

VIII.

WHAT, WHY, AND HOW.

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY JOHN B. FINCH IN
TREMONT TEMPLE, BOSTON, MASS., SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1888.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—The temperance reform has for its object the development of manhood and womanhood along the lines of intelligence and conscience. A sound mind in a diseased and rotten body is the exception, not the rule. The use of alcoholic drinks by persons in health causes muscular and nervous degeneration and disease. Hence, the temperance reform aims to prevent the use of alcoholic drinks, and by such prevention, avoid the effects of such use.

Alcoholic drunkenness is caused by the use of alcoholic liquors. The results which temperance workers wish to prevent are caused by alcohol affecting nerve and brain tissue. Bring a barrel of whiskey into this Temple and place it on this platform, call up Dr. Ellis and have him read and pray over it; then let this large audience with their different temperaments drink it, and there would be a fight before they left the hall. It is not the place where it is sold, it is not the man who sells it, it is alcohol affecting brain and nerve tissue that produces the results temperance reform seeks to prevent.

To prevent the use of alcoholic drinks the person must be treated in his dual nature as individual and citizen. It is of the person as a citizen, I wish to speak to-day in order to develop the reasons for the interference, by government, with the alcoholic liquor trade.

That intemperance is a withering, blighting curse, is axiomatic. That the alcoholic liquor trade is an ulcer on social, civil and business life, no sane man dares deny. The person who thinks it necessary to stand upon the public platform to prove that the use of alcoholic liquors causes more misery, pauperism and crime than any other or all other social customs, insults the intelligence of his audience.