

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

By referring to the number of this paper subscribers will notice that it completes the first half year of the existence of *THE ADVOCATE*. This pointer will be useful to those who prefer to bind in half-yearly rather than in yearly volumes.

In deference to total abstinence opinion a Scotch town recently resolved to alter the term "stimulants," meaning brandy, wine, whiskey, etc., as used in the local fever hospital, to "contingencies." Truly an honest and soul-satisfying word!

Is the latest symposium giving the opinions of eminent physicians on the value of alcoholic beverages, Dr. Holmes lures rum sophisticated with milk, though he pleads that his opinion is not based on frequent personal experiment. "Sophisticated" is an excellent term.

A LEWISTON, Me., journal seeks to make out that a prohibitory law was in force there 258 years ago. We thought the inherent impracticability of prohibition had been sufficiently well proven in 45 years' test, but what shall be said when it has been on trial nearly six times that number of years without any better results?

Oh, yes, Maine is a progressive State and a delightful place to live in. In the township of Greenwood, which is about five miles square, there are 26 abandoned farms, ranging in size from fifty to three hundred acres. Ontario would doubtless like to be reduced to the same state of things. Prohibition, if ever adopted, will surely help to bring it about the same as it has done in Maine.

Gov. TILMAN seems to be justified in retaining that Judge-elect Gary, who exceeds the South Carolina supreme bench next week, will uphold the dispensary law. He was in the State Senate when the law was passed, and he was one of its foremost champions. He can be set down as solid for the Palmetto brand.

The *Templar*, in attacking the reduction in the malt duty, says:—"There was no class in Canada whose business increased and prospered—going ahead by leaps and bounds—as that of the brewers, even when they paid the two cent malt

tax." How would it do to appoint a Royal Commission to ascertain how much the *Templar* does not know about the brewing business?

"DURING this past week have you lived up to the Royal Templar motto?"—*The Templar*. We do not know what the Royal Templar motto is, but if it is anything good we should very much like to become acquainted with it. If, however it creates distrust, as it seems to have done in the case of our esteemed contemporary, we can get along very well without it.

THE *Templar* says the brewers' business has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. That being the case there must have been an enormous increase in the consumption of beer. Then what becomes of the boasted great increase in the temperance sentiment of late years? Or is the quaffing of beer not incompatible with temperance sentiment, and is an increase in the one coincident with an increase of the other?

THAT admirably conducted and cleverly edited paper, the *Ottawa Journal*, has a happy knack of saying the right thing in the right place. Commenting upon Monsignor Satolli's attitude towards the liquor trade it says: "One cannot help remarking, however, that on some other subjects than liquor, notably the relations between employer and employed, there is room on the part of the churches for a great deal of truth telling and a fearlessness that at present are conspicuous by their absence."

THE Prohibitionists of Manitoba are real vexed. At their instigation a Plebiscite was taken at the last Provincial elections. Nearly everybody voted "yes," mainly on the grounds of party politics. Then the Prohibitionists wanted to see Prohibition come but it didn't come. Last week they met in convention determined to settle matters. The Government party would have nothing to do with them, the opposition gave them no encouragement as they resolved to form a third party. This they did. The third party will last until the writs are issued and then it will vanish into thin air.

THEY have been having quite a time at Cambridge, Mass. The Sabbatarians set spies on the druggists. They also prosecuted a man for delivering ice-cream on

Sunday. The judge, before whom the case was brought, declined to recognize the complaint, and as the mayor has declared that he considers tobacco, soda water and other drinks of like character drugs and medicines, the crusade has failed. Ice-cream is openly sold and the druggists are driving a roaring trade. As brandy and whiskey are infinitely more medicinal than tobacco or soda water or any other deleterious compound that flows from a fountain it would naturally be presumed the worthy mayor favored their sale on a Sunday. But he doesn't. He is a Prohibitionist. It is strange what views such people hold.

THE *New York Wine and Spirit Gazette* in its last issue said: "We voice the sentiments of a large majority of the liquor dealers of this city and Brooklyn in saying we dare Archbishop Corrigan to enforce in letter and spirit the decree against the liquor traffic just issued by Mgr. Satolli, the Papal delegate. Let the Archbishop do it, and watch the consequences." As the Archbishop is notoriously a friend of personal liberty, and a recognizer of the legal equality of man, it is hardly likely that he will notice *The Gazette's* challenge, or allow the Apostolic Delegate's ruling regarding a question concerning a single diocese, to govern his course in any way.

MR. F. S. SPENCE says he does not think that in the entire province during the recent Ontario elections five hundred votes were changed to Sir Oliver Mowat's side in consequence of the support of the Prohibitionists. Mr. Spence is probably nearly correct in his estimate, which sheds a curious light on the extent of the political influence of a goodly number of Prohibition workers, including Mr. Spence. They do not appear to have any influence.—*Montreal Gazette*. They have pull enough to get themselves good fat salaries in comfortable positions. But, as we have pointed out before, Mr. Spence was strangely silent during the elections.

IN 1885 the county of Chicoutimi and Saguenay in Quebec voted on the Scott Act, carrying that measure by 628 majority. In all there were 1,686 votes polled while at the nearest Dominion election 2,547 ballots were deposited. In a word 831 votes were not polled, the abstentions largely exceeding the majority in favor of

the measure. The Act soon fell into disuse in a great part of the district, but no effort at repeal was made until a week ago when a vote was taken. The result was a majority for repeal in every division of the county, the total footing up to somewhere about six hundred. It will now be in order for the Prohibitionists to declare that the Scott Act had not a fair trial in Chicoutimi.

"LIQUOR dealers and saloon-keepers are being ostracized. The odium of the traffic attaches to their families, and they are excluded from social circles into which their customers are yet admitted. Many of the fraternal and benefit societies exclude them. Most churches will not admit them to their fellowship. Their victims are not permitted to enter the Kingdom of God, and a woe is pronounced against him "that giveth his neighbor drink." One consolation remains for them: they are at the head of the procession of the Liberal forces in West Hamilton. They can rule in hell, if they cannot serve in heaven."—*The Templar*. We have always heard it said that Hamilton was a pretty hot place, but how hot we never had any idea until this moment. Still, for all, if dwelling in the nether region is no more unpleasant than a residence in the city under the hill we could even put up with the disabilities of which our brother speaks and could actually submit to his company.

IN an article on the wine clause of the French Treaty, our able contemporary the *Canadian Trade Review* says: "The opposition of the Prohibitionists to this Treaty puts them in this position, they refuse to take any steps calculated to lessen the very evil which they plead as the justification of their movement, for the substitution of cheap clarets for more potent beverages would undoubtedly lessen what evils arise from stronger drinks. To reach the stage of inebriety, on *vin ordinaire* a man needs a length of time, and a stomach as capacious as a wine skin. It is noteworthy that the first brewery was established in Canada in 1688, not as a trade venture, but to promote temperance by one of the wisest statesmen ever in power in this country. Doubting, however, as we do, there being any probability of Canadians to any great extent becoming claret drinkers, we do not anticipate there arising such a demand for this beverage as to injure the native vineyards or to increase to any appreciable degree our imports from France."

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