

IT IS COMING!

PROHIBITION WILL BE VICTORIOUS.

Address by Rev. W. A. McKay, B. A., of Woodstock, before the Synod of Hamilton and London.

Mr. McKay in moving the adoption of the report, spoke as follows. I had no intention until noon to-day of saying anything upon this subject this evening. But, I would not be true to my own convictions of duty, if, in view of some recent utterances on this subject, I kept silent. You, Mr. Moderator, voiced the convictions of every member of this court when, this afternoon, you expressed the deep interest felt in the subject, not only within the limits of the Synod of Hamilton and London, but throughout the Province, and indeed the whole Dominion. Whatever difference of opinion there may be on the subject, we must all admit that we have reached a very important epoch—I might say even a great crisis in the history of this movement. I am not now referring particularly to the recent repeal of the Scott Act, these are mere ripples on the surface, they are unimportant, though they make our opponents wonderfully jubilant. Perhaps being unaccustomed to victory in the past, they are now thankful for small victories; but their triumph will be short-lived. Prohibition must go on. As well might they attempt to turn back the rushing waters of Niagara, as to stem the advancing tide of prohibition sentiment in this land. It will be found that the Temperance people have merely relaxed effort only to renew again with increased vigor and consecration. As the honest farmer in his homely way expressed it at a meeting the other evening, "Beaten are we! We have only let go our hold for a moment to spit on our hands."

DANGEROUS DOCTRINE

I wish to refer to views lately enunciated by brethren high in the Church and in the esteem of all Christian people who know them. I would not say one ungenerous word against these brethren, but I have been humiliated as a Presbyterian, and pained, deeply pained as a Christian, to see their resolutions and utterances used by our opponents as whisky literature, and scattered broadcast, as you, Mr. Moderator, are aware, to influence electors in favor of bar-rooms; and I sound the note of warning, that if the views attributed to them should prevail to any great extent throughout the Church, there are breakers ahead. Could we conceive of the supreme court of our Church shutting our mouths in the way suggested by these brethren, the great Presbyterian Church would cease to be the Church of which many of us have hitherto been proud. If Calvin at Geneva and John Knox in Scotland, had been as much afraid of politics as some ministers of the present day, there would never have been a Presbyterian Church in the world.

The liquor traffic is an acknowledged curse. Its evils are appalling. They affect both the bodies and souls of men. But if those views to which I have referred are adopted, all that we can do is to sit still, talk over the evils and bewail them, but we must not even indicate to the state how they are to be removed. This dreadful upas tree which has been spreading death and destruction on every side, has hitherto been watered and protected by the state; but we are not to be allowed to demand of the state to cut down that tree, instead of trimming; and endeavoring to make it look more respectable. Caesar, who has hitherto guarded this tree, must not, we are told, be required to remove it. In other words, to drop the metaphor, we must not express our preference for the prohibition of the liquor traffic rather than the licensing of it. And why is our testimony as a church to be thus limited? We are told that Christ is the great head and only law-giver of His Church. I rejoice in this glorious truth and derive all my encouragement from it in advancing every good work. It is truth, however, that has been terribly abused. When American slave-holders would keep in bondage, millions of their fellow beings, they cried out "Christ is the great head and only law-giver of His Church," and therefore the Church must not seek legislation against the peculiar institution. And now the argument is being reheated in defence of a slavery worse than ever existed on Southern soil. Strange logic, because Christ is head of His Church, therefore the Church must not denounce the legalizing of sin. I am not now speaking of a man drinking a glass of wine or anything else. I have

never said that to drink was a sin per se. I am speaking of a terrible traffic that exists in these modern days, which our General Assembly has declared to be "contrary to the Word of God," and which the great statesman of England declares brings upon the British people the accumulated misery of war, pestilence and famine. DIVINE AUTHORITY.

We are asked for a "Thus saith the Lord" for Prohibition, as if such an authority did not exist. But it does exist. Last evening in this court we discussed the "Sabbath Observance" question, and we resolved to obtain, if possible, better legislation for the stopping of railway trains, steamboats, etc., on the Sabbath. In this, I am persuaded, we did well; and all the Christian people will heartily co-operate with us. But I ask where is a "Thus saith the Lord," for our action? You justly direct my attention to the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." I observe however that there is no railway train mentioned in that commandment. You reply that there is a great general principle laid down which applies to those specific cases. In saying so you do well. But be consistent. I direct your attention now to the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," and I tell you that there is a great general principle therein contained which applies just as closely to the liquor traffic, as the principle of the other commandment does to the stopping of a railway train. As a good Presbyterian I turn to my Shorter Catechism, and I find that the sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or anything that tendeth thereunto. I consult good old Boston and in his comments I find him dwelling at great length upon intemperance, the result of the traffic, as one of the things forbidden in this commandment; and no one will accuse him of being a temperance fanatic.

NO GOING BACK.

Our Church must not recede one inch from the ground which she has hitherto occupied; but strong in the strength which God supplies, go forward under the leadership of her great captain, hand in hand with the other churches, influencing in every legitimate way the law-makers of our land, until our legislation is brought into accord with enlightened Christian conviction. Let us not be discouraged because of temporary defeats. These can never permanently hinder a good cause. We never asked for the Scott Act, we asked for Prohibition. Parliament gave us the Scott Act and, wisely or unwisely, we accepted it. What we demanded before we demand still—total Prohibition for the whole country, and we shall work and pray until we get it.

A STIRRING INCIDENT.

Just before the breaking out of the late American war when a dark cloud seemed to hang over the interest of the African race in that land, Frederick Douglass addressed an immense assemblage of people, depicting their sad condition in vivid colors. The one political party had gone on its knees to slavery; the other did not propose to abolish it, but only to restrict it. The Supreme Court of the United States had discriminated against the colored man as such. The orator spoke of his countrymen writhing under the lash of the oppressor, and trampled upon by the feet of brutal men. He even uttered the cry for blood, and then declared that there was even no hope in that. Despair was depicted on every countenance. But when the cloud seemed to hang most heavily over the audience, an old colored woman called "Sojourner Truth," and known among the colored people, far and wide, as a prophetess, rose in one of the front pews. Instantly every eye was upon her. The orator paused. Pointing her long bony finger towards him, in shrill tones she cried out, "Frederick! is God dead!" The meaning of her words was at once perceived. The audience was thrilled, faith revived, hope brightened and patience was restored. And so, Mr. Moderator, in the words which you have just read, I would say, "The Lord reigneth; clouds and darkness are around about him, but righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne." This is our hope and our encouragement in the work of Temperance and Prohibition. And we shall not be put to shame.

READ pages Six and Seven of this Paper

UNITED STATES.

Almost Unanimous.

At the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Mississippi held recently, out of three hundred delegates present, there was only one vote against the resolution prohibiting the admission of saloon-keepers to membership in the order.

Two More States Ready.

The State of Pennsylvania held a great Prohibition convention at Harrisburg, commencing on the 2nd inst. Many of the most active Prohibition workers were on hand, including Rev. C. H. Mead, Frank O Smith, Miss Narcissa White and Rev. H. B. Hudson. The committee on credentials reported 401 delegates, from 88 counties. The convention was in every sense a success.

Iowa State has also held a big convention, and is well in line for the coming fight.

A Big Cut Down.

A special despatch to the New York Voice from the city of Pittsburg states that the License Court has finally adjourned, having granted only 389 retail and 98 wholesale licenses in the whole county. There were about 3,000 last year. Judge White has published a letter in which he says: "From thirteen years' experience in the criminal court I am thoroughly convinced that there are far more evils resulting from the use of beer in this county than from whisky."

Another Step.

Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, does not propose that Prohibition shall be made comparatively ineffective by the recent decision of the Supreme Court, if his position and influence can do anything to secure something better. He has recently introduced into the U. S. Senate a bill providing, That any article of commerce, the manufacture and sale of which are prohibited within any State by the laws thereof, shall not be transported or conveyed into such State from any other State, Territory, or foreign country, by any railroad or other common carrier, but this shall not be held to prohibit the transportation of such article of commerce as aforesaid through such State as aforesaid prohibiting the sale and manufacture thereof to any other State or Territory.

Prohibition Party Convention.

The National Convention of the Prohibition Party of the United States, held at Indianapolis on May 30th, promises to be immense as well as important.

The sessions of the Convention will be held in Tomlinson's hall, which seats 4,000 people, the platform having accommodations for 300. Special railway rates have been secured, and hotel accommodations provided on a very extensive scale. Notwithstanding this, delegates from some parts are engaging Pullman sleepers, in which they will travel to the Convention, and in which they will sleep during the Convention, holding possession of them until they return home.

A Double Tragedy.

An awful tragedy took place at Jackson, Miss., on Thursday, 1st inst. Most of our readers will remember the assassination of young Roderick Gambrell, the Prohibitionist editor, by Col. James S. Hamilton. Hamilton was actually tried for the crime but acquitted, and since that time there has been a great deal of ill-feeling in the neighborhood. The postmaster at Jackson was General Wirt Adams, a veteran soldier of seventy. The editor of the New Mississippiian, a Prohibition daily, was John H. Martin, a boy of about twenty. Adams was an intimate friend of Hamilton, and since the trial Martin has been saying some strong things about him. On the morning named, Martin's paper stated that General Adams delayed its delivery from the Post-office purposely. In the afternoon the two men met, and Adams started to abuse Martin. Full details of the encounter are not known, but in the quarrel that occurred both men used revolvers freely, and were both shot dead on the spot.

The Coming Man.

From present appearances there is very little doubt that General Clinton B. Fisk will be the Prohibition candidate this year for the Presidential chair. Nobody expects to see him elected, but it is generally admitted that if he were elected he would be as good a President as the United States ever had. All that he is, he owes to honest hard work, having fought his own way in life from poverty to his present position. American party journals are at last fully aroused, not only to the strength of the present candidate, but to the growing power of the movement which the candidate represents. The New York Herald says: "We take it that Gen. Fisk is making no special preparations for the occupancy of the White House, has not chosen his cabinet or pledged to his supporters the chief offices under the government. Still, it will never do to ignore the fact that these Prohibitionists are earnest folks, and are doubling up in handsome style. They have an idea, a big idea, clumsy and impracticable, perhaps, in its present shape, but still useful and reformatory. The movement is bound to grow, and both parties will do well to keep their eyes on it."

SUNDRY ITEMS.

There are at the present time, in the United States and Canada, no less than 245 Prohibition papers.

A Bill has been passed by the Senate of Ohio, prohibiting the sale of tobacco or cigarettes to boys under sixteen.

The New Hampshire Prohibition Law is being pushed with unusual vigor. It is stated that every saloon in Concord has been closed.

On Monday evening, the 30th ult., a reception was given at Boston by the New England Women's Club to Mrs. Keefer of this city. It is said that the meeting was a very enjoyable one.

PUBLIC OPINION.

ON THE ANTI SCOTT ACT VICTORIES.

What Our Leading Journals Say—The Way the Party Papers Look at It—The Views of Tories, Grits and Independents—Many Theories and Deductions.

But they all point to Prohibition. (SECOND INSTALLMENT.)

Eganville Enterprise.

"We firmly believe if the question of total Prohibition was put to the people to-morrow it would carry with a big majority in Rensselaer county."

North Star.

Broadly considered the result looks like a reversal of public opinion, but as a matter of fact, the election has been gagged and muzzled by the iniquitous Dominion Franchise Act.

Stirling News-Argus.

A forward movement all along the line is now in order, and nothing short of absolute Prohibition will be the watchword in the coming Temperance campaign. The sooner it comes the better; and for its triumph all good men should lend their aid.

Free Grant Gazette.

The Globe absurdly blames the Franchise Act; the CANADA CITIZEN, the Scott Act organ, meanly blames the Inspectors, and others say it was because the Act did not get a fair trial. The latter reason is really the most logical.

Toronto Mail.

The most reasonable explanation of the adverse verdict is to be found, we believe, in the fact that the Act has not been enforced as it should have been, and that the support of some of its former friends, has therefore, been alienated.

Montreal Gazette.

It looks as if the main cause was general dissatisfaction with the operation of the law, and a preference for such limited licenses as Ontario's very strict act secures, to Prohibition that often failed to prohibit, and gave rise to scandal.

Hamilton Spectator.

The Scott Act has been tried, and it has been found wanting. The people have sickened of it. Let it pass quietly into the limbo where are the memories of many similar acts of legislation—well meant, but unworkable, impracticable and unwise.

Hamilton Times.

It (the Act) has caused a great deal of expense, a great deal of hard feeling, and it has been profitable to nobody but a few stump speakers and a host of keepers of grog shops—men who couldn't get licenses from the commissioners under any circumstances. Let the whole country go back to the license law, let that law be made strict, let it be thoroughly enforced. Half a loaf is better than no bread.

Richmond Hill Liberal.

The real causes of the wide-spread repeal of the Act are to be found (1) in the fact that in many cases its adoption was due to enthusiasm, and not to well-matured conviction, and (2) in the fact that politicians, both Liberal and Conservative, refused the necessary help for its enforcement.

Fergus Advocate.

Very few of the real Temperance people marked their ballots differently this time from the time before, and the change was brought about by the middle class, which had a double effect in changing from one side to the other. The Temperance people will be pleased to strike straight at Prohibition, but in the meantime purpose to, more than ever, enforce the Scott Act.

Hagersville News.

The great wave that swept the province three years ago has returned as a boom again, and now the supporters of the Act are down among the defeated on a great question of moral reform. The Scott Act never was and never can be a success. Hundreds of temperance men have ever voted against it, and will continue to do so wherever it may be tried.

Nova Scotia Star.

After Waterloo, what! We think we can see what this country is demanding a plebiscite, and it will have it. The disaffected voters of the West have tried the Scott Act till they found it next to useless—they are not dropping their tools—they are preparing for something better. This defeat does not mean that the country is going back to the old damnable business—not by any means!

Presbyterian Review.

A strong reaction has evidently set in, not against Prohibition, as we believe, but against an imperfect law, imperfectly administered. We look for an immediate movement for total Prohibition. License cannot be accepted as a final thing. No partial measure of Prohibition would command the support of the Temperance people. The willingness to repeal a defective law indicates a desire for a better one.

Montreal Gazette.

The Prohibitionists must take some of the blame to themselves. They were

not always wise in their methods. It was assuming too much when some of them, as they did, undertook to condemn as unchristian and immoral all, however good living or exemplary in their conduct, who could not see eye to eye with the advocates of the measure.

Regina Journal.

The liquor interests may consider themselves safe now that the troubled waters have roiled, but they had better look to their foundations, for the next flow of the waves of public opinion will come forward with increased force and wash higher than before. A new impetus will now be given to the movement for better Temperance legislation. The apparent backset will simply give the Temperance movement a better foothold.

Woodville Advocate.

It is almost needless to say about for a reason for this change in feeling. The general disgust at the manner in which it has been operated and the feeling that it was unworkable in its present form was general. In spite of all this it is generally acknowledged that the Scott Act, even in the counties recently rejecting it, has done much good and from our own observation here we can confirm the statement.

Winnipeg Echo.

One of the biggest frauds, if not the biggest, in the Scott Act contest, is the fact that the Indians in the County of Bruce have a vote, as to whether a white man shall have whisky or not. The absurdity of the thing is seen when we consider the fact that no matter how the election went, the Indian can get no "Skittawaboo." Crooks Act or Scott Act, it is all the same to him. This is a plain evidence that the Dominion Franchise Act is an unmitigated nuisance and fraud as we have always contended, and the sooner it is repealed the better for the country and manhood suffrage in its stead.

Toronto Globe.

A number of potent causes conspired to bring about these signal defeats. First of all that dastard weapon, the Dominion Franchise Act. The unfairness of the Dominion Government in bringing on the contests at a time when the roads are in desperate condition and when the farmers are very busy. But that was not all. Not all Prohibitionists, but some of them have acted with the meanest treachery towards brother Prohibitionists because the latter were Liberals. Then there is to be reckoned with the well known fact that in the minds of a good many people—even Prohibitionists—there is a strong reaction against local option. Giving due weight to all these circumstances, it will be seen that the odds against the Scott Act in the campaign were enormous.

Toronto Telegram.

The Temperance vote was divided. The liquor vote was solid. The old parties would do more from fear of the latter than from love for the cause represented by the former. The liquor interest was thus able to prevent amendments, that by aiding in the enforcement, might have paralyzed the life of the Scott Act. At best the Act was an expedient—a means, not an end. These are dark days for the Prohibitionists. But there is light ahead, and adversity should strengthen their determination to educate and agitate for a law that will strike evil at the heart instead of the branches.

Therold Post.

We believe the true reason is found in (1) the fact of the Act making no adequate provision for its own enforcement, leaving it a very difficult thing for its provisions to be carried out; (2) the consequent discouragement of those who earnestly desired its full power to be exerted; (3) the fact that Prohibition, after all, is what the Temperance people want—not half-way measures; and (4) the unfaithfulness, not to say treachery, of many professed temperance men when their temperance principles stood between them and "the party."

Montreal Witness.

Unless the movement can start on an entirely new plan of campaign its wheels will drag heavily until those counties have been redeemed. This we have almost no doubt they will all be three years hence, but it is a long time to wait. The eyes of Prohibitionists are now upon the important National Prohibition Convention to be held in Montreal on the third day of July. What was wanted and what is wanted now in every county is a Law and Order League or a Scott Act League which will fight for the defence of the county with the same kind of self-sacrifice that is brought to bear when the country is invaded by a less hateful and less harmful foe.

Brace Telescope.

The friends of the Scott Act throughout the province are now forced to admit that the Scott Act as a Temperance war cry is a thing of the past; another battle ground will have to be chosen which is the prohibition of the manufacture as well as the sale of spirits for the whole Dominion. How soon a demand will be made for such a measure, we are not prepared to say, but we are decidedly of the opinion that it should not be pressed until there is a sufficient advance in public and moral sentiment at its back as will compel its rigid and strict enforcement.

READ OUR GREAT OFFER on pages six and seven.