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TEMPERANCE.

After all that has been done to repress and lessen the sin of intemperance, it still exists a stupendous and desolating curse in the land. Go where you may, you can see the footprints of a destroyer, and trace the blood of its victims. The abettors and sustainers of the traffic in intoxicating drinks, are to be found in every town and city. Their name is legion. In saying this, we are not oblivious of the fact, that many true men have battled for the glorious principles of temperance. Nor is that war a thing of the past. Right earnestly is it carried on. Heartily have they sworn eternal war to the drinking usages of society. Finding in the way of the progress of the community an obstacle of gigantic proportion, they bend their efforts for its removal. May God speed the work; and for the sake of bleeding humanity crown the effort with success.

We confess to a strong desire for increased and sustained effort, to sweep away from the land, an evil of measureless iniquity. Its proportions, whatever they are at the present hour, have long been national. There are men that sigh and cry, for the abominations done in our midst, and this sin of drunkenness they know provokes the anger of God. Their emotions ought to be the parents of action. Is there no arrow feathered with truth, that can find the breast of the vulture as it hastes to its prey? Its banqueting ground is on the drunkard's grave; the hearts of the tender and the helpless are its dainties, its music the wail of the widow and the orphan. Men of God have a large field for aggressive benevolence, in discountenancing the traffic in strong drink. Is it a God-honoured traffic? Can a pious mind view its results with delight? Do the faithful pray for its increase and prosperity? Is love to man its motive? Is it honest in returning a fair equivalent? Does it add to the strength of the social structure? To such questions they know the answer; and though the dark shadow of this fell destroyer had never fallen on their own threshold, or the iron entered their own soul, yet do they stand ready, to resist, by prayer, and effort, and combination, this curse of their country, this destroyer of their race.

We recognize as the pre-eminent power in accomplishing a moral reform, the power of the gospel of Christ. That is the grand specific to cure the malady of sin. It reaches further than anything else. It begins in the centre and works outwards. It reigns in the heart, and subdues the whole man. There are however, be it remembered, means to every end. The instrumentality that has been blessed in thousands of instances to bring the intemperate within range of gospel truth, is that of temperance organizations. We hail such societies as are rightly