

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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## Editorial.

### WHAT TO DO WITH THE CROOKED STICK.

 ONE of the chief social problems of the present time in Canada (which is sufficient justification for returning to the subject this month), and a question that must be answered in some fashion or other, is this question: "What ought to be the relation of a Christian State to the modern traffic in alcohol?" Which solution, of three possible solutions, ought to be adopted?— Shall the traffic be made *free*, shall it be *licensed*, or shall it be *forbidden*? We hear no voice, even of admirer or friend, saying that the traffic ought to be *free*. We can therefore dismiss this plan. Shall it, therefore, be *licensed*? The urgent demand of the Licensed Victuallers is to continue their license. "Bind us down," is their pathetic cry, "with chains, with heavy chains of triple steel, but we beseech you to license us!" In this land the liquor traffic is now in the dependent, depressed state of the women depicted by the prophet, when it was said that seven of them took hold of one man, saying: "We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel, only let thy name be called on us to take away our reproach." Shall we listen to this piteous demand of the liquor traffic for State sanction and protection? Before any one says "yes" to the question, let him weigh well the words of Judge Reading, of Chicago, (shewing what is meant by *licensing*), in pronouncing sentence recently on some liquor dealers in that city who had violated the law in selling liquor to persons under the legal age: