

## RETROGRESSION.

An ebb-tide in the temperance movement has swept our land. Four years ago county after county of our fair Province carried the "Canada Temperance Act" with a force that was then irresistible. The liquor element seemed to have no power to stay its adoption. Within the past few months, of the twenty-five counties and two cities which had adopted the Act, twenty-three counties and the two cities have repealed it. The other two counties are perhaps ready to follow suit when the opportunity comes. That the Act when in force was largely effective in the reduction of crime and in decreasing the use of alcoholic liquors in very many places is without doubt. One of the best proofs of its efficiency was shown in the bitterness with which the liquor interests opposed it—an opposition which has proved altogether too successful. We believe that for the present, and perhaps for a long time, the repeal of the Act will be a loss to the temperance cause. But the Act, though a long stretch on the road to prohibition, was not perfect, and the masses, even in the churches, are at too low an ebb on this question. The agitation, though, has done wonders. It has shown the churches just how sound (or unsound) they are. Christian churches should be a unit upon this question. Our loss and the loss of the prohibitory amendment in some of the States this spring should open the eyes of the blind and touch to the quick the consciences of men. *Prohibition must come.* The fight is to be between the churches and the liquor interests, and the sharper and quicker the line is drawn the better. Are Friends, everywhere, maintaining the past record of our Society by standing united and in the front rank in their efforts to lead to victory this, the most important moral reform which is agitating this generation?

S. P. Z.

## THOUGHTS.

All human things and human works  
Endure but for a day;  
But God, and all that's born of Him,  
Shall never pass away

Little deeds of kindness make a happy life.

All forms and ceremonies vanish before the Spirit, as darkness before light.

Farewell to 'an enlightened community when one man does the thinking for the rest.

The serpent in the jungles, charming the innocent bird within its fatal reach, reminds one of the actions of not a few human beings, who flatter but to deceive, kiss but to betray. Z.

The present only is ours; let us use it so we will have no fear of the future. M.

Notice the husbandman how vigorously he plucks out the weeds, and when the work is done he is verily satisfied. How much more abundantly satisfied is Christ when He has cast away all the tares and has gathered together all the wheat into His garner. B.

## CHARITY.

An Essay by Amelia Page, read at the S. S. Convention at North Pelham, 2nd mo. 8, 1889.

Pondering over the subject assigned to me, I became appalled at its greatness, and my insufficiency to handle it—having no talent, save the love of God shed abroad in my soul, but the prayer arising from the inmost depths of my spirit, "Oh Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise." Realizing in my own experience the truthfulness and fulfillment of the promise, "trust in the Lord, and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." The Spirit helping my infirmities, strength was gained and courage infused, with determination to