

influence, in many localities, is apparently more potent than church and educational institutions combined. The liquor traffic is not only destroying our young men by the thousand, but is debauching our public officers, and seeks to undermine the very foundation of our civil and religious institutions and liberties.

The formation of the numerous and consolidated liquor dealers' Associations on this continent, representing hundreds of millions of capital, whose avowed object is to corrupt legislators, secure the repeal of Sunday laws and prohibitory acts, and prevent the enforcement of such laws where they do exist, should arouse every earnest temperance man to the imminent danger which threatens us. These rum-sellers are thoroughly united, alert and powerful; with almost unlimited means at their command, and as thoroughly unscrupulous as to the means or methods of accomplishing their purpose.

It is a life-and-death struggle with them, and they know it. It is a life-and-death struggle for this nation, and the people are not half awake to the dangers of the hour. The liquor dealers' Associations are completing their organization in every county and town in this Dominion, and are bound together as one man for the accomplishment of their purpose. All over the country, men in office perjure themselves to secure the rum vote; the will of the people is threatened in all the large cities and towns, and the Scott Act is virtually a dead letter in the hands of the officers who are sworn to enforce it. Every rum-seller will carry on his nefariousness in defiance of public sentiment and law, thereby creating a contempt for all law. In many places both the old parties tried to outdo each other in nominating men on their several tickets who were satisfactory to the liquor interests in the latest elections, so that whichever won, the rum-traffic was safe. If it were not for the votes controlled by the liquor organization, the evil would not be tolerated for a single year. Intemperance is in politics; how can temperance keep out of it?

The time is past when temperance can be considered a merely moral question. The rum-sellers themselves have made it a political question. However much we may deplore the fact, or cavil against it, it is a fact, and one we cannot shut our

eyes to—the temperance question is a political issue, and of infinitely greater moment than the plans of the "Pope" or the policy of the "President." God, in His providence, is pushing it to the front as never before, and His people must meet the emergency.

"The liquor traffic must be crushed, or the light of the nation will go out in darkness." All the moral forces of the Dominion are needed to settle this great question. The evil has a gigantic hold upon our country; withering, blighting, cursing whatever it touches, and will not die without a struggle. We must meet it in the political arena. And in the honest judgement of great and good men, the question cannot be settled until a political party comes into power, whose central idea is the annihilation of the liquor traffic, and the protection of home and civil and religious liberty. As no political party that was on its knees to the slave power deserved support from honest and patriotic citizens, so no political party that is now on its knees to the whiskey-power deserves support from men of intelligence, conscience and honor. What we need then, is a temperance party in the truest sense of the word; and, please God, the day has already come when such a party is being formed, established to root out this soul destroying drink from our land.

B. N. W.

DEAR SIR.—In answer to my letter of last Spring to the INDEPENDENT, regarding help for a new church building, Mrs. Revell, of Toronto, immediately expressed her sympathy, and offered to provide talent for a concert here, we having to bear but a part of their travelling expenses. On Monday evening, August 13th, the church was filled with, I believe, a happy people, for Mrs. Revell and friends gave a most enjoyable concert; something for everybody. An additional pleasure was an ice-cream social. Our object was accomplished—that of materially increasing the church building fund. Next morning an impromptu party started, not to board the train for Toronto, but for a day's pleasuring at Dufferin Lake and the Forks of the Credit. So much profit combined with any amount of pleasure and jollity is the result of their coming to Alton, that I believe we shall not be able to resist the temptation to accept of their kind offer to come and give us a "Harvest Home" festival and service.

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love."

Alton.

ANNIE McCLELLAN.