

ing, controlling, restraining it. This plan is the one at present followed in most countries of Christendom, but its prudence is now emphatically called in question by men of wisdom and experience, because it is found that the fruit of this system is, on the one hand a vast amount of pauperism and crime, (three-fourths the result of strong drink), and on the other hand, a powerful corporation of dealers in drink whose wealth and influence is becoming dangerous to social order and liberty of the land.

If these two attitudes are untenable, if it has been found from experience that Government can neither let the thing alone, nor regulate it, it follows that it ought to forbid it. To this conclusion Canada seems coming with a speed that astonishes even the friends of legal prohibition. The country seems thoroughly aroused, and with an ease that suggests doubt as to whether people really understand the seriousness of the fight that is coming—petitions pass unanimously not only church courts and temperance societies, but municipal councils also, for the legal suppression of this dangerous traffic.

We are foolish if we think that acts of Parliament can make us a moral people or stand to us instead of Christ,

and the conflict with intemperance of every kind that we must wage in His presence and by His strength. No fence, however high and strong, can save a tree that is dead at the heart; although a good fence is of great value to a tree struggling into life. We are wise, therefore, and we cannot say it a year too soon, to say with all the emphasis that acts of Parliament can give to the saying, that strong drink is not needed as a beverage in Canada, that its presence is everywhere injurious to the best interests of society, and that it is therefore forbidden to citizens to make or market it for the sake of gain. This law many will break, no doubt, some from love of money and some from love of drink,—for there will be found some people who will break the laws enacted by God and man; but for the most part the law will be respected, the traffic in strong drink will, as in Maine, be reduced to the tenth at least, and that is something, of what it is at present, and the community will be all the healthier and wiser for the change. The tree stripped of this deadly parasite will thenceforward develop the God-given life that is in it, and which we should seek in fuller abundance all the faster from this external and legal shelter.

Living Preachers.

LIVING TEMPLES FOR THE LIVING GOD.

By C. H. SPURGEON.

"Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord; but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my word."—Isaiah lxvi. 1, 2.

That is an excellent answer which was given by a poor man to a sceptic

who attempted to ridicule his faith. The scoffer said, "Pray sir, is your God a great God or a little God?" The poor man replied, "Sir, my God is so great that the heaven of heavens cannot contain him; and yet he condescends to be so little, that he dwells in broken and contrite hearts." Oh, the greatness of God, and the condescension of God! I hope we shall be led to think of both this evening, while we meditate upon the words of the text.

We have no time or need of a pre-