

good reason for honest pride that, for the length of our national history and for the educational means at our disposal, so many graduates of Canadian colleges have risen to positions both in our own and in other lands of commanding influence and of high and honourable usefulness in every walk of life.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY APPROACHING.

THE fight in the cause of temperance from its first feeble and despised beginnings up to the present time, when a decisive battle is approaching, is full of instruction and encouragement to all workers in this cause on behalf of humanity. Patience has been long and sorely tried, but let us hope the goal is now within sight. The deputation of leading temperance workers who a short time ago interviewed the Government to ask it to arrange for a plebiscite on the question of prohibition, could not have been more frankly, squarely, and encouragingly met than they were by the Premier, Mr. Fisher, and Sir Oliver Mowat. There could be no mistaking where the personal sympathies of these gentlemen lay. Mr. Laurier bore the most cordial testimony to the great progress which the cause of temperance has made within thirty, or even fifteen years. Sir Oliver, though with more caution, bore the same testimony. If we ask, how this great change for the better has been brought about? we answer in the words of Mr. Mowat, "a large part of it is due to the agitation and literature of the temperance organizations." In other words, it is due to patient, persevering work, sustained, we must add, by many prayers of Christian men and women who have been leaders in it. From this fact, all interested in this great cause, may well see a call and encouragement to labour on. If work and prayer have brought the cause to this point, it is to be carried to its final triumph by the same means.

The way is now cleared for a last great battle over this question. It has been settled where the power of prohibition lies, and it now only remains, after plebiscites being taken with the most favourable results in the different provinces, to have one taken over the whole Dominion. It is most important that the result should be unmistakable, that there should not only be a majority, but that it should be as large as it possibly can be made by the use of all fair means, so that the Government may know what strength and weight of public opinion it may rely upon to sustain it in prohibitory legislation. The words of Sir Oliver Mowat regarding temperance organizations and their duty in this regard should be given good heed to by all.

"He was sure that they all felt it to be absolutely necessary that whatever could be done to make the prohibition sentiment a general one, shared in by the greater portion of the community, should be done. That was essential to the success of what they desired."

This is all-important, and can only be secured by the same means that have been used with such good effect in the past, work and prayer. The battle is the Lord's; let us not faint, nor fail, nor be discouraged. The history of the past in this great undertaking, as we have said, should strengthen faith and confidence in work for God, and is both a call and mighty encouragement to keep at the work. What should be done is obvious. If this has not been done, it should be at once: plans laid and well matured for work and organization over the whole country, so as still further to lay before the public mind all that can be said in favour of prohibition, to arouse and educate, so that many now indifferent or hostile may be awakened to interest and a favourable decision.

Very large practical questions are bound up with this one, which call for the most wise and careful consideration, so that difficulties may, as far as possible, be removed out of the way. The question of revenue is one of the greatest and most difficult. It will be no easy task to find ways and means whereby the large amount derived from the liquor traffic may be replaced in a less objectionable form. We can but hope that when the necessity arises, and when the minds of the many able men who are in favour of prohibition shall be directed to this matter, some satisfactory solution shall be found. Sir Oliver referred to this when he said:

"They (the Government) wanted to know the opinion of the people, and also to know whether the people are willing to bear the burdens implied by the adoption of prohibition. The object was well worth the burden, but did our people feel that way? Was the sentiment strong enough to enable them to bear the burdens and privations, if there were privations, attending such a law?"

Every true friend of temperance and of prohibition will agree that, "the object is well worth the bur-

den," and also willingly undertake to bear his share of it. In any case nothing but a moral sense long and shockingly perverted and debased, could sanction or tolerate continuing to raise the money needed to carry on the government by a means which the most competent judges agree is the most fruitful source of crimes of every kind, and poverty, of domestic misery and ruin, the chief of all the obstacles to the spread and beneficent influence of religion, and which would, if it were but left alone, and no counteracting influence continually used, issue in utter and irretrievable ruin, individual, domestic, and national. Why should a Christian people continue to raise revenue by such means? There can be no justification of it; let us shake ourselves free from the guilt and crime of it, and cheerfully bear any burden rather than bear complicity in any way with the shame and guilt, the danger and disgrace, of drawing revenue from a source that is a constant menace to our national well-being and a moral outrage.

FAST ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

IN addition to the facts and figures mentioned elsewhere in our columns on this subject from the article upon it in the *Canadian Magazine* by Sir Charles Tupper, there are suggested thoughts of a much larger kind, worthy of at least a passing notice. The object of the Fast Atlantic Steamship Service is to enable Canada to compete successfully with Boston and New York for the carrying trade of the great West, both of our own Dominion and the United States, and so make this trade and all that must come along with it, a perennial source of wealth to the Dominion, and of that kind of power and greatness of which wealth is the necessary means. But this Fast Atlantic Steamship Service is only, as we all see, but one part of a great line of communication, a great world's highway of commerce, of which Canada is the directest route. It is inseparably connected with, and the necessity for it arises from the possession of a continental means of railway conveyance, the Pacific Railway, extending from ocean to ocean, and a line of steamers connecting the Dominion with the vast continent of Asia, with its teeming millions, and the immense trade, yet only in its feeble infancy, which must grow up with its varied people and states, to the enrichment of Canada and many lands, and to be a bond of brotherhood, of peace and goodwill among men.

"What ideas," asks Sir Charles, "induced a handful of British subjects in Canada to grapple with the difficulties of our inland navigation? Sir John Rose wrote to the Duke of Newcastle in 1859, 'that it was to develop the trade of the St. Lawrence, and to attract the commerce of the Western States of America to Europe through our territory.' But as the years have passed by, the views and aspirations of Canadian public men have grown much larger and more ambitious. We allude to this now simply to point out in a few sentences two or three things in this connection that are worth not only the attention of Canadians, but which form a just ground for national pride and satisfaction.

The first is, that the man or men whose minds first conceived, or in whose minds first gradually grew up the conception of this great line of communication, not merely as a means of making money, and who foresaw but dimly, for we believe it could only be dimly foreseen by the brightest minds, the vast possibilities of wealth, and growth, and power that lie before Canada by means of it, had minds capable of rising to a very high, if not the very highest ideas of statesmanship.

The next is, that the men who not only thought out this great idea, but in the actual execution of it fought it out by devising ways and means to carry through the great enterprise, not merely for the money that they saw in it, but for what they saw in it as well for the advancement of Canada and the Empire, were patriots of a very high order.

And, lastly, that for a Confederation so young as Canada is, with resources as yet so undeveloped as ours are, to have shown such faith in itself and to have been able to command such faith in the minds of others in us and in our country, that they would trust us with the money needed to construct such a great highway of communication as we have in our steamship lines on the Atlantic and Pacific, and in the Canadian Pacific Railway, has just reason for an honourable national pride, and if we are only true to ourselves, laid the foundation, and shown the possibility of a great future.

Books and Magazines.

HEAVEN EVERY DAY; OR, COMMON-SENSE CHRISTIANITY. By Theodore F. Seward, author of "The School of Life." 16mo, cloth, price 50 cts. Thomas Whittaker, Publisher, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.

The message of this handsome little volume is clearly indicated by its title. It is suggestive, but will require care and thought on the part of the reader as to some of his teachings and conclusions. The author's purpose is, evidently, to bring his readers into such vital relations with God that they will also be brought into sympathetic relations with one another. His style is simple and direct, and not without a touch of humor. The variety of subjects treated is remarkable for so small a volume. It is not saying too much to add that they are all presented in a fresh, original and helpful way.

THE PROHIBITION HANDBOOK, with numerous tables and diagrams. By George B. Waldron, A.M., statistical editor of the *Voice*, and author of "A Handbook on Currency and Wealth." Funk & Wagnalls Company, London and Toronto, 1896.

Although this compilation is for use in the United States it will be found timely and serviceable in our own Dominion, and especially at this juncture. It extends to one hundred and fifty-eight pages, and is of a most convenient size for the pocket or the hand, is packed full from cover to cover of the most valuable and recent reliable information upon the drink question in almost every phase of it needed for popular purposes, and is accompanied by a very full index, making reference to any point treated easy and speedy.

"Handbook for Presbyterian People." By Rev. James Todd, D.D., Escanaba, Michigan, U.S. 1896. From the examination which we have made of this booklet we think most favorably of it and consider it such as hundreds of our ministers would be glad to put into Presbyterian families. It is brief, containing forty-four pages, so that it can be read and gone over easily without wearying even a young reader. It contains a brief account of the history, constitution, doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church. This is done in eight chapters of which we give the headings, omitting the sub-headings: I. History of Presbyterianism; II. Its Constitution; III. Its Courts; IV, V. Its Doctrines; VI. Its Discipline; VII. Questions for Candidates Seeking Admission to the Church as Members in Full Communion; VIII. Formulae. We cordially commend to all our ministers an examination at least of this booklet, believing that in many cases the introduction of it into the homes of their people would be productive of much good.

The *Westminster* for October shows improvement on previous numbers. Its type, illustrations, broad margin, and make-up generally are pleasing to the eye. Its cover gives a favorable likeness of Principal Caven and a view of Knox College. In the first and main departments the article which will, by our ministers at least, be read with the most critical interest is the inaugural lecture of Professor Dr. Robinson at the opening of Knox College on "The Place of Deuteronomy." Other interesting and leading articles are: "The Making of a Bible," "The Life of James McCosh," by Rev. John Burton, B.D.; "George John Romanes," by Rev. W. G. Jordan, B.D.; "Through the Algonquin Park." Not a few other papers of interest will be found besides these. In the departments of the Sunday Afternoon "The Home World," "The Boys and Girls," "The Religious World," and others of minor importance will be found much attractive and profitable reading brightened in many of them by suitable illustrations. [The Westminster Company, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, Ontario.]

Queen's Quarterly for October is attractive and pleasing to the eye in appearance and interesting and valuable in its matter. The endless Public School question is discussed by A. McLeod in an article "Ecclesiasticism in the Public School;" Professor Watson's fourth article on "Balfour's Foundations of Belief," appears in this number and will be concluded in next. Principal Grant writes in a characteristically hopeful, genial and hearty spirit of "The Condition of the United Kingdom," the results of his observations during his late visit. Mr. E. H. Smythe contributes "Early Law Courts." "Our Atlantic Steamship Service," a subject at the present moment of great interest and importance, is treated by the able pen of Sanford Fleming. Brief articles are by Richard Lees and John MacNaughton on "Plant Locomotion," and "The Main Line of Tendency in Greek and Hebrew Religion," and "Current Events" by G., complete an excellent number. [The News Printing Company, Kingston, Canada.]

Lovers of the late Rev. Dr. Talbot W. Chambers will thank the publishers of the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* for October for the fine likeness of him which it contains and the sketch of his life and work which follows it. The number as a whole is one of much interest. Its other leading articles are "The Jerusalem Chamber," "The Effect of the Fall of Man upon Nature," "Wanted: a Definition of Conscience," "The Early Bermuda Church," "Christian Endeavor and the General Assembly," "Ecclesiastical Notes" contain sketches by reliable pens of "The Scotch Assemblies," "The One Hundred and Eighth General Assembly," "The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America," "The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and of the Glasgow Council." William M. Paxton contributes an "Obituary Note" of the late A. D. F. Randolph, whose publications are so well known. One excellence of this magazine is its careful reviews of late works in all departments of theology together with some in general literature. These occupy in this number sixty-four pages and will be found a valuable part of it. [MacCalla & Company 237-9 Dock Street, Philadelphia.]