

Defeat, therefore, only delays our progress. Hence it is not of vital importance whether we continue contending for the entire Prohibitory Law, refusing any lesser measure,—or, while keeping the former in view as our final aim, we accept any less stringent law which Legislators may be induced to bestow. But the latter course, while it would have an immediate effect in crippling the Rum traffic, might possibly prepare the way for the earlier adoption of Prohibition.

My object in this communication is to state a few reasons why Sons of Temperance should contend just as earnestly as ever for a Prohibitory Law, but be prepared to accept, and endeavour by all possible means to obtain, those minor measures or a less stringent law, as the only means of legislative coercion within our reach.

To cease contending for Prohibition would be an admission of weakness fatal to our Cause. Reformers above all things need perseverance. And again, To erect our platform on lower ground than we have hitherto held, would be a confession of error as regards the past, and the tangible though silent power we have had upon the Legislature of the country, would be at an end. Our monster petitions would be disregarded, and our future efforts set at defiance.

At the same time the policy of refusing any concession unless we get the "Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill," is suicidal in the extreme, as it not only exasperates those who have offered the concession and excites a more determined opposition, but it also disheartens and renders indifferent the less enthusiastic of the professed friends of Temperance, and even creates strife among the members of the Order.

In view of the course of events in the sister province of New Brunswick, I doubt the successful enforcement of a Prohibitory Bill, even should we obtain its passage through the present Legislature. A Law less stringent than the one we have proposed would be more successfully enforced, for it would bespeak the sympathy of a majority of the people.

In free countries a law that is not generally acceptable to the people will be evaded, and finally erased from the Statute Book. Law-makers, then, cannot lead but must follow the intelligence of the people. It is from this that legislation has been called a system of compromises. Sudden changes in legislation become impossible. Suggested improvements have to contend against a mass of prejudice and selfishness, to which temporary concessions have frequently to be made in order to ensure success.

In the great reforms that have been effected in legislation, it is seldom that a

thorough measure has been enacted at the outset. Thus, in the abolition of Slavery in the British Dominions, the Act passed in that case was clogged with the apprenticeship system, besides an indemnification to the shareholders. But mark the result; the apprenticeship clause was repealed before its term was more than half expired, and now no slave can wear his shackles on British soil.

But the Rum slavery still exists throughout all the Queen's dominions; and in this highly favoured portion of her empire we feel its dreadful power. Have we no Wilberforce among us to direct and lead the agitation that must be continued until this worse than African slavery be abolished?—or have we had too many would-be Wilberforces among us? Of one fact I feel assured, that if Temperance leaders outside of the House of Assembly had not sought to control those within that body, on whom the issue of the battle depended, the Maine Law would now have existed in Nova Scotia—the law entire as it existed in the State of Maine; that is, the prohibition of the sale, but not of the importation of Liquors; and such a Law is the only one that can be obtained in this Province for very many years to come. Are we thus to waste our years in fruitless efforts to obtain that which may be unattainable, unless the public mind is first prepared by the operation during a series of years of a similar law to that which Temperance men rejected?

A SON.
Hants County, Dec. 17, 1856.

LUNENBURG, Decr. 22nd, 1856.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

The cause of Temperance here in Lunenburg is not very promising; however, it appears to me that there is more energy in the Divisions, and determination expressed by the brethren, than has been for some time. I speak of those Sons of Temperance who are true to their pledge; for unhappily they are not all so. Lately there have been some who came forward of their own free will and joined the Order, and, as persons would suppose, from pure motives, but a short time after were seen drunk, and had to be expelled. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again,—and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire." This proves the fact of artificial appetites being formed by those persons by the use of intoxicating drinks; as soon as the temptation presented itself, they could not resist. But I am thankful there are not many such; and those that are truly temperance men seem to take a decided stand,

and use their influence, by not going to the trouble of petitioning the House, but by making use of the means hinted at in the Abstinence of December 15, viz: by exerting their best powers, and patiently waiting for the next election. The thing can be easily accomplished; only let us be firm and united. There can be no doubt that we can find men who are prohibitionists, as Representatives—men whose brains are not stupified by alcohol. Then we shall have a Prohibitory Law, framed by our own men, on good principles and a firm basis, which we could not obtain from the present Parliament; for if we did obtain one it would be a patched up one. Notwithstanding all the good will of some of the men who constitute the present House, the rummies would succeed in sowing some of their foul tares among it. But as soon as we succeed in obtaining a sober Parliament, then we shall have good laws,—then our beloved land will have an opportunity to recover from the oppression of this tyrant, Rum. This will be a glorious time for those who live to see and enjoy its comforts. There is only one licensed tavern in Lunenburg; but there are plenty of unlicensed ones, when liquor is sold unmolested, openly, in the eyes of the magistrates. You will perhaps say, "Why don't you inform against those lawless reprobates." Let me tell you the experiment has been tried, and what was the result? Why, they were either acquitted, or let off with the most moderate fine possible, and the rum-seller went home, saying, he could sell enough in a day to pay the fine, and so resorted again to his old nefarious business. Now, what can you expect when such a state of things exists? Why, even the clergy (who should be the principal men in promoting this great cause) are negligent and indifferent about it. There are four ministers resident in Lunenburg, not one of them a Son of Temperance, and some have never to my knowledge delivered a temperance lecture. Under all the circumstances, let us still stick close to our Order, trusting in God. We know it is a good Cause, for the world is opposed to it, and Satan rages like a roaring lion. Temperance brethren and ministers, continue in your labours of love—yes, "Love," not for yourselves, but love for the drunkard and the rum-seller. Oh, who would be a rum-seller on the day of Judgment, when the souls that have descended to hell through drunkenness shall rise up to condemn him? Who would be a rum-seller in that day, when the man who has been murdered by a drunken mob shall rise up to condemn him? Who would be a rum-seller in that day, when the murderer himself who had his conscience seared by the hellish draught to commit the deed, shall rise up to condemn him? Who would