

PROHIBITION.

This is the latest movement of extreme abstainers, who believe that it is quite right to deprive the people of their God-given liberties, and have therefore induced the Legislature to grant them an Act of Parliament which gives them some facilities for exercising their tyranny upon their neighbours. Said a respectable minister of the gospel lately in an eloquent oration at an enthusiastic Scott Act meeting, in answer to the objection that it is wrong to restrict the liberties of the people. Liberties of the people ! said he : every law on the statute book restricts the liberties of the people, and as if half-conscious of the weakness of his argument, he facetiously related the story of the man who attempted to light a candle, but though he applied a match to it several times, it would not burn. In his disappointment and wonder, he put his hand on the candle, and found it covered with a brass extinguisher. As an application of his illustration, he said, some people are so protected with prejudices that no light can affect them ; but as we shall see the light that the reverend gentleman exhibited and waved aloft before his audience could not kindle anything, for it was no fire at all, but a cold and glittering "will o' the wisp" only fitted to beguile the unwary and simple into the mire of error. "There was a man," said he, "who got a game cock, but the neighbours having been disturbed by its crowing, they applied to the magistrate to interfere, and cause him to remove the nuisance. This was done, and so the man's liberty to keep a game cock was restricted." He also referred to another man who was making preparations to erect a wooden house in Toronto within the district where such structures are forbidden ; but after bringing the timber to the ground he was compelled to give up the attempt. After these two references the orator triumphantly said that "men may be justly deprived of their liberty." This seems rather startling, but I hope I shall never be under the government of prohibitionists, for they have given no doubtful proofs of their persecuting spirit. No law is just which deprives people of their God-given liberties ; but no one has