remembered as the friends succourers of the gruff but kindly high tory and literary dictator, Dr. Sam-uel Johnson. He was one of Mr. Thrale's executors, and was a party to the sale of the brewery which even then had a rep tation for its ales and porter. asked what he considered the value of the property, Johnson replied in his grandiose style: "We are not here to sell a parcel boilers and vats, but the potentiality of growing rich beyond the dreams

avaries." Barelay, Perkins and C.
bought the brewery for £135,000, and, as
everyour knows in became one of the
everyour knows in became one of the
available of the sights of Lordon
and is yet one of the sights of Lordon
The great moralist must not have though
either the brewing or drinking of beera
effence against society and still less ais,
else he never would have been a party is
the management and sale of a brewery,
not even for the sake of Mrs. Thrik
whose subsequent marriage with M
Piczej, the Italian musician, almost besk
the old mans heart.

A SINE QUA NON OF GOID REEZ.
A scientific dictionary, without refering to the use or abuse of beer, or to in
moral or social effects, affirms that "it is
moral or social effects, affirms that "it is
untritious from the sugar and nucclage ic
outains, exhibatating from the spirit, ast
strengthening and narrotic from the logs.
In characterizing Leonard Welsted, appetaster of his time, who, in his "Truminate," had lampooned him, Pope, in the
"Dunciad," at once hits him off and set
forth what bad beer is and what god
beer should be

"How, Welsted! flow, like thine inspire, beer, Though stale, not ripe, the thin yet new clear; so-weetly mawkish, and so smoothly dull: Heady, not strong; and foaming, the as full."

Neither the old brewer who was noting but a brewer, nor the modern brese.

Could turn out good beer, even though
the malt and the hops of the one wered
the best, and the chemical substitutes of
the other of the purest, unless the sule
used was up to a certain quality. It is
with brewing as it is with dyeing. Ce
tain dye-works owe their fame, the facness, and the brilliancy of their color,
not adoly to the dye stuffs used, nor the
skill of the dyers, but largely to the
quities of the water in the stream or self
that it is drawn from. So with brewing
the water used counts for much

DRINK AND THE DEATH RATE.

Thu British Medical Association pointed a committee to make inquins in order to ascertain the average age the different categories of drinkers—the is to say, those who refrain complete from alcoholic drinks, those who indup more or loss in moderation, and this who drink to excess. This committe has handed in its report. Its concluies are drawn from 4,234 deaths, which are drivided into five categories of individual with the average age attained by each—

1. Total abstainers. 51 years 22 day.
2. Habitually temperate drinkers. 63 13 3. Careless drinkers. 59 67 5. Free drinkers. 57 26 5. Decidedly intemperate drinkers. 53 3 3

These figures show, remarks the Reviscientifique, singularly enough, that he who reach the shortest age are those wh drink no alcohol whatever; after the come the drunkards, who only excee them by a trifle. The greatest aveng age is reached by those who drink moderately.

A BARRISTER named Bushe was makin a speech for the defense before July O'Grady, a noted judge of Ireland, who an ass began to bray loudly outside the court.

"Wait a moment," said the chief bare
"one at a time, Mr. Bushe, if you pless.
The barrister waited for a chance retort, and it came presently. Was
O'Grady was charging the jury, the si
began again to bray, if possible me

loudly than before.

"I beg your pardon, my lord," sa
Bushe; "may I ask you to repeat you
last words; there is such an echo in the
court I did not quite catch them?"

MONTREAL—P.
QUEBEC—
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