

property have been abandoned. As a prominent dealer said in the recent convention of the United States Brewers' Association at Atlantic City: "Gentlemen, there is only one way for a man to put his house in order. It is to do it himself. The common house in which we all live is in need of such putting in order, and no one individual among us occupants of the house can accomplish the task single-handed."

The opponents of the liquor traffic have fairly forced home upon the trade the acknowledgment of its responsibility for the "dive," the disreputable illegal den where liquor furnishes the fit nucleus for vice of all sorts. The chairman of the brewers' literary bureau told them last week that "the continuance of the 'dive' rested largely with the brewers themselves." In various States, the brewers have taken measures to cut off this excrescence, hoping by its elimination to stem the torrent of adverse public sentiment. In Texas and Ohio, and in various cities, especially Milwaukee, the fight against the "dive" is undertaken by the wholesale trade. Thus in Ohio, they have organized a Vigilance Bureau, and have employed a detective staff to secure evidence for effecting the forfeiture of licenses by retailers who do not obey the law. Either the toleration of gambling on the premises or the admission of women of doubtful reputation to the saloon is ground for the withdrawal of the license. The fact that evils of this kind gravitate to the spot where liquor is sold, however, will make such an effort at reform extremely precarious.

Moreover, it must not be forgotten that, from a business point of view, the trade is interested in the maximum sale and consumption of liquor. The opposition to the "dive" is primarily commercial and not moral. Indeed, a recent writer attributes much of the current animosity shown towards these places to the fact that, relatively, the "dive" is a poor customer. The dealers are willing to throw overboard a child or two to satisfy the wolves of public opinion, hoping to make their escape with the greater part of the family uninjured. How thoroughly competition rules in the business, moreover, is illustrated by the incident narrated at the meeting of the Liquor Association. When two years ago New York brewers decided that certain notorious resorts at Niagara

Falls should no longer be supplied with liquor, the enterprising Chicago brewers came promptly to the rescue of the beleaguered sellers.

The movement to reform the trade "from within" involves difficulties similar to those which attach to the same process when applied to a corrupt political organization. Half-way morality or half-way legality is, of necessity, a condition of unstable equilibrium. In the resolutions adopted last week, the trade calls for the passage of a law permitting Sunday selling from one o'clock in the afternoon until eleven at night. Whatever be thought of the advisability of such a law for a city population largely of foreign antecedents, it is certain that the rural legislator is strongly against such a proposal. In the absence of such legal permission, the interests of the brewers directly clash with the law. How, under the circumstances, will they be able to pose as the champions of law and order against the abandoned dive-keeper, while they must consciously aid and abet the violation of the Sunday-closing law?

The resolution which the association adopted favoring the limitation of saloons to one for every 750 inhabitants looks to a more promising reform. At present, there is estimated to be one saloon for every three hundred persons living in our cities. The reform of the city liquor traffic must evidently for some time move along the line of decreasing the number of saloons. The gain to be derived from this innovation is not primarily to be found in the reduced per capita consumption. It is rather to be expected in a change in the character and responsibility of the retail dealer. Should the value of the license be artificially enhanced by a strict delimitation of the number of drinking places, its loss would become very serious financially.

It is estimated that something like \$550,000,000 represents the capital invested in the American brewing industry. The direct ownership of saloon property by brewers is put as high as \$25,000,000, and their advances and loans to retailers at \$70,000,000 more. In other words, saloon property to the value of almost \$100,000,000 is practically in the hands of a relatively small number of brewers. The responsible agent in the liquor-selling business is

not the man behind the bar, but the man behind the brewery. He is going to sell the last drop that will yield a profit, so long as his business is not endangered. The direct responsibility of the brewer for the character of the liquor traffic is now well recognized. Reform evidently lies in making the brewer find that it is profitable to keep the law. If he can see it for himself, so much the better. But he can no longer deny the responsibility, and the community will increasingly put the onus of law observance on the man "higher up."

#### PRESIDENT LOWELL'S OPPORTUNITY.

Rather naïve press dispatches have appeared in the last day or two, informing the public that, in his coming inaugural address, President Lowell will have some reforms to announce. On this basis, one of our contemporaries has been moved to remark that Mr. Lowell would seem to have policies of his own in contradistinction to those of his predecessor. We violate no confidence in recording prevalent Cambridge belief that it was precisely because Mr. Lowell was known to have ideas of his own as to the future of Harvard University that the majority of the Fellows elected him to the position he now fills. Moreover, Mr. Lowell has on two or three occasions since his election so clearly indicated several reforms which he has in mind as to make it certain, months ago, that his inaugural will be an exceptionally interesting document, and that the college world will find the developments at Harvard during the next few years of absorbing interest.

What, for instance, is to be Mr. Lowell's attitude toward the elective system, to which Harvard owes so much of its prestige and so much of its extraordinary growth under President Eliot's guidance? It is already known that Mr. Lowell thinks that the honor degree should mean more than it does. He has placed himself on record as being of the opinion that men should come to college to work and not to play, and—strange man—he is even emphatic in his belief that scholarship should be at least as highly rated as athletic prowess. Mr. Lowell's mind is of the type that leans toward practical suggestions. That there is dissatisfaction among

hundreds of Harvard graduates with the education they received, he must fully understand. What modification of the elective system he will advise is, therefore, the question of pressing interest, and not whether he will make any recommendation. The story is told that President Dwight of Yale once assured President Eliot that the ideal curriculum was one making the freshman and sophomore studies compulsory, but the others wholly elective. Mr. Eliot was able to show his distinguished colleague that Harvard had held the same view some ten years previously only to abandon it. There are those who think that the Bryn Mawr group system of studies is the ideal one, and others who prefer still another arrangement.

What Mr. Lowell favors, he will make known in due course. Whether or not he is able to find some workable plan for better guidance of the Harvard undergraduate, and closer supervision of his work, no one can question that some such reform is necessary. In an educational pasture of surpassing richness, too often the Harvard student knows not where to nibble, and overlooks the most nutritive morsels. Such rare personalities and illuminating scholars as the lamented Professor Shaler or the late Prof. G. M. Lane have often been passed by because there was no one at hand to tell of the fruits to be gathered. Hence, also, too many students have browsed here and tasted there only to find when the four years were gone that they knew nothing well; that beneath the acquired polish and smattering there was no solid foundation of learning. Mr. Lowell's great opportunity is, therefore, to devise some plan by which freedom of choice shall become freedom of *intelligent* choice, in consonance with a man's future career.

No part of his inaugural will be more eagerly awaited by teachers than that which deals with this elective question. There is, however, another undergraduate problem of even greater difficulty, with which, as Mr. Lowell announced at Commencement, to the satisfaction of every thoughtful alumnus, he proposes to deal—whether Harvard is to be a genuine democracy true to its ideals and the interests of the Republic or not. Every one knows that Harvard has suffered because it has been called the rich man's college; every Harvard man worthy of the name has deplored the ap-

pearance near the "Yard" of those palatial private dormitories called "Millionaires' Row," we believe, by the irreverent. The struggles of the Western alumni to obtain still further representation on the Board of Overseers have often been a protest against the domination of Harvard by narrow Boston influences. The apparent aristocracy of wealth and social position in the leading undergraduate clubs and the exclusiveness and luxury of the private dormitories have led more than one graduate to ask whether he should expose his son to such influences. Too often private protests at Cambridge have been met only by a shrugging of the shoulders and a question as to how the university could possibly control private capital.

When, therefore, President Lowell let it become public that he proposed to grapple with this problem at the very outset of his administration, he won immediately the confidence of the alumni. His idea, so far as it has been outlined, is to build a series of freshman dormitories, separate little entities, in which the first year men shall live, not in cliques, according to their means, or the schools from which they hail, or their peculiar athletic tastes, but as freshmen in Harvard College. It would be, of course, unjust to President Lowell to pass final judgment on a plan he has had neither time nor opportunity fully to outline; so far as it has been indicated, it has met with overwhelming approval. More important even than high scholarship, or than leisure for professors to do creative literary work, or many another issue which will sooner or later attract and hold the new president's attention, is this fundamental one, that the Harvard undergraduate shall stand on his own feet, and that he shall rank not according to what wealth his father possesses, but by what there is in him and what he can bring to the university life. The problem is not confined to Harvard alone; nor is it anything else than a reflection of changing social conditions, particularly in our cities. No other is more difficult; yet by solving it, even if only partially, Harvard's new president will win the gratitude, not only of his alumni, but of the whole country.

#### IN CATALOGUE-LAND.

Early September is a season of heavy reading in catalogue literature. In the consumption of descriptive price-lists, illustrated and plain, the beginning of autumn ranks only after the beginning of spring. September is a starting-point both for retrospect and for anticipation. The amateur gardener turns once more to his well-thumbed nurseryman's catalogue, to compare what he hoped and set out to do with what the summer has actually brought him. The fisherman and hunter is getting ready for his vacation. What elaborate research in sporting-goods catalogues and railroad time-tables that calls for, need not be dwelt upon. Modern hunting is like modern warfare, wherein victory on the battlefield has really been won months before in the studious quiet of a War Office. Nova Scotia's hunted moose would be both flattered and convinced of the futility of resistance, if he only knew how many varieties of hunting-boot, of sleeping-bag, of tent-peg, of folding cot, of alcohol-stove, of flour-mixer, and of frying-pan, dealers have devised for his destruction. There are authorities who maintain that the hunter's entire attention should be properly given to the literary preliminaries of his excursion. For whether he slay successfully or not is a matter of chance, but there is no reason why, if he fails, he should not fail according to the rules of the game. Not every one of us can boast the spoils of Nimrod, but every one can see to it that his shooting-jacket shall be the very best thing on the market.

Vacations in themselves are commonplace. Their best sensations come at the beginning and at the end. Country roads are country roads everywhere, a little more or less dusty, a little more or less hilly, giving more or less of a pleasing outlook on hill and water. The most beautiful mountain path is never so beautiful as when we plan to walk it or recall how we walked it. At the beginning of a vacation we derive from the study of distances and altitudes an amount of pleasure altogether disproportionate to the real difference between 1,250 feet elevation and 1,350 feet, or between four miles from the station and six. As a matter of fact, one accidental unpleasant neighbor at the table may take away a sheer 1,000