

we must have immediate, thorough enforcement of existing law. How are we to get it? Will Reformers and Conservatives unite to secure it? Will either party make it a fundamental plank of policy? If neither of these questions is affirmatively answered, we must rise to the importance of the situation. A convention of earnest, thoughtful men, bound by no traditions or legacies of prejudice or blunder, can frame a patriotic platform having as a main plank a sound and definite policy in reference to the most important public question of the day. Such a movement, such a platform, and such a party would secure the confidence and approval of a majority of the thoughtful electors of this growingly intelligent and moral community.

The situation is grave, but it is full of promise and hope. In one way or another our cause will triumph. Meanwhile, we are waiting, but we will not wait long.

#### MISREPRESENTATION.

We do not expect much in the line of fair play from the whiskey party, but we are sometimes surprised to find our opponents making, in reference to our position, statements so plainly contrary to fact that the palpable misrepresentation must totally destroy all confidence in the candour and honesty of the source from which it emanates. Such a statement so frequently made, that temperance workers are endeavoring to substitute law for moral principle, and restrain from doing wrong by legal force *instead of* by lofty motives. It is worthy of notice that the Scott Act advocates are the same men that have been for many years inculcating and exemplifying these moral motives, often in the face of the sneers of the men who now so strongly commend the methods that they have so long ignored or ridiculed. They point to the good done through our efforts in the past, and urge that as reason for restraining us from doing more. Temperance reformers do not seek to supplant but to supplement existing agencies for good. We are earnest workers on the line of moral-suasion, but we find our work sadly interfered with and its results often wholly destroyed by the counter-working of the licensed traffic in strong drink. If our moral suasion work is right and good what is to be said of the legal system that antagonizes and defeats it? Where is the consistency of the men who say it is grand and noble to spend time and wealth, to sacrifice comfort and health in philanthropic efforts to save our fellowmen from the devouring flames of intemperance, but it is wicked to legislate against the incendiary who kindles the fires.

Law is the sequence, the result and the embodiment of moral sentiment. In nearly every community some people will not be restrained by right motives alone, hence the need for law, which is the coercion of the malevolent few by the benevolent many, for the protection of those who would otherwise be injured by a selfishness that will not be controlled by moral principle. The doctrine that law should not suppress the cause of intemperance because public sentiment favors temperance, would find a fitting parallel in a proposal to license thieves because public opinion was very strongly opposed to stealing.

Right law not only embodies right sentiment, it also strengthens and develops that sentiment. In a law-abiding community, having confidence in its legislators, the mere fact of a law is taken as *prima facie* evidence of the soundness of the principle that it embodies. It not unfrequently happens that a man's eyes are opened to the wrongness of certain lines of conduct by the law's condemnation of that conduct. He reads therein the well-weighed opinion of men who have studied the whole matter; he asks for the reasons on which these opinions are founded and he earns of the principles that underlie the law. If it is desirable to be well taught, can it be undesirable to have a good teacher?

Moral suasion and sound law are harmonious and mutually helpful. The friends of the one are the champions of the other. The inconsistency is on the part of those who profess to believe in moral suasion while they sneer at its advocates and condemn the legislation that is its actual embodiment, and which gives it both assistance and strength.

#### OUR VOLUNTEERS.

During the past week our whole country has been thrilled to its very centre with an excitement such as never stirred it before. In the North-West, bands of lawless men have murdered some of our citizens, and the whole nation is up in arms to suppress the so-called rebellion, and protect the interests of our fellow-countrymen in that great territory. There is hardly a family circle in Canada that has not some tie of relationship to the great new country so recently opened up, and the peril of the settlers there is the peril of those who are near and dear to our own hearts and homes. Our brave soldier boys have set out for the front with an enthusiasm that has rarely been paralleled, and never surpassed; and warm heart-wishes and prayers are going out and up from many homes, that they may be strengthened and protected in the dangerous task that they have so manfully undertaken.

One of the most pleasing features of the situation is the manifestation of a most unbounded and deep-seated patriotism, showing that our Canadian citizens possess in an unusual degree that virtue which may well be called the heart and soul of national life, and the ensurer of national progress and success. No page of history records any response to a martial call more prompt and more cheerful than that of our Canadian volunteers, when the tidings came that their country needed their services. It is this strong, true devotion seldom appreciated or even realized, that is the secret of the great success of our Canadian national life, and it manifests itself in a thousand ways. Our people love their country with a deep and undying love. They are determined to make it great and grand, and to keep its name unsullied in the world's great record. It is this spirit that gives us a positive assurance that no matter what may be the magnitude of this outbreak it will be speedily and effectively terminated. It is the same spirit that is manifest all over our Dominion in the uprising of our people to-day against the tyranny of strong drink, and the determination to uproot and destroy, this awful national curse. Specially is it worthy of notice that the young men of our Dominion are so true to their country and their homes. It is mainly to their efforts that we must attribute the recent and rapid progress of moral reform; it is they who are now going to fight our battle, against the rebels in the North-West. God bless our noble boys, and give them a prosperous journey, and a speedy and triumphant return!

#### The Campaign Everywhere.

KINGSTON AND FRONTENAC.—The petitions for the city, deposited in the Registrar's office, contains 750 names, 140 more than the actual number required by law. The county petition contains 1,311 names, a number also much larger than that absolutely necessary.

ONTARIO.—All over the county is heard the din of preparation for the coming contest. The overwhelming victories in the neighboring counties of Northumberland and Durham has put new zeal into the workers here, and now the ambition is to keep fully abreast of the other counties in its majority for the Act. The central committee for North Ontario will meet for the present every Monday, at 3 o'clock p.m. in the room over Mr. Watt's dry goods store. Mr. H. A. Crosby has been chosen Secretary in the place of Mr. G. H. Widdifield, who is leaving Uxbridge.—*Uxbridge Journal*.