

# N. Y. STATE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

*The Executive Committee of the New York State Temperance Society respectfully submit to the County Societies the following considerations :*

In reviewing the past, there is much cause for gratitude and congratulation. Public sentiment has been directed to the subject of intemperance in the use of intoxicating liquors, and great efforts have been made for its suppression. Its causes, extent and consequences, have been exposed: and the exertions, which have been made to oppose it, have checked its spread, we trust; and have rescued some from its gates of destruction, and prevented many from taking the first steps in its broad and downward path.

That this work may go on, must be the hope and prayer of every man who loves his God and his neighbor.—How shall it be done, to insure ultimate and complete success?

To answer this question we have but to ask—What means have led to the results which have been already attained? The awakening and concentration of effort, by the formation of temperance societies; and the diffusion of information by the circulation of temperance papers.

It would be easy to show *how* these have produced the change in the prevalence of intemperance, which our ears hear and our eyes witness. But it is enough to mention the *fact*, that they have done so—a fact, which no observing and candid person will deny.

It is evident that an extension of these means must lead to an increase of their results; and to secure this increase of good, the Executive Committee recommend to the County Societies, the adoption of the following plan:—

I. *That a Temperance Society be formed in each school district in the several towns.*

This will lead to increased convenience of organization and attendance; to engaging the co-operation and exciting the interest of persons who would be unwilling to take an active part in the deliberations and business of a larger and more general assembly; to increased facility in bringing home the subject of the temperance reformation to the minds and consciences of *individuals*; and, most of all, to securing *personal* interest, and *individual* agency.

Again—it is of the greatest importance to collect and report *facts*. The time has gone by for *declamation* on the subject of intemperance. *Facts*, and the arguments founded on them, are now wanted. These can easily be collected through the medium of district societies; and if certain points were taken as the subjects for observation and calculation, and the facts connected with these, reported by each District Society to its Town Society; and by each Town Society to its County Society; and by the County Societies to the State Societies, all the *statistics* of intemperance in our state could be thus ascertained. And if all its extent and evils were ascertained and published, who can estimate the effect that would be produced upon the public mind? It may be well to remark, that the *district school-house* will always furnish a convenient and suitable place for the meetings of the Societies.

Believing that the advantages of such an organization must be apparent, and that they will be acknowledged, the Executive Committee proceed to recommend,

II. *That measures be instituted to distribute monthly, to every family in the county, the Temperance Recorder, or some other temperance paper.*

Some persons will not attend a temperance society and will not talk on the subject of temperance. By adopting this suggestion, information and argument can be addressed to all.

Many are prejudiced against temperance, and you cannot speak to them about it without exciting their animosity. But no such feelings will be called forth by a silent paper. The little, mute messenger cannot grow warm in debate; and persons will attend to it dispassionately.—And, if satisfied of its truth, there is nothing of the pride of disputation, and the tenacity of one's first opinion, which often keep men "*almost persuaded*," after they are *fully convinced*.

Introduce a temperance paper into a family, and old and young have access to it. Its contents form a subject for comment around the table and the hearth; and thus parents and children may enlighten and strengthen one another.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the advantages to be expected from the adoption of the plan suggested by the Committee. The only doubt can be as to its practicability.

This is certain if *individuals* will come up to the work, and will feel that they have a *personal* interest in its success. As to the first suggestion this is obvious. The feasibility of thesecond is equally sure.

The Temperance Recorder will be furnished at 10 cents in advance for a volume, if enough are taken for each family in the county; 12½ cents for a less number. Your county has \_\_\_\_\_ inhabitants. Estimating each family at seven individuals, there are in the county \_\_\_\_\_ families. This number of volumes, at 10 cents each, will cost \_\_\_\_\_ dollars. Can it be that your whole county is unable to raise this sum, when it is a moral certainty that its citizens would save more than this amount, in each year, by the effect, which, if so employed, it would produce upon the morals, and consequently upon the prosperity of the community.

From the extended nature of the operations of the State Society, it is absolutely necessary that punctuality should be observed with it. Let those in each town, whom God has blessed with the means of usefulness and with hearts to employ them, pledge themselves for this amount to the State Society. They can lose little, if any thing, by it; for, after the first few numbers of the paper have been distributed, if those receiving it should be asked, what they were willing to *give*, (not *pay*,) towards supporting the cause of temperance? who can doubt but that the greater part would willingly bestow at least *one shilling* yearly?

The only difficulty is, to secure the *regular distribution of the papers*. It is *indispensable* that there should be some person, in a convenient place in each county, to whom all the papers intended for that county may be consigned by the Executive Committee of the State Society; and who will undertake to send to each town its proportion. Then some person living in each town should see to the distribution of its papers.

All this depends upon the zeal and fidelity of individuals; and upon these, all must rest, unless the county can employ an agent for the purpose of distributing its papers monthly. Such an agent could be procured for a small sum, as the business of his agency would occupy but a part of his time.

The Committee in conclusion submit—that the advantages of the proposed plan are great; the practicability sure. It has been adopted in two counties, Washington and Montgomery, with every appearance and promise of success; and it is intended to attempt, at least, to extend it over the whole state. The Committee cannot believe that your county, by refusing to adopt it will destroy the symmetry and completeness of the proposed organization. They hope to elicit strenuous and systematic exertion from the friends of temperance in every part of this wide and fair land. And when instruction shall visit every habitation; when personal interest and exertion shall be awake and active on every side; and when all efforts shall be conducted with system, and move on in harmony—if the blessing of a kind Providence be continued—who can despair of final and complete success, in a cause where so much has already been attained?

EDWARD C. DELAVAN,

Ch'n. of Ex. Com. N. Y. State Tem. Soc.

OFFICE OF THE N. Y. S. T. S. }

Sept. 20, 1833. }

*Regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the New York State Temperance Society.*

WHEREAS experience has shown the benefits to be derived from General, State, and County Temperance Conventions, as means of directing and concentrating to given points the efforts of the friends of temperance for the promotion of that necessary and salutary reform now in progress in our own country and other parts of the world: And Whereas, in two counties in this state, Washington and Montgomery, such conventions have been had resulting in awakening a spirit of renewed zeal and activity, promising soon not only to organize a temperance society in each school district, but to place monthly in each family in those counties, a copy of the Temperance Recorder for a year; measures recommended in the preceding circular: And Whereas it appears to the Committee, that the same objects can be approximated by a General Temperance Convention in the state, not, however, as excluding County Conventions, but as preparing the way for their greater efficiency: And Whereas our sister state, Massachusetts, has recently set us the example of a State Temperance Convention: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee recommend and appoint a General Convention of delegates from the several County and Town Temperance Societies in the State of New-York, to be assembled at some convenient place in the city of Utica, on Wednesday, the 20th day of November, 1833, at 12 o'clock. M.

*Resolved*, That the several county and town societies be requested to appoint, without any regard to sect or party, one or more delegates to the said Convention; and that the delegates so appointed, be, and they are hereby solicited to use every exertion to attend to the duties of their appointment.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published as an Extra Recorder, together with the following—

## ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS—The reform from the use of ardent spirit which we are striving to promote, is one with which we are identified our dearest hopes and our highest consolations. The advance already made, proves the practicability of success. Only two ways are open to us—to retreat, or advance. The idea of the former is inadmissible. Every consideration which piety, patriotism or philanthropy can suggest, forbids it. Advance then we must—advance we can, if we use the means which God and nature have put in our hands. Assemble, then, we entreat you, at the convention above appointed, and there let us unite our counsels and our prayers, that the work in which we are engaged, and the holy cause to which we are devoted, may soon be crowned with success, and our country be freed forever from the pollutions of drunkenness.

R. H. WALWORTH, President.

E. C. DELAVAN, Secretary.