

By aiming well in advance,—by seeking for all that they ought to obtain, the friends of Temperance have gained several points formerly disputed, and have greatly narrowed the field of controversy. No longer is the bad nature of that which we oppose controverted,—no longer are persuasive efforts for the reform discountenanced,—but opponents say, in effect, touch not an unhallowed source of gain, prevent not cruel temptations, seek not a thorough remedy, by means of law, cleanse yourselves if you wish, cleanse those whom you may morally influence, from the vice: but seek not to cleanse the nation, from that which has cruelly afflicted many generations, and will so continue if not extirpated.

Brethren, it is for you to determine, for yourselves and your country, on what basis the question of legal Temperance reform rests, and how it may best be advanced, and soonest achieved;—and how also moral suasion shall be promoted and established, as an enduring means of winning from the ranks of vice or danger, to those of virtue and safety.

Recollect, brethren, in all our consultations and efforts, that our best confidence is in Divine strength,—that our highest honour, and surest ground of hope, consist in, our being aiders of religion, and co-operators with those who in any legitimate way, seek for the glory of the Deity and the good of humanity.

The questions of business, to be laid before you this session, may not be numerous, but one set of considerations should occupy more time and attention than they have generally received; I refer to the inquiries,—In what state is the Order, and the general Temperance Cause? What plan of action should be determined on, respecting the present and approximate period? How may that plan be best carried out? In reference to these questions, we may bear in mind, the means which are furnished, by Tracts, Lectures, Agency, legislative Appeals, Conventions. Some of these have been heretofore thought of, but scarcely tried,—others have not been sustained with the consistency which leads to success. An original Tract for Nova Scotia, was suggested some time since, but was not realized;—a well prepared and extensively published essay, historical, statistical, and argumentative, on our cause, might be variously beneficial. The other particulars require a better basis than we have hitherto arranged.

The report on Lectureship and Agency, will bring that topic under your notice. An agent and lecturer of the right description, would probably cause the office to be self-sustaining, or nearly