

LITERATURE.

The Dominion Alliance has on hand a small quantity of the splendid literature prepared for the Dominion Plebiscite Campaign. These documents are still forcible, attractive and timely. There are about twenty kinds of leaflets and pointers. They are admirably suited for distribution. Assorted lots will be mailed post paid for **Fifty Cents per thousand**. This is much below cost price. Address.

52 Confederation Life Building,
Toronto, Ont.

ARE THEY IN EARNEST?

Are the Governments of Canada, Dominion and Provincial, in earnest for the promotion of temperance? This is a query which it is fair to propose, and the verdict should be given on the basis of fair tests. There are things which it might be unreasonable to expect of Governments, because it is impossible for them to grant and enforce what might be asked. In answering the question asked above, we intend to suggest no extreme tests.

The Conservative party of the Province of Manitoba adopted the following resolution as the basis of their recent appeal to the electorate:

"That a measure be adopted to give effect to the will of the people regarding the prohibition of the liquor traffic, which measure shall go as far in the direction of prohibition as the powers of the Province will allow."

A large deputation from the Dominion Alliance Convention, in session at Winnipeg, and from the Royal Templars' Convention, also in session there, waited on the Hon. Hugh John Macdonald, Premier of Manitoba, asking for the fulfilment of the promise, as the will of the people of Manitoba has been so strongly expressed in the Provincial and Dominion plebiscite votes.

We are told in the daily press that in reply Premier Macdonald gave a distinct promise that a bill providing for prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, so far as the law would allow, would be introduced by the Government at the first session of the Legislature. He asked the assistance of temperance people in carrying out the provisions of the measure. The delegates expressed the greatest satisfaction, and before leaving the Legislative Assembly chamber sang the doxology. This gives every promise of going at it in earnest, and no one can doubt but that Provincial Governments can do a great deal beyond what they are doing for the Temperance cause.

If the Government of the Province of Manitoba moves forward in dead earnest, with the enthusiastic support of the temperance people, results will follow that will send gladness over the Dominion, and give courage and hope to the sober citizens, and send sadness to the traffic in intoxicants.

Then it will become apparent, too, wherein other Provincial Governments are lagging behind. We can never persuade ourselves that the Government of the Province of Ontario is in dead earnest for the promotion of temperance until they are determined enough to greatly curtail the liquor traffic by the early closing of licensed places, or determined enough to follow the lead of the Government of Manitoba. The Provincial Governments of the Maritime Provinces have the strongest public opinion on the temperance question to rely on, and should move forward to the full measure of their power.

What shall we say of the Dominion Government? Is the Government at Ottawa in earnest against the liquor traffic? Here again we will not propose any extreme or unreasonable tests. If the Dominion Government were in earnest in its opposition to the liquor traffic, that Government would allow no liquor into the Klondike with its approval or permission, would assure the country that the law against the sale of liquor in canteens at military camps would be enforced, and not made a farce, and would drive out the unlicensed sale of liquor within the Parliament buildings. Look back over these three tests in order.

We understand that there is no license for the sale of liquor at Parliament buildings, and yet the Senate bar continues its unlicensed trade.

During last October and November numerous presentations were made to the Minister of Militia, notably one from the Ottawa W.C.T.U., and from many Temperance organizations, Provincial and Dominion, and from responsible journals in Kingston, London, and Toronto, complaining of the flagrant and open violation of the law against the sale of liquor in canteens, especially citing the London camp of last May, and respectfully asking for investigation.

No investigation has been granted. Dr. Borden's reply to the Ottawa W.C.T.U. is his reply to all, as far as we know, namely, General Hutton says that the law was enforced. That line of defence will not stand for long.

Now for the Klondike. The Yukon District is absolutely and directly under Government control. There can be no shirking of direct power and responsibility. The death-dealing, disorder producing, demoralizing liquor traffic in these Canadian gold-fields lies wholly and only on the shoulders of the Dominion Government. We feel like saying to the Government at Ottawa what was said to the Government at Washington concerning the liquor saloons being opened in Manila while it is under military control, "President McKinley, close your saloons in Manila." "Premier Laurier, drive out the liquor traffic from the Yukon." It does seem to be hypocrisy for the United States to aim at civilizing the Filipinos, and then to open four hundred liquor saloons in Manila. It does seem to be the weakest and most lukewarm opposition to the liquor traffic when it is given Government permit to flourish in the Klondike. Are the Governments in earnest? If not, will the people be in earnest?—*Christian Guardian*.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN POLITICS.

For long, long years past our national administrations have been tainted with complicity with the liquor traffic. Our license law involves all officials and the government too. There is scarcely an officeholder in America who dares to strike a decisive blow against the liquor habit. He reasons that to do so would be to commit political suicide. The liquor forces are united, and will spot any politician who lifts his hand to strike an effective blow against the saloon. On the other hand, the temperance forces are not united, and they have no method by which they can strike an effective blow against the coward or traitor who betrays their cause. The politicians are eagle-eyed. They see where the independent votes are clustered. They know that whiskey is king, and can deliver them over to the tender mercies of political oblivion if they disobey his behests. They will not disobey.—*Michigan Advocate*.

ABSTINENCE AS A REMEDY.

From the very beginning, abstainers have always been impressing on people that no remedy is so easy of application for the evils of intemperance as the practice of total abstinence. We have made some way, and have succeeded in convincing many of our countrymen, but not the majority. There are still many who imperfectly understand the purpose of our endeavor. Any Christian who reflects upon the words of the New Testament, that when a temptation comes we are certain that God would make a way to escape, knows he is bound to look for that way. Therefore, if there is any one simple and effectual remedy for so great an evil it ought to be something very strong indeed which will prevent him from adopting that remedy. Our experience teaches us that no other remedy can be put beside total abstinence for efficiency, and we ask in vain for suggestions from those who differ from us. We are ready to listen to what others have to say, but we receive no answer to our own arguments. Our arguments are questioned, but they are not met by any proposal equally effective. Much is said about depriving men of a pleasure, and the probability that alcohol is good for health, longevity, and comfort. Such remedies as are proposed turn upon the supposition that any man can overcome if he will only use the strength of his will. But we watch the steps by which men sink into degrada-

tion, and it may be that all of them could have saved themselves if they chose. Those who have the most confidence are often the weakest. What can Christians do to help them? They can help them by extending sympathy to them in their weakness, and being ready to show them the way, by themselves giving up those things which were the occasion of the fall of these men. We have tried every other conceivable mode. We have found it efficacious to pray, to speak, and to point out the evils of intemperance, to point to the example of those who had recovered themselves. But all this did not have the same effect as to say to those men—"I will abstain side by side with you; come with me, and I will show you the way in which you shall conquer."—*Archbishop of Canterbury*.

THE CHURCH.

FROM TEMPERANCE SHOT AND SHELL.

Oh! that the Christian Church would marshal in column and line, and move immediately upon the enemy's works.—*Gen. C. B. Fisk*.

The Christian Church has it in its power in the United States to drive the traffic in ardent spirits from the land.—*Lyman Beecher, D.D.*

A Church silent on the question of temperance discredits itself as much as a Church silent on the question of dishonesty.—*Joseph Cook*.

Every true and timely moral reform should be born and named, reared and supported by the Church of Jesus Christ.—*T. L. Cuyler, D.D.*

THE OLD MAN'S OATH.

Get out the ink, Squire, paper and pen,
Get them out quick, for I'm just from the den—

Just from the place that has ruined my life,
Beggared my children and killed my poor wife!

Write it down quick, and according to law,
So there will not be a break nor a flaw.
Pledges I've given, but they did not stick;
Get out your ink now and write it down quick.

The publican kicked me to-night from his door—

Kicked me as often he kicked me before,
Telling me then to go home to my shed,
Where my poor children are crying for bread.

Put that in capitals—large as you can—
For that was the hardest of all from that man,

The man who had robbed me until he had got

My very last coin—then he called me a sot!

Start then another clause, Squire, and tell
How I first wandered away to that hell.
Well, you remember n.e, Squire, the time

When I thought drinking a horrible crime!

When my good wife had the love of my soul—

Ere I first cast her away for the bowl:
How she—too tender a flower to stay
Long with a drunkard—soon wither'd away.

Write down another clause, Squire, and say

How I threw home, friends, and kindred away;

How I first neared, then stood on the brink,

Pleading and cursing, and crying for drink;

How friends would rescue me, but to return

Back to the hell that in me still would burn,

Until my ruin was made all complete,
Making me lower than dogs in the street.

Write it all down, and I'll sign it, swear
By my sweet angel, so heavenly fair;

By my true God—whom I've oft laughed to scorn;

By my poor children, who I've left so forlorn;

By my dear mother, who died at my birth;

By all that's in heaven or here upon earth;
I will be true to my oath and my God—
Until they bury me under the sod!

—*G. W. Clarke*.

IMPORTANT.

TORONTO, 1900.

DEAR FRIEND,—

You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes**.

The victory won last year was only the opening of a campaign in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of prohibitory law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

The Camp Fire will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year**.

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