

great many of them were against the Act but were intimidated morally, if not in any other way, by the overbearing violence of the movement. They were afraid of being labelled and denounced as friends of drunkenness and supporters of the Devil's cause. Every Presbyterian and Methodist minister is under pressure which it is scarcely possible for him to resist. The politicians have, of course, gone with what they have taken to be the majority, some of them, plainly enough, against their own convictions, and the political press has been compelled, to a great extent, to follow suit. While one side has been intensely aggressive on the other apathy has reigned. Resistance has been left to the Liquor Interest which was, of course, at a great moral disadvantage, though the monstrous criminality of defending your trade and your bread against those who are trying to deprive you of them is not so apparent to the ordinary mind as it is to that of the Prohibitionist, who seems to think that a brewer ought at once to see in him the chosen instrument of Heaven deputed to punish brewers for their iniquities, and at once go forth meekly with his family to starve. But a blow in favour of freedom of opinion in this question seems at length to have been struck by the formation of the Liberal Temperance Union, the organizers of which are entirely independent of the liquor trade. The Union is formed on the principles which its leading members have publicly maintained from the outset, and which are those of inspection, regulation, and the substitution of lighter and more wholesome beverages for ardent spirits. It thus, while keeping terms with human nature and aiming at nothing impracticable, offers a platform on which any citizen can stand without moral misgivings or fear of being branded as a friend of drunkenness. There is a prospect at all events for those constituencies which remain uncommitted of hearing something like a free discussion of this most important issue before they bow their necks to the yoke of the Scott Act. The Hon. J. B. Finch, of Nebraska, and his friends when they, with most Christian lips, revile the President of the Temperance Union as a "blackguard" and an Annexationist, pay a tribute after their own fashion to the importance of the Association, and show themselves conscious of a turn in the tide.

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