

In the slums, among the low theatres, variety shows, concert saloons, and still lower dens of vice it has an enormous sale, because it is the means of enormous profit. Armies of girls and young women throng these places, whose business it is to urge the male visitors to buy, and they receive a handsome commission on every bottle they succeed in selling. If this market alone for sparkling wines were cut off, the demand would be reduced fully one-third, possibly one-half. Hence we see the motive the wine and the liquor dealers have for keeping these places open, and the hopelessness that they will ever be suppressed by city governments in league with the liquor traffic. It is quite easy to see, too, the fallacy of the assumption that the dives will be closed by high license. They have the moral, and not infrequently the financial backing of the heaviest producers and wholesalers in the country. They are the most profitable of all the saloon classes.

But we spoke at the outset of the false impression generally prevalent concerning wine growing countries. This is well illustrated by a correspondent to the London *Argosy*, writing from Hungary. He had his romantic idea of the wine press, and went to see one. He says:

"I had had dim ideas of snowy garments dyed purple with the juice of the grapes, and the delicate feet of the girls treading the luscious fruit under the shade of vine-clad trellises in the open air. In my imagination there were fountains of pure water washing away all stains and impurities, and long processions of men and maidens bearing the fruits on their heads, all decked with flowers, and singing and dancing to the sound of harps and flutes. Had I not seen pictures to that effect, read political opinions of it, and had I not always been encouraged by my childhood's instructors in this delusion? And now, behold, there were not any snowy garments at all; the Hungarians had on course shirts and loose drawers tucked above the knee, and I came to the conclusion that they had never seen any fountains of pure water, and wouldn't know the use of them if they had. For there was a kind of griminess about them, burned in by the sun, which seemed to indicate that they never washed themselves or their clothes. One black-eyed, purple-legged fellow with the grape juice just drying on his bare feet, seized a basket, and ran off down the steps and into the vineyard, and presently returning with a load of the fruit shot it into the press, and, with all the dust and dirt of the road still clinging to his feet, mounted, and began to tread the grapes, and soon stood almost knee deep in the liquor, which, having served him as a sort of foot-bath, was to be the drink, perhaps of future generations of refined fastidious palates. Having seen this I became melancholy, and preferred to leave the rest of the manipulations of earth's choicest nectar in obscurity."

If we may believe so good an authority as Mr. Charles A. Wetmore, acknowledged to be one of the best authorities in California, and one who has done more for her wine interests than any other one man, things are not so very dissimilar on the two continents. In a speech before the wine growers' convention at Los Angeles, we think it was, Mr. Wetmore said:

"We have but little good wine in this State to-day—really choice, good wine, but we have a great deal of very poor wine and a great deal of very poor brandy, and if it were not for the poor wine and brandy we would get along a great deal faster.

"The real truth is, that I find in all your wine districts you drink more whisky than you do wine. (Laughter and applause.) I was in El Dorado county two years ago, and was appointed on the wine committee at the fair. I did not like the service because I did not go for that purpose, but I was appointed anyhow, and I was asked to say many complimentary things about it, and that it was the finest place in the world to raise grapes, and that the wine was elegant, etc., but I could not find a man in town who ever drank any; that is the real truth. (Laughter.) I could not find a saloon in the town of Placerville that sold any California wine, nor any man there who knew where to find any, or how to drink it. The truth is that the wine was not fit to be drunk by anybody; and how they find a market for it can only be explained by the fact that we have got forty millions of people to experiment on. (Laughter.)"

The truth is the term *wine* is used because it is attractive, and it is made to hide a multitude of sins. An enchanted circle surrounds it,

and within that circle the stronger liquors lurk and do their deadly work. It is a cover behind which death throws his most fatal darts, and under which the wicked try to hide their grosser sins. Where wine enters, rum, gin, brandy and all their train follow; and *wine* at a social gathering means stronger liquors for those who choose them, and a night of folly, dissipation and excess, often shameful to contemplate. It is at best, only the mask for the battery that shall deal death and destruction to all who approach it.—*The Lever*.

### Scott Act News.

At the provisional district meeting of the Guelph district of the newly-organized Methodist Church, in Berlin, there being present forty members, ministerial and lay. Rev. W. S. Griffin, of Guelph, Chairman, and Messrs. Kennedy and Hillyard, Secretaries. The following resolution was moved by Rev. Wm. Savage, seconded by Isaac Snider, and unanimously adopted, "That this provisional district meeting of the Guelph district of the Methodist Church desires to express its hearty sympathy with the earnest and untiring efforts now being put forth in various parts of the Dominion for the total suppression and prohibiting of the traffic in intoxicating drinks. This meeting recognizes the absolute duty of every Christian to take a firm stand upon the temperance question, to give no quarter to this soul-destroying traffic, and to do all that in him lies toward hastening the time when a prohibitory liquor law shall be placed upon the statute book of this country.

LEEDS AND GRENVILLE.—The campaign is going on lively in these united counties. On the evening of the 26th a large temperance meeting was held in the Farmersville M. E. Church, under the auspices of the W. C. T. Union. The Methodist Conference, in the town named, being suspended for the purpose of allowing the members to attend the meeting. The chair was occupied by the Rev. W. Blair, and able, earnest, and practical addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. G. Henderson and the Rev. W. Barnett, after which the following resolution was moved by the Rev. F. Chisholm, seconded by Mr. Brown and unanimously carried. Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the establishment and enforcement of the principles of prohibition as embodied in the Scott Act would be beneficial to the interest of these united counties, morally, socially and every other way, and that we do hereby pledge ourselves to put forth our best efforts for the accomplishment of such a desirable end.

LENNOX AND ADDINGTON.—Dr. Meacham, secretary for these counties, reports that canvassers for signatures to the Scott Act petition are meeting with unexpected success. The encouragement and enthusiasm of the workers is very great. He believes that a good majority will be balloted for the Act. After taking part in five Dunkin Act elections, and knowing the influence brought to bear by parties on both sides, he is thoroughly convinced that ballot voting will be a boon for the temperance side. There are a great many who would like to be sober—would like to see the curse removed from their reach, but who dread the taunts and jeers from the bar room. He would rather trust the private conscience to influence the mind, than the influence of fear of public opinion or personal prosecution.

ONTARIO.—A Prohibition Convention was held at Sunderland on the 24th inst. From many miles around farmers and others have come to the village to take part in the proceedings or listen to the orators of the day. A public dinner was held in a large barn adjacent to the Methodist Church, and immediately after the Rev. Mr. McClung and Rev. Mr. Hill led the way into the Town Hall, which was speedily crowded. Mr. W. H. Howland was one of the speakers announced, but Mr. McClung read a telegraph from him, stating that at the last moment an important business matter had detained him. The chair was taken by Mr. Wm. Evres, Cannington, and among those present were A. D. Weeks, Uxbridge; H. Crossley, Uxbridge; Rev. Mr. Colvel, Rev. T. W. Hill, B. A., Mr. Clendinning, J. P., &c. The first speaker was Mr. W. Burgess, of Toronto, who proved that prohibition had been a great success in Bessbrook, Ireland, where, in a population of 6,000 persons, there was no liquor shop, or, as he put it, no police, no pawnbroker, no