THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

is another matter to make that opinion nothing very remarkable to be noted square with common souse and facts. Any among the selected lives of beer drinkers, one may have an opinion, but not without having given some consideration to a quest began to strike this group, and until it had tion, and having sincerely endeavored to dwindled to a fraction of its original proget at the real facts, is such an opinion portions, mortality in it was astounding in likely to be any more valuable than a woman's "because;" and yet how much of identity of cause and mode. It was an this kind of opinion is floating everywhere though the system had been been kept in the sir. Mere dogmatism is not opin ion, though it may be asserted with every degree of braggadocio and contidence.

People get possessed with ideas some times without knowing how or where they gather them, and with nothing more certain on which to base an opinion, commence to set forth how little they know on a given subject. Dropping in to a friend's office a few days since, we found the subject of Scott Act under discussion, and that phase of it bearing on the number of commitments under the Scott Act. One gentleman was asserting, with every degree of confidence, and with undoubted sincerity, that the commitments for drunk enness under the Scott Act was much greater than under the Crooks License Act. The writer was referred to by one of the company, and he simply had to quote from the last Government report to show that this was a case of an opinion that was far from squaring with facts

A good deal of the same kind of opinion exists on the question of High License, a subject that is coming more and more to the front in Canadian discussions overy day. In the abstract something can be said in favor of High License; but we have yet to find the one advocating this measure who is able to support it by reference to experience and facts: on the contrary, the facts are all against the operations of a High License Act. I have no intention a thing it is to be told that it is only one's of re-quoting facts and figures already given in this column, I simply refer to the matter here as an illustration of the value put, to make beasts of themselves, but is it sometimes of an opinion, or, more proper. a fact that the man who does this only inuse the word, of one.

This fallacy croops out again in the case of those who sometimes, we fear from selfish motives, not wanting to give up their supposed comforts, will tell us that no possible harm can come from moderate drinking. Every one, and these amongst the number, of course are free to admit that excess is always hurtful in its results, but they will point you to this man or the other who has lived to a ripe old age, and always taken his liquor in moderation, and apparently to-day is in as healthy a condition as one who is a total abstainer. Now, I have no intention of entering into any philosophical argument on this question, but simply again refer to history and hard pan facts. I have just read an interesting paper contributed to one of our weekly papers by the Rev. Joseph Cook, of Boston Monday lecture fame, and one whose opinions on any subject are deserving of much consideration. The title that he gives to his paper of itself is the keynote to every statement made, viz. "Recent Vindications of Total Abstinence," and the larger proportion of the paper is taken up with a history of the subject of Lafe Asaurance Societies. He goes on to show that Temperance Life Assurance Societies were first inaugurated in England in 1849, by Mr. R. Warner, and then gives us the history of the United Kingdom Temperance Provident Institution, the Scottish Temperance Company, the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, and others of a like kind. In each instance he quotes the official reports of these socie ties to show how favorable are the statis tics of mortality to the total abstainer as against the moderate drinker. Just to give one instance, in the case of the first named Society above, "from 1886 to 1883 the number of expected deaths in the Temperance and General sections was 2,879 and 4,741; the number of actual deaths was respectively 2,035 and 4,640, or about 70 and 97 per cent., showing a much larger cords, to society, social and family history, death rate in the General section

This view of the question is further substantiated by a reference to the address of Colonel J. L. Green, prosident of the lastnamed Society above. Speaking of the results of his own experience he says "The death rate is more profoundly affacted by the use of intoxicating drink than from any other one cause, apart from heredity. That habitual drunkenness should imue in disease and death, most people can understand, but that moderate. orderly, decorous undulgence should issue in ach, procumonia, rhoumatism, and, in genwest, in these forms of illness which at bot- country or age. Thomas Carlyle.

tom mean a poison imparted to the blood, most persons do not know and are slow to IT is one thing to possess an opinion, it believe. For two or three years there was otherwise temperate; but presently death extent, and still more remarkable in the fair outside, while within it was eaten to a shell, and at the first touch of disease there was uttor collapse, every fibre was poisoned and weakened." Let it be remembered that these are the words of an expert in Life Assurance, and one who bases his opinion on a pure matter of busi ness, as affecting the welfare of Assurance Cempanies

> This is an instance of many others of facts as against mere opinion. It is the worst of dogmatism to say that the mod erate drinker stands on an equal platform with the total abstainer in the matter of longevity. It is not dogmatism, but fact, to say that the contrary is the case No one, therefore, who knows anything of Joseph Cook, other by reading his loctures or having heard his living voice, will be surprised to find him closing his paper with the following vigorous language :- "The preacher who is a moder ate drinker, the teacher, the editor, the lecturer, or even the politicism, who is not a total abstainer, and most especially the Christian who votes for laws licensing men to put the bottle to their neighbor's lips, are all, or all ought to be pointed out by the scornful finger of scientific criticism and progress as benighted and belated misleaders of public and private ophion."

Adding a further illustration or two in this same line of thought, how common a own business if they are foolish enough to drink to excess and, as it is sometimes ly, perhaps, the valuelessness, if I may jures himself? Is it not, on the otherhand, the f ct that no man can indulge in this habit to excess without becoming a burden, and it might almost be said a nuisance, to some one, very often to many, and not infrequently to society and to the State staciff. We can all take instances in our own experience to illustrate this point. For example, I have au old friend, who, by natural ability and training in his particular calling, should be well able to fight the world a battles, and ; to-day to be in a lucrative and comfort. able position, yet he is simply, at the present time, working for a very nominal; salary, barely sufficient to support him self, much less a family depending upon him, and for fully two thirds of the past year has been out of employment, and the history of the past year has been the history of almost every year of his life since he reached manhood's years. What is the cause of this? He drinks, gets off on a drunk, and when this is the case loses his situation. Is he the only one who suffers ? No, he has a wife and family, who know too well how seriously it affects them. Are they alone the only ones thus affected ? No, there are not a few of his friends ho, while not objecting, out of sympathy for those dependent upon him, and in hope (though this becomes very discouraging) that he will eventually be come a reformed man, know that to them he has been semething of a burden

> This liquor traffic, in some of its relations, affects everybody. John Stuart Mill has said, "the only justification for interfering with any trade is the amount of mischief that trade does." It needs no argument in the present day, and it is expressing no mere valueless opinion, but one that the history of every community corroborates, to say that there is ample ijustification for interfering with the liquor traffic because of the amount of muchief that trade does." A reference to our blue books, to our municipal reis testimony on this point that cannot be gainsaid. The time should be past when we any longer talk about regulating this traffic. The simple question is, is it right or is it wrong? I believe universal testi mony is that it is wrong, and if so, then let us get away from every attempt to measure right with wrong, degrees of right with degrees of wrong. If it is right austain it : if it is wrong banish it.

The encouragement of drunkenness for the sake of gaining money is a more congested brains, insanity, suicide, paraly- desperate form of assussination than

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

	VOTES POLLED		Majorities.		DATE OI		
PLACE.	For	Ag'net	For .	or Agnat		Errerion.	
	403	203			Oct.	31, 1878	
Fredericton, N.B.(1) York, N. B. (1)	1225	315	1015		Dec.	28, "	
Prince, P. E. 1(1)	1703 807	?71 149	718 718		MAT	14, 1879	
Carleton, N. B.	1215	69	1146		Apr.	21, " 21, "	
Albert, N.B	718 857	214	604 685		••	24, "	
King's, P. E. I	1076	59	1017		May	29, 11	
Lambton, Out (1)	#567 798	28.3 245	\$15 883	• • •	June	23, "	
King's, N.B	315	181	134 783		July Sept	3, "	
Westmoreland, N. B. (1) Mogantic, Quo	108₹ 372	390 841	!	469	100	11, "	
Northumberland, N. B.	875 760	673 941	202	isi	June	2, 1880 21, "	
Stanstead, Que (1) Quoen's, P.E.I	1317	99	1218		Sept	22,	
Marquette, Manitoba	944	195	902		Nov.	27, 11 8, "	
Queen's, N.S	783	82	681		Jan. Feb.	3, 1881 17, ''	
Sunbury, N.B	176 807	154	135 653		Mar.	17, "	
Shelburne, N.S	247	120	127	1150	Apr.	7, "	
Hamilton, Ont	1661	2811	1370		1 .	14,	
Halton, Ont. (1)	1483	1302	81 907	}	, " , "	19, " 19, "	
Annapolis, N.S Wentworth. Ont	1611	2209		598	11.	22.	
Colchester, N.S.	1418	184	1234 523	·	May Aug.	13, " 11, "	
Cape Breton, N.S.	1082	92	990		Sept.	15, " 10, "	
Welland, Ont	1610 2857	2378		768 105	1	29, "	
Lambton, Ont. (2) Inverness, N.S.	900	106	854		Jan.	6, 1882	
Pictou, N.S. St. John, N.B.(1)	1555	1076	1102	2		9, 23,	
Fredericton, N.B. (2)	2.95	252	1003	 	Oct	26, 1883	
Cumberland, N S Prince, P.E.I. (2).	1660 2939		1298 1874		Feb.	7, 1884	
Yarmouth, N.S	1287	96	11191 775		Minr.	7. '' 20. ''	
Oxford, Ont Arthabaska, Quo	4073 1487	235	1252		July	17, "	
Westmoreland, N.B (2)	1774 1947	1701 1767	; 73 180	••••	Nug.	7.	
Halton, Ont (2) Simcov, Ont	5712	4529	1183	j	Oct.	9,	
Stanatead, Que. (2)	1300		325 40	<u>!</u> :	1	9, 16,	
Charlottetown, P.E.I(2 Dundas, Stormont, an	ál				+	16. "	
Glengary, Ont	4590 1805		: 1706	194	1 4	23, "	
Peel, Ont.	4501	3149			**	30, '' 30, ''	
Huron, Ont	. 5957 1904		; 1053 ; 795	•	••	30. "	
Dufferin, Ont Prince Edward, Ont	1528			120		30, '' 30, ''	
York, N.B. (2) Renfrew, Ont	1178 1748		730	•	Nov	7, "	
Norfolk, Ont	2781 1132		1087	488		11, " 26, "	
Compton, Que Brant, Ont	1690	1088	602	1	Dec.	11, "	
Brantford, Ont	646 WON '*.		•	160	• [18, "	
Leods and Grenville, Or Kent, Out	4300	1975	2393	٠.	Jan	15, 1886 15, ''	
Lanark, Ont	243. 2047					15,	
Lennox & Addington, Or Brome, Que	122	1 739	186		44	15, " 22, "	
Guelph, Ont					. ••	29, "	
D'ham & N'thum land,	0.66x				. Feb . Mar		
Drummond, Que Elgin, Ont	1189 451	4 3333	1479			19, ''	
Lambton, Ont. (3)	. 115 75				44	19, " 19, "	
St. Thomas, Ont Massisquot, Que	. 114	2 1167	7	2	ئة ئة - دا	10, "	
Wellington, Ont	451 115				Apr	9, ··	
Chicoutimi, Que Kingston, Ont	78	6 83	D '	٠. ٦	3 May		
Frontonac, Ont	57 206	6 69 0 1494			՝ ^լ Juո	o 18, "	
Lincoln, Ont	336	8 353	8	16	8	· 18, "	
Middlesex, Ont Guysboro', N.S	. 574 26		0 3376 1 231) j.		26, "	
Hastings, Out.	228 178	9 240	_	30		, 2, 16,	
Haldimand, Ont Ontario, Ont.	341	2 206	1 135	1	~ ::	16, ''	
Victoria, Ont	249 191				Sep	t 24, "	
Peterborough, Ont Fredericton, N.B. (3	. 29	18 글로	غ <u>1</u> :	3	No	12, "	
St. Catharines, Ont	47	18 106 15 313		. 64 . 17	24	26,	
Russell & Prescott, O. Argenteuil, Que	5	86 60	1		70 Dec	. 29,	
Pontine, Que	5. [6]	33 - 93 10 - 168			02 Jan 77 Apt	19, "	
St. John, N.B. (2) Portland, N.B	6	57 f 52	0 14	7		19, 20,	
St. John, N.B Charlottetown, P.E.I		18 37 19 0	19 : 2	5 0	No	. 24, 1887	
Westmoreland, N. B	(ઇ) ચં	-			Feb 98 Mai		
Halton, Ont (3)			- t			r. I d mara than	

Halton, Ont (3) N.B. In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a later vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen

counties have adopted the Act New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which

ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act. Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties

have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act. Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-nve counties and two cities have adopted the

Act; one of these has repealed it. Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which

have adopted the Act. British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of

which have adopted the Act. In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 5 three times, making an aggregate of 95 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 73

The augregate votes cast in all the contests, except Halton (3), have been:-Against

60586 Not Scott Act majority If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote .--

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and ONLY ONE COUNTY MANY YET REPRACED IT, although many votings have taken place on the ques

Sampaign Fibings.

Testetal Soldiers.

Oca soldiers in Burmah have a Temperance room in the palace of the ex-King of Burmah, at Mandalay, and on its walls is a list of Good Templar Lodges in India and Burmah.

Gatting Out.

THE Port Huron Commercial reports no less than eight tayoun keepers there have recently skipped out on account of Scott Act. It is said that many of the hotel keepers not far from Sarnia keep their money ready for loaving in a hurry.

The World's Drink Statistics

FROM reports recently issued by the British Foreign Office we call some rather startling figures regarding the drink trade of the world. The United States are said to have manufactured in 1886 nearly nine ty millions of gallons of spirits, or twenty millions more than during the previous year. Of this quantity nearly seventy unillions were retained for home consumption, which was an increase on the home consumption of the previous year of about two millions, and the gross sum thus wested in the States alone in one year was cortainly not less than £50,000,000, France made in the same twelve months four millions of gallons more spirits than during the previous year, and imported 3,500,000 gallons besides, which added represented a rise in her home consumption of a half a quart per head in a single year. The return shows further that in Russia, Sweden and England a decided decline in the consumption of drink has taken place, in the first-named country the decrease has amounted to one half the former total, in Swoden one third and in England one-eighth. In all other countries with which the return deals an increased consumption is shown.

"Diet" and Drink

Tio Austrian Imperial Diet has just been dealing with the drink question. The Vustriens are arousing at last to a sense of the terrible increase of drunken ness amongst them, and the previsions of the new measure, for a country where temperance societies and tectotalism are unknown, may be regarded as stringent. The chief tounts are 1st. On premises used for the sale of spirituous liquors no other trade may be carried on. 2nd In communities where the mhabitants do not exceed 500 in number only one licenso may be granted 3rd. In large communities only one license to every thousand inhabitants may be granted. The Act further provides heavy punishment for all who become drunken or are the means of others becoming so, or who sell drink to mmers. Finally it is provided that whoever shall, within the space of one year, have been three cimes convicted of drunkcomess may be prohibited from entering any licensed drink-shop in the vicinity during the space of twelve months

Scotland and the Local Government Bill

THE Scottish people are not likely to take kindly to the probable proposals of the present British Government regarding local self-government, that is, in so far as the measure may probably deal with the question of heense. She has said again and agam, with no indistruct voice, that she does not want the drink shop but it has been thrust upon her; and now she is likely to have to pay compensation to the license holder to get rid of a nuisance she has never sanctioned Again, the licensing board will not be wholly elective. The Scottish reformers look very doubtfully upon the proposal, and it is hoped they may be strong enough, with the general temperance party in the House, to press for such modifications as may make the Government measure not altogether valueless. Still, the whole perposal is a said substitute for the genuine local option of prehibition

The Licensing System of Ceylon

Mr. W. S. CAINE, M.P., during his prolonged tour, has kept a keen eye on the liquor laws of the many lands through which he has passed. In Ceylon Mr. Came found matters bad indeed. "The Christian missionaries," he writes, "find that Cl ristian vices are the chief temptation to Christian converts." Missionaries here, as elsewhere, find it necessary to fight the drink as one of the first means to success in their work. The licensing system of Coylon Mr. Caine describes as akin to the system operating throughout India and Singapore. The Government alone manufacture and sell arrack and toddy, though the right is "farmed out" by auction every year in each province. The "farmers" in turn sub-let the right to sundry pothouse keepers, and compel the retailer to buy solely of the "farmer." It may be easily seen that the system yields a good return all round-of course, at the cost of the unfortunate drinker. To the Covernment it brings one-seventh of the entire revenue, a gain which very largely been the way to any measure having for its object the restriction of consumption. No excise officers are appointed and adulteration is largely carried on. From statistics ranging from the year 1830 to 1870, Mr. Caine shows that the consumption of liquor under this system has increased per head mearly double in twen-ty years. Mr. Caine regards the farming system as "the very worst and silliest licensing system that could be devised, and yet it is but a copy, in the spirit of its operations, of the laws of the old coun-12y! Mr. Caine's conclusion is the only logical one respecting the drink question wherever dealt with. He says: "The really sensible course, however, would be to prohibit absolutely the sale and manufacture . . and face the disorganisation of finance boldly; it would not be long before it would right itself by the incressed prospority, sobriety and industry which would scorue."