

The endeavor to make men virtuous by Act of Parliament is a standing butt for sarcastic shafts. What then must be said of an attempt to make men godly by fear of military punishment? This is being done in Austria. By a recent mandate, all cadets at the military schools are to confess once a week, and produce a ticket as evidence of the fact from the priest, or suffer degradation in rank, and be liable to severer discipline. It needs not a supernatural acquaintance with human nature,

young-man nature, let us say, to enable a just estimate to be made of the spiritual value of such confessions, admitting their value when voluntary. The Austrian army of the future will consist of a small percentage of fanatics and a large residue of sceptics and scoffers, whose infidelity will be varnished very thinly over with orthodox habits! Surely the experience of centuries ought to have had some weight in preventing such folly.

Notice.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson is the political leader of the Temperance party in Great Britain. He was born in 1828, and was first elected to Parliament, from Carlisle, in 1859. He at once adopted the pronounced views known as Radicalism, and has ever since been prominently identified with all great philanthropic movements and political reforms. The United Kingdom Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic was formed in 1863, and in the following year Sir Wilfrid, for the first time, introduced the Permissive Bill into Parliament. This bill proposes to give a two-thirds majority in each parish or town power to prohibit the traffic entirely. Carlisle re-elected him in 1868, and again in 1873. He has introduced the Permissive Bill five times into the House of Commons, and secured increasing support for it, until, in 1872, he was sustained by 136 members on the second reading. He again introduced the bill into the present Parliament, and had

but 92 supporters. This was not surprising, as the Conservative majority in the present House owed its election chiefly to the exclusive support of the enormous liquor interest throughout the three kingdoms, which returned between fifty and sixty brewers and distillers to Parliament in the last election. But Sir Wilfrid and his party are by no means discouraged, and they are more active than ever in promulgating their principles, and apparently more hopeful of ultimate success. Sir Wilfrid is eminently practical and prudent and his wit and unfailling good nature, his liberality and magnanimity towards opponents, peculiarly qualify him for the championship of a cause which has to encounter such mountains of prejudice and unreasoning opposition as the Temperance cause in Great Britain. At the same time his courage, abilities, and invincible resolution render him the trusted leader of the small but compact and rapidly growing party which is seeking the overthrow of Britain's greatest curse.