

"other paid retainers. The advocacy of teetotalism in fact became a highly remunerative profession. It soon became evident that an organization framed "for the exertion of moral force might be subservient to other ends." Our human nature is apt to cherish exaggerated notions of the importance of any great plan which has been concerted by our own wisdom. We forget, says an eminent ethical writer, that we are only to *ourselves* the centre of the universe "—that if all creation appears to revolve around us, the semblance results only "from the point of vision from which we look at it, and that were we suddenly "annihilated the great schemes of Providence would probably unfold themselves "much the same as they did before." The growing sense of power which a successful association of this kind engenders amongst its members, who all feel a proprietary interest in its movements, and whose views were pretty well circumscribed within the area of its operations, gradually led its adherents to long for other spheres of activity than that of moral influence.

In Canada the political aspect of parties favored such a course. absence of a foreign policy, and the settlement of all the great domestic questions which had divided parties on rational grounds, raised minor issues into comparative importance. Temperance candidates appeared and the vote of the Temperance party became an object of desire. The fact became patent that in many counties it might even hold the balance of power.

At this stage the third Parliament of Canada being about to expire by effluxion of time, the Canada Temperance Act was introduced and passed. The uncharitably disposed do not hesitate to express the opinion that many of the members who did not believe in its efficacy, did not dare to oppose it because the majority of their constituents cared but little about it, while the active minority cared for little else; and a vote against it would throw a score or two of votes into the lap of their opponent. At any rate the pressure from one cause or another was sufficient to carry the measure through the House, and it is only now being discovered what it really means.

It is probably the most tyrannical Act which has ever passed the Canadian Parliament and its advocates in the House and throughout the country will not, they assert, be satisfied until they have worried a patient, long-suffering people into absolute prohibition.

They have gone too far; their aggressiveness has provoked opposition and reaction.