

## THE SALOON AND THE SUPREME COURT.

The saloon reels under the terrific blow dealt by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Kansas cases. It reels to and fro and staggers like a drunken man, and is at its wit's end. Its swagger is for the moment gone. Its loud, boastful tones have fallen into a hoarse whisper, and its impertinent challenge to the American people has lost its defiant ring. The power and majesty of Law which it has so often scorned, inspire it with an awe it never felt before. It has made its final appeal and has found that there is no way of escape for it from the mighty grip of Law. Any State may now declare it a nuisance and proceed to abate it, and it has no remedy except in rebellion. Every phase of the saloon—the brewery, the distillery, the groggery, is subject to the exercise of this sovereign power; and the manufacture and the wholesale and the retail of intoxicants may be as rigorously suppressed as any other form of nuisance deemed detrimental to health or morals.

The decision of the Supreme Court declares that compensation for damage to property cannot be exacted from the State when the manufacture and sale of intoxicants are prohibited. This is the great point decided. Every man, henceforth, who enters into, or continues in, the business of making or selling intoxicants in any State, does so at his own risk. His business may at any time, either by legislative enactment or constitutional provision, be declared a nuisance and be suppressed as in Kansas, or be prohibited as in Maine and other States. It is in effect a notice to every brewer and distiller and dealer that he must be prepared to give up this business whenever his State commands him to. Formal action by the popular voice or by legislative process outlaws his business, and turns the criminal machinery of the State against him. The moral force of this fact is irresistible. It will crush the saloon as slavery was crushed. The supreme interpreter of our Supreme Law has given us this mighty weapon of warfare. Let us wield it with all our power.

—*N. Y. Independent.*

Rev. Mark Guy Pearse mentioned that the trustees of an East end church had refused to let it for a resting-place for the people on week evenings, on the ground that such a course would "ruin the respectability of the place."

The church in Winnipeg has invited Rev. Hugh Pedley as pastor. We have no further information at the time of going to press.

## SPURGEON ON REVIVALS.

In the December *Sword and Trowel*, Pasto Spurgeon pleads for genuine Revivals in the Church:

"Oh for a great and general revival of true religion! Not a burst of mere excitement, but a real awakening, a work of the Eternal Spirit. This would be a glorious reply to scepticism, and would act like a strong wind in clearing the air, and driving away the miasmata, which lurk in the stagnant atmosphere. There would then be small honour paid to men who mar the gospel of our Lord, and truth, which has fallen in our streets, would again ascend her throne. Let us pray for such a visitation of the Holy Ghost with all our souls. It is not only desirable, it is essential; we must either be revived by the Lord himself, or the churches will descend until error and ungodliness swallow them up. This calamity shall not happen; but only divine grace can avert it."

Then, at considerable length, in the same article, he condemns the worldly, foolish, and often silly entertainments, theatrical and other, in man, churches, as indicating unfaithfulness, and decay of spiritual life; and ends by defining his own present position:—

"In reference to the Down-Grade controversy and the Baptist Union, we are urged to further action; but it would be far easier to take a foolish step than to retrace it. We will move when we are moved, and not before. Conferences, societies, and leagues are proposed: all are admirable, no doubt; but which out of many suggestions is the most suitable? We do not see our way. May the Lord himself direct his people! Meanwhile, to redouble our prayers, and to seek a revival in all our churches, cannot possibly be a mistake. Prayer, mighty prayer, can do wonders. This is the work of the present hour. Pray without ceasing, and preach the faithful Word in clearer terms than ever. Such a course of conduct may seem to some to be a sort of standing still and doing nothing, but in very truth it is bringing God into the battle; and when HE comes to avenge the quarrel of his covenant, he will make short work of it. 'Arise, O Lord, plead thine own cause!'"

In our next, we shall present the latest aspects of Mr. Spurgeon's case, as given in our English files. A deputation from the Baptist Union was to visit him at Mentone, France.

A deputation of the English Baptist Union will wait on Mr. Spurgeon next month to ask him to reconsider his withdrawal from the Union.