

## Editor's Page.

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### The Coming of Prohibition.

Some time ago one of those good men who may, through unreasonable prejudice, hurt better causes, wrote to this magazine asking that his name be taken off our subscription list and giving as his reason some compliment regarding literary work paid in this publication to one who had claimed the right to experiment with the "Gothenburg system" in a neighboring municipality.

We were left somewhat uncertain as to the exact reference to which exception was taken, but we are absolutely certain—from personal knowledge—that any compliment of ours concerning the contributor mentioned was amply warranted, and also that the action of the gentleman in question in seeking to introduce a system different from the present one affecting the sale of alcoholic liquors was inspired by a conviction on his part that the "Gothenburg system" would be a distinct improvement on the one now in force.

People may differ in opinion regarding the workability of the Gothenburg system, but all who recognize the need for improvement in the present condition of affairs should at least credit other workers in the cause of temperance with equal sincerity. Perhaps it is because many reformers have taken the uncompromising attitude regarding abolition suggested in the Ibsen phrase, "All or nothing," that the present iniquitous systems common to Britain and some parts of Canada still exist.

It is questionable if the stipulation obtaining in this country that a "hotel" be connected with the "saloon" is altogether a benefit, as there must thereby be a constant temptation to make good the cost of erection or any loss in running the hotel building through the liquor-selling department.

As to the conditions under which alcoholic liquors are sold in Britain—and in Scotland particularly—we are among those who for at least a quarter of a century have marvelled at their continuance.

We believe that the people of a generation not very distant will look back on these conditions with amazement similar to that with which we now regard the toleration of laws by the application of which men were hanged for stealing sheep. In those "*bad* old days" the protection of the sheep and cattle of the "land-owner" (?) was more important than the saving of a peasant's life; and in our own time—even within recent months when the great war brought home, as never before, the need for Prohibition—"vested interests" and "revenue" seem to have been considered more important or valuable than souls.