

# TEMPERANCE.

## AMERICAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

We have received the First Annual Report of this Society, which was formed in Boston, early in the year 1826. The Report and other documents form an interesting Pamphlet of about 70 pages. The executive Committee have turned their chief attention toward the acquisition of a fund for the support of the future Secretary of the Society. For this purpose the Rev. Dr. Edwards, now of Boston, and the Rev. Nathaniel Hewit, of Fairfield, in this State, were, for some time, employed in presenting the great enterprise to the public, and receiving donations from the pious and humane. The total of the funds now amounts to \$13,311, 58—a sum inadequate to the support of a permanent Secretary. The Committee remark that while they “have been nearly two years employed in endeavouring to gather twenty thousand dollars to promote the temperance of the nation, fifty millions of dollars have been freely spent, to foster and extend intemperance in the country, with the awful sacrifice of more than sixty thousand lives on its altars.” Still they see indications of the approach of a brighter day. They have abundant evidence from all parts of the country that the public will not only endure the measures proposed by the Society, but is calling loudly for their execution.

The *character* and *station* of the individuals who are uniting their efforts to suppress intemperance, in the view of the Committee, form one ground of encouragement. In very considerable numbers “those who are regarded as the guides and the lights of the people,” are foremost in the work of reformation—and their influence and example is beginning to be felt. The *nature* of the efforts, is another ground of encouragement. It is not the useless attempt to make men drink ardent spirits moderately—but to make them abstain entirely; not an attempt to keep a turbulent river within banks which are low and easily overflowed—but to dry up its fountain.

The Committee very correctly, in our opinion, claim that *moral influence* only can, in this country, be applied to check intemperance. So many, in various ways, are directly or indirectly concerned in this matter, that the powers of our government, if exerted, are not sufficient to remove intemperance from the land. As well might government attempt to reduce a civil rebellion, when the very men on whom they rely for its suppression are implicated in the revolt.

Conn. Obs.