

ence and observation on the working of the Scott Act in Halton. You are a stranger to me; but from the references you have given me I believe you are an honorable man, and though very much driven with business, not having time to do this important matter justice in one letter, I will give you my candid convictions, obtained from actual observations and information.

First.—The Scott Act has been a success in Halton far beyond our most sanguine expectations. Second.—It has almost entirely destroyed the pernicious treating system, and saves scores of young men and old toppers; it has saved thousands of dollars to the poor and rich that would otherwise have been spent in liquors. I could give you the names of liberal men of means who are opposed to the Act, but who admit that they have saved hundreds of dollars that formerly went for treating, and how employers of labor, instead of fearing that their men may be led to drink and consequent neglect of their work, they have no fear now but the men will be found sober and industrious. I can produce the evidence of a large majority of the employers of labor in Halton to bear me out in the statement. Third.—There were forty-two hotels under license before the passage of the Act, and it has been estimated by reliable men that from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars per annum was taken over the hotel bars. Now there is scarcely any, and drinking in all forms is greatly lessened. My opinion, and that of many others, is, that not one-tenth is drunk now. If there is any drinking now, it is done in holes and dens without the sanction of the law, where few respectable men will go. They prefer to do without it, as is the case here largely. Fourth.—The law is much better administered here than the Crooks Act ever was, or any other license law, to my knowledge, when there was continual contravention by those engaged in the business of selling liquor. If the Act does not curtail the traffic and lessen the drinking, why are its opponents fighting it to the death? Fifth.—It has not injured business, but improved it, by diverting fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars per annum in this county from the pockets of those engaged in the traffic, to the pockets of the butchers, bankers, merchants, shoemakers and others, for the purchase of the necessaries and luxuries of life, which must have improved business. There were parties here before the Scott Act was passed who purchased sugar by the pound and tea by the ounce, who can now purchase by the dollar's worth, and there are fewer paupers, fewer criminals, and but few prosecutions outside of those for contraventions of the Act. Our opponents fail to acknowledge (although it is a fact) that times are dull all over Canada and the United States, but we feel it in Halton less than other places. I have travelled over a considerable portion of Ontario, and especially the adjoining counties to Halton, and know whereof I speak. The financial condition of this beautiful town of Oakville is on a firmer basis now than before the Act was passed. For many years six thousand dollars of the taxes were allowed to go uncollected year after year. Now, we understand, nearly all this accumulation of back taxes and consequent loss to the town has been collected. Some opponents have been bold enough to assert that the taxes are higher than before; but that is not correct; they have been considerably higher when under license. Sixth.—The Scott Act has not cost the county of Halton one dollar. The fines have been ample to pay all costs for the administration of the law, and the machinery for working the law is so much more complete than the Crooks Act that it is utterly impossible to break it with that impunity as was the Crooks Act continuously. Occasionally there are persons seen under the influence of liquor, mostly obtained outside the county, but bear in mind that they are "observed by all observers," as it is the hotel-keepers' interest, "from fear of law," to keep them out of the back-room, cellar or stable, where they formerly used to sleep off their debauch. Now they are seen by all, and it appears to be the especial mission of opponents to bewail that occasionally a person is seen under the influence of liquor, when there were scores to one while under license. Speaking for myself, and I believe the majority of the temperance people of this town, before the passage of the Act it frequently reminded us (from a moral point of view) of Paradise lost; now it is Paradise regained, the change has been so marvellous, especially this year and at the present time. I advise you to pass the law; it is in the interests of the social, moral and financial standing of this young country, it is an indorsation of the higher law that commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and do good unto others, although some who will not let you save them may persecute you, and then after you have passed the law "stand like a brave with your face to the foe," and make the law respectable and honorable. With regard to a statement from certain parties in this town

that is being used by anti-Scott Act speakers, if you saw and knew some of the parties you would not be surprised or expect anything better from many of them. Idleness, selfishness and greed are the leading characteristics of a certain class of men who are continually shouting about "vested rights" and "personal liberty." Of course there are always a certain percentage of dupes that are ready to believe anything of evil report that designing men may invent. The liberal men I referred to in the former part of this letter are free-hearted men. There is nothing political in this movement.

"Yours faithfully,

"W. McCraney."

"P. S.—You can use this letter as you see fit, and if there is any other point I am able to inform you upon, will be happy to do so.

"W. McC."

GEMS OF THOUGHT FROM ADDRESS BY REV. F. M. IAMS.

"The Relations of the Church and the Liquor Traffic" is the vital question of the age. So, in the presence of this mightiest of living issues, the friends of man and the servants of God may well forget, for the time, all minor questions of mere modes and politics, while they unitedly plan the permanent settlement of this, the greatest and most dangerous problem of this age. Why denounce houses of prostitution, and demand their prohibition by law, while we tolerate the saloons whence they draw their chief support? Are they anything more than tempters? Certainly those infamous houses ought to be prohibited, and if possible, utterly suppressed but why, O! Christian—why, O! Moralist—why, O! Philanthropist Why, O! Patriot in the name of mercy, of truth, of humanity, of our imperiled country—why shall the saloon be spared? Why treat the receiver of stolen goods and his traffic as criminal? Why denounce and prohibit that whole business by law, and treat the liquor traffic as a legitimate and respectable business? Is it so much worse to steal money than men? To steal your horse than your son? To break down your bank than your family? To ruin an estate than a human soul? *Is the dollar worth more than the man?*

If it be murder to kill a man with a bullet, it is murder to kill him with whisky. If it be a crime to assist the murderer to despatch his victim with the knife it is no less a crime to aid in killing himself with intoxicating drink.

The church should persistently refuse membership not only to all distillers, brewers, and saloon-keepers, but to all that assist in the business. The church should constantly admonish all these persons to repent of this their great wickedness—refusing them fellowship as Christians until they cease from it, and give evidence of a true and genuine repentance.

As voters, nearly one-third of the members of the church are also members of the civil government, constituting more than one third of the sovereign power of the Nation. Too often the pulpit itself has voted merely as a partisan. It has not taught men their personal responsibility in the use of the ballot. It has not insisted firmly that the Christian must obey Christ at the ballot-box as well as at his table; in the political caucus as truly as at the prayer meeting. It has failed to teach that he must vote in the fear of God. It has hardly ever attempted to teach them that "Tho the wicked join hand in hand" even if it be under the guise of a political party—"they shall not be unpunished."—*Living Issue.*

PROHIBITION.

The prohibition of the liquor traffic by legislative enactment is rapidly coming to the front as one of the most pressing and important questions of the day. We confess that, at one time, it seemed to us a measure of more than doubtful expediency. We questioned both its right and its utility, but inquiry has removed objections; and the very remarkable results which have been attained wherever such legislation has been fairly tried, at least commend the matter to the careful and dispassionate consideration of every man who desires to see his country freed from the terrible blight and burden of intemperance.

Let the subject be discussed calmly and fairly on its own merits. Many, even those who are connected with the traffic, will gladly welcome inquiry. In any case a candid and patient consideration will allay prejudices; while the harsh imputation of motives will neither win our opponents nor promote our objects.