The Victoria Warder

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1887

The Scott Act and Mr. Swipes.

MR. EDITOR,—Permit me a space in your valuable paper for a review of the statements of Mr. Swipes respecting the Scott Act.

We consider the Scott Act, with all its defects, a step (and the only step we could make just then) far in advance of former legislation we had. It was a local option law, and as such has its defects. In fact it civil law is only local, inasmuch as there are boundaries beyond which it cannot apply or be administered by the realm in whose statutes it is incorporated. Then, all law is corrective, and as such is one of the most potent factors that an incorporate body can wield, and all education means more enlightened, more intellect, more respect for the pure and the good. These points we claim for the Scott Act.

Mr. Swipes' knowledge of jurisprudence must be very limited when he states that "public opinion is always stronger than any law." The laws which govern men's morals, and the law which commands us to respect the rights of the state and lives of my fellow men, are wholly independent of public opinion. They are founded on the throne of God itself. The power of public opinion, which Mr. Swipes is not, has no right to interfere in their due administration, and the power of any Legislative body which interferes in principle or injustice, is usurpation, according to

(illegible) principles all constitutional authority is based and all power belongs to the intelligence of the people.

(illegible) can never justify the violation of law. My oath of citizenship binds me to respect and obey the laws, exercising both my influence and my vote for the prosperity of the country in which I live, ought and I do respect the governing powers, the judicial interpretations of law, and I have a perfect right to (illegible) any enactment which I hold that any (illegible) or abridges my rights as a citizen, just as much as the Scott Act does those engaged in the liquor traffic, and law breakers just as much as the thief or incendiary. No more persecution, no agitation, can we (illegible) to their brave. On (illegible) which Mr. Swipes speaks of, I think that five-sixths of men has cast to the service of the constitution that is guiding us to its protection and to good and loyal subjects. It would be a strange colony indeed, to live in, under what code Mr. Swipes proves that the officers and administrators of law are incompetent, and loaded with odium more to be dreaded and despised than the evils we are engaged to remedy! If this is one of our parties to the government, we (illegible) is true of all departments, and cases from a magistrate down to the same man is a contradiction of terms, and a mockery of justice. Mr. Swipes, I am one of the Lord's people, and I am one of the Queen's subjects, and I believe both of you the (illegible) for the Scott Act, and I (illegible) all the power of the (illegible) remembered to Mr. Swipes the Scott Act, whereby it is declared that the majority of electors of the county can (illegible) the sale (without compensation) of intoxicating liquors, and I would like to see the (illegible) to compensate the opponents. To Mr. Swipes we will be content with only the (illegible) a right to persistently work against the wish of one in ten? If the law away with all law and order and reign of anarchism. This we will by no means do. Every effective (illegible) we should make use of was used to (illegible) and we use efforts to (illegible) the (illegible) of Mr. Swipes and men (illegible) I would ask Mr. Swipes (illegible) the best interests of the country (illegible) of his life? The men who (illegible) to perpetuate drunkenness, crime, of the men who, having no (illegible) at stake, have (illegible) incompetent?

I have (illegible) the insane (illegible) of a party press at some of the (illegible) (illegible) territorial element (illegible) which (illegible) and conspiracy when applied to dispense it under certain (illegible) Is the (illegible) of the (illegible) of their kindness, the (illegible) and the pure sense of justice which (illegible) Are