

glad the heart of man. Taken in company, it gives a filip to his social feelings and disposes him to good fellowship. Prohibitionists aim, in effect, at the extinction of conviviality. Perhaps conviviality may be destined some day to disappear before the progress of intellectual refinement. Perhaps every stimulant, and not only every stimulant but cookery that tempts appetite and makes eating pleasant, especially at a cheerful board, may in course of time be discarded as grossness and become a memory of the uncivilized past. Man may grow so spiritual as to limit himself, like an eremite, to the amount absolutely necessary of the plainest food. Nay, the vision of the Comtist may be realized, and it may become the custom to hide as shameful the cravings of the animal nature and to eat only in secret. At present man, in the words of a plain-spoken moralist, requires some sensual pleasure, and if he is shut out from it by one door he will open for himself another. He is not taking it in its worst form when at his Christmas board he fills a temperate glass to the health of all friends, present or absent. Total abstinence, even at the Christmas board, may be the counsel of sanitary perfection; Sir Andrew Clarke seems to intimate as much; but we have no right, nor shall we find it practicable, to force our counsels of perfection on our neighbours.

---

THE attempt of the Prohibitionists in the United States to run a candidate of their own for the Presidency has resulted in a reaction against their cause. The Republican Party, from which most of their votes were subtracted, and which ascribes its defeat largely to the loss, has turned on them in a mood of high displeasure. Their movement itself is now criticized with a freedom seldom exhibited while their political action hung in surpense and both parties feared the vengeance of their vote. The *Utica Daily Press*, for example, calls attention to the apparently adverse verdict of experience on the effects of prohibitory legislation. The criminal record of the States in which the sale of liquor is prohibited is, according to this journal, as bad as those of the States in which it is permitted under restrictive licenses. Statistics collected in Maine show that the greatest amount of pauperism prevails in cities and towns in which no liquor is sold. And now the Directors and Wardens of the Kansas Penitentiary report that in that State crime instead of dying out reached its highest mark while Prohibition was most stringent. Figures are given by them to show that