



We desire to tender our heartiest congratulations to our friends in the County of Wellington on the magnificent success that they achieved last week. In very few counties or cities have our opponents fought with the stubbornness and determination that they manifested in Wellington. Every stratagem that could be thought of was employed. Having learned from the experience of other places they wisely refrained from public discussion, and spent their energies in less open methods of operation; some rather disreputable tactics have already come to light. However their efforts have proved utterly vain. The temperance men were in earnest, they meant business, and they rallied for the fight in a spirit that precluded failure.

Rev. J. H. Mullen, of Fergus, is president of the County Association. He is a well known, and highly esteemed minister of the Presbyterian Church, zealous in every good word and work, and naturally came to the front as the recognized leader in this great conflict. Rev. J. R. Black, of Garafraxa, was the equally zealous and untiring secretary, to whose efforts perhaps more than that of any other individual, the cause is indebted for this great victory. They had as county organizer Mr. R. G. Stewart, of Halton, and he did his work well, as the results abundantly testify. These valiant leaders had the support of a noble corps of workers, among whom may be prominently mentioned Mrs. Youmans, Rev. J. G. Ross, of Tilsonburg, Revs. W. S. Griffin and Wm. Savage, of Guelph, Rev. D. L. Brethour, of Milton, Rev. Jno. Smith, of Toronto, Rev. G. H. Kennedy, of Georgetown, W. H. Young, of Oakville, Wm. Burgess, W. G. Fee, Wm. Munns, of Toronto, and F. S. Spence, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance; along with nearly all the local clergymen of the county, and many laymen who did yeoman service on the platform, in the canvass and at the polls.

Wellington is one of the most important counties in Western Ontario, forming as it does part of the boundary of eight others—in three of which the Scott Act has already been adopted, and surrounding the Scott Act city of Guelph. This is the seventy-second contest on the Scott Act, and the sixtieth victory for the temperance party. It is, in Ontario, for the present year, the tenth contest, and the tenth victory; no defeat having been yet sustained. We trust it will be a long time before we have one to record. The public is becoming convinced that this great movement is no mere wave, but a steady, healthy growth of moral sentiment and life, that will not be succeeded by any reaction or decay.

We hope before the close of the present year to have polled every unpolled constituency in Ontario, and we have no fear for the result. Again with grateful hearts "we thank God and take courage."

A NEW DEPARTURE.

"The National Liberal Temperance Union," is the name of a lately formed organization, in the interests of which a public meeting was held in this city on Thursday evening last. The circular calling the meeting had the heading "Temperance Reformers, Rally!" and in obedience to the call a number of Toronto temperance workers gathered in Occident Hall. It turned out, however, that the parties who had called the meeting had an idea of temperance meetings different from that usually entertained by the public, and when the chairman, Mr. Joseph Donoghue, opened the meeting and stated its objects, there was a little surprise experienced by some of those in attendance. He explained that a society was in existence under the auspices of a branch of which this meeting was held, and he stated the objects of this organization to be as follows:—

1. Advising total abstinence, when total abstinence is necessary.
2. Advocating the sale of beer and light wines.
3. Condemning drunkenness.
4. Working for the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits.

The audience nearly one-half of which consisted of old-line temperance men, numbered only about fifty altogether, and listened with much patience to a lengthy address by Mr. J. Gordon Mowat in support of the platform laid down by the speaker. At the close of that gentleman's address, Mr. Spence, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, enquired whether or not there would be permitted expression of opinions differing from those just enunciated, and the promoters of the meeting declined to allow any discussion or criticism of the opinions expressed and statements made.

It was said by the speakers that the movement had the co-operation of Messrs. Goldwin Smith, Cattanaeh, and Rev. Messrs. A. Baldwin, T. W. Jeffrey, and other prominent men. The line of argument mainly pursued was an effort to show that moderate use of alcoholic liquors is not injurious but wholesome and right. Total abstainers and prohibitionists were spoken of as "our opponents;" their principles and objects were stigmatized as "immoral," and they came in for a good share of abuse, specially from Mr. W. T. Tassie, who was one of the orators of the occasion.

We know little of the actual composition of the new organization, and the *personnel* of its membership and management, but it evidently, and even avowedly, comes before the public as in opposition to the Scott Act movement. It must then be taken as a new dodge in the interests of the party who have all along called themselves our opponents, and worked against our cause. It is worthy of notice that none of the gentlemen who were named as sponsors for the respectability of the institution were present to say a word in its favor or give it assistance and countenance. In fact, the first public meeting of the Liberal Temperance Union was a complete failure. It was characterized by unusual illiberality in its management, the audience was very scanty, the arguments offered were so weak, and many of the statements by which they were supported were so out of harmony with facts, that it was certainly prudent to prohibit any criticism of the one or exposure of the character of the other. The temperance cause and the prohibition movement have little to fear from the opposition of the so-called "Liberal Temperance Union."

"If the community has no reason to be surprised at the combination of the Licensed Victuallers, they assuredly have no reason to be surprised at the rise of the Alliance. The ultimate issue of the struggle is certain. If anyone doubts the preponderance of good over evil in human nature, he has only to study the history of moral crusades. The enthusiastic energy and self-devotion with which a moral cause inspires its soldiers always have prevailed, and always will prevail, over any amount of self-interest or material power arrayed on the other side. The Alliance is already powerful and growing in power. It will conquer."—Prof. Goldwin Smith, in a letter on the *United Kingdom Alliance*.