

The general consensus of opinion at the present time is that the use of alcohol as a beverage is gradually going out. In fact it is becoming more and more fashionable daily not to use stimulants, and it is remarkable what power there is in fashion.

"New Customs,
Though they be never so ridiculous,
Nay, let them be unmanly, yet are follow'd."

—*H. VIII., 1, 3.*

Our chief public gatherings are celebrated with the use of tea and coffee, and what can possibly be more in the line of common sense. The late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson accomplished a great work in England by his efforts in educating the masses, through his writings, as to correct ideas on the subject of alcohol. What we require in Canada is the introduction in our schools of short lessons on hygiene and alcohol, to impress the youthful mind with the importance of these subjects, and in time, more will be accomplished by a reasonable and intellectual method rather than by the introduction of prohibitive measures into the Federal or local Parliaments of this country. As evidence of decrease in the use of alcohol, cases of delirium tremens, which came under observation almost monthly, thirty years ago, are not now seen in practice, once in two years.

An important movement is now in operation in England, fighting intemperance with alcohol, termed "The People's Refreshment House Association," with headquarters in London. Chief in this common sense idea, are eminent philanthropists and christian people, with the Bishop of Chester as President. Tea, coffee and cocoa are obtainable at all hours, and kept in the front. Spirits and beer of every kind are in stock and served to all comers of proper age, not giving evidence of inebriety. This association only four years in operation, has already accomplished a good work. An association of more recent date is "The Public House Trust," operating chiefly in towns and counties. Chief in this movement are Earl Grey, Cardinal Vaughan, the Bishop of Rochester, Earl Stanforde, Lord Goschen, and many other equally distinguished men. The ordinary public house they are opposed to, is run for private gain, when it should be in the interest of the public. What is aimed at, is respectable places of refreshment, giving a better chance to non-intoxicants, than to intoxicants, and associating drinking more generally with eating. As the result, many have been led to see the error of their ways. This form of education in the hands of many leading persons in England, cannot fail to be productive of excellent results. Prior to coercive legislation in Canada, it is reasonable that a progressive move in this direction, should merit careful consideration, which would in time guide our people "how to live in order to prolong life."