

But, not merely the professed adherents of the temperance reform but all who are sincerely desirous of moral, intellectual, and social improvement, and the welfare of their country generally, are, also under deep responsibility to afford their zealous exertions, towards obtaining the prohibitory measure. They cannot but know with certainty, the wide spread and deadly evils which have ever attended the use of intoxicating drinks. They also know, that no legal enactments, of a merely regulating or restrictive description, have ever had the effect of preventing the occurrence of those evils, or even limiting them, in any perceptible degree. For many years, they have also, been more or less attentively observing the progress of the Abstinence reform; and the various means, perseveringly employed, for advancing it; and, they cannot but be also aware, that the drinking customs, are still most extensively prevalent, and are still, constantly producing their destructive effects throughout all departments and ranks of society.

There are but few, comparatively, who have not at one time or other, through that fatal cause, been called to mourn over the degradation, or hopeless departure of some who were near and dear to them. Some have experienced the anguish of the ruined hopes they fondly cherished in regard the children they dearly loved, and in whose honorable position, and success in life, their own happiness, was so intensely involved; while others, have long and deeply sorrowed because of the open and degraded intemperance, the bodily and mental disease, and imbecility, or the wretched and hopeless death of a husband, a parent, a brother, or of one or more, in some of the other endeared relations, or attachments of life. Surely, then, from feelings of natural affection, as well as from a sense of religious, benevolent, and patriotic duty, all reflecting and well disposed persons, should afford their influence and exertions, towards procuring the prohibitory measure, as the only method for removing the destructive and afflicting scourge.

Most especially, however, are those entrusted with legislative authority, under pressing obligations, forthwith to establish the required prohibition. As men presumed to be of rather superior intelligence, they of course, must know that their first and special duty, is, to deliberate and act, with reference to the general safety, prosperity, and happiness of their country. For these purposes alone, are they placed in their honorable and responsible positions. They are, therefore, under the most solemn responsibilities to act