

TEMPERANCE.

AMERICAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Temperance Society held in Boston, January 16, 1832, the following preamble, resolutions, and circular were adopted, and ordered to be printed for the information of the friends of temperance throughout the United States.

In view of the evils which ardent spirit has occasioned, and which, while the use of it as a drink is continued, it always will occasion; and in view also of the numerous facts which show the entire safety and great utility of abstinence from the use of it, therefore resolved,

1. That every individual in our country, as soon as practicable, be particularly invited thus to abstain; and in all suitable ways to exert his influence, to lead others to do the same.

2. That, as information is important, a circular containing a brief view of the prominent facts on this subject, be prepared; and as means can be obtained, be sent to every family in the United States, respectfully and earnestly requesting each individual, who has come to years of understanding, to adopt the above plan, and for the sake of doing good to unite with others in a Temperance Society.

3. That to promote the formation of Temperance Societies, to invite all to join them, and to carry the above plan into practical effect throughout our country, it is needful that one or more wise and efficient agents should be employed in each state; and that some general agents should visit all parts of our country.

4. That the application be made to benevolent individuals and known friends of temperance for means to accomplish the above mentioned objects; and to enable the American Temperance Society to prosecute its great and benevolent work, till the use of ardent spirit as a drink, the manufacture of it, and the traffic in it, shall be brought throughout our country, and throughout the world.

CIRCULAR. To the Friends of Temperance throughout the United States.

In pursuance of the last resolution, we would remark that the American Temperance Society is engaged in the great and benevolent work of extending the principle of abstinence from the use of ardent spirit, as a drink, throughout our country, and throughout the world. By means of the press, and of living agents, a strong impression has already been made, and a great change effected, with regard to this subject. More than a million of persons in the United States now abstain from the use of ardent spirit. Among them are those of all ages, and in all kinds of lawful business, who for years used it habitually, and thought the difficulty had been found by experience that they were mistaken; and they are all respects, better without it. And should the experiment be fairly made, this would be found to be the case with all.

More than a thousand distilleries have been stopped more than three thousand merchants have ceased to traffic in the poison; and more than three thousand drunkards ceased to use the intoxicating drink. More than ten thousand persons, as appears from numerous facts, by the change in the sentiments and practices of the community, have already been saved from becoming drunkards. The quantity of ardent spirit, used over extensive districts of country has been greatly diminished; and pauperism, crime, sickness, insanity and premature deaths, have been diminished in proportion.

And when persons have ceased to use intoxicating drinks, they have not only become more sober, healthy, diligent, and economical, and the condition for this life been greatly improved, but they have in much greater numbers become hopelessly pious; and their character and prospects have been changed for the life to come. And should appropriate means be used over our whole country, a change, with the divine blessing, might be effected, which would save annually millions of property, and thousands and tens of thousands of lives; a change which would remove one of the greatest dangers to our social, civil, and religious institutions, one of the greatest obstructions to the efficacy of the gospel, and all the means of grace; and one of the chief causes, throughout our land, of human wretchedness and woe.

But for ability to employ these means, and to accomplish these objects, the American Temperance Society is dependent upon what the friends of Temperance are disposed to furnish. Its whole permanent income is not six hundred dollars a year; a sum insufficient to print and circulate as extensively as desirable, even its annual Report. Numerous and pressing applications, from all parts of the country, are made for publications, and for agents; but the society has not the means of complying with these requests. And without assistance, its labours, which in time past have been so greatly blessed, and are so intimately connected with the welfare of the present, and all future generations of men, for both worlds, must in a great measure cease. Whether they shall be continued or not, now depends upon this, whether the friends of the object, will furnish the means.

The committee, therefore, in reliance on Him who has all hearts in his hands, and fulfilment of the high trust assigned to them, hereby appeal to the friends of temperance throughout our country; and earnestly request them to furnish the means which are necessary to prosecute this great and momentous work.

Should one hundred individuals give one hundred dollars a year, or could a sum equal to that be obtained, from the use of ardent spirit, might, it is believed, be extended throughout our country, and throughout the world. The next generation, and all future generations of men, might come forward into life without the habit of using it, without any appetite for it, or expectation of any benefit to be derived from the use of it. Then might the gospel and all the means of grace be expected to produce more than double their past effects, and all efforts for the intellectual, moral and spiritual benefit of man be crowned with greatly augmented success. And in no way probably would the same amount of property do greater good to mankind.

Annual subscriptions, or donations of any amount, sent to the Treasurer, 97 Milk street, Boston, will be thankfully received, and faithfully appropriated to the great objects of the Society.

GEORGE OGDEN, JOHN TAPPAN, HERMAN LINCOLN, JUSTIN EDWARDS, ENOCH HALE, JR. Committee.

Editors of papers and periodicals friendly to the cause of temperance, are requested to insert the above.

Extract of an Address of N. M. Jackson, before the Young Men's Temperance Society of N. Y. City.

It is not to be concealed, that there are those among our fellow citizens, who, while they acknowledge the importance of the undertaking in which we are engaged, while they are sensible of the extent and the magnitude of the evils which we have united to suppress; while they admit the influence of Societies in accelerating the progress of the temperance reformation, while they lavish upon our endeavors expressions of approbation and encouragement,—still are unwilling to unite with the Society,—unwilling to make any exertions to suppress intemperance,—unwilling publicly to array themselves in opposition to an enemy, which is detrimental to the peace of their families, to the welfare of society, and to the lib-

erties of the country. Why this inconsistency—why this deplorable indifference? Let charity exercise her office in answering the question.—What, sir, is the object of a temperance society? Is it not to produce concert and co-operation among the friends of temperance; to operate on the public mind by united moral, and intellectual influences; and to achieve, through the agency of enlightened public opinion, a triumph, for which we may look in vain, either to legislative enactments or to judicial decrees? We see the powerful influence of associated action in every department of society. We see it in the advancement of literature and science; we see it in the successful progress of the various benevolent and philanthropic systems, we see it in the exercise of thousand influences which purify, and refine and renovate society. It is as much to be accomplished by individual exertion as by the associated effort of a large number! Can the cause of temperance be better promoted, than by the voluntary association of various individuals, all harmoniously co-operating—guiding each other by their councils, and aiding each other by their labours.

Can the friends of Temperance regard these Societies with indifference when they look at the facts they have collected? at the knowledge they have diffused? at the influence they have exerted? We know they cannot.

It was, sir, under the influence of sentiments like these, that several of the young men of this city, about two years ago, united in laying the foundation of the "N. Y. Young Men's Society for the Promotion of Temperance." Its first public meeting was held in this hall; and the address delivered on that occasion, are doubtless, still fresh in the recollections of many who are present this evening. At that time, the temperance reform had just begun to excite the public mind. But few young men were acquainted with its character, but few appreciated its importance, and but few enlisted in its behalf. It is not so now. Truth and Reason, have been gradually and silently exerting their benighted influences upon society, until at length public opinion is decidedly in favor of our cause.

The glory of successfully completing this undertaking, is reserved for young men. And in behalf of a Reformation so honorable in its origin, so beneficial in its progress, and so glorious in its prospective issue, we are proud on this occasion to appeal to the young men of the city of New York. It is for them to exercise an influence which shall be felt to the remotest borders of our land. We do not at present, so much need essays, and speeches, and sermons, as action; vigorous, united, effective action.

Young Men's Temperance Societies are now formed in almost every city, town, and village in the nation. The youthful champions of the cause in distant states, among the valleys and mountains of the rising West are looking with deep solicitude to the example of the young men of this metropolis.

Here they look for an encouraging voice and a helping hand. Let them not look in vain.—The cause in which we are engaged, is the cause of our country. Let us then go forward, faithfully and fearlessly, in the prosecution of our undertaking.

Let no difficulties discourage, no lukewarmness dishearten, no theological disputation divide us.

While we contemplate with pride, sir, the future achievements of this Society, what may we not anticipate from the effective energies of societies, all acting in unison, and exerting their mighty influence to drive Intemperance from our land!

May we not hope that under the auspices of such exertions, the time is not far distant when the voice of licentious revelry shall no longer disturb the midnight slumbers of the virtuous and peaceful; when the lawlessness and the profanity of the drunkard shall no longer contaminate the morals and vitiate the principles of the young?

May we not hope that the time is not far distant, when the bravest and hardy sons of the ocean shall no longer be shipwrecked on the quicksands of intemperance, when those who preside in our councils shall no longer mistake the intoxicating cup; when those who yield the nation's energies—the farmer, the merchant, the mechanic and the laborer, shall entirely banish the liquor poison from their fields, their workshop, and their dwellings!

HOW INTEMPERANCE OPERATES.

In October, Dr. Wayland delivered an address at Providence, before the Providence Association for the Promotion of Temperance. It contains striking views of Intemperance, some of which we here present in the Doctor's language.

Three Effects of this Vice.

The effects of intemperance, v., on the intellect, are just as certain and destructive as the effects of disease; and instead of being temporary, they are permanent. The states of mind which drinking produces are these. The first is that of feverish excitement, in which a man's imagination is aroused, his hopes are bright, his prospects are inviting, his risks are nothing, his success is sure.

The second state is that of entire mental and nervous exhaustion, in which every thing looks gloomy, every prospect is disastrous, every chance seems against him, and he sinks down in deep, sad, hopeless despondency.

The third state is that, in which the mind senses to be affected by these frequent transitions, and settles down into a moody, stupid vivacity, in which all distant objects affect a man slightly; he is forgetful, morose, displeased with himself, and by consequence, displeased with every being around him.

Now, I surely need not say to you, that neither of these states of mind is suitable to the best exercise of the human intellect. In every one of them, the man is under the influence of a partial, self-inflicted, but, to all practical purposes, real insanity. If he is a merchant, he will make foolish bargains. If a lawyer, he will make foolish speeches. He will, in the first state, err by excess, and in the second, err by defect. At last, sinking down into the third state of dull, muddy abstraction, he will lose all talent for business, frittering away his time in doing what need not be done, and leaving the very thing undone that a most imperative necessity calls upon him to do. He neglects his friends, abuses his customers, until day after day he sits solitary in his deserted place of trade, holding communion with no other form of existence than his bottle and his glass. Oh! it is most affecting to think how many there are among us, who, for weeks and months together, do not enjoy a single hour's exercise of sober, healthy thinking, and its natural result, fair, unbiassed, clear sighted common sense.

Run, the Origin of the Providence Riot.

But why need I go abroad for instances, when our own town has so lately witnessed all that is terrific in the violation of civil order, and all that is melancholy in the sad necessity of arresting that violation by the shedding of human blood. Let me it from me to utter another form of existence than his bottle and his glass. Oh! it is most affecting to think how many there are among us, who, for weeks and months together, do not enjoy a single hour's exercise of sober, healthy thinking, and its natural result, fair, unbiassed, clear sighted common sense.

you heard the voice of the magistracy drowned amid the yells of bitter execration; when the air was rent with oaths, and obscenity, and blasphemy, which fell upon the ear of the shuddering listener, even in the remotest suburbs of the town; when you heard at last the sharp peal of insubordination, followed by that awful stillness, which was interrupted only by the long sigh and the gurgling death groan;—tell me my fellow citizens, was there a single act in all that sad, and tragical, which did not, most solemnly remind us, of the suicidal effects upon society, of an unrestricted use of intoxicating liquors. It was all the deed of RUM.

Questions for the Conscience.

Who of us will from this day abandon this trade? Who of us will purchase no more spirituous liquors, but will abandon the trade so soon as his present stock shall have been disposed of? Who of us will enter into an agreement to commence the coming year with an entire abandonment of the trade in intoxicating liquors? I know I do reason why the first of January, 1832, may not witness this town purified from the guilt of this iniquity.

If any man think otherwise and choose to continue it, I have but one word to say. My brother, when you order a cargo of intoxicating drink, think how much misery you are importing into the community. As you store it up, think how many curses you are heaping together against yourself. As you roll it out of your warehouse, think how many families each cask will ruin. Let your thoughts then revert to your own fire-side, your wife, and your little ones; look up to him who judgeth righteously, and ask yourself, my brother, is this right?

ITEMS.

From the report of the American Temperance Meeting.

"Does a healthy laboring man need alcohol? No more than he needs arsenic, corrosive sublimate, or opium. It has been proved a thousand times, that more labor can be accomplished in a month, or a year, under the influence of simple nourishment, and unstimulating drink, than through the aid of alcohol."

The parent should instill into his children a hatred of ardent spirits as much as he does of falsehood and theft. He should no more suffer his children to drink a little, than to steal a little.

Many churches, now, do not believe that any man among them, while he continues, for the sake of money, to ruin his fellow men, by furnishing them with ardent spirit, can give credible evidence that he is a good man.

Some refuse to join a Temperance Society, because they say, "We are temperate already." But should a patriot refuse to join with others for the defence of his country, and give as a reason, "I am a patriot already," he would cease his patriotism to be something more than suspected.

The consequence has been, as stated by a writer in Scotland, and as illustrated by facts, "There is reason to believe, that intemperance has cost that country more lives, demoralized more persons, broken more hearts, beggared more families, and sent more souls to perdition than all the other vices put together."