

prevent the legitimate business of providing public accommodation from escaping its present connection with the whiskey business, a connection that the better class of hotel-keepers deplore and would gladly see abolished.

Finally, we do not exult in the strongly-evidenced fact that our earnest, outspoken efforts have been crowned with success, and that our opponents feel compelled to hide from us their difficulty and despair. We are only thankful that the right is triumphing, that the better day is drawing nigh, and that already there is promise of the sunlight of joy in homes over which the dark cloud of crime and woe still broods. We do not want to be in antagonism to our fellow-citizens who are now upholding the sale of rum. We want to meet these men as fellow-laborers in the great field of honest and respectable enterprise. We want to see their time, their business ability, all their God-given talents employed in a better cause than that of endeavoring to uphold and extend their present shameful occupation. We will bear them no malice when the victory is won, but we will spare no effort to hasten that victory's advent.

HOTEL-KEEPING AND LIQUOR-SELLING.

The present campaign, on the Anti-Scott Act side is being carried on largely at the expense of the brewers and distillers. The circular that we reprint in another column shows this clearly enough. There is a growing public opinion clearly shown in recent legislation, that the liquor-traffic should stand upon its own merits (if it has any), and should not be buttressed by association with other business. The carrying out of this idea is what the traffic dreads. It knows that if it be deprived of the respectabilizing connection that it now maintains with a legitimate occupation, it will soon be utterly crushed out of existence.

It is the liquor-selling and not the hotel-keeping that is fighting hard to keep up this connection. Respectable hotel-keepers do not encourage the bar part of their business. They are ashamed of it. It skulks behind screened doors and obscured windows. In the better class of hotels it is crowded out of sight into some hard-to-find corner, and does not intrude its offensive presence unsought upon the guests for whose accommodation the hotel is conducted.

There is nothing to be looked down upon in the business of hotel-keeping. It is as honorable, as useful, and as important a calling as is that of the merchant or professional man. There are men engaged in it who are a credit to their business, and to whom their business is a credit—men of intelligence, probity, energy and social position. These men would—many of them—prefer the dissociation of the degrading whiskey traffic from the other business of which they are rightly proud.

We do not wage any war even against liquor-sellers. Most of them are also in the other business to which we have just referred, and no doubt many of them do not fully realize the enormity of the traffic in which they are engaged. But we do wage relentless war against the liquor-selling part of their business, and we cannot paint that liquor-selling in colors so dark as to exaggerate it, or in words strong enough to properly stigmatize its vileness and sin.

We do not write this uncharitably: liquor-sellers are often better than their business. Men sometimes do wrong thoughtlessly, and often ignorantly. This may be urged in favor of the men, but it does not alter the fact of the wrong, nor avert its certain consequences. The slanderous lie retailed by the man who believes it true, may do as much harm as if uttered by him who in malice framed it. The good character of the liquor-seller cannot change the unholy nature of his ruinous occupation.

We submit the question to the judgment of an intelligent public:—Will not liquor-selling, in the nature of its inevitable results, compare favorably with burglary, or highway robbery, or murder? Does the man who puts his hand into his neighbor's pocket and takes

out a dollar, do that neighbor as great a wrong as the other man who will take from him the dollar, and in return therefor, will supply him with what may ruin his body and destroy his soul? Go to the heart-broken drunkard's wife, who sits late and long, waiting for, but dreading, her husband's coming; ask whether she would rather have him come home having had his week's wages stolen from his pocket, or having spent that week's wages in drink. Her answer will soon convince you that, as far as she is concerned, the liquor-seller's crime is a crueller one than the highwayman's. Any mother would rather have her son fall by the assassin's knife, than see him a blaspheming maniac, die the drunkard's death. It is not speaking too strongly of the terrible traffic to ask if highway robbery, or murder, will not compare favorably with it.

This is the vile business that we would sever from the useful and honorable employment of supplying the travelling public with physical sustenance and comfort. They are really the hotel-keeper's truest friends who stand up for the recognition of his legitimate occupation, and the Anti-Scott campaign is not in any measure conducted in his interests, but solely for the advantage of the wealthy brewers and distillers who are endeavoring to use the hotel-keepers for the furtherance of their own selfish ends.

The preceding article is in substance, and nearly in words, one of the arguments used by the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance at several recent meetings. It has been distorted into the statement that "hotel-keepers are worse than highway-robbers or murderers." The assertion that such a statement was made by Mr. Spence is an inexcusable lie, and could be invented only by those who are really as regardless of the feelings of the hotel-keepers, as they are reckless of the truth, and desirous of striking a malicious blow at one who has never met his opponents by anything else than fair and open fight. The advocates of the cause of prohibition are certainly not actuated by any sinister or selfish motives. Even if, in their sincerity and earnestness they are considered by their antagonists as over-zealous and puritanical, they ought, at any rate, to be exempt from misrepresentation by a section of the public press that calls itself independent and just.

This misrepresentation has, we regret to say, been in some cases accompanied by exceedingly virulent and abusive language, that must necessarily do more injury to its author than to its object. We have no doubt that some of our contemporaries have been misinformed in regard to the matter concerning which they have written, and are therefore unwittingly the tools of those who have invented the misrepresentations; we know that many hotel-men are above anything but scorn for such petty meanness on the part of their would-be-champions, and it may be going too far to either ask or expect anything different from such an institution as the liquor-traffic. We urge our friends to do all they can in the future as they have done in the past, unmindful of opposition, to open the eyes of the public to the real nature of whiskey-selling, and to plead and work with all their power for the outlawry of this "gigantic crime of crimes."

Selected Articles.

WHISKEY AND INDIANS.

The law on our Statute books against selling intoxicating liquors to Indians has been there since our country was a country, and yet who ever speaks about repealing that law.—Why not speak in reference to it about this being a free country, liberty of the subject, whiskey no harm, and all the other stock arguments against prohibition? If whiskey is good for the white man it is good for the Indian; if whiskey is bad for the red man it is also bad for the white man. Oh, no; the whiskey men say it is quite right to keep liquor from Indians, as it makes them very devils; but it is altogether different with whites; they know how to take care of themselves. Oh, they do, do they? They (the whites) never get fiendish under this