

importance of personal abstinence, as is proved by the fact that in many districts quite a revival has taken place. That the evils of the liquor traffic are being more and more recognised, as is shown by the numerous and influential deputations who have recently waited upon the licensing courts, by the refusal on the part of the magistrates to grant licenses to houses with back-doors, and by the reduction of these houses that has taken place in the aggregate. That the dram-shop movement has been inaugurated with very encouraging prospects of success being regarded in many quarters as another and a salutary step in advance. That our ecclesiastical courts are discussing the remedies proposed to remove the evil of drunkenness, that the clergy of the country are endorsing our views in increasing numbers, and that their ministry may now be fairly regarded as pledged to temperance principles. And that in the recent Parliamentary elections one of the most gratifying features was the marked prominence given to the Public-houses Act, and the entire question of restrictions on the liquor traffic.

These are a few of the results of our movements during the past year—let them nerve us to fresh exertions. The Directors rejoice in the abandoning national enthusiasm which pervades the movement, and will ever make it their highest endeavour to develop fresh forms of action, which shall not permit so divine a power to pass fruitlessly away. Let past successes then encourage us for future enterprise,—posterity will bless us for such efforts, and from a higher arbiter we shall not lose our reward.

On Monday, May 25, the annual meeting of the *Band of Hope Union* was held in London, the Right Hon. Lord Robert Grosvenor, M. P., in the chair. This very useful Institution directs its efforts to the young. "Bands of Hope," it is stated, are "springing up all over the country."

The *United Kingdom Alliance* held a great public meeting in Exeter Hall, London, on Tuesday, May 26. The Hall was crammed to excess. Judge Marshall presided. The speakers were, the Rev Dr. Burns, Thomas Begg, Esq., of Leicester, the Earl of Harrington, Hon. Neal Dow, Samuel Pope, Esq., Alderman Harrison of Wakefield, and Professor F. Newman, of University College. It was "the best meeting ever held in London in favour of prohibition." The following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting, regarding the legislative suppression of the liquor-traffic as a social and political necessity, has heard with entire satisfaction of the great success which has attended the prohibitory movement in the United States; and is convinced, as well by facts lying at the threshold of every observer in this country, as by the deep hold which the question has already taken of public opinion, that the time is not very far distant when the principle for which the United Kingdom Alliance contends will become practically embodied in British legislation."

The *National Temperance League* met on Wednesday, May 27, in Exeter Hall. In the absence of Sir Walter Trevelyan, Bart., the President, who was unable to attend, in consequence of domestic affliction, George Cruikshanks, Esq., presided. The meeting was a splendid success.—Such truths and facts as were then brought before the people cannot fail of producing the best effects. The League's efforts are chiefly confined to public meetings and lectures. About 600 lectures have been delivered during the year.

It is evident that the temperance movement is becoming highly popular and effective in Great Britain. And it is encouraging to observe that clergymen of all denominations are pressing into it. Let the influence of the ministers of religion, generally, be secured, and the downfall of drinking usages will not be far off.

Passing over to this Continent, we notice the anniversary of the *American Temperance Union*, in the Central Presbyterian Church, Broome Street, New York, on the 14th ult. In the excellent Report read by the Secretary the present state of the temperance enterprise was graphically sketched. We have only room for the following passage, in which the proceedings in the United States during the year are reviewed:—

"In this brief retrospection of the recent action in the several States, it is manifest that temperance and prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, form an element of great strength among the American people. In few States is it treated with indifference and unconcern, while in some the great object desired, the extinction of intemperance and its causes, is almost complete. Philanthropists, patriots and Christians, are intensely identified with the prohibitory movement. A return to the license system, where it has once been thrown off, and its continuance where it lingers, are almost, without exception, revolting to the public heart and conscience. Legislators, coming up from the people, are ready, to a great extent, for prohibitory action; but the law nullifying propensities of Courts, the last hindrance to innovation upon corrupt customs, and the readiness of party politicians to ride into power, even on the ruin of the best interests of the community, prevent progress and cause sad reverses. Still, amid them all, the Maine Law is no failure. As yet, nothing is lost. No fundamental principle has been overthrown. If a tide of drinking and drunkenness has rolled in upon us with our wealth, luxury and mighty increase, we have nothing compared with the past, or what would have been ours had no reform been known. Maine again stands upon her feet, and will tread the serpent in the dust. New Hampshire and Vermont are firm and successful in their prohibi-

tory law. Wealthy violators of the law in Massachusetts, are finding a home in the House of Correction. Grog-shops in Rhode Island are abated as a common nuisance.—Michigan and Iowa, like the tabernacles of the righteous, are places where men dwell in safety. In every State, the vast body of religious and moral men let the drunkard's drink alone. The traffic extensively debars an entrance into churches. Juvenile movements are most promising; and the millions in Sunday-schools are trained on temperance principles. Farms and manufactories, workshops and stores, railroads, ship-yards, and merchant vessels, abjure the alcoholic poison. The German population drink Lager beer—the Irish, whiskey; brandy and wine are for the fast young men and the wealthier classes; and are doing their work of death, hastened onward by vile drugs and mixtures. Thousands are swept annually into drunkard's graves, yet men will not see, and law-makers will not feel. Thirty years ago the American Temperance Society was but an infant; now it is a giant in the earth. Once it was but a little plant; now, under its shade, thousands are rejoicing, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations."

Thirteen resolutions were adopted.—Four of them express so plainly and powerfully those views of the subject which we trust are destined to become universally prevalent, that we must place them before our readers:—

"4 Resolved, That we are satisfied that it is the supply of intoxicating liquors that creates the demand; that to the temptation of the dram-shop, the tavern bar and drinking-saloon, are to be traced nine-tenths of the drunkenness, and consequently most of the pauperism, crime, insanity and distressing casualties of the country; that against these, as a civil right, the people should be protected by the arm of government; that in licensing a few there may be some restriction, but there is no real protection from the scourge; that a license gives freedom, morality and respectability to the traffic for which no government should be willing to be responsible, and which must, in the end, demand the entire prohibition."

"5 Resolved, That, in the progress of the cause, we are more and more satisfied of the correctness of prohibition, as a means which directly accomplishes, and without permanent injury to any, the desired end; that where it has had trial, even for short periods, as in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, it has even exceeded expectation:—That the recent reverses in Maine, New York, Indiana and Delaware, argue no defects in the principle, or in its adaptedness to our institutions and laws, and no dissatisfaction among those who have been its friends and promoters; that the hostility to it is the hostility of gain and of appetite, temporarily aided by defects in legal constructions and in political party strifes. In every defeat, like Washington, the *pater patrie*, we will rouse ourselves to greater effort, till prohibition becomes a fixed institution in all our country."

"6 Resolved, That everywhere, and by all proper means, the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage, should be held up in its true character, as at variance with all the best interests of humanity; That it should