

universality to allege in their favour! The existence of statute fairs is a disgrace to the police of this country. In some of the most extensive and populous counties they are unknown, and not the slightest inconvenience is experienced from the want of them. Wherever they are held all the best authorities among the magistrates and police officers are agreed in representing them as a great cause of drunkenness and every species of immoral indulgence. This important subject was fully treated of by Mr. Nash Stephenson at our last meeting, and the progress was described of a remedy, by way of substitute, in the registry of farm servants, which many persons have of late desired to see extended to all servants; and a Society has been formed in London with this view. As it is clearly not enough that we should cease to encourage intemperance, and as positive repression is attended with great difficulty, there is every reason to rejoice in the exertions which have been made by individuals to apply a remedy, or at least a palliation, by such proceedings as may be taken without legislative aid. His Lordship referred with satisfaction to the efforts of the United Kingdom Alliance, and other Temperance Associations, and warmly commended the drinking fountains movement. Of these he said—It may however, well be contended that these measures, being only in the nature of palliatives, the enormous mischief must be attacked by more effectual operations; and it is painful to admit that we must reckon education itself as among palliatives only. Its tendency to lessen criminal propensities, by affording other occupations, as well as by strengthening right principles, to divert from criminal courses, is unquestionable. But there cannot be a greater fallacy than to set its effects in repressing crimes against that of intemperance in producing them, and it is a dangerous fallacy; for men rely upon the improvement in character, and its effect in controlling the passions, as sufficient to counteract the direct tendency of intemperance; and they answer the call for repressive measures by bidding us trust to education. The humanizing influences of instruction in preventing offences attended with violence is proverbial, and is admitted. We have a striking illustration from the proportion of crimes committed with violence proceeding from drunkenness. The influence of education is indirect, and of gradual operation. The action of intemperance is direct and immediate. We may so far trust to the improvement produced by the former as to expect from it a diminution in the number of offences, but the latter adds to their number and increases their malignity as certainly and far more powerfully. To rely upon popular improvement alone, and take no measures for removing the great cause of crime, would be to lull ourselves into as perilous a security as theirs who should trust to the effects of diet and regimen when the plague was raging, and in that confidence, before it broke out, should take no precaution against its introduction. Intemperance is the common enemy; it attacks even persons of cultivated minds; spreads havoc widely among the multitudes of our inferior orders, and fills our workhouses and our jails. To lessen its force and contract its sphere, no means must be spared, if we really mean to stay the progress of destruction and of crime. The philanthropist has no more sacred duty than to mitigate, if he cannot remove, this enormous evil. The lawgiver is imperatively bound to lend his aid, when it appears manifest that no palliatives can avail. Certainly we have the example of the United States to prove that repression is practicable, and their experience to guide us toward it. That no legislative interference can be contemplated until the public mind is prepared, we must admit. Such was the course in America, and our palliative measures tend to afford the required preparation. The evil of drunkenness had reached such a height, that in the State of Maine, thirty-five years ago, associations to promote temperance were formed; they spread through the country; they influenced by degrees the whole community; they induced the magistrates to refuse licenses; and finally, they obtained a law of rigorous prohibition. Six other States, having a population of seven and a half millions, have made considerable progress towards the same end, more or less rigorously discouraging the sale of intoxicating liquors; and the greatest benefits have resulted to these portions of the Union. But the most important fact is the attempt to repeal the law in Maine, and its signal failure. Like all subjects in a country which, from the nature of the Government, and the changes in the holders