

as light was brought to bear on the question at issue, the honest mind of the country responded. This process and these happy results should teach every friend of temperance, to be patient and forbearing toward those who may not at once see the way clear in taking with us this last and final step. Let no denunciation or impeachment of motives be found in our papers or in our public speeches, but let us declare the truth in love, and by such a course, I believe the victory will be the sooner won.

There can be no better evidence of the mighty progress of the cause than the fact that the people's delegates should have passed a law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, by a majority so large in both branches of the Legislature at its last session. The veto was severely felt by all the friends of temperance throughout this State, all the States, and throughout the world; and will, I doubt not, have the effect to stimulate our zeal, so that in the end a great disappointment may result in a great good.

The reply to the Governor's objections to the bill, by a joint committee of the two Houses, has, I believe, satisfied the public mind of their fallacy; and it is presumed that the friends of prohibition will be able for the next year to frame a law free from even technical objections, which opposers can cavil at, and which shall notwithstanding contain the provisions necessary to inhibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and their destruction when offered for sale contrary to law.

The State Society have, I believe, appointed the same committee to take charge of the preparation of the law to be brought into the next Legislature, who had charge of the one that was passed upon by the last; of which committee the Hon. Bradford R. Wood continues Chairman.

While regretting the failure of our efforts to procure a general prohibitory law as yet, we should not lose sight of the fact, that in our respective towns and wards we have already in effect a prohibitory law, and that our own *volition* is all that is necessary to its execution. The execution of this existing law the Governor himself recommended. By acting in conformity to that recommendation, the sale of intoxicating drinks has been already partially inhibited in many of our wards, towns, and villages, with the most happy results; and it would be well if an example so worthy of imitation were universally followed, for the thorough execution of the present law, however defective it may be, would be an excellent preparation for the execution of the one we are striving for. And I am happy to perceive that the recommendation of the Society to organize the counties, in the way of protective leagues, has been followed with encouraging results, and I cannot but express a hope that every county in the State will adopt the like organization. Such organizations are not only requisite to carry out the present law, but indispensable to secure the enforcement of the law of entire prohibition.

A noble magistrate, in England (Thomas Johnson) recently resigned his office rather than sign his name to a license authorizing the sale to his countrymen of intoxicating poisons. All good men, in all countries, will honor him for the performance of so noble and disinterested an act. Nor is it easy to see how orderly, moral, and even religious men by profession, can set their names to a license authorizing the sale of an article, the known effect of which is to corrupt the youth, enervate

the laborers, destroy the peace of families, fill the apartments of poor-houses and the cells of prison-houses, and the graves in burying grounds, without feeling that remorse of conscience which is the appointed accompaniment of the commission and abetting of sin.

Great Britain, stimulated by our example, or rather by the example of her colonies, is awaking to the consideration of this subject. It is felt that intoxicating liquors are destroying the muscle and sinew, as well as debasing the morals of her operatives. The ministry are becoming sensible that the government has no interest in opposing an inhibitory law on account of the loss of revenue arising from the sale of liquors. To say nothing of the direct and indirect loss of the millions that drunkenness occasions, if the sale of liquors were inhibited, the sale of other taxable articles would be so much increased, that in an economical view merely, government would be a gainer by the change. So that here, as elsewhere, the world over, duty and interest are united.

A foreshadowing of the probable results of a prohibitory law on the pecuniary, intellectual, and moral interests of the community will be found in the statistics furnished by Samuel Chipman, Esq.; to whom the public are more indebted than to any other man, for reliable information concerning the proportionate amount of pauperism, crime, and taxation resulting from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors in the Empire State.

Some of these statistics are given in his own words, as follows:—

"After the repeal of the law of 1845, we examined the jails of (we think) seventeen counties—ascertained the number committed to each one the year before the law, and then the number during its existence. To be as brief as possible: In Ontario jail, the year before that law, the number of prisoners was 125; the year of its operation, 53; the year *after the repeal*, 132! That jail was probably built in 1799, and was never without a tenant until 1846, during which year it was empty about three months. And let it be particularly noticed, that in the year when the number of prisoners was greatly diminished, there was a corresponding diminution in jail expenses. Mr. Murray, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, certifies that the number of weeks' board for prisoners during prohibition was *ninety-eight*, and the year after the repeal, *five hundred and eighty-two*.

"In Monroe County, the year before prohibition, the number in jail was 953; during that year it was 666; and what the year after when the tide of intemperance had rolled back, the legal restraint having been removed? Ponder the answer. It was 947, or 287 more than the previous year. Is there any efficacy in legislating against the sale of liquors? The expenses of the poor at the poor-house were nearly *six thousand dollars* less while the law existed, than they were the previous year. The number of weeks' board for prisoners was 561 weeks less.

"Genesee County jail had never been without a tenant, except once,—a day or two, until 1846, when it was so for some weeks. In the other of the seventeen counties examined, a mass of facts of the same kind, and to the same effect was obtained, showing that the number of commitments was greatly diminished, and that some other jails were unoccupied for longer or shorter periods for the very first time. Drunkenness in the streets of the city where we are now writing