

the announcement of so many runaway matches as lead one to the belief that either the elopement or the publication was infectious. Not unlikely both. It is quite probable that the notoriety gained by the daughter of Signor Morosini through her runaway marriage with a commonplace servant has appealed to the imagination of some weak-minded girls, who see in the situation something romantic, and this effect will probably be intensified by the announcement that, though she is far from being an exceptional musician, she has already been engaged as a concert singer. On the other hand there can be no doubt that a striking case like that of the Morosinis' gives the public a craving for more news of the same kind, and that many an elopement which would under ordinary circumstances have passed unchronicled by the press is dished up to gratify a morbid curiosity.

Whatever the true nature of the epidemic the disease is likely soon to run its course, and then we shall have in the daily papers a surfeit of something else. Meanwhile, the moral is plain. The young girl who marries, without her parents' consent and approval, takes at all times a great risk; but this risk is enormously increased when the girl descends by her marriage to a social scale much lower than the one to which she has been accustomed. She no doubt believes all the time that the love she has for her husband will survive all troubles, but there must come a time when the feeling of incompatibility will spring up between them, and when both will realize the full force of the old adage about marrying in haste to repent at leisure.

The Morosini elopement contains a moral for parents as well as children. In that case the doting millionaire father prevented his daughter from associating with young men in her own station in life, for what reason does not appear; the natural consequence being the springing up of a strong feeling of affection between her and the coachman, who seems to be on the whole a worthy if commonplace man. There is a time in the life of every man and every woman when the tendency to idealize is strong, and if worthy objects are not chosen as ideals unworthy ones are sure to be. It may turn out all right in this instance, but most likely it will not. The parents have cast off the daughter who will probably soon tire of love in a cottage after being all her life accustomed to admiration in a mansion. Then will follow wrangling and recriminations, with the usual ending, divorce. How much better for all parties if reason were allowed to have more sway in the preparations for so serious a step as marriage.

ONTARIO BRANCH OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE.

To our Fellow-workers in all parts of the Dominion:

Now that the contest in Halton is over, to which all eyes were turned, and which for some weeks has caused to a considerable extent a cessation in other temperance work, the question is asked: "What is the Halton victory to do for us?" Are we on the strength of what was there accomplished to sit down and exclaim "Let us rest and be thankful?" If so, we might as well abandon at once the cause of temperance in our land; but if this victory is used as it might and should be, surely it should stir us up to greater work, and, looking at the lessons derived from it, cause us to go on with greater faith and zeal in promoting our cause.

In this movement we feel strong because in every step that is taken the blessing of God can be asked upon the work: but He works by means, and in the Halton contest two matters stood out prominently which we may take as watchwords for future contests: one was "ORGANIZATION," and the other "INDIVIDUAL EFFORT." A happy combination of these two means will give success

in every County as they have done in Halton. It is most encouraging to find that we have almost invariably the co-operation of our ministers and medical men in the various localities of our Dominion, but we are more than gratified to see the large extent to which the farming community has been aroused, and to find our Reeves, Deputy-Reeves, and other persons of position and authority attentive listeners, and earnest workers in the field. The immediate pressure upon the farming community is now for a time over. Our barns are filled, and we are thankfully accepting the fruit of the year's toil; and it would be a grand return if between this and the next session of the Dominion Parliament we could have our elections for the Scott Act all over, and such a presentation made to the House, sitting in the month of February, as would compel the passage of a prohibitory enactment.

As the law stands at present each community is responsible for the repression or the increase of the liquor traffic. It has been left to the various communities to say whether the Act is to be passed or not, and the Legislature has said to us that if by the unanimous passing of the Scott Act it is proved that the country is educated for further legislation in the cause of temperance, such legislation will be given. It is therefore virtually in the hands of the electors to say between this and February whether a further step shall be taken in the way of temperance legislation or not. This being so, let us not be unfaithful to the great trust that is reposed in us, but let us be up and doing so that the little hand which at present seems to be the presage of greater things may expand into great clouds of rich blessing which will bring comfort and joy to many households at present desolate in our land.

Many persons of means have aided by their contributions. It is impossible to carry on a complete system of work including all the requirements of visiting each voter as in an ordinary political contest, keeping accurate accounts of those that are visited, and those that must be conveyed to the polls, and a vast number of incidental matters which have to be attended to, without a very large expenditure, and we appeal to our friends to be as liberal as possible in their contributions, and whether the amount they can subscribe be much or little to have it paid as promptly as possible.

Our Provincial Council as well as your County Association stands in need of funds to carry on its share of the work. We supply to the counties all the assistance we can, including a good deal of literature, advice, and, also, to a certain extent, speakers. We would do much more if our funds would permit, and we urgently request all who favor our cause to help us by furnishing the sinews of war. All our expenditure is controlled by a finance committee and is made as judiciously, efficiently and economically as possible. Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged either by the Secretary or by the Treasurer, H. O'Hara, Esq., 30 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

Any further information or assistance will be promptly and gladly supplied by the Secretary, F. S. Spence, whose address is 8 King St. East, Toronto.

Kindly do what you can to have contents of this circular made known as widely as possible; it is issued by order of the Executive Committee.

S. H. BLAKE,
President.

F. S. SPENCE,
Secretary.

Selected Articles

DRAWING NEARER.

Every additional county secured to the Scott Act draws us nearer to the total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor in the Dominion which it is our aim to secure, for, of course the excuse of a lack in ripeness of public sentiment can no longer be advanced when a large majority of the counties of the Dominion signify their desire for the measure in so posi-