

hood. Is it to go through the accustomed round of ceremonies only—to record on our journals a number of good resolutions, and complete the business of another session, thereby presenting to the public and transmitting to posterity a record of our labours and triumphs in this good cause? All this is absolutely necessary; but of comparatively trivial importance when viewed in connection with the *higher grand* object of our gathering. What then, is that object?

It is, worthy brothers, not merely to talk, but to *work*—not merely to buckle on the armour and equip ourselves for the conflict, but to do battle against the deadly enemy of mankind—the foe alike of all classes. We have met to engage in a work which contemplates nothing less than the ultimate extermination of the ruinous rum-traffic—the entire banishment of the demoralizing, though fashionable drinking customs of the day, and the moral elevation of the depraved and wretched, made so by the use of alcoholic stimulants. This is the aim of *all true Sons of Temperance*.

And will any one accuse us of extravagance in our anticipations? Are we not warranted by the justice of our cause—the success of the past, and the exigencies of the present, in making this the subject of our most earnest prayers, and the object of our united and continued labours; in the exercise of a strong conviction that with the blessing of God, it can and must be accomplished?

Let us take only a partial view of the past quarter, and we shall be justified in our conclusions.

That obstacles numerous and formidable have for years stood, and still stand in the way of Temperance reform, is unquestionable. The wretched inebriate, steeped in strong drink, the slave of a morbid and depraved appetite, is almost a hopeless case: and the utmost patience and perseverance are necessary in order to save him. The unprincipled money-loving rumseller, for “filthy lucre’s sake,” deals out to the poor drunkard the poison which slowly but effectually does its deadly work. enactments stand on our statute book legalizing the destructive traffic. Legislators themselves, many of them not only use intoxicating liquors freely, but afford facilities for its more extended use by permitting it to enter our country to certain classes *duty free*. And moreover, the largest portion of those who are styled the “higher circles,”—the *élite* of society, throw the weight of their influence in favor