

the abstinence pledge, but to Christ, who graciously invites him and all sinners to receive repentance, pardon, and sanctification. About thirty years ago I induced a notorious drunkard to sign the pledge, and he kept it faithfully about ten years ; but last summer when on a visit to my native land, I enquired about him, and was told to my mortification that after so many years of a life of sobriety and comfort, he died a drunkard. I felt the more grieved that it forcibly came home to my mind that I misdirected, and so deceived him by encouraging him to trust in his own honour in keeping the pledge instead of urging him to trust in Christ. This sad mistake of mine I shall not forget while I live, and by it let zealous abstainers be warned of the danger of recommending the pledge instead of Jesus Christ. Abstainers often say that the drunkard is powerless to reform himself, and this he readily believes, and justifies himself thereby. Until lately the pledge was the great sovereign remedy, nor was it observed that, if the drunkard would keep it, it was not true that he had no power to keep sober, for if he really kept the pledge, it was by the exercise of manly resolution, but when a man does not become the subject of grace, resolution however determined is too feeble to withstand the solicitations of an old lust. Of late it seems the views of abstainers on the value of the pledge have undergone a change, for within the last twenty years they have begun to advocate the prohibition of the liquor traffic by statute. This is a tacit admission of the inefficiency of the pledge, and of the various Associations whereby it was adopted, and who often in heroic raptures at great "temperance demonstrations" declared that by it "King Alcohol" would be banished from the land. In spite, however, of these mighty boastings "King Alcohol" yet rules with too much power. I lately heard a temperance orator say that 60,000 drunkards die annually in Britain, and as many in the United States. I distinctly remember hearing the same statement made forty years ago, and I have been accustomed to hear it often since, but what is astonishing, is, that the number has continued to be exactly the same