

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

THE WORK OF LAW IN TEMPERANCE REFORM.

Public opinion in New England is reaching a different conclusion from that once held by the temperance reformers. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut have been compelled to repeal prohibitive laws in the form of statutes because the people were not satisfied with their operation, and the recent attempt in Massachusetts to put prohibition in the constitution of the state has been rejected by the best and most conservative part of the community who were compelled to join with the worst classes to secure this end. The question which sober people have to face is whether the legal resources for suppressing intemperance are exhausted. Prof. John P. Gulliver, who has watched the course of temperance legislation in Massachusetts and Connecticut for the last twenty-five years, and has had a hand in all the reform movements, may be taken as a fair representative of the change which has taken place in public opinion. In the June Andover review, he takes broad ground as to what can be done and what cannot be done in this matter. He does not see that restrictive law can accomplish any more than is done now. If further legislation is attempted it must not violate three conditions. It must not attempt to furnish a substitute for industry, order, and good homes. It must not aim to save the vicious by violating the rights of the virtuous. It must not prohibit what is not plainly prohibited by the law of God. It is because temperance legislation has attempted to go beyond these conditions that it has failed to command public confidence. Dr. Gulliver's conclusion is "that a law against adulterations of all kinds, such as every government owes to its citizens, such as has long existed in Denmark and other Scandinavian countries, might offer an experiment which is worth trying as a temperance measure." In other words, legislation in favour of temperance can only be successful when it is not special but in accord with the wholesome movement of society, and the way to overcome intemperance is partly to use present restrictive law to the full extent of its limits, and partly to supplement it by the social influences which counteract the attractions of the dram-shop and influence people on the positive side of character. It is this kind of effort which the Church Temperance Society has endorsed from the beginning and it is a good sign that intelligent men like Dr. Gulliver, who have had large experience of other methods of reform, have finally come to work for temperance on a broader and more thorough-going basis.

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mammon and the standard of Christ. As long as the man adopts the standard of mammon, his goods may increase, but it remains eternally true that he who maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. He who adopts the standard of Christ will quite as probably grow rich, also, but there will be no shame and sorrow with his riches. But if he dies a poor man in his integrity, he will still be happy, for even in this life his reward will be a hundredfold more blessed.—F. W. Farrar.

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