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THE ADVANCE.

A. R. Fawcett, — Editor.

FLESHERTON:
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1884.

"WHAT IT MEANS."

The Scott Act may not be as near perfection as the majority of Temperance people could wish; but it is the best Temperance act we have, and will no doubt answer the purpose for which it was intended until we get something better. Before condemning it, we should give it a fair trial. Of course anti-temperance people and "paid for" supporters, have much to say against it. They say it does not work well in the county of Halton; that, all you have to do in order to obtain liquor there, is to get a prescription for a pint, or a quart, or even a gallon, from any physician, and present the same at any of the drug stores; and it is asserted that it is sold "on the sly." Admitting the truthfulness of these allegations, the man must be pretty far gone—lost to all sense of self-respect, in fact—who will make use of these means to satisfy the cravings of a depraved taste. This is very clearly illustrated in the first page cartoon of last week's *Grip*, entitled "King Dodds' Best Argument Answered." The scene is in the bar-room in one of those low dens where liquor is sold "on the sly." The bar consists of a board laid on two barrels which are stood on end. A wretched specimen of humanity, whose bloated, distorted features, and ragged clothing proclaims to the world an habitual drunkard, stands leaning on it, with a bottle and glass of the "stuff" placed before him. Standing on the other side of it, and backed up by an array of suspicious looking black bottles, with a countenance expressive alike of distrust and villainy, is the landlord. In the back-ground King Dodds and "Mr. Respectability" are discussing the Scott Act. The gist of their conversation is given in the following:—

King Dodds.—"You see, notwithstanding the Scott Act, drinking goes on!"

Mr. Respectability.—"Yes, of a certain kind; but I should rather do without it than come here for it, wouldn't you?"

We should think so. There are very few men with any reputation at stake, and possessed with even a remnant of self-respect, who would care to risk either under such degrading circumstances.

The Collingwood *Enterprise* is strongly opposed to the passage of the Act in the County of Simcoe and uses rather remarkable language in the exposition of its views. The following paragraph from the leading editorial in its last week's issue savors very strongly of the King Dodds style of logic:—

"To the people of Simcoe, the attempted passage of the Scott Act means that their temperance friends are afraid to trust them. It means that the temperance people are so seriously alarmed about the welfare of their neighbors, that they would take away from us the use of the intelligent discernment given by God and the liberty won by the blood of our fore-fathers. It means that we are asked to believe that an imperfect and unjust piece of human legislation will do more for the drunkard than Divine law and love combined has done; and it means that the country is to be dictated to by enthusiasts, who once they established a claim to dicate, may not cease until they bring back to us the days of Blue Laws."

Very fine language, no doubt, but very superficial and absurd logic. "The liberty won by the blood of our forefathers." What liberty? The liberty to take bread from the mouths of wife and children and destroy happiness? The liberty to take life and commit crimes shocking to humanity? The liberty to people our gaols, our penetentiaries, our inebriate and lunatic asylums? The liberty to commit suicide, and bring ruin and disgrace into otherwise respectable and happy homes? Were any of these "liberty's" "won by the blood of our forefathers?" If not, what kind of liberty are you speaking about? "They would take away from us the use of the intelligent discernment given by God." No sir; there you trip yourself in the vain endeavor to trip others; for is it not impossible, sir, to take away that "intelligent discernment given by God" which has already been "taken away" by the use of the vile stuff. The mission of Temperance people is to restore, under God, this "intelligent discernment." On the other hand, it would seem to be the "mission" of the *Enterprise* to leave the drunkard to himself—to allow him the "liberty" to drink himself to death and perdition as fast as he liked! That's "liberty" with a vengeance.

The Scott Act is characterized by the *Enterprise* as "an imperfect and unjust piece of legislation." Dan O'Connell is reported as having said that he could drive a coach and four through any act of parliament that had ever been passed. If that be the case, then the Scott Act is not more imperfect than many other acts of parliament, with different objects in view. That it is an "*unjust* piece of legislation" we emphatically deny, for reasons already given; and we hope to see the day when a temperance act, on a broader and grander scale, will wave its pure white banner in every province of this Dominion.

THE SCHOOL-HOUSE.

"Valentine Muggins" letter in our last week's issue has given rise to considerable discussion. Several of our citizens consider the letter altogether too severe, while others maintain that it was not. Some have been trying to ascertain who this "Valentine Muggins" really is, and in every instance the "guessing" has been wide of the mark. It does not matter who he is; the question with the ratepayers is—are his statements relative to the condition and accomodation of Flesherton Public School-house, correct, or are they not? If the former, prompt action and not street quibbling is what is wanted; and if the latter, an apology is due from our correspondent.

There are too many people in this world who are always ready to find fault and talk absurd nonsense when any important public improvement is being considered; and the number of active, energetic and enterprising people are, we regret very much to say, few in number.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A corespondent of the Thornbury *Standard* thinks Kimberly will soon outstrip such places as Flesherton, Eugenia, *et al*, in growth. Of course it will.

Mr. Seneca G. Ketchum, late editor of the Hanover *Post*, is now local editor of the Orangeville *Advertiser*. The local page of the latter paper fairly bristled with short, snappy paragraphs last week.

Not being a crank ourself we do not pay much attention to the fumings of the Markdale *Standard* man. It amuses us, certainly; but so does the antics of the circus clown. Beyond that, there is nothing interesting or instructive in his mugwumpish capers.

The Barrie *Advance* is the best paper in the county of Simcoe, and has the largest circulation. It might also be remarked, by the way, that the Flesherton ADVANCE is the best paper in the County of Grey. That's our honest opinion; and we say it with due deference to the feelings of our esteemed contemporaries.

The people in this locality seem to be about as much interested in the road between Flesherton and Flesherton Station at the present time as they were ten years ago; quite contented to go along on the old monotonous jog-trot, you know.

The Toronto *Mail* building was badly damaged by fire on Saturday morning last. Through the splendid efforts of the firemen this fine edifice was saved from utter destruction. The loss to the *Mail* Printing Co. will be about $25,000, which is fully covered by insurance. The Bell Telephone Co. have lost heavily, as have other companies whose offices were located in the building. The structure will be restored to its former appearance.

"Evidently the name Lauder will not sink into obscurity while W. Waugh Lauder is living."—*Exchange.*

Evidently not; for the name of Lauder is bound to go down to posterity, as our contemporary shrewdly remarks. Naturally his name will go down—there's nothing to hinder it. So will the names of all our greatest and most accomplished sycophants. Let them go down! Yea, though the very stones should cry out for vengeance against them—let not their names "sink into obscurity!"

Thousands Say So.

Mr. T. W. Atkins, Girard, Kan., writes: "I never hesitate to recommend your Electric Bitters to my customers, they give entire satisfaction and are rapid sellers." Electric Bitters are the purest and best medicine known and will postively cure Kidney and Liver complaints. Purify the blood and regulate the bowels. No family can efford to be without them. They will save hundreds of dollars in doctor's bills every year. Sold at fifty cents a bottle at W. Richardson's.

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BUTTON AND TIE SHOES,

—AND—

Fancy Slippers!

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