

room for two opinions concerning it. The value attaching to any statements declaring the Act a failure in this county will be increased or lessened when the public know who they are, for the most part, who make these statements. I will mention several classes who make this cry of failure, and give reasons why I think they are not unprejudiced witnesses, and therefore, their testimony is to a great extent unreliable.

1. Most of the men whose business of liquor selling has been destroyed by the Act unitedly declare it to be a failure. Some few of the ex-tavern keepers honorably withdrew from the trade, and went into other and better business than keeping grog-shops, as soon as the Act came into force in the county. Many of those who have kept their houses open have been fined for violating the law. Is it not a little singular that men who have been punished for violating a law, will persist in declaring said law a failure. Would a thief, after serving a term in the Central Prison for stealing, declare the law against theft a failure? What value would be attached to the declaration of all the thieves in Canada, if they met in council and passed a resolution to the effect that all laws against theft on the Statute Books were an arian humbug? Unless, indeed, it was because they were not convicted as often as they broke the law, their methods of committing crime being too well planned for easy detection by the officers appointed to enforce the law. Much of the cry of failure comes from those who have lost the legal right to

#### MAKE DRUNKARDS.

The public will know the value to place upon testimony from such a source.

2. There are many in the county who for various reasons, are strong sympathisers with the defeated liquor sellers. They worked and spoke and voted against the Act, and some of them have tempted the ex-tavern keeper to sell them a glass of grog now and then in secret. What can we expect from those men but the cry of failure? Any man aiding and abetting a law-breaker in any way whatever should not be considered an authority on the observance of law, and therefore his testimony ought to, and will, be taken by thinking men at a heavy discount.

3. Some others in the county who join in this cry of failure are bigoted political partisans who failed to manipulate the temperance vote for the furtherance of their own party purposes. They do not care whether prohibition or license is uppermost if they can be successful in using it. It is a question of votes with them, and votes on their side. If whisky will give them more votes than temperance they go for whisky; if temperance will give them more votes than whisky they go for temperance. The cry of the defeated, disappointed party politician, who puts party first, second and last, and always before principle, will be estimated at its just value.

4. This cry of failure has been taken up and echoed by the gentlemen of the "trade" outside of the County. The members of "The Ontario Trades (?) Benevolent (?) Association," at their recent meeting in Hamilton pledged themselves "to fight the Scott Act to the best of their ability." The motion submitted by Mr. Maguire was explicit, declaring that it was the duty of the Managing Committee to see that the Scott Act was defeated whether submitted for repeal or otherwise. An amendment more obscure prevailed. This is very suggestive. We in Halton know what it means. Indeed we have evidence that money has been spent already in the County.

It is very strongly suspected that this Benevolent Society assists in paying the fines of unfortunate (?) liquor sellers who have been punished for violating the law. It is more than probable that this same Association has instigated many of the appeals taken from the Police Magistrate's decision to the higher courts, and has paid most of the expenses of such appeals. The rumor is also current that money for the purpose of bribing Haltonian voters is being sent into the County, and on this method of warfare they are basing their great hope of success in the coming repeal vote. This rumor seems to get confirmation from the fact that the liquor men are circulating no literature, except what the *Milton Champion*, which appears to be their organ, is doing. There have been, I believe, a few issues of another paper, but its publication is now suspended. Another confirmation of this rumor is that up to the present hour, with one unimportant exception, they have not taken the platform to defend their business or show cause why license should be brought back, though they have been challenged repeatedly to do so. The recent action of the Licensed Victuallers gives further confirmation of the truth of this rumor. The liquor sellers are bound to succeed, no matter how many they corrupt and debauch. The attention of the people of Halton is being turned towards this new method of show-

ing benevolence. The cry of failure coming from such sources must be looked upon with grave suspicion.

Consider, again, that those who cry failure now are those who for the most part always cried failure. They said the Act was a failure and fraud before it was passed, and since it has been passed they have not ceased to reiterate that cry. The cry is not new in the County. It has not one element of originality in it, for the same thing is said of prohibition wherever it is in force. Changes have been rung upon it until the cry has become very monotonous indeed. What value is there in such statements coming from men who have rendered their own testimony worthless by prejudging an Act as a failure before it comes into operation at all. It was "wolf! wolf!" before the Act passed, and it has been "wolf! wolf!" ever since, with a terrible consistency. There are a few in the County who no doubt are sincere in their opposition to the Act on account of its local character. But I know that others who make that claim are not sincere, but use it as an excuse to cover their sympathy with the liquor business and to oppose all prohibitory legislation.

I am happy to say I believe all these classes are in the minority, and the Temperance Act is very much stronger in the confidence of the people of Halton to-day than it has been at any past time. In my next I will discuss the question of success from the anti-temperance as well as the temperance standpoint.

MILTON, Dec. 28, 1883.

D. L. BRET HOUR.

#### Selected Articles.

#### A GLASS OF GIN.

GIN! GIN! A Glass of Gin! What magnified Monsters encircle therein! Ragged and stained with filth and mud, Some plague-spotted and some with blood! Shapes of Misery, Shame and Sin! Figures that make us loathe and tremble, Creatures scarce human, that more resemble Broods of Diabolical kin, Ghoul and Vampire, Demon and Gin! Gin Gin! A Glass of Gin! The **Dram of Satan!** The **Liquor of Sin!** Distilled from the fell Alembics of **Hell** By Guilt and Death, his own brother and twin! That man might fall Still lower than all The meanest creatures with scale and fin. Gin! Gin! A Glass of Gin! When darkly Adversity's days set in, And friends and the peers Of earlier years Cannot trace A familiar face, Because, poor rat! He has no cravat; A seedy coat, and a hole in that! No sole to his shoe, and no brim to his hat; No gloves—no vest Either second or best; No credit, no cash, no cold mutton to hash. No bread; not even potatoes to mash; Till, weary of life, its worry and strife, Black visions are rife of a razor, a knife, Of poison, a rope, leaping overalinn. Gin! Gin! A glass of Gin! Oh! then its tremendous temptations begin, To take, alas! To the fatal Glass—And happy the wretch that it does not win To change the black hue of his ruin to blue, While Angels sorrow and Demons grin to see him plunge into the Palace of Gin. [Punch, Volume 5, 1843.]