

Northern States, and worst of all probably in erst Puritan New England. At least some *church members* commit it! It must be that the general conscience is dead to its wickedness. God forbid that a large proportion of Canadian mothers should ever dare or wish to limit the life of their offspring to a few unconscious months! Yet we may not comfort ourselves with the belief that there is no danger of such a thing. There is a great deal of inter-visiting between the two countries. It is my deep conviction that, however unpleasant the duty may be, the pulpit and the Christian press of Canada must zealously raise up a barrier against it, as the same agencies here must fearlessly fight for its destruction,—which they are beginning to do.

Probably there will be proposals made yet to change our laws respecting divorce, so as to give married people who are not satisfied with their mates, a chance of getting some one fairer, or richer, or more voluptuous, as they can cut here. If any one questions whether such a change might not be righteous, let him read Matt. xix. 9; if any one thinks it might be expedient, let him read the Chicago dailies. May the Christian forces of Canada so maintain the law of Christ, that no legislature there shall dare sanction its infraction!

But we must have a stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law in Canada. Personal observations since I came here has more than restored whatever confidence I lost in the efficiency of such a measure through reading Dr. Bacon's articles on the subject. This town used to be notorious for its drunkenness, and I believe is now has less than is turned out by almost any tavern between Halifax and the thawed point of Walrussia; and I am told that the law has produced a remarkable reformation all through the State. Of course some still get drunk; but the operation is too difficult, costly, and uncomfortable to be very tempting. It is a good testimony in favour of the measure, that they who want it abolished are, as a party, opposed to erasing the word "white" from the State Constitution. The wicked are generally consistent.

I hope the Canadian "emigrant agents" will make the meshes of their nets so that they will let through all those Germans that intend to cast off in the new country even the little regard they may have been constrained, in the old, to shew to the Sabbath. They are making that day in the west very much what it is in Paris. It is not on them, however, that all the blame is to be laid.

If the American Home Missionary Society had as little patience with dependent churches as our Colonial had two years ago, it could do a fine amount of grumbling.

But I must close. You see, Canadian brethren, that my heart is with you still. I feel that coming west has done me great good. It has increased much my knowledge of life, and thus, I believe, my fitness for future work. High is my regard for the brethren who are endeavouring to Christianize these vast regions. May God give them abundant success! Whether, on the whole, their temporal circumstances are better than those of ministers in Canada, is a point I don't feel able to decide. Ministers are constitutionally poor, and so unfortunately free from many peculiar troubles and cares! That people in general are better off here than in Canada appears to me doubtful. Despite my homeward longings I am feeling happy, and am endeavouring, I trust not unblest, to serve Christ and a dear, generous people with earnestness and faithfully. But when I shall be told that a field, such as it would be wise for me to take, is open for me in my own country and among you, the earliest release I can honourably and conscientiously get from this will determine when I come to that.

Fraternally yours,

Sabula, Iowa, August 8th, 1867.

J. M. SMITH.

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"CLEVER young people," says an English writer, "with not much reverence in their souls, are just the fishes to catch at hooks baited with little bits of science and philosophy, or scraps of the 'higher criticism,'—hooks by which they get dragged out of the 'living waters,' to flap about a little while, and then die on the dry grounds of infidelity."