

awake, put on their strength, and cast this monstrous iniquity from our land. Was there any other matter, Richard, that troubled your mind, because if there was, let us see if we cannot fathom its deformities, and give it a more comely appearance.

*Richard.*—Alas! my friend, I feel pained at heart when, in walking along our streets, I see so many men and women, aye, and even boys, intoxicated. Surely, drunkenness must be greatly on the increase.

*Samuel.*—No, Richard, I feel certain that you are not correct in that statement. That intemperance does appear to be on the increase in most of the large towns, I admit; but there are many portions of our Dominion where the contrary is the case, and instead of intemperance being on the increase, it is decreasing materially. I am borne out in this assertion by the testimony of several gentlemen on whom I can rely, and by statistics which are published from time to time in the temperance publications. That it should be on the increase anywhere is greatly to be deplored; but, *Where does the blame lie?* It lies with our legislature, which propounded and perpetuates a system that demoralizes and destroys a large portion of the human family. It lies with that portion of the magistracy which from time to time increases the number of houses where intoxicating drinks are sold. It lies with those ministers of the gospel who neglect to denounce the drinking customs which prevail in this country. It lies with the great host of publicans and sinners who keep houses for the sale of that which destroys the souls and bodies of thousands of our fellow-creatures