

## CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

## PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

ONE of the most important questions before the country at this moment is that of Prohibition. Certainly it never was more fully discussed, and never commanded the attention of parliament, pulpit, and press, more thoroughly than now. Multitudes of the people have given their verdict in its favour—by way of petitioning the parliaments—and doubtless if an effective method were devised for gaining the wish of the country in relation to this matter now, it would be found that a large majority would ask for it at once. It is most true that “the legal prohibition of the manufacture and use of liquors will only be effective when overwhelming and earnest public opinion endorses and enforces the law;” but are we to wait until every fraction of public opinion is in its favour? When would slavery have been abolished in British dependencies where it obtained, if that rule had been insisted upon? The law now upon the statute book bearing upon this question is so beset with entanglements, and the means for evading it are so numerous, that for great practical benefit it is almost a dead letter. Unless we mistake the tone of the press, and the voice of the people, and the whole character of circumstances and events transpiring around us, we incline to the idea that a prohibitory law, if passed in 1875, would receive all that support that would ensure its complete success, and secure to this country deliverance from that which is its direct curse and most constant source of weakness. Those who take the deepest interest in this matter have every reason to be encouraged, and at the same time to redouble their efforts in this humane and beneficent cause.

## RACING.

WE have admired the tone of many of our leading journals in discussing the question of horse-racing, which has occupied no inconsiderable portion of their columns recently. “Divest it,” says one, in a trenchant article, “of its gambling associations, and yet the object for which vast assemblages collect at the race-course, the means by which the object is attained, the dispositions and feelings necessarily engendered, can scarcely be considered morally wholesome. On the whole, we scarcely think society so hard pressed for innocent, unobjectionable amusements, that it cannot afford to forego the questionable excitements of horse-racing. Surely our zeal for the improvement of the man should be more ardent than our zeal for the improvement of the horse.” It is a fact well known that in England this sport is demoralizing to the last degree, and that some of the representatives of the noblest houses have through it lost both property and character. The little seen of its effects and surroundings in this country stamp it as a most cruel, reprehensible amusement, whose only tendency is to lead young men astray from virtue, and brutalize every finer feeling of the nature. Nor can we look with entire approbation upon the boat race, that has become so popular amongst us of late years. Hundreds who discountenance the turf, look with favour upon the boat race; and yet temptations to vice—particularly the vice of gambling—throng around the one almost as much as the other. Could it be separated from these evil associations, it might be indulged in with some show of reason. Whether that can be done or not, one thing is certain, it is not done. We are per-