

LOCAL OPTION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The enactment of the Liquor Traffic Local Control Bill is a prominent plank in the platform of the British Liberal Party.

An attempt has been made to represent Hon. Mr. Gladstone as having changed his mind in reference to Local Option. In support of this contention quotations having been made from a letter written by Mr. Gladstone to Lord Thring in which he expresses himself as favorable to legislation providing for the carrying on of the sale of liquors for the public profit.

Mr. Gladstone's statements have been fully explained by himself. He favors legislation similar to that advocated by the Bishop of Chester, believing that under it the liquor traffic would be less harmful and injurious than it is under the present licensing system. That he does not abandon his favor for Local Option is made perfectly clear by the following letter written by himself and forwarded to Mr. John Hilton, Parliamentary Agent of the United Kingdom Alliance.

Hawarden, Sept, 27th, 1894.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your obliging letter, I need hardly point out that I have in no respect receded from former declarations as to local option. My opinion in its favor remains unaltered, but I hope more may be done for coping with the frightful evil than local option, if it stand alone, seems likely to effect.—I remain, yours faithful and obedient,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

P.S.—You are free to publish this letter.

Mr. James Whyte, Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance wrote a letter to Mr. Gladstone calling his attention to the deliverances he formerly made in reference to Local Option, and asking the hon. gentleman to make such a statement as would set the matter to rest. Mr. Whyte received the following reply—

Hawarden Castle, Chester, Sept. 28.

Dear Sir,—I am desired by Mr. Gladstone to say that he is very sensible of the care and discretion of your letter to him. Unhappily, he has not by him his letter to Lord