

human instrumentality should also be engaged, by the constant public ministration and exposition of the records of truth, and the employment of various other means. It must therefore, surely, be indispensably requisite, that for the continued advancement, and ultimate triumph of this our excellent cause, all its advocates and friends should ever be zealous and active, and unweariedly employ all the means in their power. We assail a most powerful and malevolent foe, whose emissaries and advocates are still numerous and active, and the means they employ, still greatly abound, and can yet be used with facility and destructive effect. Although so much has been accomplished in our land towards suppressing intemperance, and the use of intoxicating liquors, yet it must be perfectly evident to all, that very much more still remains to be done, our benevolent feelings and active exertion, should therefore still be perseveringly exercised. We know that those poisonous liquors are still extensively imported among us, and still find a sale through numerous channels, and a very prevalent and destructive consumption. The shop, the tavern, and place of illicit retail, are still in many places open, inviting the dissolute, the foolish and unwary, to enter and partake of the dangerous draught, the public assembly for sensual indulgence, or frivolous amusement, and the private festive board still exhibit the same means of powerful and seductive temptation. The voters of sensuality, revelry or pleasure, are still crowding those places and scenes, and indulging in the use of those means,—the drunkard is still not unfrequently seen pursuing his infatuated course, and plunging into ruin; intoxication still prevails in public, and also in comparative retirement; the widow and the orphan are still mourning under the evils with which intemperance has afflicted them,—wives and children are still enduring poverty, cruelty and wretchedness,—relations and friends are still grieved and dishonored,—crimes are still perpetrated,—scenes of violence exhibited,—fraud and injustice practised, and all the other innumerable evils and miseries which have always so extensively resulted from this ruinous source, are still, on every hand, in a greater or lesser degree, in active and destructive operation.

And what is further cause for sorrow and alarm, a great majority of our population in towns and villages, and throughout every other part of the land, and in every grade and occupation of society, is still more or less habitually partaking in that seducing and pernicious indulgence. It is especially reason for regret and apprehension, that so many among the farming population, on whom the wealth and welfare of the Country chiefly depend, should still be found wasting their substance, and otherwise injuring themselves and their families, by indulging in such an improvident and dangerous habit.

The crimes, the miseries, and mischiefs of every description, which have resulted from the use of intoxicating liquors, have been so very numerous, and are so generally known, that particular instances of such evils need not on this occasion be exhibited. Some, if not many such instances, must doubtless have come within the personal observation or knowledge of each of us. With regard to my own knowledge on the subject, having through a long course of years had ample opportunities and means for acquiring it, I can safely assert, that nearly all the suicides, the murders and sudden deaths, the robberies, the riots, acts of vio-

lence in public, and in families, and indeed most of the other crimes and mischiefs of which I became intimately informed, resulted immediately, or indirectly from the use of intoxicating liquors. In one place, where I was very well acquainted, out of five individuals, holding the same public situation, four, most undoubtedly, were brought to a premature death by the free and habitual use of those liquors. It is also within my knowledge, that in several places, a majority of the members of a certain learned profession, who were taken from life, were hurried to the grave by pursuing the same ruinous course—I mention these cases in particular, chiefly to remind us, how extensive the evils of intemperance must have been in every class and occupation in society. Numerous instances have I intimately known, of death by drowning, burning, freezing, and suffocation,—instances of parents who, though when sober, doubtless ordinarily kind in their families, yet, under the influence of intoxication, have committed great atrocities; and many cases also, in which children, under the same blinding and debasing influence, have attempted the greatest crimes.

It will, of course, be readily admitted, by persons of every opinion, concerning the use of intoxicating liquors, that these are enormous and most afflicting evils, and that it is highly desirable they should every where entirely cease. All, who have any measure of religious or even moral feeling, will likewise admit, that drunkenness is a crime, and should never occur. But, unhappily, there are still very many who, through a love of sensual indulgence, from the force of an evil habit, or other cause of the perversion of mind and feeling on the subject, will still advocate or excuse the habitual use of those liquors, to what they term a moderate or prudent extent. This may be, in reality, the most formidable as well as insidious enemy to the cause of temperance. It is here, indeed, that all the evils and miseries of intemperance take their rise, and from this specious but delusive opinion, and its consequent practice, are they still produced and perpetrated. If the true source from whence the arguments for such moderate indulgence proceed, could be fully exhibited, it would be found, that in nearly every case it is a love for the sensual gratification which those liquors afford, combined, in many instances, with the desire for the gain, which it is expected the traffic in them will afford. As the opinion in favor of such moderate indulgence, always produces hurtful, and often the most ruinous consequences, it may be well somewhat minutely to explore and examine it;—in the first place, it may safely be asserted, that the use of intoxicating liquors of any description, in any measure, or on any occasion, is not at all essential, or even useful to a person in health. This is the testimony of the most eminent physicians, and indeed of that profession generally; and its correctness has been fully confirmed by the experience of multitudes. And, indeed, with reference to disease, the same professional testimony declares, that there are but a very few cases, and of a special description, in which the use of any ardent spirits is requisite or useful; and also, comparatively, but few disorders or irregularities of the physical system, in which the use of vinous or other inferior and intoxicating liquors are in any degree needful. But it is not at all against the use of any of those liquors as a medicine, that the advocates in the cause of temperance contend; it is against the use of them by persons in health,