

Duplicate congratulations are in order to the *Presbyterian Witness*, of the Maritime Provinces. It is celebrating its Jubilee, and its oracle has entered his fortieth year of polishing its editorial chair. Bro. Murray and the *Witness* have become so identified that the names are almost synonymous. May their sundering be far afuture.

The *Witness* is like—itsself. It does not do much trumpeting, (a good example.) It makes more use of lamp and pitcher, while the sword is ever ready for a quiet thrust at any hapless Midianite.

It is not large, but large enough. It deals in quality rather than quantity. For a well and judiciously filled, newswy, readable, interesting, instructive, wholesome, weekly family newspaper, at a dollar and a half a year, we do not know its equal.

Bearing its honors with characteristic meekness, and its age with due dignity, it has the best wishes of the RECORD, as it turns, new dressed, for the home stretch of the century

A GREAT ISSUE IN CANADA.

A great moral issue, long looked for by many, and worked for and prayed for by some, is now near in Canada; viz., whether our people wish the Liquor Traffic continued by law among them or not.

Our General Assembly annually declares strongly in favor of Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic. Last Assembly resolved:

"That our people are hereby earnestly exhorted to use their utmost endeavors, in every lawful way, to carry the *plebiscite* in favor of Prohibition by an overwhelming majority; and thus free the Church from one of its deadliest foes, our land from untold misery and crime, and our modern civilization from its direst reproach and shame."

Some twenty-five years ago, we heard Principal Grant, at a public meeting in Halifax, speaking in favor of one central Government University, and against State Aid to Denominational Colleges. He opened his terse, telling, speech with one of those pithy sayings which great men sometimes coin for posterity: "If you want to convince a man that he is right, argue with him."

Do not be too severe upon him when he now takes to press and platform against Prohibition. May it not be possible that the learned Principal has taken, in accordance with his own dictum, this somewhat novel method of convincing the people that they are right in following the "earnest exhortation" of the Assembly and helping the work which the Assembly describes as "freeing the Church from one of its deadliest foes, our land from untold misery and crime, and our modern civilization from its direst reproach and shame."

Temperance people are used to the opposition of the liquor interest, and perhaps become too indifferent to it; but opposition from unexpected quarters leads them to examine more closely their foundations, and thus become more convinced of the importance of their great trust and more earnest in its behalf.

Can Prohibition injure public morality?

The righteousness of a cause, its justice, its morality, its effects upon the public welfare, may be fairly judged, in advance, by the great body of its advocates. Take for example the question of Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic in Canada. While there are good men and true honestly opposed to Prohibition, yet none will deny the following propositions.

(1) The liquor interest, from gutter to gin palace; from the "gilded saloon" of the publican, to the gilded *salon* of the brewer and distiller; maker, seller, drinker, tippler, sot; are all against it; unless indeed it be an occasional poor victim, who in lucid moments, longing for freedom, wishes it beyond his reach.

(2) All the vicious elements in any country or community are against it. A plebiscite of our criminal population, our lawless men and fallen women, would decide the fate of Prohibition beyond a doubt.

(3) The vast majority of the best men and women of our country, are in favor of it. The vast majority of those who are devoting strength and life to the well being of humanity are in favor of it. The vast majority of those who are brought face to face with its awful results, in their effort to save and uplift the fallen, the worlds army of rescue, are in favor of it.

Judging from these facts there does not seem much room for doubt as to what effect Prohibition would have upon Public Morality.