

1827—In this year, Mr. H. spent 20 weeks in the service of the Society, and visited this city and Philadelphia, with other places. He also had the subject before several ecclesiastical assemblies, with happy effect. In Philadelphia, a society was formed at once, which has already produced a vast reformation, in the places of resort, and the habits of the people.

Permanent Fund.

One part of the original plan of the Society was, to obtain a fund of \$20,000, as the permanent basis of their operations. At the outset, several liberal individuals gave from \$100 to \$1000 each, besides many smaller sums; and by the close of 1827, they had obtained, in cash \$4,032 53, promissory notes \$850, subscriptions payable at different times \$8372, total \$13,311 53. In their first report, made in November 1827, they remark, "while we have been nearly two years, in endeavouring to gather \$20,000, to promote the temperance of the nation, fifty millions of dollars have been freely spent, to foster and extend intemperance in the country, with the awful sacrifice of more than sixty thousand lives upon its altars."—These subscriptions have now been increased to \$14,195 09, of which \$6887 68 is collected, and in the treasury or funded, besides what has been expended in the ordinary operations of the Society. No special efforts are now making to complete this fund.

Physicians.

The Society has gained great advantage from the countenance afforded to their enterprise by physicians. Most of the principal medical societies in the country have united in denouncing the prevalent belief of the utility or safety of ardent spirit, when moderately used, as a pernicious error. The voice of the faculty is every where loud and earnest now, because under the efforts of the Temperance Society, the people are willing to hear and believe. The following quotations may be taken as a sample of what they say on the subject.

"While weak and irresolute man has access to spirituous liquors, we can see no remedy for the deplorable evils they inflict. We should not admit of the popular reasoning here—that the abuse of a thing is no argument against its use—all use of ardent spirit being an abuse."—*Dr. Emlen.*

"The emptying of Pandora's box was but the type of what has since happened, in the diffusion of rum, brandy, gin and whiskey, among the human species."—*Dr. Chapman.*

The art of extracting alcoholic liquors from vinous liquors, must be regarded as the greatest curse ever afflicted on human nature.—*Dr. Parris.*

We might add columns of testimonials, from physicians, and medical societies of the highest respectability, all explicit in favor of the total abandonment of ardent spirit.

Unexpected success

Those who formed the Society did not anticipate an immediate visible impression upon the body of the community. Fully persuaded of the correctness of their principles, and the ultimate prevalence of truth and virtue, they were laying out their plans to begin, and toil on for years, if necessary, without interesting the feelings, or affecting the habits of the people at large. But they found, that wherever this subject was presented to people's minds, an immediate effect followed. The minds of good men seem to have been preparing to welcome this undertaking. In their first report, the Executive Committee announced, that more than 30 societies had been formed, that many ministers of the gospel, all over the country, had taken an active interest in the cause, that several merchants had excluded liquors from their stores, that the newspapers, both religious and secular, were publishing essays and paragraphs on the subject, that "the reformation is already begun, and is rapidly advancing." All this was effected by the simple persuasion of truth, the convictions of conscience, and the force of example.

1828—The work, now appropriately called the "Temperance reformation," advanced with accelerated rapidity, almost all over the United States.

Western District.

A benevolent individual defrayed the expense of an agent for several months, to promote the cause

of temperance in the western part of the state of New-York. This agent visited a great many towns, and for more than 40 societies, averaging 20 or 25 members at their commencement. His reports at the close of the year, from the testimony of those best qualified to judge, such as merchants, inn keepers, &c. that the consumption of ardent spirit, in the counties west of Cayuga Lake, had diminished one third, if not one half, during the year. Three distilleries were stopped from principle, 20 or 30 merchants ceased buying or vending, five military companies use no spirit on parade days, 15 or 20 buildings, including a meeting house and a flouring mill, were erected, and 2 glass houses conducted, entirely without spirit.

Progress of the Reformation.

In Berkshire county, Mass. the merchants of six towns have discontinued the sale of the drink of drunkards, and it is rare to see any but habitual inebriates partaking of their polluted cup. In Hampshire county through the agency of Rev. Dr. Woodbridge, a temperance association was formed in every town.—Many merchants discontinued the traffic. In Middlesex co. Conn. a society was formed by delegates from several town societies. This meets monthly from town to town, and the branches send delegates to report the progress of the cause in their respective places. The custom of offering liquors is here universally abolished. More than 900 members are now pledged to total abstinence.* In East Machias, Me. there was at the close of the year no licensed retailer in town. In North Stonnington, Conn. of 11 retailers only 3 applied for a license and they were all denied. In Plymouth, N. H. the cost of spirit used was, in 1826, \$9000, in 1827 \$3000, and in 1828 \$500. The Report contains a statement of similar reforms in progress almost all over the state of Vermont, and very encouraging indications from Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama. The names are given of 211 societies in 16 states; and the whole number was estimated at 500. It was also stated that there were good grounds for believing as many as 500 drunkards to have been reformed in consequence of the Temperance Societies. Contrasting this with the statement of the eminent Dr. Warren, made some years since, that in 25 years' practice he had never known but one permanent reformation, we shall see the effects of a reform begun among the friends of reform.

1829.—In delineating the progress of the current year, a new era opens to our view. Heretofore, the cause had been working its way, finding new friends, and producing experiments, and efforts, all attended with such success, as has fully satisfied the most incredulous, who would take pains to examine the facts in the case, that the plan is both practicable and efficacious. Heretofore the society received, from multitudes of the prudent and respectable, kind words and good wishes, expressions of confidence in the purity of their designs, and the correctness of their principles, with earnest wishes for their success, and a conviction of the efficacy of their proposed measure, if they could be brought into general practice. But this year the expressions of diffidence begin to vanish, and men of sound judgment begin to feel that they do not forfeit their reputation for wisdom, by declaring their belief that the proposed temperance reformation is not only desirable and necessary, but practicable.—Consequently, existing Societies are acquiring new activity, and new ones are multiplying in all parts of the country.

Aid of Public Men.

This confidence of success has brought a multitude of influential men to lend their public countenance to the plans of the society. The House of Representatives of the state of New-York adjourned, to give those members who wished it, an opportunity of uniting in a day of fasting and prayer on account of the intemperance that prevails in our land. The members of the House of Representatives in New Hampshire met and passed a resolution to abstain from liquors during the session. A committee of the Massachusetts Legislature reported in favor of requiring a series of statistical returns from the overseers of the poor in the several towns, designed to shew the extent of the evils of

*To these, which are Gentlemen, we are informed by the Secretary of that Society, may now be added 1000 Ladies.

intemperance. In the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, a committee reported the highest approbation of the efforts of Temperance Societies, recommending to all good citizens to unite with them in the work of reformation. The Governors of Connecticut and Alabama have given honorable notices of the cause, in public official documents.

A state society was formed at Albany during the sitting of the Legislature, of which Chancellor Walworth is president. In accepting the office, he took the opportunity of expressing, in the fullest manner, his approbation of the principles of the society, his own experience of their utility, and his desire for their universal extension. In Hartford delegates from the Medical Convention of Connecticut, and from more than 20 temperate associations, assembled to assist in forming a Temperance Society for the State, of which the president of Yale College is the president.

Chief Justice Parker has recently addressed a letter to the Massachusetts Society, describing the rapid progress of the reformation in the western counties of that State, where he had just been holding courts. He speaks highly of the labors of Mr. Howitt, who he thinks may be appropriately styled "the Apostle of Temperance." He mentions the example of the gentlemen of the Bar in Berkshire county in particular, as having unanimously entered into a compact, which they strictly observe, to promote the cause of temperance, by example and otherwise. He says, "the result to my mind is quite satisfactory, that a radical change has been wrought through that portion of the commonwealth which I have visited." He ascribes it all to the Temperance Societies.

Reform begun by Retailers.

In Tolland co. Conn. the work of reformation was first commenced, on a system, by the retailers, who had a meeting to take measures on the subject. By their invitation a public meeting was called, and a county Temperance Society organised. In Ithaca, N. Y. a place of 3000 inhabitants, there is not a single dram-shop; though last year there were upwards of 20. The change has been effected by the grocers themselves, aided by the respectable mechanics of the village.

Co-operation of Ministers.

It is understood that a large proportion of the ministers of the Presbyterian and Reformed Dutch denominations, preached on the subject, the 4th Wednesday in January last, by a general consent. The Baptist Congregational Ministers, and many in other denominations, have exhibited great zeal in the cause during the present year. Ministers from all parts of the United States have recently been assembled, in Philadelphia, by the Baptist Triennial Convention, and the Presbyterian General Assembly and in New-York by anniversaries of various societies; and all concur in reporting that the work of reformation is advancing with great power. The cause of temperance was a theme of pervading interest, and more than any one thing besides gave the character to these meetings.—The Methodists have always been, according to their discipline, the advocates of total abstinence. The effect of their labors; in recovering the poor Indians of Canada from the degradation of intemperance has been very signal.

Generally the Minister who occasionally sips a little, attracts observation, and is regarded as setting a bad example, and acting out of character.

The Press.

Nearly fifty different publications have been called forth in behalf of this cause, mostly from men of superior talents. During the present year, nearly all the religious newspapers and other periodicals, have shown their zeal far beyond that of any previous time. A vast number of political and commercial papers have entered into the work, and inserted numerous paragraphs, and some of them original articles, or series of essays, calculated to advance the cause of temperance, while they have hardly given publicity to any thing calculated to check the progress of this salutary reformation. The papers in this city deserve thanks for the assistance they have rendered, and the hopes they encourage that their zeal and co-operation will not diminish, but increase as the object advances.