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AFTER THE REFERENDUM.

Although it does not seem likely that "the Ontario Liquor Law" will come into force at an early date owing to failure to gain the required number of votes yet the Temperance party has shown that it is very much alive, and has succeeded, considering the circumstances, in rolling up a large number of votes in favour of Provincial Prohibition. The campaign was vigorous, aggressive and up to a certain point, successful. The thing to be remembered now is that the Temperance movement is a constant warfare not only against excess but against the drinking customs of society. Much success has been attained in this movement during the last fifty years; the great change for the better has been brought about by men who were able to manifest moral courage and stand alone for a good cause. Now when the Prohibition cry is popular in certain circles, it is possible to have people clamouring for legislation who do not do much in the way of personal temperance work, and who do not even agitate wisely. In the last generation, to be an avowed total abstainer, required some strength of character and firmness of purpose. Before there could be improvement in laws there had to be improvement in men. Good laws need strong consistent men to give them reality and force. Though there may be no immediate prospect of absolute Prohibition, there will still be need of special warnings against the temptations to drink, of efforts to attract young men, in the critical period of life to other and nobler attractions, and of appeals to citizens to give the law their loyal support. It is possible for temperance men to differ as to the best mode of legislation but it is not possible for an earnest Christian man to deny the dangers connected with the use of intoxicants and the responsibility that rests upon us to use our personal influence on the side of sobriety. If the full advantage of the present vote is to be realized there must be a spirit of unity

among temperance workers. Though they may differ as to methods they are all aiming at the same thing, viz: the purifying of our social life. Therefore, unseemly squabbles must be avoided so that the world may see that the temperance for which we are striving, is a broad, healthy thing, in fact, that it includes charity as well as purity, general life as well as self denying abstinence.

So important is the modern press, that the retirement from the editorship of the Toronto Globe, of Mr. J.S. Willison, has naturally excited considerable interest. It is freely stated Mr. Willison contemplates connecting himself with a new daily newspaper, conducted on non-partisan lines. It is to be hoped this is correct. Mr. Willison is the sort of man Canadian journalism cannot afford to lose.

The largest subject before the people of Canada is the intention, now officially announced, on the part of the Grand Trunk Railway, to extend its line until it reaches the Pacific. This new trans-continental road will run on the average perhaps 300 miles north of the Canadian Pacific. It follows to a considerable extent Sir Sandford Fleming's original recommendation for the C.P.R., and embraces almost every fundamental necessary to agricultural, mineral, and general development. Much of the soil, according to Prof. Macoun and others, is of wonderful fertility. Another interesting point from Prof. Macoun is the fact that the 300 miles farther north does not mean either more snow or a greater degree of cold. What an advertisement for the Dominion that it is shortly to have two, and perhaps three transcontinental lines of railway! Canada is being discovered, not merely by the people of Great Britain and the United States, but by Canadians themselves. From this time onward the advance of Canada will show immense progress with every decade. The churches will have their hands full if they are to keep pace with the material development just ahead of the Dominion.

Literary Notes.

In "Notes by Nemo" in the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN last week reference was made to a new and important book, entitled, "Priests and People in Ireland," which is likely to have a wide circle of readers in Canada. Drysdale, of Montreal, has it on sale, and we have no doubt there will be a large demand for it. It is not often that an intelligent Roman Catholic writes with such force and frankness of the malign influence of the Priesthood; and no one, with any knowledge of the facts, can doubt that the picture Mr. McCarthy draws is true to the life. Our readers will do well to secure a copy of the book.

The Christmas number of Harper's Magazine is a most excellent one both in form and reading matter. The cover is particularly handsome, rich brown and gold; and the many colored illustrations add to the attractive appearance of the issue. There are short stories by Mark Twain, André Castaigne, Mary E. Wilkins, Edith Wharton, and others; several good articles and

poems; and an interesting instalment of "Lady Rose's Daughter." Harper and Brothers, New York.

The Red House, by E. Nesbit. This book is one of the most delightful published this season. Those who are fortunate, or wise enough to read Harper's Bazar have had the pleasure of following the fortunes of the hero and heroine for several months past, and now are only too glad to be able to read the story in book form. Chloe and her husband are delightfully original, and the adventures they pass through when settling in the Red House are most interesting. One is glad too meet once more the Bastable children whose inimitable pranks are told in "The Woodbegoods." Harper and Brothers, New York.

We have received from R. H. Russell, the well known New York publisher, a catalogue of his fall publications. It is unnecessary to make comment on the books issued by this firm—they are recognised to be the height of artistic productions, and it is safe to say that no books are more popular as Christmas gifts than the beautiful volumes got up by Mr. Russell. They include books of pictures, poetry, novels, stories for children profusely illustrated, and more serious works such as "The True Napoleon." The handsomely printed catalogue will be sent free on application. R. H. Russell, 3 West 29th St., New York.

Select Poems of Shelley Edited with introduction and notes by W. J. Alexander, Ph. D., Professor of English in University College, Toronto. Athenaeum Press Series. Cloth 12mo. 387 pages. Price 80c. Boston, Ginn & Co. The issue of this edition of Shelley in cheaper form gives occasion to direct the attention of Canadian readers to its substantial merits. The Athenaeum English classics is by far the finest series of English books for study published on this continent, and this is one of the very best volumes. Everywhere there is evidence of that fine scholarship and exquisite literary quality which is characteristic of all Professor Alexander's work. The introduction is very fine. The well balanced account of the life and personality of Shelley is that likely to obtain among fair minded, thoughtful people. The characterization of his works shows delicate discernment of poetic quality, penetrating analysis of purpose, a delicate sensibility to various modes of expression, and that true touch which invests his literary estimates with decisive value and haunting charm. The selections are truly representative of Shelley's best poetry and includes all that the average reader of literary taste would care to know. What we find here is of abiding value, and what is excluded is of interest only to the curious. Professor Alexander has laid readers of English poetry under a debt of gratitude by his admirable selection and the presentation of what is real worth in Shelley's poetry in so accessible form. The notes do more than merely explain. They give the reader insight into the author's meaning and motive in the use of various forms of expression and allusion. It has been no easy task to give concrete embodiment to Shelley's philosophical abstractions. Then too, his acquaintance with Greek literature was so remarkable that it was fitting Prof. Alexander's rare Greek scholarship should be so happily utilized in the annotations, especially in the case of such a poem as the Prometheus Victus. The select bibliography will prove helpful to those who wish to pursue the subject further. A good index is wanting, but the book is one of quite exceptional value.