

F. S. SPENCE AT LAKE WINONA.

Christianity did not make, in the same period of time, as much advance as the temperance cause has made. Think of the fact that one hundred years ago to-day there did not exist a temperance society as we understand the term. Uncensured and uncriticized, the liquor traffic was dominant everywhere. Drunkenness was so common as to call forth little comment and to involve practically no disgrace. Incredible vice and degradation prevailed. The idea of legislating to remedy the curse had no advocates. Look at our position now. Every Church inculcates temperance. Every corner of Christendom has its temperance society. Inebriety is a disgrace and is looked upon as a disqualification in any applicant for employment or any candidate for public position or favor. The statute books of every civilized nation are filled with laws for the regulation of the traffic and for the restraint and punishment of the vice. To-day there are living under prohibitory laws more people than were in the whole British Empire when the temperance movement was inaugurated. No one claims that this progress has been unvarying or unmarked by defects and weaknesses. Although it is God's cause, and therefore certain to triumph, it is promoted and carried on by human instrumentalities; therefore mistakes will certainly occur, but these are not always disasters. Men learn by blundering. Up the ladder of failure they climb to the platform of success. To a certain extent we are wise to-day because of our ignorance of yesterday. We were guilty of folly which brought its own penalties, from which we gathered knowledge. This is the experience of every man, every movement, every community. Every institution and appliance of our modern civilization has come from some experiment that resulted in failure out of which grew knowledge that led to success.

The temperance movement is no exception. Earnest men who never dreamed of total abstinence, deplored the evils of drunkenness, and set out to remedy them by advocating a moderate use of intoxicating liquors. To their minds drunkenness was the evil with which they had to deal. It did not cross their