

A NOTE ON PROHIBITION.

Why did Halton repeal the Scott Act? Not because it was a failure. The temperance people were able to show that all the ministers of the Gospel (with perhaps four exceptions), both members of Parliament and a majority of the County Council were against repeal. Three newspapers in the county wrote against and only one for repeal. No one believed there was anything like as much liquor consumed as under license. We were able to say that the Act had greatly reduced crime. Take this fact, that for twelve assizes in succession and twelve sessions of the peace, twenty-four courts in all, not one criminal sentence was pronounced. Where is the county that protects by law this nefarious traffic that can say that at no general court held during six consecutive years has a criminal sentence been pronounced?

Then look at the other side. Eleven or more of the men who circulated the repeal petition had been fined or sentenced to gaol for violation of the law. At least twenty-seven of those signing the petition were similarly dealt with for being law-breakers. The liquor party had been beaten twice at the polls, driven from the platform, and their statements, one after another disproved by the logic of events. And yet the Act was repealed. What was the result of repeal? There had been twelve assizes without a criminal being sentenced, but at the first assizes under license two criminals were sentenced. Again: The convictions for assault, drunks, etc., for fifteen quarters under Temperance Act, were eighty-eight, for similar offences for the quarter ending December, 1888, the first full quarter under license, forty. The figures are worth repeating: Convictions for fifteen quarters under temperance law, eighty-eight, and for one quarter under liquor law, forty. In eighteen counties under license in 1884, Temperance Act (save parts of two counties) in 1887, and license again in 1890, the committals for drunkenness for the respective years were 685, 236 and 512. Then take fifteen counties under license for all the years and the figures are 2,985, 2,999 and 3,020. Mr. F. S. Spence, states in the *Vanguard*,