

Comment.

SHERRY and champagne are going out at London dinners. Port, hock, claret and whiskey and soda are most in favor. Beer is always in demand.

Is writing about anything, or even in speaking of a matter relating to the trade always mention THE ADVOCATE, favorably if you can, but speak of it anyhow.

"WHEN a man is down-hearted give him wine; when he is half dead give him strong drink," is a text to deny which is to deny religion.

Soon Canadian ales and beer will be crossing the Atlantic. Already Canadian whiskey enters into competition in every part of the world with the best British brands.

"Is a country where social liberty is not as much valued as it is here." Those are words used by the *London Times* in speaking of Canada and they are words that should burn deeply into the heart of every Canadian.

ONE of our Prohibition exchanges ejaculates, "Is it of benefit to anyone to have a distillery in our midst?" If our friend has a distillery in his "midst" the best thing he can do is to go to bed and send for a doctor.

In England in 1603 a bill was passed by Parliament providing that none shall sell less than one full quart of the best ale for 1d. and two quarts of the smaller sort for 1d. That parliament was determined beer should be cheap enough.

WONDER if the temperance people ever heard of a big London jeweller who found that the best way to prevent burglary was by exposing his goods to the full gaze of the thieves, and, of course, to that of everybody else. What they were liable to be seen doing they wouldn't do.

THERE are several temperance hotels both in Montreal and Toronto, but, strange to say, none of the leading lights of the temperance cause patronize them when travelling. They prefer their ease at the well-managed inn, where liberty and comfort dwelt together.

HON. C. F. FRASER, whose partial recognition has been announced, will be greatly missed by the Province, for he is one of the most liberal-minded of men and dared to press his views even when the remainder of his colleagues were against him.

It is a fact that in 1888 the Collective Investigation Committee of the British Medical Association undertook an elaborate enquiry into the respective longevity of drunkards and teetotalers by which it was proved that on the average the former enjoyed one more year of life than the latter.

MR. E. E. SHEPPARD, of *Saturday Night*, arrived home last week from England, where he was detained by a broken collar bone, having been run over as he

was leaving his hotel to keep an important business engagement. Mr. Sheppard, as a man who usually hits for the right, was warmly welcomed on his return.

If a summer resort man really thinks he can beautify his place by inviting prize-fighters to settle their disputes there he is much mistaken, for the crowd such an event brings together is not only an undesirable one but is liable to leave many needed repairs as a legacy. And it is certain that no families will reside at a place where such events are likely to be brought off.

THE *Toronto World* says:—"Ah, but the citizens of Toronto are a bad lot! They cannot trust themselves together on a street car or in a public park on Sunday. What a miserable, chicken-hearted collection of poltroons we are! We are on the brink of an abyss. It is only the absence of street cars on Sunday that saves us from drunkenness and profanity, and everything else that's bad."

A STANCH temperance candidate for office was once heard to say to the most notorious illicit dice-keeper in a big city: "Yes, Jim, your scheme worked well." The scheme, as other words were heard proved, was the securing of votes among the outcasts of society. That man poses as one that is unalloyed, but being out of office he does not attend so many temperance meetings as he was wont to do.

MR. F. S. SPENCE has laid an information against Mr. E. A. Macdonald, charging him with raising a disturbance at a public meeting of which the complainant was chairman. Bosh! A chairman that cannot suppress Earnest Albert should keep off the platform. Another thing, a meeting called to discuss measures of relief for the unemployed and which developed into a single tax wrangle, ought to have been disturbed.

LORD KIMBERLEY, a leading member of Mr. Gladstone's cabinet, has gone out of his way to altogether disclaim any peculiar or special sympathy with teetotalers, or with those who entirely abstain from alcoholic liquors. He had, he said, never been a member of any temperance society and did not share the views of that party. Would to Heaven some statesmen in Canada had the courage of their convictions after the fashion of Lord Kimberley.

To Bro. Buchanan, of the *Templar* we beg to extend, along with the assurances of our most serious consideration, the following suggestion, that there cannot be found under any law, in any State, province or territory in the United States or Canada, any county that—in the matter of arrests of all kinds, or of different kinds, criminals to jail for different crimes, absence of the graver crimes, and frequency of intervals when the county jail has no inmates, and absence of poverty—can compare with the county of Waterloo, Ont., a county that possesses a large distillery, eight breweries, and in which the wildest enthusiast has never yet dreamed of attempting to introduce a prohibitive law.

"You brute!" exclaimed Mrs. Pepper, as she reached out in the darkness and felt in the crib for the baby.

"What's the matter now?" growled Pepper, half asleep.

"Matter? Matter enough. Get up at once and fetch the baby."

"You're dreaming; the baby's in the crib."

"Taint. You brought up the cat wrapped in a blanket and rocked it to sleep and left the baby downstairs on the sofa."—*Not original.*

DURING the late big coal strike in the north of England we heard of coals being taken to Newcastle in spite of the sinfulness of absurdity, "liketaking coals to Newcastle." We now hear of American beer going to England. A recent number of the *London Daily Telegraph* contained this item: "The importation of American lager beer in competition with the German is now making great headway in England. Most of the big restaurants now have bottled beer from Milwaukee and St. Louis, and I am told it is the latest fad among beer drinkers to patronize the Yankee brands."

A CORRESPONDENT writes to say \$4 a year is too much for our paper. Good work must be paid for. Bad work is dear at any price. Our correspondent acknowledges that THE ADVOCATE fills the bill "admirably," but—and so on. We would like to inform him that up to date our subscription list is most gratifying and encouragingly large. Another correspondent, in fact a number of correspondents, says THE ADVOCATE is just what is wanted: "It provides us with good, sound argument and facts wherewith we can refute those opposed to us!" That is our chief aim.

SCIENCE has of late been unusually cruel to "that which is sometimes called the temperance party." Recently the people of England were told that bitter beer was good for schoolboys, and that man's digestive apparatus was infested by a microbe whose special function it was to convert starchy foods into alcohol. Now Professor Vivian Lewes, of Cambridge, pours oil upon the troubled flames by asking the question, "Why do teetotalers generally clamor for the old-fashioned ginger-beer?" and by answering it thus: "Because it contains rather more alcohol than ordinary lager, 'although the amount in neither,' he says, 'is sufficiently serious to be taken notice of by Her Majesty's Excise.' Ginger-beer drinkers are thus a privileged class. They are allowed to consume duty free alcohol."

A FELLOW who gave his name as W. S. Campbell and said he hailed from Oakland, Cal., has been swindling hotel-keepers at Port Arthur, North Bay, Sudbury and other places. He would place what he called securities worth \$30,000 in the safe and then borrow money on the strength of them. Another scheme of his was to talk about establishing big nurseries; after getting local people to act as directors or officials, he would secure the "temporary" loan of a cheque. In this way he did license-holder O'Kelly, of Sudbury, out of \$500, and Col. Rae, of Port Arthur, out of \$1,500. If the man had fleeced a bank of \$100 he would be hunt-

ed to Matabeleland and back largely at the expense of the Province, but seeing that he has only been "doing up" hotel-keepers and farmers he is allowed to go his own way in peace and joy.

LORD ROBERTS, the most popular general in the British army, is not a total abstainer, although chairman of the council of the Army Temperance Association. If he lived in Canada the fanatics would not consider him to be even worthy of membership in a temperance society. Here it is a case of "wid or agin." There is no middle path in Canadian so-called temperance. To judge from some of Lord Roberts' recent remarks he despises a man who has to take an oath, or make a declaration, in order that he may be true to himself, for he said: "To his mind it was the man of strong will and self-control who made the best man and who was best fitted for the army. His hope and belief were that as men learned to appreciate the comfort, cleanliness, and order to be found in regimental institutions, the necessity for total abstinence would become less."

"EVEN the saloon-keepers are disgusted with Friday night's business, when they find the regular old toppers come in, take a solitary glass, and actually refuse to be treated for fear they should be tempted to get drunk, and so help to lengthen the labors of the magistrate and officials on Saturday." This extract is from a Toronto daily paper and is a direct insult to every license-holder in the city. It is safe to say that there is not one who would not be delighted not only if the "old toppers" kept away on Friday night, but on every day and night in the week. "Old Toppers" are never desirable customers and rarely, indeed, is it that they venture inside the door of a recognized house of entertainment except to beg. Even as beggars they seldom get drunk, but generally money, which too often goes to swell the coffers of the illicit trade, with which the city abounds, the good, pious Mr. Archibald to the contrary notwithstanding.

REV. MR. McNEIL, at the Sunday prohibition meeting in the Toronto Pavilion Church, said that he would have the Christian Church, as well as all its great organized force, a unit for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. That is a very nicely rounded sentence, but did it never strike Mr. McNeil that the very best Christian is he who withstands temptation, that our Lord himself submitted to temptation that men might know what was expected of them, that a people so guarded that they could do no wrong would be such namby-pamby creatures that they would be valued neither in heaven nor on earth? It is your man of sturdy character who walks openly in the face of man and never flinches that the world admires and the angels adore. A unit of the Christian Church for Prohibition is an impossibility so long as men admire liberty of conscience and of person. We know doctors that to-day take the short cut to convalescence for their patients by the administration of drugs, the action of which is but temporary in its cure, but is permanent in its ruin. Shall we at that account proscribe entirely the use of drugs?