

It is an awful thought that we have in Canada to-day about *ten thousand* "professional wreckers" licensed by law, living under the sanction and protection of what is called a Christian Government. Men whose wealth and prosperity are in proportion to the amount of wretchedness entailed on their unfortunate victims. Ten thousand plague-spots of pollution, schools of sin, flash their gilded temptation in the face of every passer by, and at street corners and in conspicuous places are hoisted treacherous signals to lure the unwary life-voyager to the reefs of moral and eternal ruin. Avarice steels men's hearts to participation in the nefarious business, and avarice is what leads the public to tolerate them in doing it. This lust for gain is a sin of communities as well as individuals, and the license fee is the mighty cable by which Mammon binds this living nationality to the corrupting carcass of the horrible drink system.

While this is the case there is a fearful responsibility upon every member of the community who does not exert all his influence to have things otherwise. The grass is green to-day on four thousand graves that drink dug in Canada last year. Still the pestilence rages! Let us beware. We are a young and vigorous people. Our record is grand, and our future looks bright, but there are perils in our pathway. Nations as well as individuals have lives, characters, mutations. Are there no lessons for us in the solemn warnings: "Woe unto him that buildeth his house in blood." "An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning, but the end thereof shall not be blessed."

The prohibitory movement seeks to abolish intemperance by striking at its root. We do not ask for a law to prevent men who will drink, but we ask for a law to prevent men who would make money by selling drink, and to prevent the enrichment of the public treasury by the suffering and wretchedness of the people. And, when we shall have accomplished this; when we shall have completely severed the connection between liquor selling, and either national or individual money-getting, we shall have cut off the upas-tree of intemperance from the parent root of avarice, and it must and will die a natural death.

### Selected Articles.

#### THE WRECKERS.

Hark! to the rear of the surges,  
Hark! to the wild winds' howl;  
See the black cloud that the hurricane urges  
Bend like a maniac's scowl!  
Full on the sunken lee ledges  
Laps the devoted bark;  
And the loud waves, like a hundred sledges,  
Smite to the doomed mark!

Shrilly the shriek of the seamen  
Cleaves like a dart through the roar;  
Harsh as the pitiless laugh of a demon  
Rattles the pebbled shore.  
Ho! for the life-boat, brothers;  
Now may the hearts of the brave,  
Hurling their lives to the rescue of others,  
Conquer the stormy wave.

Shame for humanity's treason!  
Shame for the form we wear!  
Blush at the temple of pity and reason  
Turned to a robber's lair!  
Worse than the horrible breakers,  
Worse than the shattering storm,  
See the rough-handed, remorseless wreckers  
Stripping the clay yet warm.

Plucking at girlhood's tresses,  
Tangled with gems and gold;  
Snatching love-tokens from manhood's caresses,  
Clenched with a dying hold.  
What of the shrieks of despairing?  
What of the last faint gasp?  
Robbers, who lived would but lessen your sharing:  
Gold—'twas a god in your grasp!

Boys in their sunny brown beauty,  
Men in their rugged bronze,  
Women whose wail might have taught wolves a duty,  
Dead on the merciless stones.  
Tenderly slid o'er the plundered  
Shrouds from the white-capped surge;  
Loud on the traitors the mad ocean thundered—  
Low o'er the lost sang a dirge.

Friends! there are deadlier breakers,  
Billows that burn as they roll!  
Flanked by a legion of crueler wreckers—  
Wreckers of body and soul;  
Traitors to God and humanity,  
Tempters that hold in their arms  
Blood-dripping murder and hopeless insanity,  
Folly and famine by turns.

Crested with wine redly flashing,  
Swollen with liquid fire,  
How the strong ruin comes fearfully dashing,  
High as the soul walks, and higher!  
Virtue, and manhood, and beauty,  
Hope and the sunny-haired bliss,  
With the diviner white angel of duty,  
Sink in the burning abyss.

What though the soul of the drunkard  
Be lost on the reefs of crime,  
What though his children by beggary conquered,  
Sink in pollution's slime.  
Gold has come in to the wreckers,  
Murder has taken his prize;  
Gold, though a million hearts burst on the breakers,  
Smothers the crime and the cries!

—C. C. Burling.

#### PROHIBITION.

What is meant by prohibition? We do not intend by prohibition to enact a bill of fare for the people. We do not propose any sumptuary measures for the regulation of mankind. We do not design to give directions by legislative enactments to physicians in relation to the dietetic treatment of their patients. We simply ask for a law which shall be lifted as a shield to save our fellow-men from the terrible blow which is aimed at them by the liquor traffic. We ask the men who make our laws to protect us from the evils which accompany the rum trade. The rum trade makes men mad, and under the influence of rum men will assault their neighbors, starve and beat their wives and children, commit theft, arson, and murder. We ask men of every shade of politics, of every creed in religion, to join with us in our earnest efforts to stop the liquor traffic and seal up the dram-shops. Is it unreasonable and arbitrary to demand a law which shall squelch the cause of the effect we all deplore? Here is a man who contributes nothing toward his own support; he is a tax and a nuisance, vibrating between the grog-shop and the station house. Sober men have to foot his bills, support his family, suffer the infliction of his bad habits, and run the risk of his torch and his knife. Now, is this a fair and square condition of things? Shall the innocent be burdened with the sins of the guilty? That man would take care of himself and of those who depend upon him, if the liquor-shops were closed. He would contri-