



## The Templar Quarterly

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"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."—Eph. 6:12.

MAY, 1896.

SINCE LAST ISSUE.

The House of Commons dissolved on the 25th of April. The Prohibition resolution introduced by Thos. B. Flint was not reached again after the adjournment of the debate moved by Hon. David Mills. Indeed the motion made by Mr. Mills was designed to defeat the resolution.

The Governor-General and Countess gave a historical ball in the Senate chamber during the session. The contractors who were fitting the chamber for the event kept their men at work during the Sunday preceding, and this act of Sabbath desecration and violation of law within the precincts of the chief legislative building of the Dominion, and under the direction of the representative of the Queen called forth much unfavorable comment. The Ontario Provincial Royal Templar convention, in session in Guelph, condemned the Sunday work in a strong resolution. The ball itself, according to the press reports, was marked by many unpleasant scenes owing to the indulgence of guests. Rev. W. A. MacKay, D. D., of Woodstock, a prominent Presbyterian clergyman, referred in his pulpit to the matters connected with the ball and also to the disgraceful drunkenness of members of the Commons. He condemned severely the maintenance of the drinking saloon in the Parliament buildings. His criticism was censured by Sir Charles Tupper and other members in the House; but his brave words were re-echoed from many pulpits, and Rev.

Dr. Saunders, of Ottawa, a Methodist clergyman, spoke out with equal clearness in condemnation. The Protestant Ministerial Association adopted a resolution expressing their surprise and shame with the revelation. From the general discussion a lively agitation for the abolition of the Parliament House saloon spread throughout the country, and will certainly make itself felt as soon as the new Parliament assembles.

The long-looked-for decision of the Privy Council of Great Britain on the Test case, submitted by the Ontario and Dominion Governments, was handed down on the 9th of May, and an extended article on another page, gives a very fair presentation of the result.

The dissolution of the House of Commons and the issue of the election writs, naming June 23rd for polling day, precipitated immediate activity among Social Reformers of the practical type. In Hamilton, an Independent candidate was already in the field—W. W. Buchanan—nominated by the Prohibition and Social Reform Association. Each of the two old political parties nominated two candidates, and as the city is represented by two members, the Association named a second candidate as a colleague for Mr. Buchanan in the person of Frederick W. Watkins, a leading mercantile man. Bitterly opposed by the old parties, these gentlemen are prosecuting a vigorous national campaign. An immense tent has been erected on a central square, where the new political doctrines are preached nightly to crowded audiences; a copy of the address issued to the electors will be found on another page. No less than seventy-five or eighty Independent candidates are already in the field, a circumstance which speaks for the widespread dissatisfaction with the present party organizations.

The Dominion Alliance executive held a meeting and decided to call a convention after the general elections. This announcement called out many expressions of disapproval from those who hoped to see some serious effort made to influence the elections.

The Dominion Council of Royal Templars of Temperance met in Hamilton in March. Every province was represented by the full quota of delegates. This is the only Temperance Order which has a national organization and holds a national convention. The reports were very satisfactory, showing in the Benefit Department alone an increase of nearly twelve hundred policies, and an increase of over three millions of dollars of insurance, bringing the total amount of risks up to more than ten millions of dollars. There was no change made in the executive officers.

In New Brunswick a new license law was adopted by the Legislature, placing increased restrictions upon the liquor trade. The most marked feature, however, was the assumption of the license patronage by the Provincial Government, which is certain to mean an administration of the law in the interest of the political party controlling the Government.

In Ontario an influential deputation representing the Royal Templars waited upon the Provincial Government and urged a reduction of the number of licenses and better administration of the law. Geo. F. Marter, then leader of the Opposition, introduced a vote of want of confidence in the Government on the administration of the license law, and it was supported by the Patron party, but, of course, was voted down by the Government majority. The debate was a long one and seriously worried the Government, but it

brought out the fact that the members of the Assembly who are willing to attack the Government on its liquor policy are not well enough posted to make the best of their case.

Mr. Geo. F. Marter resigned the leadership of the Provincial Conservative party at the close of the session, and it is an open secret that his advanced stand upon Prohibition had something to do with the change. Mr. Whitney, his successor, has shown no special sympathy with Temperance reform.

Rev. Leonard M. Isitt, of New Zealand, editor of "The Prohibitionist," of Christchurch, and a social reform leader of that colony, visited Canada and was heard on the public platform in Toronto and Hamilton. In each place under the auspices of the Royal Templars. He proved himself a powerful and eloquent speaker.

"The Weekly Templar," the only national Prohibition newspaper in Canada, celebrated its fifth birthday in May. In the same month was held the second Gold Medal contest of the Prohibition Eloquence Contest Movement inaugurated by "The Templar." Seven Silver Medallists competed, and the Gold Medal was awarded to Miss Marion Murray, of Hamilton.



MISS MARION MURRAY,  
Gold Medallist of Hamilton District.

### LINCOLN'S STORY.

Very often when President Lincoln could not or did not care to give direct reply or comment, he would tell a story, sometimes funny, but not always so, and these stories were the best responses possible.

In the gloomiest period of the war, he had a call from a large delegation of bank presidents. In the talk after business was settled, one of the bankers asked Mr. Lincoln if his confidence in the permanency of the Union was not beginning to be shaken—whereupon, says Walt Whitman, the homely President told a little story.

"When I was a young man in Illinois," said he, "I boarded for a time with a deacon of the Presbyterian church. One night I was roused from my sleep by a rap at the door, and I heard the deacon's voice exclaiming: 'Arise, Abraham! the day of judgment has come!'"

"I sprang from my bed and rushed to the window, and saw the stars falling in great showers; but looking back of them in the heavens I saw the grand old constellations, with which I was so well acquainted, fixed and true in their places.

"Gentlemen, the world did not come to an end then, nor will the Union now."