

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE & NEWS.

PLEDGE.--We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

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Sanitary and Social Economy.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The author of a recent work entitled, "Reminiscences of Thought and Feeling," exclaims, "What can be hoped in the way of moral regeneration by inflating the minds of the multitudes, with notions that the powers of nature, and the universe itself, are fast advancing to a condition of obedience to the human will; and that they themselves are progressing (how I hate that word!) to the throne on which man will find his legitimate resting-place as 'monarch of all he surveys'?" We might ask another question: "What can be hoped in the way of moral regeneration by constantly deprecating human capability, and underrating the present condition and prospects of human society? Perhaps there have been exaggerations of progress, but not such as to make the word hateful, and we unhesitatingly declare our conviction, that nothing is to be hoped from the school of misanthropists who are forever gloomily sentimentalizing over the degradations and follies of mankind. It seems to us, that although too much may be said as to the dignity and perfectibility of mankind, yet it would be insanity to deny that the powers of nature are considerably advancing toward a state of subjection to the human will," and when the human will shall direct its energies to the attainment of the chief good of which man is capable in the present state of being, then peace, harmony, and happiness shall be restored, and the Creator glorified. We are free to admit, that great social evils do exist, but we question very much the soundness of the conclusion arrived at by some modern, as well as some ancient philosophers, that the "former times were better than these." Our view is that the present are better times than those past, because intelligent effort is made to purify society at its fountain—the human heart—and because Sanitary and Social Reform has in these last days wrought beneficial changes, which are every day extending the circumference of their power, for the permanent good of the human race.

Sanitary economy embraces every practical measure relating to sound health and its preservation, both as it affects the individual and community at large, but more particularly the latter; and that as it may be controlled by the general government, or by municipal regulations. Human life—its value, its preservation, its precariousness, and the material causes which may destroy or preserve it, are all in-

cluded in the general subject of sanitary economy. Social economy also embraces a variety of topics, of great interest and importance. It relates to "men living in society, or to the public as an aggregate body," and includes the measures most suitable for the protection of society against those evils which would destroy its peace, prosperity, and happiness. The development of industry—the proper rewards of labor—the diffusion of property—the mediation of apparently conflicting claims, and the duties and obligations of mankind toward each other, are all parts of social economies. In a more limited sense, municipal government, whether urban or rural; and the family institution, with all its varied claims and relations—these are included in the more general and comprehensive phrase, social economy.

Into how many of the subjects intimated above, we may enter, cannot at this present be foreseen or determined. That will altogether depend upon circumstances. The order of topics may also be controlled more or less by current events, but our uniform aim will be to minister to the benefit of the reader, and the progress of the country, morally and materially. Guided by the experience of older countries, ours, now taking a position of greatness—respectability and responsibility—may avoid many of the evils, which with an antiquated tenacity bear down the energy and hopes of civilization. Availing ourselves of the suggestions of science, and the results of successful enterprise, we may achieve a greatness not to be marred by historic recollections of rapine, despotism, wrong and cruelty. Our convictions and our hopes concerning the better future for mankind, are joined to, and proceed from a firm faith in the truth and power of Christianity. The world can never dispense with the agencies and Institutions which Christ appointed for the salvation and elevation of mankind. All plans and schemes for the social advancement of the world, in order to practical efficiency, must be vitally connected with "the truth as it is in Jesus." On these principles our essays and suggestions will rest, and to the author of all good we commit ourselves and our readers.

— In the formation of a single locomotive steam engine, there are no fewer than 5519 pieces to be put together, and those require to be as accurately adjusted as the works of a watch.—Every watch consists of at least 202 pieces, employing probably 214 persons, distributed among forty trades to say nothing of the tool makers for all these.

W. B. Easton