

THE Temperance wave, as it is aptly called, appears to be sweeping the country. It is creditable to our people, as well as natural, that they should throw themselves eagerly into the crusade when they have been persuaded that, by simply voting for a particular law, vice and all its consequences may be at once banished from the community. Besides this it is especially true in the case of agitations that nothing succeeds like success: no sooner does it appear that the scale is turning in favour of the movement, than thousands hurry to the winning side. Politicians and Party organs, drawing a decent veil over their own past, ardently embrace the sacred cause which promises votes. In the present case the force of the churches is added to that of the platform. The clergy have really no choice; any one of them who hung back would at once be made to feel the wrath of a certain section of his congregation, comprising probably some of its leading members. Even those who are under no pressure shrink from exercising their freedom of judgment when it brings them into collision with men whose motives they respect and who, in their passionate zeal for the attainment of a great object, are apt to put a wrong construction upon difference of opinion; as though a man might not heartily abhor drunkenness and yet doubt whether the best cure for it was the Scott Act. Waves, however, even tidal waves, in time recede; and, when the swell of enthusiasm which carries everything before it at the polls has spent itself, will come the daily struggle to enforce the Act against multitudes whose tastes and habits are not to be changed in a day by the vote of a majority any more than by the fiat of a paternal despot. Experience seems to tell us plainly what the result will be. Coercion will fail in the only places where it is required: that is to say, where there is a prevailing taste for drink. No ordinary police will suffice, nor will any ordinary man turn informer against his neighbours for an act which, though he may think it very unwholesome, he cannot think a crime. The licensed and regulated trade will perish, and the revenue from license fees with it; but its place will be taken by an unlicensed trade which will deal wholly in whiskey, and that probably of the worst quality, since the risks of contrabandism must always be balanced by inordinate gains. Beer, especially if the soundness is secured (as it may be) by Government inspection, will be admitted by most people to be at any rate preferable to whiskey; but beer is not easily smuggled, and therefore it will be banished from use. Cider and light wine, which share its comparative wholesomeness, will be banished with it, while the industries connected with it will be ruined. Whiskey, well charged with fusel-oil, will thenceforth be the sole beverage of all who are not content with cold water. To close the distilleries of ardent spirits, after paying proper compensation to their owners, would be the first measure of a reformer, as the writer of these papers has constantly maintained, and still maintains. But the distilleries are left untouched by the Scott Act. They will continue to produce the liquor; and, so long as the liquor is produced, it will find its way, openly or clandestinely, to the consumer. To constrain the people to drink bad whiskey in low dens is not the result which the authors of a moral crusade desire, but it would be one more added to many instances of the unexpected effects of coercive legislation, which often makes two holes in mending one. In the meantime some of the constituencies reject the Act; and the country is becoming a chequer-board of free and prohibited districts, while on the skirts of each prohibited district there will soon arise a frontier line of taverns. It is surely time that the Dominion Legislature should take upon itself the responsibility of settling this question for the whole country.

UNIVERSITY Confederation is still under discussion, and though its friends are hopeful, and the Minister of Education is believed to be laudably staunch in favour of a measure which would give him a lasting title to gratitude, enough has transpired to show that it will not succeed without opposition. Very chilling language was held, as was noted at the time, by the Chancellor of the University of Toronto in his Convocation Speech, and it is understood that he has not attended the Conferences, but has maintained a position of neutrality which, if it is not unfriendly, is at least discouraging. His authority, whichever way he may lean, cannot fail to have great weight both with his University and with the Government. There appears to be in some quarters a strong attachment to the system of Theological Colleges such as Knox College, Wycliffe Hall, and McMaster Hall: but to ask Victoria, Trinity, and Queen's to reduce themselves to this footing is, as was said before, to invite them to self-annihilation. They would forfeit the fruits of long effort, as well as the valuable associations which have gathered round them; and they would incur the strong disapprobation of all those who understand the value of the College system and see in its combination with the free and secular University the one satisfactory mode of solving the Academical problem of the present day. Moreover, they would probably be condemning themselves to a short term of existence,

at least in that special form. The tide of opinion is running fast, and it is decidedly setting against ecclesiastical seminaries of an exclusive kind. It was on the eve of the Reformation that Bishop Foxe, the famous Minister of Henry VII. imparted to his friend, Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, his intention of founding a monastery. The Bishop, who had read the signs of the times, conjured him to abandon his intention, and instead of a monastery to found a college, telling him that if he founded a monastery his monks might be turned adrift before he was himself in his grave. He took the advice and founded Corpus Christi College which, having survived three centuries of religious and political change, remains, and may remain forever a monument of his munificence, while, if he had persisted in his first design Hugh Oldham's prediction would have been substantially fulfilled. The value of the moral and religious life which it is the special function of the college to preserve, is not likely to decrease, but rigid denominationalism apparently is doomed. Queen's has practically ceased to be denominational, though it retains a Presbyterian connection. It is to be hoped that no fond predilections will prejudice the counsels of those on whom the decision of this question formally or practically depends. For this is the last chance of Confederation. If it is not embraced, perhaps a few years hence, Cornell University, with its endowment of ten millions, may be matriculating students in Toronto. But the prospect is still fair, and Confederation having once taken place on a liberal and comprehensive basis, the work is not likely to be undone: if questions still remain, a practical settlement will be found, and even if any College at first refuses to come in, the manifest advantages of union and the manifest weakness of separation will in time overcome its reluctance.

CLOSE upon Mr. Parnell's venomous speech came another and still more signal proof of the irreconcilable character of Disunionism, and the futility of cajolery and concession. To say that Mr. Chamberlain has sacrificed patriotism to the Irish vote might be too harsh: probably by some trick of imagination he persuades himself that his policy is the best for the country, and for the Government of which he is a member, as well as for his own vaulting ambition. But whatever may be his motive, he has gone all lengths in conciliation. By him was framed the Treaty of Kilmainham. By him, as all the world believed, Mr. Forster was compelled to resign. *The Pall Mall Gazette*, edited at that time by his political second self, did its utmost throughout the whole struggle to foster revolution in Ireland, and abet the revolutionists in their resistance to the representatives of the Government. He has held upon the platform language which was sure to be construed by Irishmen as a justification of rebellion. And now, what is his reward? The Parnellites, so assiduously and humbly courted, vote against him with the Tories on a motion of personal censure, and of censure wholly undeserved, since it is totally incredible that a man of Mr. Chamberlain's sense, and in his position, should have had anything to do with the riot in the Birmingham meeting. Their object evidently is, by throwing their weight first into one scale then into the other, and supporting everything which can breed confusion, to wreck the Government and the Legislature. The profligate selfishness of faction, they hope, will betray the country into their hands; and their hope is only too well founded, when a section of the party which calls itself Conservative, and deems itself most respectable, is led by such a model of patrician principles and manners as Lord Randolph Churchill. A repeal of the Union, which would carve a hostile republic out of the side of Great Britain, would be a deathblow to her greatness, and the British statesman who consented to it would be infamous forever: yet, if the thing is to be done, it would be better to do it frankly and at once, than to let it be done by such a process as that of which the House of Commons is now the scene. In the meantime, by the blow which they have given to such an ally as Mr. Chamberlain, the Parnellites may find that they have overreached themselves. They should have waited, like the Sabines of old, till treason had admitted them to the citadel, before they crushed the traitor with their shields.

By the publication of his new volumes on Carlyle Mr. Froude has revived the controversy to which the former volumes gave birth. He defends his conduct in giving to the world all the effusions of dyspepsia and insomnia on the ground that everything ought to be known about so great a man as Carlyle. It may be doubted whether belief will continue unabated in the greatness of a man who piteously bewails himself in writing over the physical hardships to which he is exposed as a guest in a wealthy nobleman's Highland shooting-box, and the chief of which appears to be having to sleep in a French bed instead of a four-poster. Surely if there are any utterances to which Carlyle's own commandments of silence and consuming your own smoke may well be applied they are such utterances as these. The matrimonial scandal touching Mrs. Carlyle's jealousy