

THE YOUNG MAN'S POWER.

And how he is Using it to crush his Great Enemy.

The Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Halton, writing to the *Witness* in congratulation of the Montreal Cock Parliament's action in passing a prohibitory law, calls attention to the fact that the young men in many other parts are rising to save their country. As he says,—"The young men of Ontario are not a whit behind your Quebec young men on this question. In all our counties they are rallying to the prohibition standard, and enrolling themselves for battle against the greatest enemy of their homes and country. The Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and other abstinence societies are largely made up of young men. Our debating clubs, Mechanics' Institutes and Y. M. C. A. Associations are filled with them; and last but not least the 'Farmers' Clubs,' that are springing up all over the rural parts of the country, are composed largely of young men. It is one of the most hopeful signs of the present temperance movement that our young men are with it. They are beginning to recognize the drink traffic to be the great stumbling block across their pathway to success in any profession of life. A young man who frequents saloons and patronises the common drinking customs of the day is suspected and watched. If young men who are clerks in stores, bookkeepers, bank clerks, etc., only knew the feelings of their employers when they discover them running in this broad way, they would pause ere they increased the reason for suspicion already excited.

"The drink traffic, with its open bars, its attractive saloons, its mirrored walls and its ruby wine, is the young man's enemy, and its destruction will bring relief to thousands. The drinking customs of our country have been created by our licensed liquor traffic; destroy the traffic and in very few years the customs of social life in this direction will be changed. In most of the rural portions of the State of Maine there is a generation of young people who do not know the liquor traffic nor the modern drinking customs. It is said that in that State a speaker was addressing a large gathering of Sunday-school-children, ranging in age from five years to sixteen. The speaker was talking about the use of liquor and its power to make men drunken and abusive, &c. A looker on—a stranger—was much interested in the address, and also in the attention of the young people before him. He appealed to the Chairman, who was an ex-Governor of the State, for the reason of such indifference, when the Chairman said 'I will show you.' He called upon all the audience who had ever seen a drunken man to hold up their hands; not one hand was held up. The secret was out, the liquor traffic was shut off, and the drinking customs were dead. In a great many parts of the State, where the vote for the constitutional amendment was taken, there was, with rare exceptions, a solid vote polled; and over the whole state a majority of about three and a half to one. So it will be in Canada. Give us a prohibitory liquor law and in a few years you will have a race of people who never saw a drunken man. Shut up the bar-rooms and you largely destroy the drinking customs. Even with the Scott Act, local as it may be in its operations, where repeal votes have

been taken, in most cases the vote in the rural parts of the counties has been largely increased. All hail the coming power of our young men! We are sure it will be used on the side of the home and for the protection of the weak."

WHICH ARE THE MANIACS?—The other week we gave our readers a specimen of the "literary" opposition offered to prohibition in St. Louis. It seems that there is somebody in Canada, who is learning how to write, and who is developing an almost equally curious style. His outpourings are printed in a sheet called the *Anti-Scott Act Herald*, dated at the village of Smithville, Lincoln County. Here is a specimen of the work turned out by his imagination—which is more brilliant than his grammar:—"Some time ago a set of maniacs, of which the country is tolerably well stocked, imprompted the Parliament at Ottawa for a prohibitory liquor law, and the Parliament, to get rid of the rabid rustics, grant them a LOCAL OPTION LAW or a contemptuous *Scott Act* with about the same air of pity that one throws scraps to a hungry dog or feeds a caged wild animal to prolong its existence that the bounty on its pate be secured."

SCOTT ACT NOTES.

By REV. J. LAWSON, COBDEN, ONT. (XIX.)

The righteousness of the temperance cause scarcely any can be found to deny. The principal objections of the liquor party are urged, not against the cause of temperance, but against the Scott Act. They endeavor to show that it is a very defective measure, that it will not accomplish the end desired by its advocates, and that it will be even worse than useless.

Their objections—for they ought not to be called arguments—we have fairly met; at least the principal ones. Of necessity our articles have been brief. We have trusted, however, to the candor and common-sense of our readers. We have not hesitated to hold up for examination the various objections urged against the adoption of the Scott Act by its opponents, and think we have shown, to every honest enquirer after truth, that the Canada Temperance Act of 1878,—otherwise the Scott Act,—is a most radical and effective temperance measure, being in such high favor with all true temperance men, and so bitterly opposed

If ENTHUSIASM and utter devotion to a good cause are the same thing as fanaticism, then for Heaven's sake let us not only encourage all the fanatics now in our midst but import all we can find abroad! The trouble is, no other country can spare its enthusiasts and fanatics any more than we can.

"Selah" says: "When the 'Noble Six Hundred' were rashly ordered to accomplish an utterly impossible thing, and they rashly attempted it, charging at Balaclava right 'into the mouth of hell, and running the gauntlet between two lines of twenty times their number on either side,' here was a 'patriotic, military enthusiasm unexampled,' but no charge of fanaticism. And no matter what zeal a man displays in the prosecution of his duties—in the school, Church, or law—he is commended for his 'admirable enthusiasm.' But let a man manifest a similar zeal in his prosecution of the prince of villains, the merciless murderer, old Tyrant Alcohol, and there are thousands of people ever ready and glad to echo and re-echo the cry of 'fanaticism!'"

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CARDINAL MANNING,

WRITING FROM WESTMINSTER, FEB. 14, 1885, SAYS:

"In my belief the only just and adequate remedy is Local Option, or Local Veto; that is to say, the people have a right of self-defence."

PROFIT NOT LOSS!—The Scott Act's success, in the one county of Ontario where it has been tried, has already been a very clear one. The Deputy-Reeve of Esquesing township, in the County of Halton, furnishes some very instructive figures in regard to the result of the Act's working in his locality. He reports that there were expended, for the support of the poor in Esquesing, the following annual amounts:

1880—Under licenses.....	\$583.14
1881—"	435.45
1882—One-third of year under licenses, the rest under Scott Act .. .	242.37
1883—Under Scott Act	218.31
1884—"	138.55

At a meeting of the County Council it was decided to vote \$600, the sum considered necessary to enforce the Act this year. It will be noticed that the amount required to support the poor in Esquesing during the last two years of licenses was \$1018.59; and in the first two years of the Scott Act, \$351.86. The saving in poor rates in this one township is thus seen to be \$666.73,—considerably more than the sum necessary to enforce the Act in the whole county. Another comparison shows that the loss to the township in license fees—which brought in a revenue of \$322.06 in the year ending April 30th, 1881, and \$282.47 in the year following, making a total of \$610.53 for the two years—is less, by \$56.20, than the amount saved in poor rates alone.

by the whiskyites, and all those who are personally interested in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

Now, how comes all this? Our cause is a good one, our enemies themselves being judges. They convict themselves. All their objections are shown to be nothing else, when simmered down, but the very essence of selfishness. Not one of them can bear the light of truth or stand the test of honest investigation.

Away, then, with such a cause! Let every honest man take sides with that which courts investigation, and without claiming perfection for the Scott Act, it is at least an honest attempt to do away with the iniquitous license system. And, whatever its imperfections may be, it is surely better,—infinitely better—than license. Wherever the Scott Act has been tried it has proved a blessing and vindicated its right to supplant license. Wherever license has been allowed it has wrought untold ruin and misery of almost every conceivable kind.

Surely, nothing can be worse than license. Any change must be for the better. If the sale of liquor be not an evil, why should license to sell it be required? Is not "the mark of the beast" on the very face of it?

Vote for the Scott Act, do away with license, and curb, if not kill the monster Rum!

THERE ARE 900 churches in California, and 12,000 liquor shops!