

The Hockwood Review.

share of the world's work, and sowing seed which some day may bear better yield than we feel justified in anticipating.

THE PLEBISCITE ON PROHIBITION.

Canadian society is largely built up on humbug, and people in Canada are very much afraid of speaking the truth about anything. They are all very much afraid of one another and of themselves. As an instance take the entirely fictitious way in which the Plebiscite on prohibition was treated by the public newspapers, and by those who spoke publicly on the subject. Everyone knows what the struggle nominally was said to be about, or what everybody pretended to himself that he believed it was about, but no one has ever ventured to hint in what it really consisted.

We have in Canada a new native aristocracy of wealth and professional or business position, it is a kind of Canadian upper Four Hundred. The names of this new aristocracy are continually published in the accounts of social functions at Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, given by the newspapers. The families of the managing directors and officials of the great Canadian railways, banks, steamship companies, mercantile firms, of the Government officials, senate, parliament, great contractors, and even some boodlers, compose this body. They represent the wealth and political power of Canada. These people meet one another at all kinds of entertainments, balls, parties, and so on, at Ottawa, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and other places, in private residences, club-houses and hotels, and the dinners and suppers are on a luxurious scale. An indispensable is a liberal supply of Rhinewines, champagnes, Burgundies, clarets, maderias, sherries, &c.

All through the country parts of Canada we have a class of struggling doctors, storekeepers, and farmers, who scramble along on about \$1000 a year more or less, which does not always come to hand when due. It is the voices of this class of men, together with a number of the older girls out of the Sunday schools, banded together in various religions and semi-religious cliques and organizations, who have pushed along the campaign called the Plebiscite. This poorer and more struggling class would have swept off the tables of the richer class all the wines necessary for their great dinners, suppers, balls, &c., and would have closed up their wine cellars and emptied their sideboards.

This is the pure, chrystalline, square, unbreakable and unchipable truth of this matter. Some may say it is a side issue. It is not a side issue. The liquor firms are only a small part of the wealth and power of this Dominion, and a fight against them is only a fight against that sectional part, and this constitutes a side issue. The main issue is that the straightened and economical elements of Canadian society undertook to fight the society of all the wealth and power of the Dominion. Could anything be more absurd, or could there be a ghost of a chance of a success? Even Lady Aberdeen, with her penchant for public speaking, was on this occasion obliged to repress it, and let the Plebiscite severely alone. Not only did the Plebiscite show an absence of common sense and judgment on the part of its promoters, but the idea was ridiculous. Mrs. Doctor Smith, Mrs. Farmer Jones, and Mrs. Storekeeper Robinson, together with various Miss Tailors, Miss Shoemakers, Miss Carpetweavers and so on, being formed into various clubs, known by the letters W. X. Y. Z. and T. O. O. G. O. O. D., and being decorated with ribbons and tinsel medals, got up various heter-