

(Rochester), and especially in surrounding villages, was diminished, according to the deliberate opinion of our most observing and judicious citizens who were especially questioned on the subject, *five sixths*—we think more. Facts like these might be given to an indefinite extent, all looking in the same direction, all *proving*, if facts can prove anything, *that prohibitory legislation does greatly diminish the evils of intemperance.*"

I deem it of vast importance that we continue our efforts to enlighten the public mind, by the voice and the press to the greatest possible extent, and in attempting to do this we must remember that our movement is a moral one, and our object is not to found a political party, but to infuse the spirit of reform through all parties, and eventually to redeem the entire Republic from the crime and the curse of intemperance.

In the pursuit of such an object it will be glorious to succeed; but, should it be found that parties will not heed us, I see no other alternative but to pass them by, until we can accomplish the great object for which we are now contending.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from observing that the Society is greatly indebted to its former Secretary, W. H. Burleigh, for his assistance in preparing the *Balance*, and the first number of the *Prohibitionist*. To the Rev. Dr. Manderville for his subsequent able supervision of the same paper, and the series of twelve tracts now prepared and ready for distribution; which series, I trust, through the agency of the friends of prohibition in the various counties of the State, will be placed in every family of the State before the coming election.

To the press, both political and religious, to physicians and lawyers, and the clergy generally, this Society is indebted for essential aid, and above all, to the good providence of God, who has crowned our efforts with success, in the furtherance of a cause, on the triumph of which, more than any other moral cause, probably depends the perpetuity and the glory of this Republic.

In our acknowledgments to the friends of temperance, it ought not to be forgotten that women have furnished most effective aid. No class of the community have suffered so much from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors, and no class have more constantly or more unitedly labored for its inhibition. And while we express our sympathy with them for their sufferings, and commend them for their constancy and devotion to the cause in time past, we most earnestly bespeak their influence in its favor for the time to come. In the retirement of private life, as well as in the social circle, they can plead this cause with their husbands, their sons, their brethren, and their friends, with a power that no one else can plead it. And we trust they will continue to do so, till the entire sisterhood shall be freed from the miseries inflicted by drunkenness, and the entire country delivered from the expense, the crime and curse of the sale and use of the liquors which occasion it.

After having struggled through so many difficulties and achieved so many triumphs, it does not appear presumptuous to calculate on ultimate success. Let us then take courage, and go forward with a firmer trust in Providence, and a more fixed determination never to remit our exertions till we have wiped away the reproach of sanctioning by law the traffic in a poison which inflicts so much misery on the human race; not

to intermit our exertions, until we have exhausted every justifiable effort, not only to accomplish this, but to convince every body as far as we can, that the sale of intoxicating drinks, as well as their use as a beverage in health, *is an immorality.*

#### The necessity of a Prohibitory Law shown in a new way.

The following passage from an unpublished work, entitled "Wild Wanderer, or the Champion of Prohibition, a narrative of events on land and on water," has been kindly furnished, at the request of many friends, by the author for the columns of our paper. It is a part of a discussion, represented as taking place in a tavern, between a judge, named Darlington and Mr. Blackwood, a temperance lecturer, and others. Our space will not permit us to insert more than the argument of Mr. Blackwood, given below; though we are conscious that much of its interest and force is lost by separation from the context, and especially by the unavoidable suppression of the characteristic and lively conversation of the *dramatis personæ* which precedes and follows. We earnestly recommend, however, the perusal of the portion which we insert. The argument of Mr. Blackwood is at once novel and conclusive. It can scarcely be read without conviction.

"There is to my mind, no seeming at all about it, please your honor; and if you will allow me to direct your attention to a few facts, which doubtless in primitive times, led to the first organization of civil societies I believe I can make the necessity of prohibitory laws appear as plain to your mind as it does to my own."

"Well sir, proceed" said the Judge, "for I like to hear your arguments."

"Well then if you please sir," said Blackwood, "I, like all others who have written or spoken on the subject, suppose that governments were originally formed for the purpose of protecting the weak from the encroachments, of the strong. Is this your opinion Judge?"

"It is sir," replied the judge.

"Well then," said Blackwood, "let us look at a family in primitive times, composed, we will suppose, of a father, mother, five sons and five daughters, in a rude state of nature without any laws, living wholly distinct and separate from all other human beings."

"But my dear sir," interrupted the Judge, "you are supposing a case that is very improbable, because the father would give laws to the family."

"Well sir, admitting that to be the case, what sort of laws would he give? Would they not be prohibitory laws?" asked Blackwood.

The Judge rubbed his forehead and after a pause said, "I suppose, sir, that he would give them laws of that character."

"It is certain Judge that he could give them no other," said Blackwood, "and it is probable that while his children were small, he could enforce his laws. But as children attain to maturity sometimes, we will presume that his children have grown to men and women, and that their parents can control them no longer, and that each son begins to think that he ought to be master, and each daughter begins to think she ought to be mistress. One of the sons, who is stronger than either of the others whips and abuses his brothers, and perhaps his sisters too, just when he pleases, regardless of their father's commands. At last the weaker brothers and