

option, the question he should decide in his own mind is "Can this be successfully enforced?" If it can, he may safely vote for it. If it cannot, he should vote against it. License reduction may be viewed in the same way, though there are other elements which require to be considered. In Great Britain license reduction is usually accompanied by compensation. In Canada, the temperance reformer has steadily refused to consider this question and has therefore weakened his cause. However, the faults are not all on his side.

THE COMMON DAY

THE common reproach brought against the civilisation of this continent is that it is supremely commercial—that everything smacks of trade and that the ring of the dollar turns every other note into discord. The cities are abused as centres of greed and graft, where the individual withers and the corporation is more and more. There are prophets who croak all manner of dismal things regarding our future if we do not take heed to our ways and think less of the "siller."

Christmas week, when the kindlier sentiments of humanity come to the surface, is a propitious season for considering whether we are altogether given up to the worship of Mammon. Even in the much-reviled cities, there may be found citizens who are going about doing good in their own imperfect way, but in a spirit of sincerity which helps the rest of us to a belief in our kind. Here and there we find a humble Mark Tapley who is "coming out strong" under a burden which would crush a less sturdy exponent of Optimism. Then we hear of a rich man, who has stood for frank dealing in the world of finance, and who has used his failing strength to appeal to his province in behalf of those stricken with the White Plague. We find others who are lending money, time and influence to the cause of art and music and who may be helping the ambitious young student a few rungs up the ladder.

We are not hopelessly selfish and grasping. We are capable at times of catching the gleam of something finer than gold and realising that the spirit of comradeship is not wholly crushed in modern competitive strife. In fact, the whole commercial fabric rests on something better than mere barter and more enduring than the bargain advertisement. In the course of the day's work we are quite as likely to come upon Zaccheus as Ananias.

ARE WE INHOSPITABLE?

SEVERAL recently-returned Canadians, who have spent some months in the British Isles, are expressing themselves in such enthusiastic terms regarding the kindness of their hosts in England and Scotland, to say nothing of Ireland, that one is moved to ask if hospitality is among Canadian virtues. A discussion of this nature lately arose among certain citizens of an Ontario town, who were about to conclude that we are not a hospitable people, when the protest was made: "Wait until you've been out west. They can't do enough for you and make a man feel as if they had been waiting to welcome him." From the other side of the room came a report to the effect that Nova Scotia is a province, flowing with honey and hospitality, while a third made some remarks about the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

We are so few and scattered that it is difficult to generalise on Canadian virtues or failings. However, there appears to be a growing conviction that, in the matter of gracious welcome and courteous entertainment, we might observe to our advantage the hosts of the old land or those of the Southern States. Money does not enter into the question, for hospitality is a matter of the spirit, not of the substance. We are in some danger of cultivating that falsely democratic spirit which finds its least unpleasant manifestation in asserting at every turn, "I am as good as you," instead of remembering that "you are as good as I." The warm and deserved praise of the courtly qualities of the late Sir Henri Joly leads the reader to wonder if such a gentleman is of a vanishing school.

THE WAY OF THE REVOLUTIONIST

THERE is no question about the exhilarating quality of success.

If Washington and his army had not held out, if the French had not been so adroit in intercepting certain British vessels, the American Revolution might have been indefinitely postponed. In such case, Washington, Franklin and Lafayette would now be referred to as well-meaning but impetuous spirits, who wished to force political

evolution, and thirteen would not be regarded as a lucky number for the Union, while Mr. Theodore Roosevelt would be in the Cromer and Milner class as a British Pro-Consul. In fact, he might have gone ahead of them and be the Duke of Long Island, instead of one of the world's great monarchs. This, no doubt, is a horrible contingency for a thorough democrat to contemplate but is entertaining to the speculative reader of history.

In fact, it depends very much on the result of the rebellion, how the original disturbers are to be regarded. We are so much in the way of taking things for granted, that any deviation from this, even in our stirring modern times, is likely to call forth such epithets as "crank" and "knocker." The man who disturbs our conviction that a considerable degree of dirt and disease must be tolerated is not regarded at first as anything but a tiresome and fussy creature whose delight it is to make mountains out of mole-hills. The way of the innovator is hard, even in a new country and in an electric age.

There was much vague talk about dirty milk, which was the cause of widespread disease. But the people placidly assumed that it was the will of Providence that these microbes should exist, until there arose in Copenhagen a bold spirit which declared that the people were to blame. Now, that Copenhagen, Rochester and a few other cities are proving that filthy milk is not one of the inscrutable decrees of Fate, other communities are also bestirring themselves to secure cleanliness and diminish disease. The disturber who succeeds is hailed as a benefactor and we all forget that when he began the agitation, "crank" was his popular designation.

NAILING DOWN THE WINDOWS

THIS is the time of year when a great many citizens nail down the windows. The price of coal is high, and the family expenses are large. In order to keep down the expenses the houses must be closed up tightly, and the fresh air must be kept out. Storm sashes are placed in the windows of the sleeping-rooms even, though this practice is not as common as it was ten years ago. The average house is closely guarded against fresh air, with the consequent result that coughs, colds, and tubercular diseases run riot through the land.

However, the fresh air theory is making progress. More and more people are learning that fresh air is the greatest medicine in the world. The only difficulty in Canada is the fear of the ordinary individual that cold air is bad for the lungs. It is hard for him to realise that hot air is more harmful than cold air. Moreover, there are few inducements for people to remain outdoors in the cold weather. The younger people indulging in skating, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and sleigh-riding get more or less fresh air during the winter months; the older people who spend their time in churches, theatres and homes get very little fresh air, and are continually breathing air which is not fit for human consumption.

In the cities, people have much less chance of getting pure air than in the country. The restaurant, the street car, and the public buildings are over-crowded and badly ventilated. As Dr. Geo. D. Porter says in a paper read before the Canadian Medical Association: "Many a man blames the rise and fall of the thermometer for his failing health, when the rise and fall of the stock market have had far more to do with it. Most of us know of some invalid who has gone to Colorado, changed his mode of life, and recovered his health, and then attributed it all to the climate, when he might have been cured much easier and at less expense by hieing himself to the pure air and the simple life of the country in his own neighbourhood."

STUDENT RIOTS

STUDENTS at the various universities have not added to their credit by their conduct this fall. In Toronto, Montreal and Kingston they have shown a recklessness of public rights which indicates a rather low standard of citizenship. No one will deny to the students the right to be hilarious, jovial and sport-loving. Every man is willing to see them laugh and hear them yell. When, however, they begin to be rowdies, they must lose public sympathy.

No one will blame the university authorities for these outbreaks. It is well known that the various faculties have been at great pains to prevent these public plunderings on the part of the young men. They have established dinners and entertainments to take the place of Hallowe'en outings and other forms of rioting. That their efforts have not prevented trouble simply adds to the discredit of the students. If the students must practise at rioting, they should confine their efforts to the college territory.